



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the 2023-2024 school year. This past year has been successful on so many levels. It has been inspiring to observe all of the growth in our students the past year. They have been committed to their learning. Students have performed remarkably well on various assessments and have displayed an ability to persevere during challenging times. I will always remember the compassion that each student showed to their peers throughout the course of the school year.

I am extremely proud of the staff for their compassion that was exhibited during this past year. The staff fostered a learning environment that was inclusive of all learners. Our entire staff is committed to continuous improvement and supporting the vision of Region 14. ([Region 14 5-Year Strategic Plan](#)) The staff did an amazing job of delivering a new K-5 math program (Illustrative Math), K-3 reading program, (Foundations) and a middle school English Language Arts program. The district implemented diagnostic assessments in Reading/Math/Science in each school. These diagnostic assessments have been extremely beneficial in measuring the needs of every student. Finally, new courses were added to Nonnewaug High School that have improved our academic course catalog.

As we conclude the 2023-2024 school year I am uplifted by all of the progress that was demonstrated over the past school year. Mitchell Elementary School was once again named a School of Distinction by the Connecticut State Department of Education, Bethlehem Elementary School was identified as one of the top elementary schools in Connecticut, Nonnewaug High School was rated in the top 25% of all high schools in the state of Connecticut based on the state of Connecticut's School Accountability Index, the Agriscience and Art programs at Nonnewaug High School were nationally recognized again, and Woodbury Middle School improved their standardized student assessment scores in several areas. In addition, elementary school students were recognized for their scientific talents and earned Invention Convention state accolades. The Nonnewaug High School is proud to have its first-ever Olympian, Jessica Davis, participate in the summer Paris Olympics. Finally, Nonnewaug High School won the prestigious Ted Alex Athletic/Sportsmanship Excellence Award again from the Berkshire League. This award is a testament to how our student-athletes represent Nonnewaug High School and Region 14. It has been a truly spectacular school year. We are grateful for all of your support as we continue to strive for excellence in every one of our schools. We are thankful for allowing Region 14 to educate your child. We value our partnership with you. We are excited for the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year (August 28) as we will be implementing many new programs and curricula offerings. I hope you have a restful summer with family and friends.

Brian Murphy
Superintendent of Schools
Region 14

REGION 14 SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDUM



REGION 14 SCHOOLS 2024-2025 SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDUM

**JUNE 18, 2024
6 A.M. – 8 P.M.**

Bethlehem Town Hall
Woodbury Senior Community Center

The Region 14 Schools 2024-2025 School Budget referendum will be held on Tuesday, June 18 from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. in Woodbury and Bethlehem.

Bethlehem residents can vote at the Town Hall, 36 Main Street South in Bethlehem. Woodbury residents can vote at the Woodbury Senior Community Center at 265 Main Street South, Woodbury.

The referendum question is as follows:

Shall the amended budget submitted by the Board of Education for Regional School District No. 14 for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025 in the amount of \$41,285,463 be approved? Yes/No

DUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES INCREASING AT NONNEWAUG HIGH SCHOOL

This year, the Connecticut State Department of Education offered a grant to increase dual credit opportunities for high school students in CT. Region 14 applied for and received a grant for \$30,000. Dual credit enrollment courses provide high school students with the ability to earn college credit granted by the partner college via a college transcript for coursework taken during high school. Earning these credits has the potential to significantly reduce the cost of college for our students as many colleges and universities accept credits for transfer.

We are pleased to share that in addition to the 11 dual credit offerings we already had in place, we have numerous new and expanded offerings available to our students beginning in the 2024-2025 school year with more opportunities in progress for the 2025-2026 school year!

During this school year, multiple Nonnewaug High School teachers submitted their resumes to UConn and other CT institutions of higher education along with the syllabi for their courses for review by college faculty.

Courses added to our dual credit opportunities include **American Sign Language** through our ASL 3 course with the potential to earn 6 UConn credits in world language; **Contemporary Social Issues in Sports** through our Sports and Society course - 3 UConn credits in one semester; **Drawing 1** through our Foundations in Art course - 3 UConn credits; **Design Lab 1** through our Digital Design 1 course - 3 UConn credits; **American Government** through our AP US Government and Politics course - 3 Southern CT State University credits and **Multimedia Production Techniques** through our Video Production course - 3 Quinnipiac Credits.



We will also be bringing back the **UConn Introduction to Companion Animals** course through the Veterinary Science course in agriscience, and we have added two teachers to the UConn adjunct faculty list for **Spanish** and **Environmental Science**. For the 2025-2026 school year, we will be adding an **Agriculture Technology and Society** course and we are working towards adding a **Writing Lab** with UConn and a **culinary course** with CT State, the community college consortium.

In addition to the partnerships through the grant, we now have an articulation agreement with Delaware Valley University. Nonnewaug High School students who successfully complete the Greenhouse, AgriScience, and Nursery Landscape curriculum earning a B or higher who choose to attend Delaware Valley University will receive up to 12 credits upon their enrollment to offer additional flexibility in scheduling.

We anticipate adding to these partnerships as other institutions of higher education in the state of Connecticut determine their protocols and procedures for entering into agreements with public high schools across the state.

SUMMER MEALS FOR REGION 14 STUDENTS

No-Cost Meals for All Kids, All Summer
The CT Summer Meals Program is federally funded by the USDA and state-administered by the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE).

The program provides free, nutritious meals to kids during summer break. Summer Meals meet federal nutrition guidelines and are composed of milk, fruits, vegetables, grains, and meat or another protein. Summer Meals are offered at hundreds of sites around the state from June to late August, serving combinations of breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks. Meals are free to any child age 18 and under, no questions asked.

A vibrant orange and yellow poster for the 'FREE SUMMER MEALS' program. At the top, it lists 'SANDWICHES • VEGETABLES • FRUITS • MILK'. The main title 'FREE SUMMER MEALS' is in large, bold, green letters. Below the title, there are three circular images: a group of diverse children smiling, a close-up of a sandwich with meat, cheese, and vegetables, and a boy holding a carton of milk. To the right of these images is a starburst graphic that says 'KIDS and TEENS 18 and Under'. At the bottom left is a QR code. At the bottom right, it says 'For sites near you visit: www.CTSummerMeals.org' and 'CALL 211 TEXT SUMMER MEALS TO 914-342-7744'. The bottom of the poster features logos for 'THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER', 'Milk image courtesy of No Kid Hungry', 'FNCI', 'USDA', 'Connecticut Department of Education', 'CSDE', 'AMERICAN SAVING', 'Connecticut Foodshare', and 'AMERICAN SAVING'.

MUSIC DAY IN REGION 14 WAS A DAY FOR LEARNING AND PERFORMING

Nonnewaug High and Woodbury Middle Schools band, chorus, and orchestra welcomed guest adjudicators to listen, assess their performances, and provide valuable feedback.

Guest adjudicators were Staples High School Band Director Philip Giampietro and Southbury Vocal Teacher Cynthia Servetas. They worked with students to fine tune pieces they recently performed at the spring concert. NHS band and orchestra students played Pilatus Mountain of Dragons by Steven Reineke. The WMS band performed Critical Call by JaRod Hall, and the orchestra performed Fantasia by Elliot Del Borgo.

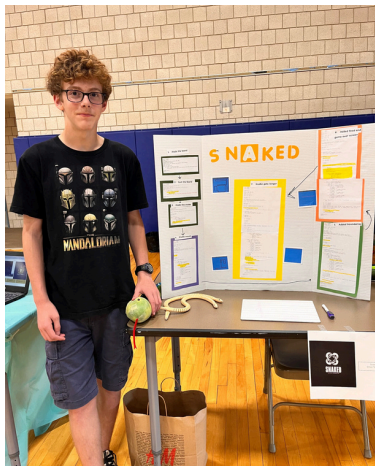
The WMS/NHS chorus students performed for Servetas who offered students feedback based on her professional expertise as a choral musician and voice coach.

It was a wonderful morning of learning and listening for all the students involved in this musical collaboration. Following the adjudication, all Region 14 music students headed to Quassy Amusement Park to enjoy the park. The NHS Jazz and Rock Ensemble students also performed alongside elementary jazz students on stage at Quassy.



EXPO FEST CELEBRATES 8TH GRADE INNOVATION

36 Woodbury Middle School 8th-grade completed their Personal Interest Projects to showcase at Expo Fest in June. Students exhibited their final projects that spanned the areas of arts and leisure, community outreach, personal experience, and a deep dive into learning a new skill. The unique projects included coding, creating podcasts, making maple syrup, writing a blog, woodworking, fishing, art and music classes, floral arranging, teaching soccer and golf, hosting fundraisers or creating a project to sell for local charities, cooking, photography, equine therapy, sheep agriculture, and more. The PIP allows students to follow their passions and complete a project where they can “learn, solve, make, or do” and master skills that will help them in the future.



AGRISCIENCE HOSTS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS FOR ANNUAL VISIT

The beloved annual Drive Your Tractor to School Day was the perfect backdrop for the PreK to 2nd-grade visit to the Nonnewaug High School Agriscience Program for both Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary School.

Students saw all the tractors parked in the lot and even got the chance to sit on a few. Agriscience students did a terrific job bringing the elementary school students to visit the large and small animal barns, and the aquaponics and aquaculture areas.

Students even got a hayride around the school or visited the horses down at the barn.



DISTRICT 5TH GRADERS GO BACK IN TIME FOR HISTORY DAY

Mitchell Elementary and Bethlehem Elementary School fifth graders got a sense of what life was like in the 18th century at their annual History Walk and Tours. MES students toured the Glebe House and Gertrude Jekyll Garden, Hurd House, and historic buildings and homes near Hollow Park. BES students walked down to the Bellamy-Ferriday House and the Old Bethlem School House. Students spent the day learning about Woodbury and Bethlehem from the living historians, toured the old school houses, and played games to guess the different artifacts or historical games including Graces and hoop trundle.



GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY IN AGRISCIENCE

Nonnewaug High School Agriscience students were happy to cultivate and set aside a special order of flowers as they prepared for the annual Plant Sale in May.

Floriculture students and teacher Eric Birkenberger welcomed Dr. William Petit of the Petit Family Foundation to deliver 200 Four O'Clocks that students grew in the greenhouses for them this year. The Four O'Clocks were donated to the Petit Family Foundation to be used in Michaela's Gardens in honor of one of Dr. Petit's daughters.

Michaela's Gardens are located throughout Connecticut to honor Michaela, to create awareness, and to motivate positive changes. Nonnewaug Agriscience students grow the Four O'Clocks each year to help keep the cycle of Michaela's Garden ongoing.



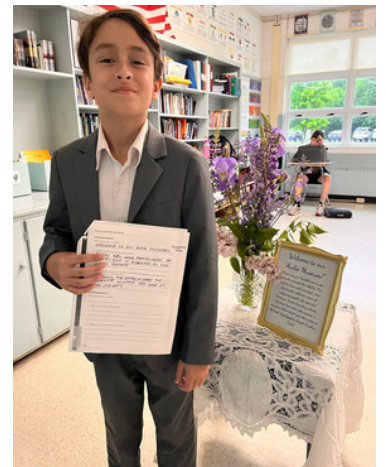
NHS YEARBOOK WINS NATIONAL AWARD



The 2023 edition of "The Chief" was named to the Varsity Yearbook Portfolio Best Of Edition. The yearbook cover design is in the top 10% of Varsity yearbooks in the US and Canada

AUDIO MUSEUM EXHIBITS BRING NATIVE AMERICAN VOICES TO LIFE AT WMS

Woodbury Middle School sixth-grade ELA students created Audio Museum exhibits on the voices of Native American Boarding Schools. Students read "Two Roads," a middle-grade historical fiction novel about the Depression-era government-run boarding schools for Native Americans. They selected poems, songs, journal entries, and personal narratives written by survivors of these boarding schools. They wrote and recorded themselves reading an excerpt from a letter from a main character in Two Roads. They designed their own Audio Museums and welcomed classmates and special guests to hear these powerful stories.

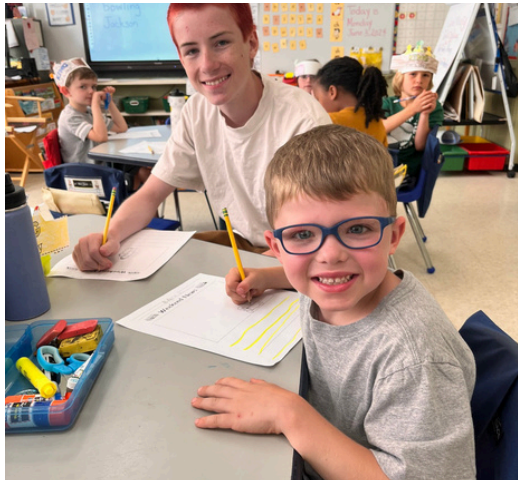


NHS BERKSHIRE LEAGUE AWARDS



Congratulations to NHS senior Gianna Lodice who was awarded the Ray Marinko Award by the CIAC. This award is given to one senior student-athlete in the BL for outstanding athletic ability, scholarship, leadership, integrity, courage, versatility, and service. Nonnewaug also received the Ted Alex Award, the league's top honor that recognizes athletic success and sportsmanship.

SCENES FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



Nonnewaug High School Future Educators Club members were at Mitchell Elementary School this month for a hands-on opportunity working with kindergarten and first-grade classes. The high school members of FEC observed the classroom teachers at work before jumping in to help with lessons in math and vocabulary and specials classes. The FEC was re-introduced this year to allow students to learn about the different fields in education.



13 Nonnewaug High School students received the Seal of Biliteracy in Spanish. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who study and attain proficiency in English and one or more other languages by high school graduation. Students are Sofia Lingley, Arturo Santos, Dean Montero, Judy Nakhla, Gianna Ruby-DiSilva, Jano Nakhla, Julia Marunas, Andrew Grivner, Skylar Chung, Megan Keating, Bella Starr, Anna Galvani, and Christian Gallego.



Nonnewaug High School Agriscience students in the Natural Resources classes have spent the last two weeks reinstalling bees in the classroom observation hive and installing bees into the outdoor apiary. Students welcomed former NHS Natural Resource teacher George Lyman and Woodbury resident Jennifer Neal to help get the school-based hives back up and running.



CAS Scholar Leaders
at WMS



Elementary Invention
Convention Winners



Superintendent's Award
Winners

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Weekly School Principal
News Updates

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HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! SEE YOU ON AUGUST 28!

