



Joseph F. DiNatale
Principal

Lea Catherman
Assistant Principal

Natalie Willis
Assistant Principal

Ronada Santell
Assistant Principal

7/12/23

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Welcome back for another fun, and EXCITING year! As the principal, I look forward to meeting and working with you to provide the best high school experience! The administration team is ready to lead the school to success as we create more opportunities for academic, social, emotional, and career-related growth. We are looking to connect with families and build business partnerships in order to enhance our experiences here at Eli Whitney. *Our mission is to provide our students with the academic and technical skills needed to become professionals who meet the 21st Century demands of our communities in an environment that is safe and culturally responsive.* As we welcome you back to the 2023-24 school year, please note the continuation of the following protocols, as well as some new items that will help make the school year the best it could be:

First Days – The first days of school will be Wednesday, August 30th for students in grades 9 – 11 and Thursday, August 31st for students in grade 12. Please be on the lookout for information regarding Freshmen Exploratory from Jeanne Willinsky Director of School Counseling. There will be Senior Leaders present on Wednesday to assist Freshmen to find classes, read their schedule, and answer any questions students have.

Attendance – It is very important that your child attends school daily. Missing school greatly affects the learning process, making it difficult to catch up on work. If your child is absent for any reason, please notify the school. Absences may be excused for medical reasons and a note from the doctor must be provided. Students accumulating absences will receive a written warning, followed by an attendance meeting. At that time, students will be placed on an Attendance Improvement Plan. If absences continue to accumulate, your child may be denied credit regardless of grades. The school day begins at 7:20 and ends at 2:21. Please see early dismissal procedures included in this information packet.

School Website, ParentSquare, and PowerSchool – It is critical that you review our school website for valuable information. Please take some time to visit <https://whitney.cttech.org>. You will find updates on school events, important announcements, bell schedules, and school calendars. Also, please be familiar with ParentSquare as it is a main form of communication from teachers, administrators, and the guidance department. This platform also allows parents to reach out to anyone in the building. Information on how to access ParentSquare is included in this information packet. Lastly, to stay informed of your child's grades, progress, or missing assignments, please be sure to access PowerSchool regularly. For new students, information on how to access and log in to PowerSchool will be forthcoming.

Student Parking – Students must register their vehicle if they wish to park their cars in the school parking lot. For safety reasons, we need to be informed of who is in or around our building at all times. Student vehicles must be parked in the designated parking area (in the main lot in front of the school). Any vehicle without a parking pass, will be towed at the owner's expense. Students must see Ms. Patty in the main office with their license, registration, and proof of insurance to receive a parking permit. Application for the parking permit is included in this information packet.

Uniforms – Please see attached



Student IDs – Students are required to wear their school-issued IDs at ALL times. Lifetouch will be providing new IDs for this school year, but students are expected to use last year’s ID in the meantime. Any student who comes to school without his/her ID, will get one free replacement. Any replacement after that will cost \$5.

School Based Health Clinic – Our School Based Health Clinic is our in-house clinic available to provide medical care, behavioral health services, and oral health services. Please access the online application at <http://www.sbhcl.com> to enroll for services. Printed copies of the application are also available in the nurse’s office and in guidance.

Visitors – In order to ensure safety, any parent looking to speak with a teacher, staff member, or administrator must make an appointment to do so. All visitors must check in at the security desk with proper ID. No visitors are allowed in the building without an appointment.

Metal Detectors - Students are required to go through metal detectors when they arrive at school. To expedite the process in a timely manner, we ask that students arrive with just what they need for the school day. Backpacks should be routinely cleaned of garbage and debris as they will be searched daily.

Cell Phone Usage – Cell phone usage in the classroom will be limited to educational purposes and with teacher discretion. Students are not allowed to access social media platforms, TikTok, or the like while in class as this takes away from the learning process and prevents students from accessing the material. Any student in violation of this may be subject to surrendering his/her cell phone and consequences outlined in the Parent/Student Handbook. Misuse of technology also includes the intention to harm others by posting messages on social media, group chats, etc. about others. Students will be subject to disciplinary action if they post any messages, pictures, or videos of others maliciously and/or without their consent.

At Eli Whitney Technical High School, we strive for constant improvement. As the principal, I want to invite you to visit the school, meet the members of the Administrative Team and our Support Services Team to present your ideas, and attend any of our school activities. Your child’s success is a TEAM EFFORT! We look forward to a great year and we hope to see you for Coffee and Conversation on Tuesday, September 19th at 9:00 am. Gooooo Owls!

Sincerely,

Joseph F. DiNatale
Principal

Eli Whitney's Vision Statement

We aspire to graduate the most prepared skilled labor workforce in Connecticut.

Eli Whitney's Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide our students with the academic and technical skills needed to become professionals who meet the 21st Century demands of our communities in an environment that is safe and culturally responsive.

Eli Whitney's Core Values



OWN IT
Overcome set backs
Want more
Normalize kindness
Inspire positive change
Take responsibility



Important Contacts
203-397-4031

School Counseling and Admissions			
Director of Counseling and Admissions	Jeanne Willinsky	14898	Jeanne.Willinsky@cttech.org
Counselor (Grade 12 and Grade 9 O-Z)	Francisco Valdez	14896	Francisco.Valdez@cttech.org
Counselor (Grade 11 and Grade 9 H-N)	Emily Stratton	14897	Emily.Stratton@cttech.org
Counselor (Grade 10 and Grade 9 A-G)	Debra Rosado	14891	Debra.Rosado@cttech.org
School Counseling Office Secretary	Maria Jackson	14889	Maria.Jackson@cttech.org
Student Support Services			
School Nurse/Health Records	Dominica Mendes Michelle Inahuazo	14895	Dominica.Mendes@cttech.org Michelle.Inahuazo@cttech.org
Dean of Students/Attendance	Chris LeSieur	14908	Chris.LeSieur@cttech.org
School Psychologist	Johanna Rios	14899	Johanna.Rios- Roldan@cttech.org
Social Worker	Mia Blue-Becton	14900	Mia.Blue-Becton@cttech.org
Administration and Other Contacts			
Discipline Records/Administration	Mr. Joseph F. DiNatale Principal	14914	Joseph.F.DiNatale@cttech.org
Grade 9 A-G & 10	Ms. Lea Catherman, Assistant Principal	14910	Lea.Catherman@cttech.org
Grades 9 O-Z & 12	Ms. Ronada Santell, Assistant Principal	14842	Ronada.Santell@cttech.org
Grades 9 H-N & 11	Mrs. Natalie Willis, Assistant Principal	14915	Natalie.Willis@cttech.org
Special Education Records	Special Education Office Krista Miller-Department Head	14703	Krista.Miller@cttech.org
Athletic Coordinator	Eva Esposito	14735	Eva.Esposito@cttech.org
Title IX Coordinator (Sexual Harassment)	Francisco Valdez	14898	Francisco.Valdez@cttech.org