

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Subject: Report to the Board of Education
Date: October 7, 2021

Field Trips:

Washington, D.C. trip: The Auction Committee will begin planning for an Auction in early March. We are working on finding a suitable place to stay for our students and discussing the feasibility of taking both grades 7 and 8 this year (22 students combined), and then combining again in two years (31 students).

Virtual Field Trips:

Author Valerie Marsh	Snakes Action Science: Snakes Rattle! Snakes Molt! Now You Try It!	Grade 1	10-15-2021
East Central Ohio Educational Service Center	Spooktacular Math and Mammals	Grade 4	10-22-2021
Center for Puppetry Arts	Anansi the Spider: A West African Folktale	Kindergarten	10-26-2021
Royal Botanical Gardens (Canada)	Insects in Winter	Grade 4	01-14-2022

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Readiness Program has 17 students enrolled as of October 12. Mrs. Kopplin is planning a family curriculum and information evening session on October 20. This will be held via Zoom based on family input.

Readiness Council Update:

The Council will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom.

Data on Student Progress:

Our Multi-tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) team (also referred to as Response to Intervention or RTI) meets three times each week to review student academic and social-emotional data and to assist teachers in developing goals and interventions to support student needs. All students in grades K-8 will be taking the NWEA assessment in October and again in March. This standardized measure will be compared with student Smarter Balanced results and classroom data to provide us with formative information that will be used to plan school-wide systems of support and daily instruction for students.

Student progress reports will go home with students on October 20.

Sports Update:

Our co-ed soccer team has two more scrimmages to play on October 13 and 14. They will wrap up their season with a pizza party after school on October 19.

We have collected commitment letters from students interested in playing basketball. We have 6 boys and 6 girls interested. This is not enough players for either of them to have a competitive team. I would like to propose that we plan for a co-ed, non-competitive team for basketball – similar to how we handled soccer. This will allow the players an opportunity to be part of a team, to practice their basketball skills and to be involved in an organized activity after school. We would invite neighboring towns to come to Eastford to scrimmage with us as it fits into their schedules.

Professional Development:

- Mrs. Jennifer Barlow will attend regular Math Council meetings through Eastconn. The first meeting is October 12.
- Ms. Murana will attend regular Social Emotional Council meetings through Eastconn. The next session will be on October 28.
- Mrs. Bibeault will be attending a series of workshops on Media in Early Literacy and Digital Tools through the Office of Early Childhood. The first session is on October 13.
- Mrs. DePercio will attend a series of trainings to be a Reflection Paper Reviewer for TEAM (Beginning teacher support program). She is also a mentor to two of our new staff members.
- Mr. Kernan is in his last year of coursework through UConn to complete his 092 certification. He continues his internship at Mansfield Middle School, visiting there once per month.
- 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 curriculum across all grade levels. Eastconn will provide additional support to staff on our professional development day scheduled for November 11.

Community and Other Events:

- Fire Prevention- we will have a modified fire prevention day on October 13. The bus company will also practice bus evacuations when students arrive at school that morning.
- The Woodstock Academy National Honor society members are offering free, virtual tutoring and homework help to students in grades 5-8. Students need to sign up in advance for a virtual time to meet. Information was included for families in the October Newsletter.
- High School Open Houses – local high schools will be providing area middle schools with information on upcoming virtual and in-person open houses, video information and brochures to distribute to students. Ms. Murana, school counselor, will be discussing high

school options and the application process with students. Up-to-date high school information can be found on Ms. Murana's section of the school website.

- School picture retakes will be held on November 19.
- Thank you to Jeannine Spink for providing a CPR refresher course for staff members in need and also for her donation of a large quantity of quality books for our library and our classrooms.
- Substitute art teacher, Ms. Rebekah Budd, is developing a student art gallery showcase in conjunction with Mrs. Platt at the Ivy Glenn Memorial Library. Work will be displayed according to the following schedule:

Grade 5: October 18 – November 1

Grade 6: November 1 – November 15

Grade 7: November 15 – November 29

Grade 8: November 29 – December 13

- The PTO fall fundraiser (Flower bulbs) will end on October 15. All orders need to be placed online by that time.
- The PTO is sponsoring a visit by author, Dana Rau on November 12. Students in PK-grade 6 will have an opportunity to learn about her and her craft as a writer. She is most known for her non-fiction series of *True Books*, early science readers and *Who Was* biographies.

