

## School Activities & Events

Listed below are some school activities and events that are offered at Chester Elementary School. These activities and events are designed to foster community and provide students with a rich learning experience.

### Activities:

- Schoolwide Enrichment Academies
- Town Meetings
- Chorus & Band
- Lego Robotics
- Jazz Band
- Math Olympiad
- Odyssey of the Mind
- Green Team
- Morning Broadcast
- Spirit Days
- Service Learning Projects
- Homework Club
- Mentor Program
- Buddy Classes
- Run Club

### Events:

- Band & Chorus Concerts
- S.T.E.A.M. Fair
- Art Show
- Social Development Day & Family Night
- Kindergarten and New Family Welcome
- Veterans Day & Memorial Day Programs
- Cultural Arts Programs & Art Residencies
- Field Trips
- Field Day at Camp Hazen
- Sixth Grade Night
- Talent Show

## Curriculum

- A language arts program that focuses on a balanced approach to literacy instruction
- A comprehensive leveled bookroom to support guided reading
- A standards-based constructivist math program
- A comprehensive specials program which includes Music, Art, Physical Education, Spanish and Library
- An enrichment approach to teaching and learning for students in grades K-5 with a Talented and Gifted Program for students meeting specific criteria in grade 6
- An inclusive special education program
- A social development program that teaches students to be respectful, responsible, safe and prepared

Our academic program is supported by state-of-the-art technology, which includes three wireless mobile laptop labs and a computer lab. Additionally, each classroom is equipped with multiple iPads, desktop computers, interactive whiteboards, projectors and Apple TVs. These technologies foster an interactive and engaging learning environment.

### Parental Involvement

At Chester Elementary School we value a strong home/school connection. We believe in and foster a strong partnership between teachers and parents. A large percentage of our parents volunteer in classrooms and at school events. This cohesive relationship positively affects student achievement.

Our school is fortunate to have a very supportive Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO is a volunteer organization that raises funds and manages a budget that provides a broad range of opportunities for our students.

# Chester Elementary School



## A Learning and Caring Community

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## Mission Statement & Essential Beliefs

We, the communities of Chester, Deep River, Essex, and Region 4, engage all students in a rigorous and collaborative educational program. We prepare our learners to be respectful citizens who are empowered to contribute in a globalized society. We believe the following are essential for success:

- Understanding all students have the ability to continually learn and grow.
- Relevant instruction and student engagement.
- Safety, support and a positive learning environment.
- A constructive partnership among the students, families, school system and community.

## Our Purpose

The purpose of Chester Elementary School is to help students acquire the attributes, attitudes, skills, competencies, understandings, and applications necessary to develop as unique, rational and creative human beings. In a cooperative effort, teachers, parents, and community strive to have students reach their maximum potential, contribute to the well-being of others, adapt to an ever-changing society, and become capable of assuming a useful role in that society.

At Chester Elementary School, we work together to promote academic excellence, to foster a desire for life-long learning and to develop responsible individuals.

## Core Beliefs

**Teaching:** *We believe* in high academic standards in an environment where all students are challenged, supported, and engaged.

**Learning:** *We believe* that all students can learn at high levels. Our attitudes, expectations, and effort directly impact student achievement and life-long learning.

**Leadership:** *We believe* that effective leadership exhibits all aspects of our mission and beliefs, and creates an environment of trust, cooperation, and understanding, where all members of the school community strive for continuous district-wide improvement.

**Culture and Climate:** *We believe* that a safe and supportive learning environment requires a culture of collaboration, trust, open communication, tolerance, and respect for and among all stakeholders.

**Community:** *We value* every child and believe that it is the shared responsibility of the entire community to educate, support, and nurture each child. We should be held accountable for the results, for the resources provided, and for the accomplishments of our mission and goals.



## Our Beliefs and Values

- We recognize each student as a unique individual and feel we should provide for individual differences.
- We believe in the right of each student to have equal opportunity for a suitable education.
- We have a desire for excellence.
- We encourage all students to become independent self-learners.
- We are committed to students' success and achievement.
- We believe that a positive self-image and a feeling of self-esteem contribute to student success.
- We believe in the cooperative effort and partnership of school, home, and community.
- We feel that the Connecticut Common Core State Standards provide a firm base for curriculum development.
- We are committed to the continued improvement of the quality of education in Chester.