



BRAVE LITTLE SCHOOL

THE EBS BIENNIAL
NEWSLETTER

December 2020

FIND US ONLINE: 

www.eastburkeschool.org
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Dear EBS Friends and Families,

As you well know, 2020 has rattled public and private schools worldwide, and EBS has been no exception. Over the past nine months, our school has transitioned temporarily to remote learning and back, raised funds for purchasing laptops to equip our students, endured a change in leadership, lost revenue from cancelled fundraising events, welcomed new part-time faculty, and prepared for quick pivots in response to the pandemic. With a total staff of just two and a half, we have accomplished the near-impossible.

Though tumultuous, the past several months have also been edifying. They have confirmed the value of student-centered, in-person education, reminding us of just how lucky we are to be able to learn together while larger schools around us have been forced to close their doors. These months have also prompted us to redefine our very mission, considering more intentionally what makes EBS unique and what we want to offer the NEK.

We don't know what awaits us in 2021, but we do know this: times of crisis are also times of possibility for those who are willing to act. We intend to embrace every possibility that the new year brings, and we welcome you to join our efforts here at this brave little school!

With hope and gratitude,

Charles Delany & Megan Durling
Co-Directors



SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Size has always been our greatest advantage at EBS. In the midst of a global pandemic, our small size now makes us one of the safest options for high school education in the nation. With a maximum enrollment of 18, we can continue to offer our students quality in-person education with minimal risk to their health.

As of mid-December, there have been **0 cases of COVID-19 in VT schools with under 25 students.**
Learn more at www.healthvermont.gov.

GIVING

DID YOU KNOW? The CARES Act allows every taxpayer to take a charitable gift deduction of up to \$300 for 2020, even if you don't itemize. Support our work: [donate by December 31!](#)

We Are Now Climate Catalysts!

See our food forest project featured on the VT Council on Rural Development's website: vtcouncilonruraldevelopment.org/climatecatalysts.



Fall 2020 Course Offerings At a Glance

- Algebra
- Career & College Writing
- Civics
- Ecology
- Financial Literacy
- Makerspace
- Romance Languages
- Self-Sufficiency Skills
- Wellness

Makerspace: A Closer Look Makerspace is a self-directed art class in which students choose their own pursuits. **The only rule? Make something awesome.** Here are some of the projects that our students have taken on this semester:

- Pyrography (woodburning)
- Culinary arts
- Rebuilding a go-kart engine
- Painting landscapes
- Refurbishing a skateboard
- Writing and recording original songs
- Assembling a computer
- Painting a mural
- Making wreaths and ornaments
- Developing piano skills



INTRODUCING THE FOOD FOREST AT EBS

Watch our parking lot transform!

Before the ground froze, our students were hard at work collecting soil samples, conducting percolation tests, digging swales, and adding organic matter to the center of our parking lot.

What began as completely dead soil will soon be the **NEK's first food forest**, a perennial garden that will provide fresh, nutritious produce to families in need while training our students in an ecologically restorative form of agriculture.

Check back in the spring to see what's growing!



A heartfelt thank-you to Lyndonville Agway, Lyndonville Hardware, Simple Wheys Farm, Café Lotti, and everyone who has helped us launch this exciting project!

MORE WAYS TO SUPPORT EBS



Purchase EBS crafts and merch from our display at Café Lotti!

Donate new or gently used items.

We're currently in need of a quality copier, woodworking tools, kitchen equipment, and DIY books.

Volunteer! We always need help around the little blue schoolhouse.



Our Mission

East Burke School is a not-for-profit independent school for curious students in grades 8-12. Our mission is to embrace learning as a natural process of human growth by teaching the critical skills that will prepare students to be innovative, creative, and responsible in our global community.

EBS Reconnect Fund

Thank you again to all of the supporters who helped us purchase laptops for our students this year! We are deeply indebted to you for your generosity.