



# WPS Update

May 2019

*The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to promote the academic, social, and emotional development of all students to become contributing members of the global community.*

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## From the Board Chairman & Superintendent:

We’d like to commend and congratulate our faculty and administration on a large number of accomplishments this year. Across all phases of our school community, we have much to be proud of.

- Wolcott High School’s performance on the SAT has increased by 8.6% from last year to this year and is up over a four-year trend as well.
- On our internal, i-Ready assessments, students are showing good growth as well. Both ELA and Math are up 2.5% since this time last year.
- Wolcott High School was awarded the College Board Honor Roll for the number of students taking and passing Advanced Placement tests and was also named as among the top 10% of high schools in the state for awarding UCONN credit.
- We have improved our student attendance rate over time. For both the general student population and among students designated as “high need” we now have the best student attendance rates among all similar districts.
- In fact, for overall Accountability Index score, SBAC English Language Arts, SBAC Math, chronic absenteeism, success on college-and-career-readiness exams, on-track to graduation measures, high-need student graduation rate, acceptance into two- and four-year colleges, and even physical fitness we rank first among similar Connecticut school districts.

- Where, just a short time ago, our performance was similar to districts like Cromwell, Region 14, and Berlin... We now outperform many more affluent districts such as Bolton, Canton, Glastonbury, East Lyme, Westbrook, and Madison.
- Our students are succeeding outside of the classrooms as well with awards, recognitions, and championships in athletics, robotics, and the Invention Convention.

These accomplishments would not be possible without a strong dedication from all facets of our school community: our supportive Board of Education, dedicated Central Office staff, school administrators, teachers, counselors, mental health professionals, and support staff of all types. We are proving what can be accomplished when all members of an organization collaborate and hold each other to high expectations.

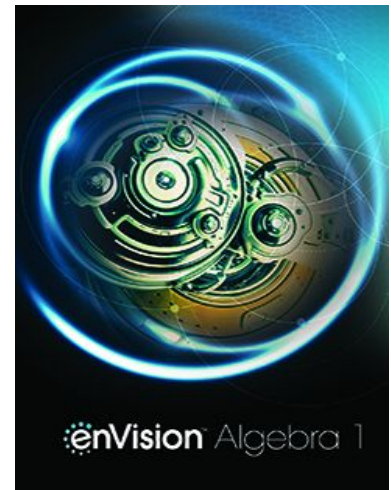
In partnership,

*Lori Delbuono Bartlett*, Board of Education Chairman  
*Tony Gasper, Ed.D.*, Superintendent of Schools



## Assistant Superintendent:

**Updates on Math Instruction, Resources and Performance.** The district is in the final year of a three year roll-out of its newest math program titled, *enVision Math 2.0*. Utilizing cutting-edge adaptive technology, *enVision Math 2.0* helps students build a stronger conceptual understanding of math while providing more opportunities for problem-based learning. Students and teachers have enjoyed the personalized math practice and homework features, as well as the online, step-by-step tutorials available through the MathXL and “My Practice Buddy” components of the program. In the month of May alone, district usage reports show 390 teacher logins and approximately 830 student logins to the online portal for lessons and support. The district has most recently expanded the *enVision 2.0* resource to include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II instruction at the high school as well. Since the adoption of the new resource, district-wide math results on state and local assessments have also experienced gains. For example, during the Envision 2.0 roll-out period, Smarter Balanced Math Assessments for grades 3-8 have shown a 6.3% increase. The district’s internal assessment in math, I-Ready, has shown a 11.4% increase when comparing mid-year scores over the past three years, and the most recent SAT Math results at the high school have also shown a 4.8% increase over this same time frame. Please visit the site below to learn more about the features of *enVision Math 2.0*:



<https://www.pearsonschool.com/index.cfm?locator=PS2xlm&acornRdt=1&acornRef=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Epearsonschool%2Ecom%3A80%2Fenvisionmath2>

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# Alcott School:

We have certainly had an active month at Alcott School! On May 1st, the entire school participated in ACES Day. ACES stands for: All Children Exercising Simultaneously. Students walked around the building for over a half hour tracking their laps. Many of our students walked over a mile!. Thank you to the PTO for providing refreshing popsicles and music for the event.

Our Kids Marathon 4th and 5th grade students have been working hard before school with Mr. Chupron and at home to build their miles and endurance up. Due to a scheduling conflict the date of the final mile for Kids Marathon has been changed from May 11th to June 1. The final mile will be run at the Cheshire High School track with other participating Kids Marathoners. Congratulations on a great MILEstone!

On Tuesday, May 21st the Alcott Music department held its annual Spring Concert. The school community was treated to two performances, one in school and one in the evening. Grade 3 students performed several songs on their recorders. Grade 4 and 5 Band and Choral students also performed several songs. The hardwork and dedication showed, as everyone sounded great. Thank you to Mrs. Goldberg and our students for doing such a great job!



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# Frisbie School:

Our Frisbie students dazzled the audience with their talent during the annual Variety Show. Frisbie performers began the show with a heart pounding opening act that displayed good rhythm as they kept the beat to We Will Rock You. Sixty-two students participated in twenty-eight acts that ranged from comedy to gymnastic dances. Thank you to all of the parents for their cooperation. A big thank you to the staff and students for all of their help in making this show a huge success.

The Kids Marathon concluded on Saturday, May 11th at the Wolcott High School Track. Forty third, fourth, and fifth grade students completed 26.2 miles total over an eight week period. They trained outside of school, in physical education class, and before school with Ms. Wesseling. Congratulations to everyone who completed the Kids marathon!

On Friday, May 13th our third grade students held their annual Cultural Food Fair. Each student chose a country of their choice, conducted research using a variety of sources, designed a presentation board, and made a food that is representative of their country for others to enjoy. After the twenty-one countries were introduced, students danced, sung, and acted out skit to show the importance of learning about other cultures.

The Frisbie School Chorus impressed the school community as they presented The Unity Tree. Since February, thirty fourth and fifth grade students have been practicing their lines and dance moves to prepare for the performance. It conveyed a great message to the audience of always choose friendship and to help out one another. Thank you to Mrs. Deloy for yet another wonderful production.



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# Wakelee School:

Wakelee students and staff all celebrated ACES Day with a twenty minute walk around the school, which included stopping at various stations along the way to complete various physical activities including the chicken dance, limbo, hopscotch, and animal crawling. It was an wonderful opportunity to exercise simultaneously. I would like to thank Mrs. VanOrmer for leading this event.

The Wakelee Chorus performed before the student body for a day performance and family and friends for the evening performance. I was thrilled by how well the students sang such a challenging repertoire led by our music teacher Mr. Fontaine. I congratulate the students for committing themselves in their pursuit of the arts through music.

Mrs. VanOrmer did not disappoint with another amazing and well organized Field Day event! The students traveled through activity stations for the morning followed by a picnic lunch and a fun game of tug-of-war. Thank you to all the parent volunteers that came to help run the stations.



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# Tyrrell Middle School:

As the year winds down Tyrrell Chorus and Band students held their Spring concerts. Ms. Pytel and Mr. Regimbald led our students through two amazing performances. Students prepared for these concerts for the past few months, taking extra time before and after school to practice. 8th grade students were exceptionally proud to participate in their last concert as Tyrrell Middle School students. Mr. Regimbald and Ms. Pytel will miss them, but know that they will make a significant impact to the high school programs. Congratulations to our students and faculty members for two wonderful performances.



With 8th grade graduation fast approaching it is that time of year that our students begin to be recognized for all of their hard work and dedication in and outside of the classroom. Each year students from Tyrrell win various awards for their efforts in and outside of the classroom. Two 8th grade students (Luke Connolly & Alani Navarro) were recently honored at the Waterbury Youth Leadership Awards ceremony. According to Waterbury Youth Services *"Excellence In Youth Awards is an annual event that celebrates character excellence in middle and high school aged youth in the Greater Waterbury Area. Youth are nominated primarily from public and private schools for demonstrating outstanding character in one of our four "Character" categories: Citizenship, Community Service, Initiative & Leadership."* Congratulations to our 8th grade recipients!!

Our 8th grade students attended their annual trip to Washington D.C. The trip allows students to immerse themselves in the history of our nation with visits to important historical landmarks including the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam & Korean War Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, the U. S. Capitol, and the Holocaust Museum just to name a few. For most students this is their first experience in Washington D.C. While visiting Arlington National Cemetery students, selected by their teachers for their passion for social sciences, were selected to represent Tyrrell Middle School with laying the wreath and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. This solemn experience is one students will never forget. As their peers were laying the wreath, Tyrrell Middle School students and faculty watched and showed respect to the ceremony.



Finally, congratulations to our Baseball and Softball teams for both winning the Junior NVL Championship. Good job players and coaches for a job well done!!!

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# Wolcott High School:

May was a busy month filled with awards, honor society inductions, field trips, banquets, and proms. A successful Junior Prom was held at the Aqua Turf on May 11th and students were complimented for their behavior and attitudes by the Aqua Turf staff.

On May 5th, Tyler Shoban and Rachel Bennett were honored by the Connecticut Association of School and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference as the 2018-2019 WHS Scholar Student Athletes. Congratulations to these students and their families on this well deserved honor.

Vincent Zheng was nominated as Wolcott High School's representative for this years Governor's Scholar Program. While he was not selected as a finalist, we are proud to recognize his distinction as one of CT's top scholars.



May 16th a celebration was held at the Aqua Turf to honor our Super Senior students. 129 students were recognized for being exemplary with a banquet in their honor. Then on May 22nd we hosted the National Technical Honor Society Induction, 27 students were inducted into this society.



The 23rd of May we had two special ceremonies to honor our students. College Book awards and Academic Achievement awards were handed out during the day to deserving Juniors to recognize their scholastic achievements and commitment to the school community. That evening, 222 generous awards and scholarships were handed out to Senior students from numerous individual, community, and school donations.

On May 29th our Music students were honored and recognized for all of their efforts at a banquet at the Aqua Turf and lastly, May 30th a special ceremony was held at the high school to celebrate our SHAPE students and their families.

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# Student Services:

Wolcott High School students including those from the Phoenix, STEP and Life Skills Programs participated in the eighth annual Construction Pro Rodeo, coordinated by Associated Builders and Contractors of Connecticut. They were featured in a NBC CT news segment which highlighted the two-day career expo held in Wallingford which brought together more than 1,000 Connecticut juniors and seniors from 46 schools to sample various trades.

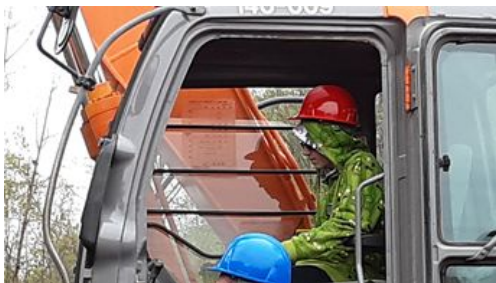


“They’re allowed to get their hands dirty trying their hands at different trades and learn a little bit about construction,” said event organizer Chris Fryzell, the president of the Associated Builders & Contractors Connecticut Chapter. Students experienced a wide variety of demonstrations and activities with trades ranging from electrical to plumbing and also included excavating and welding.

For teachers involved with their students, this event offered a unique hands-on learning experience “Something like this is invaluable to my students because they get out here, they actually use the equipment,” said George Phelan, a tech education teacher at Wolcott High School. “They see they’re producing something. It gains their interest and that’s what we’re here for.”

For the students involved it was a valuable educational experience which was also fun, especially for those who learned to operate heavy equipment. “To be honest it felt like I was playing a video game or one of those big claw games,” said Wolcott High student Anthony Lawrence.

All students involved received hard hats and safety goggles, provided by numerous Connecticut construction companies sponsoring the event. These companies also loaned many excavators and other heavy equipment all with the sole purpose of giving students a viable alternative to consider upon graduation.



Please check the link below to see the exciting NBC CT news segment featuring some of our students and staff.

<https://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/Construction-Pro-Rodeo-Gives-Students-a-Look-at-the-Industry-509346471.html>

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# Business & Operations:

## Facilities & Grounds



A shout out to our school spring athletic teams. Many of our teams qualified for the CIAC tournament in their respective sports. Congratulations to our teams and their coaches!

As you know, the spring weather has been anything but cooperative, causing many scheduled matches and games to be postponed or outright canceled due to the poor weather conditions. The maintenance staff job is to make sure that the fields, tracks, and courts, are ready for play.

Todd Welton and Gary Saucier, the district's maintenance and grounds employees, take great pride in Wolcott's fields. Whether it's a CIAC softball game at WHS, or a Tyrrell Middle School NVL championship baseball game, the fields were ready when the weather cooperated, and they always looked great. Our staff and our athletic teams knocked it out of the park this season!



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