

NEW STATE GUIDELINES FOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION BEGIN 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



In alignment with the recent change in the Connecticut State Legislature for parents to register their children for Kindergarten, Region 14 Schools will open Kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year on January 23 for those students who turn five by September 1, 2024.

In July 2023, the Connecticut Legislature passed Public Act 23-208, Section 1(a) changing the birth date cutoff to September 1 of any given school year for students to turn five to enter kindergarten.

“We realize this is an unanticipated change and we want to make the process as easy as possible for the district families who are depending on kindergarten entry in the fall of this year,” said Dr. Taryn Fernandez, Director of Teaching & Learning in Region 14.

For students who do not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into kindergarten through an assessment process. Parents or guardians may submit to the school’s principal a Request for Early Entry to Kindergarten form which includes a parent/guardian assessment of their child’s early learning and development by February 28.

Parents or guardians will also need to submit a “Teacher/Caregiver Assessment of Child’s Early Learning and Development” form completed by a Pre-K provider or day care provider (if applicable).

In addition, an assessment of the child’s communication, motor, and cognitive skills, and their social emotional development completed by the school he or she will attend is required.

This assessment would indicate whether admitting the child to kindergarten is developmentally appropriate.

For children who receive special education services and do not meet the new enrollment cutoff date, their Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will review their individualized education program (IEP) and their progress to determine if an additional year of preschool would best meet the needs of the student.

To assist parents in supporting their child’s learning and development before the transition to kindergarten, Region 14 will hold Kindergarten orientation sessions in June at each elementary school. During these sessions, parents and guardians will receive information and resources to help best prepare their child for kindergarten over the summer months.

“We will support the best interests of the students and families throughout the process as we understand that the transition to kindergarten can evoke varying emotions from students and their families alike,” said Dr. Fernandez.

For more information about the exception process, please visit the Region 14 Kindergarten Registration page on the district website or contact the appropriate school principal: Mitchell Elementary School – Kelly Pinho, kpinho@ctreg14.org or Bethlehem Elementary School – Wendy Yatsenick, wyatsenick@ctreg14.org.

NEW LIFE-SAVING DEVICES IN REGION 14 THANKS TO COMMUNITY EFFORT



Members of the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, the Bethlehem Junior Fire Corps, Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, Woodbury Ambulance, and Region 14 gathered for a picture at Nonnewaug this month. Below are members of the BFVD Junior Corps at the Car Wash in October.



Three new life-saving devices placed in the Region 14 schools were made possible through a collaboration by local emergency personnel, Region 14 School District, and the Woodbury Lions Club.

The three new automated external defibrillators, or AEDs were installed in the schools over the break – one on the second floor at Nonnewaug High School, one near the NHS weight room, and one at Woodbury Middle School. This effort was the result of a collaboration of the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department, the Bethlehem Junior Fire Corps, Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, Woodbury Ambulance, the Woodbury Lions Club, and Region 14.

In the fall, the members of the Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department Junior Corps held a Car Wash and raised over \$1,000 for a new AED at Nonnewaug. Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department funded the rest of the \$2,100 needed for that device. The Woodbury Volunteer Fire Department, Woodbury Ambulance, and Woodbury Lions Club donated money for a second device, and Region 14 funded the third AED.

“The support in our community for three new AEDs to keep our staff and students safe is so greatly appreciated,” said Nonnewaug High School Nurse Sandy Snabaitis.

Snabaitis and NHS Custodian and Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department Firefighter Clayton Hilpertshauser were instrumental in the effort. “Region 14 staff worked hard to reach out to the community to get an additional AED for the weight room area. But the community came out in force, and we ended up with three new devices for the district. This is a wonderful effort by all to help make Region 14 Schools a heart-safe community.”

With the addition of these new AEDs, there are now eight AEDs in the Region 14 Schools.

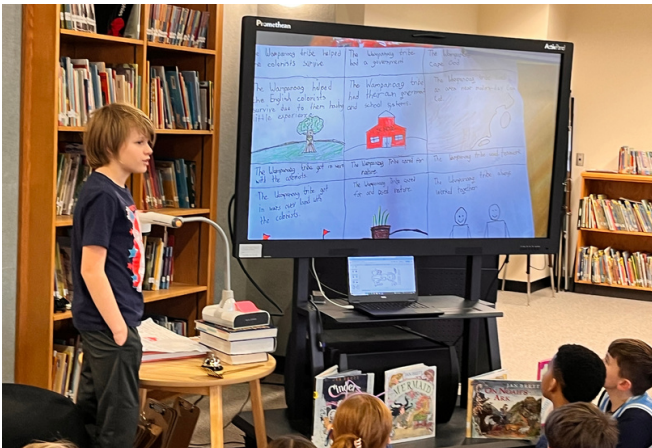
READING RALLIES: AN ALL-SCHOOL CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY AT BES



Since November, Bethlehem Elementary Pre-K to grade five students have participated in three monthly Reading Rallies led by Instructional Leader Caitlin Jurkowski and Library Media Specialist Caitlin Kelleher.

The assemblies open with a celebration of the author of the month. So far, the feature authors include student-favorites Eric Carle, Mo Willems, and Jan Brett. Students learn a little about the featured author and are then treated to a reading of a story by Mrs. Kelleher with AI technology sound effects added in. After celebrating the author, BES celebrates their own authors, illustrators, mathematicians, and scientists. One student from each class presents something they are proud to share with classmates.

The monthly Reading Rallies, which will continue throughout the school year, inspire a wonderful environment of learning and peer support.



DRUMS ALIVE OFFERS STUDENTS CROSS CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES AT MES



Thanks to a generous donation from the PTO, Mitchell Elementary School students will have the opportunity for some new cross-curricular drumming, movement, and music. The PTO purchased 25 new Drums Alive kits complete with drum kits, scarves, egg shakers, and boom whackers. These new kits get everyone engaged and moving in class from start to finish. These first graders got a chance to experience part of this new initiative with Music Teacher Adam Snyder.

NHS ART STUDENTS VISIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FOR SOME COLLABORATIVE ART



The high school students came up with the idea for the stuffed painted fish as a way to engage all grades. This project gave elementary students a chance to work with their older peers in a creative and fun atmosphere. It also gave the Art Honor Society students a chance for service hours.

Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary School students got a special visit from Nonnewaug High School art students for some hands-on creative collaboration. Members of the National Art Honor Society came to Sandra Andes' art rooms at both schools to work with the elementary schoolers on a project - a stuffed fish made from newspaper, paint, and lots of imagination.



NHS JUNIORS FORM TEAM CANCER CRUSADERS FOR LLS STUDENT VISIONARIES

Nonnewaug High School students Andrew Grivner and Gavin Sandor, also known as Team Cancer Crusaders, will be competing in this year's Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Student Visionaries competition, and are seeking help from the community with their fundraising efforts.

They kick off their fundraising campaign on Friday, February 2. One of their biggest fundraisers is the NHS REDOUT which will be held February 2- 9. During that week, they will host school wide activities including a Pep Rally and will sell merchandise for the Nonnewaug Chiefs boys' basketball REDOUT game that night. The team will be promoting activities at the other Region 14 schools and throughout the community during the campaign. Team Cancer Crusaders is asking local businesses to help their campaign by selling and purchasing chocolate bars at local vendors with the proceeds going towards their campaign.

"It's an amazing opportunity for us students and the communities we are a part of to support something greater for a positive change," said Sandor.

The fundraising runs through March 22. To donate online, visit: <https://events.lls.org/ctwhv/svoygct24/gsandor>.



Sandor and Grivner with
NHS Teacher Mentor
Tricia Marino Brown

WOODBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL ALLIANCE PANCAKE BREAKFAST SET FOR SUPERBOWL SUNDAY



Woodbury Middle School eighth grade Alliance members Kylee Cahill and Maddie Garguilo are spearheading the return of the Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast this year.

The breakfast has not been held in several years and the girls are hopeful that the return of this beloved event will help get the Region 14 community more involved in the local school events.

"This is an event that really makes a difference and helps create relationships between students and the community," said Cahill. "It is also a great learning event for us a group."

Garguilo added "We will be cooking pancakes and sausages to make breakfast platters and provide beverages for the customers that come from the community," she said. "I think it is a great way for us at WMS to give back to the community."

Members of the WMS staff, WMS Alliance students and students in the WMS Culinary classes will be volunteering their time to make the event a success. The breakfast will be served from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on February 11. Tickets are \$5.00. All of the proceeds will benefit the end-of-the-year activities for students at WMS.

CREATIVE GNOME HOME PROJECT BRINGS TECH ED & ART TOGETHER



Woodbury Middle School sixth graders have begun a collaborative project in Art and Tech Ed. Students are designing their own Gnome Homes. They first did a rough sketch of their desired structure and wrote a small narrative about their gnome home vision.

Students are using the tools in Tech Ed to cut out and sand their homes, make windows and doors, and begin designing the exterior with painted wooden cutouts and other materials of their choice. In Art, students are creating their gnomes out of clay. They will fire and glaze their gnomes to adhere on their wooden home.



SCENE AROUND THE DISTRICT

Bethlehem Elementary School fifth graders took a walk to the Bethlehem Post Office in December to see two new 2023 Bethlehem Christmas stamps that adorned tens of thousands of letters sent out this season. These two new 2023 Christmas Town stamps -- #88 and #90 -- were designed by Bethlehem Elementary School fifth graders Victoria Wolf and Alyxandra Postula last spring when they were fourth graders. BES substitute teacher Andrea Carter, a Bethlehem resident and former art teacher, led this optional art activity for students last spring. The Postmaster Rich Kelly spoke to the students about the postage stamp tradition that began in 1938 and the students enjoyed discovering the many stamps available at the post office. To wrap up their field trip, Mr. Kelly gave the students a tour of the post office facility and mail truck.



Students in the **Agriscience Program at Nonnewaug High School** partner with many local businesses to give students industry experiences both off site and at Nonnewaug. The Production class took a tour of Plymouth Meats in Terryville. This is a USDA facility that processes pork, beef, lamb, and goat and our students were able to observe what's involved. The Agriscience Production class recently welcomed students from the Southington High School Agriculture Science and Technology Program to learn the process of making sausage. Our students taught their peers how to cut, grind, season and put their sausage in casings to create links.

The work experiences of the students can be seen right here in Region 14. The Natural Resources students recently put up the main blue line of tubing ahead of the upcoming maple sugaring season right at the entrance to the campus. The sugaring season typically runs from early February through March. Agriscience students will tap these maple trees for the sap in the next few weeks to begin making maple syrup either on campus at Nonnewaug or by partnering with Flanders Nature Center.

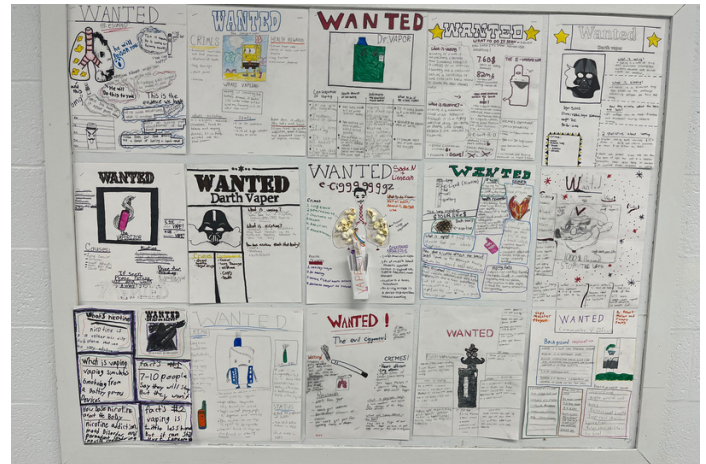


Bethlehem Elementary School sent 12 fourth and fifth-grade members of the BES Student Council to Naugatuck Valley Community College to attend the CAS Elementary Leadership Conference this month. They met hundreds of other students, student leaders, parent volunteers, and teacher facilitators from elementary schools around the state. This conference helps students learn new skills and broaden their knowledge and understanding of key concepts—with the aim of bringing that new knowledge back to their schools and sharing it with classmates.



SCENE AROUND THE DISTRICT

As a way for **Woodbury Middle School** students to identify the health risks of vaping, seventh graders in Chris McGrath's Health classes created Anti-Vape "Wanted" posters. Groups were tasked with creating a poster to demonstrate what they learned about the hazardous chemicals in vapes and how nicotine affects the body. The posters include at least five side effects or "crimes" of vaping as well as strategies to avoid vaping. These creative posters were placed on a bulletin board in the main hallway as a visual reminder of the harms of vaping for all WMS students to see.



Mitchell Elementary School welcomed members of the Danbury Hat Tricks professional hockey team for an all school assembly in early January. Managing Partner Herm Sorcher and his son Max, a freshman at Nonnewaug High School, and two members of the team spoke to the students about never giving up, the benefits of working hard, sometimes having to make hard decisions, and following their passion. They treated the students to some ball hockey tricks, a little hockey stick juggling, and welcomed a few students to give a slap shot a try. The MES community was invited to Mitchell Night at the Hat Tricks for their game against the Binghamton Black Bears.

Nonnewaug High School Freshman Kailey Townsend won the VFW Voice of Democracy Contest. Ken Korsu, Commander of the VFW Post 1607 presented Kailey with a certificate and monetary gift for her winning audio essay. The Voice of Democracy is a nationwide audio essay contest on a different topic each year chosen by the VFW. This year's topic was "What are the greatest attributes of our democracy?" Korsu also presented Skylar Palmer, Madison Stewart, Rachel Kalmanausky, Matthew Shupenis, and Maya Hines certificates for participation. The NHS Social Studies Department encourages all students to enter this competition each year.



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