



ELI WHITNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Good Afternoon Whitney community,
As we welcome May, there's a lot to look forward to in the week ahead. Our campus is full of energy as students and staff prepare for a variety of important events and accomplishments.



Next week, we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, a time to recognize the dedication and impact of our educators. Our teachers work tirelessly to support and inspire students every day, helping them grow both academically and personally. We encourage everyone to take a moment to thank a teacher and show appreciation for the difference they make in our community.

We also have several exciting activities coming up, including the Hairdressing program's Spring Job Fair, AP Science testing, and Spring Shop Assessments. Health Tech students will be taking their CNA exams, while Auto students will sit for their ASE certifications—important milestones as they move toward their future careers.



It has come to our attention that some students, outside of school hours, are participating in a “Water Wars”-type game. While this activity may seem harmless, it can present several potential safety concerns both in the community and if it carries over into the school environment.

We want to be clear that participation in these types of games is not permitted on school grounds or during any school-sponsored activities or events. In addition, students should not bring water balloons, water guns, or similar items to school.

Our priority is maintaining a safe and focused learning environment for all students. We ask families to speak with their children about making safe choices and respecting school expectations.

Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS)

Graduation Attire

Introduction

Graduation ceremonies are school-sponsored events that recognize the achievement of the graduating class as a whole, the success of the school community as an institution, and the mission of CTECS to prepare trade-bound students to meet the skilled workforce needs in Connecticut, as well as providing special recognition to each student's achievements and participation in school-related activities.

Graduation Attire

All students participating in a graduation ceremony at a CTECS school shall wear a school-issued cap and gown. Graduates may only wear cords, stoles, or medals that represent a school-awarded achievement.

Students may decorate the top of the cap with the following types of decorations:

- Expression of thanks
- Recognition of future education, military service, or employer
- Graduation year
- Flag of a country as recognized by the UN/Regalia of a Native American or Pacific Islander tribe/Regalia of cultural or religious significance
- Recognition of achievement (e.g. Eagle Scout, Gold Award, black belt)

Any cap decoration must be pre-approved by school administration. School administration reserves the right to withhold approval of any decoration that does not meet the above criteria or is deemed inappropriate for the commencement ceremony.

Any attire that violates this policy will not be allowed into the ceremony. Any items not meeting the requirements outlined above will be confiscated and can be picked up from the front office after graduation.

No exceptions shall be made.

Graduates are encouraged to wear personal accoutrements and/or practice any traditions before or after the ceremony.

Michael Crocco, Superintendent
Issued: March 2026

Class of



2026!

Save the Date

Eli Whitney Technical High School

Graduation ceremony will
begin promptly at 5:00pm
Graduates **MUST** arrive
by 4:00pm

June
22

Location: The Lyman
Center @ SCSU
501 Crescent St, New
Haven, CT 06515

Ticket Required to attend- More information coming soon



Hoots and Highlights

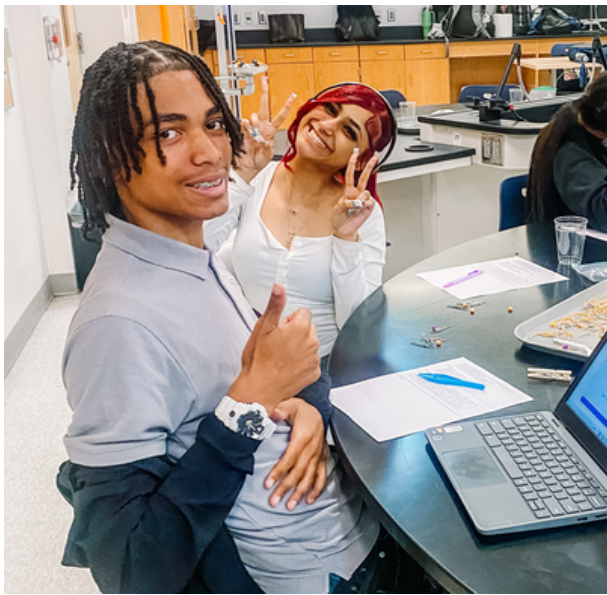
Advisory = Field Day prep mode ON 🏆

students are gearing up for the ultimate Field Day challenge! This isn't just about speed and strength – they'll be pulling skills from every content area to win it all 💡

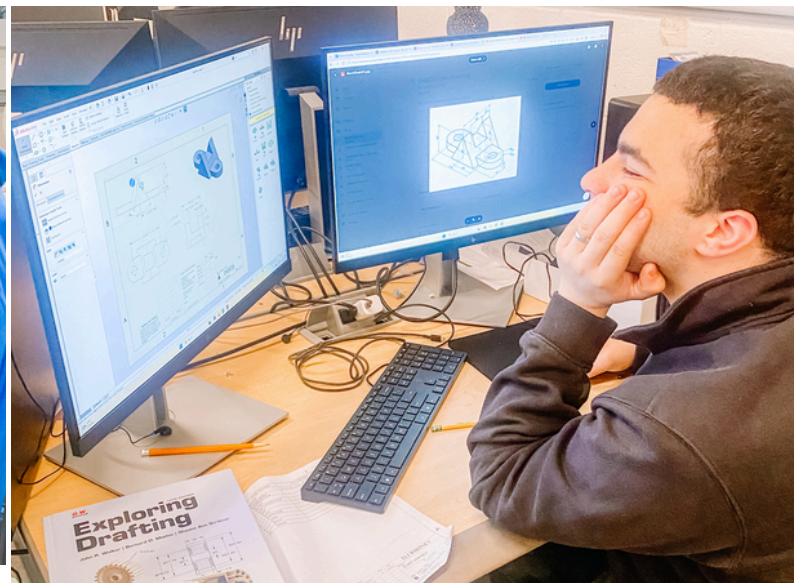
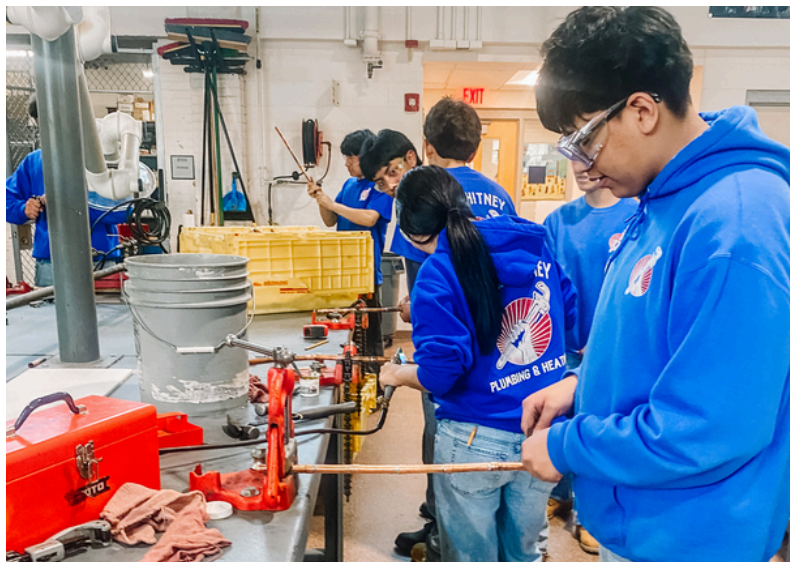
The question is... which team will bring home the trophy this year? 🙄🔥



This week in Academics



This week in SHOPS



This week in Softball



YOUR VOICE MATTERS!

Share Your Feedback!



SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEY

- Safety
- Relationships
- Learning
- Communication

TAKES JUST
20
MINUTES!

HELP US IMPROVE OUR SCHOOL!

Complete by **MAY 8, 2026!**

Check your email for the survey link!

Spring Reading Challenge

Contest Ends
6/5/26.
Win awesome
prizes!

Complete any 4 squares
in a row (across, down,
or diagonal) = 1 prize
entry



A1 Read a graphic novel or manga	A2 Listen to an audiobook	A3 Read a poem or collection of poetry	A4 Read a memoir or biography
B1 Read a mystery or thriller	B2 Read a nonfiction book/article	B3 Read an award-winner	B4 Read a book with a strong theme of identity
C1 Read something set in a different country	C2 Read a book with a major transformation or growth arc	C3 Read historical fiction	C4 Read a short story
D1 Read about a real-world issue or social topic	D2 Read science fiction	D3 Read from a new-to-you author	D4 Read something that challenges your perspective

Read widely. Try something new. Let your reading bloom!



26-27 Student Athlete Participation Requirements

Any student interested in trying out for an Eli Whitney Athletic Team must have the following forms completed **before** they can participate in tryouts.

- Parent/guardian completed electronic forms in the Parent Power school parent portal. Please contact Ms. Phyllis in the main office with support.
- An **updated** Physical on file in the nurse office. We suggest completely physical compliance now.
- Academically eligible by the previous quarter grades officially posted

If these requirements are not met before the tryout date, you cannot try out. Please contact the coach of the sport to get tryout dates and other information.

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

Vaping Unveiled: The Impact of Vape Waste

2023 Vaping Rates in CT
11.5% of CT **youth** reported current use of e-cigarettes. 9.8% of survey respondents also vaped cannabis.¹

Adult e-cigarette use was 6.2%. 14.5% of CT adults report using cannabis. Almost one-third reported vaping as the primary method.²



Vapes contain Nicotine and Lithium Batteries which classifies them as hazardous waste products that should **NOT** be placed in normal trash or recycling.



The Burden of Vape Waste

Half a million vapes are discarded every day. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) describes this as an environmental burden.

Lining-up the disposable vapes sold in 2023 would stretch long enough to span the contiguous United States three times.³



School Impact

CT Schools are burdened with a collection of these products when students get caught vaping on campus.

The Vape Retail Landscape in CT

Nicotine Vapes:

As of September 2025, **1,787 retailers** had a license to sell Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) products in CT.⁴

This is a **42% increase in retailers** since 2020.

Out of more than 7,066 e-cigarette products for sale in the U.S., **93% are disposable**.⁵

Cannabis Vapes:

As of January 2026, There are 72 licensed cannabis retailers in CT.⁶

Vape cartridges made up one-third of Connecticut's \$29M cannabis retail sales in 2025.⁶



Join us in our efforts to explore practical solutions to the eco-consequences of vape devices.

Challenges to Waste Management in CT



The **current management of vapes in CT is not sustainable**; thermal runaway caused by the lithium batteries poses major safety risks to the entire waste system.



Vapes contain hazardous waste. Never put them in your trash or recycling bin. Batteries can cause fires and e-liquids contain toxic chemicals.



We are exploring an **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy** which would hold manufacturers responsible for helping manage the disposal of vapes in CT.

How You Can Get Involved:

Raise Awareness

Share this document with friends and family (especially if they vape nicotine or cannabis), neighbors, colleagues, public health officials, etc.

Stay Informed

Keep up with current data and news about the topic from trusted sources, like [PIRG](#), [Public Health Law Center](#), [CT DEEP](#), and your [Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization](#) (see below).

Advocate

Talk to your municipal leaders and CT legislators. Send emails, write letters, and call their office sharing this information; encourage them to get involved in the work and to be a champion for public health and a clean, safe environment..

Get Involved

The Vaping Unveiled Workgroup meets regularly - **all are welcome and encouraged to join**. Contact khanley@wctcoalition.org to learn more, or visit www.hrra.org/vapes.



Brought to you by The Vaping Unveiled Workgroup



Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs) make up the CT Prevention Network



South Central CT apw-ct.org



Western CT wctcoalition.org



Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority
HRRR.org



[CT Center for School Safety](#)



[Southern CT State University Health and Human Services](#)

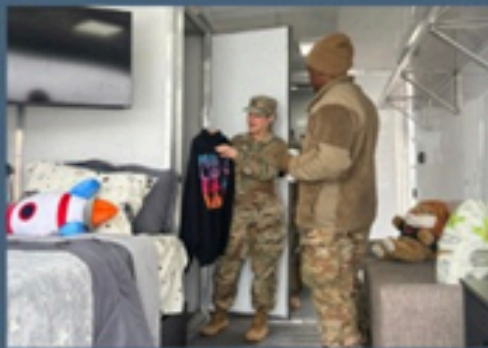
A Parent Awareness Experience



An informative community event aimed at educating parents, grandparents, and caregivers about paraphernalia that could be hidden in their child's bedroom related to substance use. This program recreates a mock teenagers bedroom that adults can explore to identify hidden drug paraphernalia, and warning signs associated with drug or alcohol use by a teen. **(AGES 21+ ONLY)**

What is the Stashed Away Trailer?

Learn common ways teens may hide substances or paraphernalia in their rooms.



See real-life examples of hiding spots in our **Stashed Away Trailer**.

Gain tools and language for starting difficult but necessary conversations.



Build confidence in addressing substance use before it escalates.



Sponsored by East Shore Health District in collaboration with the CT National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. We will have community partners with expertise in youth substance use and mental health available with resources and referrals.

When: Monday May 11th 5-7PM

Where: East Shore Health District

688 East Main St. Branford

