



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
From: Carole McCombe
Date: August 16, 2024
Subject: August Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

Nothing scheduled at this time.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Nothing scheduled at this time.

Eastford Readiness Program:

The Program has 17 students enrolled, although the status of one is uncertain. We will provide walk-in speech services for one preschool-aged child. We have 3 students that we were not able to accommodate this year due to space restrictions. The State of CT has changed the kindergarten enrollment cut-off date from January 1 to September 1 effective in the 2024-25 school year. Families may apply for a waiver to bypass this requirement. We have three students who have been granted a waiver to attend kindergarten this school year. There will be a Meet and Greet for incoming students and families on Monday, August 26 from 3:00 to 3:30.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM via Zoom. The next meeting will be October 1, 2024. Our NAEYC reaccreditation visit will take place between July 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. On this visit, they will observe our preschool space, the children and their classroom routines, and review the classroom and program portfolios being prepared by Mrs. Kopplin, Mrs. McCombe, and our Readiness Liaison, Mrs. Greene.

Data on Student Progress:

Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) were completed by students in grades 3-8 on May 28. These assessments are nationally normed, are used to calculate student growth and achievement, and are used for district accountability and to inform instruction. Preliminary results are available to teachers now, and family reports will be available to mail out in September. I will have more data to share regarding student achievement and other accountability measures at the September meeting.

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 will also consider this feedback when developing goals for next school year. Specific survey data will be available at the September meeting for review. The summary below was shared at the June meeting and is included again for your reference.

Strengths/Improvement from last year	Areas for Growth
Good communication with families	Middle School teachers need better communication with families
Students are appropriately challenged and well prepared socially and academically	Improve dismissal in car rider line
Small size of school is a benefit	School should offer hot lunches
Staff are well liked by parents and families feel informed about school.	Put school events on school website
School is responsive to family and student needs	More school spirit for sports teams
Staff help students do their best	Work with students on areas of weakness
Students mostly feel safe and have least one trusted adult to go to if needed	
Overall pleased with school efforts and student performance	
Pleased with after school offerings	
PTO is a great resource	
Like the small town and community support	

Professional Development:

August 26 and 27 are training days for all staff members.

Teachers will receive training on the changes in the recently revised Leader and Educator Growth and Evaluation plan.

Paraeducators will receive training from EastConn staff on active supervision and data collection.

Six staff members will participate in CPR/First Aid/AED refresher training.

All staff will complete training on the new regulations under Title IX as well as a plethora of other mandated training modules (4-6 hours in total).

All staff will participate in a session with speaker Paula Mann-Agnew from Discovering Amistad on building a welcoming community.

Staff Assignments and Enrollment Update:

We are pleased to welcome new paraeducators Mr. Seth Budd, Ms. Chelsea Friedmann, Ms. Mary Dennison, and paraeducator substitute Ms. Lara Quinn.

Kopplin (PK): 16	Dill (4): 22
Garvie (K): 15	Grade 5: 12
Rhynhart (1): 23	Grade 6: 22 (6A:9, 6B:13)
Lincoln (2): 17	Grade 7: 8
Bisson (3): 17	Grade 8: 21

Total EES Enrollment: 173
Total WA Enrollment: 43
Total Killingly AgEd: 2
Total Ellis Tech: 7

2024 Fall Sports Update:

We have 18 players – 11 boys and 7 girls. Mrs. Jennifer Barlow will be the soccer coach.

Update on Grants:

We have been approved for the School Readiness Grant and the Quality Enhancement Grant for preschool, and the Primary Mental Health Grant for our P.A.L.S. program. We will be looking to hire a childcare associate to facilitate the P.A.L.S. program. This is the last year of our three-year Mental Health Workers Grant. We continue to review all available grants and apply for those that can help support our needs.

Community recognition:

- Thanks in advance to Jeannine Spink for providing CPR/First Aid/AED training to keep staff certifications current.
- Thanks to the Eastford Public Library and their “Friends” for donating backpacks, lunch boxes, school supplies, and shopping gift cards for families in need.

Upcoming events:

- PK and Kindergarten Meet and Greets: August 26 from 3:00 to 3:30.
- Dr. Boucher will be onsite on September 4 to conduct sports physicals and to visit with preschoolers in the classroom.
- School pictures with Irvin Simon Photographers will be on September 17.
- First Soccer Game will be at Parish Hill MS on September 17.
- EES Open House evening for PK-8 and High School information booths will be on September 19 from 5:30-7:30. The PTO will sponsor an ice cream social in conjunction with this event.