



# FOCUS ON SUMMER 2022 EDUCATION

Quarterly newsletter of Lyme-Old Lyme Schools *A private school experience in a public school setting*

## Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

As we bring this school year to a close, we wish to thank the community for their ongoing support of our schools. While COVID restrictions still played a part in the first half of our school year, this year saw the return of much-loved activities across all schools including concerts, sporting events, and award ceremonies with parents and extended family in attendance. Our students saw the return of field trips, school dances, and many other activities that made school feel “normal” once again.

On May 3, 2022, the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme voted to adopt a budget of \$34,830,464 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. The budget represents a 0.13% decrease from the previous year. When comparing this budget to the budget from four years ago, we are spending \$254,294 less than what was spent in 2019-2020. This represents a 0.7% decrease over four years while maintaining our award-winning academic and extracurricular offerings.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to welcoming back our students and staff in August.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviaser  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Steven Wilson  
*Chair, Board of Education*





# Please join us in recognizing the following retirees for their many years of service to the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme:

**Steve Bushnell**, *Social Studies Teacher at LOLMS, 33 years of service*

**Jim Cavalieri**, *Principal of Lyme School, 20 years of service*

**Juliette Evans-Case**, *Tutor at LOLMS, 20 years of service*

**Peg Hotchkiss**, *1st Grade Teacher at Mile Creek School, 37 years of service*

**Ellen Maus**, *Nurse Coordinator for the District, 26 years of service*

**Mindy Pollack-Pope**, *Secretary at Mile Creek School, 16 years of service*

**Kathryn Tretter**, *Special Education Teacher at Mile Creek School, 33 years of service*

**Carrie Wind**, *Band Director at LOLMS, 34 years of service*

**Top Left to Right:** Jim Cavalieri, Carrie Wind, Steve Bushnell

**Bottom Left to Right:** Peg Hotchkiss, Kathryn Tretter, Mindy Pollack-Pope, Ellen Maus



## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings:

- **August 3**, Regular BOE Meeting 6:30 PM
- **September 7**, Regular BOE Meeting 6:30 PM
- **October 5**, Regular BOE Meeting 6:30 PM
- **November 2**, Regular BOE Meeting 6:30 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at [www.region18.org](http://www.region18.org) under the "District Information" tab.

# DeBernardo Wins Gold!

Congratulations to Andrea DeBernardo who won multiple awards at the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games. Connecticut Special Olympics sent a total of 33 delegates, including three gymnasts, to the national games held in June at the ESPN Worldwide Sports Complex in Orlando, Florida.

## Andrea competed and placed in the following events:

<b>Level 3 All Around</b>	<i>Gold Medal</i>	<b>Level 3 Balance Beam</b>	<i>Bronze Medal</i>
<b>Level 3 Uneven Bars</b>	<i>Gold Medal</i>	<b>Level 3 Vaulting</b>	<i>5th place ribbon</i>
<b>Level 3 Floor Exercise</b>	<i>Gold Medal</i>		

Andrea was born and diagnosed with Down Syndrome at birth. She attends Lyme-Old Lyme High School and takes classes along with her peers and partakes in many traditional sports.



# Top Graduates

Congratulations to this year's top graduates!



Valedictorian Felse Kyle will be attending Yale University in the fall. While she has not decided on a course of study, she is interested in the newly offered ethics, politics and economics major. Felse participated in many activities including soccer, basketball, and rowing. She also was a part of unified sports, science olympiad, robotics, WLYM student news, and the student advisory council.

Felse especially enjoyed French class and how the class explored the culture and language in fun ways. Describing music as important to her, she played saxophone with the wind ensemble and the school jazz band. Felse also plays the violin and is teaching herself how to play the piano.

Summer plans include rowing with the Blood Street Sculls and spending time with friends and family. Felse wishes to thank all her teachers, school administrators, and staff for creating a wonderful experience and environment.



Also headed to Yale this fall is Salutatorian Nikolai Stephens-Zumbaum. Nikolai plans to double major in computer science and mechanical engineering, as well as joining the Air Force ROTC program. Nikolai participated in soccer, crew, and tennis while in high school. He enjoyed participating in robotics, the math team, trivia bowl, and the musical.

Nikolai loved physics class and "can't wait to see what else there is to learn" about physics. He has played piano for more than 12 years and much of his time at home is devoted to practicing, indeed, this was part of his senior project.

Nikolai will be working this summer and looks forward to reading and getting back on track with fitness and sports. He wants to learn more about the stock market and entrepreneurship. He is thankful for all the opportunities life has presented to him and hopes to make the best of future opportunities.



Honor Essayist Abby Speckhals is headed to Northeastern University this fall with plans to study chemical engineering. Speckhals was an instrumental part of the robotics team. As a lead programmer and part of the five student "drive team," she drove the robot during competitions. Speckhals' other activities included Spanish Honor Society, WLYM student news team, math team, and National Honor Society.

Speckhals favorite subject is science (especially chemistry and physics) and classes in the engineering/technology department taught by Mr. Derry and Mr. Goss. An avid volleyball player, Speckhals was a varsity captain this year and an All-State player. She aspires to play on the club team in college.

Speckhals will be working a retail job this summer as she did last summer. She wishes to thank all the administrators and teachers for creating such a positive environment in which to live and learn for her graduating class.



# Alumni Spotlight *Allison Hine* *New Principal of Lyme School*



## BIO

Hine, a resident of Old Lyme, recently served as Principal of Brownstone Intermediate School in Portland, Connecticut. She begins her new role as Principal of Lyme Consolidated School on July 1. Mrs. Hine has more than 20 years of experience as a classroom teacher and administrator. In addition to her work at Brownstone Intermediate School, she has served as the assistant principal and as social studies curriculum coordinator for the Stonington (CT) Public Schools. She began her career in education as an elementary school teacher for the Old Saybrook Schools.

Mrs. Hine previously served on the Board of Education for the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools and has been an active volunteer with Lymes' Youth Service Bureau and numerous other community organizations.

## RECOLLECTION

I had many amazing teachers during my thirteen years in Lyme-Old Lyme Public Schools. I love that I had some of the same teachers my parents had when they went to school, and my kids had some of the teachers who taught me during my schooling. One of those teachers was Mr. Rayder, my PE teacher. Mr. Rayder had my two children as students many years later. He and I share a birthday, so we were able to continue our tradition of wishing each other "Happy Birthday" through my children!

**FUN FACT** I recently started beekeeping at my house in Old Lyme. My dad and I are doing this together. We took a class, ordered all the tools and hive pieces, and now have thriving hives!