

FEBRUARY UPDATE

UPPER SCHOOL



FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS FOR WWS FAMILIES

STUDENTS IN ACTION



WWS NEWS

Journalism students wrote and published a fantastic second issue of the WWS Times. All students wrote articles and topics ranged from the importance of leisure time and sleep in adolescent health to interviews with new WWS students. The entire community is already eagerly anticipating issue number 3, which will likely be released next month.



NUTRITION & RESTAURANT MANAGEMENT

Students enrolled in our new Nutrition and Restaurant Management class had the opportunity to engage in an outstanding place based education opportunity at Tremezzo Ristorante in Wilmington, MA. A special thank you to Rick Lowe for welcoming students to his restaurant four times this semester to ensure continuity of learning and provide real world experience!



ROCKET LAUNCH

Students attended their regular academic classes on the Friday before February vacation. However, during their afternoon elective block, they participated in a rocket launch competition with their elective class. Students designed, constructed and tested bottle rockets using fluid and bicycle pumps to create pressure. It was a windy day and the rockets certainly reached new heights!



PROGRAM & POLICY

➤➤➤ PROGRESS REPORTS & PORTFOLIOS

Teachers have been working hard to provide extensive feedback on each student. Progress reports are scheduled to be sent home no later than March 12th. Rather than share portfolios with new work the week after February vacation, students will share their updated portfolios with parents by March 8th. Additionally, all progress reports will contain a link to each student's portfolio on the cover page.

➤➤➤ SPEECH UPDATE

We are lucky to have both Hallie Goldstein and Rachelle Hall supporting upper school students in the speech department. While Hallie is still in the midst of treatment, she has been able to work 2 - 3 days per week. If you have a question about speech, please direct your inquiries to both Hallie and Rachelle as they have been working together as an incredible team.

➤➤➤ WINDHAM COMMUNITY SERVICES

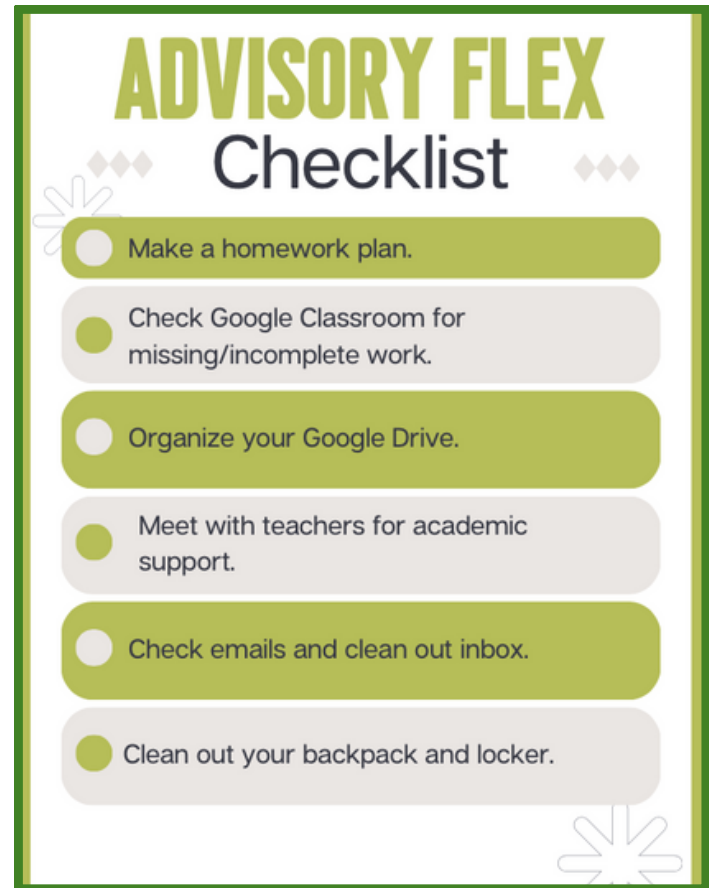
Upper school students have all completed library card applications so that we can support access to audiobooks and research databases. Please note that library cards will renew automatically for all WWS students in the fall. In an attempt to develop stronger relationships with the local community, we have also partnered with school resource officers from the Windham Police Department. The Windham PD and Officer Jeff Antista have supported us in developing our safety protocol, recently attended Career Day, and have been visiting campus.

➤➤➤ CAREER & COLLEGE COUNSELING

One common question people have about our school and college admissions is: **how do students get into school without traditional grades?**

The answer is both simple and complicated. First, it is important to know that many colleges recalculate student grades anyway, so they are used to connecting with schools to find out how grading works at different schools. Second, the Mastery Transcript we use has a wealth of information that colleges are not used to receiving, but give them information about the specific skills students can perform independently, as well as the courses they have taken, and evidence of the actual work students have completed. This last part, the authentic work of students, accessible on the transcript itself, is really what gives schools a clear picture of what our students can really do!

Also, our transcript allows us to show more about our students as humans, unique and special, rather than a name with a series of numbers and letters. So colleges can see when a student is deeply invested in science, or in supporting the community, or a talented artist. With all of this information, the grades quickly become less instructive and less important. Then, as needed, we can work collaboratively with colleges that require some sort of number or letter to represent grades, based on teacher feedback, and student work. We are also able to provide colleges with the information they may need in order for students to be eligible for merit aid and scholarships.



➤➤➤ ADVISORY FLEX

We are rolling out the checklist above during next week's advisory flex sessions. Each student will have access to a laminated version of the checklist and a dry erase marker during this time period. Students will be expected to utilize these checklist in order to support executive functioning skills.

➤➤➤ STUDENT ATHLETES

Mr. Mical is creating a bulletin to showcase our student athletes. Please send a picture of your student athlete in uniform/in action to jmical@windhamwoods.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2 - Winter Stroll Family Event 12:30 - 1:30 for Upper School Families

March 8 - International Day

March 16 & 17 - WWS Presents: The Little Mermaid Jr

March 22 - Vegas Night from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Great Hall

April 9 - 12 - Washington, DC Trip for registered students

May 10 - Junior/Senior Prom - Boat cruise & Lock In - Permission slip [here](#).

June 2 - Red Sox Game - Family Event
Buy tickets [here](#)!

June 7 - Upper School Graduation

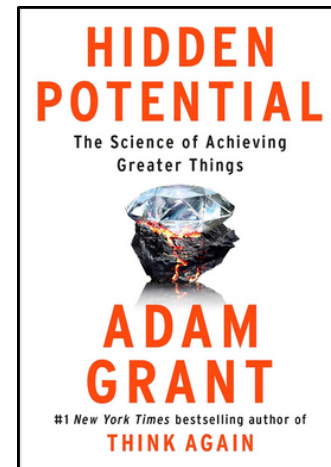
YEARBOOK ORDERS

THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE A YEARBOOK IS MARCH 7TH

USE THIS LINK TO PURCHASE YOURS TODAY!

»»» DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Most nights I fall asleep quickly as my work and my 3 boys (3 under 5 club) keep me busy. However, before passing out I always try to read a few pages of a good book. I am currently reading Hidden Potential by Adam Grant. I always appreciate books that I can apply to both my professional and personal life. This book definitely applies to parenting and has been informative for my perspective at WWS. I encourage other parents to check it out!



»»» FROST TRAIL ASSEMBLY

Upper school students will attend a Frost Trail assembly for 25 minutes during their elective block on March 1st. The purpose of this assembly is to be transparent with all students about the programs being offered. At this time, we anticipate the Frost Trail to be a cohort of 10 - 12 students for the 24-25 school year.

"THE CAPACITIES TO BE PROACTIVE, PROSOCIAL, DISCIPLINED, AND DETERMINED STAYED WITH STUDENTS LONGER – AND ULTIMATELY PROVED MORE POWERFUL THAN EARLY MATH AND READING SKILLS."

ADAM GRANT, HIDDEN POTENTIAL