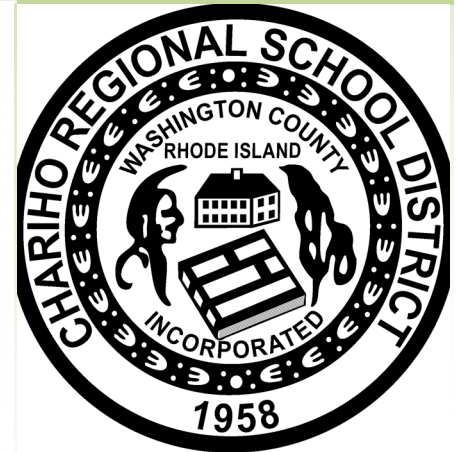


Chariho Regional School District



February 2017
E-Update



From your Superintendent...

Let me begin by giving you an update on the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

Over the past five years, our annual budget increases have averaged about one-half of one percent. This year, that was not possible mainly due to substantial increases in health insurance premiums. As I write, the budget calls for an increase in expenditures of 2.96%.

The budget development process is far from over. The School Committee will meet again on February 2 at 6:00 PM in the High School Library to conduct its fourth budget workshop. I have been directed by the School Committee to come prepared with two sets of reductions, one at \$500,000 and one at \$2,000,000. Obviously, the \$2,000,000 in reductions will impact staff and programs. The School Committee will approve a budget on February 7th.

As you know, our budget is apportioned to the three towns based upon enrollment. You probably also know that most of the general state education aid goes directly to the three towns, which they use to offset a portion of their contribution to our budget. As reported in the media, our budget most negatively impacts the Town of Richmond. That is due to the facts that (1) Richmond's enrollment (and share of our budget) has increased, (2) Richmond continues to lose state aid under the funding formula, and (3) our budget increase is higher than it has been in recent years. As you can see, we have some control over only one of these factors.

On another note, I will be proposing to the School Committee that we look at student transportation in a different way. Now, we schedule our transportation routes for all eligible students, even though about 35% of our students do not use the system. I will be proposing that parents who need transportation services register for those services and that we provide bus transportation to those students who need it. More information will follow.

Keep your fingers crossed that the fair weather returns. Take care.

In the News...



Information about school cancellation, delayed openings, and early releases is provided via automated phone messages, notices posted on our web page, announcements to local media, and Twitter. When the school day is canceled, the earliest notification is made via Twitter @CharihoRegional.

Effective with the 2017-2018 school year, free sports physicals will no longer be provided. A comprehensive physical exam completed by a physician within thirteen (13) months of athletic participation will be required. Contact the Athletic Director at Michael.Shiels@chariho.k12.ri.us for more information.

Menu and nutritional information is now available from ARAMARK at <http://chariho.schooldish.com>. Contact ARAMARK at 552-7571 for employment opportunities.

Follow us on Twitter @CharihoRegional!

High School Information Worth Remembering...

Our new graduation policy allows students to design their own **personalized pathway**.

While we offer a number of formal options, such as accounting, culinary arts, health careers, and marketing, it would be impossible to create every possible career pathway. School counselors can assist interested students.

An **internship** experience is a great way to apply skills learned in the classroom or to explore career interests. Internships are credit-bearing and may be either paid or unpaid. Thomas.spadoni@chariho.k12.ri.us is the person with whom to speak.

On a student's **18th birthday** all of the rights of the parent are automatically transferred to the student. Parents and guardians may provide the High School principal with income tax returns showing the child as a dependent. (Redact financial information, please.) This will prevent the automatic transfer of rights to the student.

To be eligible for a Chariho Diploma, there is a standardized assessment requirement for the **Class of 2017** and thereafter. Students may choose from a number of options to meet this requirement. For a full list of assessment options and the related pass scores and to review all other graduation requirements, please visit http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/policy/academic_requirements_for_hs_graduation_2015-2016.pdf or schedule a time to meet with a school counselor.

High School students may choose to

accelerate their studies by **“testing out”** of courses so that they may advance to the next sequential course. Information is on page ten of the Program of Studies. It's important that students consult with their counselor and any college of interest before making this decision.

High School students may choose to design their own course of study through an **Independent Study Project**. These projects allow High School students in good academic standing to study areas of interest that are not offered through traditional courses at the High School. Contact kelly.delacruz@chariho.k12.ri.us.

Effective immediately and in accord with R.I. General Law 23-4.5-1, 17 year old students may **donate blood** without parent permission.

Congratulations!

Kyle Keefe

First Team All-State – Boys Cross Country

Dom Ciringione

Second Team All-State – Football

Marissa Alfiero

1st Place – Chariho Poetry Out Loud

Avery Moody

2nd Place – Chariho Poetry Out Loud

Cassidy Argo

Gold Key – RI Scholastic Art Awards

Samantha Joslin

Silver Key – RI Scholastic Art Awards

Michael Shiels

Certified Athletic Administrator by National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

High School Boys' Basketball Team

Winners of Westerly Community Credit Union's Tournament

Middle School Girls' Basketball Team

Winners of CMS Holiday Tournament

Stansfield/Burns High School English Class

Winners of Achieve 3000 Read to Succeed Contest

Kate Rosivach

Winner of FTC Design Award – First Tech Challenge

Cathy Moffitt and Mary Ann Mello

Recipients of Risk Taker, Dream Maker Award

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES!

February 7
Approval of FY18 Budget at Regular School Committee Meeting

February 9
Early Release Thursday

February 20-24
Winter Recess

The 2016-2017 Calendar is available at http://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/2016-17_chariho_school_calendar.pdf.

THANK YOU!

Evergreen Acres
Donation of Mixed Evergreens to Agricultural Sciences Program

Riverside Christmas Tree Farm
Donation of Mixed Evergreens to Agricultural Sciences Program

Hopkinton Police Department
Donation of Wal-Mart Gift Cards to Ashaway Families

Richmond Senior Center
Donation of Foam Stickers to Ashaway School

Richmond Police Department
Donation of Games and Toys to Ashaway Families

Kevin Pagliarini
Donation of Three \$500 WorldStrides Travel Vouchers to 2017 Grade 8 Washington, DC Trip

A Final Word...

The Rhode Island Alliance for Arts Education has annually recognized an outstanding Rhode Island school district to represent excellence in visual arts learning through the "Gift of Art to the State of Rhode Island." This year, the Chariho K-12 visual arts department was chosen. Nine pieces of student art work will be submitted to the permanent "Gift of Art" collection.