Sept
2026



Principal's Message

Good afternoon Laurel Literacy Families,
I wanted to thank you for tremendous first weeks back! Families have been attentive to our drop off and pick up procedures which ensures things are smooth and safe! Teachers spent the first couple weeks of school focusing on routines, procedures and building relationships. Please be sure to reinforce our 3 school expectations at home: *Respect, Responsibility and Self Control.* They are starting their beginning of the year assessments. These assessments give us valuable information about where students' strengths and growth areas are so we know where to focus lessons.

A couple of reminders from our handbook:

- we do not allow outside food for class celebrations
- all adults picking up MUST have an ID
- do not park in front of the building
- all bus students must have an adult at the bus stop to be dismissed.

Our newsletter will now go out monthly. Please be sure to read up on all the great learning, activities and important announcements for Laurel!

There is info on page 2 about attendance, important dates and the pause to our School Based Health Clinic.

Have a great weekend! ~Mrs. Dwyer

Parent Corner- A Note from The Nurse

We will be starting vision and hearing screenings soon. The State of CT requires all schools to perform vision screenings for students in Kindergarten and First Grade. Hearing screening will be performed for students in Kindergarten and First Grade.

The Lions Club will be performing vision screenings at Laurel on October 20 & 21. The nurse will perform the hearing screenings.

The Lions Club uses a touchless Spot Vision Screener, which has a 95% accuracy rate at picking up vision changes. More details regarding the Lions Club and the screening process are available on the school website. (If your student wears glasses, please make sure they wear/bring them daily).

Parents will be notified if the findings are abnormal and will be mailed a referral letter asking for further evaluation from their own physician.

If you have any questions regarding this screening, please contact the school nurse. If you do not want your child screened, please notify the school nurse in writing.

Sincerely,

Karen Janowetch-Moore, RN





Check out Mrs. Wasko's Art Class! Students are learning about the origin of art by viewing and discussing cave art from up to 30,000 years ago. They are challenged with telling a story using only simple images, no letters or numbers, and limited color palette. Students speculated on how cave art was made, with what materials, and how prehistoric humans were able to create images on the ceilings of caves. Each student was given a section of 'cave wall' in the art room, and experienced exactly how difficult it is to draw vertically, practicing a new way to use their fine motor skills. We look forward to making connections through the year with this earliest form of not only art, but also visual communication!

Attendance Matters
Every student. Every day.

Attendance Matters

Every day a child is out of school, they miss almost four hours of direct instruction. Check out these numbers:

5 absences= almost 20 hours of instruction

10 absences= almost 40 hours of instruction!

We want our little learners here to learn all they can and have a great foundation for their future! Our goal this year is to keep our daily attendance over 95%.

Important Dates

- Sep 23rd PTO
- Sep 29th Virtual Curriculum Night
- Sep 30th Early Dismissal, Staff Professional Development. Laurel has a 1:30 dismissal. The Nest has a 1:00 dismissal.
- Oct 12th No School, Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Oct 13th No School, Teacher Professional Development
- Oct 28th-30th Parent Conferences, Early Dismissals

Update from the School Based Health Clinic

Dear Staff and Families,

We are writing to share an important update regarding the behavioral health service support provided in our school by Integrated Health Services (IHS).

IHS has partnered with our district to offer valuable behavioral health services funded by an external grant. Unfortunately, IHS did not receive funding for continued services at Laurel Literacy Academy for this academic year. As a result, we must unfortunately suspend the services that the IHS clinician, Gabrielle Emmanuel, had been providing to our students and families.

While this change in supplemental support is unfortunate, our commitment to the well-being of our scholars remains unchanged. We are actively working with IHS to identify alternative external resources and community organizations that families may access in addition to the services available within our schools. As we transition, our school-based teams will continue to provide care, connection, and guidance to our scholars.

Thank you for your understanding and partnership as we work to ensure every scholar continues to receive the support they need.



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