

Eastford School District

Eastford Elementary School

12 Westford Road, P.O. Box 158, Eastford, CT 06242
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Dr. Donna Leake, *Superintendent*
Carole McCombe, *Principal*



March 13, 2020

Dear Eastford Families,

Yesterday the Governor issued new guidance on the COVID-19 virus and Superintendents participated in a conference call with the Commissioner of Education and other state organizations tasked with assessing this unique situation. Based on this guidance, and consistent with other neighboring school districts, we have made the difficult decision to close Eastford Elementary School effective on Monday, March 16, 2020.

We are sorry to have to come to this decision to close our school, but we believe this is the right thing to do for the health and safety of our students, staff and community. We, along with Board of Education Chair, Stephen Bowen, First Selectman, Jacqueline Dubois, and other town officials, realize this has a huge impact on families, including all of our working parents and local employers, as well as our staff. This has been a difficult decision that has taken a great deal of thought, research and time. However, social distancing has been shown to reduce the spread of viruses such as the Coronavirus and many steps have been taken to limit exposure using this strategy. Having students stay home from school supports the practice of social distancing. We hope to be able to reopen the school by Monday, March 30, but we will continue to evaluate the situation as it evolves. It may be that the school will need to be closed for a longer period, and the exact effect of this closure on our school calendar will be determined in the coming days.

It is important to our community's health and safety to keep our students home during this school closure period to respect the purpose of social distancing. It is our intention to provide all students with learning activities and materials. We encourage families to help keep their students' skills sharp during this unexpected break from school learning. Our school is not equipped with the technology to facilitate online distance learning, as some districts in the state, but students will have the opportunity to use many of the same online programs that we use in school, in conjunction with traditional paper and pencil activities, while they are at home. Please work with your student to practice their skills – it does make a difference! We ask families to please complete this survey to let us know the state of their home-based technology capabilities so we are able to assist families who have a need in this area. [Technology Access Survey](#)

Staff will be reporting to school to facilitate a plan for the preparation and distribution of student materials. We will notify you by the end of the day on Tuesday, March 17 as to how these materials will be distributed to families.

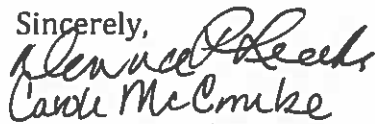


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www.eastfordct.org

These are unprecedented times for our community. In the coming weeks, we expect that normal routines and practices will be disrupted for many Americans. We all have a responsibility to heed the guidance and advice of our state and local health and education officials. We remind you that the best source for information on COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> and the best source of information for plans and updates affecting Eastford Elementary School can be found on our website, www.eastfordct.org.

At this time we do not know of anyone in our district that has tested positive for COVID-19. This closing is a precautionary measure that we hope will help all of our families remain safe and healthy. Following the guidance outlined above will hopefully help to minimize exposure to our community. We appreciate your patience and support as we work through this together. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole McCombe".

Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent
Carole McCombe, Principal