

Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: September 1, 2022
Subject: September 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. Additionally, a fall 2-day trip and a spring 2-day trip will be planned for these grades.

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.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

The first meeting this year will be on October 4 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.

2022-2023 School Year Updates:

We had a great start to our new school year. The buses were timelier than expected based on the route schedules that we were provided with. Both new and returning staff have acclimated to their new routines and students seem to be happy! We were also fortunate to have our new PE/Health teacher start with us on Sept. 1 – two weeks earlier than expected. We still have positions posted for a paraprofessional and for an office assistant.

We are also excited to have our new playground equipment - a climbing structure and swing set - installed on September 8 and 9.

Data on Student Progress:

Student SBAC and NGSS scores have been released to districts. We expect that family reports will be sent to districts for distribution in September. Mr. Kernan will share Eastford achievement and growth data and other comparison information at the meeting.

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 on September 8.
- EastConn staff will support our math teachers throughout the year as they navigate our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM).

Community and other events:

- Dr. Boucher will be onsite on September 1 to conduct sports physicals
- First soccer game at Canterbury on September 16
- 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
- The PTO will sponsor a social media and internet safety program for parents on September 27 beginning at 6:00 PM.
- The Woodstock Academy has changed the date for their grade 8 student open house to September 30
- Troop D initiative: They plan to have more troopers out in area schools this year doing walk-throughs both inside and outside of schools. Their goal is to be more visible in the community and help students and community members see them as a resource and not just someone who responds to an emergency.
- The CT State Police will again be offering the D.A.R.E. program to schools. Prior to COVID we had started a schedule of having grades 5 and 6 participate in the program every other year. This year grades 5, 6 and 7 will participate since grade 7 students missed their rotation.
- I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Jeannine Spink for providing CPR and AED training to staff on August 29. She is always willing to support EES in any way that she can.