



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: March 4, 2026
 Subject: March Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Grades PK-8 have arranged monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- Students in preschool and kindergarten will travel to Southwick Zoo in Mendon, MA on May 1 to experience diverse animals and habitats.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 will attend a performance of the opera, Cinderella, at the Loos Center for Cultural Arts at The Woodstock Academy on May 5, 2026.
- Grades 7 and 8 (29 students) will visit Washington, D.C. May 19-May 22, 2026. Six parents plan to chaperone. They will enjoy a Washington Nationals baseball game, visit Arlington Cemetery, the National Monuments, the Smithsonian Museums, the National Zoo and the National Spy Museum.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Provider	Program	Grade	Date
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium	Tails and Tales: Animal Storytime with Omaha's Zoo	Grades 1 and 2	3/4/2026
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore	Watching our Watershed	Grade 3	4/9/2026
Southeast Arizona National Parks	Ecosystem Connections	Grade 3	4/23/2026
The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center	Creekside Curiosities	Grade 3	5/21/2026
Longwood Gardens	Carnivorous Plants	Grade 3	5/28/2026

Eastford Preschool Program (formerly Eastford Readiness Program):

The Program has 14 students enrolled. One student has withdrawn from the program. We provide walk-in speech services for one preschool-aged child who is not attending the program. Our National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) annual report and fee to maintain our accreditation is due by April 1, 2026. Currently, the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) is paying the annual fees for all programs in Connecticut.

Early Start CT and Local Governance Partnership (LGP) Update (formerly Eastford Readiness Council Update):

The Local Governance Partnership (LGP) is tasked with overseeing local programs in its jurisdiction. Our LGP covers the towns of Bozrah, Chaplin, Eastford, Franklin, Hampton, Scotland, and Sprague. The LGP has named our collaborative group Eastern CT Early Start Collaborative (ECESC). The next Community Table meeting of the ECESC is scheduled for March 26 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Data on Student Progress:

We extended the second trimester to add in the 5 days that we missed because of weather. The second trimester now ends on March 19, and report cards will go home on March 26. We will hold parent-teacher conferences on April 1 in the evening, and April 2 in the afternoon. Students in grades 3-8 will continue to share their progress with families through Student-led conferences, while kindergarten through grade 2 will hold traditional conferences. Teachers in grades 3-8 are using the Interim Assessment Blocks (IABs) with students as formative assessments and to build test-taking stamina and experience with the state testing formats. Students in grades 3-8 will begin taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) and Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS) in April and May.

High School Information:

- One student has applied and been accepted at ACT; they plan to attend
- One student has applied and been accepted at Ellis Tech; they plan to attend
- Five students plan to attend The Woodstock Academy

Professional Development:

This year PD has focused on:

- Individual goals connected to District goals and objectives in our Strategic Improvement Plan
- Committee work to revise our report cards to produce a streamlined format that aligns with standards and is user friendly for students and families
- Curriculum work to ensure alignment with resources and standards in preparation for State requirement to post curriculum on district websites by July 1, 2026
- Understanding and proactively addressing student behaviors that impact learning – including Restorative Practices and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs)

March 13 Professional Development Day: Report Card revisions and curriculum work

May 15 Professional Development Day: Restorative Practices and curriculum work

Upcoming events:

- The March calendar of after school activities has been shared and permission slips are out for sign-ups. A variety of events will be offered this month that include Ragged Hill Woods, CT River Museum, Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, Board Games, Crochet, Volleyball, and Art Club. There will also be two after school movies, Academic Support, a Family evening with a Penguin from Mystic Aquarium. The YMCA childcare is offered daily before and after school.

- Students in grade 5 will be participating in the D.A.R.E. program through the CT State Police. This began on January 26 and continues weekly during student Health classes through April.
- On March 13, special guest George Vangel will meet with students in grades 4 and 5 to talk about the Travis Manion Foundation and read a book to them written by Travis' sister. The Travis Manion Foundation empowers veterans and families of fallen heroes to develop leadership and character in future generations. George Vangel is a veteran and retired police officer. He works for Campus Security at The Woodstock Academy.
- Student Council will host a dance for students in grades 5-8 on March 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- On March 29, the PTO is sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast at the EIFC building. They will serve breakfast from 8:00-10:00 a.m. Some Student Council members and Mrs. Mead will assist PTO volunteers for this event.
- On March 31, Mrs. Kopplin will be hosting a "Books and Blocks" family outreach program for children ages birth-5. The program will take place in the school library from 10:00-10:30 a.m. Children do not need to be enrolled to attend.
- On April 2 we will hold our Second Trimester Awards celebration in the gym. Grades 2-4 will begin at 9:00 a.m. and grades 5-8 will begin about 9:20 a.m. We will also recognize Honor Roll recipients that morning during homeroom with breakfast treats.

Special Thanks to:

- Michelle Bibeault, Donna Lynch, and the planning committee for planning and scheduling activities for Read Across America. We were able to enjoy reading related activities each day around special themes. All students got involved and enjoyed the week!
- Guest Readers and Visitors who went above and beyond for Read Across America – Deb Richards and therapy dogs, Zach Hutchings, Trooper White, The Woodstock Academy student athletes and Athletic Director Sean Saucier, masked mystery readers – Trish Moran, Sarah Boyd and Nate Kneeland, student poetry readers – Corrine Ellsworth, Rory Ball, Rio Souvigney, Norah LaPointe and Grace Moore.
- Mrs. Mead and the Student Council. Their 'Luv a Pup' fundraiser raised \$224.31 in February. In total, they will donate \$350.00 to Vintage Pet Rescue in Foster, RI.