# Whole Child Spotlight Series Dr. Thomas S. O'Connell School, East Hartford, CT



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East Hartford Public Schools

The Whole Child Spotlight Series highlights innovative work to improve student academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and physical health outcomes using the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model.

## Dr. Thomas S. O'Connell School Focus on Physical Activity

- O'Connell School worked together to Walk Around the World, which is 24,901 miles!
- The school shares space with Gorman Park and tracked mileage around the school.
- All 4th & 5th grade students are invited to participate in O'Connell's Running Club.
   Students walk, jog, or run to meet their goal of a cumulative half or full marathon!
- The school also increased opportunities for active play during indoor recess.



WSCC is the CDC's framework for addressing health in schools. It's student-centered, emphasizing the role of the community and the use of evidence-based policies and practices.



### Physical Education & Physical Activity

Family Engagement & Community Involvement

### Physical Activity & Whole Child Development

O'Connell School has focused on increasing opportunities for **physical activity**. Students are charting mileage walked together. Community physical fitness opportunities are shared with families in the WSCC Family and Community Wellness newsletter. The student Running Club participates in the Hartford Marathon Final Mile!



### **Impact**

"Running Club is life changing for students. It brings them to the mindset that they can do hard things...and built students socially, emotionally and physically. It strengthened relationships and made happier, excited, and motivated children. It allowed students to step outside the box and team build."

- Kara Pac, 4th Grade Teacher

Students at
O'Connell
School
collectively
walked around
the world—over
24 thousand
miles—in one
year!

Learn more at

ctwscc.org

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