

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

2023-2024 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.

**2023-2024 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

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becoming leaders of their own learning in accordance with the Strategic Plan and the Eastford's Portrait of a Learner.

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.*
 - Utilize, integrate, and implement common SEL instructional practices across grade levels (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 in understanding SEL importance, including the 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.

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Communication and Partnerships

- *Develop and maintain supportive and engaging relationships with families and community partners that enhance student learning.*
 - 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 all teachers will gain access to 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 Multi-Tiered 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 the 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 the 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 2023-2024 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 28, 2023, marked the first day for the staff of Eastford Elementary School and on August 30 we welcomed our students. The 2023-2024 school year included 182 student days and 186 certified staff days.

Student Enrollment

1. The total student enrollment as of October 1, 2023 for the Eastford School District was 230.
2. The October 1, 2023 student count at Eastford Elementary School was 172.
3. The October 1, 2023 count of Eastford students at Woodstock Academy was 41.
4. The October 1, 2023 student count for other high schools, including magnet schools and outplacements, was 17. Other high schools include Ellis Technical, Killingly Vocational, Windham Tech, 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: Charles Kernan

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

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

Part Time Certified Staff

Spanish Teacher: Catherine DePercio
Enrichment Teacher: Donna Lynch
Speech and Language Pathologist: Jennifer Daniels, Stephanie Schoen
Art Teacher: Jennifer Weinland
General Music Teacher: June Burns
Instrumental Music Teacher: Kelly Farrell-Denke

Non- Certified Staff

Paraprofessionals: Chelsea Friedmann, Lisa Hackner, Emily Hull, Tammy Hull, Alaina Kilburn, Carrie Lagasse, Daniel Lussier, Sarah Minor
Custodians: Dale Lundy, Christopher Pittman, Lory Kneeland
Reading Interventionist: Diane Barlow
PALS Associate: Sarah Boyd
Before and After School: Melinda King and Seth Budd

During the 2023-2024 school year the BOE hired the following staff members:

- June Burns – General Music
- Seth Budd – BASP
- Chelsea Friedmann – Paraprofessional
- Stephanie Schoen – Speech and Language Pathologist
- Lory Kneeland - Custodian

Readiness- Pre School

The Program was full with 17 students, plus an additional non-Readiness student who attended for two partial days. We also accommodated walk in special education services for identified students. We had three students that we were not able to accommodate this year. The State of CT changed the kindergarten enrollment cutoff date from January 1 to September 1 effective in the 2024-2025 school year. This means that children who turn 5 years old between September 1 and January 1 will have a third year of preschool.

Eastford Readiness Council Update:

- The first meeting of the 2023-24 school year was on October 3 at 5:30 PM and thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month at the same time. The Council continued holding meetings virtually. Eastford was awarded both the Readiness and Quality Enhancement grants for 2023-2024. The Council worked on aligning policies with updated NAEYC Standards and preparing for our 5-year NAEYC reaccreditation. Our NAEYC reaccreditation visit will take place between July 1, 2024 and January 1, 2025. On this visit, the NAEYC team 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.
- The Council also learned more about the change in Kindergarten entry age and the impact it will have on our Readiness Program. At this point in time there was no formal change in the entry age for our Readiness Program.
- Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. Garvie facilitated transition activities for incoming preschoolers and kindergarteners. A family nature hike was held on May 7 and an orientation evening for students and parents was held on May 30.

Teacher Evaluation

The CSDE once again allowed for flexibility in teacher and administrator growth and evaluation for the 2023-2024 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 release time during the school year. These activities were 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 28 and August 29 Professional Development included:
 - Dibels scoring and Boost Reading training for K-3 ELA teachers
 - Reflex/Flax (program that provides online skills-based practice opportunities for students) virtual PD programming for math teachers
 - Overview of updated manuals, plans and curriculum documents and resources
 - Technology updates
 - Mandated trainings
 - Security protocols

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- October 6 Professional Development Day for all staff featured:
 - Completion of mandated training modules and Psychological Management Training (PMT) refresher course
 - Grade level curriculum work to document pacing and resources and to compile curriculum overview brochures
 - Review of Strategic School Improvement Plan, Leadership Goals and development of Growth and Evaluation Goals
 - Paraprofessional training in working with students with special needs
- February 16 – early dismissal for Professional Development
 - Staff had professional development around the use of AI for lesson planning, differentiation, translating for students just learning English, and other aspects of education and curriculum development.
- May 17 – early dismissal for Professional Development.
 - Teachers in grades K-4 learned more about a reading program called Bookworms. Teachers in grades 5-8 worked with EastConn staff on further developing our student-led conferences.
- Staff Development Opportunities throughout the year included:
 - Beginning in February, a team of teachers and administrators participated in a series of monthly reading workshops required by the State Department of Education about the Science of Reading and the fundamentals of a well-rounded ELA program.
 - Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. McCombe attended monthly meetings to support our development of a portfolio that documents how we meet the NAEYC standards for our NAEYC reaccreditation. Ms. McCombe also attended an additional monthly NAEYC meeting for Readiness Program Administrators as well.
 - ELA teachers continued to work with EastConn staff to support us in selecting a state approved program for teaching ELA in grades K-3 and to support us in continuing to develop curricular documents around reading and writing.
 - Ms. McCombe visited Scotland and Andover Elementary Schools to discuss how they expanded their preschool/Readiness programs.
 - Mrs. Bibeault and Ms. McCombe attended a Cyber Security Tabletop Exercise at Camp Nett in Niantic on April 25 to participate in a simulation of a Cyber Attack on a fictitious community. It was a valuable learning experience for them.

Curriculum

- Teachers of science, facilitated by our middle school science teacher, Candice Mead, continued to review and implement updated science materials for students in grades K-8.
- Math teachers continued to meet to review progress on the implementation of the Illustrative Mathematics math materials.
- In the area of English/Language Arts, we adjusted 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

- Students in grades 5-8 continued with Student led conferences after the first and second trimesters. 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.

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

Grade: 23-24	Math	ELA	Science
3	50%	46%	
4	83%	75%	
5	43%	66%	85%
6	38%	63%	
7	80%	80%	
8	45%	75%	83.3%

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 the next school year. Specific survey data will be available at the August Board meetings for review. A summary of the combined results is below:

Strengths/Improvement from last year	Areas for Growth
Good communication with families	Bus monitors to improve behavior on the bus
Students are appropriately challenged and well prepared socially and academically	Standardize use of Google Classroom – frustrating for parents to navigate
Small size of school is a benefit	Add a cafeteria or school lunch program
Staff are well liked by parents and families feel informed about school.	Support teachers with classroom management
School is responsive to family and student needs	
Staff help students do their best	
Students mostly 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 are positive and supportive	
Overall comfort with current safety measures in place	

Technology

In 2023-2024, we had approximately 200 computers in circulation: 115 Chromebooks and 85 Mac Airs. New FM speaker systems and 50 new Chromebooks were purchased to replace old units.

Field Trips

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

- Even though we did not plan a Washington, D.C. trip this school year, the annual Goods and Services auction fundraiser took place on November 11, 2023.
- Grades 2, 3, and 4 took monthly walking trips to Eastford Public Library beginning in September.
- Grade 7 visited Mystic Seaport for an overnight trip on September 28 through September 29. They slept onboard the historic ship, *The Conrad*.
- On September 22, Roseland Cottage historical reenactors involved students in grades 3-8 in a Spirit of '76 Encampment.
- On October 10 students in grades 5 and 6 traveled to Plimoth Plantation to visit the living history museum and the Mayflower II.

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- On October 23 students in grades 1 and 2 traveled to Foster Farm in South Windsor to learn about agriculture, the seasons, and to explore a corn maze.
- Students in grades 3-6 attended a musical production called *Be True to You* at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on February 22.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 attended Salt Marsh Opera’s production of Ravel’s *The Child and the Spells* at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on March 27.
- Students in grades 3-5 attended the Azul String Quartet thematic presentation at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on March 28. The Azul String Quartet is made up of faculty members at the Hartt Community Division in West Hartford.
- Students in grades 5 and 6 visited The Amistad in Mystic on April 1 for an interactive day of learning.
- Students in grades 3 and 4 learned about the impact of weather patterns on animal behavior on a trip to the Connecticut Audubon Society Center in Pomfret on April 11.
- On May 15 students in preschool and kindergarten traveled to Southwick Zoo.
- Grade 5 traveled to the New Britain Museum of Art on May 28 for their third Faces of Culture trip.
- On June 11 students in grades 4 and 5 traveled to the Connecticut River Museum in Essex to study Connecticut River ecosystems.
- On June 11 Grade 3 students took a bus tour of Eastford to complete their unit of study about the town, its history, and resources. Eastford Historical Society members will participate to share information about local highlights.

Virtual Field Trips (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:

DC Area National Parks and Partners	Dr. King in Washington, DC	Grade 4	01/11/2024
Smithsonian’s National Museum of Asian Art	Lunar New Year	Grades 1 and 2	01/19/2024
Roper Mountain	Wagons West	Grade 4	02/06/2024
Kenai Fjords National Park	Fabulous Fjords	Grade 4	02/09/2024
Longwood Gardens	Desert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	04/12/2024

Sports

In the 2023-2024 school year, we had a co-ed soccer team in the fall that consisted of 12 boys and 6 girls. Over the winter, we had a co-ed basketball team that consisted of 13 boys and 4 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 was offered from 7:00 AM to 8:20 AM and is funded by fees.

After School Program: Using the After School Grant dollars, we were able to provide free after care for students in Grades K-8 and multiple opportunities for student enrichment during the after-school hours. These programs included academic support opportunities, visits by Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium, board games and STEM activities facilitated by members of the Eastford Congregational Church, as well as several programs based on student interests.

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 2023-24 school year, we continued to attend to routine maintenance and building repair projects. We responded to building safety issues and conducted all required facility tests. In addition:

- The Town Roof Committee, which included Robert Ellsworth (Chair), Steve Bowen, Paul Torcellini and Jim Trowbridge, continued to meet and monitor the completion of the roof replacement, insulation, and PV project.
- We replaced ceiling tiles and improved the lighting in several of our classrooms.

Transportation

The 2023-2024 school year was the fourth year of our five-year contract with EastConn transportation for both daily and special education transportation services.

Policy

During the 2023-2024 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 6000 Series section of our policy book.

Finance

The Board of Education's operating budget for the 2023-2024 school year was \$4,520,069. The BOE was able to end the school year within its budgetary limits. The BOE returned \$115,4001.38 to the Town and requested that the Town place \$90,401.38 (2%) in a non-lapsing, unexpended Municipal Reserve Fund for the purpose of unexpended education expenses.

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:

1. School Readiness Competitive Enrollment
2. Title IV
3. ARPA Mental Health Workers
4. ARPA Right to Read
5. After School Grant

Parent -Teacher Organization

Our PTO continued 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 the "Design the School Sign" contest.
- once again set up The Giving Tree in our school lobby, with proceeds supporting local families and the Eastford Food Pantry.
- sponsored an ice cream social.
- sponsored the Scholastic Book Fairs.

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- 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 school logo wear fundraiser.
- sponsored a *Cookie and Craft* activity for students at the Eastford Public Library.
- sponsored a character development 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, conferences, 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.
- Parents/Guardians were invited to attend conferences with teachers in the fall and the spring. Individual conferences were also scheduled as needed.
- Student led conferences continued to be scheduled for middle school students/families in the spring.

2. Collaboration with the Community:

The students in Eastford benefit from the support of a very caring community. Examples of this support include the following:

- On August 28 we had our annual inspection from the Eastford Fire Marshal. No code violations were identified, and a certificate of approval was recommended.
- Dr. Boucher was onsite on September 6 to conduct sports physicals.
- On September 28 EastConn Transportation conducted school bus evacuation drills with students as they arrived at school in the morning.
- The CT State Police offered the D.A.R.E. program to schools. Students in grades 5-7 participated in this 10-week course beginning in January 2024. The D.A.R.E. trooper also held a social media information session for grade 8 students.
- In October 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.
- On October 31 the Eastford Recreation Commission used the school/Town Office parking lot for their Trunk or Treat event.
- Students and staff participated in a “Pajama Day” fundraiser to benefit CT Children’s Medical Center.
- Students in grades 4-6 had the option to create an artifact in art class to enter in the “This Is Me” art exhibit at The Woodstock Academy Loos Center for the Arts. Twenty-eight students had their art displayed in the Gallery.

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- Our students participated in the Memorial Day Celebration.
- Students in grade 5 participated in a year-long, inter-district opportunity through a grant provided by EastConn. The project was called Faces of Culture. Each participating district focused on a culture from around the world. Our fifth graders met via Zoom calls, field trips and in-class visits with fifth graders from other districts to learn about and explore the peoples and cultures that are different than those here in Eastford.
- Thank you to The Eastford Food Pantry for their continued support of our families in need of regular food delivery, and to The Eastford Baptist Church and the Woodstock Fire Department for holiday donations of toys and other items for students and families in need. These and other local organizations have been a tremendous resource to our families during the holidays and throughout the year.
- Thanks to Dennis Norman (a mobile Welder) who donated his time and resources to fabricate a more visually appealing and functional railing for the stairs and landing outside of the kindergarten classroom by the front play area.
- Thanks to the staff members, families, and EMS workers who assisted students after a tree was uprooted during a storm on December 18.
- Mrs. Jeannine Spink provided CPR and AED training to staff. She is always willing to support EES in any way that she can.
- Our thanks and appreciation to local businesses and community members who contributed donations to fund the installation of safety bollards in the front of the building.

Collaboration with the Town of Eastford and other local towns

In addition to working in conjunction with the Eastford Community to provide opportunities for our students, the Eastford learning community benefits from a respectful and collaborative relationship between the Town and School administration, the Board of Education and the Board of Selectmen. In addition, the Town and School 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 collaboration with the State Partnership Plan.
 - Liability, Auto, Professional and Worker's Compensation Insurance though CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency), another state cooperative.
 - Using where possible the same vendors for school and Town purchases.
 - 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.

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- With other towns and agencies:
 - Seeks opportunities to hire shared staff.
 - Participates 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: Grace Moore and David Budd
 Second Trimester: McKenna Tacy and Harper St. Lawrence
 Third Trimester: Logan Hackett and Kyleigh Murphy

Grade 8 Graduation

The Grade 8 Graduation was held on Thursday, June 13, 2024. During the graduation ceremony, the following awards were presented:

Award	Recipient(s)
Marilyn Krom, PTO	Wes Whipple
Eastford Teachers Memorial	Brett Anthony Bibeault
Olivette Kozey	Rosemarie Taricani
Allen James Day Memorial	Kyleigh Murphy Miles William Neely
William Shand Memorial	Roswell Maverick Souvigny
Eastford Fire Company Citizenship	Marley Jane Hutchings
Otto F. King	Marley Jane Hutchings
American Legion	Wes Whipple
Joseph St. King	Porter Lewis Barlow
The ETA Local Hero	Porter Lewis Barlow

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Arboriculture Award	Miles William Neely
Humanities	Kyleigh Murphy
William S. Warren Academic	William Ellsworth
Presidential Academic Fitness Commendation	William Ellsworth Marley Jane Hutchings

Eastford Elementary School 2024 Graduates

Porter Lewis Barlow
Brett Anthony Bibeault
William Ellsworth
Emmalee Elizabeth Gibeault
Marley Jane Hutchings
Kyleigh Murphy
Miles William Neely
Roswell Maverick Souvigney
Rosemarie Taricani
Wes Whipple
Logan Alexander Williams

Eastford 2024 High School Graduates

Woodstock Academy

Elizabeth Bishop-Klee
Kerry Blais
Nathan Budd
Conner Buell
Lillian Conway
Hunter Haynes
Hunter Larson
Taylor Laskoski
Eric Mathewson
Owen Reynolds-Dyer
Arthur Soucy

Ellis Tech

Alexander Harakaly

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QMC
Meadow Bulan
Cadence Pittman

ACT Magnet
Enzo Miglietta

College Scholarships

During the 2023-2024 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 Marco Maluf
The Edith Wheaton Smith Memorial Scholarship	Braden Ayer Elizabeth Bishop-Klee Hunter Larson
The Eleanor K. Lewis Scholarship	Anna Kellermann
The Emil Vaida Scholarship	Eric Mathewson
The Esther and Lucie Harmon and Leta Sabin Trepal Scholarship	Elizabeth Bishop-Klee Kerry Blais Eric Mathewson Clayton Singleton Isaac Torcellini
The Harold Carpenter Fund Scholarship	Isaac Torcellini
The Mary King Sharpe Scholarship	Eric Mathewson
Town of Eastford General Scholarship	Hunter Larson
Ethel Gardner Music Scholarship	Clayton Singleton Isaac Torcellini Micah Torcellini