

OCTOBER UPDATE

UPPER SCHOOL



OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS FOR WWS FAMILIES

STUDENTS IN ACTION

>>> FALL FEST

Upper schoolers participated in our 3rd annual Fall Fest on Thursday, October 26th. Students carved and painted pumpkins, competed in relay races, and played a variety of lawn games. Over 25 students also participated in the students vs. staff flag football game. The staff team still reigns supreme and students are looking forward to a rematch in the spring!





➤➤➤ AMC TRIP

30 WWS students spent 3 days in the White Mountains participating in a leadership and hiking program with the Appalachian Mountain Club. Programming focused on the role of communication in leadership.



STUDENT LOUNGE PROJECT <<<

Students who stayed on campus during the AMC trip worked with their teachers and with Mr. Marsh to construct beautiful built-ins for the student lounge. Seniors have created the adjacent design and worked within a budget to select the rest of the furniture and art work has been both purchased and created by students to decorate the walls.



PROGRAM & POLICY

➤➤➤ PORTFOLIOS

Your child's digital portfolio will be shared with you via Google Drive by November 6th. This portfolio contains a folder with each of their current courses and 1 work sample. New work samples will be added monthly.

➤➤➤ ADVISORY UPDATE

The purpose of advisory is to build a school family through activities that foster self reflection and an understanding of others. The 5 part structure of morning advisory is outlined below:

1. Preview - visual review of the day's schedule and announcements
2. Greeting - teacher and students acknowledge each other to continue to build rapport
3. Share - students share something about themselves to deepen understanding and connection
4. Activity - students engage in a shared purpose so they can continue to build their communication skills
5. Prep Moment - helps students maintain their time, materials, and information before the day begins

ECO TIP

If a child can do something, they should!

Examples include:

Sending emails, asking a question related to their schedule, advocating for support, expressing emotions

PROGRAM & POLICY

➤➤➤ ILPS

All Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) were emailed home by October 23rd. ILPs are working documents. If you would like to propose changes to your child's ILP, please email kvicente@windhamwoods.org. This year's ILPs are connected to both progress reports and the Mastery Transcript.



➤➤➤ CELL PHONE POLICY

How do we know it's working? Here are some quotes from our WWS staff!

- *"Students aren't leaving class nearly as frequently and when they do need to leave the classroom, they return very quickly."* - Laura Malmgren
- *"The cell phone policy allows students to focus without temptation, and has offered greater opportunities for students to genuinely engage with one another."* - Amy Baxter
- *We know the endless benefits of social connections, and we are seeing our students capitalize on those with their phones down and their eyes up."* - Lauren Torres
- *"I feel like kids don't realize they are missing their phones until they see them again. The distractions in class are the old fashioned distractions again and those are more workable."* - Phil Smith

DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Surgeon General released a warning about the adverse effects of social media use on youth mental health. You can read it [here](#).

➤➤ CAREER & COLLEGE COUNSELING

This month seniors continued to work on their college applications during their Senior Seminar class, as well as in one-on-one meetings with Ryan Deery, Director of Career & Collegel Counseling. We are preparing several students to apply early to colleges, beginning as soon as November 1st!

In addition, parents have started filling out the CSS Profile:

The CSS Profile, administered and maintained by the College Board, the same group that develops the SAT, opens the door to nonfederal scholarships and other kinds of institutional aid that can make a big difference when it's time to pay for college.

Aiming to paint a fuller picture of a family's finances than the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, the CSS Profile offers opportunities for families to describe unique or extenuating circumstances that affect their ability to pay. ([USNews & World Report](#))

Also this month, Windham Woods has developed a plan to offer a Postgraduate year option for students, beginning in the fall of 2024. The official rollout of this plan, including information about how to apply and the application process will be released in January!

YEARBOOKS ➤➤

In previous years, WWS students have had one yearbook for all grades 1 - 12. We are excited to offer upper school students their own high school yearbook this year and have partnered with Josten's in order to do so.

So Many Memories, One Low Price.

Order a yearbook [HERE](#) by November 24th for only \$60 - the lowest price of the year.

“WE MOVE WHAT WE’RE LEARNING FROM OUR HEADS TO OUR HEARTS THROUGH OUR HANDS.”

– BRENE BROWN