

WESTBROOK ALTERNATIVE LEARNING



Jonathan Ross, Director
rossj@westbrookschoools.org

Westbrook Adult & Alternative Learning Culture & Climate Report for October 2009

The WHS & WMS Alternative Learning programs began Adventure Education with a hike up Burnt Meadow Mountain in Brownfield, Maine. Fifteen students, grades 6-12, attended this day-long adventure education experience. Over the next four weeks, student interested in adventure education will face several challenges that require them to work together as a team, communicate effectively, and make decisions in a safe but challenging environment.



Adventure Education students build a snow shelter at Baxter State Park – March 2008



Mr. Ross facilitating a pre-hike discussion at Burnt Meadow Mt. - October 2009

The WHS Alternative Learning program students are working through algebraic equations and real numbers while consumer math students are finishing their budgeting projects. In science, students are learning the scientific method and biology students are working on Meiosis and Mitosis projects. World Studies 1 students are working on their mummy-tomb projects as part of a unit on ancient Egypt.

The WMS Alternative Learning students started Jukado, which is part of our Phys Ed and Health program. Jukado is a martial art which teaches patience, concentration, self control and keeping emotions in check. The WMS Alternative Learning students are also learning the five themes of geography. They are using the new laptops with Google Maps to "geocache". Thus far, the students have found five geocaches.

The Alternative Learning Bike Program is up and running. The students are learning the basics of a small business by inventorying the bikes, rebuilding them, marketing them on Craig's List, and working directly with customers. The students sold four bikes during the first week of October.

125 Stroudwater Street, Westbrook, Maine 04092
Office (207) 854-0826 Fax (207) 854-0822

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The Adult Education program is well into the fall semester with most classes at capacity. Overall, enrollment in enrichment classes is approximately the same as during the Fall of 2008, however, there is an increase in adults ages 28-35 years old participating in the GED and high school diploma programs. Many of these new students report that they are finishing high school to “get a better job”.

Sixty-seven Alternative Learning students in grades 6-12 completed an interest survey as a “consumer” of Alternative Learning. Students’ opinions are very important in regards to programming and ensuring all children’s needs are met. The summary of student responses is:

98% are passing Alternative Learning classes

98% report that Alternative Learning will help them graduate

91% report that Alternative Learning helps keep them in school

89% report that Alternative Learning positively impacts their school attendance

58% report that Alternative Learning has helped improved relationships with other students

30% report that Alternative Learning has helped improved relationships with family members

71% report that Alternative Learning has helped improved relationships with teachers

Thank you,

Jon Ross

Director of Adult & Alternative Learning

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