

No better alternative!



2020-21 WOODLAND SCHOOL

START HERE. STRIVE HERE. SUCCEED HERE.

Principal's Message

It's been a crazy year, 2020, and we are all managing the best we can to stay strong. At the school being Woodland STRONG is all we know. I am so very proud to serve as the interim principal and stand by some incredible teachers that I call HEROES. I want to personally thank all parents, families and guardians for their patience and trust as we reopened our school in light of the pandemic. Staff energy, parent support and student compliance regarding safety has been nothing short of spectacular.

In this spirit of the season, I wanted to take advantage of an opportunity to send a little note your way and remind you that this is the greatest season of the year. It's the season of being grateful, festive, happy, and so much more. We are doing everything we can from the classroom to be optimistic and keep the spirit alive in light of the times. Moving education forward has become our mission! So, try and embrace the funny announcements, the phone calls home, the website updates and the school letters. We, at Woodland, are trying our very best to see the "new" normal for what it is or may become. We hope it's not too long until we are together again soon.

Until then, look at the glass as half full.

Reading Support

Woodland school administered the DIBELS 8 assessments to students this month to get a baseline of their reading level. DIBELS are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on important reading skills. DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. Woodland teachers will use this information to plan lessons to improve our students reading ability. Here is a link to the parent's guide if you would to know more information: <https://dibels.uoregon.edu/docs/dibelsparentguide.pdf>

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SEL News

With the world battling a pandemic, our individual lives can become very stressful due to financial, mental health, and physical health concerns. Our team is here to help your students and families in any way we can. Below are some very important websites and phone numbers that may be helpful to you and your family. Please reach out to the school at 860-622-5900 and ask for one of the therapists if you need more assistance.

[Talk it Out Public Service Announcement](#) Call 1-833-258-5011 or Visit www.TalkitOutCT.com

[Information & Resources to Help Communities #LiveUnited During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

Or Call 211 for many resources including financial assistance

[Mobile Foodshare](#)

College & Career Awareness

The Transition Program is in full swing with so many exciting opportunities for our students! BRS has played a huge role in helping seniors find paid work experiences in the community. Students are placed in an entry level position where they can work for 60 hours and get paid. This is a great resume builder for our seniors who are thinking of entering the workforce full-time after graduation!

Students are gaining vocational experience in the classroom too. Students have started school-based vocational tasks in the classroom such as assisting with Student of the Month and Student of the Week. Ask your child how they have participated! Students will also be introduced to life skills such as hygiene maintenance, basic housekeeping tasks, kitchen routines, and COVID-19 safety protocols. We look forward to a safe and productive school year!

As always, we are making sure our students are participating in career exploration activities using our new technology. This will include post-secondary planning and researching careers of interest. Please reach out to Ms. Bober, Ms. Betts or Ms. Spiesman with any questions.

Finally, a huge shout out to all of our transition students who voted in the year's presidential election!

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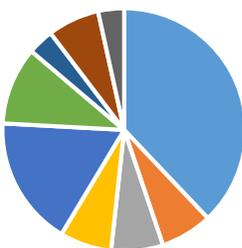
Elementary School News

November is a busy month on the elementary level. All students were given district reading and math assessments and there were a lot of engaging activities that focused on Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, voting, the election process and harvest time. Mrs. Balda's class held classroom elections for President and Vice President. The winners for Room 12 were Raymond DN for President and Finn B for Vice President. Congratulations! Other classes read about elections and what it means to vote. All the classes have been talking about their feelings and all the things they are grateful/thankful for. Mrs. Fidler's class has been doing thanksgiving activities like writing about what they are thankful/grateful for and Mrs. Balda's class started a gratitude jar. It is also Harvest season so there are a lot of delicious activities including a fun science lesson on making butter to show how liquid changes to a solid. Students are also learning about the life cycle of different plants and when they are ready to harvest.

Middle School News

All of our middle school students have engaged in classroom conversations around why it is important to feel grateful even in times of uncertainty and turmoil. We surveyed our students on what they are most grateful for and here are our middle school results!

We are Grateful



- Family
- Health
- My Teacher
- Food
- Life
- Our Class
- Technology
- My Brains
- My Clothes

High School News

November has been an exciting month! We had our first ever mobile honor roll celebration. Mr. Fote and Mrs. Enamait visited classrooms with a decorated cart carrying honor roll pencils and prepackaged treats for the students. By having this celebration "on wheels" the students were still able to be recognized for their hard work and achievements, but in a safe and socially distant manner. This is an example of how, despite the challenges we are faced with, our Woodland family is able to make the best of any situation! Big thanks to Mrs. Benettieri for organizing!



Unified Arts News

We have had a busy month in art. The first priority at all levels is the students' social and emotional learning. One lesson a week focuses on checking in with students to see how they are feeling. The arts lend itself to being therapeutic for many students so grounding techniques have been introduced as well as some soothing apps on the computer. Check it out (www.thisissand.com and www.weavesilk.com). At the elementary level we have been learning about the primary colors and color mixing with model magic. The students even got to experience how to make a color changing lava lamp at home using vegetable oil, water, food coloring and Alka-Seltzer. The middle and high school students have been learning about various artists like Basquiat, Kandinsky, Klee, Matisse and Van Gogh. They also have been creating amazing personalized collages online and are getting quite proficient using Google draw!

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