



FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

I would like to take a moment to reflect on the 2025-2026 school year, which has been successful on so many levels. It has been inspiring to observe all the growth in our students over the past year: They have been committed to their learning, 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 grateful that the Region 14 budget was approved at the first budget referendum. I am proud of how the communities of Woodbury and Bethlehem came together to support Region 14. We can continue the fabulous success the district has exhibited over the last several years.

I am inspired by the staff's consistent consideration of the needs of their students over the past year. They fostered a learning environment that was inclusive of all learners and demonstrated their commitment to continuous improvement as laid out in Region 14's Strategic Plan. Region 14's goals were further supported through the ongoing implementation of the district's Vision Of A Learner and each school's Development Plans. Finally, we completed a district-wide Technology Plan that will help us navigate the ever-changing technological world.

I am pleased to inform you that Nonnewaug High School earned accreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and several new dual college credit courses were also added. In addition, the elementary and middle schools continued their successful after-school Tutoring Academy and Talent and Gifted programs.

As we conclude the 2025-2026 school year, I am uplifted by all the academic progress that was demonstrated over the past school year. Bethlehem Elementary School was once again identified as one of the top elementary schools in Connecticut by being named a School of Distinction based on exemplary student achievement scores.

Mitchell Elementary School improved its math and English Language Arts standardized scores, and Woodbury Middle School improved its math standardized test scores. Nonnewaug High School improved its Math SAT scores by over 12%, and the standardized science(NGSS) scores were once again the best in the history of the school.

Also, elementary school students were recognized for their scientific and mathematical talents, earning Invention Convention state accolades and Math Olympiad National accolades. 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 the student-athletes performed on the field and the court, and how they represented Nonnewaug High School and Region 14 through their sportsmanship.

Region 14 completed several major capital projects during the course of the last school year: Woodbury Middle School installed a new irrigation system for its athletic fields and also refurbished the tennis courts; the district started the process of replacing Promethean boards in each of its schools, and new student furniture was purchased for some of the classrooms in each of the schools.

It has been a truly spectacular school year. We are grateful for all your support as we continue to strive for excellence in every one of our schools. We are thankful to you for allowing Region 14 to educate your child.

We value our partnership with you. We are excited for the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year (August 26) I hope you have a restful summer with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Brian Murphy

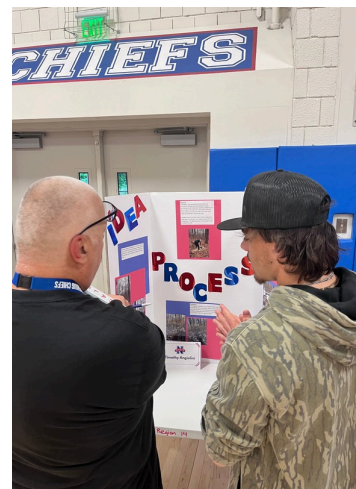
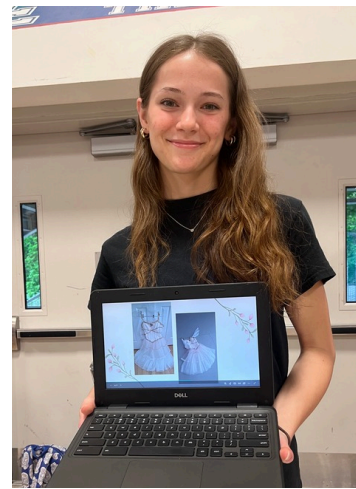
NHS CHIEF ADVOCATE IN THE SPOTLIGHT FOR EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM

Congratulations to Nonnewaug High School Chief Advocate reporters, Addison Bushka and Julia Gwiazdoski, on their Best of SNO Awards. Bushka, a junior at Nonnewaug High School, is the Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the Nonnewaug Chief Advocate. Her spotlight on Deb Flaherty - in the LMC and on the track as coach - earned a Best of SNO designation from the national online student news organization - making the tally of SNO awards for Bushka an impressive three. Gwiazdoski, also a junior, earned a Best of SNO award for her article on community member Don Maki and his mentoring at NHS Baseball.

Read the articles on the NHS Chief Advocate:
<https://nhschiefadvocate.org/>



NHS MBL SHOWCASED SENIOR PASSION PROJECTS



Patience, perseverance, compassion, overcoming fear of public speaking, and sparking one's own creativity. These are just a few learning outcomes for Nonnewaug High School seniors on their Mastery-Based Learning Experience (MBLE) projects. In May, all seniors presented their projects to staff and teachers. Seniors researched and mastered skills outside of the regular classroom settings that are relevant and of special interest to them. Through MBL, the students were able to turn their passions into learning projects. Projects included dog training, cat rescue, learning a new welding skill, fixing an engine, building a stone patio, self-taught fiber arts, creating a terrarium, outreach to the homeless community, and learning the skills to teach a course. Some also included research projects on topics like business management, special education, and film, as well as advancing an agriscience Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) project. The goal of MBL is to provide students with an independent learning experience that fosters personal growth and advances the academic skills of our learners in this ever-changing global community. The MBL is an extensive and thoughtful project that incorporates the Vision of A Learner attributes: think critically and creatively; collaborate and communicate effectively.



WMS 8TH GRADE CAS LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Congratulations to Woodbury Middle School eighth graders Penelope Losh and Anna Dewey on their Connecticut Association of Schools Scholar Leader Awards. The CAS Middle School level award recognizes students who are high academic achievers and display leadership and a commitment to integrity and citizenship. This is a well-deserved honor for these two WMS students who go above and beyond each day as leaders within the school community and beyond! Well done.

BES CANNED CHARACTERS ARE A UNIQUE TAKE ON “BOOK REPORT”



Bethlehem Elementary School third graders created amazing Canned Characters this month. This twist on the average book report had students get creative - read a book, write a report, and design a can that best describes the character traits or personality of their subject.

This project helped students bring their characters to life, encouraging them to analyze traits and appearance. Students included things like facial expressions and clothing, but could even use them in a scene or a conversation.



STUDENTS SHINE AT INVENTION CONVENTION FINALS

Bethlehem and Mitchell Elementary School students had a great showing at the 2026 Invention Convention at UCONN. MES student partners Nellie Salemme and Finley Morawski won the Amazon Innovation Award as well as the Society for Women Engineers Innovator Award for their Magnetic No-Mess Cooking Utensil. The Amazon Innovation Award recognizes an exceptional inventor who exemplifies the core characteristics of ingenuity and entrepreneurship in the field of consumer goods and technologies. The SWE Innovation Awards are awarded to outstanding young female inventors who show extraordinary talent in engineering by the Society of Women Engineers. BES student Elena Rivera won the Kid Governor's Choice Award for her mood bracelet invention. This award recognizes the invention that best aligns with the sitting Kid Governor's platform and is selected by the Kid Governor and their Cabinet Members.



WMS MUSICIANS PARTICIPATE IN MUSIC ADJUDICATION SESSION



Woodbury Middle School music students had a wonderful opportunity to perform part of their spring concert program and get some valuable feedback. Nick Ciasullo, Director of Music at Nonnewaug High School, and Meriden Middle School music teacher Jacqueline White evaluated short pieces from WMS band, orchestra, and chorus students in a formal music adjudication process. Ciasullo and White assessed areas like rhythm and technical accuracy and offered students small-group constructive feedback.

ELEMENTARY TAG GROUPS TAKE ON SOME NEW LEARNING



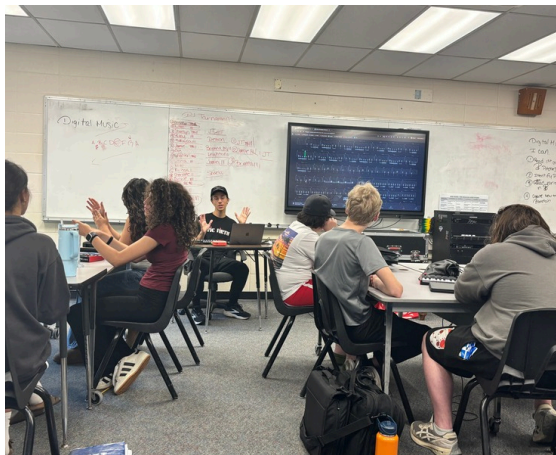
Make no bones about it... the Mitchell Elementary School TAG group had a fantastic time discovering all that the Yale Peabody Museum has to offer. Students participated in a Geologic Time workshop where they had to think critically and creatively. They used data from fossils they observed to analyze different samples and then used that information to design a world for their specimen, including its habitat, diet, and activity. The TAG group also explored the Rocks and Minerals gallery. This experience allowed students to collaborate with peers across grade levels and step outside of their usual surroundings in a meaningful way.

BES TAG USES ARTEMIS II TO LAUNCH CREATIVITY

TAG students at Bethlehem Elementary School used the Artemis II space mission to learn about launch and return. Students used eggs to mimic their own "space capsules" launch and return on the BES playground. Students carefully planned and problem-solved to find the best materials for their designs. What a terrific project for these TAG students to connect their STEM-based learning lesson to the real world.



STUDENT-TO-STUDENT MENTORING IN DIGITAL MUSIC



The Woodbury Middle School 8th-grade Digital Music class had a special "Informance" by Nonnewaug High School junior Bishop Aldrich. Bishop gave students a demonstration of the various digital audio platforms used in the WMS Digital Music class. He also showed students how he has used these tools, as well as others, for his own music compositions while at NHS. This is a wonderful example of how our students communicate and collaborate on many different levels and between schools in the scope of the Region 14 Vision of A Learner.

NHS STUDENT-ATHLETES NCAA SIGNING DAY



Nonnewaug High School hosted a Spring Signing Day on May 22 to celebrate the 15 student-athletes who will continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level. Their hard work, dedication, perseverance, and leadership both on and off the field are a true source of pride for the Region 14 community.

Photo: Back row: Brady Herman – WCSU Basketball, Brayden Whipple – WCSU Baseball, Zachary Berardis – Keene State Baseball, Tyler Dielsi – Albertus Magnus College Baseball, Laila Jones – Fitchburg State University Field Hockey, Lana Zupnick – WCSU Volleyball, Mackenzie Scully – SUNY Cobleskill Cross Country, Luke Primini – Mount Saint Mary College Tennis
Front row: Ella Quinn – Haverford College Soccer, Jade Rinaldi- SUNY Cobleskill Softball, Hailey Goldman – Keene State Soccer, Karli Brandt- Colby Sawyer Soccer, Isabelle DeForge – CCSU Diving, Elizabeth Boisits – WCSU Softball, Ayla Albon – Utica College Gymnastics

AGRISCIENCE STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION FROM LANDSCAPE ARTIST



Jackson Smith, from Fairfield's William Kenny Associates, came to Nonnewaug High School recently to talk to the Natural Resource and Nursery Landscape students about soils. The Landscape students dug three different soil pits on campus and were able to compare and contrast the soil types and locations. This is just one example of the many amazing community partnership that helps give our students real-world experience right here on campus.

In case you missed it, check out the video from the annual Agriscience-sponsored Drive Your Tractor to School Day. This is an annual tradition beloved by students and staff as well as our communities.

[Drive Your Tractor To School Day](#)

WAYS TO CONNECT WITH REGION 14

