

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: August 18, 2022
Subject: August Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Washington, D.C. – The auction committee will need to begin planning soon if we plan to go ahead with an auction in November to support a trip in May. We have been communicating our need for someone to chair the auction committee to get things started. I would like to combine grades 7 and 8 for the DC trip this year. There are ten students in grade 7 and eleven students in grade 8.
- On September 29 grades 7 and 8 will participate in an overnight trip to Mystic Seaport and spend the night on the Amistad.

Virtual Field Trips:

None scheduled at this time.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 16 students with another student expected to enroll in January. Ten students are 4-year olds and seven are new to the program. We received 21 registrations for enrollment in preschool for the 2022-2023 school year. Staff held two opportunities for preschool screening over the summer to determine typical or atypical development of students as we are obligated to provide services to those who may not be following a typical development pattern.

Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. Garvie will hold a meet and greet for preschool and kindergarten students and families on August 29 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

The first meeting this year will be on September 6 at 5:30 PM and thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month at the same time. They plan to continue holding meetings virtually. We have been awarded both the Readiness and Quality Enhancement grants for 2022-2023.

Data on Student Progress:

Preliminary results of student SBAC and NGSS scores have been released to districts. We expect that family reports will be sent to districts for distribution in September. The chart below shows student achievement. I will have additional comparison data for the September meeting.

Percent of students at goal or higher on SBAC and NGSS (Level 3 and Level 4)

Grade: 2022	Math	ELA	Science
3	80%	85%	
4	72%	57%	
5	58%	74%	79%
6	60%	50%	
7	60%	80%	
8	8%	33%	33%

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”. Our strategic improvement plan has been updated for 2022-2025. I will share the plan with staff on our early PD days and with the Curriculum Committee at our first meeting.
- EastConn staff will support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM).
- August 29 and Sept. 2 Professional Development will include:
 - Support from EastConn staff to continue our work from last year on SEL, developing meaningful learning targets that integrate SEL and curriculum standards, acclimating new staff (6 certified and 3 paraprofessionals)
 - Work with consultant Sonia Greene on understanding student behavior and helping students learn to self-monitor and self-regulate their emotions and behavior
 - Training from IM for math teachers on launching the new math program in grades K-8
 - Overview of updated manuals, plans and curriculum documents and resources
 - Updated Covid requirements and protocols
 - Mandated trainings
 - Security protocols

New Staff, Assignments and Anticipated Enrollment:

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members: Mary Polchaninoff – Director of Pupil Services, Dawn Bisson – grade 3, James Salsich - 5-8 ELA, Kelly Farrell-Denke – instrumental music, Jennifer Weinland – art, and Nicholas Cody – health and PE. Paraprofessional interviews will take place on August 19. I will provide an update at the next meeting on those new hires.

Kopplin (PK): 16	Dill (4): 21
Garvie (K): 16	Grade 5: 8
Rhynhart (1): 16	Grade 6: 22
Lincoln (2): 21	Grade 7: 10
Bisson (3): 11	Grade 8: 11

Primary Mental Health Project (PMHP) –The PMHP grant received last year was a two-year grant. The PALS program will run again this school year and Mrs. Sarah Boyd will be our childcare associate that will administer this program under the supervision of Ms. Murana, school counselor.

After School Grant – The After School Grant was a two year grant. After school programming will continue free of charge to families for students in grades K-8. Programming options will include:

- Child care
- Academic support/homework club
- Movement and play-based activities, organized and independent
- Enrichment and STEM options
- Family engagement and workshop opportunities

Fall Sports Update:

We plan to offer a co-ed soccer team this fall and play in the QVJC league following the boys' soccer schedule. We have 12 interested boys and 2 interested girls. Union School has 4 students interested in joining us pending Board approval. Mrs. Jennifer Barlow will be the coach.

Community and other events:

- Mr. Kernan will run a New Teacher Orientation on August 25
- PK and Kindergarten Meet and Greet: August 29 from 3:00 to 3:45 PM
- Dr. Boucher will be onsite on September 1 to conduct sports physicals
- First soccer game at Canterbury on September 16
- On September 20 grade 8 students will visit The Woodstock Academy for a Student Open House
- EES Open House for PK-8 and High School information booths: September 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. PTO will sponsor an ice cream social in conjunction with this event
- School pictures with Irvin Simon Photographers: September 27

I would like to extend sincere thanks to:

- Jeremy Barlow for bringing a small bobcat and helping spread 50 yards of mulch on the playground! This was a huge help to our custodial staff
- Lauren Barlow, Cassie Roto, Diane Barlow and PTO volunteers for maintaining the landscaping in front of the school – planting, weeding, pruning, mulching and watering as needed throughout the summer
- Cody Rogers, a community member who donated a copious amount of school supplies for office and staff and filled backpacks for students in need
- Gary Whittenburg for donating and delivering sand for our playground sandboxes
- Dale Lundy and Chris Pittman for their hard work in preparing the building for another school year and for waxing the floors in the lower level of the Town Office Building
- To the many staff members who volunteered time on interview committees for the selection of our new staff members. Many hours were put in to ensure that we have the most qualified staff for the start of the school year