

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Subject: Report to the Board of Education
Date: June 3, 2022

Field Trips:

- On June 9, students in grade 3 will host the third graders from Scotland Elementary School. The group will participate in an author presentation and an activity.
- On June 9, students in grade 5 will travel to Plimoth Plantation in Plymouth, MA to explore the living history museum.
- On June 13, grade 1 students will travel to Roger Williams Zoo in Rhode Island.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled. Additionally, Readiness staff conducts screenings by appointment for children ages three and four that are not enrolled in the program. We are planning for two dates over the summer to hold screening opportunities for Eastford three, four and five year olds that are not currently attending our preschool or kindergarten programs.

We continue to learn about more students involved with Birth to Three that we are obligated to provide services for and this is also limiting the number of slots available for interested students. Enrollment is based on meeting students' developmental needs and maintaining a 60:40 ratio of families with income below and above the State Median Income (SMI) level.

Readiness Council Update:

The Council meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The June 7 meeting will be the last meeting until September. The Council continues to review and revise policies to maintain compliance with NAEYC and the Office of Early Childhood.

Data on Student Progress:

Students in grades 3 through 8 have completed their Smarter Balanced and Next Generation Science Assessments. Results are expected to be shared with districts over the summer and student reports will be sent to families in the early fall. We will hold our trimester awards ceremony on June 10 at 8:45 AM to recognize students for their achievements over the third trimester.

Curriculum Updates:

Our math committee would like to recommend Illustrative Mathematics as our new math program for students in kindergarten through grade 8. The math committee has done extensive research into available programs and we feel that this program will best support our students and

staff in meeting the Common Core standards for mathematics, as well as our goals that align with our Portrait of an Eastford learner across the grades.

School Climate Survey and Progress Toward Goals:

Each year, annual climate surveys are given to students, staff and families. The results of the surveys inform areas of strength and areas for improvement. Staff goals based on this feedback will be developed for next school year. Survey data will be available at the meeting for review and it will be posted on the school website. A summary of the combined results is below:

Strengths/Improvement from last year	Areas for Growth
Good communication with families	More events where parents can interact with other parents
Students are appropriately challenged and well prepared socially and academically	Students should have more homework
Small size of school is a benefit	Increase culture and world exposure
Staff are well liked by parents	Better consistency with positive and negative reward system
School is responsive to family and student needs	Allow middle school kids to be more independent
Staff help students do their best	Consistently host sports teams
Students feel safe and have least one trusted adult to go to if needed	
Overall pleased with school efforts and student performance	
Overall culture and climate is positive and supportive	

Professional Development:

- We continue our partnership with EastConn support in the areas of social-emotional learning and restorative practices, and in incorporating the Reading and Writing Units of study resources across all grade levels. We plan to continue this work through next school year.
- The week of June 20, K-2 ELA teachers will receive training and support in utilizing the Phonics kits that accompany the Reading and Writing Units of Study. This same week, math teachers will receive initial professional development on accessing and utilizing the new math program digital resources.
- Numerous staff members continue to participate in virtual training on using the new state site (CTSEDS) for documenting IEPs and 504 plans. The official transition from our current system will take effect over the summer.

2022 Fall Sports Update:

Signups were conducted for boys and girls soccer for the fall of 2022. We have received confirmation of interest for 11 boys and 2 girls. We have let the QVJC league know that we can field one co-ed team if we are able to hire a coach. I have also invited students from Union School to join us. I have not received any confirmation of interest from them to date.

Community and Other Events:

- Field day for students in PreK-grade 8 will take place on Friday, June 10. Students in grades PreK-4 will participate in the morning and students in grades 5-8 will participate in the afternoon.
- The PTO will sponsor an assembly for grades PreK-4 on Field Day. Judi Jones will treat the audience to a hula-hoop presentation and provide a hula-hooping clinic for the students. PTO will also facilitate a pizza lunch option for all students on this day.
- We continue interviewing for a middle grades ELA teacher, Director of Pupil Services, and an art teacher. We have postings out for an instrumental music teacher and a soccer coach.
- I would like to thank Mrs. Jeannine Spink for providing CPR instruction to all students in grades 7 and 8. Twenty-two students have received CPR, First Aid and AED certification.
- I would also like to thank our PTO and community volunteers for spending time to work on and clean up the front gardens over the weekend. They look so much better!
- Another thank you goes to Mr. Tomanelli for leading students in lively singing of patriotic songs at the annual Eastford Memorial Day celebration.
- Grade 8 graduation will be held on June 16 at 7:00 PM in the school gym.
- EES will be a busy place over the summer weeks. Extended School Year (ESY) services will be provided to 15 students for two weeks in July and two weeks in August. Mrs. Moran and Mrs. Kopplin will facilitate this. On these same dates, a Summer STEM Enrichment program will be offered in conjunction with Mystic Aquarium. Students will travel to Mystic Aquarium each Friday during these weeks for hands on exploration of the classroom concepts. Mrs. Mead and Mr. Bridgewater will facilitate this program for 43 students.
- A summer sports camp organized by local church groups will use the school grounds and facilities during the week of July 18.
- Thank you and best wishes to 6 staff members who will not be returning in the fall: Mrs. Chretien, Mrs. Bardsley, and Mrs. Pittman who are retiring; and Mr. Burgess, Mr. Taft and Ms. Budd who will move on to other endeavors elsewhere.

We appreciate your years of service in education and to our students and families in Eastford!