

INNOVATIVE INFORMATION

February 2025

Goal Update

North Stonington Elementary

- Teachers of students in grades 5–6 engaged in a training on Student Led Conferences. This new format will replace traditional parent-teacher conferences in April. 5th and 6th grade students will share a reflective portfolio of their work this year and set goals with their parents.
- Last month, 3rd grade teachers welcomed teachers from Preston into their classrooms as part of our ongoing *Into Reading* site visit program. A grade 2 collaboration is in the works!
- IXL mid-year testing is in its final stages. This benchmark will give us vital Math and ELA data. Interventionist have been meeting with teams to review data as part of the new SAT process.

Wheeler Middle School

- In lieu of Mid-Year Assessments students in grades 7 and 8 engaged in week long interdisciplinary units.
- To demonstrate progress towards the Vision of the Graduate, teachers and students are working hard on digital Student Led Conference Portfolios.
- Students continue to practice skills during the reimagined FLEX period. Students continue to receive varied levels of support based on eight week data review cycles.

Wheeler High School

- Students completed Mid-Year Assessments that are based on academic expectations. Teachers have been providing feedback on school-wide rubrics and students are reflecting on their progress in meaningful ways.
- As we continue to refine the usage of these rubrics, departments are discussing changes and practical classroom applications.
- For the first time the Social/Civic Expectations of respect, responsibility and resilience were evaluated in each class!

Instructional Strategy Round-Up

Lower Elementary: [“Shout-Outs”](#)

Upper Elementary: [“Using Student Reflection to Inform Your Small Groups”](#)

Middle School: [“22 Powerful Closure Activities”](#)

High School: [“How Breaking Up Lectures Can Improve Student Learning: 4 Strategies”](#)

New Teacher Spotlight: Alex Sanders



Meet North Stonington's newest Band teacher, Alex Sanders! Alex teaches band in both buildings and has plans to reinvigorate the district's band programming. In his free time Alex enjoys playing video games, the piano and spending time with his pets. He loves the North Stonington is a smaller district where he can really get to know his students. Welcome Alex!

Innovative Spotlight

Happy 100th Day! Students in all grades at NSES participated in activities to celebrate the 100th day of school. Kindergarten students showed off their 100 dot capes in their annual parade. Students searched the school to find 100 pictures of Mr. Cillino! Staff and students dressed up in their 100 best to celebrate the milestone.

Edu Podcasts

Looking for something to listen to? Check out [“The Cult of Pedagogy”](#) with Jennifer Gonzales. Episodes cover teaching strategies, classroom management tips, education reform and educational technology. Check out the EduTips mini episodes for one small strategy!

Securly Training Videos

Securly training is underway at Wheeler. Securly Classroom allows teachers to monitor student activity on school issued Chromebooks. This will be rolled out in the elementary school in coming months. [For how to videos click here](#)

Next PD Day

The next District Wide PD Day will be a combination of an early release day on March 6th and a full day on March 7th! A schedule will be sent out later this month. Have a future PD idea? Contact Kim Haggerty.

Kim Haggerty

Director of Instruction and Learning