

WESTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2018/2019

Student & Staff Accomplishments

Westford Public Schools 2018 MCAS and Accountability Data

MCAS Results: Spring 2018
Percentage of Students Scoring Meeting or Exceeding Expectations
(District/State Comparison)

Grade-Span	Subject	District	State
3-8	ELA	74	51
3-8	Math	77	47
HS	ELA	98	91
HS	Math	95	78
All	Science	76	52

Accountability percentiles (1-99) indicate how a school is performing overall compared to other schools that administer similar MCAS tests. They are calculated by combining information related to achievement, growth, English learner progress, chronic absenteeism, high school completion, and advanced coursework completion. Schools with higher percentiles are generally higher performing, and schools with lower percentiles are generally lower performing.

School	School Type	Percentile Compared to Other Schools in MA
Abbot School	Elementary	87 th Percentile
Day School	Elementary	88 th Percentile
John A. Crisafulli School	Elementary	95 th Percentile
Blanchard School	Middle	85 th Percentile
Stony Brook School	Middle	77 th Percentile
Westford Academy	High School	89 th Percentile

- **Niche.com 2019 Massachusetts School System ratings ranks Westford as the third best school district in the state behind Newton and Lexington (out of 218). Westford ranks as the 36th best school district in America (out of 10,758).**

ELEMENTARY

Nabnasset School – Submitted by Principal Susan DuBois

- Many maintenance projects were completed over the summer to improve our space: sections of sidewalk were replaced, a swing set was installed, and additional parking was created.
- Nabnasset teachers participated in professional development opportunities throughout the year. Guidance Counselors facilitated a Mindfulness Study Group and eighteen teachers participated in a book study of the Behavior Code by Jessica Minahan and Nancy Rappaport.
- Mrs. D’Amelia’s multiage class is organizing monthly collections for the Westford Food Pantry and have collected more than 3,000 non-perishable items so far this year. Nabnasset students and staff bring in donations one Friday each month and Mrs. D’Amelia’s students sort the items prior to delivery to the food pantry.
- Nabnasset students supported several compassion projects. This year, two large boxes of toys were donated to the For the Love of Erika initiative, we donated 225 hats to Hats Off for Cancer project, and the Holiday Helper project allowed us to purchase \$250 in Market Basket gift cards which were given to two grateful families.
- This year we joined Ryan and Jacqui Curley’s efforts to support the Lowell Wish Project by collecting three small boxes of mittens, gloves and socks for those in need.
- A second grade Nab Star initiated a collection for families at the House of Hope. Smiles for Hope collected dental hygiene products for families in need.
- Second grade students recycled 1,366 pounds so far this year, saving more than 11 trees. On Wednesday mornings students collect and weigh the recycle bins in every classroom. This experience encourages students to make recycling a part of their lifestyle and helps them to realize they can make a difference.
- Mrs. MacKinnon and Mrs. Reynolds have created a monthly guidance blog. They write monthly posts and update resources for parents. Check it out at <https://nabnassetguidance.blogspot.com/>
- Nabnasset after school clubs provide additional learning opportunities for our young students. This year Nabnasset after school clubs facilitated by both staff members and parents include: Grade 1 Math Club, Grade 2 Math Club, Fun with Literacy, Fitness Club, Yearbook Club, Animals, Nature and Environment Club, Environmental Club (Upcycle), Writing Club, Lego Club.
- Students voted to name our newly created nature trail, The Nab Star Nature Walk. The name was revealed at a very special Nabnasset School Community Meeting in November.
- Nabnasset School partnered with Safe Routes to School to promote walking. On February 11, students and staff enjoyed walking outside during recess to encourage physical activity and promote healthy lifestyles.
- For a third year, our PTO sponsored Race for Education fundraiser was filled with laughter, a strong community spirit, and a lot of exercise. The event was a great success raising \$11,828 to fund enrichment programs and a variety of other activities and school materials.
- The PTO sponsored several whole school enrichment programs, activities and fundraisers such as a visit by author Salina Yoon, the Star Reader Program, Square 1 Art, Shoebox Recycling and the Scholastic Book Fair.
- The PTO also sponsored several grade level enrichment programs such as Math and Science nights, Rhythm Kids, Wingmasters, and traveling programs from the Museum of Science.
- The Nabnasset School PTO has offered two mini-grant opportunities for teachers. Five proposals were received and awarded in first session totaling \$822.00.
- Nabnasset PTO coordinators renovated the staff lunchroom. Over a weekend in November volunteers painted, moved in furniture, and created a warm, comfortable, and inviting space for staff to enjoy.
- On November 6, Nab Stars welcomed author and illustrator Salina Yoon to our special school. She captivated students with her stories and illustrations.
- Parent volunteers facilitated learning in the Nab Lab during recess periods. Students planted and harvested vegetables that were prepared and served in our cafeteria.
- On October 18, second grade teachers facilitated a Book Tasting event. They invited students to bring their families to join them for an evening of sampling a variety of genres, thus motivating students to read.
- On March 22 and 29th, Nabnasset 2nd grade and Multiage teachers will host presenters from the Acton Discovery Museum for an “in house” field trip entitled the Physical Changes in Matter I . In this traveling workshop, students will investigate the physical properties of solids, liquids and gasses.
- On Thursday, April 4th, the Nabnasset community will participate in a Fairy Tale themed Family Literacy Night. Students will participate in a variety of activities as they enjoy fairy tales such as the Three Little Pigs, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, and Little Red Riding Hood.

- On May 3rd, our Pre-1st students will be taking a field trip to Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary. Students will learn about native wildlife and their life cycles, and discover how habitats support the basic needs of plants and animals.
- The Nabnasset School Field Day Committee has been meeting throughout the year for this year's Field Day, "Once Upon a Field Day". Many fun events are being planned for this fairy tale themed day.

Abbot School - Submitted by Principal Lori McDermott

- Abbot School students, families and staff kicked off the 2018-19 school year at the Welcome Back Wildcats event that was held on August 27. This popular event provided an opportunity for students to reconnect with friends, meet our new principal, Lori McDermott, and tour their classrooms.
- Abbot 3rd grade classrooms welcomed Westford Academy football players as weekly guest readers throughout the football season.
- Students elected representatives from each grade level to serve on the Abbot School Student Council. Twelve representatives were elected along with a student facilitator.
- Thanks to Fresh Start Food Gardens, students harvested tomatoes, carrots, and potatoes as they learned about plant structures, the nutritional benefits of eating a "rainbow", and the environmental impact of growing your own garden.
- Fifth grade teacher, Ruth Freeman, and Digital Learning Specialist, Lisa Sanderson, initiated a Curriculum Volunteers Program. Parents were invited to share their areas of expertise with staff, thus allowing teachers to reach out and invite parents to be part of the classroom.
- This year students are being recognized for exceptional behavior through a new schoolwide code of conduct. Students are "caught" demonstrating their school "SPIRIT" - Safety, Perseverance, Inclusion, Respect, Integrity, Teamwork - and rewarded with paw stickers.
- A Veterans Day assembly was held on November 7. Special guest, Major Hort, Abbot School Parent, shared her experience in the United States Air Force and how the core values she learned there are closely aligned to the core values of SPIRIT at Abbot School. The fifth grade band performed patriotic songs and students paid tribute to our military heroes.
- Abbot School staff participated in GI Go Jeans for Troops program assisting all members of the military community.
- The Abbot School community came together for the Race for Education on November 21. Students walked, raced, danced, hula hooped, jumped rope and even made inspirational posters during this special event.
- The PTO sponsored several enrichment programs, activities and fundraisers such as Wingmasters, Plimoth Plantation Wampanoag Classroom Visit, Author Mark Binder, PTO School Store, Square 1 Art, and traveling programs from the Museum of Science and Acton Discovery Museums.
- PTO also sponsored both a math and science enrichment event. Mathnasium took place on October 25 during which time students and families enjoyed math enrichment games and activities. Curious Colorful Cool Chemistry Night, held on November 27, brought students and families together to engage in science experiments and to enjoy an interactive demonstration of chemical phenomena.
- Abbot School parents and staff offered a variety of club opportunities including Authors Club, Chess Club, Turkish Club, Book Club, STEM Fair Club, Yearbook Club and Newspaper Club.
- Abbot students and staff demonstrated their compassion for others by initiating and promoting a variety of collections for worthy causes including The Lowell Wish Project, Catie's Closet, House of Hope, Smiles for Hope, MSPCA/Humane Society, Limbs for Life, and Pennies for Patients.
- Congratulations to Julia Zhao, this year's winner of the Abbot Geography Bee.
- Abbot School continues to participate in "Box Tops for Education".
- Abbot student, Jeffrey Xu, brought forth awareness for the environment with a Green School Initiative by ensuring that each learning space has a plant and ensuring that all cafeteria scraps are composted.
- The first annual Holiday Sing-Along was held on December 21, 2018 to celebrate the traditional songs of the season.
- Abbot School celebrated its 1st Annual Winter Walk to School Day on February 6, sponsored by Safe Routes to School. Students and staff came together at the JV Fletcher Library and walked to Abbot School during this heartwarming community building event promoting safety and fitness.
- 187 students participated in the annual STEM Fair on February 11 showcasing incredible science and engineering projects.
- Beauty and the Beast, our fifth grade play, is in production and a performance will be held on March 29.
- The Abbot School Field Day Committee has been meeting throughout the year planning for this year's "On Island Time" themed Field Day, currently scheduled for May 28. All grade levels will come together to enjoy the outdoors, participate in physical fitness activities, practice good sportsmanship and build school community.

Rita Edwards Miller School - Submitted by Principal Donna Pobuk

- Miller CARES meetings were held throughout the school year. Students came together to gain a deeper understanding of the school's **SMART** choices, **S**afety, **M**anners, **A**ceptance, **R**espect, and **T**eamwork through high quality literature, discussion, and activities.
- Miller School held its annual Dance for A Cause on September 28, 2018, donating canned goods and raising over \$600.00 for the Westford Food Pantry.
- Miller students participated in our third annual school bus safety contest in which students are recognized for displaying safe behavior on the school bus.
- Second graders at Miller enjoy the special opportunity to visit classrooms and perform special administrative tasks as *principals of the morning*.
- Parent and student volunteers planted bulbs in the Miller School courtyard for us to enjoy this spring.
- This year Miller School piloted a S.T.R.E.A.M. (science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math) class. Children worked creatively to solve challenging design problems such as building a water filtration system, a car or catapult. This has proven to be a big hit with the children and provides rich opportunities for children to work collaboratively, test, design and redesign, and think creatively to solve real world design problems.
- Evening events such as grade level Math & Science Nights and Bingo for Books were held throughout the fall and winter months.
- Miller School hosted three movie nights. These were held in the fall, winter and spring, in which students and families came together to enjoy the shows.
- A group of Miller pre-first and first grade teachers volunteered to participate in a book study group. The teachers read and discussed Kathy Richardson's, *How Children Learn Number Concepts*. Teachers shared what they learned with the rest of the faculty at a monthly curriculum meeting.
- Miller and Day collaborated to offer the third annual Miller/Day Halloween Party. This was held on October 27, 2018 at the Stony Brook Middle School.
- Miller School held its second annual Sweetheart Dance on February 8, 2019 in commemoration of Valentine's Day. Children invited a special someone to this formal dance. There was a photo booth, plenty of dancing and a great time had by all.
- Miller School continues to participate in the PTO Shoe Box Recycling, Box Top Collection.
- Over 400 pairs of mittens, hats and scarfs were collected for the Lowell Make-A-Wish foundation.
- Miller School piloted the "Green Zone", this year, which is a special classroom at Miller designed to meet sensory regulation needs.
- Miller School students participated in the Great Kindness Challenge, listening to books about kindness and committing random acts of kindness in school and at home.
- Miller students love the new swing set purchased by the Miller PTO for the Grade 1 and 2 playground.
- Miller School students and staff will celebrate a week long celebration of reading: "Miller Loves to Read". This celebration will be kicked off by the family event, Miller Reads, on the evening of April 8th and end with community readers on Friday April 12th.

Norman E. Day School - Submitted by Principal ChrisLouis Sardella

- With the help of Digital Learning Specialist, Marianne Butterline, Day School opened a new STEM Innovation Lab. Students have been using the Green Screen technology for a variety of classroom projects and presentations.
- 30 Day School family members along with 6 staff members spent Saturday, September 30th renovating and beautifying the Day School Courtyard to create an outdoor learning space.
- Day School students are enjoying the new sidewalk games and maps painted on the playground by volunteers from Boston Cares.
- The Day School dedicated its new playground on Friday, November 1st. Former Day School principal and fundraising chair, Kevin Regan was on hand to accept a \$50,000 check from State Representative James Arceiro.
- Digital Learning Specialist Marianne Butterline was awarded a \$10,000 **Project Lead the Way Grant** to fund new STEM curriculum over the next 3 years. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that provides a transformative learning experience for K-12 students and teachers through pathways in computer science, engineering and biomedical science. Students will be exploring

STEM content through inquiry-based learning. PLTW programs provide students the opportunity to work collaboratively to solve real-world problems.

- Day and Miller collaborated to offer the third annual Miller/Day Halloween Party. This was held on October 27, 2018 at the Stony Brook Middle School.
- Day School Students participated in fall and spring book clubs led by Mrs. Brenda Muskavitch
- The Ghost and Goblins program, coordinated by Guidance Counselor Trish Sampson, paired Westford Academy peer mentors with Day School students to help with homework, play games, and develop friendships
- Julia Borger-Green and Trish Sampson have brought Yoga for Classrooms to the Day School, where it is widely used in classrooms, physical education, and wellness
- Families enjoyed the Day School Strings/Band/Chorus concert on Friday, January 25th, led by Valerie Callahan, Trish Gately, and Kristin Lampros
- Day School PTO sponsored a Lunar New Year celebration featuring food, music, dance, martial arts demonstrations, crafts and activities on Thursday, February 7th, which attended by more than Day School 50 families.
- 153 students participated in the annual STEM fair on Wednesday, February 13th. Jason Fligg and Ali Sacknowitz ran a 5 week STEM Fair Club to help students prepare for the STEM Fair.
- Day School continues to participate in the PTO Shoe Box Recycling program and Box Top collection
- More than 40 Day School musicians, dancers, gymnasts, and martial artists participated in a Talent Showcase on Friday, March 8th
- Day School held its First Annual Day School Spelling Bee on Tuesday February 5th, with 18 classroom champions competing for the title of Day School Spelling Champion. Congratulations to Champion Perry Whitmore, 4th Grader, who will participate in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee on Wednesday, March 13th in Lynn.
- The Day School Student Senate collected financial donations, as well as supplies for the Lowell Humane Society for their community service project this year. The Student Senators will deliver their donations to Lowell Humane Society on April 10th.
- The Day School will hold a week long Celebration of Reading and Writing, highlighted by interactive grade level presentations from author Farhana Zia on Thursday, April 11th.

Col. John Robinson School

- Robinson School students organized and implemented several service-learning projects this year including: fall clean up at Robinson, collecting donations for the food pantry, hat and mitten drive, and pet drive.
- Students participated in a Turkey Trot, a fundraiser organized by our PTO to raise money for enrichment programs, technology, and playground equipment. Together we ran more than 500 miles as a school and raised over \$8000.
- On November 7, 2018, Robinson School students and staff enjoyed a special visit from author, Salina Yoon. Ms. Yoon was greeted with many student-made "Welcome" signs, and the "Be a Friend" song, by Emily Arrow, blasting through the speakers in the hallway. Ms. Yoon presented to all of our students, spoke about what it means to be an author, and modeled the lessons of kindness and inclusion that she delivers in Be a Friend. After her presentation, the students surprised Ms. Yoon by chorally singing the "Be a Friend" song to her! She loved it, and was so touched by this gesture.
- Robinson School students and staff participated in The Great Kindness Challenge in January. The Great Kindness Challenge is one week dedicated to creating a culture of kindness and compassion on campuses worldwide. One act of kindness the Robinson School community completed was donating new and used books to the Greenhalge Elementary School (PK-4) in Lowell, who experienced a flood in their classrooms, ruining hundreds of books.
- 17 teachers and administrators are participating in the Mindfulness book study group that meets once a month. We are currently reading, "10 Mindful Minutes" by Goldie Hawn. During our book study we discuss the information we learned, implement practices from the book, and later comment/reflect on this via google classroom. The activities support our work towards our school improvement plan goals.
- Robinson continues to implement Kids Who Care, a program whereby Robinson School staff recognizes individual students for their acts of kindness and good behavior. During the school year students will receive a small coupon for displaying these acts of kindness and good behavior. Students who receive a coupon during the week are invited to meet with Mr. LaCoste and Mr. Middlemiss to share how they earned the coupon. Students are then able to choose a prize.
- Thanks to the staff and parents at Robinson School, our hallways are now decorated with positive and inspirational messages. These messages are displayed via "homemade" paintings, signs, and bulletin boards, which contain positive and uplifting messages for students, staff, families, and community members to read, be inspired by, and, hopefully, live by.

- The Future Educators of America is a club that is run by Westford Academy. The club is geared towards providing support to students and teachers. It is a chance to switch gears from the day-to-day demands of high school and give back to our teachers. Currently Robinson has over 25 student volunteers who come in once a week.
- Robinson and Crisafulli Schools will join together to host the Robifulli Family Fest for families on May 10. The event offers families the opportunity to participate in a number of games, arts and crafts, and raffles.
- The Robinson School Field Day Committee has planned a full day of events based on the theme "Games Around the World." Students will participate in 8 different activities throughout the day on May 22, 2019.
- First grade students have met regularly with fourth graders from Crisafulli to promote reading. Students from Crisafulli are paired together with first graders where they read and complete projects together.
- Mrs. Debrocke's second graders continue to implement math buddies with Mrs. Miller's fifth graders from Crisafulli.
- The PTO has sponsored several enrichment activities such as Rhythm Kids and Emily Boon. They also assisted with successful fundraisers including Square 1 Art, Book Fair, and the Turkey Trot.
- As part of our CARE to Read program, the administration has read books throughout the year to support our core values of community, acceptance, responsibility and excellence. The titles include: Responsibility: "All Are Welcome," Acceptance: "Ricky the Rock that Couldn't Roll" and "One Day House."
- As part of "Read Across America" Week, the Robinson and Crisafulli Schools hosted a "Community Reader Day," on March 7, 2019, as a way to promote and maintain student enthusiasm and energy around reading. "Community Reader Day" is an event where a variety of community leaders visit classrooms to stress the importance of reading skills while fostering a continued positive relationship between visible members of the Westford community, elementary students, and the Westford Public Schools. The community readers had the opportunity to read pre-selected books aloud to the classes, and, then, discuss the subject matter in a dialog with the students. In addition, the community readers also explained to students how books and reading have made an impact on their personal and professional lives. It was a very fun day!
- The Robinson and Crisafulli School communities were brought together for a sister school Family Literacy Night on March 7, 2019. Staff members facilitated small book discussion groups to talk about the book *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup* by Sharon Creech. Over 100 participants also enjoyed a variety of culminating activities.

John A. Crisafulli School - Submitted by Principal Kevin LaCoste

- The composting program continues in all grade levels and the kitchen. Each day the students and kitchen staff put compostable materials in a separate bucket to be collected by a volunteer who brings it to a local farm. We also continue with our recycling efforts in the cafeteria and classrooms.
- In September of 2018 the Crisafulli School began a Garden Club under the guidance of Mrs. Kost and Mrs Carr. The students helped to harvest the fall crops, planted herbs in classrooms, created classroom composting bottles with worms and look forward to planting in the raised beds in April.
- The Student Council had a successful compassion suggested by a 5th grade student to collect socks for those in need. The socks were donated to the Boston Rescue Mission and The Wish Project. They have worked on kindness projects throughout the year and lead the Kindness Community Meeting in February.
- The "Turkey Trot" fundraiser took place on November 21st at the Crisafulli School. The funds raised will support technology (e.g., Chromebooks, iPads, etc.), enrichment programs, field trips and special events. Students walked around a designated indoor areas due to the weather, and had the opportunity to participate in other fun activities such as hula hooping, dancing and mindful coloring. As a school community, we "trotted" to celebrate our efforts as we raised funds for our school. It was a terrific team-building day!
- Each day Crisafulli continues to have daily announcements, which are announced by office staff and students and include a "Shout Out" and a fun fact. We have announced students who performed random acts of kindness, for example students who go above and beyond to help others, such as including others in games, assisting with academics and collaborating on projects. We also compliment the accomplishments of our students who have participated in artistic performances such as concerts, plays or readings. The staff also shares "Shout Outs" about each other to express their appreciation.
- Crisafulli has created a way to recognize students for following PAWS and making good choices throughout the day. Crisafulli School Staff will be giving out "PAWSitive" Coupons! Students are given a coupon when an adult recognizes them for making a good choice and going above and beyond. Once the coupon is presented to the student, they have the opportunity to visit the office. During their visit, a positive phone call is made home to the family. The students take the coupon home (to be displayed on the refrigerator for all to see). This is a highlight of each day. At the end of each month a group picture is taken and displayed in the main lobby.
- The students participate in monthly community meetings that focus on PAWS – Power of our Words, Acceptance of Others,

Willingness to Help Others and Self-Control. A literature book is read that supports PAWS and rich discussions take place to reinforce the importance of being respectful community members. We have presentations by the Student Council to introduce our Community Compassion projects, a visit from Randy Pierce, a motivational speaker who shared how he has preserved through his blindness to accomplish great things, such as climbing mountains and running marathons.

- Six fourth grade classes at Crisafulli have continued with the Book Buddy Program with five first grade classrooms at Robinson School. We continue to share the love of reading with our buddies and the students enjoy visits with each other throughout the year.
- A fifth grade class from Crisafulli and a second grade class from Robinson are in the second year a “Math Buddies” program to enhance mathematical skills across the grade levels. It has been a fantastic learning experience to see students teaching each other exciting mathematical learning strategies.
- The fifth grade play “Treasure Island” is in production and we look forward to the May performances.
- The Crisafulli School PTO continues to collect “Box Tops for Education.”
- Four Crisafulli Grade Five students were accepted and will perform in the Massachusetts All-State Treble Chorus.

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Blanchard Middle School - Submitted by Principal Tim Hislop

- Niche.com ranked Blanchard the #2 public middle schools in the state of Massachusetts.
- Blanchard Theatre Arts performed *Shrek the Musical* to a sold-out audience in the fall.
- Each trimester, the Blanchard Honored Citizens program recognized students for modeling values of respect, opportunity, cooperation, kindness, and service.
- Student leaders and staff members helped facilitate a portion of the district’s A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE professional development focused on examining potential sources of bias within our schools.
- Eight grade student Camille Metters, created a beautiful handwritten and illustrated Valentine’s Day card for every eighth grade student to spread messages of encouragement and positivity.
- Blanchard welcomed several MSPTO enrichment programs including Newbery Medal winning author Jack Gantos, *Fun with Pyramids and Pharaohs*, and *Inca Son*.
- Scott Park was welcomed to School Advisory Council serving as parent representative and co-chair. Michelle Beauregard, special education teacher, served as a new faculty representative, and Lillian Whitehead and Caroline Mahony were welcomed as student representatives.
- Principal Hislop and counselors Paige Leone and Kevin Merrigan advised Student Advisory Group, the Blanchard Success Squad, to provide students a voice in school improvement.
- Mrs. Lisa Thomas-Boyle joined the front office team as the Administrative Assistant to the Principal.
- Ms. Kerry Caldwell joined the Guidance Office team in the role of Administrative Assistant.
- Spanish classes and the Spanish club guided by Spanish teacher, Mrs. Brumbaugh, created a beautiful altar in the school lobby to celebrate the Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos).
- Student Council members, Mrs. Manning, and Mrs. Rice organized the For the Love of Erik toy drive. Blanchard’s donation of over 500 toys brought great joy to local children in need.
- Mrs. Searl, Mrs. Voutselas, and Blanchard Peer Leaders led the collections of 270 items for the Lowell Wish Project’s Blanket the Valley.
- Mrs. Benschneider and the Harmonics Honor Choir made visits to children and seniors at Crisafulli Elementary School, Westford House, and Cameron Senior Center.
- Blanchard students competed in the National Geographic GEOBEE. Lillian Whitehead advanced to the state competition.
- 12 Blanchard students were accepted to perform at the Eastern District Junior Music Festival.
- The Blanchard Has Heart campaign, led by Mrs. MacDonald, raised funds to help spread knowledge, advance research, and help Americans live longer, stronger lives.
- At the Mathcounts chapter competition, a team of students representing Blanchard finished 8th out of 20 schools.
- Four Blanchard students competed in the FIRST Robotics Tech Challenge. They placed 8th and received the Robotics Design Award.
- Eighth grade band performed at Westford Academy’s “Winter Wonderland” festival.
- Students participated in the Massachusetts Children’s Book Awards program. All students who qualified to be a judge were invited to Mrs. Brandt’s Voting Party.

- Spanish teacher, Mrs. Brumbaugh, was named a recipient of a United Planet Study Abroad Scholarship for 2019. She will be recognized at a conference this spring and will travel to South America this summer, where she will spend two weeks teaching, learning, and being immersed in the culture of Ecuador.
- Patrick Lu received the 8th place individual award at the MathCounts State Competition.

Stony Brook Middle School - Submitted by Principal Chris Chew

- Under the direction of faculty member Mrs. Amy Bailey, 12 Stony Brook students representing both 7th and 8th grade participated in four days of training with the Anti-Defamation Leagues' A World of Difference campaign to become peer leaders in fostering courageous conversations that promote respect and empathy. Those students worked with our faculty on the January professional development day and have been working directly with 6th grade students during advisories throughout the spring. The 2018-2019 A World of Difference Peer Leaders are Anna Bellemore, James McDermott, Natalie Strauss, Oliver York, Matthew Wing, Kenedi Silton, Kush Gami, Sharayu Tekade, Sophea Keang, Todd Bonica, Lauren Trethaway, and Noah Ablove.
- Stony Brook Theatre Arts produced *Lafayette No. 1* in April of 2018 and participated in the METG Middle School Festival for which they garnered many awards including a Gold Medal for the overall production, Stage Management Award, Acting Awards for Alex Ross, Brigitte McPartland, and Jonathan Weinberg, and Technical Awards for Costume Design, and Sound Design. Their annual talent show Westford in Tune raised over \$1000 for the House of Hope in Lowell. We were able to purchase toys and supplies including a beautiful wooden kitchen for one of their family shelters. Additionally, SBTA produced their 2nd Annual Dinner Theatre: Heroes and Villains and performed for a packed cafeteria full of friends and family. In June, they attended the MET Awards where Alex Ross took home the award for Best Leading Actor in a Musical (for the second year in a row) for his performance as Josh Baskin in Big: The Musical. Also last year, SBTA won a grant from the WEF for a new light board and moving lights to improve our auditorium. Earlier this year, SBTA produced *Urinetown: The Musical* in December and had three full houses. They received a live adjudication from a MET judge with lots of positive feedback to cast and crew. In January, 2019, SBTA hosted the 2nd Annual Statewide METG Contest Day. JD Mason and Autumn Humphrey won the Monologue Contest, with Lauren Trethaway earning an Honorable Mention, and Charlotte Ferillo won the Costume Design Contest. Over 50 students from schools all over the state participated. JD Mason's won the METG Logo Design Contest, and his design will be featured on T-Shirts worn by students all over the state. This upcoming spring, SBTA will be producing *Gathering Blue* for the METG Middle School Festival this year, and Stony Brook will be hosting seven other schools, including a school from China!
- Amita Vellal is Stony Brook's 2019 National Geography Bee school champion. Her exam score also qualified her as a semi-finalist for the State level competition on March 29 2019.
- Congratulations to all of the Stony Brook students who were selected to participate in this year's Eastern District Junior Music Festival in March at Lincoln Sudbury High School. 929 students auditioned with only 460 being accepted into the band, orchestra, and chorus. The following Stony Brook students participated in the event: Lauren Alonardo, Julia Donescu, Aarushi Gupta, Justin Huang, Sarah Hubbard, Mia Ikeda, Anika Kagalavadi, Mia Kuo, Rory Li, and Amelia Margetts. We are all extremely proud, not only of these students, but of all the students who had the courage and dedication to prepare for and take this rigorous audition. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to Mrs. Vicki Garino, Mrs. Julie Ottesen, and Mrs. Andrea Watson for all of the wonderful work they do with the students in our music programs on a regular basis.
- The Stony Brook MathCounts Team consisting of Max Xu, Ada Tsui, Andria Bao, and Derek Zhao placed 1st overall in the Northeast Chapter Round and advanced to the 2019 Massachusetts MathCounts State Competition. During the State Competition, Stony Brook won 3rd place. Max Xu ranked 1st in the individual state competition which is the best and will be representing Massachusetts at the National Competition in Florida.
- Stony Brook School has continued to expand its implementation of Project-Based Learning (PBL) teaching strategies throughout the building. In addition to the PBL Interdisciplinary focused 6th Grade Team Imagination along with strategies implemented in various classes within the discrete content areas, 7th Grade Team Socrates became a fully interdisciplinary PBL team working with Mrs. Amity Baldwin and Mr. Joe Barnas. At this point, almost every student attending Stony Brook is experiencing PBL at some point throughout the year whether it is the foundation of a class or a strategy utilized for specific units of study.
- Stony Brook School had 26 sixth grade students making up six different student teams chosen to advance to the National Geographic Regional competition in March at Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts. As part of implementing a project based learning unit in all of the 6th grade science classrooms, all 6th grade students worked diligently to complete the National Geographic "Tackling Plastic" challenge. This is a nationwide challenge engaging students to gain an understanding of the world-wide plastic pollution problem. Students had to research an area in the world impacted by this issue, determine where

the pollutant sources are, educate us about how plastic is affecting the environment in that watershed, and develop a solution of their choice to be implemented up-mid-or downstream to alleviate or put a stop to the problem. We are very excited to have the students engaged in this opportunity. Fingers crossed for their advancement to DC! The students making up the teams are Micah Wells, Nihal Mark, Cassidy Putnam, Alana Parks, Maddie York, Sahil Dua, Alex Wool, Grady Jondro, Arnab Mathur, Lily Destefano, Andrew Fenlon, Kaleigh Baker, Rachel Haley, Alexa Pantoja, Keira McPhee, Jack Parradee, Varnika Alla, Kieran Humphreys, Caroline Mallio, Zayden Yong, Meng Meng Zhang, Savni Arora, Soorya Govarthanaraj, Rithvik Raghunath, Prakruth Vikram, and Derek Zhao.

- Fresh Start Gardens continues to work with Stony Brook students to breathe new life into the Stony Brook Gardens. The local farmers from Fresh Start help our students to nurture and harvest wonderful produce that has been used in our cafeteria and featured regularly in our Tuesday Taste Test specials.
- Stony Brook continues to see great success with its spring chapter of “Girls on the Run” now in its fifth year. The Girls on the Run curriculum is designed to address challenges and obstacles that can affect middle-school girls emotional and physical well-being. They are addressed by empowering them to make thoughtful and healthy decisions. Girls are encouraged to examine and gain a better understanding of who they are, and what is important to them. Once they have a deeper awareness of their individual values, we look at the role of teams and healthy relationships. Lastly, the girls explore how they can positively connect with and shape the world. Girls on the Run is a non-profit organization that inspires girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. This 12-week program combines training for a 5K running event with lesson plans designed to promote positive choices and an active lifestyle. The Spring 5K is the culminating event at the end of the season with all other GOTR Teams throughout MA. In previous seasons, the GOTR group has been invited to participate in the Boston Athletic Association (BAA) relay in Boston in April. When possible, this provides an opportunity for the girls to participate in a relay race allowing them to cross over the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

HIGH SCHOOL

Westford Academy - Submitted by Principal Jim Antonelli

Class of 2018

Valedictorian: Danielle Sawka

Salutatorian: Anthony Zhu

Most Worthy Representatives

2018 Medha Palnati, Gareth Owens

2019 Kitty Lovell, Nolan Hart

2020 Caroline Burke, Michael Simpson

2021 Jazmin Rodriguez, Micah Smith

SPECIAL AWARDS

Westford Academy was ranked 3rd in the Niche 2019 Best School in Massachusetts.

2018 National Merit & Achievement Programs

Finalists: 10

Semi-finalists: 10

Commended: 47

National Hispanic Program: 2

2018 AP Performance

In May 2018, 437 students took 878 AP exams in 17 subjects.

96.3% earned scores of 3 or better.

AP National Scholars: 12

AP Scholars with Distinction: 66

AP Scholars with Honors: 44

AP Scholars: 78

WA Guidance Department

- In December, the Westford Academy Guidance Department hosted the Career Exploration Breakfast for the entire junior and sophomore classes - 875 students! This event gives students the opportunity to select two careers of interest and then spend time in a small group with a professional in that field. Speakers share their interests, educational background, and skills that are needed to perform their jobs. The goal of this School to Careers program is to help students connect academic schoolwork to career readiness and awareness beyond Westford Academy. We are grateful for the 56 speakers who spent their valuable time with our students! Students report that this was an extremely worthwhile experience!

Business/DECA

- Westford Academy DECA had 34 of its members, competing at the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. 49 US states had schools in attendance, as well as did 19 other countries. It was a memorable experience for our students, who represented not only WA but the state of Massachusetts. WA DECA stood out on the global stage with 5 Finalists. Recognitions: Gareth Owens, Aastha Gupta, and Allie Lu scored as Top Performers in their respective role plays. Finalists included Andrew Jerzylo, Aastha Gupta, and the team of Alex Mondro, Vishwa Nathan, and Anthony Zhu. Congrats to all 34 DECA members!
- DECA's District Competition, January 9, 2019. Summary: 10 schools and 900+ kids were in attendance at UMass Lowell. WA competed in 33 events with awards going to the top 6 kids in each event. WA won 21 of the 1st-place awards. WA overall won 62% of all the possible awards. 145 WA students qualified to compete the State Competition in Boston in March. Congratulations to all of WA's DECA kids for another awesome performance!

English

- In the fall of 2018, Kim Hart and Emily Coates traveled to upstate New York to attend a poetry festival that featured current poet laureate Tracy K. Smith and former poet laureate Billy Collins. Both Kim and Emily then participated in a 12-person poetry workshop with Billy Collins.

Accomplishments for the Ghostwriter, WA's student newspaper:

- Awarded 1st Place in Online Newspaper by Suffolk University's Best of Boston Journalism Awards
- Awarded 1st Place in Online Newspapers by the New England Scholastic Press Association
- Attended Journalism Education Association's National Conference in Chicago (fall 2018) and received the following honors:
- Our quiz bowl team made up of Varshini Ramanathan, Mehul Shrivastava, Kavya Desikan, and Mahi Kandage made it to the quarter finals of the buzzer round. They answered questions based on current events, US history, AP style, and journalism terms.
- Mahi Kandage earned an honorable mention in her review writing write-off competition.
- Kavya Desikan earned an excellent rating in her commentary writing write-off competition.
- Please join the English department in congratulating the following students for their winning entries in writing at the Scholastic Art and Writing awards:
 - Lawrence Meng earned Honorable Mention for flash fiction.
 - Claire Shea earned a Silver Key for poetry.
- A big congratulations goes out to Ghostwriter Editor-in-Chief Varshini Ramanathan who was named to the All-State High School Journalism Staff. She is one of six students in the state to be named to this staff and will be celebrated at the Boston Globe at the end of March. Those of you who have taught Varshini know how humble she is, but please congratulate her on this huge honor.

Foreign Language

German

- 2019 National German Examination Hall of Fame
 - Westford Academy German students were recently informed of the results of the *2019 National German Examination* given to over 26,000 students nationally. This year was another great year for W.A. with quite a number of awards:
 - 47 students scored at or above 90th percentile
 - 85 students scored at or above the 80th percentile
 - Students will be honored at the AATG (American Association of Teachers of German) Banquet in the Spring, and at the W.A. Foreign Language Awards Night in May.
 - Students who scored at or above the 90th percentile are eligible for *an all-expense paid home-stay/study trip to Germany*.

German V

- Gold Medal (9 students): Lily Geller (98), Philip Mrozinski (98), Pratyusha Mulpur (98), Eamon Jorgensen (96), Renee Owen (94), Renee Sawka (93), Kyle O'Connell (92), Jade Ward (92), Patrick Ward (92)
- Silver Medal (5 students): Caoimhe Chan (87), Eunice Pak (86), Lindsay Blais (83), Spencer Moynihan (83), Matt Doherty (80)

German IV

- Gold Medal (3 students): Elizabeth Engdahl (97), Avery Gillett (94), Shannon Fletcher (90)
- Silver Medal (14 students): Maia Bolko (87), Amara Wahlquist (87), Michael Pristin (87), Bryce Fan (86), Matt Keefer (84), Collin Pickersgill (84), Zach Roberts (84), Neha Kotagiri (83), Samantha Musante (83), Audrija Sarkar (83), Hanna Westerheim (83), Jessica Liu (81), Soumya Vadicharla (81), Sarah Schneller (81)

German III

- Gold Medal (14 students): Felicia Quan (99), Maia Wahlquist (98), Alessio Battezzato (98), Paul Davis (97), Henry O'Donnell (97), Arpit Rao (96), Patrick Zheng (95), Sarvad Lothe (95), Kate Trotter (94), Taylor Shea (93), Suraj Rajiv (92), Meredith Warsen (92), Ivan Sung (90), Hailey Sussman (90)
- Silver Medal (11 students): Laura Wood (88), Laurie Lee (86), Vamsi Vetsa (86), Luke Walsh (86), Riya Gunnamreddy (85), Justin Ottesen (85), Aniketh Chilukuri (85), Megan Tierney (85), Jennifer Thomas (84), John Anderson (84), Ryan Thivaharaja (81)

German II

- Gold Medal (21 students): Alex Joos (99), Grace Wieselquist (99), Nathan Lux (97), Allie McIntosh (97), Alison Schmidt (96), Claire Cady (95), Annika Hoag (95), Lisa Xu (95), Nora Tripp (95), Jon Colley (93), Manasvi Iyengar (93), Riya Thapar (92), Dylan O'Toole (92), Alex Therrien (92), Riley Tsechrintzis (91), Danny Cutbill (91), Aruli Pillai (90), Robert Yao (90), Ethan Hausman (90), Christine McKay (90), Aneka Vayaal (90)
- Silver Medal (8 students): Tyler Baker (89), Aidan Stafford (89), Thomas Warren (89), Peter McGinn (88), Pranav Ramakrishnan (87), Nitish Kaza (84), Peter Crosby (84), Sarah Bourdeau (81)

Visual and Performing Arts

Art

- Please join the Art Department in congratulating the following fourteen students on having their work selected to be a part of the 2019 Westford Academy Art Club Calendar: Julia Lepoer, grade 11, Margaret Lepeshkin, grade 10, Saniya Sapkal, grade 10, Christina Mehlhorn, grade 11, Kriti Madhipatla, grade 10, Alysha An, grade 12, Shaunna Lu, grade 10, Sithara Sonnathi, grade 10, Irene McCarthy, grade 11, Olivia Swaida, grade 11, Ava Scully, grade 12, Yirou Guo, grade 10, Peyton Henriksen, grade 11, Izabela Fernandes, grade 10
- Please join the Art Department in acknowledging the students listed below for their winning art entries in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition. This statewide competition offers students a chance to compete for awards designated GOLD KEY, SILVER KEY and HONORABLE MENTION. Congratulations go out to the following: Alysha An (HM), Anushka Chadha (GK), Casey Fairchild (HM), Justin Friel (SK), Mina Hrykovich (SK), Arnab Kirtania (HM), Margaret Lepeshkin, (SK), Julia LePoer (HM), Kriti Madhipatla (SK), Erin McEwan (HM), Amanda Moore (HM), Audrey Sequeira (HM), Olivia Swaida (SK), Felicity Tu (HM), Alex Weber (SK), Brian Xiang (2HM)

Music

- On January 12th, Grade 9 musicians from Westford Academy traveled to Needham High School for Junior Festival Auditions in the Eastern District of Massachusetts Music Educators Association. Out of a total of 929 students auditioning in grades 7-9, 460 students were accepted into the band, chorus and orchestra ensembles. Please join me in congratulating the following Grade 9 students from Westford Academy: Davina Finney, chorus, Diya Godavarti, chorus, Kavya Iyor, chorus, Sreeni Kamal, chorus, Mina Kiefer, chorus, Anne Marie Mattilla, chorus, Ayush Rajeshwar, orchestra, Katy Stuparu, chorus, Kristin Su, orchestra. Thank you and congratulations to ensemble directors Karen St. George and Ken Culver for their work to provide the leadership, guidance and support of these students.
- Eastern Jr. District Music Festival: students auditioned and were accepted to the festival.
- Eastern Sr. District Music Festival: 50 students auditioned with 30 students accepted.
- Massachusetts All-State Music Festival: 22 students were invited to audition and 11 were accepted to perform at Boston Symphony Hall in March.
- The Westford Academy Concert Choir will perform a World Premiere composition written and under the direction of Z. Randall Stroope in Carnegie Hall on April 26th. They will perform with other choirs from around the country.
- Senior Hamsaa Kumar (soprano) and Sophomore Fabian Arnold (tenor) performed in the All-National Honors Chorus this November in Orlando, FL.

- Senior Victoria Andrews (alto) was selected to perform with the All-Eastern Honors Chorus this coming April.
- Students in WA's Ukulele I and II classes performed "Stand by Me" with the Westford Academy Concert Choir in the Annual Winter Concert on December 6th.
- The Troubadour String Ensemble school and community performances this year will again include a slate of bell lobby performances for school events. Troubadours has 37 members.
- Members of the WA Improvisation class performed holiday concerts at local nursing homes. The concerts were organized, planned, performed, and booked entirely by the student members.
- The WA Honors Choir performed at the Annual Holiday Luncheon for Westford's Council on Aging senior citizens group at the Regency in December.
- The Annual Town Wide Vocal Night has grown into 2 evenings held at Westford Academy where more than 400 young vocal musicians will gather for a choral festival to be held on March 4th and 5th.
- Members of the WA Improvisation class entertained classmates and staff during their morning entrance to the building.
- The WA Chamber, Symphony and Honors Orchestras each enjoyed a challenging clinic with cellist and teacher Kristen Peltz .
- Members of WA Ensembles and applied piano, guitar and ukulele classes will be visiting the middle schools to perform and introduce 8th graders to electives at WA.
- Hamsaa Kumar ('19, Soprano) and Fabian Arnold ('21, Tenor) have been accepted to perform with the All-National Honor Choir this fall in Orlando! They were recently accepted by the National Association for Music Education and the Massachusetts Music Educators Association after a rigorous audition process. The All-National Honor Ensembles (ANHE) represent the top performing high school musicians in the United States. Hamsaa and Fabian will rehearse under the direction Dr. Amanda Quist.

Theater

- Westford Academy Theater Arts' production of *THE WOLVES* was named WINNER at the Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild's Preliminary Round held at Leominster High School this weekend. WATA will now perform at the Semi Final Round held at Westford Academy on Saturday, March 16.
- In addition to the production's advancement to the Semi Finals, ten Westford Academy Students were named to the ALL STAR COMPANY including: John Stapp for EXCELLENCE IN STAGE MANAGEMENT, Caroline Burke for EXCELLENCE IN ACTING for her role of #7, Natalie Targ, Audrey McCarthy, and Anya Lamarre Anderson for EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL DESIGN: SOUND DESIGN, Peter Brown and Paul Davis for EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL DESIGN: LIGHTING DESIGN, Lucy Xiao for EXCELLENCE IN ACTING for her role of #46, John Stapp and Heather Bortolussi for EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL THEATER: SET DESIGN, Eva Plankey for EXCELLENCE IN ACTING for her role of #25

Athletics - Submitted by Athletic Director Jeff Bunyon

Fall

- Girl's Soccer (WAGS) under the leadership of first year coach Katie Andjus made it to the Division I North Semi-Finals and played an outstanding game against Brookline High School. Junior, Ally Giovino was named DCL Most Valuable Player & Boston Herald All-Scholastic.
- Volleyball - WA Girls earned a tournament birth in Division I Central-West with coach Brandon Eang, losing to Algonquin Regional High School.
- Senior Golf Captain Riley Rohlf advanced through the State Sectionals and played in the MIAA Division 1 State Golf Championship at Chicopee Country Club.
- Girls & Boys Cross Country had successful seasons as the boys team finished 4th & the girls team finished 7th in the DCL.
- WA Cheer continued their dominance and won another DCL Large Championship this fall in varsity cheerleading!
- WA Football took a 5-5 record into Thanksgiving Day and lost to a tough Acton Boxboro team to finish their season.
- WA Crew Team enjoyed its first Fall season as a varsity program and completed the season by participating in the "Head of the Fish Regatta" in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Winter

- Swim & Dive - WA Girls continued their dominance winning both the DCL and Division 1 MIAA State Tournament! The WA Boys also had tremendous success finishing 4th in the DCL & 4th in the State.
- Wrestling - WA Wrestlers completed a terrific season by winning the DCL Championship and had several wrestlers qualify for the MIAA State Tournament!
- Ice Hockey - WA Girls qualified for the MIAA State Tournament and beat Lincoln-Sudbury before losing to a tough

Tewksbury/Methuen team. WA Boys Hockey also qualified for the MIAA State Tournament but lost to St. John's Prep in the Division 1 North bracket.

- Basketball - WA Girls qualified for the MIAA State Tournament and played Franklin in the 1st round. WA Boys fell 1 game shy of qualifying for the MIAA State Tournament but finished their season by beating Chelmsford in convincing fashion!
- Cheer - WA Winter Cheer was once again back on the sidelines spreading school spirit at several Boys/Girls Basketball & Hockey games.
- Indoor Track - WA Indoor Track finished their season and had several athletes qualify for the Division 1 MIAA State Meet! The sprint medley team of Wes Chung, Ben Trotter, Tom Germann & Phil Holmes qualified to compete in the New Balance Indoor Nationals meet in New York!
- Alpine Ski - WA Girls & Boys Skiers that qualified for the post season traveled to Wachusett Mountain to compete in the MIAA State Tournament!
- Nordic Ski - WA Girls & Boys Skiers that qualified for the post season traveled to the Notchview Reservation to compete in the MIAA State Tournament!
- Gymnastics - WA Gymnastics completed a great season and had a few gymnasts qualify for the MIAA State Tournament last week. We also had 1 gymnast qualify for the New England Championship!