



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: April 7, 2023
 Subject: April Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- The Washington, D.C. trip will be May 16 – May 19, 2023. Students in both grade 7 and grade 8 will attend. A parent meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 5:00 PM.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 take monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.

Virtual Field Trips through the Center for Interactive Learning (CILC)

None scheduled at this time.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled. Eleven students are 4-year olds who will move on to kindergarten next year. Six will remain in PK with space for eleven newcomers. We currently have 13 who have registered or are in the process.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held virtually on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM. The Council is updating policies and procedures to be ready for NAEYC re-accreditation in the spring of 2024. The Council sent out their annual Needs Assessment Survey to all families with children under the age of 5. The results will be used to connect with families on matters regarding early childhood resources and to inform us about enrollment interest in our preschool and kindergarten programs. At their April meeting the council discussed enrollment and prioritization of available spaces based on OEC and Readiness grant guidelines and our Readiness Council policies.

Update on Grants:

School Mental Health Workers Grant: With the money we qualify for this year, we have posted a position looking for a part time school social worker. We will utilize some of the money to defray costs already expended on evaluations, student mental health needs and 0.2 FTE of the school counselor position.

School Safety Grant Program (SSGP):

The State has opened another round of funding available to public and non-public schools for areas of school safety. This is a reimbursement grant, so we are applying to use the grant to fund projects that have already been paid for out of the budget for which we did not receive reimbursement for through the Security Grant program during the last round. Our grant application will be submitted by the end of April.

Lowe's Hometowns Grant:

Our application for this grant has been submitted. We are applying for funds to renovate the school gymnasium space. This will include the floor, bleachers, wall padding and basketball hoops. If awarded the grant, we would be eligible for up to \$300,000.00 for gym renovations that would need to be completed between June and November 2023. We are still waiting to hear about acceptance of this grant.

School Readiness Grant: We will complete the grant application before the end of April. Funding will remain the same as in past years. The Quality Enhancement (QE) component of the grant will be used for purchased services to support renewing our portfolio submission for NAEYC reaccreditation and for needed classroom supplies to remain compliant with NAEYC regulations.

Data on Student Progress:

Student led conferences in March were successful. We will likely hold traditional conferences in the fall and continue with student-led conferences in the spring for grades 5-8 next school year. Teachers in grades 3-8 are utilizing the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) to monitor student progress toward mastering standards. The IABs are resources from the State Department of Education, and they align with the standards and types of questions students will see when they take the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) in the spring. Students in grades 3-8 will take the SBAC and students in grades 5 and 8 will take the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) beginning the week of April 24 and continuing through the month of May. Students in grades 4 and 8 are also practicing during PE classes to be assessed according to the national standards for physical fitness. These assessment results are one of the 12 components we are rated on for our district's "report card".

High School Information:

Three of our eighth-grade students have been accepted and plan to attend Ellis Tech in the fall. One student plans to attend Killingly Ag Ed. The remaining seven students will attend The Woodstock Academy.

Professional Development:

- I continue to work with EastConn staff on a regular basis to incorporate the Eastford "Portrait of a Learner" (POL) into our existing and developing curriculum documents and continue our work on building a positive learning community with the goal of developing students as "leaders of their own learning". I attend monthly Regional collaborations through EastConn with the State Department, area administrators and curriculum directors. There is additional focus this year on The Science of Reading and new CSDE requirements that will impact reading and language arts curriculum and assessments beginning July 2023.
- EastConn staff support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM). ELA teachers also receive support on integrating Units of Study with our Portrait of a Learner.
- On May 9 Ms. Murana and I will attend training on Section 504 plans through SERC- the State Education Resource Center. Ms. Murana is the case manager for all the school 504 plans.
- On May 12 we will have an early dismissal for students so that staff may engage in professional development. Math teachers will work with EastConn staff to compile a pacing

guide to monitor our implementation of the new IM math program as we go into our second year of using these materials.

- Governor Lamont proclaimed May 26 as “Get outside and play for student mental health day”. As a result, we will plan outdoor activities on this day. Our traditional field day is scheduled for June 2 with a PTO sponsored cultural event, BMX stunt bike rider Chris Poulos. He will perform stunts and talk with students about character development and good decision making.

Community and other events:

- Ms. Murana hosts a monthly grandparents’ group at the school. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers are invited to attend for coffee and conversation.
- During the last two weeks of April, we will be asking students and parents to complete our annual Climate Survey. The Survey results help to inform us about areas that we are doing well in, and it highlights the areas that we need to continue working to improve on. We should have survey results to present at the May Board of Education Meeting.
- On April 20 Ms. Murana and Mrs. Boyd will host “Breakfast With Books,” an event for the students and families involved in the PALS program.
- On April 25 students in grades PK-4 will be showcased in a musical performance called “The Alphabet Adventures of Sometimes Y.” There will be an in-school performance and an evening performance.
- On May 2 students in grades 2-8 will be demonstrating their talents in the Eastford School Talent Show. This event will be held at 6:30 PM.
- On May 18 both Preschool and Kindergarten will hold an orientation evening for incoming families. There will be free childcare available for these events.
- On May 30 Sally Rogers will present a program for grades K and 1 about the Science of Sound.

Special Thanks to:

- Mrs. Farrell-Denke for applying for and taking sixth grader Aaron Minor to the CMEA music awards banquet at the Connecticut Convention Center on March 30. Aaron was able to perform individually and with a group of over 100 fifth and sixth graders. What great exposure to highlight his musical ability!
- Mr. Salsich for securing books through First Books Marketplace (firstbooks.org) so that our sixth graders could present a new book that they read and then gave to every first grader. He is working to also obtain new books to have on hand for Read Across America week next school year.