

Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15

The October 1 student count at Eastford Elementary School was 139. The October 1 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 59. In addition, eight students attended Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School, two students attended Killingly Regional Agricultural Center, one attended Windham Technical School and one student attended Quinebaug Valley Middle College High School. Additionally, one student attended Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy and one student attended Arts at the Capitol Theater (ACT) Magnet 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.

2014-15
Board of Education Goals

- I. Educational Leadership
 - A. Support opportunities for Eastford educators to access professional development that will lead to improved student learning.
 - B. Discuss and analyze data related to the performance of Eastford students in secondary and post-secondary education and careers.

- II. Organizational Management
 - A. Update policies to reflect current laws and review policies that have not been updated in more than ten years.
 - B. Maintain and improve school facilities in accordance with a multi-year plan.
 - C. Negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with the Eastford teachers
 - D. Explore ways to achieve greater efficiency as a school district by cooperating with other districts, the town and/or Woodstock Academy for:
 - 1. Shared services
 - 2. Cooperative programs
 - 3. Sharing of staff

- III. Community and BOE Relations:
 - A. Develop strategies for improving community participation in budget/facilities requests

2014-15 Superintendent Goals

- I. Educational Leadership
 - Review curricular resources and documents to reflect the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). This will include library resources, subscriptions and technology

**Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15**

II. Organizational Management

- A. Personnel: Implement the SEED System for Educator Evaluation and Development (SEED) plan for Administrators.
- B. Assist the Board in negotiating a collective bargaining agreement with the Eastford teachers.
- C. Policy: Assist the Board in Updating policies to reflect current laws and review policies that have not been updated in more than ten years.
- D. Facilities: Maintain and improve school facilities in accordance with a multi-year plan.

III. Community and BOE Relations:

Collaborate with the new principal in strengthening community and family/school partnerships.

2014-15 Principal's Goal

Students will improve their RIT (Rasch Unit) scores on the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments in Reading, Mathematics and Language. The RIT scale is an equal-interval vertical scale. The difficulty and complexity of each MAP assessment question is measured using the RIT scale. A student's RIT score indicates the level at which the student was answering questions correctly 50% of the time. Students' academic performance will be compared relative to national achievement and growth norms.

2014-15 Eastford Elementary School Goal

Improve student narrative, informational and opinion/argument writing through strategy instruction while utilizing the writing center as a resource for additional support using data from student checklists.

Goals and Accomplishments

1. The most important accomplishment of the year was the assimilation of a new principal at the Eastford Elementary School. The process of hiring Heather Tamsin took place during the previous fiscal year so that Mrs. Tamsin could begin July 1, 2014. Many of the goals focused on providing support for the success of the new principal. With the assistance of all stakeholders, Mrs. Tamsin's year was productive and she not only successfully continued the many programs already available at Eastford Elementary School, but also led the staff in a renewed focus on Writing by drawing from the precepts of the Columbia University's Teachers College *Reading and Writing Project* for pedagogy and assessment. Additionally, it was Mrs. Tamsin's responsibility to guide the staff through the first administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and Eastford students performed well.
2. During the 2014-15 school year, numerous facilities projects were completed; these are listed in this report. Updated policies are delineated in monthly minutes of the Board of Education. These minutes of general meetings and standing committees— facilities, curriculum, policy, safety, scholarships and

Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15

transportation—are readily available by using the Board of Education dropdown menu on the school’s website (<http://www.eastfordct.org/>). This report highlights some of the accomplishments that are also found online by accessing the principal/superintendent reports.

Personnel

1. In addition to hiring Mrs. Heather Tamsin as principal, Miss Bethany Croxton was hired as a music teacher for the 2014-15 school year. She replaced Mrs. Necia Stopa who retired in June 2014.
2. Mrs. Julie Hemeon, Spanish Teacher and Mrs. Diane Martin, School Social Worker, resigned at the end of the 2014-15 school year.

Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities for the staff during the 2014-15 school year focused on 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 incorporating performance tasks into instruction. Staff members participated in a variety of professional development activities. These included:

1. For the August Professional Development Day, teachers
 - Discussed updates on new security measures and procedures;
 - Received materials and information from the Writing Pathways Units of Studies, by Lucy Calkins; and
 - Participated in a videoconference with trainers from PEG writing, an online writing program used with students in grades three through eight.
2. On the October and January Professional Development Days, teachers collaborated regarding mathematical performance tasks and writing strategies.
3. The District received an Assessment Reduction Grant, which allowed teachers to collaborate after school to inventory and analyze data provided by student assessments; performance tasks for instruction were developed as part of this process.
4. One Eastford teacher, Bethany Croxton participated in and completed TEAM, the state’s teacher induction program—Teacher Education and Mentoring.
5. Melissa Lessard received trainer certification and coached 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 and moderate behavioral incidents.
6. In addition to scheduled professional development days, staff members completed additional professional development activities that are highlighted in the principal’s monthly reports available on the school’s website.

Technology

1. The Eastford School District is fortunate to have TelePresence videoconferencing equipment. This equipment allows students to participate in workshops and courses as well as take field trips via Internet and video technology. Teachers

Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15

have worked collaboratively to gain comfort with the technology offering new opportunities across grade levels. Eastford students benefited from this equipment by participating in virtual programs offered by many organizations, including:

- Cleveland Institute of Music
 - The Mariner's Museum
 - Penn Museum
 - Toledo Zoo
 - East Central Ohio Educational Service Center
 - Fizzics Education, Australia
 - Cleveland Museum of Art
 - Creative Discovery Museum
 - Amon Carter Museum of American Art
 - George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
 - Alaska Museum
 - Milwaukee Public Museum
 - Longwood Gardens
 - Smithsonian American Art Museum
 - Penn Museum, Philadelphia
 - Durham Museum
2. Eastford Elementary School continues to utilize its extensive use of technology. Twenty new MacBook computers were added to the student collection during the 2014-15 school year, bringing the number of computers dedicated for student use up to around 115. All classrooms are equipped with interactive SmartBoards and at least one iPad.
3. The office staff upgraded technology tools during the 2014-15 school year:
- *IEP Direct* software was adopted for managing Individual Education Plans electronically; and
 - The Tyler *Infinite Visions* software that is used to manage the budget, payroll and accounts payable, was moved from a SQL server into the cloud.

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. Students in all grade levels attended theater productions at the Hyde Theater. Eastford Elementary School hosted a variety of cultural programs during the 2014-15 school year, many of which were made possible with funding from the PTO. These included:

- Magician, Joe Holiday;
- Chinese Acrobats;
- Energize Guyz;

Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15

- Connecticut Science Center Math Genie; and
- Anti-Bullying laser-light show.

Cocurricular Programs

1. Three sports seasons were offered for middle school students—fall, winter and spring— 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 learn how to use leisure time effectively, they are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. During the 2014-15 school year, the funds were used to sponsor after school/holiday enrichment programs. More than one-third of EES students participated in after-school programs such as making scarecrow decorations, holiday green decorations, building gardening kits, keyboarding, chess and Lego building. Additionally, the LPC sponsored a field trip on a Professional Development Day to the Mystic Aquarium.
3. Catie Botting, a parent and drama enthusiast, organized a successful Drama program for EES students. Twenty-six students participated in drama activities that culminated in a springtime production of *Stanley the Stalwart Dragon*. The playwright "Skyped" with students and sent in an autographed copy of the accompanying book for the EES library.
4. During the 2014-15 school year, the Board of Education facilitated the Before and After School Program for the fourth year. Melinda King was the primary childcare worker and Tammy Hull, Kathryn LaRose, Carla Harrington and Alaina Kilburn assisted.
5. Carole McCombe, Candice Mead, Juliana Fox and Meribeth Tedisky facilitated a well-established Homework Club.

Special Event

Families in grades two through six were invited for a Family Math Night hosted by Lori Reynolds, Carole McCombe, Julie Fox and Joan Muller. Families participated in math related activities and left with a set of dice and a packet with various dice games. More than 100 people attended.

Facilities

1. The Board of Education's Facilities Committee began its multiyear plan to remove and replace the underground oil tank by hiring Lenard Engineering to draw up the plans. With the plans ready, it is hoped that the project will go out to bid in the early part of 2016 and completed during the summer of 2016.
2. The Board of Education's Facilities Committee implemented its long-term plan for improving the drainage on the east side of the 1949 and 1963 buildings. Joseph Polulech, Civil Engineer, had been hired to draw up plans and the town put the project out to bid and hired the Ricon Corporation to install piping, gravel and the two catch basins necessary to improve drainage. This project was completed during the summer of 2014.

Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15

3. Bill Lukas of American Heritage Roofing was hired to replace gutters and downspouts on three main wings of the school building. This project was completed during the summer of 2014.
4. Steve Bell was contracted to improve the cupola on the 1949 wing of the school. He repaired the rotted wood and sanded other parts.
5. New speakers and an improved sound system were installed in the gymnasium to greatly improve the sound quality.
6. The last of the old blinds were replaced. All rooms of the school now have shades.
7. The State awarded Eastford Elementary School a School Security Grant. This grant allowed the purchase of a number of items to update the security of the building. The most prominent update was a video surveillance system. Additionally, two-way radios were updated as well as the school signage and classroom door handles.
8. Jim Houghton from the Wood Protection Company has created an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan.
9. A roof replacement schedule was developed for the school.
10. LaFramboise Water Services, Millenium Water LLC became the new water operators for the School and Town Hall's well.
11. The connector between the flat gym roof and the shingled roof in the 1991 wing was in poor condition. To eliminate this problem, that section, part flat and part shingled, was replaced in the spring of 2015.

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, and community outreach and book fairs.
2. The Middle School fund-raising group sponsored its thirteenth 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 pasta dinner and magazine fund-raiser.

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: Lori Crocker-Lincoln led this committee that also included Elizabeth Rhynhart, Juliana Fox, Michelle Bibeault, Matthew Cook, Gerald Marmat, Heather Tamsin and Linda Loretz. This team ensures that individualized goals for intervention are developed by math, reading and writing 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.

Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15

2. The Readiness Council, which is governed by the School and the Town, is a group of citizens concerned with matters related to children who are not yet school-aged. It is the duty of the Readiness Council to develop and implement policies for and to provide ongoing monitoring of the School Readiness Preschool Program. Readiness Council members included Jacki Budd, Jennifer Barlow, Janelle Marengo, Linda Loretz, Theresa Neely, Terry Cote, Ashlyn Ellsworth, Christine Kopplin, Heather Tamsin, Susan Shead, Robin Bibeault and Michelle Bibeault.
3. Eastford Elementary School continued to work closely with the Eastford Independent Fire Company. Gordon Spink, Eastford Fire Chief, was instrumental in improving evacuation procedures and overall safety guidelines. Jeannine Spink worked closely with staff in keeping CPR and First Aid certifications up-to-date as well as meeting with all classes regarding fire safety and first aid.
4. Members of the Congregational Church of Eastford provided multiple after-school enrichment programs for students. The youth group from the Eastford Baptist Church offered volunteer services to the school and provided an outdoor cleanup during the 2014-15 school year.
5. A long-term collaboration with the Union School District for sports and the Washington, D.C. trip recently expanded to include student dances and other activities.
6. During the 2014-15 school year, a collaborative arrangement was established with the Pomfret School District to share a Pupil Services Director. Interviewing took place at the end of the school year and Mrs. Mary Jo Chretien was set to start the year in Pomfret and Eastford on July 1, 2015.
7. The Eastford School District continues to participate in a number of collaborative agreements with EastConn, the Regional Education Service Center:
 - Birth to Three Student Services
 - Adult Education Services
 - Cooperative Purchasing Agreements for supplies and fuel
 - Magnet School Agreement
 - Readiness Compliance Oversight

**Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15**

EIGHTH GRADE AWARDS

Eighth Grade Awards	
Marilyn Krom, PTO	Victoria Arnold
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Nikolas Jakubowski
Olivette Kozey	Kyle Buell
Allen James Day	Taina Rodriguez Ely Driscoll
Roger Mason Day	Emily Belanger
William Shand Memorial	Justin Wise
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Ely Driscoll
Otto F. King	Shannon Hermann
American Legion	Luke Mathewson
Joseph St. King	Avery Beausoleil
The ETA Local Hero	Madelyn Grube Ely Driscoll
Arboriculture Award	Ivy Young
Math/Science/Tech	Jonathan Latham
Humanities	Kelsey Tyler Nicole Marmat
Presidential Academic Fitness	Madelyn Grube Ely Driscoll
William S. Warren	Madelyn Grube

**Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15**

During the 2014-15 school year, Board of Education Citizen of the Trimester awards were presented to

- First Trimester: Abigail Horton & Ely Driscoll
- Second Trimester: Nathan Budd & Izetta Asikainen
- Third Trimester: Cadence Pittman & Mia Edwards

Nikolas Jakubowski and Madelyn Grube were the recipients of the CAPSS (Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents) Superintendent's Award.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship	Recipient(s)
The Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship Award	Hannah Budd
The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Jason Albrecht Morgan Lundy
The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship	Kara Singleton
The Emil Vaida Scholarship	Kara Singleton
The Esther and Lucie Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship Fund	Jason Albrecht Hannah Budd Sierra Goodwin Abigail Willis
The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship	Sierra Goodwin
Mary King Sharpe Memorial Business Scholarship	Abigail Willis
Ethel Gardner Music Scholarship	Stacey Yazo Ryan Whittenburg

**Shaping Futures Together
Annual Report
2014-15**

Eastford Elementary School 2015 EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Victoria Arnold
Avery Beausoleil
Emily Elise Belanger
Kyle Matthew Buell
Ely Bushnell Driscoll
Madelyn Jane Grube
Shannon Elizabeth Hermann
Nikolas M. Jakubowski
Jonathan James Latham
Nicole Marie Marmat
Luke Morgan Mathewson
Taina Rodriguez
Kelsey May Tyler
Justin Wise
Ivy Sweet Young

Eastford 2015 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Arts at the Capitol Theater Magnet School

Caitlyn Rodriguez

H.H. Ellis Technical High School

Adam Hull
Jeremy Alexander

Woodstock Academy

Jason Albrecht
Alexander Aleszczyk
Isabella Belanger
Rebekah Budd
Caitlyn Chapman
Jonathan Espada
Sierra Goodwin
Peter Howard
Kyle Lingard
Kiana Percy
Jordan Phaneuf
Melanie Phaneuf
Kara Singleton
Sarah Torcellini
Kyle Tyler
Daniel Whittenburg
Abigail Willis