

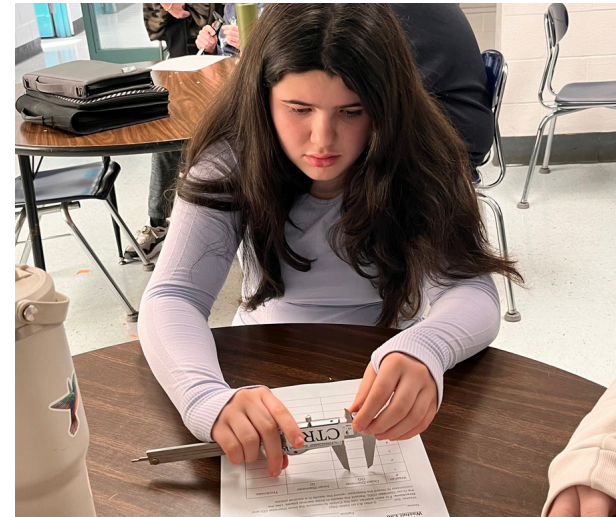
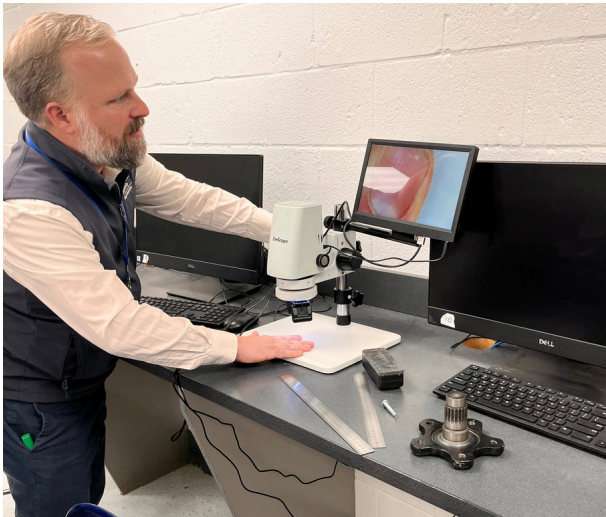
FOCUS ON 14

The monthly newsletter of Region 14 Schools
February 2025



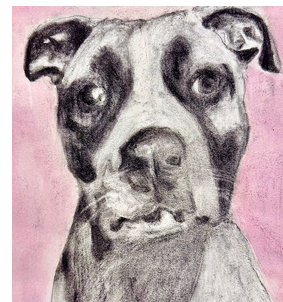
WMS TECH ED STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT QUALITY ASSURANCE THROUGH CREATIVE HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Woodbury Middle School Tech Ed students welcomed Keith Sevigny from Goodwin University for a lesson on quality assurance in the manufacturing industry. The QA process is a set of practices used by companies to ensure that their products maintain high quality. Sevigny introduced students to the idea of manual visual inspection as a QA tool with a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. Students worked in an assembly line to search through the pieces for the one piece that fit the criteria he set forth. Students also learned about other quality assurance tools, including the high-powered microscope to search for tiny defects in a product and a digital caliper students used to measure the size and thickness of washers. Sevigny also highlighted a different type of QA process - Misfits Market -- that uses taste rather than physical characteristics as a benchmark for quality.



NAHS CREATED PORTRAITS TO HELP LOCAL PET ORGANIZATION

The Nonnewaug High School National Art Honor Society members used their artistic talents to help raise funds for Companion Pet Rescue & Transport of W. TN, Inc., an organization dedicated to rescuing dogs from Tennessee and facilitating their adoption and foster care in our community. For this event, NHS student artists created more than 20 custom pet portraits, which were offered to community members in exchange for a donation of approximately \$10. The fundraiser was a tremendous success, raising over \$2,900 to support CPR's mission. This initiative not only provided financial assistance to the organization but exemplified NAHS chapter's dedication to using artistic talents in service to the community.

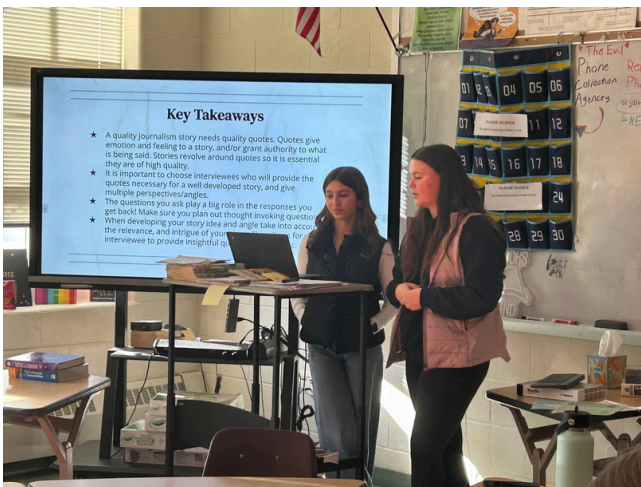


MES NATURE CLUB GETS STUDENTS OUTSIDE TWICE A MONTH



Mitchell Elementary School launched a Nature Club earlier this year, and students have embraced the chance to get outside before school twice a month. The Nature Club is led by advisors LMC specialist Allison Loiseau and Multilingual Learner Coordinator Darcy Lockwood, who are planting, hiking, and exploring with a growing group of adventurers. So far, students have gathered leaves and made their creations based on the story "The Leaf Man," walked over to and explored the Flanders Nature Center Glacial Kettle, strapped on snowshoes, and explored the grounds at Mitchell. Students also created bird feeders to keep native birds energized through winter. What a terrific way to start the day!

NHS AWARD-WINNING JOURNALISM PROGRAM GETS STUDENTS WRITING ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL AND MORE



Nonnewaug High School students in the journalism program are committed to reporting the news of their school about subjects relevant to their community. Each day, the online NHS Chief Advocate is filled with stories about events, students, teachers, the local communities of Bethlehem and Woodbury, and beyond. Journalism and the Chief Advocate at NHS has grown from a single section taught by one teacher to five sections needing three teachers. The students are making their mark at NHS as the online go-to source for all things Nonnewaug.

But these students are also making their mark outside of NHS in both the online school newspaper arena and in a mentor program for their local high school journalism peers.

In February, 23 members of the Chief Advocate headed to Woodland High School for their first-ever collaborative journalism day at the Connecticut High School Press Association seminar. Several student journalists from each school presented on a variety of topics. Six NHS students presented on topics such as photography, writing ledes, and interviewing. It was a terrific day of sharing and learning for students. Plans are in the works for Nonnewaug to host next year's CHSPA seminar.

The list of the Chief Advocate's award-winning pieces by students continues to grow. This month, sophomore reporter Addison Bushka received top honors from the student journalism platform Student Newspapers Online, also known as SNO. Her piece on NHS alumni who have returned to teach at their alma mater received the coveted "Best of SNO" designation.



Read the [**Chief Advocate here.**](#)

BES SPELLING BEE CHALLENGES ALL STUDENTS

Fifth grader Finn Feeney is the winner of the first-ever Scripps Spelling Bee at Bethlehem Elementary School. Students in grades 1 - 5 who wished to participate studied the Scripps' word bank of 450 words. The first round consisted of classroom competitions, and the 10 classroom winners then met for the final event - a terrific spelling battle in the cafeteria. Their peers watched virtually and cheered them on. The runner-up is third-grader Chloe Fusco.

Congratulations to all the students who opted to join this first-ever Spelling Bee at BES. Principal Wendy Yatsenick said she was thrilled that most students opted to participate in this event suggested by PTO member Mary Peterson. Yatsenick is excited for BES to continue the tradition.



NHS AGRISCIENCE STUDENTS WIN AT CT FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW



Congratulations to the Woodbury FFA on a fantastic showing at the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show on February 21 and 22.

Their landscape exhibit received three awards -- Best Use of Color, Best Use of Standing Water, and Strongest Expression of Statement of Intent.

It's been over 30 years since the Woodbury FFA brought an exhibit to the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show. The exhibit was created this month by Agriscience students in the Nursery/Landscaping class at Nonnewaug High School.

BES COMMUNITY LOVES THE ANNUAL GRANDPARENTS' DINNER

The unpredictable February weather may have postponed it but the Bethlehem Elementary School Valentine's Day Grandparents' Dinner this month was a terrific community event. This event for BES families is so popular that it has outgrown the school cafeteria and was moved over to Memorial Hall to accommodate two seatings and 250 people this year. With many smiles, delicious food, and great community-building, the Bethlehem Elementary School PTO volunteers made this event special for everyone who came.



AROUND THE DISTRICT



Team Cancer Crusaders, headed by **Nonnewaug High School** Student Visionaries Brayden Whipple and Billy Herr, is raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. They are hosting a bake sale at Labonne's of Woodbury on March 1 and a Can Shake at Labonne's of Watertown on March 8. The money raised helps LLS fund research to advance lifesaving treatments, drive advocacy for policies that protect patient access to these treatments, and provide patients and families with hope, guidance, education, and support.

The fundraising campaign runs through March 21, 2025. To donate, visit the Cancer Crusaders Fundraising page <https://events.lls.org/ctwhv/svoygct25/ccrusaders>

Mitchell Elementary School celebrated Black History Month with a school-wide assembly. Each grade was tasked with researching a specific area of focus from inventors to athletes to change-makers, to research and learn about notable figures in Black History. Third graders created these unique BioBottles on changemakers, and fifth graders created a painted story quilt like that of the famous painted story quilts by Faith Ringgold.



2025-2026 DISTRICT CALENDAR UPDATES

2025/2026 REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 14 CALENDAR												Date	Event/Holiday		
July 2025												July 7-14 with 14 days	Extended Year Services		
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	August 25	New Teacher Orientation
		1	2	3	4	5								August 26/27	Convocation/Teacher Prof. Develop.
														August 26	Teacher Professional Development
6	7	8	9	10	11	12								August 27	First day of school
13	14	15	16	17	18	19								September 1	Labor Day - Schools Not In Session
20	21	22	23	24	25	26								September 1	NHS Open House
27	28	29	30	31										September 23	BESMES Open House
														September 25	WMS Open House
														September 27	Teachers' Professional Learning Day - Schools Not In Session
														October 10	Schools Not In Session
														October 13	Columbus Day - Schools Not In Session
														October 16	NHS PE Grade Appreciation Open House
														November 4	Teachers' Professional Learning Day - Schools Not In Session
														November 11	Veteran's Day Observed - Schools Not In Session
														November 18	Planned Early Dismissal for BESMES (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														November 20	Planned Early Dismissal for BESMES (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														November 21	Planned Early Dismissal for BESMES (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														November 21	Early Dismissal
														November 27 & 28	Thanksgiving - Schools Not In Session
														December 8	Planned Early Dismissal for WMS (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														December 9	Planned Early Dismissal for WMS (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														December 11	Planned Early Dismissal for WMS (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														December 23	Early Dismissal
														December 24 to January 2	Winter Break - Schools Not In Session
														January 15	Planned Early Dismissal for NHS (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														January 16	Early Dismissal - Teacher Prof Lng
														January 19	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools Closed
														February 16 & 17	Presidents' Day/February Break - Schools Not In Session
														February 24	Planned Early Dismissal for BESMES (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														February 26	Planned Early Dismissal for BESMES (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														February 26	Planned Early Dismissal for BESMES (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
														March 27	Teachers' Professional Learning Day - Schools Not In Session
														March 20	Good Friday/Schools Not In Session
														April 13-17	April Break - Schools Not In Session
														May 22	Early Dismissal - Teacher Prof Lng
														May 23	Memorial Day - Schools Not In Session
														June 11	Last Day of School/ Early DISMISSAL
August 2025												Professional Learning/Early Dismissal Wednesdays	1st and 2nd Wednesdays Unless Otherwise Noted		
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	August 2025	WMS/MEs 1:00 pm - ME/SES 2:00 pm

The Board of Education approved the Region 14 Schools 2025-2026 calendar at their February 3 meeting. Notable for the new school year beginning August 27 includes a change in the Wednesday Professional Learning sessions. For the 2025-26 school year, the Wednesday Professional Learning days for teachers and staff will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Dismissal times for students on these days will also be changing. For the first and third Wednesday schedule, Nonnewaug High School and Woodbury Middle School will dismiss at 1:00 p.m., and Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary Schools will dismiss at 2:00 p.m. This change will offer teachers and staff a more robust Professional Learning experience for four hours each month. This change will also be less of a weekly disruption for families.

Visit the Region 14 District Calendar

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REGION 14



www.ctreg14.org



Email Alerts



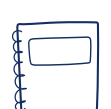
Region 14 Social Media
Facebook & Instagram at Region14schoolidistrict



Digital Backpack



PowerSchool



Weekly School Principal
News Updates