



GREGORY R. KENNEY  
School Committee Chairperson

BARRY J. RICCI  
Superintendent of Schools

# Chariho Regional School District

CHARIHO REGIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

455B Switch Road

Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

**All Kids...All of the Time**



GREGORY M. ZENION  
Principal

KRISTEN H. DANUSIS  
Assistant Principal

To the parents and guardians of students in Grades 6 and 7:

Chariho Middle School recognizes that there are highly capable students in our school who would benefit from a demanding, independent learning experience. Participants must be highly motivated and willing to engage in challenging and rigorous learning. There are two program options available to students in grades seven and eight: 1) Virtual High School (VHS) course with a daily pull out program, or 2) a project-based learning experience that meets three times per week. Students may continue participation in the spring upon successful completion in the fall semester. Students will be offered VHS seats through a tiered system as long as seats are available. Students may choose the option that best meets their needs for each semester. Both a VHS class and research group can not be chosen for the same semester.

**Option 1: VHS.** VHS courses are high school level classes taken on the computer with students from around the world, ages ranging 12 – 18. You must have a fast home internet connection to take a VHS Class. A dial-up connection will not work. Participating students' class schedules will be determined by individual students' needs and class selection. Review the VHS website <http://www.govhs.org/> and complete the VHS Pre-Student Survey Questionnaire (click on the "Info For" tab and then follow the link for "students") to determine how suited your child is for VHS. Look for the link for "VHS Catalog" on the "Welcome" tab and check out "High School Courses for Middle School Students" to find out what courses are available. Take the time to explore the link for "Day in the Life" (under the "Welcome" tab) and follow the link for "student". On average, students spend five to six hours a week in addition to the one hour they are pulled from classes each day to successfully complete a VHS course.

**Option 2: Project-based learning experience.** The research group will consist of students from grades seven and eight and will meet three times a week during the school day. Students can expect to work outside the classroom up to five hours a week. Students will work on a project that develops research skills while integrating technology.

Interested students must apply by Monday, April 4. There is one application period per year each spring. Applicants will be notified by the end of the school year. Applicants will be selected on the basis of academic grades, NECAP scores, RTI measures, and teacher referral. If you would like your child to be considered for the Highly Capable Program, either A) complete the Parent Referral Form (opposite side) or, B) have your child type one paragraph explaining why they want to participate in the Highly Capable Program. Send the completed Parent Referral Form or typed essay to the Office of the Principal no later than Monday, April 4. Late submissions will not be considered.

For additional information about the Program for Highly Capable Students, please visit <http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/cmshighcap> . Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Gregory Zenion, Principal*

The Chariho Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, marital status, race, religion, national origin, color, creed, political affiliation, sexual orientation, or handicap in accordance with applicable law.

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