

Chariho Regional School District

February 2018
E-Update



From your Superintendent...

We are in the middle of the fiscal year 2019 budget process. My initial recommended budget to the School Committee, after including general and capital expenses and debt service, and subtracting revenue and fund balance (surplus), impacted Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton by an additional 1.98% over one year ago.

Since the introduction of my initial recommended budget, the School Committee has made several thoughtful adjustments. They have reinstated elementary level field trips, and added performance-based reimbursement for Advanced Placement test fees, tuition for the CCRI Running Start Program, and funds for improved football helmets (due to recent study about head injuries). At the same time, the budget has been reduced in non-instructional areas by \$244,733. Now, new state aid reductions of \$74,989 will need to be addressed. As I write, the impact on Charlestown, Richmond and Hopkinton is just under 1.6%.

You've probably heard or read about our Specialty Schools project. Each of the elementary schools, in addition to hugely successful world language, highly capable, blended learning, and investigative science programs, will go deeper (specialize) into a facet of our existing curriculum. While still in the development phase, Charlestown School will focus on outdoor learning, Richmond School will focus on health and wellness, Ashaway School will focus on engineering and robotics, and Hope Valley School will focus on media and technical arts. We already allow in-district choice in accord with <https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/policy/voluntary-change.pdf> and, in the future, hope to assist with transportation.

Our 2018-2019 calendar has been approved by the School Committee and there are major changes. Hoping to standardized the calendar among Washington County districts, next year's calendar will feature the following: (1) students will begin on the day after Labor Day, (2) the winter recess will be shortened, (3) formal parent-teacher conference days in which school is closed have been eliminated, (4) we will close on the day before Thanksgiving, and (5) graduation and the final day of school will be earlier than in the past. Regarding conferences, we will introduce a new process whereby parent conferences at any time of the year will be held within five days of a request.

Take care.



2016

**Include your voice in the
budget development process!**

[Approval of Budget](#)
February 13

[Regional Meeting/Public
Hearing on Budget](#)
March 6

[Adoption of Budget](#)
March 13
[Budget Referendum](#)
April 10

[https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/
budget](https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/budget)

CHARIHotech

Early Decision Applications Due
February 15
[https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/
ctc](https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/ctc)

What's new?

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches a five-step action plan to offer initial help to young people showing signs of a mental illness or crisis. A Youth Mental Health First Aid course, ideally for teachers, coaches, faith leaders, and social workers, but available to anyone will be held on Feb. 17 & 24. Contact mh1staid@gmail.com for information.

Students at Chariho High School now have the ability to earn the prestigious AP Capstone Diploma. Students take AP Seminar early in

their high school career, followed by AP Research. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP exams of their choosing receive the AP Capstone Diploma. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research but not on four additional AP exams receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate. More information is available at <https://advancesinap.collegeboard.org/ap-capstone/how-ap-capstone-works>.

Just as with cigarettes, it is now illegal in RI to use e-cigarettes or a vaping device on school property or at a school event. This new law is effective as of January 1, 2018.

Vaping has become very common, and

serious health concerns have emerged. According to Science News for Students, "Students as young as 12 or 13 are now more likely to vape than to smoke. Many are under the impression that because e-cigs don't contain tobacco, they pose little risk to health. Wrong. Over the past few months, research has turned up evidence that vaping can pose many brand new risks. The vapors mess with immunity, some studies show. "Smoker's cough" and bloody sores have begun showing up in teen vapers. The hotter a vaped liquid gets, the harsher its effects on human cells. And a relatively new vaping behavior called "dripping" ups the heat. This threatens to intensify a teen's risks from those vapors."

Congratulations!

[Michele Leclerc](#)

Recipient of Golden Apple Award

[John Haxton](#)

Football All-Academic Team

[Miranda Hoxie, Noah Liguori-Bills](#)

2018 Silver Key – Scholastic Art Awards

[Anna LaCroix](#)

Selected to Present TEDx Talk at URI

[Avery Moody](#)

Winner of High School Annual Shakespeare Competition

[Tommy Wrzesien](#)

Holder of New School Record for Wrestling Wins

[Matt Stanley](#)

Winner of 100M Breaststroke at Read-Watmough Invitational

SurveyWorks is Here!

Last year, more than 113,000 students, parents, and educators participated in SurveyWorks, a school culture and climate survey that helps illustrate what is working and what can be improved in Rhode Island schools.

The survey, along with related information, may be accessed at <http://ride.ri.gov/InformationAccountability/RIEducationData/SurveyWorks.aspx>. An access code will be provided by your child's school principal.

IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES!

February 8: Early Release Thursday

February 19-23: Winter Recess

The 2017-2018 calendar is available at <https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/2017-18charihoschoolcalendar.pdf>.

The 2018-2019 calendar is available at https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/2018-19_school_calendar.pdf.

THANK YOU!

[Laura Rieger](#)

Donation of 2006 Ford Explorer to Automotive Program