

WUHSMS  
Principal's Report

I am privileged to present a glimpse of the achievements of the students, faculty, and staff at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School. During the 2022-23 academic year, we endeavored to provide personalized, authentic, and student-driven learning experiences for 450 students in grades 7-12. Our student body comes from the seven communities within our district—Barnard, Bridgewater, Killington, Plymouth, Pomfret, Reading, and Woodstock—and fourteen other communities across the region. We were proud to receive recognition for our college preparation program. Our school received AP Honor Roll Silver from the College Board (one of only two Vermont schools to earn this recognition), acknowledging commitment to equitable access to advanced coursework. The Advanced Placement program includes sixteen classes across seven subject areas. GreatSchools.org honored the high school with a College Success Award for dedication to guiding students through successful college enrollment and transition.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Public Schools completed a comprehensive review of our program, including a multi-day visit as part of the decennial accreditation process. The Commission commended many aspects of our school, including "the variety of learning opportunities that are personalized, authentic, and student-driven," "the professional culture that demonstrates a commitment to continuous improvement," and "the safe, positive, respectful, and inclusive culture in the school." In addition to engaging in the accreditation process, teachers worked collaboratively to map the curriculum by subject area or program across grade levels while considering Portrait of a Graduate connections and reviewing curriculum with an equity lens.

We continued our commitment to flexible pathways and community collaboration through many partnerships, including with Artistree, AVA Art Gallery, the Green Mountain Club, Hall Art Foundation, Kiss the Cow Farm, League of Women Voters, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, NuVu Innovation School, Pentangle Arts, Thompson Senior Center, the United States Forest Service, and many, many more. These partnerships supported numerous programs, including career exploration, job shadowing, CRAFT and C3, and arts and civics education. Vermont Senate Majority Leader Alison Clarkson, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger '88, and elected officials from both parties from our sending towns met with social studies classes. We are grateful to the organizations and individuals who offered their time and resources to enrich our students' experiences.

More than eighty percent of our students participated in athletics and other extracurricular activities, showcasing excellence on and off the field. Several athletic teams, including a unified sports team, competed in state championships, securing four championship titles. The math and scholar's bowl teams won regional and state competitions. The Yoh Theater delivered multiple remarkable performances, enriching our school community with artistic talent. The Social Action Club organized its third Leadership Summit for Social Justice, underscoring the importance of student voice and leadership. Our international travel and exchange programs returned after a three-year pandemic-induced hiatus, with twenty students traveling to Spain and France. Seventeen seniors earned the state-endorsed Seal of Biliteracy, acknowledging global competency and the ability to communicate across cultures.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the community, and we eagerly anticipate another year of achievements at Woodstock Union High School and Middle School.

Garon Smail, Principal, WUHSMS