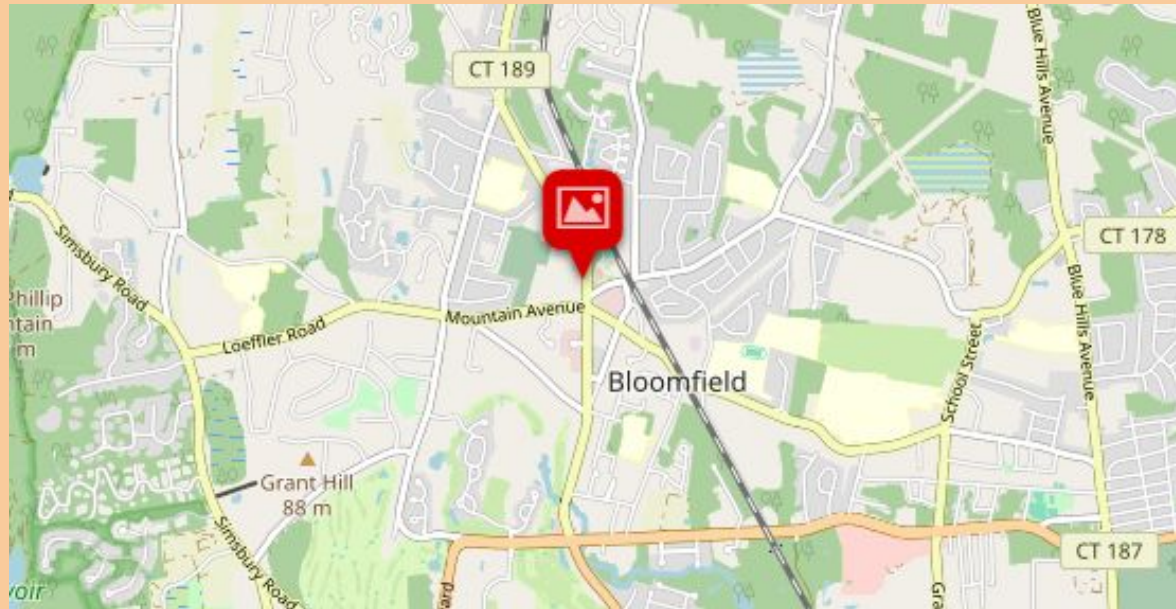


My Place In Bloomfield History



A project by Carmen Arace Middle School
7th grade social studies students

Ashawana Weir and Braylen White
Ms. Heather Calabro and Mr. Andrew Taylor





Overview

- **Use of place-based learning**
Ms. Calabro
- **Establishment of a community partner**
Mr. Taylor
- **Project components**
Ashawana and Braylen
- **Project experience**
Ashawana and Braylen

Place-based learning

Place-based learning is a teaching method that uses the local community and environment as a starting point for learning. It emphasizes real-world experiences.

Benefits of Place-based learning:

- **Academic achievement:** Improve academic scores and critical thinking skills
- **Community engagement:** Develop a sense of place and attachment to their community
- **Civic engagement:** Become more active and contributing citizens



Community Partnership

For the teachers, an important aspect early on was authenticity.

- We reached out to numerous historical societies in an effort to gain genuine information and experience.
- The Wintonbury Historical Society became our strongest ally in developing the project.
- Numerous meetings were held beginning in early 2024 with Ruthanne and Ron Marchetti, offering numerous resources and ideas for the project.

Wintonbury Historical Society Bloomfield, Connecticut



Project overview

7th grade social studies students completed a project that required them to research the history of Bloomfield, tour those sites, and create an online map of their work to exhibit with the historical society.

Learning targets:

- I can understand the history of where I live.
- I can break down a paragraph into main ideas with supporting details.
- I can integrate my research into a digital map project.



Project component: research and plotting

Students conducted research on key places and people in the history of Bloomfield including:

- Origins of Wintonbury and the Congressional Church
- Notable people: Lemuel Haynes, Francis Gillette and Oliver Filley
- Recognizable places: Copaco, Auer farm, drummer boy statue, Penwood state park, and the Old Farm School

Students synthesized their research into informative paragraphs.

Students plotted these points, as well as their own addresses for reference, on a map using Storymap software for their final product.



COPACO

COPACO started as one of the biggest farms owned by Kalman Bercowetz. Bercowetz started his farm because it was easy since he already had bought a farm before. After Kalman Bercowetz's success with his farm, he started a supermarket. His supermarket was super successful; they went on to donate scholarships at the high school. Unfortunately, the supermarket went down hill and later it just became a shopping center.



OLD FARM SCHOOL

The school was one of seven district schools built in the late 18th century, called Wintonbury Parish. In that period, it did not have running water or electricity, and there were very few schools that children could go to in the area. Now it is a community center and many Bloomfield elementary school children visit the school. This shows that it's such a big deal in the history that they usually show it to most new generations.



Project component: bus tour

Students received a free field trip thanks to the generosity of the Wintonbury Historical Society and Ironwood Community Partners.

This gave students a firsthand look at the very sites they researched in class, connecting them with Bloomfield history!



Project component: exhibition

Selected students hosted members of the Wintonbury Historical Society to share their project work with an authentic audience. WHS awarded the students with certificates of excellence and free memberships for the society.



Project component: exhibition cont'd



Bloomfield



Bloomfield's own weekly newspaper

January 24, 2025

CARMEN ARACE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR BLOOMFIELD HISTORY STUDY



On January 7th, eleven seventh grade Carmen Arace students were formally recognized for their exemplary work in the study of Bloomfield's history. All seventh-grade students participated in a social studies unit that required students to study numerous persons, events, or sites of historic impact within the town of Bloomfield. Students then chose ten subjects that interested them from among the topics presented.

This project was made possible by a collaboration of Carmen Arace's two social studies teachers, Heather Calabro and Andrew Taylor, with members of the Wintourby Historical Society and Ironwood Community Partners. Gathered to celebrate the eleven chosen students were school personnel, the President of the Board of Education, Lynette Easmon, and board members representing the sponsoring non-profits.

At the awards ceremony, each of the selected students sat with a visitor to demonstrate their handiwork. Each



From Front Page

student had created an interactive map of Bloomfield. The map located the places that they had studied. The viewer could click on these locations to open a window that explained the historic significance involved. The creations of the eleven celebrated students both dazzled and engaged the visitors, showcasing creativity, comprehension, and computer literacy.

The students were presented with award certificates and a one-year membership in the Wintourby Historical Society. Two years ago, members of the Historical Society's Board, Vice-President Ruthanne

Marchetti and Ron Marchetti, met with the teachers to identify important topics and resources that would facilitate the students' studies of them. Both this year and last year, students made use of numerous resources from the Wintourby Historical Society. Among those resources were several video presentations about important Bloomfield places. Those videos were created by the late Dr. Ralph Schmolli and his wife Louise. Happily, Louise Schmolli was able to join the celebration on January 7. When introduced, Mrs. Schmolli explained that her husband was trained as a physician. However, after he retired, he learned about



videography. Moreover, she explained that they both had to learn about Bloomfield and its history when they moved here from Michigan over sixty-three years ago. This provided an opportunity for students and adults alike to celebrate and encourage curiosity and the pursuit of lifelong learning. This year, Ironwood Community Partners became involved when board members Ron Marchetti and Lynette Easmon introduced the idea that the students' experiences would become more meaningful if they could actually tour the sites they had studied.

Under the guidance of Community Partners Executive Director, Dale Bertoldi, Bloomfield Better Together and the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving awarded a grant that would allow all students to tour the historic places in town by bus. Dale Bertoldi also provided all students access to the Oliver Filley house, located in LaSalette park. Ron and Ruthanne Marchetti narrated the bus tour, and Ron, along with Dale, walked the students through several spaces in the Filley house, interpreting the significance of visual artifacts that had been restored. Since the house is normally closed to the public, the students enjoyed a unique opportunity

to celebrate the fact that collaborating partnerships created a rewarding experience for all who were involved. Heather Calabro and Andrew Taylor provided exceptional energy and dedication to move this project forward. Their rapport with the students and their eagerness to engage them was contagious. Members of the supporting non-profits were eager to show off Bloomfield's beautiful sites and historic backgrounds. Perhaps Louise Schmolli's encouragement to the students captured the spirit of the efforts best. Learning is a lifelong opportunity. These seventh graders represent the future history of Bloomfield.

The following students earned awards of merit:

- Dakota Williams
- Azalya Thomas
- Ashawana Weir
- Braylen White
- Malcolm Jimerson
- Zo Gayle
- Chase McDougald
- Milania Thompson
- Gianna Small
- Naeem Opoku-Shuinn
- Malesa James

Congratulations to all!

CARMEN ARACE STUDENTS RECOGNIZED FOR BLOOMFIELD HISTORY STUDY



Bloomfield Public Schools
Laurel Literacy Academy

THE NEST PRESCHOOL
Registration is Now Open
for 2025-2026 School Year



Laurel Literacy Academy's The Nest Preschool is now accepting registrations. We have limited seats available so please be sure your registration packet is complete by your given date.



Come play, learn and grow with us!!

Children attending The Nest must turn 3 on or before September 1st of that school year. Bloomfield Public Schools will fill preschool seats with completed registration packets. Preference will be given to registering students who have a sibling at Laurel Literacy Academy.

The district has moved to an online registration system. Please scan the QR code below to access the site. Registration is a two-step process. 1. Visit the website and complete a Pre-Registration Form. 2. A registration specialist will email you to complete registration process.



To access hold your phone's camera at the QR code. The following link will appear: <https://www.bloomfieldpublicschools.org/online-registration>

For information about registration contact our Registration Office at reg@bloomfieldpublicschools.org or by phone at 860-260-2675. For kindergarten or Laurel Literacy Academy, call the school at 860-260-2675.

BLOOMFIELD BASKETBALL TEAMS

From Front Page

the road. Following is the Bloomfield boys basketball schedule for the week of Jan. 27, 2025.

Mon. 1/27 - 6:30 pm Hall at Bloomfield
Wed. 1/29 - 6:45 pm Bloomfield at Avon
Fri. 1/31 - 6:30 pm Farmington at Bloomfield

International/AEE girls basketball update:

This evening at 5:30 pm in the Academy of Aerospace and Engineering gymnasium, the International/AEE co-op girls basketball team hosts Whitney Tech in a non-CRAL contest.

Last night, Thursday Jan. 23, the Dragons played Capital Prep at home in their first CRAL matchup of the season for both teams. Both teams will face each other again on Mon. Feb. 3 in Hartford.

This past Tuesday evening Jan. 21, in their second CRAL matchup of the season, International defeated HMTCA 30-28 in a road game played in Hartford.

In their first contest played

on Jan. 10, International recorded a 39-31 CRAL win over HMTCA.

Following is the International/AEE girls basketball schedule for the week of Jan. 27.

Mon. 1/27-5:30 pm Bulkeley at International/AEE
Tue. 1/28-5:00 pm International/AEE at Cheney Tech.
Fri. 1/31-6:30 pm Weaver at International/AEE

International boys basketball update: Yesterday evening Thursday, Jan. 23 the International boys basketball team played a non-league road game against Capital Prep in Hartford.

This past Tuesday evening Jan. 21 the Dragons lost a heart-breaking 36-35 home game to HMTCA.

Following is the International boys basketball schedule for the week of Jan. 27.

Tues. 1/28-7:00 pm - Bulkeley at International
Thurs. 1/30-6:15 pm - Hale Ray at International

