



ELI WHITNEY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Good Afternoon Whitney community,

This week at Whitney, we successfully concluded all SAT and PSAT testing for the year. We want to extend a sincere thank you to all of our students for giving their best effort and approaching these important assessments with focus and determination.



We also kicked off our exciting Top Shop Challenge! This week featured an amazing first-round scavenger hunt with our Grade 9 and Grade 12 students, who brought energy, teamwork, and enthusiasm to the competition. We're looking forward to Round 2 next week, when our Grade 10 and Grade 11 students will take their turn!

Looking ahead, next week is Assistant Principal Appreciation Week. Our assistant principals play a vital role in every aspect of our school community, working tirelessly behind the scenes and on the front lines to ensure each day runs smoothly and successfully. Their dedication, leadership, and commitment to our students and staff truly make a difference.

Our APs are all in and we are incredibly fortunate to have them. Thank you, Ms. Santell, Mr. Kelley, and Mr. Friedman, for everything you do for Whitney!



Hoots and Highlights

Please join us in warmly welcoming two new semester interns from Southern Connecticut State University to our school community!

Rachel will be joining our Social Studies department, where she will be working closely with Mr. Farrell. Peter will be supporting our Science department alongside Ms. Brown.

We are excited to have both Rachel and Peter with us. Their enthusiasm and dedication to education will be a wonderful addition to our classrooms. We appreciate your support in helping them feel welcomed and included during their time here.

Be sure to say hello and help extend a warm Eli Whitney Tech welcome!



Hoots and Highlights

Over the past year, our SkillsUSA students have dedicated countless hours to refining their technical abilities and preparing for state-level competition. Their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to excellence have truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Please join me in congratulating the following students for their outstanding performance:

- Jacinda Laroque – CNC 2-Axis Turning: 6th Place
- Yarieliz Luz Morales – Extemporaneous Speaking: 5th Place
- Ethan Collazo – Electrical Constructional Wiring: 13th Place
- Quiz Bowl Team (Usam, Maddie, Roshad, & Mekhi) – 4th Place
- Jayden Ramos – CNC Milling: 7th Place
- Manuel Gomez – Plumbing & Heating: 5th Place

We commend these students for representing our school with pride and professionalism. Their accomplishments reflect not only their individual talents, but also the strength of our programs and the support of our dedicated instructors.

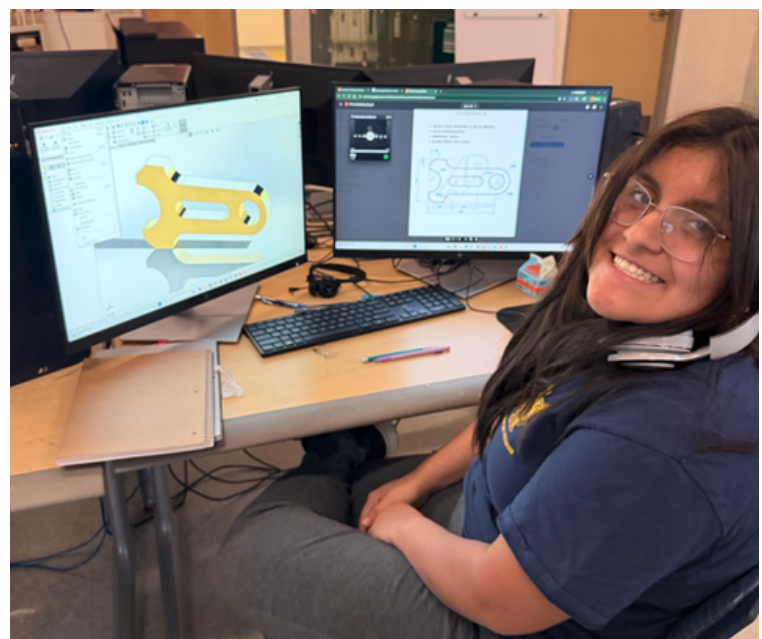
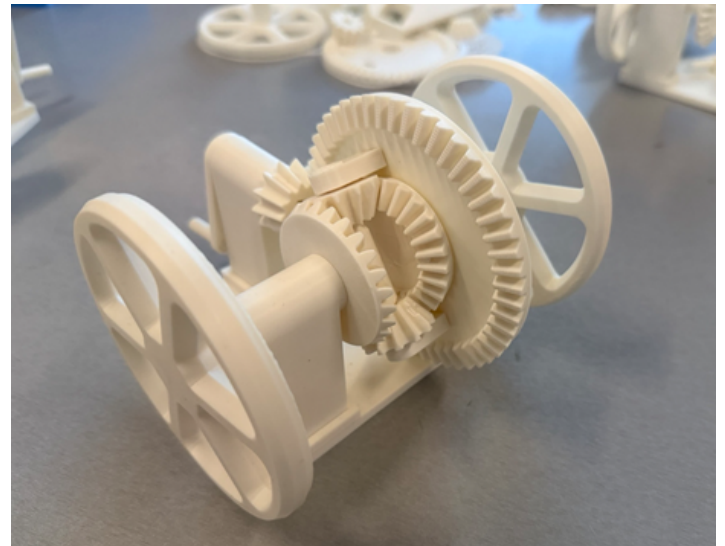


Hoots and Highlights

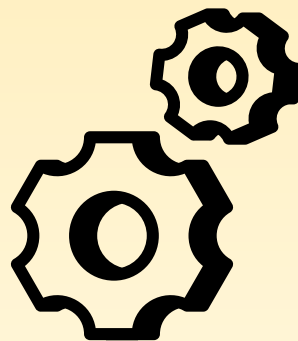
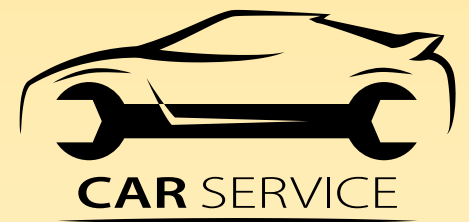
Our MDET freshmen have been actively engaged in a hands-on engineering challenge, recently designing, building, and testing 3D-printed differential mechanisms. Without step-by-step instructions, students relied on trial and error, embracing the iterative design process to test ideas, refine their approaches, and improve their models until they achieved success.

This project directly connects to the MDET curriculum, reinforcing key concepts in engineering design, manufacturing processes, and problem-solving. Rather than simply learning about these principles, students experienced them in action, gaining a deeper and more meaningful understanding of how engineers think and work.

In addition to constructing their models, students created technical sketches to practice clearly communicating their design ideas, an essential engineering skill. It was especially rewarding to see students collaborate, support one another, and persevere through challenges. Their determination and teamwork were on full display as they worked toward functional solutions.



This week in the Shops





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.

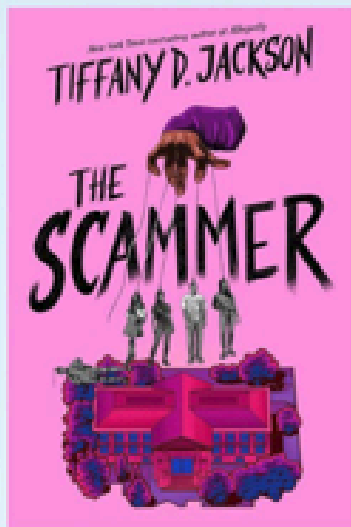
UTILIZING SCHOOL RESOURCES

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

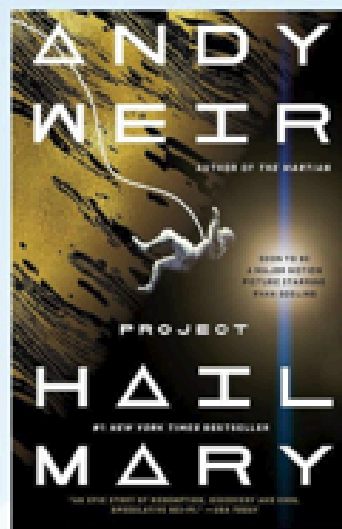
- Stay After School/Utilize Teacher Office Hours: Schedule one-on-one time with teachers to get extra help on tough topics or to review a test you performed poorly on.
- Use Study Halls: Use unscheduled time at school to stay ahead, study, or set aside extra time to work on homework or get assistance 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



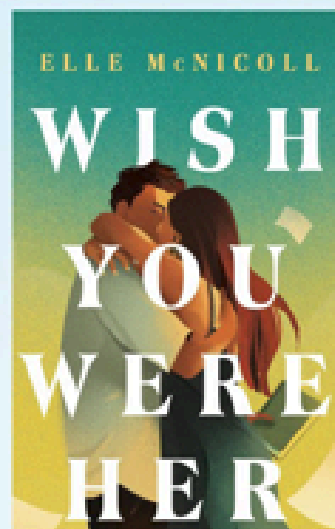
Ms. Hagen's
**SPRING BREAK BOOK
 RECCOMENDATIONS!**



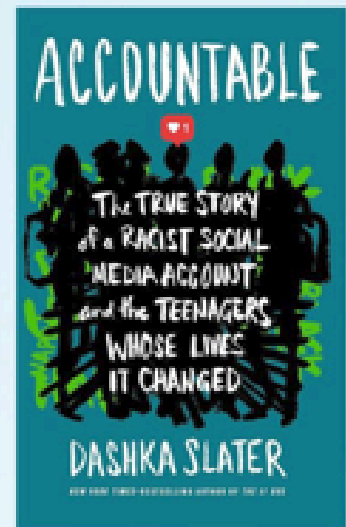
Mystery / Thriller:
 Lies, secrets, and a dangerous online scam spiral out of control.



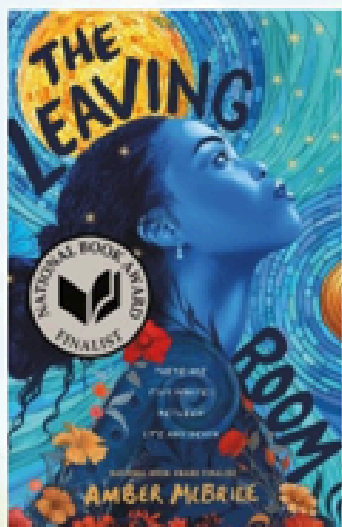
Science Fiction:
 An astronaut with no memory must save humanity from space.



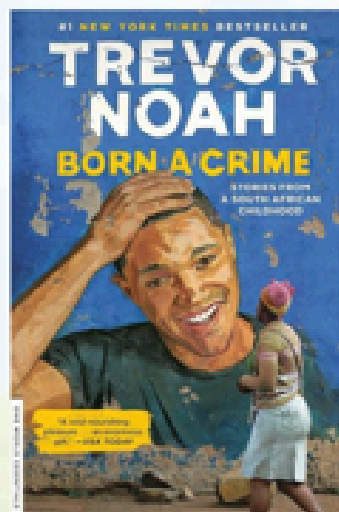
Romance:
 A summer trip sparks self-discovery, love, and new beginnings.



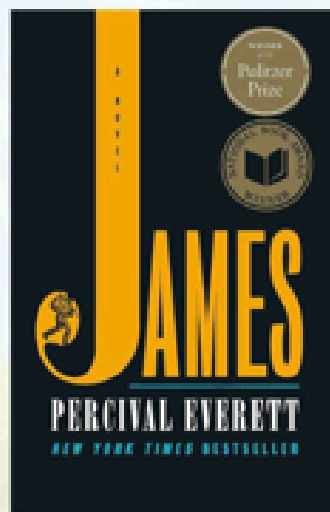
Nonfiction:
 A real story of cyberbullying and its lasting consequences.



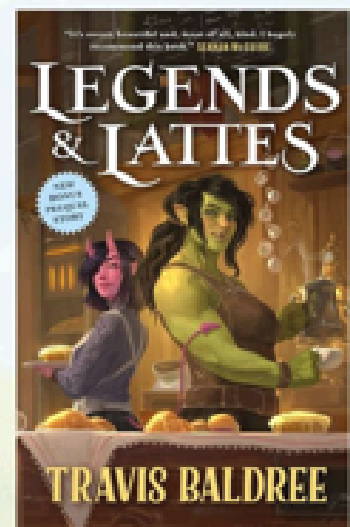
Contemporary:
 A moving story of grief, healing, and finding your way forward.



Memoir:
 Trevor Noah's funny and powerful stories growing up in apartheid South Africa.



Historical Fiction:
 A bold retelling of Huck Finn from Jim's powerful perspective.



Fantasy:
 An orc leaves battle behind to open a cozy coffee shop.