



FOCUS ON EDUCATION

FALL 2022

Message from the Superintendent & Chair

Dear Members of the Lyme-Old Lyme Communities,

We are several weeks into the new school year, a year which feels like a return to normal. We have hosted our traditional Back to School nights, begun fall sports, PTO events, and so much more.

In this issue, you will find important information to help inform your vote on the upcoming school bond referendum to be held on November 8, 2022. We hope to see you at one of the public forums either in person or, if you cannot attend, on Zoom. Additional information and materials are available on our website at www.region18.org.

As always, we thank the communities of Lyme and Old Lyme for their ongoing support as we begin another great school year.

Sincerely,

Ian Neviasser
Superintendent of Schools

Steven Wilson
Chair, Board of Education



Photos by: Michele Tackett

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

Please join the Board of Education for the following meetings.

● **November 2**, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

● **December 7**, Regular BOE Meeting, 6:30 PM

Meetings are held in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme. Agendas, links to live-streams of meetings, and links to recordings of previous meetings are available at www.region18.org under the "District Info" tab.



: Lyme-Old Lyme Schools



: lolschoolsct



: lymeoldlymeschools

www.region18.org

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools Excel Despite Pandemic in State Rankings

In August our schools received the results of highly anticipated state-wide achievement data. This standardized-testing information is an important factor in understanding how schools, especially in light of the pandemic and all of the associated challenges, are faring. We were thrilled to see that the average scores are some of the highest in the past five years and were on par with pre-pandemic testing.

While results varied by region, the State of Connecticut saw an overall decline in scores. Our strong results are a testament to the decision to remain in-school full time during the 2020-2021 school year, to our excellent teachers, our dedicated administration and staff, and to the support of the Lyme and Old Lyme communities.

	ERW SAT					MATH SAT				
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
Average Score	568	597	576	583	583	543	570	564	585	577

Our students ranked in the top tier of CT amongst the perennial powerhouses from Fairfield County, based on the average ERW (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing) and Math scores on the SAT for Lyme-Old Lyme High School.

TOP 10 SAT 2022 ERW AVERAGE SCORES			TOP 10 SAT 2022 MATH AVERAGE SCORES		
1	Weston School District	607	1	Westport School District	618
2	Westport School District	604	2	Darien School District	617
3	Darien School District	599	3	Weston School District	587
4	Ridgefield School District	592	4	New Canaan School District	581
5	Wilton School District	590	5	Ridgefield School District	580
6	New Canaan School District	587	6	Regional School District 18	577
7	Regional School District 18	583	7	Regional School District 05	576
8	Simsbury School District	577	8	Wilton School District	576
9	Avon School District	576	9	Avon School District	574
10	Regional School District 05	576	10	Madison School District	564

	GRADE 8 ELA SBAC					GRADE 8 MATH SBAC				
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
Average Score	2632	2609	2622	2640	2636	2649	2633	2658	2646	2636

Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School results followed a similar pattern.

TOP 5 SBAC Grade 8 2022 ELA			TOP 5 SBAC Grade 8 2022 MATH		
1	New Canaan School District	2656	1	New Canaan School District	2683
2	Salem School District	2641	2	Salem School District	2657
3	Avon School District	2638	3	Wilton School District	2650
4	Regional School District 18	2636	4	Regional School District 18	2636
5	Darien School District	2635	5	Darien School District	2634

	GRADE 5 ELA SBAC					GRADE 5 MATH SBAC				
Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022
Average Score	2590	2592	2577	2610	2581	2556	2588	2573	2601	2579

Our elementary schools also followed a similar pattern.

TOP 5 SBAC Grade 5 2021-22 ELA			TOP 5 SBAC Grade 5 2021-22 MATH		
1	Darien School District	2591	1	Darien School District	2591
2	Woodbridge School District	2588	2	Weston School District	2581
3	Weston School District	2582	3	Regional School District 18	2579
3	Westport School District	2582	3	New Canaan School District	2579
5	Regional School District 18	2581	5	Westport School District	2573
5	Regional School District 12	2581			

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT OR ABOVE STATE ACHIEVEMENT GOAL					
SCHOOL YEAR	Grade 11 ERW SAT State Ranking	Grade 11 MATH SAT State Ranking	Grade 8 MATH SBAC State Ranking	Grade 5 ELA SBAC State Ranking	Grade 5 MATH SBAC State Ranking
2021-2022	5th	5th	4th	1st	4th
2018-2019	7th	12th	11th	2nd	5th

We saw an increase in our rankings for the percentage of students at or above state achievement goals.

Region 18 Bond Referendum

On November 8, a referendum will be held for the purpose of voting for the approval or disapproval of a proposal to issue bonds to address facilities needs in our schools. The Board of Education voted to submit the proposal to voters after a planning process lasting multiple years that included evaluations from qualified firms and input from parents, staff and community members.

What is the purpose and intent of the proposal?

To appropriate and authorize funds to address the following needs:

- Replacing and repairing heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning systems at Center School, Mile Creek School, Lyme School, and Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School.
- Bringing these same four schools up to current code compliance for accessibility, safety, security, and other building and fire code requirements.
- Adding additional classroom space to Mile Creek School.

Did you know?

- Our schools were last renovated between 18 and 20 years ago. Mile Creek and Lyme School were renovated in 2002, the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School in 2003, and Center School in 2004.
- Our student population is increasing, particularly at the Pre-K and elementary levels. We now have approximately 1,300 students from Pre-K through Grade 12. We are projected to have 1,445 students by 2026 and 1,673 students by 2031.
- If approved, projects would go out to bid with a completion goal of August 2025. The bond amount represents a “not to exceed” figure which includes contingency and escalation costs.

Referendum Community Forums

October 12, Lyme School, 7:00 PM

October 13, Lyme-Old Lyme Senior Center, 4:00 PM

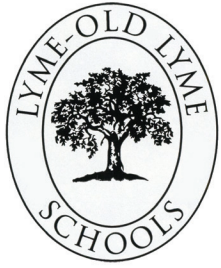
October 26, Mile Creek School, 7:00 PM

Each household in Lyme and Old Lyme should be receiving additional information via mail to help inform their decision. Additionally, all information, along with voting location information, is available online at region18.org, click on the “Referendum” headline at the top of the home page.

Facility Updates



Photos Left to Right: The gym floor at Mile Creek School was painted and refinished with the school logo. An outdoor classroom was constructed at Lyme School along with a concrete floor. The outdoor classroom at the middle school received a stamped concrete floor. The high school track was resurfaced to provide a fresh new look and running surface.



Lyme-Old Lyme Schools

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Teacher of the Year



Diana Marchese, library media specialist at Mile Creek School is the Teacher of the Year.

Diana exemplifies many of the characteristics associated with the ideal elementary educator

-- kind, compassionate, fun, energetic, dedicated and knowledgeable. One nomination described Diana as someone who "imparts the skills that will help children to be effective students while appreciating their individuality and unique spark. She knows that those students who have a little extra sparkle are often the ones who go out into the world and make it a better place, so she doesn't try to extinguish the spark; she works to harness it."

Diana is an active contributor to numerous learning initiatives, an advisor to school senate, yearbook coordinator, runs the morning broadcast, helps to coordinate school-wide assemblies, schedules cultural enrichment events, acts as her department's chair, and serves as a mentor to new teachers. Congratulations Diana!

Employee of the Year



Lori Giannotti is the Employee of the Year. Lori started her career in the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools in 2006 as a substitute. Since then she has worked in a variety of jobs and for the last few years has organized all

the PPT and 504 paperwork at Mile Creek, Lyme School, and the Lyme-Old Lyme High School as the special services clerk.

Lori is not only beloved by her colleagues and known for being fantastic at her job, but also goes out of her way to answer questions and make everyone feel confident and comfortable. A nomination noted that "although many students may not know Lori, in many instances their success has hinged on her dedication and extended efforts in planning, organizing, sending and distributing information throughout the PPT process."

The toughest part of her job, and probably one of the most important, is maintaining all student files for compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. In addition, she coordinates with staff and parents to find a mutually agreed-upon meeting time which, as you might imagine, is no small task. Congratulations, Lori!