

## Westbrook Public Schools Annual Climate Report, 2017-2018

The following are some of the activities and events Westbrook School District participated in to support and promote teaching and learning environments where each and every student achieves academically and socially and has a strong and meaningful voice.

1. **Climate and Restorative Practices Training**- The focus for staff training was in Restorative Practices. The training provides the necessary information for establishing the conditions for developing and nurturing a culture based on high quality relationships among all school community members and positive community building. This is accomplished by focusing not on rules broken and punitive consequences but rather on the harms done and providing appropriate restorative consequences and the systems that are necessary to repair and support strong relationships. Day 1 is a introduction to restorative practices and day 2 is using circles effectively. New staff members were encouraged to attend Basic Climate and Advanced Climate in addition to Restorative Practices. The goal was to have 100% of the entire staff to attend the two day Restorative Practices training. Westbrook hosted 6 sessions at the high school. In addition to staff training, over one-third of the high school student population in grades 10-12 have completed school climate training. The training in Restorative Practices is being planned for the fall of the next school year. Westbrook students and students from surrounding schools in CT will be invited to attend.
2. **Wellness Committee**- The Wellness Committee is uniquely positioned as a subcommittee of the Climate Council. In that position, the Wellness Committee has championed activities and achieved objectives that support the district's efforts to create and sustain positive school climate. For a detailed description of the activities and events that the Committee completed this year an Annual Report is posted on the district's website.
3. **Comprehensive School Climate Inventory**- As part of the school district's relationship with the National School Climate Center (NSCC) the district encourages all parents/guardians, staff and students (grades 3-12) to complete the CSCI survey. The survey is designed to assess perceptions of school climate, including feelings about safety, relationships, learning, the environment, and communication within the school. The survey results were presented by the Teen Leadership Student Group and Mr. Chet Bialicki of the Council in the beginning of the school year and it supports in the development of its goals and activities. A similar presentation was provided by the Student Group to the Board of Education at the November meeting.
4. **Teen Leadership Student Group**- The Teen Leadership Student Group has been busy this year presenting at the Leading with Kindness Summer Summit sponsored by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence on Aug. 18; Middlesex County Community

Foundation at Mitchell College on Nov. 1st, Fifth Annual Girls Leadership Summit on Nov. 3rd, Unified Leadership Summit on Dec. 15th and CAS Elementary Leadership Conference on Jan. 11th. They have spent more time this year working with students in grades 7 & 8 at Westbrook Middle School in hopes to create a student leadership team at the MS moving forward. In June, the Group was awarded a \$5,000.00 grant from CAS-CIAC Flanagan Grant to provide workshops to elementary and middle school students in the state on various topics related to social emotional learning and school climate. Three student representatives of the group and Mr. Bialicki keep the Council abreast of its work by attending the scheduled Council meetings.

5. **Social Media Presentation on February 1, 2018**- Westbrook Middle School hosted a presentation by Tom Pincince on Social Media. The presentation was provided during school hours to students in grades 5 & 6 and a separate session for students in grades 7 & 8. He spoke to students about the impact of decisions made on Social Media. He provided an evening presentation entitled, Social Media and Our Children for parents and community members that covered decision making, social media statistics, cyber-bullying, privacy settings and social media dos and don'ts.
6. **Community Conversation Circle on April 5, 2018**- About 40 parents, staff, students and community members gathered one evening to discuss the school shooting events. Physical and emotional safety was discussed and shared in a circle facilitated by Pat Ciccone, Superintendent of Schools.
7. **WHS Awareness Day on May 4, 2018**- Westbrook High School Teen Leadership Student Group with the guidance from Mr. Chet Bialicki and Ms. Tara Winch organized an Awareness Day for the students. The day incorporated Advisory Group time, an Opening Keynote Speaker, Tim Harmon from Project Courage, break-out workshop/sessions on a variety of topics, and a Closing Keynote Speaker, Shadille Estepan from Born This Way Foundation. Students were able to select four workshops/sessions they wished to attend throughout the day. Some of the workshop/session topics included: Personal Safety, Self Defense, Anxiety and Depression, Meditation, Jobs for Minors, Healthy Lifestyle Options, and Busting Myths about Nutrition.
8. **Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention and Awareness Curriculum**- In the fall, parent training took place and the session was videotaped and posted on the district's website. Soon after the parent training, teachers began to present lessons in the classrooms to students in grades PK-12. This spring teachers will be completing a post survey to inform the planning group on changes that might be needed to the curriculum and follow-up staff training.