

CMS NEWSLETTER



4 November 2022

ISSUE: 3



November is Native American Heritage Month! It's a time to celebrate the rich histories, diverse cultures, and important contributions of our nation's first people. Interior works to honor the nation's trust responsibilities and special commitments to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Learn More Here

<https://www.doi.gov/blog/celebrate-native-american-heritage-month>



**November
is
Native
American
Indian/Alaskan
Awareness
Month**

October is Digital Citizenship Month



All students took part in lessons about digital citizenship as part of our wellbeing and counseling curricula.

Children today may seem like experts at using technology, but the digital world requires all kinds of skills and habits that kids don't just pick up as they go.

The purpose of digital citizenship lessons is to help students reflect on their technology use and make thoughtful choices about how and when they use it. This month's lessons focused on the use of technology to connect with others; each lesson discussed the use of social media. In the lessons, we define "social media" as any form of internet-based technology that facilitates communication, interaction, content-sharing, and collaboration. This includes products such as TikTok, Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube as well as video game chats, group texts/emails, and shared Google Documents.

LINKED BELOW FIND

Follow-up Conversation Starters and Tips for Families



Grade 6 Lessons - [Digital Life Balance](#) and [My Social Media Life](#)

Grade 7 Lessons - [Oversharing and Your Digital Footprint](#) and Digital Drama

Grade 8 Lessons - [The Pressure to Be Connected](#) and [Digital Life Balance](#)



CMS Webpage

<https://cms.westportps.org/>

Parents and students are encouraged to check out the CMS Webpage. It's a great place to find information.

School Hours

Students 8:30-3:15
Office 7:30-4:00

Students may enter the building at 8:00 a.m.

Report Cards

Marking Period 1 ends Nov. 4th. Grades will be viewable on November 10th in PowerSchool. Families will receive an email alerting them to check MP 1 grades. Questions please contact your child's teacher(s).

Student Daily Attendance

Daily attendance and punctuality are essential for your child's educational success. Therefore, our expectation is that students and families make every effort to attend school regularly, arrive on time, schedule personal and medical appointments after school hours and avoid taking family vacations when school is in session. If your child is going to be absent, please leave a message on the Attendance HotLine before 9 am at 203-341-1699.

A student is considered to be "in attendance" if present at school for at least half of the regular school day (4 hours minimum at Middle School). Absences from school beyond 9 days will require a doctor's note to be considered excused. Students attending school for less than four (4) hours on any given school day are recorded as absent. "Truant" is defined as any student age five (5) to eighteen (18) years of age, inclusive, who has four (4) unexcused absences from school in any one month or ten (10) unexcused absences from school in any school year. Attendance is checked daily; parents and guardians will be notified when your child is absent from school and you have access to the student's daily attendance through the PowerSchool Parent Portal.

Visit

The Middle School Handbook for More Information

Update link

<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1628430196/westport/el1yucyzbs0jm3dhjqpg/Westp>

Please contact us if you have any questions:

Daily Attendance Questions:

Janine Dominici, Attendance Secretary, (203) 341-1699

Medical/Health Related Questions:

Maureen Kiernan, School Nurse, (203) 341-1630

Policy Related Questions:

Micah Lawrence, Assistant Principal, (203) 341-1600

IS MY TEEN JUST MOODY?



Presenter:

Elizabeth Cotter, M.S., L.P.C. is the Clinical Supervisor of Professional Learning & Development for Effective School Solutions. Ms. Cotter has over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit, education, and private sectors of New England as a Therapist, Program Director, and in Clinical Leadership roles. Additionally, Ms. Cotter is an Adjunct Professor at Naugatuck Valley Community College and a trauma specialist with a focus on clinical work with women, adolescents, children, and families.

An overview on adolescent depression

Parents often wonder how to distinguish “normal” teenage mood swings from symptoms of something more serious.

Westport Public Schools, in partnership with Effective School Solutions, presents a workshop that explores the signs and symptoms of clinical depression and will help parents explore their concerns. Participants will receive an overview of child and adolescent depression, learn how depression can impact school performance, and develop an understanding of treatment options.

Thursday, November 3rd at 7:00 PM
Bedford Middle School Auditorium
88 North Ave, Westport

