

May 24, 2024

Dear Parents, Guardians and Simsbury School Staff:

Thank you to those members of the community who voted on the budget referendum May 10. Our school system succeeds in large part due to community support, and I am proud to serve in a community that places such a premium on its educational system.

With the end of the year upon us, the timing is opportune to highlight some of our wonderful student accomplishments. We have much to be proud of with our students. Engineering students at HJMS competed in the 2024 CT [SeaPerch](#) competition in March. Teams competed in two "in pool" events: an Obstacle Course and a Mission Course. The Obstacle Course tests high-speed maneuverability and requires the SeaPerch ROV to navigate the course as quickly as possible. The Mission Course incorporates a mission related to Deep-Sea Exploration. One of our teams qualified by finishing 1st in the Mission Course, the other team with the fastest eligible elapsed time in the Obstacle Course. These teams will compete in the International SeaPerch competition at the University of Maryland at the end of May.

Eight SHS students participated in the District Education Clubs of America ([DECA](#)), International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, CA, a first time achievement for the school. These students placed in their respective competitions at the state level in the areas of human resources management, financial literacy, project management, and marketing which rendered them eligible for the international competition.

The SHS robotics team, SIMS City, placed 3rd during both local district events and earned the Excellence in Engineering Award, a first in their 14-year history. These results qualified the team for the New England District Championships where they ended up as division finalists, placing in the top 25 out of 182 teams. This finish qualified the team to compete in the World Championships in Houston, TX. All three SIMS City captains were selected to the All-State Robotics team, consisting of just 40 members.

Speaking of robotics... the second in our series of videos connecting what our students are learning grounded in the Vision of a Graduate can be found [here](#). This video focuses on critical thinking in our STEM programming from elementary school through high school.

We will cap off student accomplishments at SHS with a NCAA signing day celebration on May 30th for those students who will compete in sports at the collegiate level. Nineteen students will compete in nine different sports in college. This event culminates what has been an incredibly successful year for our student-athletes.

At its meeting on May 14th, the Board of Education (BOE) recognized the [art accomplishments](#) of students in each grade level across the district. Each piece is associated with a component of our Vision of a Graduate competencies. Framed artwork by these students will hang in the BOE conference room for the next two years.

On June 11th the BOE will recognize Squadron Line School 3rd grade teacher Darla Strand as the Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year. Darla has been teaching third grade at Squadron Line School for 18 years and is renowned for building strong, individualized relationships with students, while ensuring that each child meets or exceeds her standards of excellence. Please join me in congratulating Darla Strand.

The Latimer Lane School renovation project continues to move forward ahead of schedule. This fall we will celebrate the opening of all of the educational spaces in the building. Completion of this project will allow us to relocate a portion of The Children's Academy of Simsbury preschool to Latimer Lane School this fall and provide more classroom space at Squadron Line School.

This year has been filled with many accomplishments across the district. I would like to give a special thank you to our families – your partnership has been invaluable. Your encouragement, involvement, and willingness to collaborate with our schools have played a critical role in the success of our students. I wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and enjoyable summer. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for another successful year in the fall.

Sincerely,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools