



SPRING ADULT EDUCATION COURSES

Welding. Small engine repair. Bee-keeping. Soap-making. Floral design. Meat-cutting basics.

Learn skills like these and many more by taking a course at the Ellis Clark Regional Agriscience & Technology Adult Education Program.

The spring 2026 courses will be held on Wednesday evenings from March 4 to April 8 at Nonnewaug High School. Classes are from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Courses are offered in areas including Animal Science, Ag Mechanics, Food Science, Horticulture, Natural Resources, Agricultural Arts, as well as some new courses in Bitcoin and AI. The courses are taught by Agriscience teachers, local artisans, farmers, and agricultural professionals in the community, as well as former Nonnewaug High School agriscience students. "Our goal is to not only educate our students but also educate and connect with the members of our community," said Eric Birkenberger, Agriscience teacher and Adult Education Program Coordinator. "Our favorite types of classes are the ones that let our participants take something home."



Course offerings include both single-night sessions and multi-session courses over five weeks. In addition to the registration fee, courses may have a supplies fee to cover the materials needed. Please take a look at the course description for details.

To register for courses and view the course catalog, visit <https://www.woodburyffa.org/adult-ed-1>. Registration payments will be taken through the GoFan system.

NHS SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Nonnewaug High School had another incredible showing in the 2025-26 Connecticut Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Competition, a professionally juried event that recognizes only the best Connecticut student artwork.

Nonnewaug student art earned 29 overall awards -- 2 Silver and 2 Honorable Mention Portfolio Awards, 13 Gold Key awards, 3 Silver Key Awards, and 5 special awards -- CAEA Best In Drawing, the CAAA Best In Painting, ASAP! Summer Photography Intensive Scholarship, and 2 Silver Hartford Art School Scholarships. Student work also included collaboration with Washington's ASAP program's summer intensive art programs. The work of all of the Gold Key winners qualifies to be judged for the national competition.

Portfolio Awards:

Silver Portfolio -- Selma Dedovic, Addison Neilsen -- both Hartford Art School Scholarships
Honorable Mention Portfolio -- Sophia Starr, Autumn Buonato

Gold Key Awards -- Greta Addeo - Drawing; Alexia Binette - Drawing; Selma Dedovic (2) - Illustration, Drawing; Gemma Hedrei - Photography -- ASAP! Summer Photography Intensive Scholarship recipient; Regan LaPointe - Drawing; Vincent Matozzo - Drawing; Addison Neilsen - Mixed Media; Claire Rogers - Drawing; Sophia Starr (2) - Drawing, Painting



Silver Key Awards -- Lila Rogers -- Photography; Karli Brandt - Drawing; Sophia Starr - Painting

Honorable Mention Awards -- Karli Brandt (3) -- Photography (2), Drawing (1); Lila Rogers (3) -- Photography; Alexa Kane - Drawing; Ella Quinn - Drawing; Samantha Sorcher - Drawing

Special Awards: Samantha Sorcher -- CAEA Best In Drawing -- Gold Best In Drawing; Claire Rogers- CAAA Best In Painting

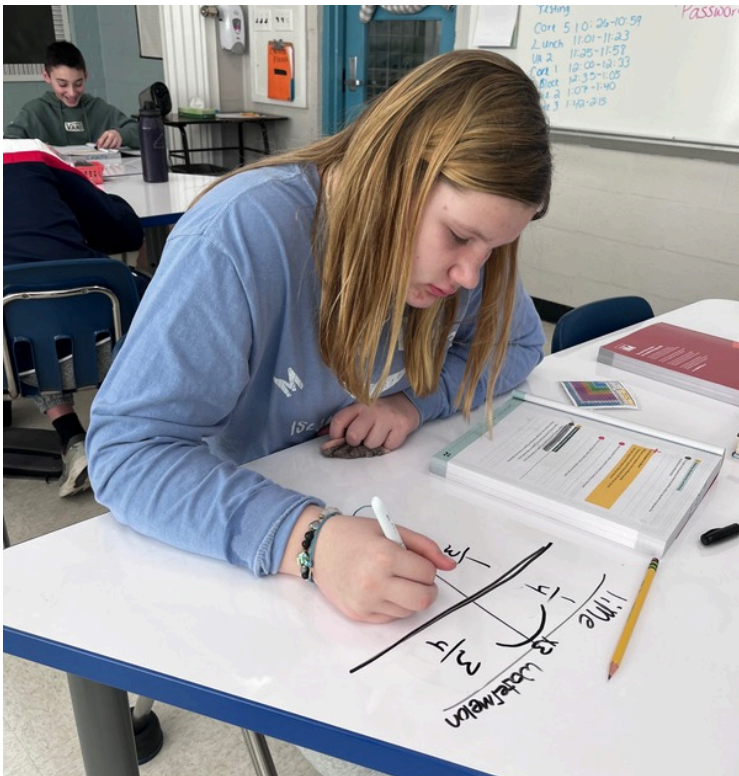
Click here to view the [Scholastic Art Awards](#)

WMS STUDENTS EXPLORE HEALTHCARE MANUFACTURING



Woodbury Middle School students in Will Michael's Tech Ed class took on an amazing engineering challenge in class -- make a prosthetic hand out of everyday materials. Using items like duct tape, masking tape, pipe cleaners, string, cardboard, straws, and popsicle sticks, students designed and engineered movable prosthetic hands that could perform simple tasks like holding a stick. This project capitalized on the students' creativity and planning skills. This project was one of the biotechnology activities through the WMS partnership with Goodwin University to bring manufacturing into our Tech Ed program. This year, the embedded lessons from Goodwin at WMS have students focusing on the healthcare manufacturing and engineering industry.

NEW LEARNING TOOL IN WMS MATH CLASSES



This year at Woodbury Middle School, all students are encouraged to write on tables as a way to help them work through math problems. WMS math classrooms in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade have swapped out traditional desks and are now outfitted with whiteboard tables at each student station. "These tables engage students and encourage them to take more risks when trying to work through math problems," said Cate Lyman, WMS Math & Science Instructional Leader. "The tables encourage more collaboration between students and their teachers as well as peer-to-peer engagement."

Teachers can easily see student work as they walk around the classroom, spurring conversation and instant feedback, and students are enjoying the simplicity of restarting or fixing an equation using the dry-erase markers. "This really helps me with solving problems because the large table surface makes it easier to see what I am doing and remember it," said one student. This extra tool provides a unique learning experience for students with all learning styles and complements the vertical classroom whiteboards for the ultimate thinking classrooms in math at WMS.

ELEMENTARY ASSEMBLY GIVES STUDENTS A NEW LOOK AT TRASH

Students at both Mitchell and Bethlehem Elementary Schools got to experience a fantastic music assembly where the musicians performed beautiful music and sounds on instruments made from recycled and reused materials. During the Bash the Trash assembly, the musicians played a variety of unique instruments that demonstrated the science of sound. Through the music, students learned where trash comes from, and where it goes. This terrific assembly that explored concepts of sound, science, and sustainability was made possible by the BES & MES PTO groups and a grant from the Woodbury Bethlehem Community Music Foundation.



BES CAS LEADERSHIP DAY

Bethlehem Elementary School 4th and 5th-grade Student Council members attended the CAS Leadership Conference at Naugatuck Valley Community College in January with advisors, teachers Tricia Dannenhoffer and Heather Casey. The students had a terrific time learning and honing their leadership skills by being upstanders, problem solvers, critical thinkers, and role models to each other. This annual Elementary Leadership Conference offers an inspiring platform for educators, administrators, and leaders in elementary education and features a series of engaging workshops, keynote speakers, and collaborative sessions designed to enhance leadership skills and foster innovation in the classroom.



MES GETS VISIT FROM DANBURY HAT TRICKS TEAM



Members of the Danbury Hat Tricks Hockey team came to Mitchell Elementary School last month for an energetic and fun assembly before the January 23 MES Night at the Hat Tricks game. Some of the players spoke about how they landed with the Hat Tricks and gave students some sage advice about never giving up. All students were given a free ticket to the game, a game card, and a family skate pass for the Danbury Ice Arena. Some lucky students and Mr. K were chosen to shoot pucks to win prizes for the school! The January 23 Hat Tricks versus Watertown Wolves was Region 14 night, and proceeds went to a fundraiser for NHS student Jonathan Cheung and his family.

AGRISCIENCE STUDENTS SPEAK TO NATURE CLUB ON MAPLE SYRUP

A few Nonnewaug High School students in the agriscience program stopped by Mitchell Elementary School recently to teach the Nature Club about how maple syrup is made. As a bonus, the students got to try samples of real maple syrup and manufactured maple syrup to taste the difference. What a fantastic morning of community and collaboration for the high school and elementary school students. We love it when our high school students share these amazing experiences with our younger students.



NHS STUDENTS WIN VOICE OF DEMOCRACY CONTEST



Nonnewaug High School students Adam Hart, Avery Greaves, and Payton Brown were recognized for their winning entries in the VFW Voice of Democracy Contest. Sophomore Adam Hart won first place. Junior Avery Greaves earned second place. Sophomore Payton Brown won third place. Ken Korsu, Commander of the VFW Post 1607, presented the winners of this audio essay contest with their certificates and monetary gifts. The Voice of Democracy is a nationwide essay competition where students produce an audio essay on a different topic each year, chosen by the VFW. The 2025-2026 school year contest theme was "How Do You Show Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

NEW AIRBRAKE TRAINER FOR AG MECHANICS CLASS

Thanks to an incredible collaboration between O&G Industries of Torrington and Rusty Dog Restoration of Bethlehem, the Agriscience Mechanics class at Nonnewaug High School now has a brand new, fully functioning air brake trainer system. Students will use this piece of equipment to learn about the different air brake components, as well as for their JR/SR Ag Engineering Class CDL Unit. Keith Woolford, of O&G Industries in Torrington, designed and created an air brake trainer for students to learn about the different components of an air brake system on a small scale. The trainer includes all functioning components of an air brake system. Matt Pfahl, of Rusty Dog Restorations, helped to coordinate the effort and deliver it to the school this morning. Thank you to Keith Woolford, O & G Industries, and Matt Pfahl of Rusty Dog Restorations for this incredible addition to the Agriscience program.



WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REGION 14

