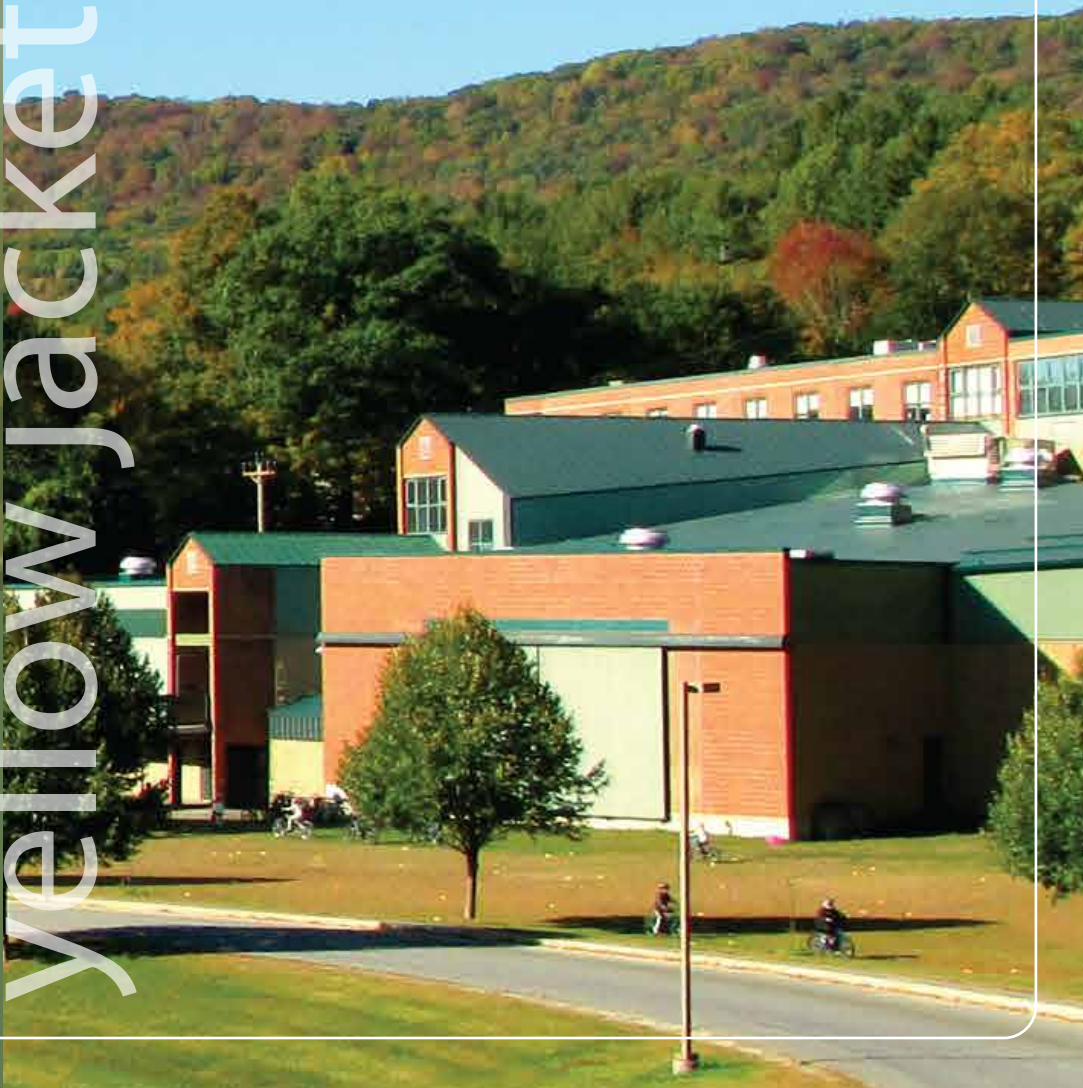


WINDSOR MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL



yellowjackets

Windsor, Vermont



Educating students to become
caring, contributing & responsible
members of a changing global society.



A Message from Our Principal

On behalf of the Windsor School District, I want to welcome you to Windsor Middle and High School. Windsor School is one of four schools that represent the Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union, located at the foothills of Mount Ascutney and along the banks of the Connecticut River. Although rural in location, Windsor has a rich history and is considered more of an urban community.

Windsor School is a K-12 education complex offering a broad range of academic and co-curricular programs across the grade spans including athletics, visual and performing arts, world languages, and STEM education. Faculty and students say their favorite thing about Windsor is the strong sense of community they feel here, and we believe positive and supportive relationships are the foundation for success. With a strong emphasis on personalized learning, students have access to a vast array of learning opportunities that allow them to develop the necessary skills to be college, career and life ready.

Windsor Middle and High School offers a proficiency-based learning program that promotes mastery of literacy, mathematical reasoning, inquiry, communication, collaboration, and solving problems. All of our courses are aligned with the Vermont Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements (PBGRs) and National Standards; and all of our students develop a personalized learning plan that plots out their course of study, including 1.5 credits in Flexible Pathways.

Flexible Pathways provides a variety of extended learning opportunities for students, including independent studies, blended learning, dual enrollment, job shadows, and internships.

Windsor students are encouraged to get involved in a variety of co-curricular programs and clubs, including Math Team, Robotics, 3D Printing, Coder Dojo, Student Council, and YATST. Our school also emphasizes the importance of scholarship, service and leadership. We take great pride in all that our school has to offer and that includes the support that is provided by the broader community. We hope you'll schedule a visit with us soon, or check out our website at: wsesu.net/wsd-home.

Best,

Tiffany Cassano

K-12 School Principal

"I am amazed on a daily basis at the accomplishments and abilities of our students, many of whom take an active role in student leadership, clubs and community service."



Welcome to Seventh Grade...

Where the Journey Begins



At Windsor School, we're committed to helping each student recognize and explore their individuality from the first day of seventh grade through high school graduation. We encourage creativity; we support personalized learning; and we nurture our relationships with the local and regional community through community service and service learning projects.

Our 7th and 8th graders participate in a daily advisory program that is designed to help them explore their strengths, identify areas that need support, and define their learning styles. Advisory also includes developing organizational skills, work habits, career exploration and service learning. By the end of 8th grade, students have created an academic and personal path for high school – and proficiency – that is connected to their post-graduation goals.

There are a number of ways our 7th and 8th grade students approach this process, including:

Poetry Slam: Seventh grade English students express their creative talents by writing and reciting their own original poetry during “poetry slam” sessions. Sometimes held during mid-term exam week (great for lowering stress!), students are required to write a poem with a minimum of 50 words about any topic or theme.

Rock Climbing: Middle school students participate in rock climbing, mountain biking, and other experiential learning activities outside of the traditional classroom.



The middle school offers a wide range of extra-curricular activities and Jr. Varsity sports, including football, field hockey, soccer, cross country, basketball, indoor track baseball, and softball; as well as student council, math team, jazz band, pep band, robotics team, chorus, and the Green Team.



Making Connections...

A study of War...and Peace

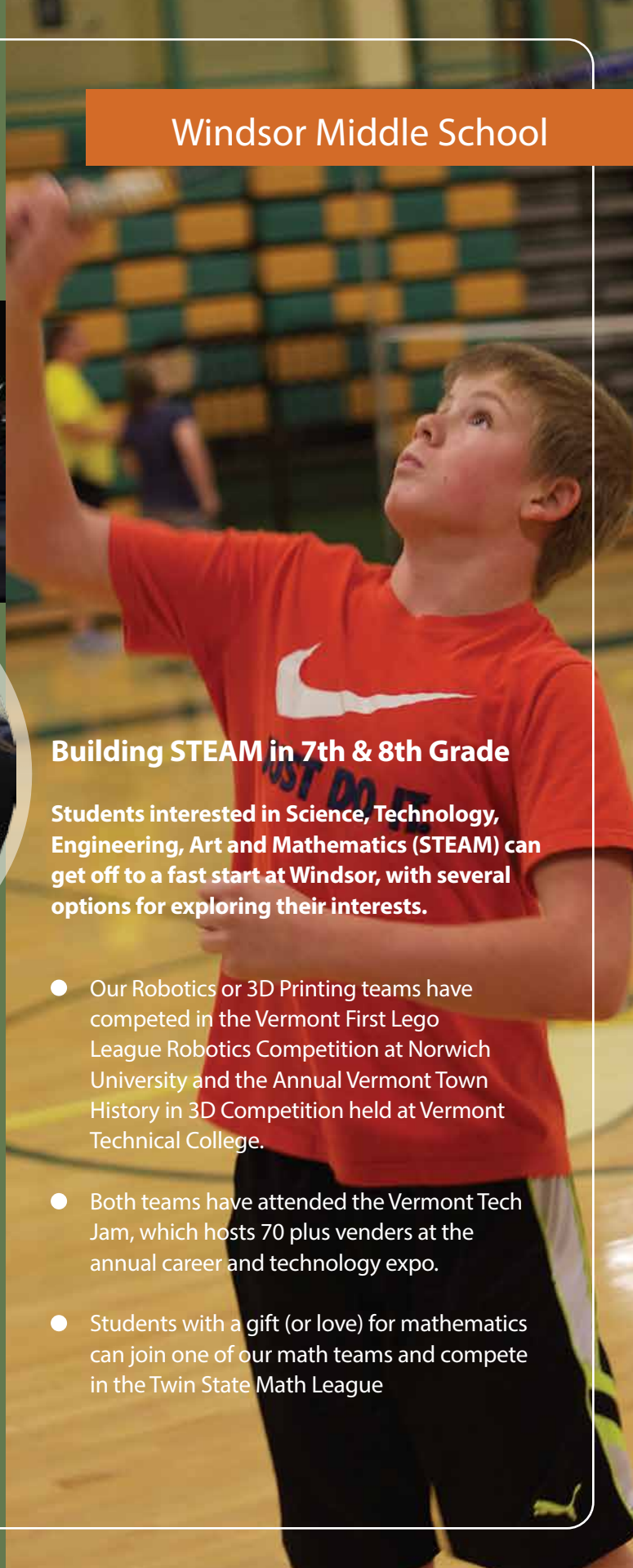
In the 2016-17 Academic year, the 7th Grade Social Studies classes completed a unit on World War II, exploring the topics of war, death, and destruction. To end the unit, students turned their focus to the idea of Peace, reading the story of Sadako Sasaki, a 12 year old girl who died of radiation induced leukemia in 1955, ten years after the bomb had fallen near her home in Hiroshima. Her story inspired the students of Windsor Middle School to learn the art of Origami and to fold 1,000 Paper Cranes for Peace.

Windsor Middle School

Building STEAM in 7th & 8th Grade

Students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) can get off to a fast start at Windsor, with several options for exploring their interests.

- Our Robotics or 3D Printing teams have competed in the Vermont First Lego League Robotics Competition at Norwich University and the Annual Vermont Town History in 3D Competition held at Vermont Technical College.
- Both teams have attended the Vermont Tech Jam, which hosts 70 plus vendors at the annual career and technology expo.
- Students with a gift (or love) for mathematics can join one of our math teams and compete in the Twin State Math League



Windsor High School

Flexible Pathways and Proficiency Based Learning

Public Education in Vermont is in the midst of a major transformation with the implementation of Act 77: Personalized and Proficiency Based Learning. Windsor High School has been planning and preparing for this substantial shift in our approach to instruction, assessment and grading and will be introducing these concepts during the fall of 2017.

In addition to foundational skills like literacy and numeracy, today's graduates need "transferable" competencies like collaboration, creativity and problem-solving; and character qualities like persistence, curiosity and initiative. To that end, collaboration, innovation, inquiry and the use of technology are now woven throughout the performance indicators in every learning content area.

Windsor High School graduates are expected to demonstrate proficiency in the following skill areas:

- Clear and Effective Communication
- Self-Direction
- Creative and Practical Problem Solving
- Responsible and Involved Citizenship
- Informed and Integrated Thinking

Freshman Academy

Because the transition from middle to high school can feel overwhelming at first, we have initiated a new program called Freshman Academy. Freshman Academy is led by teachers who will support students in developing executive functioning skills like organization, time management, prioritization of tasks, transferable skills, and good study habits. Freshman Academy will take place every day during 7th period and is mandatory for students to attend.



Academic excellence isn't just our goal...

it's our passion.



On the Path to Proficiency Based Graduation



How it works at WHS

Flexible Pathways

Since the passage of Act 77, Windsor High School has made great strides in moving towards a student-centered learning model where students take greater ownership of their education and greater involvement in school wide decision-making. Morning Advisory, personalized learning plans, March Intensives, Project Based Learning, and a new student government model – YATST (Youth and Adults Transforming Schools Together) -- are just a few of the ways WHS is implementing Proficiency Based Learning.

Students now have the opportunity to create their own "flexible pathway" towards meeting graduation requirements and post-secondary readiness, built around goals, learning styles, interests, abilities, and learning targets (standards). Each student, in partnership with their teacher-advisors and parents/guardians, will customize their own engaging, rigorous, and relevant plan for graduation – a.k.a. their own personalized learning plan. Examples include Dual Enrollment, online coursework, career shadowing, internships, the Windsor Police Cadet Program, and the Hartford Area Career and Technical Center.



In ninth grade students explore their strengths and weaknesses in relation to academic work to help them take responsibility for their own learning. For the first few months, students share artifacts from various classes in order to analyze their learning process. At the end of 9th grade, each student creates an academic plan for 10th grade and considers what summer work is necessary to move toward that plan

In tenth grade students continue to share artifacts and build an understanding of themselves as learners, as well as engage in career exploration. Each student leads a conference with their advisor and parents/guardians and further develops their academic plan to encompass both high school and post-secondary planning.

In eleventh grade students take on internships, job shadows and/or work-studies that build on the previous year's career explorations. Students conference with advisors and parents/ guardians, complete mandatory capstone observations and reflections, and revise their post- secondary plans, again considering necessary summer work to prepare for the capstone experience and move forward with their post-secondary plans.

In twelfth grade students finalize their post-secondary planning and complete their Capstone project. Students planning to continue their education focus on college applications, essays, financial aid, & scholarships. Students planning to enter the workforce prepare their resume, research careers and businesses, and participate in job shadowing or internship opportunities.

Academic Excellence

Windsor Improves - and Shines - in SBAC Comparison

Windsor students made significant gains in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics according to the Spring 2016 Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC) results.

Students in grades 6, 8 and 11 showed a 10% or greater increase in proficiency in English Language Arts from Spring 2015 to Spring 2016, and an increase of 15% or more in Math. Not an easy feat, considering how challenging the Common Core State Standards in mathematics are.

But that's not all. WHS students in grade 11, the only grade assessed in every VT high school, beat the VT state average in Math by 13% and ELA by 6%. When it comes to proficiency, WHS is doing it right.

2015 – 2016 Increase in proficiency:

	WHS	State of VT
Math	51%	38%
English	63%	57%

% = percent of students who scored a "3" (meets the standard) or above.

Class of 2016 SAT MEAN SCORES

Windsor High School vs. Vermont Average

WHS VERMONT	502	553	483
	494	508	482
	READING	MATH	WRITING



WHS: Excellence in Science. Year after Year....

For three years in a row, senior Vincent Moeykens has represented Windsor high school and Vermont at the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Los Angeles.

Last year Moeykens co-captained Windsor's 3-D modeling team to a second-place finish at the Vermont championships, earning the ISEF trip for the project he presented at the recent Vermont STEM Fair at Norwich University in Northfield. His presentation, using machine-learning algorithms and methods to analyze and predict stock prices, also made him eligible for one of Norwich's Next Generation Scholarships, along with fellow Windsor students Lucia Blanchard, Jacob Curtis and Brianna Diggs.

WSESU Learning Expectations

Habits of Learning

Growth Mindset
Persistence
Preparedness
Inquiry
Self-Awareness
Self-Direction



Problem Solving

Understanding the Problem
Brainstorming Possible Approaches
Analysis
Choosing & Implementing an Approach
Reflection
Mathematical Fluency



Collaboration

Perspectives
Connections
Creative Expression
Flexibility
Risk Taking



Communication

Collaborative Discussion
Digital Literacy
Interpersonal Communication
Poise
Presentation



Literacy

Reading
Analysis and Interpretation
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
Writing
Evidence
Organization
Voice & Tone



Health & Wellness

Contribution & Service
Diversity Appreciation
Responsibility
Sustainability
Nutrition
Physical Activity



Honors courses are available in Science, Social Studies, Math and English. Such a distinction recognizes that students are interested in exploring topics in greater detail and at a depth that requires a faster pace and often a greater workload. Some courses also have an imbedded "Honors" option in which students agree to work to a higher standard and complete additional challenging assignments, when a separate stand-alone course is not available.

Where are they now?

WHS graduates attend some of the finest colleges and universities in the country. Recent college acceptances include:

Albany College of Pharmacy,
Boise State University
California Polytechnic Institute
Castleton University
Champlain College
Dartmouth
East Carolina University
Johnson/Lyndon State College
Keene State College
Liberty University
Syracuse
Norwich University
Northeastern University
Plymouth State University
Quinnipiac University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
San Diego State
Seton Hall
Southern NH University
St. Michaels College
Temple University
The US Naval Academy
University of Massachusetts,
University of NH
University of Alabama
University of Southern California
University of Vermont
Vermont Tech
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Innovation & Creativity

March Intensives – Windsor Style

Inspired by successful programs at nearby institutions, WHS created March Intensives as a part of its development and implementation of Personalized Learning Plans (PLPs). The March Intensives encompass four days of diverse course offerings, organized and taught by staff and community members.

- The courses provide opportunities for meaningful learning experiences for students and staff that are different from what already exists in the school's curriculum offerings.
- Students experience and enjoy learning for learning's sake because this is free-choice learning.
- Students have the opportunity to expand their horizons and take a risk in studying something without fear of grades.
- The greater Windsor-area community gets involved by leading courses and sharing their knowledge, skills and expertise.
- Students have the opportunity to study one subject in depth for several hours each day rather than switching courses every 50 minutes.
- Students and staff have the opportunity to work with each other in a different context.

OUR STUDENTS
CHOSE TO COME
TO WINDSOR.
SO CAN YOU!



An example of course offerings from the 2017 academic year included:

1. The Military Experience
2. "What's for Dinner?" (Healthy Cooking)
3. Call 911 – and intro to EMS First Responders
4. Urban Cultural Immersion
5. Nuts and Bolts Mechanics
6. Let's Make an Album – Music Recording & Production
7. Into the Wild: Hunter Safety and the Natural Environment
8. VT Outdoors – and NH too!
9. Film and Editing: Documenting the March Intensive

WHS Theater Arts

WHS Theatre Arts students keep busy every year, putting on plays or visiting local theater companies. Recently, students presented *The Odyssey*, Homer's classic story about the voyages of Odysseus and his crew. Over the summer, troupe members presented a number of playlets in Paradise Park on a perfect summer morning. Themes were taken from Chris Van Allsburg's *The Mysteries of Harris Burdick*, and performed for a grateful audience of parents, friends and campers from the Windsor Recreation Summer Camp.



International Exchange Programs

Through its International Exchange Program, WHS students regularly travel to countries around the globe to learn more about foreign languages, cultures, and educational opportunities. Through organizations such as AFS, PAX, and Rotary International, we also host students from a wide range of countries. In 2017, WHS students hosted a group of 21 students from Madrid, Spain. Twelve WHS students are scheduled to visit Madrid in April of 2018.



Extracurricular Activities

Outing Club, National Honor Society, Yearbook Staff, SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), Student Council, Math Team, Jazz Band, Prom Committee, World Language Club, Weightlifting, Robotics Team, 3-D Printing Team, YATST (Youth & Adults Transforming Schools Together)



Athletics

WHS offers a wide variety of varsity and junior varsity-level sports teams, including football, field hockey, soccer, cross country, basketball, indoor track, lacrosse, baseball, softball, golf, outdoor track & field, & bowling



state
jackets
yellow



Over the past couple years, WHS has won four State Championship titles (bowling, varsity baseball, womens' track, and varsity football); and both our boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams earned a spot in the quarter and semi-finals.

Yellow Jackets Field Hockey is Back!

After a 2-year hiatus, WHS Girls' Field Hockey is back in action. Three of our 2017-18 roster members played at the varsity level last year (with Springfield), helping to capture a state championship. Teamwork and dedication will be the keys to bringing Yellow Jacket Field Hockey back to the forefront!



The Greater Windsor Community



community

Windsor students live, work, and learn in a unique community.

One of the benefits of being a Pre-K through 12 system is the enormous sense of community that exists. WHS offers students numerous opportunities for cross-grade mentoring and relationship building. A number of our high school students teach classes in the younger grades (Farm to School, Four Winds); or offer support to elementary teachers as classroom aides. Frequently you'll see high school-aged students chaperoning the younger classes on field trips and other extracurricular outings.



WHS - A Community Dedicated to Learning

Under Dartmouth College's **Special Community Student Program**, WHS seniors may enroll in a Dartmouth course free of charge. This is a valuable opportunity for students to explore and potentially receive credit for college coursework once they have exhausted the course offerings at Windsor. Classes are available in various areas, including mathematics, sciences and world languages.

Vermont's **Dual Enrollment Program** allows (Vermont) high school students to take college courses while still in high school. Students may enroll as early as their sophomore year in Introduction to College Studies; Juniors and seniors are eligible for up to two Dual Enrollment vouchers per year.

Project **Running Start** allows high school students in participating high schools to enroll in River Valley Community College (RVCC) courses taught at their own high school by their high school teachers.



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The mission of the Windsor School District is to be a learning community that meets the intellectual, social, and emotional needs of each student. Our district provides a challenging curriculum and opportunities that promote creativity, provide personalized learning experiences, raise students' global awareness, and ensure each student reaches his or her potential. Our program cultivates collaboration among staff, students, parents, and the community. Finally, the Windsor School District is committed to supporting community-based experiential learning opportunities that utilize the cultural heritage of Windsor and the richness of the natural environment.

our mission



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Photos courtesy of Zabrina Campney

