

EASTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT
12 Westford Road
Eastford, CT 06242
(860) 974-1130
<https://www.eastfordct.org>

2022-2023 Annual Report

Board of Education

Stephen Bowen, Chairperson
Terry Cote, Vice-Chairperson
Adam Minor, Secretary
Lauren Barlow
Michael Bilica
Robert Ellsworth
Jessica Perry

Mission Statement and Annual Goals

We pledge to provide every one of Eastford's children entrusted to our care with the very best education to meet individual needs, to maintain a nurturing and caring environment, and to ensure for each child the necessary preparation for a productive and fulfilling life in our changing world.

**2022-2023 Board and Administrative Goals
Aligned with Strategic School Improvement Plan (2022-2025)**

Board of Education Goals

Student Achievement

- Monitor the quantitative and qualitative data provided by school administration relative to long-term planning goals as outlined in the Strategic Plan for the academic, social, and emotional growth of students at Eastford Elementary School with respect to national, state, and local assessments.
- Advocate for a budget that is responsive to the programmatic needs of all students, and the professional growth needs of district staff.

Climate and Culture

- Support the efforts of the administration as they work to protect and insure the well-being of staff and students through the provision of a safe and productive learning environment.
- Advocate for a budget that is responsive to the needed facility and maintenance updates in accordance with a long-term facilities plan.

Collaboration and Communication

- Collaborate and support the administration's efforts in the implementation of all components of the Eastford School District's Strategic Plan with a focus on expanding partnerships with all families and community partners.
- Continue to explore ways to achieve greater efficiency as a school district by cooperating with the community and other districts for shared services and staff as well as cooperative programs and purchases.

Superintendent Goals

Student Achievement

- Provide leadership and supports to the administrative team and school staff in the selection and implementation of curriculum programs and instructional practices that support the academic, social, and emotional well-being of all our students in measurable ways.
- Together with the administrative team, based on an analysis of qualitative and quantitative results, prioritize, and advise the Board of Education of the needed staffing, staffing supports, and quality instructional resources that support the implementation of engaging, challenging curriculum, that supports students in becoming leaders of their own learning in accordance with the Strategic Plan and the Eastford's Portrait of a Learner.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

Climate and Culture

- Apprise the BOE on an ongoing basis of the needed long-term facility, maintenance, and security projects that provide for a safe and secure environment for staff and students.

Collaboration and Communication

- Continue to provide leadership, support and resources needed to support and expand the family and community partnerships associated with the outcomes of our Strategic Plan.
- Advise the Board of Education as to opportunities for shared services and programs.

Principal Goals

Student Achievement

- *Support the implementation of engaging, challenging curriculum, aligned to the Eastford Portrait of a Learner, that supports students in becoming leaders of their own learning.*
 - Develop and implement strategies and research-based methods to improve student engagement, motivation, and achievement.
 - Support staff in developing student-friendly Learning Targets for core curricular areas that support student goal setting, self-reflection, and self-assessment.
 - Support development of a progression of grade level expectations for the skills in Eastford's Portrait of a Learner and support development of rubrics to assess student attainment of skills in Eastford's Portrait of a Learner.
 - Develop and implement curriculum and pacing guides for ELA and begin to document and develop pacing guides for Math, at each grade level that include prioritized standards, units, and assessments. (Grades K-8)

Climate and Culture

- *Foster a nurturing and caring environment for students and staff, building the skills and knowledge needed for social-emotional growth.*
 - Identify common SEL instructional practices to be integrated and implemented (including class meetings, proactive and responsive circles, restorative conferences to include questioning, fair process, and use of affective statements) and monitor fidelity of implementation.
 - In alignment with current legislation and CSDE initiatives, support staff understanding of SEL importance, components, strategies, and impact on learning through professional learning opportunities and learning walks.
 - Conduct, analyze, and use school climate survey results to set school improvement goals and track progress.

Communication and Partnerships

- *Develop and maintain supportive and engaging relationships with families and community partners that enhance student learning.*

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

- Encourage and support strategies for family and community communication related to Eastford's Portrait of a Learner and how it is being implemented with students.
- Seek opportunities to engage all families in the school community in a positive way.

Director of Pupil Services Goals

Student Achievement

- *Given the implementation of CT SEDS on July 1, 2022, to be used by all staff for special education and 504's, the following are required:*
 - Professional development as provided by CSDE for teachers, service providers, secretarial/clerical, and administrative staff.
 - Release time/substitutes to accomplish the above.
- Throughout the school year, the Director will interface with the RTI/Multitiered System of Supports team to assist with the early-intervening services and Child Find processes, including Gifted/Talented.

Climate and Culture

- Maintain and develop systems and documentation that support correct practices, particularly with the change in software platform to CT SEDS and during staffing changes.
- Facilitate biweekly meetings with staff and ongoing reference materials.
- *Improve the visibility of the role of the Director by:*
 - Professional Development of paraprofessionals and staff
 - Addressing staff at staff meetings for updates and goals
- Maintain responsible budgeting to adequately provide for students' needs both at EES and at other sites.
- Apply for grant funding as applicable.
- Monitor staffing requirements, including contracts for service providers.

Communication and Partnership

- Maintain and increase availability of information to community.
- Increase information provided at Board of Education meetings and documents.
- Provide information on the school website, with updates made as needed.
- Increase frequency of direct communication with general school community and targeted populations to include informational meetings.
- Communicate through emails, phone calls, and letters to specific individuals about timely topics.
- Hold informational sessions in person and/or via Zoom.
- Assure availability of information regarding identification, eligibility, and processes, particularly as the format of the IEP changes per CT SEDS. Examples will include newsletter contributions, flyers, and outreach to area agencies/organizations.

Accomplishments

This report highlights some of the many accomplishments that were attained in the Eastford School District during the 2022-2023 school year. Additional, more detailed information, can be accessed online by reading committee reports and the principal/superintendent reports on the Board of Education's dropdown menu on the school's website (<http://www.eastfordct.org>)

School Year

August 29, 2022, marked the first day for the staff of Eastford Elementary School and on August 30 we welcomed our students. The 2022-2023 school year included 182 student days and 186 certified staff days.

Student Enrollment

1. The total student enrollment as of October 1, 2022 for the Eastford School District was 218.
2. The October 1, 2022 student count at Eastford Elementary School was 152.
3. The October 1, 2022 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 49.
4. The October 1, 2022 student count for other high schools, including magnet schools and outplacements, was 17. Other high schools include Ellis Technical, Killingly Vocational, E.O. Smith, QMC and ACT.

Personnel

The staff of the Eastford School District includes:

Superintendent: Donna P. Leake, PhD.
Assistant to the Superintendent/Financial Assistant: Kymberli Gaylor
Director of Pupil Services: Mary Polchaninoff

The staff of Eastford Elementary School includes:

Principal: Carole McCombe
School Office Assistant: Mary Seguine
School Nurse: Catherine Roto
School Counselor: Stephanie Murana

Full Time Certified Staff:

Pre School-Teacher: Christine Kopplin
Kindergarten Teacher: Jessica Garvie
Grade 1 Teacher: Elizabeth Rhynhart
Grade 2 Teacher: Lori Crocker-Lincoln
Grade 3 Teacher: Dawn Bisson

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

Grade 4 Teacher: Megan Dill
Grades 5-8 Social Studies Teacher: Charles Kernan
Grades 5-8 Mathematics Teacher: Jennifer Barlow
Grades 5-8 ELA Teacher: James Salsich
Grades 3-8 Science Teacher: Candice Mead
Special Education: Patricia Moran and Heather Volpe
Physical Education/ Health Teacher: Nicholas Cody
Library/ Media Specialist: Michelle Bibeault

Part Time Certified Staff

Spanish Teacher: Catherine DePercio
Enrichment Teacher: Donna Lynch
Speech and Language Pathologist: Jennifer Daniels
Art Teacher: Jennifer Weinland
Music Teacher: Joseph Tomanelli
Instrumental Music Teacher: Kelly Farrell-Denke

Non- Certified Staff

Custodians: Dale Lundy and Christopher Pittman
Paraprofessionals: Samantha Boccacio, Lisa Hackner, Kristin Haynes, Emily Hull,
Tammy Hull, Alaina Kilburn, Carrie Lagasse, Daniel Lussier, Sarah Minor
Reading Interventionist: Diane Barlow
Library Media Assistant/ PALS Associate: Sarah Boyd
Before and After School: Melinda King, Laurie Smith, Danielle Laurito, Seth Budd

During the 2022-2023 school year the BOE hired the following staff members:

- Dawn Bisson – grade 3
- Mary Polchaninoff – Director of Pupil Services
- Jennifer Weinland – Art
- Kelly Farrell-Denke – Instrumental Music
- James Salsich – grades 5-8 ELA
- Nicholas Cody – Health and PE
- Catherine Toste – Speech & Language Pathologist
- Jennifer Daniels – Speech & Language Pathologist

Readiness- Pre School

- The Readiness Program had 17 students enrolled. Eleven students were 4-year-olds who will move on to kindergarten in 2023-2024. Six will remain in PK with space for eleven newcomers.
- Preschool held an Orientation evening on May 18, 2023 for those who will be attending in 2023-2024. There were also several transition activities planned to assist the current preschoolers in their transition to kindergarten.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

- The Readiness Council met the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom from September-June. The Council updated policies and procedures to be ready for NAEYC re-accreditation in the spring of 2024. The Council recently discussed raising the cap on Readiness Fees. Readiness fees will be capped at \$130 per week, and with next year's class we will begin charging students who receive special education services for their time in the program that is outside of their service hours.

Teacher Evaluation

The CSDE once again allowed for flexibility in teacher and administrator growth and evaluation for the 2022-2023 school year. Adoption of the Flexibilities was approved by our Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) and the Board of Education.

Professional Development

Professional development opportunities for the staff were provided on designated Professional Development days as well as through released time during the school year. These activities are carefully selected and/or planned to advance our Strategic Plan and align with district and school goals. Highlights of our professional development opportunities included:

- August 29 and September 2 Professional Development included:
 - 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, Ph.D. on understanding student behavior and helping students learn to self-monitor and self-regulate their emotions and behavior.
 - Training from Illustrative Mathematics (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.
- October 7 Professional Development Day for all staff featured:
 - Work with EastConn on incorporating learning targets that integrate our Portrait of a Learner with our academic curriculum and developing rubrics to monitor student acquisition of Portrait of a Learner traits.
 - Math Team collaboration and check-in with EastConn on using the new math materials.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

- Work with Sonia Greene, Ph.D. to move students toward independence in recognizing and addressing behaviors (self-regulation, executive function) that detract from learning.
- Michelle Bibeault assisted staff in understanding the format of and evolution of the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for technology.
- On February 17, 2023 there was an early dismissal day for staff professional development in the afternoon. Staff participated in CPR refresher training, ELA and math support, and work on materials that support students with student-led conferences.
- On May 12, 2023 there was an early dismissal day for staff professional development in the afternoon. Math teachers worked 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. Middle school teachers reviewed feedback on student led conferences and planned for improvements for next school year.
- Staff Development Opportunities throughout the year included:
 - EastConn staff supported our math teachers throughout the year as they navigated our new math program, Illustrative Mathematics (IM). ELA teachers also received support on integrating Units of Study with our Portrait of a Learner.
 - Carole McCombe continued 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 was updated for 2022-2025. The plan was shared with staff and with the Curriculum Committee.
 - There was 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 guided area districts in conducting an audit of our Language Arts programs and assessments in grades K-3 and supported us in aligning with recent legislation and CSDE requirements.
 - Carole McCombe attended a Leadership Retreat for Connecticut Administrators. Breakout sessions included information on the newly revised framework for Educator Growth and Evaluation, well-being in schools, using technology, and engaging students and families.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

- Stephanie Murana and Carole McCombe attended training on Section 504 plans through SERC- the State Education Resource Center. Ms. Murana is the case manager for all the school 504 plans.
- Staff worked with Sonia Greene, Ph.D. to move students toward independence in recognizing and addressing behaviors (self-regulation, executive function) that detract from learning.
- Michelle Bibeault assisted staff in understanding the format of and evolution of the International Society of Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for technology.
- Donna Leake attended meetings of the regional Superintendent's group as well as seminars offered for free by various law firms regarding recent legislation and the impact on district policies and procedures. She also attended the CABE/CAPSS Convention.

Curriculum

- Teachers of science, facilitated by our middle school science teacher, Candice Mead, evaluated and recommended for purchase updated science materials for students in grades K-8.
- Math teachers completed year one of using Illustrative Mathematics math materials. They met throughout the year to plan a pacing guide to ensure that all students are receiving instruction in all areas of the math standards.
- In the area of English/Language Arts, we will need to adjust our curricular materials and assessments for grades K-3 to better align with the Science of Reading legislation.

School Safety and Security Plan

The Safety and Security Committee, led by Charles Kernan, reviewed, updated, and submitted to the State our School Safety and Security Plan. An updated plan must be submitted for review and approval by November of each year.

Data on Student Progress

- This year, we piloted Student-led conferences for grades 5-8. A letter went home to families in February outlining this process. Teachers worked with students to prepare them to share information with families about their learning.
- Teachers in grades 3-8 utilized 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 see when they take the Smarter Balanced Assessments in the spring. Students also took the NWEA assessment in Language Arts, Math, and Science in March. These results are also used to monitor student progress toward mastering standards and to guide instruction.
- Below are the results of our students' performance on the State Assessments in Math, English Language Arts and Science.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

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

Grade: 22-23	Math	ELA	Science
3	82%	63%	
4	68%	80%	
5	43%	71%	57%
6	71%	91%	
7	36%	82%	
8	46%	82%	73%

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	Middle school opportunities for increased socialization. Give kids more independence and freedom
Students are appropriately challenged and well prepared socially and academically	Bus monitors to improve behavior on the bus
Small size of school is a benefit	Standardize use of Google Classroom – frustrating for parents to navigate
Staff are well liked by parents and families feel informed about school.	Add a cafeteria or school lunch program
School is responsive to family and student needs	Support families in understanding Portrait of a Learner
Staff help students do their best	Increased training for safety and security measures
Students mostly feel safe and have least one trusted adult to go to if needed	Support teachers with classroom management
Overall pleased with school efforts and student performance	
Overall culture and climate are positive and supportive	
Overall comfort with current safety measures in place	

Technology

In 2022-2023, we had approximately 160 computers in circulation: 90 Chromebooks and 70 Mac Airs. A new classroom projector, backup batteries, and 15 new Chromebooks were purchased to replace old units.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

Field Trips

Our students participated in off-site field trips carefully planned by our staff members. Some examples of these trips are as follows:

- The Washington, D.C. trip took place from May 16 – May 19, 2023. Students in both grade 7 and grade 8 attended. Mrs. Jennifer Barlow and Mrs. Catherine DePercio chaperoned this trip.
- Students in grades PK, 2, 3, and 4 took monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library on separate, designated days.
- Students in preschool, kindergarten, grade one and grade 2 traveled to the Ecotarium in Worcester, MA to participate in hands-on science activities.
- Students in grades 7 and 8 participated in an overnight trip to Mystic Seaport and spent the night on the Amistad.
- Students in grade 2 visited Buell’s Orchard to learn about local economics as it relates to their social studies curriculum.
- Students in preschool and kindergarten visited the Eastford Independent Fire Company to learn more about fire safety and resources in our community.
- Students in grades 1 and 2 traveled to Creamery Brook Bison Farm in Brooklyn to learn about local agriculture.
- Students in grades 5-8 participated in team building activities at Mystic Seaport. These trips are free to students through a grant that Mystic Seaport offers to develop programs in rural communities.
- Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 traveled to Sturbridge Village for hands on agriculture and cooking programs and to experience life in a colonial New England village.
- Select students in grade 6 attended and performed at the Band Ensemble portion of the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) honors festival at the CT Convention Center.

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

We are fortunate to have the technology to allow students to participate in a wide variety of virtual learning experiences. Throughout the year, staff researched and provided students with several opportunities to participate in virtual field trip experiences using the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) system. Some of the program providers included:

Texas State Aquarium	FISH	Grades K and 1	05-05-2023
St. Louis Zoo	Spring into Summer	Grades 1 and 2	05-19-2022

Virginia Museum of History & Culture	Pocahontas and the Powhatan Indians	Grade 5	10/14/2022
Center for Puppetry Arts	Anansi the Spider: A West African Folktale	Kindergarten	10/28/2022
Author Valerie	Spiders! Folktales using Sign	Grades 1	10/28/2022

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

Marsh	Language	and 2	
Author Valerie Marsh	Turkey Tales! Turkey Folktales using Sign Language	Grades 1 and 2	11/18/2022

Sports

In the 2022-2023 school year, we had a co-ed soccer team in the fall that consisted of 14 boys and 3 girls. Over the winter, we had a co-ed basketball that consisted of 12 boys and 6 girls. These teams competed in the Quinebaug Valley Junior Conference (QVJC) league.

Primary Mental Health Project (PMHP)

The PMHP grant received last year was a two-year grant. The PALS program ran again this school year and Mrs. Sarah Boyd was our childcare associate who administered this program under the supervision of school counselor Ms. Murana.

Before and After School childcare program

Before School Childcare: Throughout the year we had numerous students participate in the Before School Childcare program. This program is offered from 7:00 AM to 8:20 AM and is funded by fees.

After School Program— Last year, we received a two year After School Grant. Therefore, this year we could continue to offer free After School programming for students in grades K-8. Many students participated in some aspects of the program throughout the year. The After School Grant funded multiple opportunities for student enrichment during the after school hours. In addition to basic childcare, we offered an art club, STEM programming, weekly visits by Mystic Seaport, once a month opportunity by Mystic Aquarium, visits from Ragged Hill Woods outdoor education center, Board Games and Academic Support on a regular basis. We were also able to offer Family engagement and workshop opportunities.

Summer Programming

EES was a busy place over the summer weeks. Extended School Year (ESY) services were provided to students for three weeks in July and August. Mrs. Patricia Moran, Mrs. Christine Kopplin, and Ms. Jennifer Daniels facilitated this program. For four weeks in July and August, as part of receiving a summer enrichment grant, a Summer STEM Enrichment program was offered in conjunction with Mystic Aquarium. In addition to on-site programming, students traveled to Mystic Aquarium or Mystic Seaport on Fridays during these weeks for hands on exploration of the classroom concepts. Mrs. Candice Mead facilitated this program.

Students also had the opportunity to participate in a summer sports camp organized by local church groups during the week of July 24.

Facilities

During the 2022-2023 school year:

- The school district entered a contract with EMCOR to provide an expanded yearly maintenance check of all HVAC related equipment.
- A Town Roof Committee which included: Robert Ellsworth (Chair), Steve Bowen, Paul Torcellini and Jim Trowbridge continued to meet and monitor the roof replacement, insulation, and PV project. The roof replacement and installation portions of the project were completed.
- Several other building repairs and security upgrades were completed: including the connection of a new heat pump, installation of a set of inner lower-level doors, upgrade of alarm system and other security focused items, installation of a new network server, and a new set of steps to the kindergarten play area.

Transportation

The 2022-2023 school year was the third year of our five-year contract with EastConn transportation for both daily and special education transportation services. In certain situations, we also needed to contract with additional providers for special education.

Policy

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Board continued to update policies in response to changes in State and Federal legislation, as recommended by our law firm, Shipman and Goodwin. Updated policies are delineated in monthly minutes of the Board of Education Policy Subcommittee and all policies can be accessed on our website. In addition to addressing policy changes in response to recent legislation, much of the work of the policy committee was focused on updating the 5000 Series and the Bylaws section of our policy book.

Finance

The Board of Education's operating budget for the 2022-2023 school year was \$4,212,627. The BOE was able to end the school year within its budgetary limits. The BOE returned \$30,000 to the Town and requested that the Town place it in a non-lapsing, unexpended Municipal Reserve Fund for the purpose of special education.

In addition to the operating budget, we received State and Federal Grants that support the educational programming we provide for our students. This year we received the following grants that are "typically" available to schools:

1. School Readiness
2. Quality Enhancement
3. Primary Mental Health Grant
4. Rural Education Assistance Program
5. Title I and Title II
6. IDEA 611 and IDEA 619

In addition to the "typical" grants, the administrative team applied for and received additional grant funding:

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

1. School Readiness Competitive Enrollment
2. Title IV
3. Special Education Stipend 2022
4. ESSER II Special Education Bonus Populations
5. ESSER II Special Education Recovery Activities
6. ESSER II Special Education Dyslexia
7. ARP IDEA 611 and ARP IDEA 619
8. ARPA Mental Health Workers
9. CT-SEDS
10. After School Continuation Grant
11. ARP Afterschool Enrichment Grant

Parent -Teacher Organization

Our PTO continues to provide the full variety of on-site events to our students as well as dedicated support through fund raising and events such as:

- sponsored an ice cream social in conjunction with the open house event.
- in conjunction with the administration, celebrated all staff during the week of May 8-12 for Staff Appreciation Week with a luncheon and daily treats and surprises!
- with the assistance Lauren Barlow, Diane Barlow, and Cassie Roto, maintained the landscaping in front of the school – planting, weeding, pruning, mulching, and watering as needed throughout the summer.
- sponsored the “Design the School Sign” contest.
- sponsored a spring bulb fundraiser.
- once again set up The Giving Tree in our school lobby. Proceeds supported local families and the Eastford Food Pantry.
- sponsored the Scholastic Book Fairs.
- organized the Annual Goods and Services Auction. There were raffle items, a bake sale, food truck and live and silent auctions. Proceeds were shared among students in grades 5-8 for their annual trip to Washington, D.C.
- sponsored a Birds of Prey assembly for all students.

Family and Community Outreach and Collaboration

1. Outreach to families:

The staff of ESS provides ongoing and timely communication to families through phone calls, conferenced, emails and a monthly school newsletter. Samples of additional outreach to families included:

- In August, our PK and Kindergarten teachers held a Meet and Greet for new students and families.
- In September, families were invited to an Open House program at Eastford Elementary School.
- Stephanie Murana, our school counselor, hosted a monthly grandparents’ group at the school. Families with grandparents as the primary caregivers were invited to attend for coffee and conversation. She also offered a monthly “Parent University” to provide resources and support to our families.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

- In May, both Preschool and Kindergarten held orientation evenings for incoming families. Free childcare was available for these events.
- In June, Stephanie Murana and Sarah Boyd hosted a family evening event for the students and families involved in the PALS program.

2. Collaboration with the Community:

- Sally Rogers presented a program for grades K and 1 about the Science of Sound.
- A representative from the CT State Police and Deb Richards, Eastford's Emergency Management Director assisted with our practice lockdown drill.
- Jeremy Barlow provided a huge amount of support to our custodians by helping spread 50 yards of mulch on the playground!
- Cody Rogers, a community member donated a copious amount of school supplies for office and staff and filled backpacks for students in need.
- Gary Whittenburg donated and delivered sand for our playground sandboxes.
- Dale Lundy and Chris Pittman waxed the floors in the lower level of the Town.
- The CT State Police offered the D.A.R.E. program to schools. This year grades 5, 6 and 7 will participated since grade 7 students missed their rotation last year.
- Mrs. Jeannine Spink provided CPR and AED training to staff. She is always willing to support EES in any way that she can.
- The EIFC visited the school for our annual Fire Prevention Program. This included a fire drill for everyone and an opportunity to visit the fire trucks and learn about the fire gear for our younger students.
- Wings of Freedom Animal Rescue (WOFAR) brought rescue dogs to school to thank students for their regular donations of supplies and money and to share how rescue organizations like this benefit the animals they care for.
- The Eastford Recreation Commission used the school/Town Office parking lot for their Trunk or Treat event.
- Our students led by Mr. Tomanelli participated in a patriotic program to honor the Military Veterans in town.
- We celebrated Read Across America Day during the week of February 27-March 3. Student athletes from The Woodstock Academy came to read with students in grades PK-5 and students in grades 6-8 had a guest reader from the Judicial Department.
- The Eastford Readiness Program sponsored "Books and Blocks" from 9:30 to 10:30. This was an opportunity for children ages birth to 5 to visit the school, interact together and learn about the Readiness Program.
- Mr. Tomanelli and Mrs. Farrell-Denke led students in a festive assembly featuring songs and instrumental pieces.
- Crossroads Restaurant provided a pizza lunch to a different grade each month over the course of the school year.
- Buell's Orchard provided mum plants to beautify the school grounds at a reduced rate.
- Tammy Hull provided computer bags for students to use to carry their computers and other materials from class to class during the school day.

Eastford School District
Annual Report 2022-2023

- David Barlow donated time and resources to rebuild the planter box around the school sign located in front of the school.
- The 2022-2023 student council representatives were: Matthew Johndrow, Owen Budd, Marley Hutchings, Porter Barlow, Allie Beausoleil, David Budd, Wes DePercio, Abigail Haynes, and Leilani Soucy-Brodeur. The student council conducted an increased number of fundraising and events this year.
 - EES Student Council donated a new school sign so that we can get the word out to the community about all our exciting events.
 - Our student council made a generous donation of art and craft supplies to the children's program at the Eastford Congregational Church and donated a lightweight transport chair to the senior citizens' programs at the Eastford Congregational Church to replace items lost in the fire.

Collaboration with the Town of Eastford and other local towns

In addition to working collaboratively with the Eastford Community to provide opportunities for our students, we continue to maintain and explore opportunities for collaboration for services.

- With our town: The Eastford Board of Education and the Town of Eastford have collaborative agreements that include:
 - Employee Health benefits, which is a collaborative with the State Partnership Plan.
 - Liability, Auto, Professional and Worker's Compensation Insurance through CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency), another state cooperative.
 - Fueling of school buses at the Town Transfer Station.
 - Upkeep of the athletic fields.
 - An increase in open communication about budget and long-term project needs.
- With other towns and agencies:
 - The Eastford School District continues to participate in several collaborative agreements with EastConn, the Regional Education Service Center:
 - Birth to Three Student Services
 - Adult Education Services
 - Cooperative Purchasing Agreements for supplies and heating fuel
 - Magnet School Agreement
 - Readiness Compliance Oversight
 - Professional Development Opportunities
 - When possible, ride shares for students from other towns.

Achievements, Awards and Recognitions

Honors Algebra

Six students in grade 8 took an Honors Algebra 1 class offered collaboratively with The Woodstock Academy. This is an Advanced Credit (AC) course. Students who receive a final grade of at least a B (85) and pass the final exam with at least a 75% receive high school credit.

Citizens of the Trimester:

First Trimester: Allie Beausoleil and Isla Lupacchino

Second Trimester: William Whipple and Emma-Lynn Salony

Third Trimester: Logan Gillett and Madison Boyd

Grade 8 Graduation

The Grade 8 Graduation was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023. During the graduation ceremony, the following awards were presented:

Award	Recipient(s)
Marilyn Krom, PTO	Christina Nikkomis Green
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Sullivan Tedford
Olivette Kozey	Ella Bluebird Brytowski
Allen James Day Memorial	Ella Bluebird Brytowski Eve Dziengeleski
Roger Mason Day Memorial	Owen John Budd
William Shand Memorial	Madison Sage Boyd
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Ammani Celia Kuljancic
Otto F. King	Matthew Richard Johndrow
American Legion	Noah Kernan
Joseph St. King	William Whipple
The ETA Local Hero	Noah Kernan
Arboriculture Award	Owen John Budd
Math/Science/Tech	Antonio Anderson
Humanities	Ella Bluebird Brytowski
William S. Warren Academic	Matthew Richard Johndrow

Eastford Elementary School 2023 Graduates

Antonio Anderson
Madison Sage Boyd
Ella Bluebird Brytowski
Owen John Budd
Eve Dziengeleski
Christina Nikkomis Green
Matthew Richard Johndrow
Noah Kernan
Ammani Celia Kuljancic
Sullivan Tedford
William Whipple

Eastford 2023 High School Graduates

Woodstock Academy

Madison Bates-Souvigney
Tessa Brown
Sophia Bulan
Evy Calabrese
Zoe Calabrese
Gavin Driscoll
Nolen Gilbert
Molly Katkaveck
Max Larkin
Aubrey Rumrill
Aiyana Sarabia
Brandin Sarabia
Jakub Sarzynski
Jack Tyler

Ellis Tech

Braden Ayer
Cody Blanchette
Ethan Marshall

E.O. Smith

Abigail Horton-Schwab

College Scholarships

During the 2022-2023 school year, the Board’s Scholarship Steering Committee continued their collaboration with the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut and the Hartford Foundation to award College Scholarships to Eastford high school seniors and current college students. The following Scholarships were awarded:

Scholarship	Recipient(s)
The Dennis S. Barlow Scholarship Award	Anna Kellermann
The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Kayla Gaudreau Marco Maluf Isaac Torcellini Micah Torcellini
The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship	Braden Ayer
The Emil Vaida Scholarship	Braden Ayer
The Esther and Lucie Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship	Marco Maluf Clayton Singleton
The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship	Isaac Torcellini
Ethel Gardner Music Scholarship	Clayton Singleton Isaac Torcellini Micah Torcellini
Town of Eastford	Braden Ayer
Take Note! Antonia Brancia	Clayton Singleton