THE WORTHINGTON HOOKER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HOOKER HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026



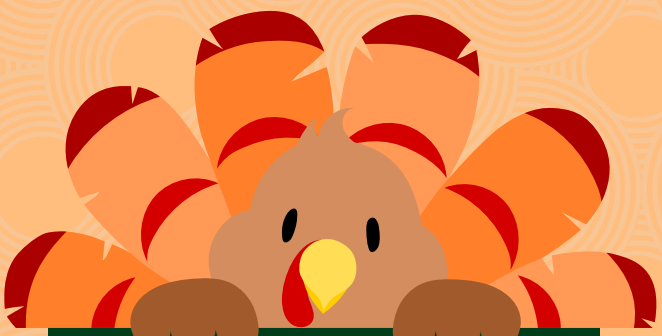
Mrs. Campo & Mrs. Thomas

Worthington Hooker

Wow, what an incredible second month of school! October has been filled with joyful learning, rich collaboration, and wonderful school-wide traditions. We kicked off the month with our very first Town Meeting of the school year, where we gathered as a whole community to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month alongside our September Students of the Month. These outstanding students truly exemplified our core PRIDE values—Productivity, Respect, Integrity, Determination, and Empathy. During the assembly, we also highlighted the incredible work and creative projects happening across all of our grade levels.

In the classroom, our students have been hard at work. With district testing wrapped up, our teachers and students seamlessly transitioned into dynamic small-group and collaborative instruction, allowing for deeper engagement and tailored support. October was also a big month for student leadership as we held our Student Council elections! We are immensely proud of every single candidate who took the brave step to run for office, and we congratulate our newly elected student representatives—we know you will serve our school well.

Finally, we wrapped up the month on a high note with our beloved Annual Magical March Parade, bringing smiles and festive energy to our entire campus. Thank you to our dedicated families and staff for making this month so special!



Important Dates

November 3rd- No School (Election Day)
November 5th-Family Literacy Workshop -5:30-7:00 PM
November 11th- No School (Veteran's Day)
November 13th- Family Fun Night
November 18th- Early Dismissal
November 18th- Report Card Conferences
November 25th- Early Dismissal
November 26-27th- Thanksgiving Break

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COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026 | Worthington Hooker | Mrs. Campo & Mrs. Thomas

















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October 2026 *Kindergarten* *Mrs. Pepe & Mrs. Tortora*

Literacy Corner

Reading: We completed Module 1: Curious About Kindergarten and have begun Module 2: There's Only One Me. Students continued practicing identifying characters, setting, and main events in fiction. We also learned to identify the characteristics of persuasive text.

Writing: We are working on sentence structure and learning about the different parts of a complete sentence.

Phonics: We are working hard on our letter-sound (phoneme) articulation. We are also working on writing lowercase letters (graphemes). We are practicing blending sounds and counting syllables. We have even learned some heart words!

We had our first field trip this month! We enjoyed picking pumpkins and apples, going on a hayride, feeding animals, and eating yummy ice cream at Rose Orchards!

Math Corner

Unit 1: We are practicing classifying and sorting objects into categories based on different sorting rules. We are moving onto number sense from 0-5. We will showcase our learning though a series of hands-on activities in order to practice recognizing, counting, ordering, and writing numbers 0-5.

Science, Social Studies, SEL

- Science Focus: Apple Studies and the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin
- Social Studies Focus: There's Only One Me
- SEL Focus: Self-Awareness and Stating Positive Affirmations

Reminders:

- All students should come to school with a water bottle every day.
- Snacks are not provided by the school. If you would like your child to have an afternoon snack, please make sure to send one in for them.
- Don't forget to sign up to be a Mystery Reader! Contact your child's classroom teacher today!



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October 2026 | *First Grade* | *Ms. Jennings & Ms. Lane*

Curriculum

Literacy

Reading & Writing:

1st graders were introduced to their second literacy essential question, "How is everyone in my family and community special?". Students spent 3 weeks reading different stories during whole group lessons to try to answer the question collaboratively.

During these weeks, students learned the following comprehension skills: Making connections, identifying the setting, summarizing, and text features

Guided reading groups are up and running!

In writing, students are working on their first writing piece: My Favorite Place. Students read the mentor text "Nana in the City" before writing their own!

Phonics: Review-

Students are working on blending CVC words.

Science/SEL/ SS

- **Science Focus**: How is sound made?
- **Social and Emotional Learning:** Students have been learning to make new friends, follow new expectations, and adapt to a new learning environment.
- **S.S:** Students have been learning basic community roles in the classroom through classroom jobs
- Hispanic Heritage month

Math

Lesson 2: Add and subtract within 10
Lesson 3: Use counting strategies to add and subtract
Lesson 4: Use addition to subtract

Reminders

- All students need headphones.
- Bring water bottle and snack each day



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October 2026 *Second Grade* *Ms. Cervero & Ms. Paine*

Reading

Second graders have been focusing on the essential question "How does exploring help us understand the world around us?".
We disscussed this through different genres including non-fiction, dramas, and poems. We had a lot of fun putting on our own plays as well!

During these lessons, we focused on central idea and detials, asking and answering questions, elements of a drama, and elements of a poem.

Writing

This month we have been working hard to create a descripitve essay about a place in the world we would like to visit. We discussed various ways we can research questions we are curious about, and even did our own research to write our essays and share new information with our classmates!

Phonics

In phonics we learned about digraphs, three-consonant blends, and schwa.

Math

In math, students have been working on solving one and two-step word problems, and using different types of graphs to read data.

We finished Unit 1 strong, and are excited to get into Unit 2!

Science & S.S

This month we focused on learning about types of matter, including how we can change solids to liquids. We continued to work with our essential question "how does exploring help us understand the world around us" by engaging in outdoor learning lessons with Ms. Melissa from Common Ground!
We also discussed estimations and pumpkin life cycles on Pumpkin Science Day.
In social studies, we discussed what we learned while researching different places around the world!

DON'T FORGET

Students should come to school with a water and nut-free snack daily.



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October 2026 *Third Grade* *Mrs. Reed & Mrs. Latham*



READING

This month our class will build their knowledge about how people use words to express themselves, with a focus on the poetry genre and letters. Our big esstential question is, "How Do People Use Words To Express Themselves?"

We will read texts in which people share their thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Texts include, "Dear Primo," "The Upside Boy," "Adventures with Words," & "Dear Dragon."



SCIENCE /SOCIAL STUDIES

Our Science/Social Studies this month will be with our Yale Demos and Common Ground partnership.

MATH

During Math Workshop this month we will focus on multiplication. Students will learn different strategies such as, equal groups, arrays, repeated addition, and skip counting to solve different multiplication facts. We will have weekly quizzes to check for understanding. As a reminder, students should be passing at least two lessons on their iReady learning path each week.



WRITING

In writing, students are learning about letter writing and the purpose of communicating through written correspondence. They are currently writing thoughtful letters to their future selves, sharing their goals, dreams, interests, and advice for the years ahead. This activity encourages students to reflect on who they are today while practicing letter format, organization, and expressive writing skills. We look forward to revisiting these letters in the future to see how much they have grown!

Upcoming Reminders...

Tuesday, November 3rd- No School (Elecetion Day)
Wednesday, November 11th- No School (Veterans Day)
Wednesday, November 18th- Early Dismissal (Conferences)
Wednesday, November 25th- Early Dismissal
Thursday, Novmeber 26th & Friday, November 27th- No School (Thanksgiving Break)

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October 2026 *Fourth Grade* *Mr. Herrmann & Ms. Light*

Reading

With our essential question, “How do people and animals use their senses to navigate the world?” We have explored tests such as The Game of Science and The Science of Sight. I have been very impressed with the students natural curiousity and intreset in diving deeper into these topics.

Math

We are advancing right along in math. Right now we are working on higher order understanding of multiplication and disvision. Students are not only practicing fluency and academic content area vocabulary (Like factor pairs, divisors product ect...) They are also creating visual models and representations of what they are learning.

Writing

This month we have been working on our personal narratives and shorter creative writing pieces. We are also spending the time to explicitly teach so fondational coventions and grammar norms.



Science

In science, we have had the opportunity to invite Yale students into the classroom for weekly engaging and hands on lessons!

Social Studies

We are learning all about what many students call the original GPD - maps. We have also taken a deeper look into what “culture” means and celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month through literature, art and discussion.

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Fifth & Sixth Grade Team

Seeger, Brenes DeMaria & Loizou

Science

Fifth graders Our year is off to a fantastic start as we dive into our first unit, exploring innovative ways to provide clean water to communities in need. Their curiosity and compassion are already making waves! Their note booking skills are helping them capture every drop of insight along the way!

Sixth-graders The year is off to a clear and sunny start, and I'm thrilled to be teaming up again with so many familiar scientists as we forecast fun and learning in our weather and climate unit! From day one they jumped right back into the groove, showing impressive collaboration and hard work.

Math

Students are hard at work in math and on their MyPath! After I sent home the September iReady reports, our averages jumped! We moved from 7 lessons passed on average to 10 lessons passed on average in October. Amazing!

5th Grade: Students have learned the standard algorithm for multiplication for 1-digit, 2-digit, and 3-digit numbers. Ask: How many placeholders does your 3rd partial product have?

6th grade: Students are learning about algebraic expressions, equations, and order of operations with exponents. Ask: What is a coefficient?

Social Studies

Fifth Grade In fifth grade, we just wrapped up our unit on ways that Native Americans use their environment. Each student created a project either on Google slides or with a paper trifold. The project was a travel guide, explaining what the Eastern Woodlands had to offer in terms of five categories: transportation, culture, clothing , food, and housing. Each child presented their projects to the class, and then received a written "stars" or compliments from their peers. They did a fantastic job! We are now in our next unit on the topic of Civics. It is a special program called Kid Governor. The students will have the opportunity to vote for Kid Governor on Monday, November 9th!

Sixth Grade: The sixth graders completed their projects in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. First they wrote notes from two or more sources. Then they wrote a draft, and learned different strategies to write a hook and a satisfying conclusion. They used checklists to self-evaluate their content and to proofread their work. Finally, they created a Google Slideshow to teach their audience and celebrate the life of the person they chose. They learned about artists, activists, authors and athletes with Hispanic or Latinx heritage.

ELA

Fifth Grade students wrapped up their module test, and they are currently showcasing what they've learned throughout the unit in a choice board project with a focus on inventors and the problem solving it takes to bring an idea to life.

Sixth Grade is currently reading *The Skin I'm In* by Sharon G. Flake. As they read the novel, they are thinking about the essential question: "What are the ways you make yourself heard?"

Our students in both grade levels have been doing a great job working on Lexia for 20 minutes each night! As a reminder, the weekly requirement is 80 total minutes and 8 units passed. We will keep this routine going through the end of the school year.

Reminders

- Students should pass 2+ lessons per week on iReady.
- Students should complete 80 minutes and 8 units on Lexia by Friday each week.
- Please send your student in with a pair of wired headphones that stay in school.

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Seventh & Eighth Grade Team

Croes, Carlson, Jones, Vaillancourt, & Mitchell

Language Arts

Grade 7

Students are wrapping up Unit 1 by exploring and analyzing the essential question: "What can blur the lines between what's real and what's not?" We are finishing Paul Fleischman's novel, Seedfolks, and will soon begin a literary analysis essay on the book's central themes. Throughout this unit, we have focused on annotating text using fiction signposts, as well as examining character traits, motivations, plot development, and theme.

Grade 8

Students have been studying the horror genre and how writers build suspense. We began this unit by analyzing a piece of literary criticism and have deepened our study through Edgar Allan Poe's short story, "The Tell-Tale Heart." Students have completed a plot storyboard poster and will soon begin a literary analysis essay on Poe's work. Throughout this unit, we have explored the concept of an unreliable narrator, point of view, imagery, and suspense as a literary device.

Science

The **7th grade** students have begun their unit on Electricity, Waves, and Information transfer. During the unit the students will conduct several investigations to gather information about the relationships among the flow of energy throughout the components in an electrical circuit.

The **8th grade** is exploring the relationships of Energy, Force, and Motion. During the unit the students will conduct investigations that build on the understanding of energy from 7th grade. We will use Newton's 1st & 2nd Laws of motion to explain the motion of objects in our daily lives.

Social Studies

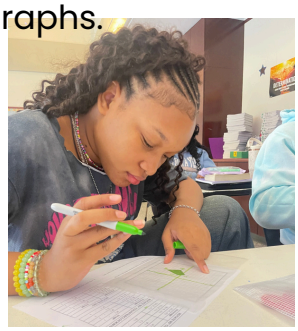
The 7th grade is finishing up our first unit on the Essentials of Geography and Culture. Students are engaging in a research project of a chosen city and the Five Themes of Geography. We will next begin to explore the geography of Latin America and how it impacted early Latin American civilizations.

The 8th grade is finishing up learning about Indigenous Peoples of the Americas. Next, we are going to be investiating European exploration and settlement of the Americas. We are analyzing, thinking critically, and becoming better historians!

Math

In math, your 8th grade students in 8-1 are wrapping up a slope unit. Student in 8-2 did a fantastic job w/there unit assessment on transformations. Below 8th graders are using patty paper to understand rotations.

In math, your 7th grade have been understanding proporiotnal reltionships. We have been working w/the constant of proportionality in tables, equations ang graphs.





Spanish

The 7th graders are so excited to be learning Spanish. We have started the year very motivated. Students will be learning about the Spanish speaking countries, their customs and traditions as well as preparing their famous Latino(a) person project in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month.

The 8th graders have returned happy to share all about their summer in Spanish. Students presented fun slides in Spanish. Eighth grade is reviewing last year's learning and will be celebrating Hispanic Heritage month by presenting traditional food dishes and recipes. Students will then learn about the family unit and family members. We have a great year planned!

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COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026 *PE K-8* *Mrs. Spadafina and Mr. Ritchel*

PE K-2nd

We had fun in PE this month!
We began by practicing our soccer skills! We learned foundations, dribbling, passing, and shooting! We played many soccer activities including soccer battle ship!
The last part of the month, we focused on our fitness and participated in a variety of fitness stations!
Please remember to wear sneakers and bring a water bottle to PE!



Curriculuum

K-2: locomotor movements, fitness, and cooperative games

3-8: Fitness, Team concepts, Cooperative games

PE 3rd-8th

Students have been doiung a great job with their warm up responsibilities when coming into class. They have also done a great job during Fitness Testing. Our next unit is Volleyball which will take us to Thanksgiving Break.

Students are graded on their participation and how they work with their classmates while in PE. We ask that you send your children to school in appropriate footwear and clothing for physical activitiy on their scheduled PE days.

Reminders

- **Remember to wear sneakers to PE!**
- **Bring a water bottle to PE!**
- **Practice fitness exercises at home to meet individual fitness goals!**

Coming up

Volleyball



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October 2026 | *Library* | *Mrs. Koutsaplis*

Italian Heritage Month

NEWS:

- Scholastic Book Fair is around the corner during the week of 11/16 during classes and conferences!
- We have added over 200 new books in the Whitney Avenue library!

Reminders:

- Remember to bring in library books on the day you have library class
- Still collecting NHFPL library card applications
- collecting tissue donations, allergy and cold season is upon us, thank you!

Currently Working On:

- K-2 Celebrated Italian Heritage Month with Weekly Read Alouds and Digital Citizenship Lessons
- Grades 3-4 Weekly Read Aloud: The Tale of Despereux and The City of Ember and book check out
- Grades 5-6 Common Sense Digital Media and book check out
- Grades 7 & 8 Weekly book check out/Research help!

Library Links



MackinVIA

MackinVIA is a complete eResource management system providing easy access to eBooks and educational databases. With just one login, users can view, utilize, an...

mackinvia.com

nhfpl
NEW HAVEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Apply for a library card and receive a prize! Do so before October 15th! Click here!

Contact:
heleni.koutsaplis@new-haven.k12.ct.us

THE WORTHINGTON HOOKER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026 | *Music K-4* | *Ms. Kegel*

We having some great autumn adventuresvin K-4 music classes. Kindergarteners are refining their understanding of high and low pitches, and showing off their critical thinking skills analyzing music that gets higher and lower. We have also been practicing our animal movements and some spooky songs.

First graders are taking longer rhythmic dictations of four phrases at a time, and moving to Haydn's *Surprise Symphony* and Grieg's "In the hall of the Mountain King." Second graders are studying perfect 5ths and practicing pitch notation on the staff.





Third graders are having wonderful experiences with our visiting teachers for Music of the African Diaspora. Above, students are practicing Afro-Venezuelan drumming with Dr. Cristina Rodríguez (also known as Emil's mom). In the upcoming month, Dr. Felicia Barber and Dr. Albert Lee will come in to discuss and sing African American spirituals.

Finally, our 4th graders have been preparing REVELS songs in Hebrew, Uzbek, Ukrainian, Tamil, Mandarin and Japanese, and are finalizing their speeches about their winter holiday values and traditions.

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October 2026 | *Music& Band 5th-8th* | *Mr. Parker*

WELCOME TO MUSIC!

As we dive into the exciting world of rhythm and melody, I am thrilled to share updates on our students' progress, upcoming performances, and the valuable skills they are developing in music class! We will all be going to The U.S. Coast Guard Band on October 28th for a wonderful field trip!

This month, all students have been learning the school's alma mater and various vocal warm-ups. In 5th and 6th grade, students have been singing in Latin, to prepare for our spring concert in May, and have been working on musical literacy skills. 7th grade students have been learning chords, songs, and are preparing for their first playing exams od the year. Finally, the 8th grade students had their musical reveal and have been preparing for their auditions.

Hop On The Band Wagon!

Beginning band has been learning their first five notes, and applying them to music for the winter concert. Jazz band has been learning about the 12 bar blues, improvisation, and are also preparing their first two charts for the winter concert. Finally, the concert band had an outstanding performance for our Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration! They have been working hard on music for the Magical March, the winter concert, and we also have a newly elected board of band officers!

General Music

- **5th Grade:** Musical Elements, Singing in Latin
- **6th Grade:** Musical Elements, Singing in Latin
- **Ethno:** Sabar drumming & Mbria Music
- **7th Grade:** Ukulele chords and melodies
- **8th Grade:** Musical Audition Preparation

Important Dates

- **Winter Concert:** Thursday December 17th
- **Spring Concert:** Thursday May 27th
- **8th Grade Musical:** Thursday June 3rd

Google Classroom Codes

- **Beginning Band:** 4omydw2q
- **Concert Band:** xlrb4jft
- **Jazz Band:** rdoxsxgs
- **Arpeggios:** wcw2lcey
- **5th Grade:** 22jxgjw4
- **6th Grade:** 3rp4h2fa
- **7th Grade:** hxvw66gs
- **8th Grade:** lyy5burn



Thank you again for taking the time to stop by the music page. If you ever have any questions or need anything, never hesitate to reach out and ask!

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October 2026 | **Multilingual Learner Support** | ***Mrs. Huntington***

Multilingual Learners have been learning the process of the Daily Language Dive. This deconstruct-reconstruct-practice routine involves examining English sentence structures, meaning, and the way it conveys information

Learning Objectives this month:

- Kindergarten - 1st: Sound awareness - rhyming, syllables, initial letter sounds. Vocabulary - high-frequency and opinion content-related words. Simple sentence structures using high-frequency frames.
- 2nd - 3rd: Vocabulary - Adjectives and adverbs to describe. Sentence structures using different verb tenses. Practice asking and answering "wh-" questions (who, what, where, when, why) .
- 4th - 5th: Understand and follow multi-step directions; follow a sequence of three or more oral instructions correctly; Paraphrase and summarize:
- 6th - 8th: Vocabulary expansion across content areas; summarize a longer passage in their own words, using complete sentences; using to-be verbs in simple present tense.





Each year, we observe **National Hispanic Heritage Month** from September 15 to October 15 by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

At Home Resources for Students

Quill

Quill.org is a program that helps ML students practice writing and grammar with instant feedback. The program automatically adjusts to each student's needs to help them build stronger skills. Students in grades 3-8 are expected to spend 10 to 15 minutes practicing on the site each night for homework.

Resources for Families

New Haven READS

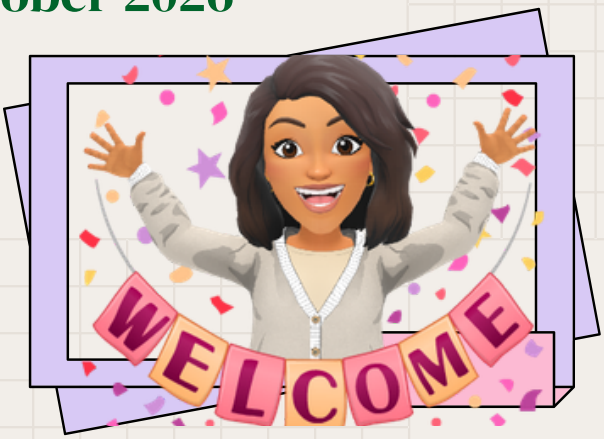
New Haven Reads increases the literacy skills of children by providing individually tailored one-on-one after school tutoring, educational family support, and a community book bank, all at no cost to parents.
https://newhavenreads.org/programs

thanh.huntington@new-haven.k12.ct.us

HOOKER HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026



SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER

MRS. SILVA

475-220-7220

Lindsey.silva@new-haven.k12.ct.us

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE!

I am so excited to continue to work with all of your amazing children for a fourth school year. This year students are taking a deep dive into Yale's RULER Program for emotional learning in addition to working on specific IEP goals and objectives. Through this program students will learn to recognize, understand, label, express and regulae their emotions.

If you would like to learn more about this program, please visit ...

https://rulerapproach.org/

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PARENT RESOURCES

Connecticut Mental Health Resources for Children - The Kids Mental Health Foundation

https://www.connectingtocarect.org/

APPTEGY

YOU CAN REACH ME ON APTEGY WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, I CREATED MY OWN CLASSROOM AND ALL OF MY STUDENT'S WERE ADDED

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COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026 *Health and Wellness* *Nurse Blerta*



Washing hands can keep you healthy and prevent the spread of respiratory and diarrheal infections. Germs can spread from person to person or from surfaces when you touch them. You can help yourself and your loved ones stay healthy by washing your hands OFTEN, especially during key times when you are likely to get and spread germs.



Reminders

If a student is sick, they must REMAIN HOME until Fever Free for 24 hours and NO vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours WITHOUT intervention from medications.





Each year, female students in grades 5th and 7th and male students in 9th grade must be screened for scoliosis according to state law. Scoliosis screenings are free and will be done by the school nurse during the school day. Any student with a current physical submitted to the nurse's office with "no spinal abnormalities" noted will NOT be screened. A letter will be sent home to the eligible students with further instructions. Screenings will begin in January.

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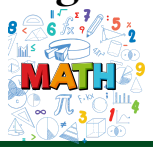
COMMUNITY EDITION

October 2026 *Literacy & Math Coaching* *Mrs. Wheeler & Mrs. Gissel*



Literacy





Math

Students in all grades have finished their beginning of the year literacy assessments! Teachers are using this data to create and meet with small groups of students to provide targeted instruction to meet your child's needs. I cannot wait to see the growth they make this year!

Continue to ask your child what they are learning in class. Discussing topics that your child hears in the classroom at home helps to reinforce skills so they are able to build mastery. Whether it is phonics, vocabulary, or comprehension, discussing how your child learns or practices these skills in the classroom is a great way to make a connection to how they can practice them with you at home.

A school wide area of focus this year in literacy is fluency. Fluency is the ability to read quickly, accurately, and with intonation. At home you can practice fluency with your child by rereading familiar stories, timing them as they read passages aloud to see how they increase in their time and decrease their amount of errors day to day. Taking turns reading aloud longer texts with your child also allows them to hear you as a fluent reader.

Your children are off to a great start after completing the beginning of the year assessments. Therefore, I am excited to continue to partner with you to make math an engaging, meaningful, and successful experience for our students. One of the best ways to support your child's learning at home is by encouraging strong basic fact fluency—practicing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division through quick daily routines or simple card and board games. Connecting math to everyday moments, such as cooking, measuring, or talking through real-world problem-solving, builds both confidence and a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

Also, remember the importance of using academic vocabulary for math. Few things are more frustrating for an educator than watching a student miss a problem simply because of a tricky vocabulary word rather than a lack of mathematical ability. It is genuinely discouraging to see a child who has completely mastered a concept, possesses strong logical reasoning, and has all the necessary problem-solving skills get tripped up by the words in the directions or in the prompt. Moments like these highlight how deeply language and literacy are intertwined with math success, serving as a powerful reminder that helping students build strong academic vocabularies is just as crucial as teaching them the formulas and operations themselves.
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Useful Links/Dates

The mclass link below brings you to activities that will support K-3 literacy learning at home.

- https://www.mclass.amplify.com/homeconnect/
- Reading Rockets Article-What is Reading?
- Read Across America-NEA
- https://home.xtramath.org/

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October 2026 School Counselor Mrs. Jennifer Pelazza

Our 8th graders are actively preparing for their next big chapter! This month, students had the opportunity to visit with representatives from several area high schools, including Hopkins School, The Sound School, and Notre Dame High School. We look forward to hosting representatives from additional high schools in the coming weeks.

High School Fall Open House Dates:

Eli Whitney, - Nov. 4th

Hamden Hall - Nov. 1st

ECA - Nov. 17th

Looking Ahead:

Next week, our 8th graders will participate in an informative presentation led by Open Choice & Enrollment, detailing the full range of New Haven high school options available to them. We encourage families to talk with their students about the programs and schools that interest them most!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

JENNIFERFLYNN.PELAZZA@NEW-HAVEN.K12.CT.US

475-220-7211

Leadership is thriving at our school! This year, over 60 students ran for Student Council positions. We are immensely proud of our candidates for their hard work, initiative, and commitment to making our school community the best it can be. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who stepped up to run!



Powerschool Issues? Please email for assistance.