

West Woods News

Daniel M. Levy, Principal

September 16, 2022



What's new in the Woods!

Please review this **NEW Daily Health Assessment**

with your child every day. This is an important first line of defense in both ensuring the health and wellness of your children and also protecting our entire school community from the risk of infection.

Many thanks to our teachers, the WWS PTA, and our family members who joined us for our **WWS Open House** this past week.

Important Links:

[Hamden Public Schools](#)

[West Woods School](#)

[WWS PTA](#)

[School Governance Equity Council](#)

[School Calendar](#)

[Lunch Menus](#)

[Community Resources](#)

[Daily Health Assessment](#)

[Technology Help Request Form](#)

Daily Schedule:

8:30 AM—3:34 PM

Upcoming Events

September 20: Grade 1 field trip to Norton Brothers Farm.

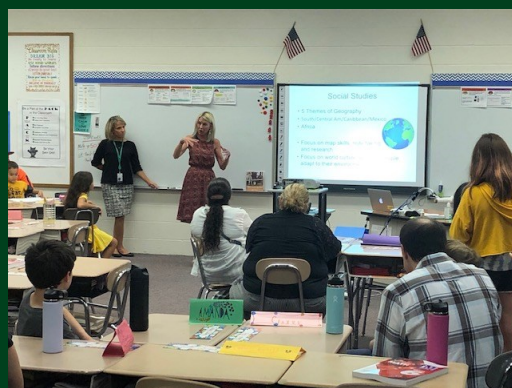
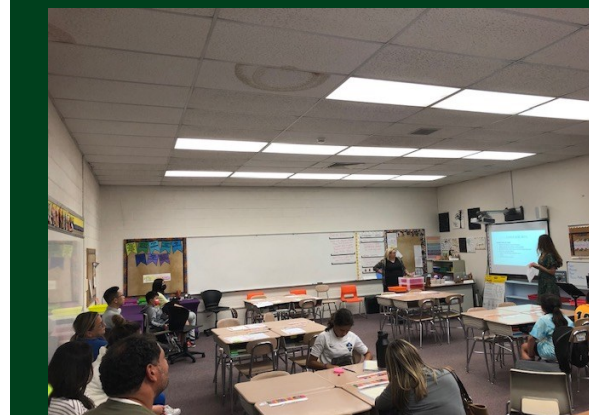
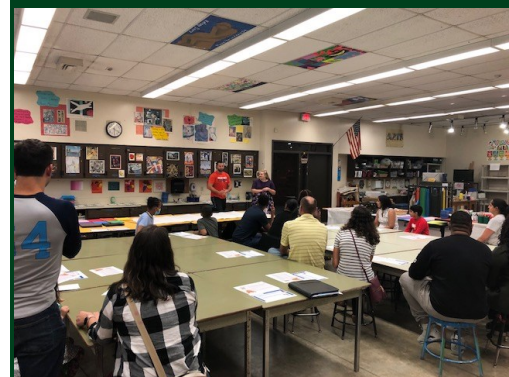
September 21: WWS PTA meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM (link to be sent).

September 26: No school—Rosh Hashanah.

October 3 and 4: Nature's Classroom on Wheels at WWS for Grades 4 and 5 (respectively).

October 5: No school—Yom Kippur.

October 10: No school—Indigenous Peoples' Day.



Congratulations to our students who have exemplified our PACK expectations last week! This week's winners are posted on our [PACK website](#).

Kindergarten: Fatimah A. and Arjun T.

First Grade: Riley A. and Allison M.

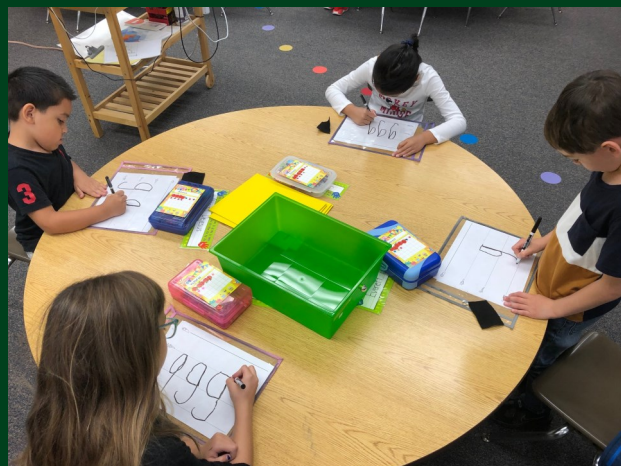
Second Grade: Daisy C. and Becca R.

Third Grade: Jayden J. and Kylie R.

Fourth Grade: Evan A. and Ava D.

Fifth Grade: A'vion A. and Taryn T.

Sixth Grade: Kyleigh G. and Bree L.

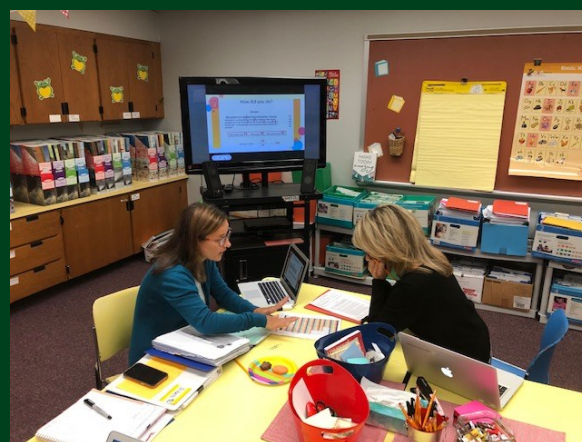


Literacy News from Mrs. Blanchard

Beginning readers need strong foundational skills to become successful readers. Foundations is a research-based approach that offers a multisensory and systematic phonics, spelling, and handwriting program. Our K-3 students participate in daily Foundations lessons (see photo above) with a variety of activities that teach and reinforce skills and strategies. Foundations lessons provide a truly strong and secure foundation for reading success, with FUN! The program encourages parental involvement so make sure to ask your child's teacher how you can help at home!



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) is a comprehensive, research-based screening assessment that will be administered to all K-6 students three times per year. It is an assessment that aligns with ongoing research in early literacy and assesses a range of reading skills from letter name knowledge to reading comprehension. DIBELS results will help teachers design their overall instructional reading plan. Teachers received training this past week and will be administering the first benchmark assessment soon.



Summer Reading Choice Boards

Students must submit completed Summer Reading Choice Boards to Mrs. Blanchard, Literacy Specialist, by September 22nd.



Math News from Mrs. Pietrosimone

Welcome Back Mathematicians! It was so nice to meet so many families at Open House this week. For those of you who didn't get a chance to say hello, my name is Mrs. Pietrosimone and I am the Math Specialist at West Woods School. My role is to support students, teachers, and families as our mathematicians navigate Hamden's math curriculum.

Hamden's Mathematics Goals – K-12

- Our students will become independent mathematical thinkers and problem solvers.
- Our students will communicate problem-solving strategies and evaluate their effectiveness.
- Our students will make conjectures and use logic and data to justify their conclusions.
- Our students will apply prior knowledge to new situations and develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and ideas.



Calling all West Woods Mathematicians!

Do you want to challenge your child/ren to use their math skills in new and creative ways? West Woods has an exciting at home Math Challenge Program for you and your child/ren to participate in! Please read the attached Math Challenge Information letter and join the K-6 Math Google Classroom (classroom code: cvddwzw) to find out how to participate this year! Please see the attached letter for K-5 families explaining the digital resources for home that complement the Investigations 3 math book. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. The best way to reach me is through email rpietrosimone@hamden.org.

Mental Health Wellness Days

Connecticut law provides students with up to two excused school absences to care for their mental health and wellness (MHW) that may be used in addition to the 9 excused days they may take for any reason. These days cannot be taken on consecutive school days, (e.g., Friday and Monday or Wednesday and Thursday).

MHW absences will always be excused when parent or guardian permission is documented, regardless of the number of absences a student has accrued in the school year, but will count towards chronic absence calculations as students are missing opportunities to learn.

In accordance with the guidance in the WWS Family Handbook, parents must call the main office at (203) 407-2050 by 9:00 AM to report an absence with the student's name, teacher's name, reason for absence, and the name of the person calling.

When students feel it necessary to be excused from school to tend to their mental health, it is an opportunity for conversations with school personnel regarding their wellness and to connect students and families to additional supports. WWS will engage in systems for monitoring and appropriately supporting students and families when MHW days are taken, including wellness screening and communication with the family and student regarding available systems of support within the school or through outside care providers.

Second grade news!

Second graders in Ms. Blake's class celebrate their first finished stories with one another. We call this a publishing party!

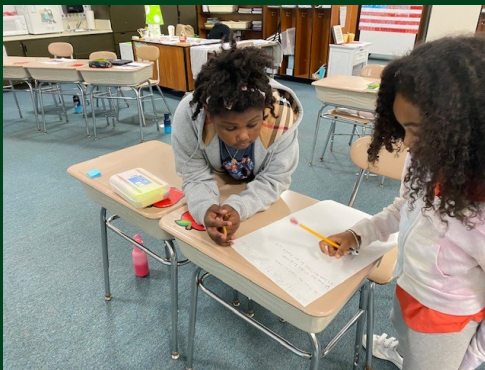


Second grade scientists experiment and discover where rivers begin and end.

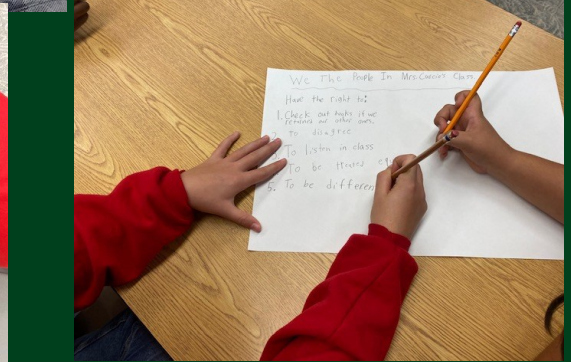
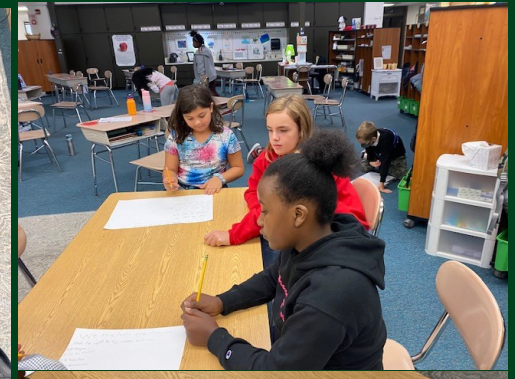
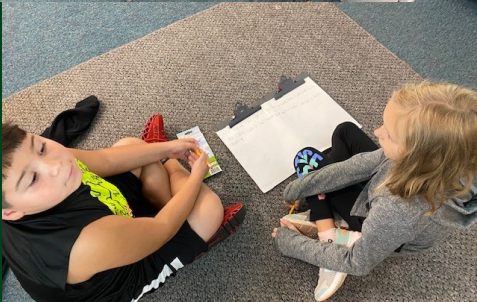
Students finished the week with a mystery guest reader—Becca R.'s father who visited to share a story with the class!



Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to visit us as a guest reader.

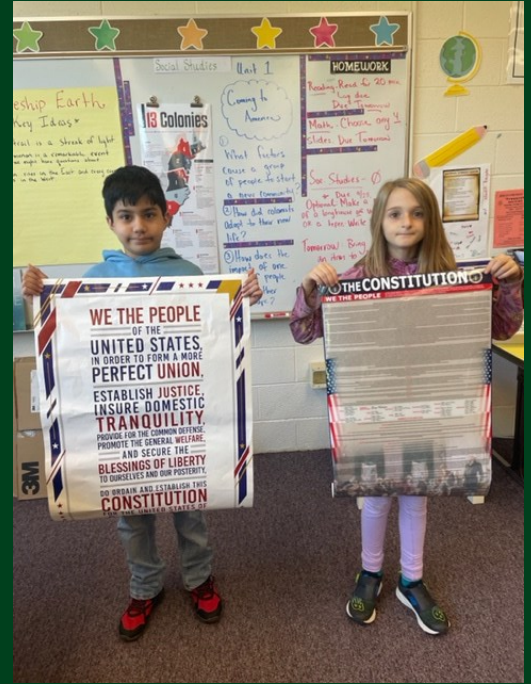
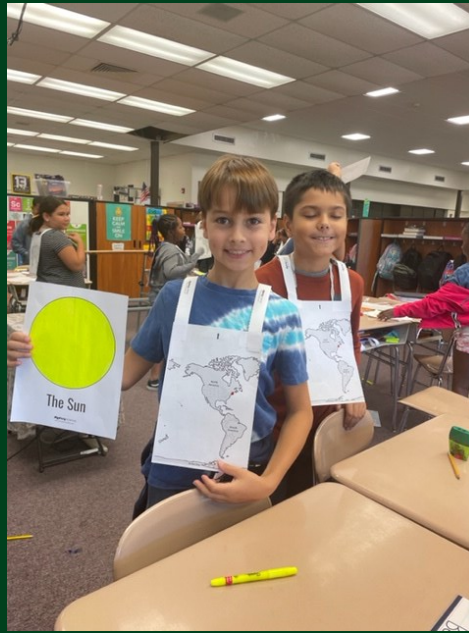


Students in Mrs. Curcio's fourth grade class commemorated **Constitution Day** on September 17th by writing about their own rights in the classroom.





As we approach the vernal equinox, students in Mrs. Mollin's **5th grade** class are learning about the Earth's rotation around the sun in science and also learned about the U.S. Constitution in Social Studies.



Please sign up for the "WWS Parent class" on Remind. I use this as another vehicle for sharing important information with families. To sign up for WWS Parent notifications, please visit <https://www.remind.com/join/wwspar> (you may have to copy the link to your browser to join). You can also text 81010 to @wwspar if you already have Remind.

WWS needs lunch and recess aides!

Please contact me at (203) 407-2054 or dlevy@hamden.org if you have an interest in serving as a lunch and recess aide!

As always, check out the **West Woods PTA website** www.westwoodspta.org for updates, forms, and our calendar of events.

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