



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

DEC/JAN 2026 | THE HOLIDAYS



Letter from the Superintendent's Office

As we welcome January, I want to take a moment to look back on a December that truly reflected the heart of the Ellsworth School Department. Throughout the month, our schools were filled with activity, celebration, and service. From the holiday buffet and wreath laying to the toy drive, art festival, and many other events, students and staff found meaningful ways to connect with one another and with the broader community. These moments highlighted the important role our schools play in bringing people together.

I am grateful to everyone who helped make these experiences possible - our students, staff, families, and community partners. The time, energy, and care behind each effort reflect a strong sense of pride in our schools and a shared commitment to supporting one another. December offered many reminders of what can happen when people come together with a common purpose.

As we settle into the new year, we do so with a sense of momentum and optimism. January is a time to refocus and look ahead, including the important work now underway to develop a thoughtful and responsible FY27 budget that continues to support the excellent programs and opportunities in our district. Thank you for your continued dedication to our schools and for the care you bring to this work each day. Together, we will keep moving forward with purpose and a shared commitment to the Ellsworth community.



My very best,

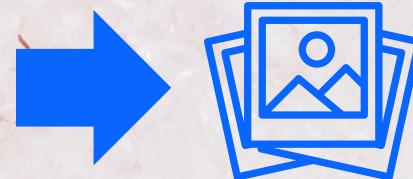
Nicole H. Chan
Asst. Superintendent of Schools

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Brookside Restaurant crushes their 2025 Holiday Buffet!



As they always do, our Culinary Arts team and the Brookside Restaurant welcomed the community with an amazing spread for our annual Holiday Buffet at HCTC! It was an awesome last seating of the year for the restaurant – thank you to everyone who came to support! Check out all the photos on our Facebook page!!



HCTC Programs get in the Holiday Spirit in quite a few ways!

In another annual tradition, Health Occupations students wrapped gifts, baked cookies, made Christmas cards and played games with our friends in Assisted Living! Down the stairs, our Criminal Justice team was at Woodbine Cemetery this December, participating in "Wreaths Across America" Day laying dozens of wreaths for veterans in the area! Thank you to our awesome students for all you do, and our program leaders for stepping up and making us proud!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

EHS and HCTC Students put on their best Santa impression!



Our Holiday Drives at HCTC and EHS were a huge success! At the high school, our Friends of Rachel and Interact Clubs hosted a holiday toy drive, and we collected 146 toys and stocking stuffers that we took straight to the Emmaus Shelter downtown! At HCTC, our National Technical Honors Society hosted a Penny Drive, and hit the stores to buy numerous gifts that they were able to give back to the community! It was an awesome display of our students & staff making meaningful differences in the community we live in – a great representation of Ellsworth Pride!



From EEMS, with love

This holiday season, our second grade team + Ms. Sprague's first graders were hard at work! Our kiddos wrote and designed their very own Christmas cards, and we sent them over to some of the lovely folks at Magnolia Assisted Living right here in Ellsworth! Thanks to our awesome team for spreading some extra holiday cheer to our neighbors!

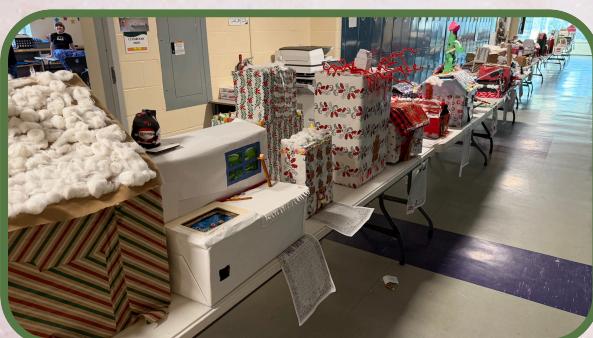
HAPPY HOLIDAYS

GINGERBREAD TIME!!

After weeks of reading, comparing, retelling, and even rewriting their own versions of the classic tale “The Gingerbread Man” - our first graders jumped right into the fun and wrapped up the unit in the sweetest way possible – with some fresh cookies! We mixed, shaped, rolled, and baked our own Gingerbread Christmas cookies – and if you can’t tell, they were DELICIOUS! This was the perfect way to bring the story to life — one cookie at a time! Check out our Facebook page for more pictures of all the fun!



PS: Sorry – no leftovers!



Staying on the subject – our 7th grade wing had a bit of a transformation last month – into an entire Gingerbread Village! Thanks to an awesome project that brought writing, creativity, and math together in a festive way, the entire hallway became a neighborhood of “Gingerbread houses”. Students built their homes, crafted stories to go with them, and even calculated the market value of their creations – and the results lined the entire wing! Check out all of the creativity and imagination that was on display for the school to see >>> [CLICK HERE](#)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The best way to spread Christmas Cheer . . .

A group of our EHS Jazz Band members, led by Mr. Calandro, made a few stops to play some classic Christmas Carols around the city this year! First, they gave an awesome concert to our Pre-K Classes at the Moore Center before heading across the lot to play for some of our seniors at Seal Cove!



Right after they finished, our National Honors Society students took the stage and sang for the crowd – before hitting the hallways and spreading some holiday cheer to everyone else in the building! Check out some more photos and hear them perform on our Facebook Page!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Our students weren't the only ones in the holiday spirit! Our staff joined forces with local businesses across Ellsworth for Ugly Sweater Day on December 19th – and it was a hit! Check out the fits on our group from EHS, HCTC, EEMS, and even our district HQ!!

And on the last day before Holiday break, our students at Ellsworth High School walked in to quite the surprise – Caroling Teachers! Shoutout to our staff members who lit up the café with Christmas cheer as students arrived – starting off the last day before break on a very festive note! See some more photos and hear them sing! >>>



HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The 2025 Holiday Arts Festival & EEMS Holiday Concert were big hits again! Our best student art from the fall was on display, and then our amazing musical groups took the stage and WOW'ed the crowd with some classic holiday music and more!

Check out our full album from EHS for pictures of all of the brilliant artwork, photos from the concert, and some videos of our talented musicians performing! Thanks to everyone who came to support this year!!



And one final shoutout to our amazing community members that support our schools year round – especially during the holiday season. Our three schools had dozens of full food bags dropped off to donate to families in need – and our annual Holiday Helpers program at EEMS filled the office with gifts! Your generosity amazes us every day – and we want to give a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes our school community the wonderful one that it is.



Ellsworth adds another Educator of the Year!!



Ms. Ireland is our theatre director at EHS, and also serves as the co-department head for our Visual and Performing Arts Academy. Her leadership both on and off the stage is felt by everyone who has interacted with her in our hallways – and it shows in each student performance she leads.

Congratulations, Jasmine!!

We are SO proud to celebrate our amazing **Jasmine Ireland** – this year, she was selected as the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Outstanding Educator Award winner for Theatre in Maine in 2025!

“In the classroom and on the stage, Jasmine brings an infectious passion for theatre. She empowers students to take risks, collaborate, and bring meaningful stories to life,” writes Principal Dan Clifford in a statement. “Her productions emphasize professionalism, artistic integrity, and deep respect for the craft — all while encouraging young people to find their voice and confidence.”



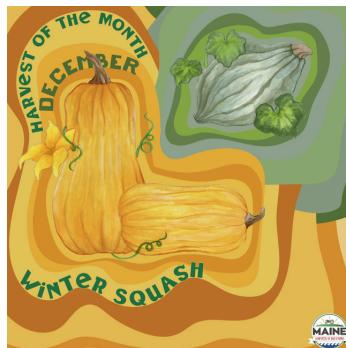
[Check out the moment she learned she was chosen – and read more about Ms. Ireland and what makes her an Outstanding Educator!](#)

READ MORE



THE STUDENT HUB

Another month, another Tasting Table!



Our students at EEMS had their taste buds working again this month at our Harvest of the Month Tasting Table!

This month we highlighted winter squash with schools around the state. Mr. Berry made a delicious Butternut Squash Baked Mac and Cheese that turned heads and kept everyone coming back for more!

Click on the link in the photos below to check out more pictures and even find the recipe so you can make it at home!



Tech Buddies in action! 🤖

Our kiddos at EEMS and the Moore Center had a whole week of tech-fun this month! From BeeBots and Indi Cars to LEGO robotics and fun coding games -- older students teamed up with younger classrooms, helping kids through activities, sparking curiosity, and building connections across grade levels. Our third graders even got a visit from HCTC's Cybersecurity students, who jumped in to share their skills and inspire the next generation.

Shoutout to our Tech Coach Ms. Libby for putting on an awesome week! See all the photos on our Facebook page!



MORE



THE STUDENT HUB

EEMS Art was on display downtown all month!

All month, some of our student artists at EEMS had their work displayed right in downtown Ellsworth by The Grand! Each year we partner with The Grand to show off our kids' work – this was the first year it was up outside for everyone to see! Shoutout to Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Baldwin for hanging the art and helping celebrate our student success!



Middle Schoolers make the most of 'Outdoor School' time!



Our sixth graders teamed up with Maine Outdoor School in December for a winter adventure in the Whitney Community Forest—just steps from EHS!

Ms. Hazel and Ms. Haley led us through the woods and played a ton of fun games and activities – helping us all get to know the plants and learn more about creatures that share our backyard! We also learned a lot about how these species that we share an environment with survive through the cold winter months.



Big thanks to MOS and the Frenchman Bay Conservancy for helping provide this awesome experience! Check out more photos on our Facebook page!



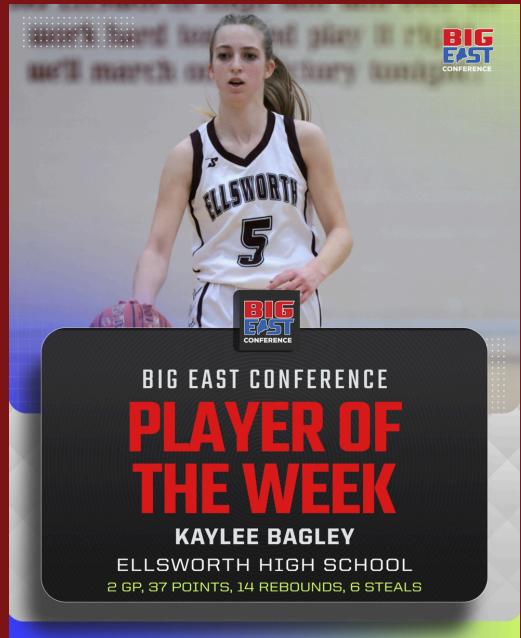
THE STUDENT HUB



Two of our EHS Varsity Girls hoopers have been named Big East Conference Player of the Week so far this season!

In Week 3, Elizabeth Boles put up 24 points, 3 rebounds, 8 assists and 4 steals in one game to earn her honors. In the very next week – Kaylee Bagley went off with 37 points, 14 boards and 6 steals across two games to earn her award!

Congratulations, Kaylee and Elizabeth – keep up the good work! Go Eagles!! 🦅



A New Record on the Track!

Shoutout to EHS Track & Field Freshman Caitlin Jenkins on setting a new school record in the Long Jump!

At the last meet of 2025 at the University of Maine, Caitlin recorded a distance of 15-7.75 – breaking a 27-year-old school record! The last record was held by Becky Lock, who recorded 15-7.

Congratulations, Caitlin! Check out a video of her breaking the record below!

CLICK HERE

THE STUDENT HUB

GOLD WING AWARDS

At EEMS, we honored our first 'Gold Wing Award' winners in December!

Congratulations to MaryJune McGrath, Adeline Ehrlenbach, Reid Hollenback, Tristen Woods, and Jaylin Burpee!

Every Gold Wing Award recipient maintains an 85% or higher average in all subjects, earns all 3's and 4's in Habits of Work, and is recommended by a teacher from their grade level! Hit the photo below to see their photos – and stay tuned for the next round of winners!



**FIRST QUARTER
'GOLD WING'
AWARD WINNERS!**



STUDENTS **OF THE MONTH**

At EHS, we celebrated our Student of the Month winners from September, October, and November before heading on break! We honor a Student of the Month, a VPA Student, a Humanities Student, a STEM Student, a Rachel's Challenge Student, and a Staff member of the month!

These individuals go above and beyond in their classrooms, their programs, and our school community — and we're excited to for every opportunity to celebrate their hard work and leadership!

With so many students and staff members recognized – please head to our website for photos and the full list of honorees! Congratulations to everyone and thank you for representing Ellsworth with pride.

READ MORE



Congrats to our December "High Five Award" winners!!



TAYLOR BLOOM
LONG-TERM SUB - SPECIAL EDUCATION

Let's give a big "High Five" to Taylor Bloom! Taylor was honored at our December school board meeting with the final High Five Award recognition of 2025.

Our High Five winners are chosen for their extraordinary dedication, their above-and-beyond compassion, and the impact they've had and continue to have on our students and community. Read more about their stories and don't forget to submit your nomination!

MORE



CHEER STARS GO NATIONAL!

We had a few Cheerleading stars from EEMS shining on the National Stage! Shoutout to Kyra Haslam and Arianna Fernald – they are 8th graders at EEMS and in their spare time they ship it over to Hermon to train and compete with Cheer Magic All Stars!



Both girls are team members for two teams – and on December 6th and 7th they went down to Baltimore, Maryland to compete in the 'Champion Cheer and Dance' Grand Nationals! Both teams crushed it – taking 1ST PLACE in their division. Kyra and Arianna brought home Champion medals and jackets to remember the victory!

Congrats girls – keep up the hard work!!

The Bulletin Board

Our Athletics Page has a new home - but still the same goods!

You can find schedules, registration, coaches contacts, live streams, spiritwear and anything you'll ever need related to EHS Athletics!

Click the picture to check it out - and be sure to save it as a bookmark for the future! Go Eagles!



SENIOR VS. STAFF BASKETBALL GAME

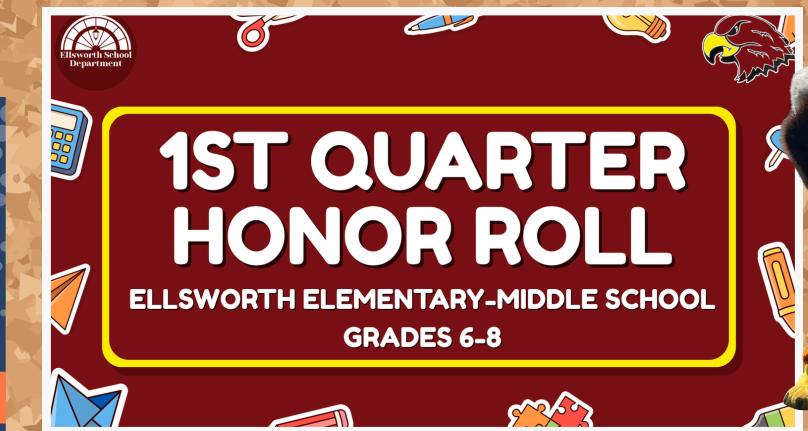
EHS GYMNASIUM JAN. 20TH AT 6PM

A Student Council fundraiser with 50% of proceeds going to the Beth Wright Cancer Center!

ADMISSIONS: \$2 FOR STUDENTS | \$4 FOR ADULTS
CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE



[CLICK HERE TO READ OUR MONTHLY ATTENDANCE NEWSLETTER!](#)



Our Ellsworth Adult & Community Education website has a new home!

Click our logo below to browse and register for courses, check out our schedules, and more!



Ellsworth School
Department

Want to work for an
awesome department
with great people?

Good news: **We're hiring!**
We've got open positions
for several roles.

Click on our logo above to check out our
employment page and find your best fit!

PARENT LINKS

[District Calendar](#)

[Infinite Campus](#)

[Bus Schedules](#)

[Lunch Menu \(EHS\)](#)

[Lunch Menu \(EEMS\)](#)

[Tech Help](#)



SPORTS LINKS

[EHS
ATHLETICS](#)

[EEMS
ACTIVITIES](#)

[MPA](#)



Ellsworth
School Dept.

Superintendent:
Amy Boles

Asst.
Superintendent:
Nicole Chan

Central Office:
207-664-7100



Ellsworth High
School

Principal:
Dan Clifford

Asst.
Principal:
Rebecca Wright

Main Office:
207-667-4722



Ellsworth
Elementary/
Middle School

Principal:
April Clifford

Asst.
Principal:
V. Alvelo
M. Wibberly
L. Corson

Main Office:
207-667-6241

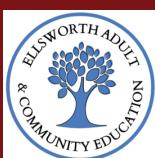


Hancock
County Tech.
Center

Director:
Bill Tracy

Administrative
Asst.
Elizabeth
Conners

Main Office:
207-667-9729



Ellsworth Adult
Education

Director:
Ann Sargent

Administrative
Asst.
Michelle Dawson

Main Office:
207-664-7110

HELP!

Ellsworth School Department needs
YOUR help!

We are looking to boost our storytelling
and shine a light on all of the fun,
positive things happening in our schools
every day!

Know of a student, teacher, or anyone
else who deserves a bit of spotlight? Fill
out one of our "Good News, Ellsworth!"
Submission forms and let us know about
it!

 GOOD NEWS, ELLSWORTH!

JANUARY DATES

- JAN. 14 Parent Tech Night - EEMS
- JAN. 15-17 MMEA Jazz All-State Festival
- JAN. 19 No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- JAN. 20 Seniors vs. Staff Basketball - EHS
- JAN. 20-24 Winter Carnival Week - EHS
- JAN. 23 Pep Rally - EHS
- JAN. 24 Winter Carnival Semi Formal - EHS