



Hardy Elementary School Recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School by U.S. Department of Education

September 22, 2021 (Wellesley, MA) - Wellesley's John D. Hardy Elementary School is receiving national recognition for overall academic performance and work to ensure its students feel valued, respected, challenged and nurtured. The school was among those recognized on September 21, 2021 by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona as a [National Blue Ribbon Schools award winner](#) for 2021. The coveted awards are handed out each year by the U.S. Department of Education to top-performing public and private schools in the country.

Hardy School joins 325 others recognized this year and was named to the Exemplary High-Performing School category. One of seven elementary schools in the Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) district, Hardy serves a diverse community of students who speak 11 different languages.

"The hallmark of a Hardy education is our long held core values of engagement, inquiry, and discourse. We set high standards for student achievement and view every learner through the lens of shared adult responsibility," said Hardy School Principal Grant Smith. "On behalf of the Hardy School faculty and staff, we are incredibly honored to be receiving this national award."

According to Smith, an important part of the positive Hardy School culture is the school-wide social competency framework, R.I.S.E. which promotes respect, inclusivity, safety, and encouragement. Hardy School is well-known and beloved for the warm and caring school environment that promotes student voice and choice.

"This prestigious award is an appropriate recognition of the outstanding work of our educators each day at Hardy. We are incredibly proud of the Hardy School and its commitment to equity and excellence in support of all students," said Wellesley Public Schools Superintendent Dr. David Lussier.

About the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

Now in its 39th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools. Photographs and descriptions of the 2021 award winners are available at <https://www.nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov/>.

About Wellesley Public Schools

Wellesley Public Schools is a public school district in Wellesley, Massachusetts serving more than 5,000 students with one pre-K school, seven elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. For more information, visit <https://wellesleyps.org/>

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