



Eileen Armstrong
Communications Coordinator
White Mountains Regional School District
earmstrong@sau36.org

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**GEAR UP NH Kick – Off Event
Own Your Learning
White Mountains Regional School District**

Whitefield, NH: On the evening of September 27, 2017 7th & 8th grade students and their families gathered for dinner at the Whitefield Elementary School for the GEAR UP NH Kick – Off Event.

What is GEAR UP?

GEAR UP stands for **G**aining **E**arly **A**wareness and **R**eadiness for **U**ndergraduate **P**rograms. It is a program that helps students succeed in school. It helps families and students learn about choices for education after high school and how to pay for it. GEAR UP believes that every student should have the opportunity to go to college if they work hard, take the right courses and stay in school. GEAR UP also believes that planning futures success should begin with students and families in 7th grade and continue through 12th grade. For students who attend college in New Hampshire after their high school graduation, they will be eligible for scholarships and services that will continue through the important first year of college.

On the local level, GEAR UP New Hampshire objectives are to increase opportunities for NH's underrepresented students to access higher education. Create Pathways for NH's underrepresented students to increase retention and ease transitions from high school to postsecondary education. The goals are to build a bridge between high schools, business and colleges in NH to better prepare students for success. Create a college going culture in NH so that every students embraces the idea that college is possible. Design an academic model that promotes college enrollments and preparedness. Commit business, high schools, colleges, and parents to make NH students future ready.

GEAR Up Grant

GEAR UP began in 1999 and has had great results, including better student grades and attendance, higher test scores, increased enrollment in courses that prepare students for college, lower high school drop-out rates and increase college enrollment rates. The results have caught the attention of college presidents around the country and in the state.

In September 2016, Campus Compact for New Hampshire in partnership with the New Hampshire College & University Council were awarded a multi – year GEAR UP grant by the U.S. Department of Education to significantly increase the number of low – income New Hampshire secondary school students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education or training.

In addition to promoting statewide awareness and promoting a college ready culture GEAR UP New Hampshire is targeting three regions by providing additional support and resources to schools in the area.



The Schools

A total of 505 students will be served from the 7 cohort GEAR UP middle schools: Berlin Middle School, Claremont Middle School, Franklin Middle School, Laconia Middle School, Lisbon Regional School, Stewartstown Community School and Whitefield Elementary School. GEAR UP NH and local school officials will follow 7th grades all the way through their first year of college.

Dr. Anastasia is enthusiastic about the opportunities this grant will bring not only to 7th and 8th grade students at WES but 7th and 8th grade students district wide. "Although the GEAR UP NH Grant is targeted for the WES 7th and 8th graders, we will be including all WMRSD 7th and 8th graders in enrichment opportunities as well as career and college readiness activities."

GEAR UP services may include: making arrangements for services to help students succeed academically, mentoring, tutoring, study skills workshop and summer enrichment programs. GEAR UP will also help students to learn about colleges and future career options. GEAR UP will provide support for professional development, curriculum development, and supplemental academic offerings as well.

Summer Enrichment Opportunities at White Mountains Regional High School

White Mountains Regional School District is proud to announce that in the summer of 2018 they will be rolling out Summer Enrichment Camps that will take place June 25th – 29th, July 9th – 13th, and July 16th – 20th. These programs will be available for students in 6th – 8th grade for both Whitefield Elementary School and Lancaster Elementary School. The comprehensive summer programs will include: Culinary and Hospitality programs, Welding, A.G Science, Cybersecurity/Networking, JROTC, Rocketry/Robotics, Music, Sports, and Academic options. Students will have access to these programs at very minimal cost through grants and the support of local businesses. Registration will take place in the spring of 2018.

Mike Curtis, Futures Program Director states, "I'm very excited to see our middle school population have additional learning opportunities and a chance to experience a camp setting through programs like GEAR UP and career and technical grants" "As a district, it is vital to keep our middle school population engaged learners, and for each student to find his or her niche, so high school is meaningful and rewarding".

Leading up to the Summer Enrichment Camps the 7th and 8th grade students at the Whitefield Elementary School will participate in GEAR UP Activities. October 2nd – 13th: Graphic Contest - The 7th and 8th grade students will compete to create the official GEAR UP NH logo for WMRSD. This logo will be used on apparel, letterhead, and SWAG. November 8th: College Knowledge Activity Day – Students will map out their aspirations and create plans to achieve their dreams. January 6th: Alumni Day at Whitefield – Students will speak with WMRHS Alumni about their time in high school and where they are now. April Vacation: Connect Tour – Students will tour a college campus and learn about the different levels of post – secondary education from multiple college representatives.

"We are excited and appreciative for the opportunities that GEAR Up will provide for our 7th and 8th grade families. Exploring post-secondary education options earlier will allow our students and families to make good informed decisions for their future" stated Mr. Cronin, Principal WES.

For more information log onto www.gearupnh.org.



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