



DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JAN/FEB 2026 | STARTING STRONG!



Letter from the Superintendent's Office

As you'll see in this month's newsletter, our school community once again showed what it means to take care of one another. The pasta Dinner and raffle organized to support one of our freshmen and their family, along with our girls basketball team's Pink Night for breast cancer awareness, were powerful reminders of the compassion and generosity that define Ellsworth. Together, these two efforts raised just shy of \$8,000—an incredible outcome that speaks volumes about our students, staff, families, and community partners who stepped up in meaningful ways.

As we celebrate these moments of connection and purpose, we are also entering budget season—a time when we reflect carefully on how best to support our students and staff while continuing to provide strong, sustainable educational opportunities. The same community support that makes events like these so impactful is also essential as we look ahead. We are grateful for your continued engagement, trust, and partnership as we work together to meet the needs of our schools and plan responsibly for the future.

Sincerely,



Amy J. Boles
Superintendent of Schools



Spaghetti Dinner Raises NEARLY \$5K in One Night!!

Our most recent Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was a huge success!

On Thursday, January 29, the Ellsworth School Department hosted a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser that brought the entire community together for a great cause – and at the end of the night, we had collected \$4,911.50 for EHS 9th grader Layla Downs and her family. We even left the raffles open for the rest of the week, and brought the grand total up to \$5,496.50!

The EEMS cafeteria was packed, and joining the crowds of people flocking in to support one of our own was the Ellsworth High School jazz and choir musicians – truly giving us dinner with a show! The hundreds on hand enjoyed a great night of music and community.

"I am extremely proud of our Ellsworth community for pulling together to support a family that is deeply woven into our system," says Superintendent Amy Boles. "Students, staff, board members, and families came together to show their support for Layla and the family. They are extremely humbled and appreciative of the generosity of our community. We truly are better when we come together!"

From the local businesses that donated raffle items to the families who came out to eat and cheer, thank you. You proved last night that when one of our own needs a hand, this community doesn't just show up—it brings the sauce, the music, and a whole lot of heart.

See all of the photos from the event and read more about the night where we showed what "Ellsworth Strong" truly means!!

READ MORE





Eagles Girls raise \$3K for Beth Wright Cancer Center!

Our annual “Pink Night” for Ellsworth boys and girls basketball was a little extra special this time around! On January 23, our girls team traded our traditional maroon for sweet new pink threads – made possible by donations from several local businesses! Thank you to Sylvia’s Cafe, Friend & Friend, First National Bank, Coastal Auto Parts, Darlings Auto, Franklin Savings Bank, Camden National Bank, and Friends & Family Market for your generosity!

We are so proud to announce that through the incredible generosity of our community and local sponsors, we were able to present a \$3,000 check to the Beth C. Wright Cancer Center!

Shoutout to our senior captain Elizabeth Boles for spearheading the effort!



Elizabeth, along with a few teammates, went around to several local businesses and collected donations for both the jerseys and for their fundraiser for the Beth C. Wright Cancer Center. Our boys suited up with pink socks and headbands, too! It was an honor to play for a cause that touches so many lives. Together, we are stronger! Go Eagles!

[See all of our photos from the night, and find links to stories about Elizabeth from the Ellsworth American, WVII Fox Bangor, and watch her as WABI's Student Athlete of the Month!](#)

CLICK HERE

HCTC READY FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF SKILLSUSA!

MEET THE TEAM HCTC SKILLSUSA

Lily Alley - Diesel Technology State Officer

"Being a state officer has helped me because I've learned so many skills between how to work with people, how to go out to businesses, and how to talk to businesses. We've learned how to network and meet a bunch of new people. I have friends from different states that I still talk to, to this day."

Lily Alley
2nd year State Officer



Our officers and students are gearing up to show off the skills they've worked so hard to learn once again! [Click here to meet everyone that will be competing for us this season!](#)

MEET THE TEAM HCTC SKILLSUSA

Brianna Ames - Education & Human Services Chapter Excellence Chairperson

"Being our Chapter Excellence Chairperson has helped me a lot with speaking in front of a lot of people and brainstorming ideas for wide school activities ... we're doing Reading Buddies, and it's making a big impact on the older kids and the younger kids - just putting ourselves out there."

Brianna Ames
Chapter Excellence Chair



MEET THE TEAM HCTC SKILLSUSA

Bill Tracy - Director
Hancock County Technical Center

"They've chosen a **passion**, they've chosen a **pathway**, and now they have this opportunity to dive in even deeper and really try to **build those skills** more and then put themselves on a place where it's competitive ... Not only is it a chance to showcase the skills they have, it's a true **employability builder** for them."



MEET THE TEAM HCTC SKILLSUSA

Destiny Kane - Health Occupations State Officer

"Well, at first I was scared. I didn't know what SkillsUSA was. I just kind of went for it ... SkillsUSA has helped **push me outside of my bubble**. It's helped make me more **independent**. I have these people and I can always talk to them. They're always going to be there for me. I'm always there for them."

Destiny Kane
State Officer



[Click here to meet our State Officers and the other members of our leadership team that have been representing us as we prepare for the big stage!](#)

MEET THE TEAM HCTC SKILLSUSA

Rebekah Perry-Lind - Health Occupations Chapter Vice President

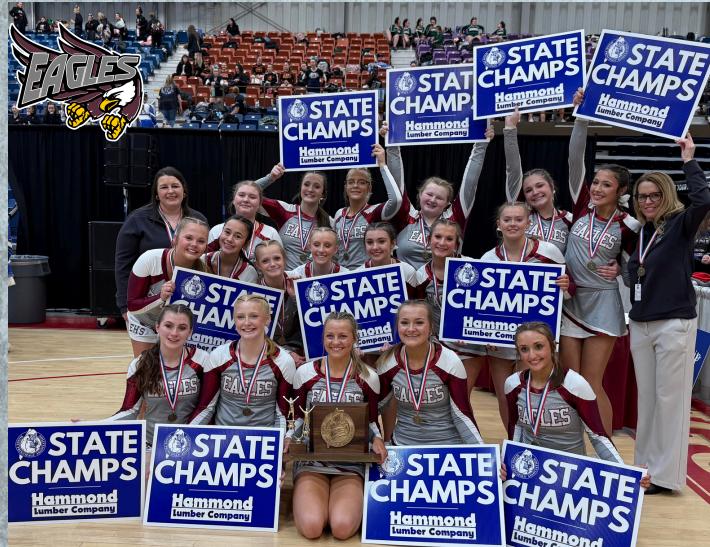
"SkillsUSA helps me build **leadership and career skills** for my future, and I wanted to be a chapter officer here at HCTC so I could **represent my program**, support other students, and help our career chapter grow."

Rebekah Perry-Lind
Chapter Vice President



SkillsUSA

WINTER SPORTS UPDATE



FOUR IN A ROW!

History has been made! Our girls cheer team just secured their fourth consecutive state title, proving once again why they are the standard of excellence.

In a sport where every fraction of a point matters, the girls dominated the floor to win by a staggering 12-point margin! Their precision, power, and unmatched spirit left no doubt who the champions are. Congratulations to the athletes and coaches on building this incredible dynasty. The legacy continues! 

We are thrilled to announce that senior Elizabeth Boles has been selected for the 2026 Maine McDonald's Senior All-Star Game!

Elizabeth was voted in by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches to represent the Class A/B North team. This selection recognizes not only her talent on the court but her hard work and leadership as an Eagle.

Come cheer her on as she competes with the best seniors in the state! The game is at Husson University in Bangor on Saturday, March 7th. All proceeds go to the the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Maine!



IT'S PLAYOFF TIME!

Our basketball teams take the court at the Cross Insurance Center this weekend – our girls play Old Town in the quarterfinals on Friday night, and the boys are up against MDI on Saturday at 4!

On the mats – our wrestling team had five members place at the PVC Championship. Clifford Cheney (1st, 120), Darion Wescott (3rd, 126), Jovin Pesek (2nd, 138), Owen Buchanan (2nd, 190), and Riley Duhaime (3rd, 285) were all on the podium as the Eagles placed 4th.

In the pool, boys and girls swim is off to another great season as they get ready for the state championships on March 7th!

For all EHS Athletics updates – hit the Eagle to go to our sports page!



THE STUDENT HUB

Seniors vs Staff Game another big hit!!



Our students and staff took the court again for our annual Seniors vs. Staff Game!

For the third straight year... our staff left victorious! The Class of 2026 gave them a run for their money, but it wasn't enough!

The best part? We raised nearly \$700 through ticket sales and concessions, and half of the proceeds went to Beth Wright Cancer Center! Check out all the fun in our video recap!



EHS Jazz well-represented at All-State Festival

It was a *HISTORIC* year for the Ellsworth High School Jazz members! This month, we sent five musicians to the MMEA All-State Jazz Festival – the most in our school's history, and tied for the most in the state this year!

Shoutout to Harper Turner, Jovi Nightingale, Finley Harmon, Ella Johnston and Juliette Hiatt for all of their hard work – it truly paid off!

Click the photos below to hear Mr. Calandro talk about how awesome this was for us – and he sings their praises, too!



THE STUDENT HUB

EEMS hosts first ever District VI Honors Music Festival!

For the first time ever, musicians from all over the area flooded EEMS all day long for the District VI Honors Festival!

It was an incredible evening featuring performances by the District VI Honors Concert Choir and Honors Concert Band, bringing together talented student-musicians from Brewer to Deer Isle and everywhere in between.

A huge thank you to all the students, directors, and families who made this event a success. We loved having you at Ellsworth, and we're already looking forward to making this an annual tradition! Check out all of our photos!!



EHS Musicians hit the road for their own Honors Festival!



MORE



Ellsworth High School musicians took the stage for their own honors festival, too, heading to Hampden Academy at the end of January for the District V MMEA Honors Music Festival! Click the photos to see more!

Our team of talented performers has traveled a lot lately – and we are looking forward to hosting the District VI Music Festival right here at Ellsworth High School on February 12th!

We'll welcome the best middle and high school performers for a full day of music – from choirs, to ensembles, to jazz combos and more!

THE STUDENT HUB

For the past few weeks, HCTC students have been heading over to EEMS each Wednesday for some Reading Buddies fun! A few of our students are using this as their SkillsUSA project, too! Find all of our photos on Facebook!



Before that, the BL&H Year 2 team was hard at work with their annual Monopoly Marketing project! Students designed their boards, developed themes, crafted 3D-printed tokens, applied the 4 Ps of marketing — then pitched their finished boards to a mock Hasbro Board of Directors! Check out all the photos!



Much like the Reading Buddies, our Business Leadership & Hospitality group is making their way to Middle Schools across the area, partnering with Machias Savings Bank for some fun financial literacy lessons and games!



Several of our students spent the day out of the classroom and into the trial room! We were super lucky to observe the courthouse in action. Students took notes on tone, inflection, body language and specific words used. We appreciate the judge and both attorneys taking the time to speak to the students and answer questions! Hit the photo above for more!

THE STUDENT HUB

Strange Visitors at EEMS!



Our youngest learners had a flurry of fun visitors this month!

The Chewonki group and their traveling natural history program visited – and they brought some friends ... in the form of a crab, tarantula, millipede, and more! Remind us to double check the RSVP's next time...

Our Kindergarteners had a visit from Mr. Drew – and his Amazing Animals Too! Mr. Drew runs an exotic animal rescue, rehabilitation center, and educational program and was kind enough to stop by and show off some of his awesome buddies.

Pre-K Coin Drive - All February Long!

Our Pre-K team is excited to announce the return of the 100% From Our Hearts Coin Drive! Throughout the month of February, students at EEMS and the Moore Center will be collecting coins to benefit the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Ellsworth. It also helps us learn about the Presidents for President's Day, caring for others for Valentine's Day, and it's a fun counting exercise with the 100th day of school around the corner! Click the photo to learn more!!



Do you or someone you know have a child that will be entering Kindergarten (will turn 5 on or before 10/15/2026) or Pre-Kindergarten (will turn 4 on or before 10/15/2026) next year? If so please take a moment to fill out the brief survey below so that we can make sure to send you information on the registration and screening processes that will be upcoming.



(*Note - if you have a child currently in the Ellsworth Pre-K, please still fill out the form for Kindergarten if your child will be attending here in Ellsworth)

[Pre-K Survey](#)

[Kindergarten Survey](#)

THE STUDENT HUB

What's going on in the lunchroom?

The EEMS Cafeteria was quite active in January! On the right – we are joining Green Ellsworth and local businesses for their Composting Pilot Project! Read our article for more photos and information!

It was another awesome Tasting Table for our Harvest of the Month – Potatoes! We turned some Aroostook County spuds into an awesome cheesy hashbrown casserole. Check out our Facebook page for all the photos!



MORE



MORE

THE STUDENT HUB

Class of '29 visits HCTC!

We had a blast with the EHS 9th grade on their visit to HCTC for program tours. HCTC's student ambassadors did an incredible job leading the groups, sharing their passion for their trades, and giving the freshmen a taste of the hands-on projects we tackle every day! Head to Facebook to check out all of the photos from the trip!



Real Science IN ACTION!

At EHS, Mr. Linders and his biology classes recently wrapped up Jackson Laboratory's *Teaching the Genome Generation* curriculum! Click the link below for photos of his students and the final lab – a Gel Electrophoresis experiment with real DNA!



Our JMG Students hosted the first Social Impact Career Panel of 2026 this month!

Thank you to Doc Goodwin (Maine Veterans Project), Ashley Pesek (Cody's Closet), Sarah Bowden (Community Closet 207), Carrie Kutny (Heart of Ellsworth), and Tyler Krusz (ESD) for joining us as our student leaders dug into what it really means to make a difference in the greater community – through service, storytelling, advocacy, and everyday actions that matter.

HCTC 1ST YEAR APP OPEN NOW!

First-year student applications for HCTC are now open for the 2026-27 school year. Take the first step toward your future today!

Are you ready for a high school experience that gives you a head start on your career or college? HCTC offers hands-on instruction in 14 Maine-approved CTE programs!

Click on the photo below for the full details and application link!



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

Let's give a big "High Five" to Jennifer Smith, Taylor Boynton, and Kasandra Dumont! These three were honored at our November board meeting with another round of High Five Award recognitions this year.

These staff members were 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! >>>

CLICK HERE



EHS, HCTC Senior earns USCG Certificate!

Setting Sail for Success! 

Big congratulations to Captain Lily Alley for achieving a massive career milestone!

Lily has successfully completed the rigorous US Coast Guard Approved curriculum to upgrade her credentials from OUPV to Master 100 Tons.

Through the Mariners Learning System, she mastered the complex regulations and technical skills required to lead at the highest level on the water. We are so proud of your dedication and hard work, Captain! Clear skies and smooth sailing ahead. 



The Bulletin Board



Congratulations to our EHS Athletes of the week from January! Cavan Jester, Boris Felix, Clifford Cheney, Jovin Pesek, Noah Frost, Elizabeth Boles, Lily Alley and Colby Eaton each got the chance to wear the new Eagles Hype Chain! Congrats, everyone!

'26 CARD BROOK CLEAN UP T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

STUDENT ART WANTED - K-12

- Submissions due by Feb. 27
- Must be original work and meet the theme: "Keep Card Brook Clean!"
- Winning design gets \$50 gift card + a free T-shirt!

Please join us at EEMS
(Ellsworth Elementary Middle School)

Wednesday, March 25th
FAMILY STEM NIGHT

4:30 PM TO 7:30 PM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Join Us

Prom Attire Drive

We'll be collecting gently used Prom Attire:

February - March

Drop-off items such as:

- ✓ Dresses
- ✓ Suits
- ✓ Shoes

Donated prom attire will be available for high schoolers to shop:

April 4 & 11 | 9 AM-12 PM

Machias Savings Bank
93 High St
Ellsworth, ME 04605



Candy Grams For Sale
Happy Valentine's Day

All Proceeds will be donated to Cody's Closet

Candy Gram Prices Are:

- \$1 Lollipops
- \$2 Fun Dip
- \$3 Candy Bar's

We will be selling until February 12th

PUT ON BY NTHS

**CLICK HERE TO READ
OUR FEBRUARY MONTHLY
ATTENDANCE NEWSLETTER!**



**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

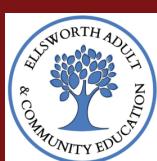


**Hancock
County Tech.
Center**

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!**

FEBRUARY DATES

FEB. 9-13

February Spriti Week - EEMS

FEB. 11

HCTC Valentine's Buffet - Brookside

FEB. 12

Middle + HS Music Festival - EHS

FEB. 13

Music Festival - Snow Date

FEB. 16-20

No School - Vacation

FEB. 26

NTHS Induction Ceremony - HCTC