

Eastford Elementary School

Annual Report

2012-13 School Year

Shaping Futures Together

This report of the 2012-2013 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 168. The October 1 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 57. In addition, seven 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.

2012-2013 Board of Education Goals

- I. Educational Leadership
 - A Explore opportunities for Eastford educators to increase resources and connections that will lead to improved student learning.
 - B Explore technological resources available to ensure that Eastford teachers and students have access to 21st Century educational tools.
 - C Compile data related to K-12 performance and assure that Eastford students are competitive.

- II. Organizational Management
 - A. Continue to update policies and delete unnecessary policies. The year's focus will be on the 4000s, 5000s and 6000s
 - B. Maintain and improve school facilities; create working (living) documents that will aid future maintenance efforts. The following projects will be a priority:
 - 1. Windows in 1963 and 1949 buildings
 - 2. Renovate rest rooms connected with the gym
 - 3. Renovate the Art Room
 - C. Explore ways that we can achieve greater efficiency as a school district by cooperating with other districts, the town and/or Woodstock Academy for:
 - 1. Shared services (i.e. inventory services, payroll, information technology, etc.)
 - 2. Cooperative programs (sports, professional development, special education, etc.)
 - 3. Sharing of staff (combining part-time positions such as librarian, Spanish, middle school subjects, etc.)

III. Community and BOE Relations:

- A. Develop a greater sense of community among the Eastford staff so that part-timers, substitutes and those representing contracted services are fully integrated.
- B. Continue to develop the School District's role in the Community Scholarships given to Eastford college students.
 - 1. Work with Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to ensure a smooth transition to their management of funds.
 - 2. Support the community in fund-raising efforts

2012-13 Superintendent Goals

I. Educational Leadership

- A. Improve student achievement as we develop a new teacher evaluation plan:
 - 1. Identify appropriate formative assessments that align with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).
 - 2. Work with Eastford staff and collaborate with other districts to develop peer or parent feedback surveys.
 - 3. Explore innovative opportunities for teachers to collaborate with other teachers and improve student learning. Plan actual or virtual visitations to classrooms within Eastford and outside of Eastford in order to implement the peer evaluation component of the teacher evaluation plan.
 - 4. Explore technological resources available to ensure that Eastford teachers and students have access to 21st Century educational tools.
- B. Compile data related to K-12 performance and assure that Eastford students are competitive.

II. Organizational Management

- A. Continue to update policies and delete unnecessary policies. The year's focus will be on the 4000s, 5000s and 6000s.
- 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:

- A. Develop a greater sense of community among the Eastford staff so that part-timers, substitutes and those representing contracted services are fully integrated.
- B. Continue to develop the School District's role in the Community Scholarships given to Eastford college students.
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2012-13 Eastford Elementary School Goal

All staff will implement, demonstrate and monitor a high quality educational program as outlined by Connecticut's Common Core State Standards (CCSS) with a focus that extends across all curricular domains and includes instruction, assessment and professional development.

Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities for the staff during the 2012-13 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.

Another focus of the school year was the new Educator Evaluation Plan that is designed to become more closely tied to professional development. Eastford was selected along with the towns of Franklin, Sterling and Columbia to participate as a small school consortium in the statewide pilot for the new evaluation plan.

Staff members participated in a variety of professional development activities. These included:

1. In August, Todd Whitaker, national speaker, presented a daylong workshop entitled "What Great Teachers Do Differently." The Eastford faculty joined the faculties from Pomfret and Woodstock Academy for this professional development.
2. Also in August, Amy Drowne, Staff Developer from EastConn, helped the Eastford teaching staff become oriented to the new Educator Evaluation Plan.
3. On the October professional development day, teachers joined with colleagues from Franklin, Sterling and Columbia to learn about developing Student Learning Objectives, a component of the Educator Evaluation Plan.
4. Three Eastford teachers, April Basch, Melissa Brown and Margot LaPoint, participated in TEAM, the state's teacher induction program—Teacher Education and Mentoring. Carole McCombe, Lori Crocker-Lincoln and Juliana Fox enthusiastically mentored the three new teachers.
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. The March 2013 Professional Development Day, teachers followed the new state guidelines requiring more personalized professional development and planned development activities for themselves. Almost all teachers participated in an hour-long introduction to the new videoconferencing equipment; many worked on Common Core report cards, Science

curriculum, preschool/kindergarten transition and an assortment of technology topics.

7. A June Professional Development Day was added to the calendar and all teachers participated in an introductory workshop related to NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association). Eastford teachers began collaborating with their colleagues in Chaplin and Hampton to become familiar with this set of online assessments.

Technology

In 2012, the Eastford School District applied for a grant to obtain TelePresence videoconferencing equipment. The Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account (PEGPETIA) Grant Program awarded Eastford \$48,765.75 to buy the equipment and join CILC (Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration). This equipment allows students to participate in workshops and courses as well as take field trips via Internet and video technology. Eastford and Stafford were the first school districts to request and receive equipment from PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) for the purpose of having elementary and middle school students participate in distance learning activities.

Beginning in the spring of 2013, Eastford Elementary School teachers and students took advantage of the virtual field-trip aspect of the technology. Using the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC), teachers found lessons and programs on a variety of high-interest subjects. Second Grade teacher, Laurie Bardsley took her class on a “trip” to meet a Montana Grizzly Bear Biologist through videoconferencing. They spoke with a bear biologist and learned about specific techniques that Montana biologists use to work with Montana bears. Candice Mead, science teacher, used the equipment to virtually travel to the Indianapolis Zoo. The zoo program incorporated practical uses for basic math as students watched animals being weighed and measured. Lori Reynolds and her fifth graders used the technology to participate in a presentation on Montana’s Ghost Towns of the United States. During this presentation, students listened to ghost stories and learned about the ghost towns scattered throughout the West.

The opportunities that this new technology offers are endless and offer new solutions to teaching a variety of subjects in addition to the extensive professional development prospects. The introduction of this technology has changed the way that the Eastford teachers can engage their students in the classroom as well as provide opportunities never before possible.

Eastford Elementary School has always been proud of its extensive use of technology and the 2012-13 school year was the final year for phasing in SmartBoards; at the start of the school year, all regular classrooms were equipped with interactive SmartBoards. In addition to the MacBook laptops that students had become accustomed to using for everyday assignments as well as assessments and research,

during the 2012-13 school year, teachers and students began to experiment with educational applications for iPads.

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 2012-13 school year, many of which were made possible with funding from the PTO. These included author, Renata Bowers; Chinese Acrobats; Science Safari Day; a Benjamin Franklin reenactor; and Scott Jameson, who performed *The Magic of Communication*.

Cocurricular Programs

1. Three sports seasons were offered for middle school students—fall, winter and spring. During the 2012-13 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 2012-13 school year, the funds were used to sponsor activities for school-aged children. Eastford Elementary School sponsored after school/holiday enrichment programs. More than one hundred students participated in after-school programs such as building Wood Duck Boxes, Cross Stitch, Bread Baking, Fun with Math and a variety of crafts projects. Additionally, the LPC sponsored field trips on Professional Development Days, one to Battleship Cove and another to the Springfield museums.
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 *We Love Lucy*.
4. During the 2012-13 school year, the Board of Education facilitated the Before and After School Program for the second year. Melinda King and Janelle Marengo were the primary childcare workers and Tammy Hull, Jason LaRose and Alaina Kilburn often assisted them.

Facilities

1. The Board of Education's Facilities Committee implemented its long-term plan for window replacement. During the summer of 2012, ninety-four windows in the 1949 and 1963 wings of the building were replaced. Twenty-five egress windows were installed in sixteen different rooms. In addition to the windows, blinds were replaced with shades.
2. During the spring of 2013, the Board of Education refurbished the bathrooms in the gymnasium.

Parent Groups

The Eastford Elementary School continued to enjoy the support of three 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 talent show that provided entertainment and fund-raising.

Ongoing Committees and Collaborative Initiatives

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

1. Professional Development and Curriculum Committee: For the fifth year, Lori Crocker-Lincoln led this committee that also includes Elizabeth Rhyhart, Juliana Fox, Matthew Cook, 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.
2. 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 Initiative and Eastford's Preschool. It is the duty of the Readiness Council to develop and implement policies for 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, John Vitale, Susan Shead and Michelle Bibeault.

Awards, Scholarships and Graduates

EIGHTH GRADE AWARDS

<u>Award</u>	<u>Recipient(s)</u>
Marilyn Krom, PTO	Violet Wink
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Cameron Grube
Olivette Kozey	Jonathan Mustis
Allen James Day	Jake Owens, Amber Buell, Carley Beshaw
Roger Mason Day	Jonathan Mustis
William Shand Memorial	Silas Bunnell
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Emily Hughes
Otto F. King	Liam Dyer
American Legion	Dylan Grube
Joseph St. King	Collin Singleton
The ETA Local Hero	Emma Kellermann
Arboriculture Award	Brierra McNeely
Math/Science/Tech	Jake Owens
Humanities	Carley Beshaw
Presidential Academic Fitness	Carley Beshaw Amber Buell, Cameron Grube Dylan Grube Emily Hughes Jonathan Mustis Jake Owens Collin Singleton
William S. Warren	Emily Hughes

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Recipient(s)
The Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship Award	John Barlow
The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Hannah Budd Morgan Lundy
The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship	Ann Hixson
The Emil Vaida Scholarship	Brianna Boyce
The Esther and Lucy Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship Fund	Samantha Geddes Andrew Budd
The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship	Ryan Perry
The Mary King Sharpe	Brianna Boyce
Ethel Gardner Music Scholarship	Stacey Yazo

During the 2012-13 school year, Board of Education Citizen of the Month awards were presented to

September—Cameron Grube
October—Emma Kellermann
November—Michele Wysocki
December—Dylan Grube
January—Olivia Duncan
February—Silas Bunnell
March—Nathan Hull
April—Izetta Asikainen
May—Madelyn Grube

Amber Buell was the recipient of the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Superintendent's Award.

Nine Eastford students were invited to Hartford on Law Day after having had their recorded speaking reviewed by attorneys and bench judges from the CT Bar Association. The following students read historical documents at the Appellate Court: Madelyn Grube, Ely Driscoll, Nikolas Jakubowski and Olivia Duncan (grade 6); Colin Glenn (grade 7); Jake Owens, Dylan Grube, Emma Kellermann and Silas Bunnell (grade 8).

Eastford 2013 EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Ivan Wilhelm Asikainen
Carley Elizabeth Beshaw
Amber Mae Buell
Silas Dean Bunnell
Corey Jaden Collard
Liam Revelin Christopher Dyer
Cody Mason Goodwin
Cameron John Grube
Dylan Ortega Grube
Rebecca Erin Hermann
Emily Anna Grace Hughes
Bryce E. Lewis
Nathan Alexander Hull
Emma Rose Kellermann
Brierra Leigh McNeely
Jonathan Peter Mustis
Jake A. Owens
Victor Charles Paulhus
Kyle Patrick Percy
Collin Matthew Singleton
Courtney McKenna Williams
Violet Elizabeth Wink

Eastford 2013 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

H.H. Ellis Technical High School

Erik Eubanks

Woodstock Academy

Austin Jacob Froehlich
Natasha Maria Aleszczyk
Brianna W. Bailey
Jacob Oliver Bowen
Hannah Joy Budd
Jaliene Collard
Samantha Anne Geddes
Thomas A. Hewitt
Ann C. Hixson
Kristen Leigh Kozey

Salena Marie Lewis
Morgan Madison Lundy
John Mol
Adam Naughton
Danielle Lynn Phaneuf
Gregory Paul Roto
Matthew John Roy
Michael A. Thompson
David Thomas Whittenburg