

Eastford Elementary School

Annual Report

2011-12 School Year

Shaping Futures Together

This report of the 2011-2012 academic year presents the highlights and achievements of the Eastford Elementary School and the Eastford School District. The October 1 student count at Eastford Elementary School was 176. The October 1 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 69. In addition, eight students attended Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School, one student attended Killingly Regional Agricultural Center and one student attended Quinebaug Valley Middle College High School.

Mission Statement and Annual Goals

We pledge to provide every one of Eastford's children entrusted to our care with the very best education to meet individual needs, to maintain a nurturing and caring environment, and to ensure for each child the necessary preparation for a productive and fulfilling life in our changing world.

2011-2012 Board of Education Goals

- I. Educational Leadership
 - A. Review K-12 Student achievement and comparison with regional, state and national standards.
 - B. Review EES teacher assignments and make reassignments based on the district's ability to maximize student outcomes and operate efficiently.
 - C. Improve CMT scores so that 75% of students in grades 3-8 are reaching goal in all three areas of math, reading and writing.
- II. Organizational Management
 - A. Collaborate with the Policy Committee to review policy book and ensure that policies required by state statute are in place.
 - B. Maintain and improve school facilities; create working (living) documents that will aid future maintenance efforts.
 - C. Explore ways that we can achieve greater efficiency as a school district by cooperating with other districts, the town and/or Woodstock Academy.
- III. Community and BOE Relations

Explore integration of the town sponsored "Before and After School Program" with other school sponsored programs.

Superintendent Goals 2011-12

- I. Educational Leadership
 - A. To increase student achievement as measured by the CMT and other indicators.
 - B. To track K-12 achievement and compare it to regional, state and national performance.
- II. Organizational Management
 - A. Review policy book and ensure that policies required by state statute are in place.
 - B. Maintain and improve school facilities in accordance with a multi-year plan.
 - C. Explore effective and efficient ways to engage in regional collaborations.
- III. Community and BOE Relations: Explore the integration of the Before and After School Program with other school programs.

School Goal

Differentiated Instruction requires strategies and activities that are student centered, based on readiness, planned with flexible grouping designs, and changed as needed to meet the needs of all learners. During the 2011-12 school year, the EES staff will continue to meet those needs through exploration and enhancement of new and current Differentiated Instructional strategies.

Weather Issues and School Calendar

August and October storms led to eight days of school cancellations before the winter. This required a number of calendar changes, including the rescheduling of professional development days.

Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities for the staff during the 2011-12 school year were dedicated to achieving the annual school goal as well as increasing the capacity of teachers to facilitate the development of students' 21st Century Skills by differentiating classroom instruction and implementing Common Core State Standards. Staff members participated in a variety of professional development activities. These included:

1. In August, Betty Hollas, national speaker, presented a daylong workshop entitled "Differentiating Instruction." The Eastford faculty joined the faculties from Pomfret, Union and Woodstock Academy for this professional development.
2. Also in August, Matthew Cook, EES parent and Director of the Hole in the Wall Camp, gave an inspirational and motivational address to the faculty related to understanding human interactions. He encouraged the staff to look at the world so that their core beliefs would lead to open-mindedness.
3. Members of the Eastford faculty planned and presented the November professional development day and the focus of the day was on school climate and diversity. Facilitators shared information from statewide conferences and workshops that they had attended:
 - a. There was an introduction to Safe School Plan requirements; Linda Loretz, Diane Martin and Meribeth Tedisky led the discussion.
 - b. Diane Martin facilitated a discussion of the New *Second Step* Program and new *Steps to Respect* program.
 - c. Facilitated by Carole McCombe, Lori Reynolds and Lori Crocker-Lincoln, staff members discussed the concept of "Creating a Welcoming School."
 - d. Carole McCombe, Lori Crocker-Lincoln and Linda Loretz moderated a discussion based on a video clip from a Multicultural conference.
 - e. Jeanne Morascini, founder of the "Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World," led a discussion entitled, *Good News: Hope for a Peaceful World*.
4. One Eastford teacher, Amy Couture, participated in TEAM, the state's teacher induction program—Teacher Education and Mentoring. Juliana Fox enthusiastically mentored Mrs. Couture.

5. Meribeth Tedisky continued to coach other staff members who renewed their PMT (Physical and Psychological Management Training) skills. In this program, staff members learn new and different ways to de-escalate students who might become agitated.
6. Elizabeth Rynhart, Michelle Bibeault, Juliana Fox, Carole McCombe and Lori Crocker-Lincoln participated in an EastConn Consortium dedicated to unpacking the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics.
7. The January 2012 professional development day was held at the Hole in the Wall Camp in Ashford.
 - a. Matthew Cook showed a video about the Hole in the Wall Camp and followed through on his August discussion.
 - b. Donna Drasch, EastConn Consultant, presented a workshop about Common Core State Standards.
 - c. Staff discussed ways to address School Climate Issues:
 - Trish Moran—Bullying Conference;
 - Lori Reynolds and Carole McCombe—Mean Girls Conference;
 - Joan Muller—Leadership Conference with students and parents;
 - Diane Martin (and others)—progress with *Second Step* and *Steps to Respect*; and
 - Online Research was discussed as a result of a conference that Linda Loretz attended with Alan November, an international leader in educational technology.

Technology

A three-year Technology Plan was developed for the District. Each Connecticut district is required to submit a technology plan to the state every three years. The development of Eastford's 2012-15 plan was a collaborative effort among faculty, parents, Board members and EastConn. Eastford participants in the development of the plan were Lori Reynolds, April Basch, Michelle Bibeault, Linda Loretz, Jackie Miller, Gerald Marmat and Pam Skelly. The plan can be found on the website:

[http://www.eastfordct.org/files/1525296/scanned copy of tech plan.pdf](http://www.eastfordct.org/files/1525296/scanned%20copy%20of%20tech%20plan.pdf)

Staff Changes

1. The beginning of the 2011-12 school year brought a few staff changes; many teachers moved within the school to teach a different grade. Laurie Bardsley and Elizabeth Rynhart "looped" with their classes allowing them to teach the same students two years in a row.
2. Other staff changes included:
 - a. Michelle Bibeault was hired as a kindergarten teacher at the beginning of the 2011-12 school year.
 - b. Amy Couture taught seventh and eighth grade mathematics and also taught part-time at Woodstock Academy.
 - c. Donald Curtis left in the middle of the school year and April Basch was hired midyear to teach Grade 6.

- d. The end of the 2011-12 school year brought the retirement of Susan Salesses, Language Arts Teacher and School Librarian.

Ongoing Committees and Collaborative Initiatives

The following groups represent ongoing efforts involving Eastford Elementary Staff working collaboratively with parents and other stakeholders:

1. School Climate Committee: Matthew Cook, Melissa Duncan, Diane Martin, Carole McCombe, Meribeth Tedisky, Lori Crocker-Lincoln and Lori Reynolds formed the committee and developed the Safe School Climate Plan.
2. Student Assistance Team and Curriculum Committee: For the fourth year, Lori Crocker-Lincoln led this committee that also includes Elizabeth Rhyhart, Juliana Fox, Gerald Marmat and Linda Loretz. This team ensures that individualized goals for intervention are developed by math and reading teachers and shared with parents six times per year—each time progress notes and report cards are issued. The team also facilitates curriculum development and overall School Improvement.
3. The Readiness Council, which is run by the school and the town, is a group of citizens concerned with matters related to the School Readiness Program, Eastford's Preschool. It is the duty of the Readiness Council to develop and implement policies for the School Readiness Program and provide ongoing monitoring of the School Readiness Program. Readiness Council members included Jacki Budd, Janelle Marengo, Linda Loretz, Theresa Neely, Terry Cote Ashlyn Ellsworth, Christine Kopplin, Brenda Ford, John Vitale, Susan Shead and Michelle Bibeault.

Cultural Programs

Cultural programs offer quality encounters with drama, music and other performance areas so that students have a broader education and gain background information related to their general studies. Eastford Elementary School students participated in a variety of cultural programs during the 2011-12 school year, many of which were made possible with funding from the PTO. These included a laser show; opera and symphony programs; a visit from children's author, Jeanine Behr Getz; two creative arts programs from Mobile Education—*Lights Camera Action* and *Mime Time*; a Rain Forest animals demonstration; and a magic show performed by Bryan Flint.

Cocurricular Programs

1. Three sports seasons were offered for middle school students—fall, winter and spring. During the 2011-12 school year, Eastford had two soccer teams, two basketball teams and a coed track team.
2. Northeast Communities against Substance Abuse (NECASA) provided Eastford's Local Prevention Council (LPC) grant money to support local prevention of substance abuse. Research has shown that when children are shown how to use leisure time effectively, they are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. During the 2011-12 school year, the funds were used to sponsor activities for school-aged children. Eastford Elementary School sponsored after school/holiday enrichment programs. Most of the programs were designed so that students committed to four

or more sessions with a facilitator. More than one hundred students participated in after-school programs such as building with Legos, Fun/Fitness and crafts.

3. Catie Botting, a parent and drama enthusiast, organized a successful Drama program for EES students. More than fifty students participated in drama activities that culminated in a springtime production of *The Emperor's New Clothes*.
4. During the 2011-12 school year, the Board of Education began overseeing the Before and After School Program. Diane Barlow, Melinda King and Janelle Marengo were the childcare workers who ensured a smooth transition from town leadership to school leadership.

Facilities

The Eastford Elementary School Facility and its maintenance and renovation needs were given a high priority by the Board of Education during the 2011-12 school year.

1. The Board of Education's Facilities Committee spent a good portion of the year preparing for the windows replacement project that was scheduled for the summer of 2012. Preparation work included applying for a State Construction Grant, hiring an architect and having the window areas tested for hazardous materials.
2. Two bathrooms on the lower level of the building were renovated.

Parent Groups

The Eastford Elementary School continued to enjoy the support of four active parent groups:

1. Among other projects, The Eastford PTO sponsored cultural programs, a school sign contest, beautification projects, Book Fairs and a graduation reception.
2. The Middle School fund-raising group sponsored its tenth Annual Goods and Services Auction to raise money to completely fund the eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C.
3. The Sports Boosters supported the soccer, basketball and track teams by providing equipment that was not included in the Board of Education's budget. In addition, the Sports Boosters sponsored a karaoke night that provided entertainment and fund-raising.
4. The Parent Advisory Committee met monthly and discussed current school issues—transportation, security, technology, bullying, Before and After School Program and improved communication.

Suggestions for Improvement

The Superintendent recommends that the following be seriously considered:

1. Increased funding for staff professional development
2. Ongoing efforts to procure support materials for the teaching of the Common Core Standards
3. Continued efforts to monitor and maintain technology that supports instruction

Awards, Scholarships and Graduates

EIGHTH GRADE AWARDS

<u>Award</u>	<u>Recipient(s)</u>
Marilyn Krom , PTO	Mary E. DeJesse
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Dylan Barlow Kyle Dziekan JonathanThompson
Principal's Commendation	David Jakubowski Evan Krukoff
Olivette Kozey	Zakary A. Harakaly
Allen James Day	Zakary A. Harakaly Kassidy A. Stewart
Roger Mason Day	Lauren Harper Perry
William Shand Memorial	Alexander J. Basto
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Nathan A. Yakis
Otto F. King	Elise Schiavetti
American Legion	Teagan Lynch
Joseph St. King	Seth Budd
The ETA Local Hero	Jacob Belanger
Math/Science/Tech	Nathan Yakis
Humanities	Robert Johnson
Presidential Academic Fitness	Lauren Harper Perry
William S. Warren	Lauren Harper Perry

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Recipient(s)
The Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship Award	Gunnar W. Eubanks
The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Andrew Budd
The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship	Julia Winkler
The Emil Vaida Scholarship	Renee Ringuette
The Esther and Lucy Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship Fund	Megan Lord-Driscoll Ryan Perry
The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship	Julia Budd
The Mary King Sharpe	Ryan Willis

During the 2011-12 school year, Board of Education Citizen of the Month awards were presented to

September—Emily Belanger
October—Zakary Harakaly
November—Jacob Belanger
December—Kyle Dziekan
January—Jonathan Mustis
February—Zoe Marshall
March—Liam Dyer
April—Nathaniel Merlo
May—Adam Ricci

Lauren Perry and Zakary Harakaly were the recipients of the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Superintendent's Award.

In 2012, Eastford Elementary School fifth grader, Ely Driscoll had his "My Favorite Tree" essay chosen as the Windham County Arbor Day Contest winner. His family and class joined him in receiving this award and planting a tree in Hartford.

Eastford 2012 EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Dylan Barlow
Alexander J. Basto
Jacob Daniel Belanger
Seth Harrison Budd
Mary E. DeJesse
Kyle James Dziekan
Zakary A. Harakaly
David M. Jakubowski Jr.

Robert G. Johnson
Evan J. Krukoff
Teagan C. Lynch
Lauren Harper Perry
Elise K. Schiavetti
Kassidy A. Stewart
Jonathan Edward Thompson
Nathan A. Yakis

Eastford 2012 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

H.H. Ellis Technical High School

Jessica Badger
Gunnar Eubanks
Colton Garrison
Ryan Perry

Woodstock Academy

Ashlyn Brockett
Andrew Budd
Raquel Charlotten
Joel Espada
Nathaniel Fabian
Annastasia Harris
Maegan Hernberg
Nicholas Howard
Alaina Kilburn
Emily Klee
Megan Lord-Driscoll

Garrett Lynch
Rebecca Pelletier
Renee Ringuette
Olivia Sears
Jonathan Silva
Megan Torcellini
Christopher Whitehouse
Ryan Willis
Julia Winkler
Matthew Yakis
Stacey Yazo

Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT)

Each spring, all American students in grades three through eight are required to take assessments. Our state's test is called the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the progress of each town's students is released in aggregate form to the public in press releases and on the state's website. (<http://www.ctreports.com>). Many of the Eastford scores are not listed on the state's website since there are fewer than twenty students in some Eastford classes. Teachers have been working diligently to align the curriculum with state standards and make sure that students can perform not only on the yearly CMT, but also on a regular basis in classes.

The 2006-2012 Eastford results are shown below. We are always working on improvement strategies so that more students will attain goal status in all areas. For 2011-2012, Eastford Elementary School met all of the "adequate yearly progress" (AYP) targets set by the federal "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) act. The act not only requires a high level of proficiency in the academic areas, but also requires that 95% of students participate.

Schoolwide CMT Results 2006-2012											
Grade	Year	#tested W	# tested	Math at Goal		Reading at Goal		Writing at Goal		All three areas	
				#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3	2006		19	11	57.9%	13	68.4%	12	63.2%	8	42.1%
4	2006		14	11	78.6%	9	64.3%	10	71.4%	9	64.3%
5	2006		17	12	70.6%	13	76.5%	10	58.8%	9	52.9%
6	2006		21	14	66.7%	17	81.0%	16	76.2%	13	61.9%
7	2006		25	17	68.0%	20	80.0%	21	84.0%	17	68.0%
8	2006		17	10	58.8%	13	76.5%	11	64.7%	10	58.8%
Totals			113	75	66.4%	85	75.2%	80	70.8%	66	58.4%
3	2007		14	7	50.0%	8	57.1%	8	57.1%	2	14.3%
4	2007		19	15	78.9%	14	73.7%	15	78.9%	12	63.2%
5	2007		14	13	92.9%	10	71.4%	7	50.0%	6	42.9%
6	2007		18	12	66.7%	17	94.4%	12	66.7%	10	55.6%
7	2007		23	14	60.9%	19	82.6%	12	52.2%	11	47.8%
8	2007		27	19	70.4%	22	81.5%	22	81.5%	18	66.7%
Totals			115	80	69.6%	90	78.3%	76	66.1%	59	51.3%
3	2008		24	14	58.3%	19	79.2%	22	91.7%	13	54.2%
4	2008		15	11	73.3%	10	66.7%	13	86.7%	8	53.3%
5	2008		19	16	84.2%	14	73.7%	14	73.7%	11	57.9%
6	2008		16	15	93.8%	15	93.8%	11	68.8%	11	68.8%
7	2008		18	14	77.8%	16	88.9%	13	72.2%	12	66.7%
8	2008		26	20	76.9%	19	73.1%	21	80.8%	18	69.2%
Totals			118	90	76.3%	93	78.8%	94	79.7%	73	61.9%
3	2009	19	17	10	58.8%	11	64.7%	14	73.7%	8	47.1%
4	2009		24	18	75.0%	17	70.8%	18	75.0%	15	62.5%
5	2009		18	13	72.2%	15	83.3%	15	83.3%	11	61.1%
6	2009		20	18	90.0%	15	75.0%	13	65.0%	13	65.0%
7	2009		19	17	89.5%	18	94.7%	17	89.5%	17	89.5%
8	2009		19	14	73.7%	17	89.5%	15	78.9%	12	63.2%
Totals			117	90	76.9%	93	79.5%	92	77.3%	76	65.0%
3	2010		22	15	68.2%	17	77.3%	19	86.4%	14	63.6%
4	2010	15	12	10	83.3%	9	75.0%	9	60.0%	9	75.0%
5	2010		23	20	87.0%	18	78.3%	20	87.0%	16	69.6%
6	2010		17	9	52.9%	13	76.5%	11	64.7%	5	29.4%
7	2010		19	15	78.9%	17	89.5%	15	78.9%	13	68.4%
8	2010		16	14	87.5%	15	93.8%	13	81.3%	13	81.3%
Totals			109	83	76.1%	89	81.7%	87	77.7%	70	64.2%
3	2011		15	14	93.3%	13	86.7%	14	93.3%	12	80.0%
4	2011		23	15	65.2%	16	69.6%	18	78.3%	12	52.2%
5	2011	16	13	10	76.9%	10	76.9%	8	50.0%	8	61.5%
6	2011		22	17	77.3%	19	86.4%	17	77.3%	14	63.6%
7	2011		16	10	62.5%	13	81.3%	10	62.5%	8	50.0%
8	2011		19	16	84.2%	16	84.2%	15	78.9%	13	68.4%
Totals			108	82	75.9%	87	80.6%	82	73.2%	67	62.0%
Grade	Year	#tested W	# tested	Math at Goal		Reading at Goal		Writing at Goal		All three areas	
				#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
3	2012		14	7	50.0%	8	57.1%	8	57.1%	5	35.7%
4	2012		15	13	86.7%	12	80.0%	11	73.3%	10	66.7%
5	2012		21	14	66.7%	15	71.4%	11	52.4%	7	33.3%
6	2012	14	13	10	76.9%	12	92.3%	12	85.7%	10	76.9%
7	2012		22	17	77.3%	21	95.5%	16	72.7%	16	72.7%
8	2012		16	10	62.5%	12	75.0%	10	62.5%	9	56.3%
Totals			101	71	70.3%	80	79.2%	68	67.3%	57	56.4%

CAPT And SAT

The Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) is the state assessment administered to students in Grade 10. Following are 2012 data regarding Woodstock Academy and Eastford students who attend Woodstock Academy. Also included in this chart is information regarding the SAT

Woodstock Academy/Eastford Students Percentage of Students Proficient on CAPT				
		WA Students	Eastford Students	
	Math	91.6	81.8	
	Science	93.9	90.9	
	Reading	85.5	81.8	
	Writing	93.4	81.8	
Woodstock Academy/Eastford Students Percentage of Students at Goal on CAPT				
		WA Students	Eastford Students	
	Math	63	63.6	
	Science	66.3	72.7	
	Reading	51.2	54.5	
	Writing	70.3	81.8	
Eastford Performance on CAPT on each subtest - Percentage at each Level				
	Basic or Below	Proficient	Goal	Advanced
Math*	9.1	18.1	27.3	36.3
Science	9.1	18.1	27.3	45.5
Reading	18.1	27.3	45.5	9.1
Writing	18.1	0	18.1	63.6
*One student math score is not included.				
CAPT Performance on all Four Subject Area Tests - Percentage of Students Reaching Goal				
	Eastford 2012	45.5		
	WA 2012	37.7		
	State 2012	30.6		
Average SAT Scores for Woodstock Academy and Eastford Students at WA				
	Critical Reading	Math	Writing	
WA	526	517	524	
Eastford	510	506	528	
State	498	504	503	