

CONNECT EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The West Point Association of Graduates (WPAOG) launched CONNECT in September 2022 as part of the larger Hudson Valley Program effort to strengthen ties with the Highland Falls community, provide greater engagement within an underserved community, and bolster student achievement. CONNECT serves students in grades 2-8 within the Highland Falls Intermediate School, providing free after-school programming throughout the school year.

CONNECT includes the following four central components:

- **Academic Support:** CONNECT offers student support in core subject areas like math and reading as well as many extracurricular activities including robotics, music, and art. This out-of-school, hands-on, academic fun enriches student's lives and supports their growth academically, emotionally, and socially.
- **Mentorship/Leadership:** West Point cadets often participate in CONNECT activities and naturally bridge the generational gap as accessible, young mentors.
- **Physical Activity/Recreation:** Students can participate in daily recreational and outdoor activities, such as soccer, basketball, yoga, and martial arts. They also participate in activities with West Point's Division I athletic teams, including the Sprint Football and Lacrosse Teams.
- **Snack & Nutrition:** Students receive a free, healthy snack every day, and nutrition is embedded within the curriculum. For example, students have cultivated a vegetable garden at the school and participated in cooking classes.

CONNECT is a cooperative effort among the WPAOG, community leaders, the school district, families, and students, striving to provide all students with a range of enrichment experiences to ensure that every student is ready for tomorrow.



"Our view is that the Hudson Valley Program initiatives clearly align with the AOG mission of serving the Long Gray Line and serving West Point. Our graduates have asked AOG to be a positive force in West Point neighbor communities and the Academy leadership is absolutely supportive of these efforts. At AOG, we're particularly proud of the success of the CONNECT program and sincerely appreciative of the partners who help us provide this impactful education program to the community."

—Mark Bieger '91

President & CEO, West Point Association of Graduates



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EDUCATION INITIATIVE:

CONNECT Fund	\$5 million
CONNECT Endowment	\$5 million