



November 2018



FOCUS on Education

Indicators of Success | Student Life | Curriculum Corner | Focus on Faculty | Facility Facts | Planning for Pre-K Expansion

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

Over the past several months, the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools have made significant upgrades to our safety and security procedures and infrastructure. The purpose of these upgrades is to ensure the safety of our students and staff during the school day. In addition to the measures we already had in place, we have added the following:

- We installed 3M 14ML Clear Safety Film on all interior doors and all entrance doors and windows. This film stops an intruder from breaking the glass to gain entry to the building and/or a classroom.
- With the assistance of our Emergency Management Directors, we have upgraded our radio system to allow for communication across our entire district as opposed to simply being able to connect across individual campuses.
- Each campus now has a full-time security officer, and we are working with the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme to reinstate the School Resource Officer program.
- All of our classrooms now have a panic button to alert the administration and First Responders should an issue arise. Both teachers and students are being trained on the proper use of this button.
- In response to a request from our local First Responders, we've installed identification stickers on the outside of all classrooms to ensure a quick location should there be an emergency.
- Each employee is issued an identification badge, which allows them access to the building and provides them with information on how to call for assistance should they need to do so.
- All principals have been trained through the ALICE (alicetraining.com) program and a number of our administrators attended trainings with the FBI. As a result of this training, our methodology for lock-down drills has been modified to allow for a more proactive approach to a critical incident than what had been past practice.

Our goal is to keep all students and staff safe during the school day. If you have any questions regarding our practices or procedures, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Ian Neviaser
Superintendent

INDICATORS OF SUCCESS AT LYME-OLD LYME

 : Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

 : lolschoolsct

 : lymeoldlymeschools



2018 SMARTER BALANCED ASSESSMENT RESULTS FOR CT

#2 in 4th grade English/Language Arts
#3 in 4th grade Mathematics
#4 in 3rd grade English/Language Arts
#9 in 5th grade Mathematics

#10 in 3rd grade Mathematics
#10 in 6th grade Mathematics
#10 in 7th grade Mathematics
#10 in 8th grade Mathematics

2018 SAT RESULTS FOR CT

#17 in Evidence-Based Reading/Writing

#20 in Mathematics



STUDENT Life

In an effort to make the Middle School cafeteria more inviting for students and staff, the district undertook significant renovations to this area during July and August. Specifically, the servery was reconstructed to provide more space for students to get their meals and to speed up the process of providing lunch to the students. The doors to the servery are now much wider as is the entrance. In the actual cafeteria area, sound-dampening panels were installed on the walls, and all ceiling tiles were replaced with sound-dampening ceiling tiles. The cafeteria walls were painted with warmer, more inviting colors, and a large fan was installed in the ceiling to promote air movement within the room. These changes have made a significant difference in both the comfort level of the room itself and the efficiency with which food is served to the students. Students and staff alike

are pleased with the renovations as noted in the following comment overheard in the newly renovated space, “This is like eating in a college cafeteria. I am so happy with the changes that were made.”



CURRICULUM Corner

NGSS: Impacts on Teaching and Learning



The need for high-quality science education—beginning at the very earliest grades—is more essential now than ever before. The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are a key component toward advancing high-quality teaching and learning in science.

With the implementation of NGSS Performance Expectations, there will be some shifts in teaching, learning, and the classroom experience. Students and parents can expect a new emphasis on a holistic understanding of integrated and interrelated concepts rather than the memorization of disconnected facts.

The NGSS require students to provide evidence of their learning through modeling, argumentation, and design-focused outcomes and will equip students with the critical thinking and analytical skills they need to be successful in college and competitive in the ever-changing world of work. Teachers are currently working to develop and/or implement full NGSS units of study this year that meet the new performance expectations for students in science.

FOCUS on Faculty



*Congratulations to **Jennifer Harvill** who is this year's recipient of the Employee of the Year Award for the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools. Jennifer has worked as an Instructional Assistant at Mile Creek since 2005. Prior to that Jennifer spent many years as a parent volunteer at the school. Jennifer is described by her colleagues as, "intelligent, talented, creative, professional,*

dedicated, collaborative, highly responsible, open-minded and fair, extremely organized, productive and caring of children and adults." This past year, Jennifer was promoted to the position of Tutor where she has excelled in supporting students on a one-to-one basis as a part of our SRBI program. The Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are fortunate to have Jennifer as a long-standing member of our school community.



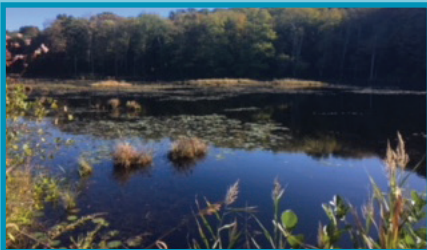
*The Lyme-Old Lyme Schools Teacher of the Year is **Susan Whritner**. After two years working in schools in Michigan, Susan started teaching in Lyme-Old Lyme in 1987. She has taught third, fourth, and fifth grades at both Mile Creek and Center Schools. Susan is currently teaching fifth grade at Mile Creek. She has served on the School Leadership Team*

for both Center and Mile Creek Schools and has been the union representative at those buildings as well. Through her many years in Lyme-Old Lyme, Susan has served on many committees including the District Curriculum, Math, ELA, and Social Studies committees as well as the first realignment committee. Susan also serves as a mentor for new teachers through the TEAM program. Her students describe Ms. Whritner's teaching style as, "When she teaches, she puts her heart into it. She is brave and courageous about trying new things, and she encourages us to have a growth mindset like she does. She has a real gift to teach."

Facility FACTS



Work has begun on the installation of solar panels on the three campuses. The projects are expected to be completed around Thanksgiving. This will provide a green energy source for our district as well as lower our costs for electricity. Pictured are some of the installed panels on the Middle School roof.



The district continues to pursue the idea of pumping water from the pond behind Lyme-Old Lyme High School (pictured) to support our athletic field irrigation system. We are working with the co-owner of the pond as well as the Old Lyme Wetlands Commission to ensure there is no negative impact to the pond environment. This project will help address the water shortage issue on our main campus.



The Mile Creek oil tank installation (pictured) is nearing completion. After the old tank was removed, some blasting was necessary to make sure room was available for the new tank. This is the final project in our three-year-cycle of oil tank replacements and is expected to last 30 years before having to be replaced again.

PLANNING FOR PRE-K EXPANSION AT LYME-OLD LYME

CALLING ALL THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS!

The Lyme-Old Lyme Schools are considering an expansion of our current Pre-K program to allow all age-eligible students in the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme to attend. In an effort to prepare all of our students for Kindergarten, our tentative plan is to expand our Pre-K offerings to all students in Lyme and Old Lyme and establish a universal Pre-K program based on Connecticut's Early Learning and Developmental Standards. We also hope to entice non-residents to move to our district, or enroll their students on a tuition basis, to enjoy this added benefit. This tentative plan would begin in the 2019-2020 school year.

To assist in the planning process, we are asking for your input. **If you have a child that will be three or four years old by September 1, 2019, and are interested in your child being considered for this program, please complete the following survey before November 15, 2018.** Survey results will be used in both our planning process as well as in securing spots in this exciting new program. The survey can be found on our website at <http://www.region18.org/page.cfm?p=2207>.

ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

In compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (40 CFR 763.93 [g] [4], Regional School District #18 of Lyme and Old Lyme, Connecticut provides this annual public notice that the schools listed below all have EPA AHERA Asbestos Management Plans for the safe control and maintenance of any asbestos containing materials found in the buildings. These Management Plans are available and accessible to the public during normal business hours at the District's Administrative Office (49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-7238) and at each of the following schools: the Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-7238; the Middle School, 53 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-2568; the High School, 69 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-1651; the Mile Creek School, 205 Mile Creek Road, Old Lyme, CT 860-434-2209; and the Lyme Consolidated School, 478 Hamburg Road, Lyme, CT 860-434-1233. Questions regarding the program can be directed to the District Facilities Department at 860-434-8182.

The Regional School District #18 Board of Education prohibits harassment and discrimination in educational programs, services, or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, military or veteran status, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, genetic information, sexual orientation, or past or present physical or mental disability in accordance with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments Act of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and appropriate state laws.