



**PRESS RELEASE
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Summer school safety initiatives at The Woodstock Academy

WOODSTOCK, CT (August 29, 2018) –

An integral part of the mission of The Woodstock Academy is to provide a safe learning environment. In addition to the annual review and updates to the school’s emergency plans and procedures, The Woodstock Academy was able to complete upgrades across the north and south campuses. Many of these initiatives were made possible through the support of gifts and grants.

Many of the exterior and interior doors on both campuses were replaced with more secure doors that are compatible with The Academy’s key fob system.

One of the most notable changes on campus is the new sidewalk, sign, and retaining wall that welcomes guests to North Campus on the corner of Cemetery Hill Road and Academy Road. Carving away part of the hill and extending the sidewalk will make it safer for students to get on and off buses and has improved visibility for drivers, especially during the busiest times of the school day.

A safe environment means more than a secure campus with armed guards, it also means being a community where students trust each other, teachers, staff, and other adults on campus. This includes mental health support from on-campus, full-time social workers, and school psychologist.

The Woodstock Academy is fortunate to have many staff members with experience and expertise in security. This led members of The Woodstock Academy campus safety team to organize and host a school safety conference this July. Over 100 law enforcement officers, emergency responders, and education professionals attended from all over New England. Academy staff members were able to share their knowledge base while also learning from guest speakers.

“We know that students learn better when they feel safe and comfortable. So making these investments is not just about campus security and training, but it is also about helping our students reach their full potential,” explained Head of School Chris Sandford.

The Woodstock Academy is an independent, day and boarding, co-educational, college preparatory high school for grades 9–12 and postgraduates located in Woodstock, CT. The mission of The Woodstock Academy is to prepare all students for a lifetime of learning by providing academic rigor, a safe environment, and a diversity of educational experiences which will foster a sense of respect for self and others, and will encourage active investment in family, school, community, and the world.

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