

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

The October 1 student count at Eastford Elementary School was 133. One elementary student attended Charles H. Barrows STEM Academy. The October 1 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 55. Eastford high school students also attended the following schools: six attended Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School; two attended Killingly Regional Agricultural Center; one attended Windham Technical School and one 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.

2015-16
Board of Education Goals

- I. Educational Leadership
 - A. Support data-driven methods to ensure that Eastford students demonstrate learning growth in core subjects.
 - B. Obtain 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 paraprofessionals, custodians and nurse
 - 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

2015-16 Superintendent Goals

I. Educational Leadership

Work with the principal and teachers to review results of the Assessment

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

Reduction Grant Project and determine appropriate data for documenting the growth of Eastford Elementary Students in core subjects

II. Organizational Management

- A. Personnel: Ensure that administrators and teachers effectively use the established Educator Evaluation and Professional Development Plans to manage student learning.
- B. Assist the Board in negotiating a collective bargaining agreement with the Eastford paraprofessionals, custodians and nurse.
- 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 principal and pupil services director in strengthening community and family/school partnerships.

2015-16 Principal's Goals

- 1. To support teachers in supplementing the current *Reading Street Program* with increased level of challenge in questioning and providing writing strategies throughout instruction while incorporating performance tasks to support the success of all learners.
- 2. To use the district data to ensure that all students are making growth and identify trends for potential curricular needs.

2015-16 Eastford Elementary School Goal

To improve student achievement through the inclusion of cross-curricular performance tasks that require students to demonstrate and apply their knowledge and skills. All teachers will create and contribute tasks that directly connect to the 'claims' reported in the SBAC results to improve student performance.

Goals and Accomplishments

- 1. This report highlights some of the accomplishments; more can be accessed online by reading committee reports and the principal/superintendent reports on the Board of Education's dropdown menu on the school's website (<http://www.eastfordct.org>)
- 2. During the 2015-16 school year, numerous facilities projects were completed; these include:
 - a. The Board of Education requisitioned plans and went out to bid for two items on its long-term list of highest priority capital projects—the replacement of the underground oil storage tank and the digging of a new well.

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

- b. The temporary classroom, which is not ADA accessible, was converted to a storage room and a panel was installed on the stage to allow the stage to be used as a general music and band room.
 - c. Much work was accomplished toward the long-term goal of ensuring that the building is more energy efficient. These discussions led to preliminary planning for upgrades to the heating systems.
3. The Board finished a five-year review of all policies, which culminated in the review of bylaws during the 2015-16 school year. Updated policies are delineated in monthly minutes of the Board of Education and access to all policies is on the website.
4. The Board rejuvenated its Scholarship Steering Committee and began collaborating with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut to establish a non-endowed scholarship fund as a companion to one of its endowed funds.

Personnel

1. A new School Social Worker, Karen Bergin was hired to begin the 2015-16 School Year.
2. During the 2015-16 school year, custodian Robert Willis resigned and Charles Bowen was hired to take his place.
3. Since the Board of Education was unable to hire a Spanish teacher to fill the vacancy, students in grades seven and eight participated in online instruction with teachers of Spanish, French, Chinese and Latin.

Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities for the staff during the 2015-16 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 and increased rigor into instruction. Staff members participated in a variety of professional development activities. These included:

1. For the August Professional Development Day, teachers
 - a. Participated in mandated trainings related to child abuse and safety;
 - b. Discussed Technology skills progression that had been developed in the summer;
 - c. Continued work on *Writing Pathways Units of Study*; and
 - d. Joined Woodstock Academy and other sending schools for a motivational speaker; John Perricone.
2. The October and March Professional Development Days were designed to allow opportunities for the Eastford teachers to collaborate on the

implementation of the *Writing Pathways Units of Study* and the NWEA: MAP (Northwest Evaluation Association: Measure of Academic Progress)

- a. Lori Reynolds provided a workshop in response to the teachers' desire to learn how to better support reluctant writers. She also incorporated technological resources that can be used to engage students in discussions.
 - b. Elizabeth Rhyhart and Lori Crocker-Lincoln provided opportunities for teachers to explore the Learning Continuum resource and the new Quadrant Report in NWEA Maps. The report places students on a grid to identify whether they are high achievement/high growth, high achievement/low growth, low achievement/high growth or low achievement/low growth in each of the tested areas.
3. The District received an instructional coach grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education, which allowed teachers to collaborate with Donna Drasch, consultant from EASTCONN, to continue developing activities designed to increase the rigor of instruction in Mathematics and English Language Arts. These coaching opportunities occurred over ten sessions throughout the school year.
 4. Melissa Lessard maintained trainer certification in PMT (Physical and Psychological Management Training) and coached other staff members who renewed their certifications in PMT. In this program, staff members learn appropriate ways to deescalate students and moderate behavioral incidents with students.
 5. In addition to scheduled professional development days, staff members completed other 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. Eastford students benefited from this equipment by participating in virtual programs offered by many organizations, including:
 - Cleveland Museum of Art
 - Philadelphia Museum of Art
 - Penn Museum
 - Toledo Zoo
 - Royal Botanical Gardens (Canada)
 - Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology, Harvard University
 - History Connects from the Virginia Historical Society

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

- Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center
 - Center for Puppetry Arts
 - Ohio History Connection
 - Milwaukee Public Museum
 - Critical Language Service
 - Smithsonian American Art Museum
 - Authors on Call/iNK Think Tank
 - Challenger Learning Center
 - Andrew Jackson's Hermitage
 - Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center
 - Inspired Classroom
 - Alaska SeaLife Center
 - Pro Football Hall of Fame
 - Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
 - Burritt on the Mountain: A Living Museum
 - SOITA (Southwestern Ohio Instructional Technology Association)
 - Longwood Gardens
2. Eastford Elementary School continues to utilize technology in all academic areas since there are more than 100 laptops available to students and all classrooms are equipped with interactive SmartBoards and at least one iPad.

Cultural Programs

Students at all grade levels attended theater productions at the Hyde Theater. Eastford Elementary School hosted a variety of cultural programs during the 2015-16 school year, many of which were made possible with funding from the PTO.

These included:

- Magician, Joe Holiday;
- Barnya; Russian Dance Troupe;
- Nutrition Assembly, *Food Play*;
- Super Cool Science Show;
- Winter Holiday 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 youngsters learn how to use leisure time effectively, they are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol. During the 2015-16 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 scarecrow

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

decorations, origami, soap carving, model rockets and birdhouses, holiday crafts and Legos. There were 20 sessions offered across all grade levels. Additionally, the LPC sponsored two field trips on the Professional Development Days to the Children's Museum in West Hartford and the EcoTarium in Worcester.

3. Catie Botting, a parent and drama enthusiast, organized a successful Drama program for EES students. Fourteen students participated in drama activities that culminated in a final showcase performance.
4. During the 2015-16 school year, the Board of Education facilitated the Before and After School Program for the fifth year. Melinda King was the primary childcare worker and Mikaila Shirshac, Kathryn LaRose, Carla Harrington and Alaina Kilburn assisted.
5. Carole McCombe, Candice Mead, Juliana Fox, Lori Reynolds, Lori Crocker Lincoln and Meribeth Tedisky facilitated a well-established Homework Club four days per week.

Special Event

Families and community members were invited to participate in a S.T.E.A.M.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics and More) Night hosted by Candice Mead and Joan Muller in April 2016. Many staff members participated in the evening's overall success. Student work was available for parents to observe and community members and organizations provided information on science topics and environmental issues. More than 200 people attended.

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, Bike to School Day, and community outreach and book fairs.
2. The Middle School fund-raising group sponsored its fourteenth 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 represent ongoing efforts that involve the Board of Education and Eastford Elementary Staff working collaboratively with parents and other

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

stakeholders:

1. Professional Development and Curriculum Committee: Lori Crocker-Lincoln led this committee that also included Elizabeth Rhynhart, Juliana Fox, Michelle Bibeault, 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.
2. The Readiness Council, which is governed by the Board of Education 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, Catherine Depercio, Jennifer Barlow, Janelle Marengo, Jenn Norman, Linda Loretz, 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 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 2015-16 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. A collaborative arrangement has been established with the Pomfret School District to share a Pupil Services Director.
7. The Eastford School District continues to share a media specialist/school librarian with the Hampton School District. Additionally, it shares a music teacher with the Plainfield School District.
8. The Eastford School District continues to participate in a number of collaborative agreements with EastConn, the Regional Education Service Center:
 - a. Birth to Three Student Services
 - b. Adult Education Services

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

- c. Cooperative Purchasing Agreements for supplies and fuel
- d. Magnet School Agreement
- e. Readiness Compliance Oversight

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

EIGHTH GRADE AWARDS

Award	Recipient(s)
Marilyn Krom, PTO	Jack Savage
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Matthew Gaudreau
The Principal's Recognition Award	Kayla McKinney & Nathaniel Johnson
Olivette Kozey	Zoe Marshall
Allen James Day	Mia Edwards & Danielle Chaput
Roger Mason Day	Zoe Marshall
William Shand Memorial	John Tasko
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Mia Edwards
Otto F. King	Kayla Gaudreau
American Legion	Zachary Bertram
Joseph St. King	Judy Thavone
The ETA Local Hero	Austin Varrieur
Arboriculture Award	Diamond Green
Math/Science/Tech	Izetta Asikainen
Humanities	Danielle Chaput
Presidential Academic Fitness	Izetta Asikainen, Danielle Chaput, Eva Farutin, Kayla Gaudreau, Zoe Marshall
William S. Warren	Zoe Marshall

During the 2015-16 school year, Board of Education Citizen of the Trimester awards were presented to:

First Trimester: Pola Wysocki
Second Trimester: Jack Savage
Third Trimester: Emily Hull

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

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The following Scholarships were issued by the Eastford Board of Education along with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and the Hartford Foundation:

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

The following awards were issued by Woodstock Academy:

Award	Recipient
Accounting Award	Seth Budd
Outstanding Achievement in History	Robert Johnson
Charles Couture Memorial Award	Robert Johnson
Outstanding Achievement in Mandarin 1	Lauren Perry
Douglas Foisy Memorial Scholarship	Kassidy Stewart

Eastford Elementary School
Annual Report 2015-16

Eastford Elementary School 2016 EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES

Izetta Lynn Asikainen
Zachary Peter Bertram
Danielle R. Chaput
Mia Ann Kozey Edwards
Eva Natalya Farutin
Kayla Mackenzie Gaudreau
Matthew Leslie Gaudreau
Diamond Green
Nathaniel Patrick Johnson
Zoe A. Marshall
Kayla Elizabeth McKinney
Jack Henry Savage
John M. Tasko II
Judy Thavone
Austin Brian Varrieur

Eastford 2016 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Quinebaug Middle College
Andrew Hughes

H.H. Ellis Technical High School
Zakary Harakaly

Windham Technical High School
Evan Krukoff

Woodstock Academy
Alexander Basto
Jacob Belanger
Seth Budd
Mary DeJesse
Kyle Dziekan
David Jakubowski
Robert Johnson
Alena Klee
Teagan Lynch
Lauren Perry
Elise Schiavetti
Kassidy Stewart