

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Noteworthy Achievements and Accomplishments 2013 – 2014

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

ACADEMIC KUDOS



WHHS was awarded the National Blue Ribbon Award by the U.S. Department of Education for its outstanding programs and student achievement



The Class of 2014 had 15 AP Scholars, 19 AP Scholars with Honors, 37 AP Scholars with Distinction, and 7 National AP Scholars



US News and World Report ranked WHS as #1 in Fairfield County, #3 in Connecticut, and #182 nationally



The Connecticut State Department of Education named Weston High School as a *School of Distinction* for high overall performance



93% of the 532 AP exams taken in the spring of 2014 scored 3 or better on a 5-point scale



WHHS placed second in the *State Mock Trial* competition; the WMS 8th grade mock trial team won 2nd place in the competition



WMS students who participated in the Fairfield County *Junior Math League* competitions this year placed 4th overall



The WMS *Math Counts* team placed 14th in this year's competition at the southwest chapter competition and one student advanced to the state competition



An 8th grade student participated in the statewide *National Geography Bee*



WMS grade 7 students took first place and second place at the *National History Day* state competition and represented the State of Connecticut at the national finals



Three 6th grade students' writing pieces were published on *kidzera.com*



An 8th grade student's personal narrative received a 2nd place writing award at the *Trumbull Arts Festival* for the non-fiction middle-school category



The WMS *Science Olympiad* team participated at the State tournament in Farmington



WIS had 2 winners in the *Trumbull Arts Literary Competition*: first place in *Poetry* and first place in *Non-Fiction*



Ten students from the 4th grade *Math Olympiad* team and 25 students from the 5th grade team ranked in the top 50%; 9 students from the 5th grade team ranked in the top 40%



The 5th grade *Math Olympiad* team was named to the National Math Olympiad Honor Roll



A 5th grade student won \$500 in the CHET *Dream Big* competition



A 5th grade student won an honorable mention in the Connecticut *Student Writer's* contest through UCONN

SERVICE TO OTHERS



The WHS Wind Ensemble, WHS Symphonic Band, WHS Concert Choir, and Westport Community Band performed a concert honoring Veterans that raised in excess of \$3,500 to support Purple Heart Homes



Inspired by the *One School, One Book* read, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, WMS raised \$9,160 to fund a new sand dam and shallow well building project in Kenya, Africa



WHHS Class of 2015 sponsored a school supply drive for pre-school classes at Ben Franklin School in Norwalk



A class of 2nd grade students sang for Weston seniors at the senior center in December



The WHS *Art with a Heart* club adopted an elephant in Kenya and raised over \$250 this year



HES students participated in a hat and mitten drive to donate to area children in need



HES students made small gifts for patients at *Norwalk Hospital* as part of a PBIS activity, including puzzles, notepads, and vases with paper flowers



The HES book fair penny drive raised over \$1,000 to purchase books that were donated to local hospitals – Scholastic matched the dollar amount and purchased books for their charity



WIS students raised \$500 to purchase a dairy cow to help provide milk for the children at the STEMM Orphanage outside Arusha, Tanzania



WIS students raised almost \$500 for the *World Wildlife Fund*; \$650 was also raised for the *Red Cross* to send necessary resources to those in need



WMS collected thousands of non-perishable food donations through a Student Government Association-sponsored food drive to benefit the *Community Food Pantry*



Over 400 toys were delivered by WMS students to the K-8 school Columbus Annex in Bridgeport through a holiday toy drive



The WMS student government donated holiday toys, gift cards, and monetary donations totaling over \$1,000 to *Weston Social Services* for families in need



WMS and WHHS raised more than \$150,000 for the *American Cancer Society* during *Relay for Life*



















THE ARTS






The 8th grade band and chorus worked with a professional composer and lyricist to compose an original piece that was performed at the WMS Band concert in May








WIS music teachers collaborated on a Beginning Improvisation unit that was implemented in 5th grade band and 5th grade general music





-  Two teachers presented a workshop on Beginning Improvisation at the *Connecticut Music Educators* conference in Cromwell that highlighted this work
-  The WPS' music department was recognized as one of the 2014 Best Communities for Music Education by the *National Association of Music Merchants*
-  At the *Music in the Parks Adjudication Festival*, the WMS Jazz Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Singers received 1st place honors in their division with a *superior* or *excellent* rating; the WMS Jazz Lab Band received a 2nd place honor and *excellent* rating; WMS Chamber Singers won for *Best Overall Middle School Choir*
-  One WHS band student was selected to participate in the *Connecticut All-State Festival*
-  Eight WMS choral students and five WMS band students were selected to participate in the *Western Regional Middle School Concert Festival*
-  Four WIS and four WMS students were selected to participate in the *Connecticut All-State Elementary Honors Chorus*
-  WHS theater group Company staged *Twelfth Night* and *Carousel*, using the talents of student artists, musicians, actors, designers, and technical theater personnel
-  WHS theater group Short Wharf staged *Seussical, Jr.* using the talents of student artists, musicians, actors, designers, and technical theater personnel
-  The WIS theater group Show Stoppers staged *The Best Little Theater in Town*
-  Over 300 students in grades 4 – 12 performed at the all-district choir festival *ChoirFest*
-  Over 300 WHS and WMS students performed in the band Spectrum Concert
-  The 8th grade orchestra participated in the *Music for Youth Orchestra Exchange* with the *Haven String Quartet* and students from High Horizons and Multi-Cultural Magnet schools in Bridgeport
-  A WHS senior received an honorable mention award at the *Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards* – three students had work accepted into this juried exhibition
-  38 WHS art students exhibited work in the joint Weston High School – Staples High School art show at *Silvermine Art Center* and one student was awarded an Honorable Mention for her watercolor painting
-  A WHS student was the recipient of the *CAS Visual Arts Award* this year
-  Five WHS students showed art work at the *NCC Art Gallery Regional High School Art Invitational*
-  A WHS art teacher's painting was accepted into the art show *Poetry and the art of Eating* at *Gallery North* on Long Island
-  The WMS Chamber Orchestra was selected to perform at the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Conference

ATHLETICS










-  WHS was the site of the 2014 Western Connecticut Time Trials for *Special Olympics*, with *Team Weston* competing for the third straight year in track and field and aquatics
-  Four state championships: *Girls Swim and Dive, Boys Ski, Boys Swim and Dive, Boys Tennis*
-  Five SWC championships: *Girls Swim and Dive, Girls Indoor Track and Field, Boys Ski, Girls Outdoor Track and Field, Boys Tennis*

-  WHS had 37 *All-State* athletes, 5 *All-New England* athletes and one *All-American* athlete
-  686 athletes, out of a possible 853 or 80%, earned academic awards while participating with a GPA of at least a 3.0
-  Of the 22 teams eligible: 20 recognized for *sportsmanship* by the SWC
-  WHS was honored with the *Michael's Achievement Cup* by the CIAC as the *most exemplary, outstanding athletic department in the state of Connecticut* for all schools (the 2nd time in the last five years) – the last time this prestigious award will be presented by the state
-  WHS was honored with another *Michael's Achievement Cup* by the CIAC as the *most exemplary, outstanding athletic department in the state of Connecticut* for *medium-sized schools* for the 8th year in a row

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

-  WMS established a Digital Warriors after-school enrichment program, enrolling over 25 students
-  Over 40 WMS students participated in the *Hour of Code*
-  Two WHS videography students placed third in the second annual *Student Voices Video Contest* sponsored by the *Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents* and *The Connecticut Association of Schools*
-  Two students earned *honorable mention* in the *CSPAN StudentCam Documentary* competition

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

-  WHS hosted its first student delegation of nine students and four teachers from *Chinese Sister School, Qingdao No. 17 High School*
-  The first student delegation from Bhutan, a small Asian country in the Himalayas, visited WHS last winter
-  Two WHS physics teachers received the *David Trigaux Award* from the *Weston Education Foundation* for their work with the Interlace Project – a partnership with Tufts University
-  A WMS teacher received the *David Trigaux Award* from the *Weston Education Foundation* for her work partnering with *ArtLink*, bringing curricular connections with artist Dalton Ghetti and the Buddhist Tibetan Ms. Dhondup
-  A 6th grade teacher presented *Diving Headfirst Into Digital Literacy: Reinventing yourself as a 21st century English teacher* at the *National Council of Teachers of English*
-  Over 130 8th grade students volunteered for our *career mentorship* experience
-  More than 150 WHS students participated in the *senior internship*
-  HES students read for 2,810 minutes during *Read Across America* week
-  For the fourth year, *Weston Service Center* applied for and received a \$500 grant for HES through the *ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Program*, which is used to enhance math and science programs

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