



WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOLS

WEST DEPTFORD HIGH SCHOOL DIVES INTO ESPORT COMPETITION

West Deptford High School is excited to announce the formation of an esports team this fall! Esports is the general term for competitive online multiplayer video game. Over the past decade, esports has surged in popularity, with over 250 million global viewers, individual prizes of up to \$3 million, team competition prize pools of up to \$30 million, and events broadcast on ESPN, ABC, and other major networks. Playing esports requires incredible skills in critical thinking, situational awareness, communication, problem solving, analysis, and reflection. The National Federation of High School Sports recently recommended that all high schools consider adding esports to their offerings.



WDHS joined Garden State Esports (GSE) coming into this school year, adding ourselves to the list of 108 NJ schools competing in several different games over the course of the school year. Garden State Esports has two levels of competition. GSE Friendlies are daily competitions where teams are paired up through Discord for fun, casual competition against other clubs from around the State. GSE Championship Seasons are Garden State Esports' serious, varsity competitions. GSE uses a three-season format for Championship Seasons with start and end dates similar to traditional New Jersey athletics. Championship Seasons consist of an 8-week regular season followed by a single elimination tournament to determine State champions. This fall, WDHS is competing in Championship Rocket League and Fortnite, while also joining in Friendlies for Minecraft, Rocket League, and Brawlhalla. The team is looking forward to competing in more games as the school year progresses and hopefully getting our hands on one of the GSE championship belts under the direction of Mr. Mike Seeley! For more information on Garden State Esports, check out their website at www.gsesports.org, and follow the WDHS Esports Team on Instagram and Twitter @wdhsesports.

WDMS Soars with the Return of Eagle Launch!

On Monday, September 20th, positive behavior once again took flight and soared with the return of West Deptford Middle School's Seventh Annual Eagle Launch. The school-wide event promoted the Middle School's Positive Behavior Support in Schools (PBSIS) program, which emphasizes the pillars of character: respect, gratitude, caring, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, trustworthiness, and sportsmanship. To capture and reinforce these characteristics, the students and staff at WDMS participated in an entire day's worth of exciting activities that reinforced the program's missions. To help celebrate its return, the day's activities culminated with the entire staff and student body receiving free KONA ICE!



Students were engaged in a variety of events that align with the school's PBSIS mission. Such activities included three Character Education lessons facilitated by the teaching staff. Students were given the opportunity to create a "Finding Yourself" Digital Vision Board. This personalized collage is a representation of their personalities, interests, identities, and goals. Students in grades 5 and 8 were paired together to participate in a "Getting to Know the Lay of the Land" Scavenger Hunt. Eighth-grade students provided support to our fifth-grade students while navigating throughout the building to find clues and answer questions. Students in grades 6 and 7 participated in a similar Scavenger Hunt with their grade level peers. Students were also provided with the opportunity to participate in an interactive activity that promotes interdependence, working cooperatively, positive communication, and relationship building while also overviewing the PBSIS expectations.



In addition, all students contributed to the creation of our new mural, "Where Will Your Wings Take You?" which is located at the front entrance. This year's mural includes a larger-than-life size set of wings and can be seen by students and visitors when entering the lobby of the school. Each student had the opportunity to leave their mark on the walls of WDMS as they used their fingertips to create the colorful feathers of the giant set of wings. Furthermore, the students built on their teamwork and leadership abilities during the various station activities led by members of The West Deptford Police Department. Such activities included the Tarp Challenge, Rock-Paper-Scissors Hula-Hoop Race, and Bull-Ring Challenge. Each activity set the tone and laid the foundation in modeling character attributes among our students and staff!



Green-Fields Students Celebrate A Week of Respect

It has been a wonderful, but super busy, start to the school year at Green-Fields. Recently, our students had an opportunity to celebrate the State-Wide Week of Respect during the week of October 4-8. Our School Counselor, Mrs. Hansbury, and members of our School Climate Team created a fun schedule of events for the “Five Days of Fun” for our students and staff. These special activities emphasized the importance of respecting yourself, others, and the community, and are detailed below...

Monday: We Can't 'Mask' Our Respect: In keeping with the times, students and staff were asked to wear their favorite face mask throughout the day. Some of the designs were quite creative!

Tuesday: Put Bullying To Bed: It was pajama day at Green-Fields as students and staff “dreamed” of a world full of respect.

Wednesday: Keep the Peace: It was a bright day as students and staff wore colorful clothes that inspired themes of peace.

Thursday: Don't Sweat the Small Stuff: We emphasized that little things don't need to become big things as everyone was encouraged to dress very comfortably in sweats.

Friday: Green-Fields Family Day: In keeping with our everyday Green-Fields theme, Friday was GF's Family Day. Students and staff showed their family pride by wearing Green-Fields, West Deptford, or school-colored clothes.

As a National School of Character, we are constantly looking for students who are demonstrating positive social behaviors within the school setting. We have several activities in place to reinforce this concept including our School Ambassadors Program, Safety Patrol, and School Store. Also, selected students are recognized each day through our “Bucket Filler” Awards and “Caught You Being Respectful” notices. These fun activities allow our students and staff to recognize the kind and respectful things happening in our building and to hear their name on the loud speaker each morning. It is our goal here at Green-Fields to effectively reinforce positive behavior by honoring our students who work hard every day to demonstrate kindness and respect.



Oakview & Red Bank – Combining Content and Literacy!

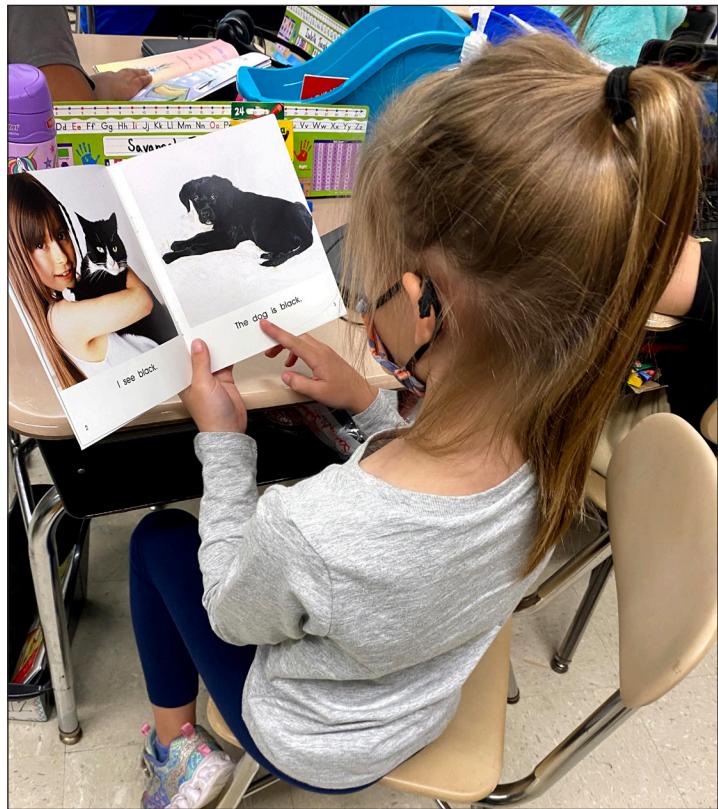
In addition to teaching foundational, standards-based literacy skills, the West Deptford kindergarten, first grade, and second grade elementary classrooms have been integrating content (social studies and science) and literacy via American Reading Company's (ARC) Core program! Integrating content and literacy in the elementary classroom is not a new idea, but it has gained ground in recent years due to a push for authentic, purposeful literacy instruction that creates and builds a strong knowledge base for students. Combining content and literacy is essential. It's a key to helping our students with learning loss.



How will combining content and literacy help our students with learning loss? There are many benefits to integrating content and literacy - and the results can be powerful! Integrating content within the literacy block--within our phonic, reading, and writing instruction block of time--increases content knowledge and, in turn, increases students' vocabulary. Since reading comprehension depends heavily on prior knowledge, building each child's schema or background knowledge will give them additional tools to be successful in reading.

Integrating literacy instruction with knowledge is challenging. However, our staff continues to receive ongoing, in-class support through our ARC Coaches. ARC Coaches support our teachers by delivering effective professional learning through job-embedded “elbow-to-elbow” coaching. They work with our teachers in their own classrooms, and during preparation periods, as they learn to create the conditions necessary to establish an authentically engaged literacy culture.

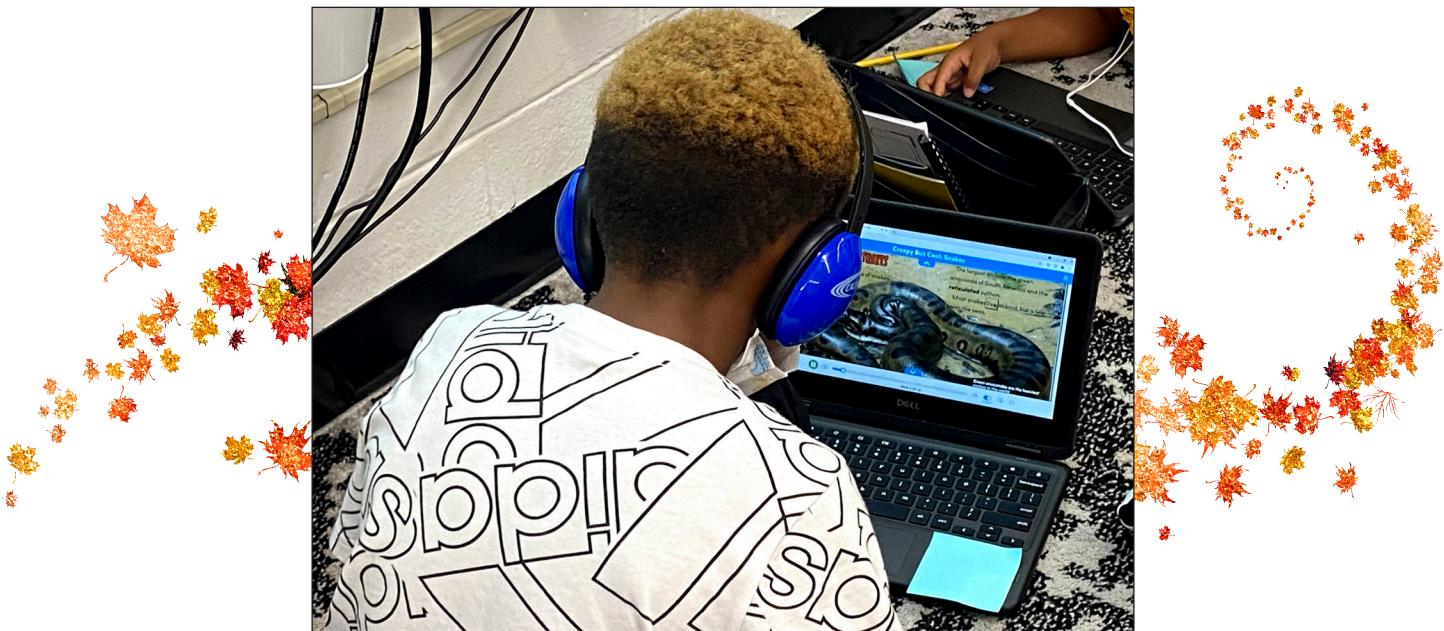




Families have asked how they can support reading at home. There are several critical ways you can support your child's reading. First, help your child establish habits and routines to ensure that reading occurs every night. Make sure that a regular time is reserved for reading, and you may wish to turn off distractions, such as the TV and cell phones. Let your child know that there is no more important homework than reading.

Please know that talking with your children about his/her reading encourages interest in the book and deepens his/her understanding of the information or story. Listen to your child read as often as possible. Compliment your child when he or she displays good reading habits such as noticing punctuation and reading in phrases, or going back to self-correct an error when a sentence doesn't sound right or make sense. Praise your child for the amount of reading he or she is completing.

Together, we will empower our children to read, learn, and grow!



Preschool Trike-a-Thon

You're never too young for community service, and our District's preschoolers proved this to be true on October 19th, 20th, and 21st of this school year! Red Bank, Oakview, and Green-Fields' youngest learners participated in their first ever Trike-a-Thon, a bike riding community service project that benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital while teaching children about bike safety.

During the days prior to the Trike-a-Thon event, our preschoolers learned in their classrooms the four rules of bike safety: always wear a helmet, never ride in the street, be careful near driveways, and always watch where you are going. Coloring books, stickers, and "trike licenses" from St. Jude's program supported the daily lessons. While the children learned about bike safety in school, families worked at home to collect sponsor donations for the Children's Research Hospital. On the day of the Trike-a-Thon, students rode tricycles, bicycles, wagons, and scooters in our school parking lots to display what they had learned. They were cheered on by their classmates, families, the school administration, and their teachers. The event was also supported by the Friends of Rachel group from the high school and the Green-Fields' Safety Patrol. Both of these student groups from the District helped to design the Trike-a-Thon course, organized and set-up the riding items for each class, directed bike traffic, and assisted the students who needed it. It was a true team effort!

The mission of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is to advance cures, and means of prevention, for pediatric catastrophic diseases through research and treatment. No child in their program is denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family's ability to pay. We are happy to announce that our preschooler's first community service project towards this wonderful organization was a huge success. Final donation amounts from our preschool program for St. Jude's Children Hospital totaled **\$9,475** by the end of the event!



West Deptford Welcomes New Full Time Staff Members



DAJUANE COLLINS
HIGH SCHOOL
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR



KAITLIN BEHRNS
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



CASEY BROWN
MIDDLE SCHOOL
PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER



HALEY PAULSEN
MIDDLE SCHOOL
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



CHELSEA PFAHL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
5TH GRADE TEACHER



SARAH STETSON
MIDDLE SCHOOL
5TH GRADE TEACHER



MICHELLE VALENTINE
MIDDLE SCHOOL
5TH GRADE TEACHER



KIMBERLY DAMMINGER
GREEN-FIELDS
TIER II TEACHER



ALEX SCOTT
GREEN-FIELDS
TIER II TEACHER



ROSE CAIRNS
OAKVIEW
1ST GRADE TEACHER



DANIELLE GIAMBROME
OAKVIEW
TIER II TEACHER



MEGAN JONES
OAKVIEW
TIER II TEACHER



ASHLEY MOHRING
OAKVIEW
KINDERGARTEN TEACHER



LEAH STEWARD
RED BANK
TIER II TEACHER



MARGARET VALLEE
RED BANK
TIER II TEACHER



MEREDITH BUTTS
DISTRICT
MEDIA SPECIALIST



DANIEL STEERS
DISTRICT
NETWORK TECHNICIAN



SHAWNA JOHNSON
CST
SOCIAL WORKER

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