



ELI WHITNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Good Afternoon Whitney community,

As we wrap up what has certainly been a whirlwind week, thanks to the snowstorm earlier in the week, our school community has truly hit the ground running. Despite the shortened schedule, our students and staff have continued to demonstrate focus, resilience, and school pride. This week marked the start of playoff season for both our girls and boys basketball teams, an exciting time for our athletic program. Tonight, our Lady Owls take the court in the quarterfinals of the CTC Tournament, and we wish them the very best as they compete. Both teams are also eagerly awaiting the release of the CIAC Tournament brackets, and we will be sure to keep our community updated as soon as more information becomes available.



Next week, we are proud to celebrate School Social Worker Week! This year's theme, "Unite to Ignite: Celebrating Our Impact," highlights the powerful difference school social workers make in the lives of students, families, and staff each and every day. We are incredibly grateful for Ms. Chappa and Ms. Spencer and the meaningful impact they have on our school community. Their dedication, compassion, and commitment to supporting the whole child help create a safe, caring, and supportive environment where all students can thrive. We thank them for the vital role they play in igniting success and strengthening our school community.





Why School Social Workers Matter

Essential Partners in Student Mental Health, Equity, and School Success

School social workers are uniquely trained mental health professionals who bridge home, school, and community to support students' social-emotional well-being and academic success—yet their role is often underutilized in school mental health conversations.



Nearly 1 in 5 children experience a mental, emotional, or behavioral health condition. (CDC, 2021)

The Need for School Social Work

- School social workers address the social, emotional, and environmental barriers that impact learning.
- They support students facing challenges such as trauma, poverty, disability, discrimination, homelessness, and family stress.
- As youth mental health needs rise, school social workers are not a luxury—they are a lifeline.

WHAT School Leadership CAN DO

- Include school social workers in leadership and strategic planning
- Ensure staffing ratios meet the 1:250 recommendation
- Recognize school social workers as essential mental health professionals
- Invest in equitable pay, retention, and sustainable staffing models

KEY IMPACT AREAS

Highly Qualified Mental Health Professionals

School social workers are licensed professionals with training in clinical practice, trauma-informed care, and culturally responsive interventions.

An Investment in Student Mental Health

School social workers improve attendance, academic outcomes, and school climate by reducing barriers to learning.

School Social Workers Transform School Communities

They address root causes of challenges and help build inclusive, safe, and equitable school environments.

Impact Beyond the Individual Student

Their work strengthens entire school systems through staff training, family engagement, and community partnerships.

School Social Workers and Special Education Success

School social workers enhance special education outcomes by supporting students' mental health, collaborating with IEP teams, and addressing barriers beyond the classroom that affect learning.

Advanced Practice with MSW Training

MSW-trained school social workers bring advanced expertise in assessment, intervention, crisis response, and case management.

The Right Ratio Matters

The recommended student-to-school social worker ratio is 1:250, yet many serve far more—limiting access to care.

Addressing the Pay & Retention Gap

Despite their qualifications, many school social workers face inequitable pay and benefits, impacting recruitment and retention.



School Social Work Association of America

Learn more and access resources:
www.sswaa.org/national-awareness

Winter Reading Challenge



🏆 CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS 🏆



Our amazing students who rose to the challenge this winter

A heartfelt thank you to

Ms. Hagan

for championing a culture of reading and making this challenge possible





★ Growing the Nest with Great People ★

Meet Lowell!



Please join us in giving a warm Whitney welcome to our newest Skilled Maintainer, Lowell!

Lowell joined us on Monday, just in time to jump in with a helping hand (and a sturdy shovel!) as our maintenance team tackled all that snow. We're incredibly grateful to have him on board and already making an impact.

When he's not helping keep everything in tip-top shape, Lowell enjoys spending quality time with his family. He's a proud dad to two adorable daughters, ages 3 and 5.

We're excited to have Lowell as part of our Whitney family — be sure to say hello when you see him!

This Week in Sports



This Week in Sports



Top Shop Competition: Honoring African American Contributions to the Trades

CONTEST OVERVIEW

Each shop will:

- Research one lesser-known African American contributor connected to their trade or industry.
- Identify the skill, process, or innovation they influenced.
- Explain how the contribution impacts the trade today.

REQUIRED COMPONENTS

HIDDEN FIGURE SPOTLIGHT

- Name of the individual
- Time period & contribution
- Why their work mattered
- Barriers they faced
(brief, age-appropriate)

EXPLANATION OF MODERN-DAY RELEVANCE

- How this contribution is
apparent in today's industry
- Where it may be encountered
in the workplace
- Why it still matters

JUDGING RUBRIC (20 POINTS TOTAL)

HISTORICAL ACCURACY & CLARITY (5 POINTS)

- Name of individual
- Time period & contribution
- Why their work mattered

CONNECTION TO MODERN PRACTICE (5 POINTS)

- How this contribution is apparent
in today's industry
- Where it may be encountered in
the workplace
- Why it still matters

DESCRIPTION OF BARRIERS FACED/BROKEN (5 POINTS)

OVERALL DESIGN AND APPEARANCE OF POSTER (5 POINTS)

USE THE GOOGLE SLIDES TEMPLATE AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS
TO ENSURE YOUR POSTER IS IN THE CORRECT FORMAT FOR PRINTING

ELI WHITNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

EVERY STUDENT, EVERY DAY

Building Success Through Consistent Presence

90%

Attendance rate needed for academic success

18

Days of school missed = chronic absence threshold

10%

Learning time lost with just 2 absences per month

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS

- ✓ **Technical Skill Mastery:** Hands-on learning in shops and labs requires daily practice and sequential skill building
- ✓ **Academic Achievement:** Students with better attendance earn higher grades and test scores
- ✓ **Life Skills:** Regular attendance builds responsibility, time management, and work ethic
- ✓ **Career Readiness:** Technical careers demand reliability—attendance builds the habits employers value
- ✓ **Safety & Certification:** Consistent presence ensures proper training in shop safety and industry certifications

UNDERSTANDING CHRONIC ABSENCE

Missing just 2 days per month (18 days per school year) equals chronic absence. This can happen with excused or unexcused absences, including illnesses and suspensions. Chronic absence significantly impacts a student's ability to keep pace with grade-level standards.

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE REQUIRES CONSISTENCY

At Eli Whitney, hands-on learning and technical skills development happen every day in the shop and classroom. Missing school means missing critical skill-building experiences that can't be replicated at home.

HOW FAMILIES CAN HELP

- ✓ Establish consistent bedtime and morning routines
- ✓ Schedule medical appointments outside school hours when possible
- ✓ Communicate with school counselor about potential barriers to attendance
- ✓ Emphasize the importance of school attendance at home
- ✓ Monitor your student's attendance and intervene early if issues arise

ELI WHITNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Helping Your Child Succeed: Parent Support & Student Responsibility for Better Grades

Working together to help your child to be successful is important in the school/home partnership. This sheet provides interventions that can be used, along with other resources, as strategies your child is shown to talk with you about things that may not be going as well.



TIPS FOR FAMILIES

These are strategies for **parents** so that you can best support your child:

- Check your Parent Portal (PowerSchool) account: Regularly
- Check in with your child on owed missed work
- Ask your child to show you their Google Classrooms for each of their classes.
- Email your child's teachers with concerns or questions
- Ensure that your child is getting to school each day.

ACTIVE/ENGAGED LEARNING

These methods focus on engaging with the material more effectively, which can make studying feel automatic:

- Review Notes Daily: Spend 10 minutes each day reviewing class notes.
- Utilize Practice Problems: For math, don't just read the examples; work on many practice problems.
- Use Flashcards: Create physical or digital flashcards for key vocab, terms, formulas, or things to know for an exam or exam prep.
- Eliminate Distractions: Turn off your phone and block distracting websites before starting your homework, or study time.
- Teach the Material: Teach the concept to a friend or parent.

PLANNING & ORGANIZING

These strategies help students gain better control over their time and tasks:

- Establish a Dedicated Study Schedule: Set aside specific, non-negotiable times for homework and studying each day.
- Prioritize Tasks: Use a planner or calendar to list assignments, due dates, and tests. Focus on the tasks with the earliest deadlines.
- Break Down Large Projects: Divide big assignments or projects into smaller steps with their own due dates.
- Organize Study Materials: Keep your organized binders, folders, or digital folders for each subject. |
- Attend and Be Prepared for Class: Consistent attendance is crucial, and it's even better if you come prepared with materials and having completed or reviewed the previous day's notes before the lecture starts.

UTILIZING SCHOOL RESOURCES

The school provides resources specifically for struggling students—make sure to use them:

- Stay After School/Utilize Teacher Office Hours: Schedule one-on-one time with teachers to get extra help on tough topics or to review a test you performed poorly on.
- Use Study Halls: Use unscheduled time at school to stay ahead, study, or set aside extra time to work on homework or get assistance from the supervising teacher.
- Get a Study Buddy: Find a reliable classmate and form a study group.
- Email your teachers: Ask questions or let them know if you need extra help or turned in a late assignment.
- Use Your Classroom: Regularly check Google Classroom and your email for missing assignments, downloadable notes, or extra resources

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT
**COLLEGE
& CAREER**
— FAIR —



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2026 | 4:30PM TO 7:30PM
LOCATION: HARTFORD HEALTHCARE AMPHITHEATER
500 BROAD ST, BRIDGEPORT, CT 06604

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

FREE
Admission!

Meet Admissions Counselors & Representatives
from over 195 Colleges, Universities, and Businesses
from across the country and abroad!

Attend the Southern Connecticut College & Career Fair 4/22/26.

Scan the QR code
for more info





MONDAY 6PM-8PM

Weight Lifting & Cooking

TUESDAY 6PM-8PM

Girls only club
3v3 Basketball

- FREE FOOD
- FREE MEMBERSHIP
- SPORTS

WEDNESDAY 6PM-8PM

Keystone
Volleyball/Soccer

- ARTS & CRAFTS
- VIDEO GAMES
- MENTORSHIP
- SAFE SPACE TO

FRIDAY 6PM-8PM

Teen Night (open runs,
lash & Nail art, and video
games)

HANGOUT



BGGCNHTEENTAKEOVER



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER NEW HAVEN

New Haven Ulbrich-North Haven Ulbrich-Wallingford

253 COLUMBUS AVE NEW HAVEN, CT 06519



SMART M L S

Project

PROM DRESS

Join us Sunday, March 1st from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. &
get a free prom dress at The SoNo Collection.

PICK YOUR PROM DRESS

