



WMRSD Leaders and Learners – Your Community Connection White Mountains Regional School District

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White Mountains Regional Middle High School

October has been another month full of opportunities for growth, collaboration, and celebration at White Mountains Regional Middle High School (WMRMHS). From deepening the work of competency-based learning to preparing for life beyond graduation, students and staff continue to build the knowledge, skills, and experiences that will serve them well in the classroom and beyond.

The month began with a day of professional development centered on building a shared understanding of competency-based learning. Staff members shared work already underway, sparking new ideas, thoughtful questions, and meaningful conversations among colleagues. Departments then spent time mapping competencies to existing units and assessments and refining rubrics. This work represents an important step forward as WMRMHS continues to develop a fully competency-based system that places learning, growth, and the demonstration of skills at the center of the educational experience.

On October 14, juniors spent the morning completing the PSAT, an important milestone in their high school journey. While often viewed simply as practice for the SAT, the PSAT offers much more. It provides students with valuable insight into their academic readiness, highlights areas for continued growth, and can open doors to scholarship opportunities, including the National Merit Scholarship Program. When every junior participates, the results also provide WMRMHS with a broader picture of student learning and readiness. This information helps educators identify trends, strengthen instruction, and better support students as they prepare for life after graduation. Whether students envision college, career training, military service, or entering the workforce, readiness matters, and the PSAT provides another valuable piece of that picture.

Seniors are making meaningful strides of their own as they begin an important chapter in their final year. In Contemporary Communications, students recently completed their first unit, exploring communication styles, intergenerational conflict, and the importance of recognizing and celebrating what makes each person unique. This work culminated in the selection of individual capstone projects, which students will spend the coming weeks researching and developing into presentations for a public forum in March. At the same time, many seniors are navigating the many moving pieces of life after high school, from college and financial aid applications to career research and decisions about their next steps. It is an exciting and sometimes overwhelming season, and students are steadily building the confidence and skills needed to meet the opportunities and challenges ahead.

There has also been plenty to celebrate in Career and Technical Education! Culinary and Hospitality students have been busy preparing and serving meals for school events and community partners, including a recent Rotary luncheon at the new Stiles Pavilion. These hands-on experiences provide meaningful opportunities for students to put their learning into practice while contributing to the broader community. Meanwhile, JROTC welcomed a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to campus, giving students a memorable opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world experiences. FFA students also represented WMRMHS at a regional competition at Sugar River Valley, earning an impressive second-place overall finish alongside several outstanding individual and team performances. Together, these experiences highlight the many ways students apply their skills, embrace challenges, and discover what they are capable of accomplishing.

Looking ahead, attention will soon turn to one of the highlights of the school year: Spartan Exhibition Night on November 18. This is an evening that students and staff anticipate with enthusiasm, and for good reason. Classrooms and common spaces come alive with student presentations, projects, and performances that showcase the creativity, curiosity, effort, and learning taking place throughout the school. Spartan Exhibition Night is much more than an open house; it is an opportunity to celebrate the work behind each finished product and recognize the many ways students are growing as learners and leaders.

As autumn settles into the North Country and the school year continues to unfold, October offers another reminder that growth takes many forms. It happens through collaboration among colleagues, perseverance through a challenging assessment, thoughtful exploration of future possibilities, and the pride that comes from sharing hard-earned accomplishments. The many examples of learning, leadership, and achievement throughout October reflect the continued commitment of the WMRMHS community to a shared vision: Student-centered. Future-focused. Together.