



# WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Noteworthy Achievements and Accomplishments 2015 – 2016

Weston High School - WHS Weston Intermediate School - WIS  
Weston Middle School - WMS Hurlbutt Elementary School - HES



### ACADEMIC KUDOS



ranked WHS #1 in Fairfield County, #4 in Connecticut, and #184 nationally

The Class of 2015 had 15 Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars, eight AP Scholars with Honors, 44 AP Scholars with Distinction, and eight National AP Scholars.

Ninety-four percent of the 536 AP exams taken in the spring of 2016 scored 3 or better on a 5-point scale.

The Class of 2016 had a 25% acceptance rate with the *most competitive* colleges and a 47% acceptance rate with *highly competitive* colleges.

A seventh grade student was a state finalist in the *Library of Congress Letters About Literature* writing contest.

An eighth grade student participated in the statewide *National Geography Bee*.

WMS and WHS students participated in the *National Spanish Exam*, the *National Latin Exam* and the *National French Contest*, many of them receiving gold, silver and bronze medals for their performance.

Both WHS and WMS placed in the *State Mock Trial* competition; the WHS team competed at the national competition.

The *Global Petri Dish Performance Assessment* and the *5th Grade Performance-Based Assessment* were selected by the Tri-State Consortium as exemplar assessments in the tri-state region

The *WHS Science Olympiad* team participated in 23 science and technology events at UCONN.

Sixth grade science and social studies students established *Guardians of the Water Galaxy* project and developed evidence-based proposals to alleviate a variety of global water issues. A number of students received real-world responses from national and international agencies.

Two WMS students competed at the *National History Day* state competition and placed 1st and 2nd.

WIS held its second annual science fair. Over 160 fourth and fifth grade students designed and carried out their inquiry projects.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

A fully-operational writing center, staffed by English teachers, opened at WHS.

WHS Technology teacher received the *David Trigaux Award* in May 2016.

An HES teacher earned the *Silver Medal Award of Excellence in Literacy* at Sacred Heart University.

An HES teacher and curriculum leader was awarded the 2016 *Outstanding Literacy Leader Award* granted by the University of Bridgeport.

HES second grade students voted to select the winner of the *Charter Oak Children's Book Award*.



A WHS English teacher received a grant from the *English Speaking Union of Greenwich* to attend a four-week summer institute in creative writing at The University of Edinburgh in Scotland.



HES students read for 2,752 miles to complete the trip from Weston, CT to Weston, OR, during *Read Across America Week*. Each reading minute was equal to 1 mi.



Inspired by the *One School-One Book* initiative, all HES students read *Maybelle In The Soup* by Katie Speck.



Thanks to generous funding from *WestonArts*, tenth grade English students had the opportunity to participate in a Shakespeare residency program.



### DIGITAL LEARNING & TECHNOLOGY



A WHS senior videography student had his documentary selected to be screened at the *All American High School Film Festival*.



47% percent of WHS tech-engineering *Project Lead the Way* students were eligible for college credit through a combination of their year-long GPA and performance on a national end-of-course exam.



A WHS student applied the knowledge and skills he learned regarding 3D modeling to develop a custom bicycle part to meet his physical needs.



WHS students researched, created and produced video public service announcements fostering awareness of world health issues and disease prevention.



The math department sponsored an *Hour of Code*. Math teachers engaged students for part of their class using coding activities found at CODE.ORG.



WIS introduced a one-to-one student Chromebook initiative in Grades 4 and 5.



WIS offered an after school enrichment program called *Code Studio* specifically designed as an introductory experience in computer coding.



K-2 classes used databases to collect information for subjects they were studying to deepen understanding, ask new questions and create products to show new learning.



A kindergarten class piloted the use of an iPad app by using photos and voice recordings to document changes in their classroom plant's growth cycles.



A wiki article was created for second graders to study the history of Weston. Classes were able to contribute to the wiki by adding captions to the pictures from a field trip they took to a local historical site.

## THE ARTS



-  WHS advanced videography students won first place in the *Teen Safe Driving Video Contest* sponsored by the CT DMV and Travelers Insurance. They received a \$5,000 award.
-  Two WHS videography students won first place in the Public Service Announcements in *The School for Ethical Education's 2015-2016 Integrity Works* public service announcement contest.
-  Two WHS art students earned a silver medal and an honorable mention award in the *State of CT Scholastic Art & Writing Awards*. The pieces were on display at the Hartford Art School Silpe Gallery in January 2016.
-  Ten WHS art students had artwork displayed in the fourth annual *Teen Visions High School Art Exhibition* at Sacred Heart University. Several students won awards including: 1st place for ceramic sculpture, 2nd place for pen drawing, watercolor painting, and photography.
-  Two WHS art teachers were featured in professional art exhibitions this year.
-  WHS *Advanced Contemporary Media Design* class was one of nine classes selected nationally to pilot the 2015-16 High School Model Cornerstone Assessment Pilot Project in Media Arts for the *National Coalition for Core Arts Standards*.

### Art Jam!

*Art Jam*, the all-district art show, was held simultaneously at all four schools in a comprehensive district-wide exhibit of student art and music.

-  Fourth graders explored how art can influence life by writing about their clay bowl sculptures.
-  WHS *Unified Art* program created a collaborative art work for *Special Olympics of Connecticut*.
-  WMS continued to participate in the *Weston-Bridgeport Music Exchange* program. In its eighth year of operation, this program brings together students from the WMS 8th Grade orchestra and the combined orchestras of High Horizons and Multicultural Magnet schools, from Bridgeport, Connecticut.
-  Five WMS students were chosen to represent the district at the *Fairfield County Strings Festival*.



## ATHLETICS

-  WHS was the site of the 2016 Western Connecticut Time Trials for *Special Olympics*, with Team Weston competing the fifth straight year in track and field and aquatics.
-  Five state championships: *Girls Swim and Dive, Boys Swim and Dive, Boys Skiing, Girls Tennis, Boys Tennis*.
-  Six SWC championships: *Girls Swim and Dive, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Skiing, Boys Tennis, Girls Tennis, Girls Outdoor Track and Field*.
-  783 athletes, out of a possible 941 or 83%, earned academic awards while participating with a GPA of at least 3.0.
-  WHS had 47 All-State athletes, five All-New England athletes and four All-American athletes.
-  Of the 21 teams eligible, 18 were recognized for Sportsmanship by the SWC.

-  WHS has been honored for the tenth year in a row as a *Michaels Achievement Cup Award* recipient for excellence in overall high school athletics.
-  WHS has twice in the last six years received the *Overall Michaels Cup* as the *Most Exemplary, Outstanding Athletics Program* in the state of Connecticut.



## SERVICE TO OTHERS

-  WHS National Honor Society members completed a combined total of 834 hours of community service.
-  Forty students from WHS participated in *Builders Beyond Borders* this past year traveling to Ecuador where the teams worked on three projects involving the construction of classrooms.
-  HES students participated in the annual mitten drive, helping needy families from neighboring towns.
-  *Art With a Heart* club at WHS raised money through bake sales to donate to two causes: Vuria, our adopted elephant, and United with Kenya, to support improvements in the water system.
-  *National Art Honor Society* volunteered time to paint wall murals at Adam's House, a grief education center, established by the Adam Wysota Foundation.
-  Members of the *National Spanish Honor Society* tutored fellow students in WHS and WMS, as well as provided service hours in many other organizations in the area.
-  WHS Student Government supports community service both at the grade and whole school level.
-  Each sports season, we "Shine-a-Light" on a charity in hopes to bring the school and sports community together.
-  WHS Student Government has been active with the *Save the Children Foundation* by sponsoring four students from around the world in 2015.
-  WMS students participated in a penny collection event which raised \$748.73 for the *Save the Children Foundation*.
-  WHS Social Studies Department has partnered with the *Weston Historical Society* in supporting their WWII exhibit for the 2016-2017 75th Anniversary year.
-  The WMS community supported the annual holiday toy drive by donating 1,020 items to the *Columbus Annex Public School* in Bridgeport.
-  Every HES classroom donated a holiday gift basket filled with food and gifts for local families.
-  HES second grade students sang for Weston seniors at their holiday luncheon in December.
-  HES students collected canned goods for those in need during the week leading up to the "Souper Bowl."
-  HES classes participated in the *Paper Bag Challenge* and collected food for the Weston Food Pantry.
-  All HES classes participated in a "trash-free snack" day to help the earth.
-  HES students sent hugs with messages to hospital patients, soldiers, senior citizens, etc.