



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

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At the Lancaster School

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, Lancaster Elementary School (LES) demonstrated that education extends far beyond the classroom walls. Through meaningful partnerships, service-learning projects, and community engagement opportunities, students and staff strengthened connections with organizations and individuals across the greater Lancaster community while learning the importance of citizenship, service, and collaboration.

One of the year's highlights was the continued partnership between LES students and residents of Ice Pond Village. Through events such as community bingo gatherings, students and residents shared laughter, conversation, and meaningful intergenerational connections that benefited everyone involved.

Environmental stewardship also took center stage as LES partnered with Taproot and ReTreeUS to expand experiential learning opportunities surrounding the school's BioShelter. Students participated in hands-on activities that deepened their understanding of sustainability, gardening, conservation, and local ecosystems. These partnerships helped transform learning into authentic experiences that connected classroom lessons with real-world applications.

Members of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) remained active throughout the year, leading several projects focused on serving others. Students assembled Foster Care Backpacks to support children entering foster care, providing essential items and a sense of comfort during challenging transitions. NJHS members also organized community clean-up efforts, helping beautify local spaces while demonstrating pride in their community.

Community safety partnerships played an important role as well. During Fire Prevention Week, members of the Lancaster Fire Department visited LES to teach students valuable fire safety lessons and emergency preparedness skills. The Lancaster Police Department continued its popular Bike Bus initiative, encouraging healthy habits, safe transportation practices, and positive relationships between students and local law enforcement officers.

During the holiday season, students spread kindness beyond the North Country by creating holiday cards for troops serving around the world. These heartfelt messages provided encouragement and appreciation to military members who were away from their families during the holidays.

These initiatives represent only a portion of the many community-focused experiences that took place throughout the school year. From volunteer projects and service-learning opportunities to

educational partnerships and community celebrations, Lancaster Elementary School remained committed to fostering strong relationships throughout the region.

As the 2025–2026 school year comes to a close, LES celebrates not only academic growth but also the development of compassionate, engaged citizens. Through the support of families, community organizations, local businesses, public safety departments, and countless volunteers, Lancaster Elementary School continues to demonstrate that when schools and communities work together, everyone benefits.

Community members with ideas for future service projects or partnership opportunities are encouraged to share them with the school. Lancaster Elementary School looks forward to continuing to build strong community connections and creating meaningful opportunities for students to learn, serve, and grow.

At the Whitefield School

At Whitefield School, community partnerships play a vital role in extending educational opportunities beyond the classroom and helping students develop meaningful connections to the world around them. Through collaborations with local organizations, students engage in authentic learning experiences that enrich academic instruction and foster civic responsibility.

Throughout the year, students benefited from educational programs and partnerships with organizations such as AMC, WYLD, YLTA, the Mt. Washington Observatory, and the Whitefield Fire Department. These partnerships provided hands-on learning opportunities that allowed students to explore environmental science, outdoor education, leadership development, weather and climate studies, and community safety. By working alongside community experts, students gained valuable real-world knowledge and skills while strengthening their understanding of local resources and career pathways.

Service learning and community engagement were also important components of the Whitefield School experience. Students demonstrated compassion and generosity by collecting food donations for Project Homebound, helping support community members in need. During the holiday season, students created and sent Christmas cards to residents of Morrison Nursing Home, spreading kindness and joy to senior citizens within the community.

Additionally, students participated in Green Up, Clean Up activities, taking pride in helping maintain a clean and welcoming school and community environment. These experiences taught students the importance of stewardship, responsibility, and collaboration while making a positive impact on their surroundings.

By fostering strong community connections, Whitefield School created opportunities for students to learn, serve, and grow as engaged citizens. These partnerships enhanced educational experiences while strengthening the bonds between the school and the greater community it proudly serves.

At the White Mountains Regional High School

Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are an important and meaningful part of the educational experience at White Mountains Regional High School. These experiences provide students with the chance to step beyond the traditional classroom and engage in hands-on learning that connects directly to their interests, passions, and future career goals. Each ELO is designed to meet the individual needs of the student while partnering with local businesses, organizations, and professionals who are willing to share their expertise and mentor the next generation.

Through these partnerships, students gain valuable real-world experience in a variety of fields. Over the years, White Mountains Regional High School students have completed ELOs with organizations such as North Country Ford, Fitch Fuel, Asplundh, Santas Village, North Country Healthcare, Blackline Printing, Garland Hill, Weeks Medical Center, and many others. These opportunities allow students to explore potential career paths, develop workplace skills, and build professional relationships within their communities and beyond.

The benefits of an ELO extend far beyond earning academic credit. Students are able to apply what they have learned in the classroom to authentic situations, gaining a deeper understanding of their chosen field. They learn valuable skills such as communication, problem-solving, teamwork, responsibility, and professionalism—qualities that are essential in any career.

Perhaps most importantly, ELOs help students discover whether a particular career path is truly the right fit for them. By experiencing a profession firsthand, students gain insight into both the rewards and challenges of the work. These experiences help them make informed decisions about their future education and career plans while building confidence in their ability to succeed after graduation.