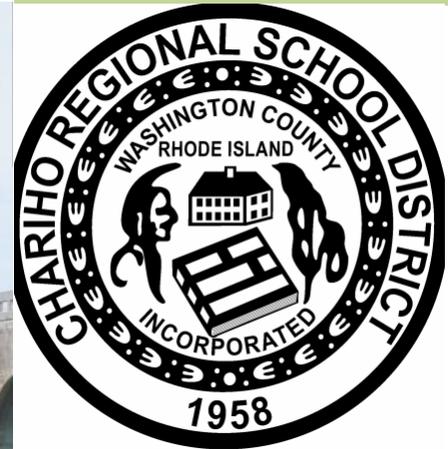


Chariho Regional School District

January 2019
E-Update

RAISE YOUR EXPECTATIONS TO ACHIEVE MORE



From Your Superintendent...

I apologize for the longer-than-usual message this month. First off, Happy New Year!

Probably the most important policy-type document that exists is the budget. It speaks to the Superintendent's and School Committee's priorities, in a manner understood by most, in dollars and cents. We began the internal budget development process in early October by gathering information from teachers, department chairs, content area leaders, specialists and others. The process continued in my office with a line-by-line review with principals and directors.

The public is invited to the table through a series of public workshops and meetings held in the High School Library. Here are the important dates and times:

- January 3 - Budget Workshop (6:00 PM)
- January 8 - Budget Workshop (6:00 PM)
- January 9 - Finance Committee (5:30 PM)/Omnibus Meeting (7:00 PM)
- January 15 - Budget Workshop (6:00 PM)
- January 17 - Budget Workshop (6:00 PM)
- February 12 - Budget Approval at School Committee Meeting (7:00 PM)
- March 5 - Annual Regional School District Meeting/Public Hearing on Budget) (7:30 PM-Auditorium)
- March 12 - Budget Adoption at School Committee Meeting (7:00 PM)
- April 9- Budget Referendum

On December 7, the Chariho School Committee approved a new five-year District Strategic Plan; we call it Vision 2023. Over forty educators, school and district leaders, parents, elected officials, students, and community members worked over the course of three meetings to craft a new five-year plan. This important document can be found here: https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/sites/default/files/vision_2023_w_pics_1.pdf

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), on December 19, released school accountability information based upon recent RICAS results and other information, like student attendance, teacher attendance and graduation rates. Ashaway Elementary School and Hope Valley Elementary School were rated as 5-STAR schools; Charlestown Elementary School was rated as a 4-STAR school; and Richmond Elementary School, the High School and Middle School were rated as 3-STAR schools. The Chariho Alternative Learning Academy (1-STAR) was rated as a school in need of comprehensive support and improvement, based on its graduation rate.

News Worth Knowing...



2016 & 2018

WE'RE HIRING!

PART-TIME ELECTRICIAN
FULL-TIME HVAC
PART-TIME KITCHEN HANDLER
SCHOOL NURSE TEACHER
SUBSTITUTE CUSTODIANS
SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER ASSISTANTS

APPLY HERE:

<https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/employment>

More News Worth Knowing...

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.

We would like to be able to offer every junior or senior in good academic standing either a **paid or unpaid internship**. If you are a business owner or the head of an agency and are interested in offering internships to Chariho

juniors and seniors, please contact Director Gerry Auth at Gerald.Auth@chariho.k12.ri.us.

Chronic absenteeism occurs when a student is absent 10% of school days or 18 days, for any reason. Nationally, 15% (US News and World Report, September 6, 2018) of K-12 students are chronically absent from school. At Chariho High School, 14% of students are chronically absent, with lower rates at the Middle School and elementary schools. Attendance matters, for sure! We can do better!

Requests for a **parent-teacher conference** may be made at any time. You will receive a response within one school day; a meeting will be scheduled within

five school days. Schools will no longer be closed for conferences.

With winter weather approaching, you will want to be informed concerning the **closing, delayed opening, and early dismissal of schools**. Announcements are made on Twitter, our webpage, on local media, and via an automated phone call. You can sign up for a text alert at <http://www.ribroadcasters.com>. Generally speaking, the earliest announcement is made on Twitter.

**Follow us on Twitter
@CharihoRegional**

Congratulations!

Claire Fox
Girls' Soccer Post-Season Awardee

Abbey Cole, Elizabeth Lacroix, Anna Lacroix
Girls' Cross-Country Post-Season Awardees

Rachel Williams
Selected for All-State Band

Ryan Allen, Cam Anderson, Riley Hughes, Kody Gordon, Devan Jessop
Boys' Soccer Post-Season Awardees

Kate Powers, Jessie LaValley
Girls' Volleyball Post-Season Awardees

Gabriella Huzyk, Bethany Koziol, Molly Newman, Morgan Wightman
Girls' Tennis Post-Season Awardees

High School Wrestling Team
Winners of South County Tournament

Ricky Evola
Southern Regional Showcase Cinema Athlete of the Month

Grace Bueno
SkillsUSA State Pin Design Winner

Thank you!

Ryan Saunders – Chorus of Westerly
Donation of George Kent Performance Hall for Benefit Concert

Highland Farm
Donation of Christmas Tree to High School Family

IMPORTANT JANUARY DATES!

January 1: No School New Year's Day
January 10: Early Release Thursday
January 21: No School Martin Luther King Day
January 25: End of 2nd Quarter

The 2018-2019 & 2019-2020 Calendars are available at <https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/school-calendar>

From Your Superintendent... (continued from page 1)

Just before the vacation, an image was circulated on social media of a toilet at Chariho High School, with the words ‘for whites only’ written on the seat. As this image was circulated, inaccurate comments were offered on social media by individuals supposedly in the know. I’m going to share what we know, as of the distribution date of this newsletter about this matter.

First off, I personally find the image not reflective of who we are as a community. Our students are generally kind, respectful, and much more tolerant than my generation. That said, it would be naïve of me to tell you that racism does not exist in our community. Around the same time of the circulation of this image, I became aware of racist comments made by adult fans at a Westerly v. Chariho basketball game. Like the picture, words can be so hurtful, disrespectful, and damaging.

Somehow, some have suggested that we would not respond to an incident of racism. What a crazy assumption! We’ve recently learned that the toilet image was created sometime last year as part of a class project. What we don’t know is why it was circulated now, and toward what end. In cooperation with the Richmond Police Department, we are following up on several leads. To be clear, hate-driven offenses will be referred to the police for prosecution and our Code of Conduct will be fully enforced.

A parent of an elementary-aged student contacted me asking about related comments on social media that we were not only tolerant of racism, but also tolerant of rape and the distribution of pornography. I asked if she was serious. Any alleged on- or off-site crime that we become aware of is referred to the police, and crimes against minors are also referred to DCYF. If the offense occurs on school property, our Code of Conduct will also apply. It was suggested that students who were making inaccurate statements on social media should be expelled. When social media is used to disrupt the purpose and function of school, we will have something to say, otherwise our First Amendment rights as Americans apply.

So, what are we doing? The better question would be what have we done to help our students to be more tolerant, understanding, to use their voice, and to see things from multiple perspectives. Chariho faculty and students are being trained in a bystander response program we’re calling ChargerStand, modeled after the iStand program at URI. We have partnered with the Chariho Youth Task Force to implement the Every Body is Beautiful initiative. Our Learner Quality work places a heavy emphasis on Collaboration (Learners fight for inclusion and work to ensure all voices are represented and heard.) and Respectful Citizen (Learners have a sense of belonging, of being part of a learning community at school, at work, at home, and in social networks.). Principal MacKenzie will continue to engage students in regard to issues of respect and student voice as we have much more to learn from listening than speaking. It has been suggested that a student assembly could have prevented this incident. I guess not, since the image was apparently created, without malice, during the last school year.

Anyone of good faith who wishes to contribute to the improvement of our school community is invited to contact Principal MacKenzie or me, so long as there is understanding that every offered recommendation will be considered, but may not be acted upon.

Take care.