



Shaping Futures Together

To: Dr. Donna Leake
 From: Carole McCombe
 Date: May 5, 2026
 Subject: May Report to the Board of Education

Field Trips:

- Grades PK-8 have arranged monthly walking trips to the Eastford Public Library.
- Students in grades 4 and 5 attended 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 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.
- Students in grades 1 and 2 will visit Old Sturbridge Village in June (TBD).
- Students in grade 3 will participate in a bus tour of Eastford on June 5, 2026. This connects to their study of Eastford History. The tour is led by members of the Eastford Historical Society.
- Grade 4 students will travel to the Connecticut River Museum on June 5, 2026. They will study CT River plants, trees, and animals and learn how the river provides a habitat for each.
- Students in grades 5-8 will visit Roseland Cottage in Woodstock on June 15, 2026. Their trip will focus on project-based learning relating to social studies content.

Virtual Field Trips (CILC):

Provider	Program	Grade	Date
Center for Puppetry Arts	Anansi the Spider: An African Folktale	Preschool	5/8/2026
Longwood Gardens	Dessert Plant Adaptations	Grade 4	5/15/2026
The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center	Creekside Curiosities	Grade 3	5/21/2026

Eastford Preschool Program (formerly Eastford Readiness Program):

The Program has 14 students enrolled. We provide walk-in speech services for two preschool-aged children who are not attending the program. Mrs. Kopplin and Ms. Garvie are holding a series of transition opportunities for current preschoolers and new registrants to visit the classrooms and get to know Ms. Garvie and Mrs. Kopplin in preparation for next school year. An evening Orientation for Kindergarten and Preschool parents is planned for May 28, 2026.

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 group has published their Needs Assessment Survey. This Survey has been shared with current and prospective preschool families. The next Community Table meeting of the ECESC is scheduled for May 7, 2026 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Data on Student Progress:

Throughout the month of May, students in grades 3-8 are taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) and students in grades 5 and 8 will also take the Next Generation Science Assessment (NGSS). These assessments are nationally normed, are used to calculate student growth and achievement, and are used for district accountability and to inform instruction. Results are available to teachers within 24 hours, and family reports will be available early next school year.

The third trimester awards celebration will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2026 beginning at 2:00 PM.

High School Information:

There are no changes to our high school planned attendance for the fall.

- One student plans to attend ACT
- One student plans to attend Ellis Tech
- 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)
May 15 Professional Development Day: Tools for Restorative Practices and relationship building.
- Recently, the state conducted an assessment audit for all districts. I am working with the MTSS team to review our assessment audit results and to evaluate and make decisions about the number of, need for, and frequencies of our assessments.
- We were awarded 12 hours of coaching through the CSDE under the Science of Reading initiative. Lori Crocker-Lincoln, Charlie Kernan and I have been working with Eastconn consultants around ongoing improvement in our programming, assessment, instruction and scheduling for our Reading and Language Arts time in grades K-3.

Fall Sports Update:

We have 8 boys and 17 girls interested in playing school soccer in the fall. I have reached out to Union School to see if they have any interested students. We are hoping to get a few more boys signed up so that we can field two teams.

Upcoming events:

- The May calendar of after school activities has been shared and permission slips are out for sign-ups. In addition to our regularly scheduled activities facilitated by Eastford Congregational Church, Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, Ragged Hill Woods, and Roger Williams Zoo, there will be a Rocket Club, a Family Feud Night, and two after school movies in May. The YMCA childcare is offered daily before and after school.
- A 'Someone Special' Dance will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2026. The additional fundraising for the Washington D.C. trip has been successful in raising more funds. I should have an exact amount that we will be asking families to pay per child by the time of our meeting on May 14. A suggestion was made to institute class dues for students beginning in Kindergarten to start building an account balance for the trip.
- May 15, 2026 is an early dismissal day for teacher professional development.
- The Scholastic Book Fair will take place May 28, May 29, June 1, June 2, and June 3. There will be evening hours on Tuesday, June 2, 2026.
- The Eastford Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade will take place on Monday, May 25, 2026 at the Veterans Memorial. Mrs. June Burns will lead EES student singers in some patriotic songs.
- Our spring concert will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, beginning at 1:45 PM. The performance will feature students in PK-2, the 3-5 chorus, and the 4-8 band. All are invited to attend.
- Experience Eastford will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.
- Our annual Field Day will be held on Friday, June 12, 2026. The PTO will provide a pizza lunch for students and staff that day.
- On Thursday, June 18, 2026 we will have our graduation rehearsal for the student body in the morning and our third trimester awards celebration for students in grades 1-8 in the afternoon. This will begin about 2:00 PM.
- Grade 8 graduation will take place Thursday evening, June 18, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM.

Special Thanks and Recognition:

- Thank you to seventh grade parents Sarah Minor, Jenny Gillett and Jennifer Norman for spearheading the additional fundraising events to lessen the out of pocket expenses associated with this year's trip to Washington, D.C. Each of them supervised a small committee of parents who were willing to help with these fundraisers. Their time and efforts have benefited all the students in grades 7 and 8.