

WINTERGREEN INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL

An ACES Interdistrict Magnet School



aces

AREA COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

A CARING LEARNING COMMUNITY DEFINING OUR PRESENT, PREPARING OUR FUTURE

History

Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School opened in August 1998 enrolling 320 kindergarten through fourth grade students. In the second year, an upper school was added to serve students in grades six through eight. Presently the school operates at its full capacity of 600 students from the communities of Hamden, New Haven, Wallingford and Woodbridge.

The school enjoys a tradition of family participation in a calendar of rich, multi-cultural events. Family events are centered on sharing and learning within all content areas. In addition to the school's signature International Festival, the parent organization sponsors an extensive visiting artist program designed to foster global understanding. Co-curricular field experiences are planned throughout the year engaging students in community and regional resources and service projects.

Operations

WIMS is managed by Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) and is housed in a facility leased from the town of Hamden. The building was renovated and expanded in the first two years to accommodate the K-8 grade range. A Steering Committee consisting of the ACES Executive Director, the district Superintendents and a Board of Education member from each district oversees school operations.

Mission

The mission of Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School is to support the development of responsible, creative lifelong learners by providing a comprehensive educational community dedicated to nurturing individual strengths, integrating technology into instruction, dignifying diversity and encouraging model citizenship.

Goals

- To provide a challenging, diverse learning environment which meets the individual and diverse needs of each student
- To create an integrated curriculum which maximizes the use of technology in order to communicate effectively
- To encourage partnerships with families and community resources for the purpose of enriching the educational environment
- To ensure a safe school environment through developing, implementing, and communicating clear expectations and guidelines for safety.



“Education is a social process; education is growth; education is not only preparation for life but life itself. Education, therefore, is a process of living.”

John Dewey, American Educator

Features

WIMS structure is unique in its extended school day and extended school year.

Learning is exciting and developmentally appropriate. The learning community is promoted in class, grade-level, and all-school activities. Responsive Classroom practices are utilized.

The education is tailored to children's interests and needs. Differentiated instruction is utilized to capture student strengths and to build academic and social competencies. The teachers are committed to lifelong learning. Ongoing assessment is a part of all instruction.

The K-8 longitudinal approach builds relationships with families and provides opportunities to develop, realize, and deepen ideas. Collaborative and cooperative learning strategies enable students to work in teams, explore interdisciplinary study, and develop solution-minded skills. The curriculum includes real world experiences in partnerships, mentoring and projects where students conduct and present research.

Students gain a global understanding that they are citizens of the world. All students engage in speaking and writing Spanish. Visual arts, music, fitness and health, and community service are an important part of student learning. Technology is integrated into all aspects of instruction, and initiatives such as one-2-one laptops provide students with access to technology.



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