

FYI

# Chariho Regional School District School Committee Bullying Report (as required by Policy and State Law)

School	1st Semester 18-19 Bullies	1st Semester 18-19 Incidents	2nd Semester 18-19 Bullies	2nd Semester 18-19 Incidents	2nd Semester 18-19 Consequences	1st Semester 19-20 Bullies	1st Semester 19-20 Incidents	1st Semester 19-20 Consequences	2nd Semester 19-20 Bullies	2nd Semester 19-20 Incidents	2nd Semester 19-20 Consequences
Ashaway School	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Charlestown School	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Hope Valley School	0	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	
Richmond School	0	0	0	0		0	0		1	1	Par. Conf., Tier II Interv.
Chariho Middle School	1	3	6	6	Sat. Ser, OSS	5	4	OSS, ISS	0	0	
Chariho High School & Career and Technical Center	2	2	3	3	Sat. Ser, ESD	1	1	ISS	0	0	
Chariho Alternative Learning Academy	2	1	1	1	ISS	2	4	ISS	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

School	1st Semester 20-21 Bullies	1st Semester 20-21 Incidents	1st Semester 20-21 Consequences	2nd Semester 20-21 Bullies	2nd Semester 20-21 Incidents	2nd Semester 20-21 Consequences	1st Semester 21-22 Bullies	1st Semester 21-22 Incidents	1st Semester 21-22 Consequences	2nd Semester 21-22 Bullies	2nd Semester 21-22 Incidents	2nd Semester 21-22 Consequences	1st Semester 22-23 Bullies	1st Semester 22-23 Incidents	1st Semester 22-23 Consequences
Ashaway School	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
												In-School Suspension, Bus-Suspension, Referral and Counseling, parent contact			Parent/Student Conf., lunch detention
Charlestown School	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	1		1	1	
Hope Valley School	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	
Richmond School	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	1		0	1	
Chariho Middle School	1	1	Apology Letter & Community Service	0	0		3	8	detentions	17	3	Parent contact, in-school suspension, detentions	4	26	ESD, Social Suspension, and Mediation
Chariho High School & Career and Technical Center	2	1	Community Service	0	0		0	1		3	3	Parent contact, ESD/Community Service, Sessions with Social Worker	3	12	ESD Mediation
Chariho Alternative Learning Academy	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	1		0	0	
				0	0										
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>				



CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

## Chariho Regional School District Office of the Superintendent

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

**ALL KIDS. ALL OF THE TIME.**



GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent

The Honorable Daniel McKee  
Office of the Governor  
82 Smith Street  
Providence, RI 02903

February 7, 2023

Dear Governor McKee,

I would first like to thank you for your leadership over the last couple of years. It has not gone unnoticed that you recognize the importance for our schools to have the resources and support necessary to accelerate learning. As you know, there were several conversations this past fall that related to when schools and districts receive Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment (RICAS) Data, which is used for state accountability results.

I have been asked by the Chariho Regional School Committee to send you a communication that explains that they would like to advocate for our district and all districts across the state to receive RICAS growth and proficiency level data over the summer. We believe that ensuring data is available in the summer will allow schools to have the appropriate amount of time to analyze and use that data to plan prior to the start of a new school year. The ability to receive scores sooner also means schools can identify students immediately, if they need additional educational opportunities, as well as provide us with information for our curriculum and instructional discussions. Research clearly shows that the sooner we intervene, the better the results are for the child.

Our educators and administrators are doing the on-the-ground work every day to ensure that we have learning opportunities that will accelerate achievement. We have worked to implement High Quality Curriculum resources in English Language Arts and Mathematics as well as dedicated hundreds of hours to the Science of Reading training. We are also in the process of creating a new District Strategic Plan. Any assistance you can provide to RIDE to work to ensure RICAS data is available by August of each year, would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Picard  
Superintendent  
Chariho Regional School District

The Chariho Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, religion, genetic information, national origin, color, political affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or disability in accordance with applicable law.

Telephone: (401) 364-7575, Fax: (401) 415-6076, Voice/TDD: (401) 364-1171



CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

## Chariho Regional School District Office of the Superintendent

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

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GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent

Angelica Infante-Green  
Commissioner of Education  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903-3400

February 7, 2023

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Gina M. Picard  
Superintendent  
Chariho Regional School District

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School Committee Chairperson

## Chariho Regional School District Office of the Superintendent

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

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

**FYE**



GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

MICHAEL COMELLA, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

February 8, 2023

Gerald Auth

Westerly, RI 02891

Dear Gerry,

Your appointment as Director of the Career and Technical Center, along with supervisory responsibilities for Adult Education, of the Chariho Regional School District has been approved from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. On March 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which your appointment is scheduled to expire, the term shall automatically be extended for two years if either party does not notify the other in writing by said March 1<sup>st</sup> of its intent to allow the term to expire at the end of the current term. Your salary for 2023-2024, which is based on an index of 1.27 of the top step of the teachers' collective bargaining agreement, is to be determined. In the event an administrator moves to a different administrative position within the District, the salary of an administrator shall not be reduced but shall remain the same until such time as it would reach the new index. When recalculation to the index occurs, the salary of an administrator will not be reduced. In the event that the School Committee chooses to allow your contract to expire for reasons other than performance, you shall have the right to displace the least senior administrator, in a position for which you are qualified and/or certified, upon consultation with the School Committee and an administrative position is determined. The Superintendent retains the right to recommend a one-year contract when performance issues exist. In the event that the Administrator does not complete the contractual work year, salary and benefits will be prorated and must be reimbursed/payroll deducted if the Administrator is paid in advance for time not worked.

In addition, the following conditions will apply during your term of employment:

### Work Year:

Category 1 administrators shall work 210 days per year. Category 2 administrators shall work 219 days per year. Category 3 administrators shall work 224 days per year. Said work days exclude legal holidays; vacation is to be taken upon approval of the Superintendent.

### Paid Time Off:

All administrators shall be entitled to 4.25 days of Paid Time Off per quarter, with unlimited total accumulation. Upon retirement, you will be able to sell back to the District 1 day for every 3 days of the first 75 accumulated and 1 day for every 10 days above the first 75 accumulated. You must have worked for the District for at least 10 years to be eligible for this benefit. If you retire prior to working for the District for 10 years, you may sell back up to 30 days. You may sell back up to five (5) PTO days upon termination of employment, unless terminated for performance, so long as you have ten (10) or more years of experience in Chariho and are not eligible to retire. Additional time off with or without pay, for personal reasons, may be granted by the Superintendent.

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**Professional Development:**

All administrators shall be entitled to \$2,000 for position-related professional development activities, as approved by the Superintendent. In addition, one professional organization membership and one professional subscription shall be provided, as approved by the Superintendent.

**Retirement and Workers' Compensation Insurance:**

All administrators are eligible for retirement provisions in accord with the Employees' Retirement System or Teachers' Retirement Act, including provisions in 88 H 843, Sub A, Article II, as applicable; Social Security benefits in accord with FICA provisions; and Workers' Compensation Insurance.

**Life and Disability Insurance:**

All administrators shall receive an individual group term life insurance plan, with accidental death and dismemberment benefits, in the amount of \$100,000 to age 70. A long-term disability insurance plan shall be provided to all administrators. Upon retirement, administrators may purchase the group plan for life insurance at personal expense to age 70. Payments by a retired administrator must be made to the District before the first of each month, or in a lump sum, or the individual will be dropped from the plan for that year.

**Performance-based Compensation:**

The School Committee will annually allocate funds no less than the amount formerly allocated to longevity payments (\$14,100) for the purpose of recognizing excellent performance.

**Paid Time-Off Sell Back Option:**

The Paid Time-Off Sell Back Option is available after five (5) years of service as an administrator. At the request of the administrator, every five (5) years administrators will be allowed to sell back up to five (5) days of accumulated Paid Time-Off/accumulated sick time.

**Health and Dental Insurance:**

All administrators shall receive health and dental insurance equal to provisions identified in the teachers' collective bargaining agreement.

**Early Retirement Benefit:**

Any administrator whose age and years of service total at least 75, who has been employed for the District for at least 20 years, and who is eligible to collect retirement benefits under the Employees' Retirement System of RI, may receive the following benefits under the following conditions:

- ✓ Said administrator must notify the Superintendent of the intention to retire before January 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year preceding the last full year of service.
- ✓ Said administrator applying for the early retirement incentive plans to complete the entire school year prior to retirement.

The early retirement incentive shall be calculated in the following manner: 70 minus age at time of planned retirement times \$350. The total amount to which the administrator is eligible shall be taken in his/her last year of service as salary or in a lump sum payment upon retirement. In the event of the death of an administrator who has not received payment, his/her beneficiary shall receive the balance of the amount due. Administrators shall designate a beneficiary when notifying the Superintendent that he/she shall be retiring under the provisions of this agreement.

In addition to the above and/or retirement in accord with the Employees' Retirement System or Teachers' Retirement Act (88 H 843, Sub A, Article II), as applicable, those administrators who retire within the first 3 years of their eligibility to collect retirement under the State Retirement System will be covered by the following co-payment plan:

- ✓ The School Committee will pay a maximum of \$1,700 each year toward Chariho's group plan for family coverage until age 65 or \$750 each year toward the Chariho's group plan for individual coverage until age 65.

**Incapacity to Serve:**

Should an administrator be unable to perform his/her duties by reason of extended illness, accident, or other cause beyond his/her control, for a period of more than 60 days beyond expiration of accumulated sick leave during any school year, the School Committee may, at its discretion, make an appropriate deduction from the salary stipend, and if such disability continues for more than 180 days, or if the nature of said disability is such as to make the performance of duties impossible, the School Committee may, at its option, terminate the administrator.

**Just Cause:**

Except as otherwise stated herein, no administrator shall be disciplined, reprimanded, reduced in rank or compensation, terminated or deprived of any advantage without just cause. Just cause includes, but is not limited to (1) engagement in behavior which may cause harm or a safety risk to students, parents, community members, and/or staff members, (2) engagement in unprofessional behavior with students, parents, community members, and/or staff members, (3) performance that is less than proficient, (4) violation of policy(s) or directive(s), and (5) displacement due to the non-renewal of a senior administrators' contract for reasons other than performance.

Sincerely,

Gina M. Picard  
Superintendent of Schools

**Definitions:**

Category 1 Administrators: Principals, Assistant Principals, Director of Alternative Programs, Director of Career and Technical Center

Category 2 Administrators: Director of Administration and Finance, Director/Assistant Director of Special Education, Human Resources Administrator, Director of Educational Technology and Information Systems

Category 3 Administrators: Director of Buildings and Grounds, Custodial Services Administrator, Assistant Director of Administration and Finance, Administrative Assistants, Systems Administrator, Data Specialist, Development Officer

Administrator: All individuals on the Index System and not included in a collective bargaining agreement.

Note: Addendum A is considered part of the Letter of Agreement

## **Administrative Letters of Agreement**

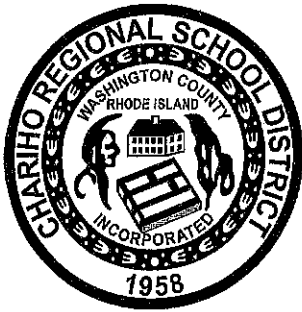
### **Addendum A**

- 1) Administrators will not use PTO during the five (5) days preceding the first day of classes for the school year or the five (5) days following the last day of classes. The Superintendent is granted the authority to waive this provision.
- 2) New Administrative professionals (school principals) hired after October 1, 2012 will receive 92% of the current rate of pay for the position in year one of the agreement, 96% in year two of the agreement and 100% in year three. Any Administrator currently employed by the district that is appointed to a different Administrative position will not be compensated at a lower salary.

#### **Included in FYI – Staff Update:**

**Administrative Letters of Agreement approved for the following effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025: Gerald Auth** (Director of Career and Technical Center); **Jean Bradanini** (High School Assistant Principal); **Shawn Cole** (Director of Educational Technology and Information Systems); **Giuseppe Gencarelli** (Hope Valley School Principal); **Katharine Kirakosian** (Development Officer); **Kathryn Koziol** (Administrative Assistant to the Director of Administration and Finance); **Mary Markovitz** (Assistant Director of Special Education); **Sharon Martin** (Richmond School Principal); **Kristen Merritt** (Human Resources Administrator); **Nancy Pirnie** (Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent); **Andrea Spas** (High School Principal); **Jason Sullivan** (Director of Buildings and Grounds); **Gregory Zenion** (Middle School Principal). There is one complete Agreement as they are all the same with the exception of the index. Salary cannot be determined at this time as the certified contract is still being negotiated. The only other difference is the two Administrative Assistants are hourly employees.





**Chariho Regional School District**  
**Office of the Human Resources Administrator**

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
JAN 17 REC'D



CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard  
FROM: Kristen Merritt  
DATE: January 13, 2023  
SUBJECT: Staff Update

Name	Position	Reason
James Bailey	Math Teacher – High School	Resignation effective 1/28/2023
Tricia Abbott	Kindergarten Kickstart Vacation Program Teacher	Appointment effective 2/21-2/22/2023
Ellen Tiexiera	Kindergarten Kickstart Vacation Program Teacher	Appointment effective 2/21-2/22/2023
Denise Hall	Kindergarten Vacation Program Teacher Assistant	Appointment effective 2/21-2/22/2023
Catherine Moffitt	Elementary Unified Arts Descriptor Chart Team – Physical Education	Appointment effective 1/13-6/30/2023
Jacquelyn Karney	Elementary Unified Arts Descriptor Chart Team – Physical Education	Appointment effective 1/13-6/30/2023
Amanda DiFranco	Elementary Unified Arts Descriptor Chart Team – Art	Appointment effective 1/13-6/30/2023
Michele McKee	Elementary Unified Arts Descriptor Chart Team – Music	Appointment effective 1/13-6/30/2023

## Kristen Merritt

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**From:** James Bailey  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2023 3:21 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Cc:** Andrea Spas; Jean Bradanini  
**Subject:** Resignation Letter

Dear Ms. Merritt,

I am writing to inform you that I have decided to resign from my position as a math teacher at Chariho Regional High School effective January 28th. I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to teach at Chariho and have enjoyed working with the students, staff, and faculty.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude for the support and guidance provided to me during my time here. The school's commitment to providing a high-quality education to students has been an inspiration to me and I am honored to have been a part of such a dedicated team.

I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition for my students and colleagues, and I will do everything in my power to ensure that the school continues to be successful. I will be collaborating with my colleagues to assist with the transition and to provide any support that is needed.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as a math teacher for the Chariho community, and I wish the district and its students continued success.

Sincerely,

James Bailey

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GINA PICARD, SUPERINTENDENT

**FROM:** MICHAEL COMELLA, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT



**SUBJECT:** POSTING RECOMMENDATIONS

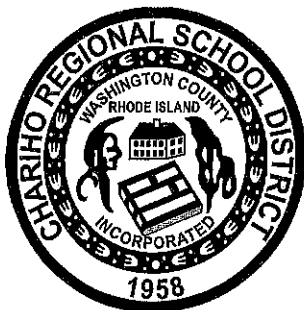
**DATE:** JANUARY 13, 2023

**CC:** KRISTEN MERRITT

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The following positions are recommended for per the posting:

Last Name	First Name	Position	Stipend	Expires
Abbott	Tricia	Kindergarten Vacation Program Teacher	\$40	June 2023
Tiexiera	Ellen	Kindergarten Vacation Program Teacher	\$40	June 2023
Hall	Denise	Kindergarten Vacation Program Teacher Assistant	Hrly Rate	June 2023
Moffitt	Catherine	Elementary Unified Arts/PE Descriptor Chart	\$40	June 2023
Karney	Jacquelyn	Elementary Unified Arts/PE Descriptor Chart	\$40	June 2023
DiFranco	Amanda	Elementary Unified Arts/Art Descriptor Chart	\$40	June 2023
McKee	Michele	Elementary Unified Arts/Music Descriptor Chart	\$40	June 2023



**Chariho Regional School District**  
**Office of the Human Resources Administrator**

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

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CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
JAN 20 REC'D

KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: January 20, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Update

Name	Position	Reason
Catherine Moffitt	Elementary Unified Arts Descriptor Chart Team – Health	Appointment effective 1/20-6/30/2023
Jacquelyn Karney	Elementary Unified Arts Descriptor Chart Team – Health	Appointment effective 1/20-6/30/2023
Daniel Hansen	Boys Tennis, Head Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 1/20-6/30/2023
Timothy Lyons	Boys Lacrosse, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 1/20-6/30/2023
Kathryn McGeehan	Intramural Volleyball Coordinator – Middle School	Re-appointment effective 1/20-6/30/2023

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GINA PICARD, SUPERINTENDENT

**FROM:** MICHAEL COMELLA, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT 

**SUBJECT:** POSTING RECOMMENDATIONS

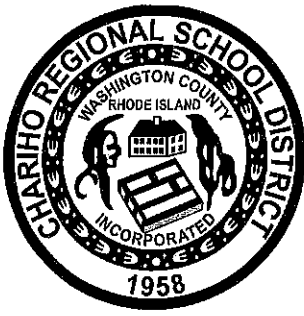
**DATE:** JANUARY 17, 2023

**CC:** KRISTEN MERRITT

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The following positions are recommended for per the posting:

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>	<b>Expires</b>
Moffitt	Catherine	Elementary Unified Arts/Health Descriptor Chart	\$40	June 2023
Karney	Jacquelyn	Elementary Unified Arts/Health Descriptor Chart	\$40	June 2023



**Chariho Regional School District**  
**Office of the Human Resources Administrator**

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OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
JAN 27 REC'D



CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

KRISTEN MERRITT  
Human Resources Administrator

GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: January 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Staff Update

Name	Position	Reason
Dori Boland	District Custodian – currently assigned to Middle School	Resignation effective 1/23/2023
Jodi Brock	Assistant Director of Administration and Finance	Resignation effective 2/17/2023
Savannah Caruso	Intramural BOKS Exercise Coach – Richmond (Winter & Spring sessions)	Appointment effective 1/27-5/31/2023
Kelly Dolan	Get Ready Set Shine Teacher Assistant (Feb Session) - Richmond	Appointment effective 2/1-4/30/2023
Pamela Miller	Unified Basketball Head Coach – Middle School	Appointment effective 1/27-6/30/2023

January 23, 2023

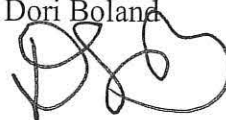
Gina Picard  
Office of the Superintendent  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

Dear Superintendent Picard:

I am writing to inform you that effective immediately, I hereby irrevocably resign from the Chariho Regional School District.

Sincerely,

Dori Boland

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dori Boland', written over the printed name.

RECEIVED JAN 24 2023

Jodi M. Brock

January 22, 2023

Ned Draper  
Chariho Regional School District  
455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, 02894

Dear Ned,

Please accept this letter as a formal notification that I am resigning from my position as Assistant Director of Administration and Finance, effective February 17, 2023.

It has been such a pleasure working with you and the entire Chariho team for the past few months and I am incredibly grateful for all of the opportunities you have provided.

You have my full commitment and cooperation for a smooth transition of responsibilities. Please let me know how I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodi Brock". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jodi Brock



**Kristen Merritt**

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**From:** Kelly Dolan <kelly.dolan@charihochargers.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 25, 2023 11:02 AM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** Ready Set Shine Club

Hello Kristen,

I am emailing you to let you know that I am interested in doing the next session of Ready Set Shine Club at Richmond.

Thank you!

-Kelly Dolan

## Kristen Merritt

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**From:** Sharon Martin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2023 3:57 PM  
**To:** Kristen Merritt  
**Subject:** BOKS

I would like to appoint Savannah Caruso as the new BOKS coach for the winter and spring sessions.

Sincerely,  
Sharon Martin  
Principal  
Richmond Elementary School  
Chariho Regional School District  
<https://richmond.chariho.k12.ri.us/>  
[@Sharonhoytmar](#)



Savannah Caruso

Richmond, RI 02875

January 24, 2023

Kristen Merritt  
Human Resources Administration  
455A Switch Rd  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

Dear Ms. Merritt,

My name is Savannah Caruso and I am interested in applying for the Intramural coach for BOKS exercise program at Richmond Elementary School. My children are currently enrolled in Richmond Elementary, and I saw the job posted on Mrs. Martin's weekly newsletter. I am interested in pursuing a career in health and physical education and currently enrolled in classes towards that goal.

I can see by your job posting you are looking for someone to lead a physical activity program and teach the kids about being healthy and fit. I would love to run this program and am willing to learn the BOKS curriculum. My previous experience working with the Boys and Girls club makes me an excellent candidate for the job. While working as an after school site coordinator, I was responsible for managing students in the classroom and implementing lessons in academics and extracurricular activities. I also have experience in coaching youth sports. I am currently helping coach my son's youth basketball league for Charlestown Parks and Recreation.

I am not a RI retiree nor am I collecting a pension from the state of RI. I am not currently under contract with the school system. I am not subject to a restraining order. Thank you for taking the time to consider me for the position. I would like to request an interview. I can be reached by phone or email

Respectfully,

Savannah Caruso

**JANUARY**

**PRESS RELEASES**



## Chariho Regional School District Development Office

455A Switch Road  
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

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



GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

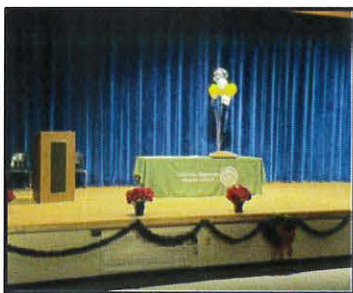
MICHAEL COMELLA  
Assistant Superintendent

CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

KATIE KIRAKOSIAN  
Development Officer

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Chariho Middle School recognizes hundreds of students for excellence**



**WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI, January 4, 2023**—Chariho Middle School staff held grade-level Principals Excellence Award Assemblies to recognize students for outstanding work, specifically related to high achievement and growth, on last year's Rhode Island State Testing, including RICAS ELA and Math, [Into Reading](#), [StudySync](#), [i-Ready](#) Math, and [ALEKS](#).

Awards were given in the following ten categories: RICAS ELA High Achievement - Silver Seal, RICAS ELA High Growth - Silver Seal, RICAS ELA High Achievement & High Growth - Gold Seal, RICAS Math High Achievement - Silver Seal, RICAS Math High Growth - Silver Seal, RICAS Math High Achievement & High Growth - Gold Seal, Into Reading High Achievement - Silver Seal, StudySync High Achievement - Silver Seal, i-Ready Math High Achievement - Silver Seal, and ALEKS High Achievement - Silver Seal. In total 213 awards were given to students across Grades 5 through 8, which shows amazing accomplishments for a high percentage of the school. According to Principal Gregory Zenion, "This is the first time we have held this ceremony and it is something we hope to continue in the future, as honoring students' achievement and growth is extremely important".

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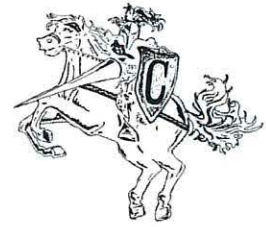
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***All Kids. All of the Time.***



GINA M. PICARD  
Superintendent of Schools

MICHAEL COMELLA  
Assistant Superintendent

CATHERINE M. GIUSTI  
School Committee Chairperson

KATIE KIRAKOSIAN  
Development Officer

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Chariho receives \$1.2M in federal funding for youth mental health**



**WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI, January 6, 2023**—The Chariho Regional School District will receive \$1.2 Million in Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) funding over the next four years to support its students and their mental health needs.

The District's funding is part of a larger [\\$7.2 Million grant](#) through the McKee Administration and the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE). This grant is administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and will support Chariho as part of a four-District cohort with East Providence, Newport, and Warwick School Districts. With this funding, Chariho will be able to continue their partnership with [Effective School Solutions](#), support a grant coordinator, and bring on advisors to work with Chariho's Middle and High School Peer-to-Peer mentors. Chariho Superintendent Picard welcomes this latest news, offering that "Project AWARE will help us sustain our mental health work and will make a lasting difference for our students and our entire school community".

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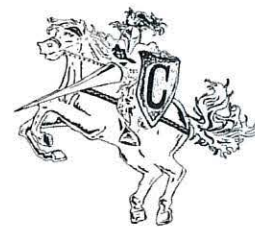




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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Hope Valley Drama Club and RI Youth Theatre collaborate again**



**HOPE VALLEY, RI, January 12, 2023**—The Hope Valley Drama Club will be starting before school theatre classes this month in collaboration with the Rhode Island Youth Theatre, a long-standing partnership.

Hope Valley 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in this before school program will be working with Rhode Island Youth Theatre's Director of Education, Chelsea Cook. Here, students will be singing, dancing, and acting, which connects closely with the school's speciality of "Visual and Performing Arts". This is also a precursor to a forthcoming spring musical, which is yet to be announced. Principal Gencarelli is excited by the overwhelming response from families and students. Gencarelli

shares, "We are eager to continue working with the RIYT and our students are very excited to be part of this program". Families and the community should stay tuned for further details on Hope Valley Elementary School's [website](#) about the upcoming spring musical.

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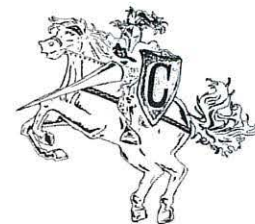
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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Small groups focused on self-awareness make impact at CALA Ashaway**



**ASHAWAY, RI, January 20, 2023**—Students in the CALA Ashaway Program at Ashaway Elementary School have been making strides in self-awareness and growth through weekly small group work with their teacher, Adrienne Buckley, Welma Capehart, a Social Worker with Community and School Support Services, Inc. (CSSS), and Behavior Management Assistants (BMAs), Suzanne Iacovelli and Daniel Clow.

Staff have been working with students in weekly sessions focused on strengthening their self-awareness and social-emotional learning. A recent topic was self-control although topics rotate monthly. Students and staff come together to talk about a given topic and share their experiences in a safe and inclusive way. Buckley has seen “unbelievable growth” with her students who, since coming to the program, can now see and talk about their own growth as well. Students reflect back, for example, comparing how they handle a challenge now with more tools in their toolkit to how they may have struggled with the same challenge before. Capehart adds that these weekly small groups help students “express themselves in their own way, whether it be through writing, speaking, or drawing, or a combination”. Students have also reflected on situations they feel they have mastered and ones that they are working on, instilling a growth mindset in students.

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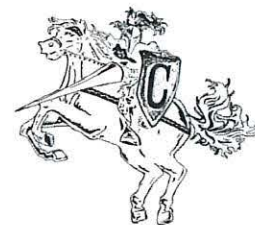




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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Charlestown Elementary's PTO to host 15<sup>th</sup> annual Spaghetti Supper**



**CHARLESTOWN, RI, January 20, 2023**—Charlestown Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is hosting their 15<sup>th</sup> annual Spaghetti Supper on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> with seatings at 5pm and 6:30pm, as well as a take-out option. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children.

Charlestown Elementary School 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be the servers—a job they take very seriously. Students wait on tables, serve drinks, bread, salad, pasta, and dessert. According to PTO President and Charlestown teacher, Cassandra Charette, "This is a great opportunity for families and community members to come together and get to know other families. It is a rite of passage and big deal for the 4<sup>th</sup> graders that get to serve. The younger students like to come and see what they will be doing in 4<sup>th</sup> grade too". Parents and teachers as well as Chartwell staff volunteer to cook for this event. In previous years, Culinary students from CHARIHotech have assisted and Chariho High School students taking Floral Design class make boutonnieres for the servers and floral arrangements. Charlestown Elementary Principal Jennifer Poore adds that this is exciting for the school as it is, "the first family event that we have planned inside the school since the pandemic". The PTO thanks the following businesses for generous donations for this event--Dunkin Donuts, Belmont, Walmart, Breachway Grill, Casa Della Luce, The Cove, Hungry Haven, and Rippy's. Funds raised from the event will go to support 4<sup>th</sup> grade events this school year.

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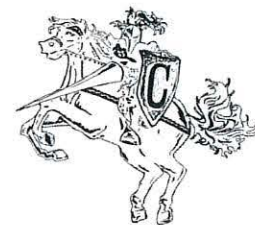
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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Richmond Elementary School continues The Great Kindness Challenge**



**RICHMOND, RI, January 20, 2023**—Richmond Elementary School will be celebrating [The Great Kindness Challenge](#) the week of January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Richmond Elementary students will be celebrating kindness throughout the week in unique ways with the support of Student Council and the Student Council Spirit Commissioner. During the week, classes will participate in a kindness-themed door decorating contest and student submitted kindness quotes will be selected by the Spirit Commissioner to be read aloud to the school during morning announcements. Throughout the week, students will also make friendship bracelets, be encouraged to

perform acts of kindness, write thank you notes to school staff, share compliments with their classmates, and write kind messages in chalk on the playground and sidewalk. The Great Kindness Challenge will occur in conjunction with a Spirit Week at the school, where students can wear red and pink, for example, to show their commitment to spreading kindness.

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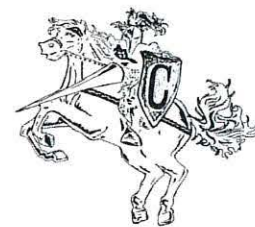




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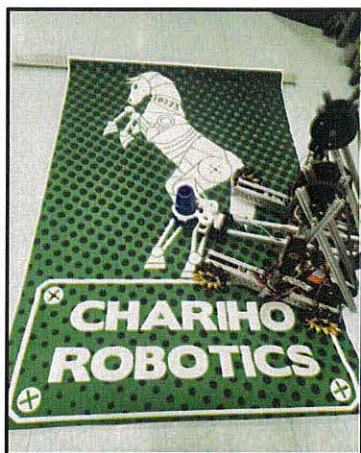
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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **High School Robotics Club prepares for First Tech Challenge qualifier**



**WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI, January 21, 2023**—The CHS Robotics Club will be competing in the RI State Qualifier for the [FIRST Tech Challenge](#), POWERPLAY, on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> at Mount St. Charles Academy.

The Robotics Club includes roughly twenty students and their mentor, Ryan Bridgham, who is serving as the Club's mentor for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The season is more than half way over and runs from September to March. Bridgham shares that, "It's a very inclusive and hands-on club. Some students like to design, while others like to build or code". Students from many CHARIHOTech programs also support the club, such as Auto Technology, Welding and Shipfitting, and Computer Technology. Students are currently putting the finishing details on their robot that will compete to score points at the qualifier this week. They are excited for this year's qualifier because it is a different challenge and play field. The video for this year's qualifier can be found [here](#).

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **“What all the buzz is about”:**

#### **Ashaway Kindergarteners learn computer programming with Bee-Bots**



**ASHAWAY, RI, January 23, 2023**—Ashaway Kindergarteners have been practicing basic computer programming with the help of librarian Kristen Anderson and the school's very own robots, or Bee-Bots.

Chariho's elementary technology curriculum is based upon [Code.org](https://code.org), a computer science program that aligns with the RI K-12 Computer Science Education Standards. Using “blockly” computer language (aka Java Script), students learn persistence and problem-solving skills as they solve mazes, create art, and develop games. Code.org is a wonderful introduction to computer programming, but teaching it to young students can be a challenge. Anderson explains, “Abstract thinking is necessary for computer programming and kindergarteners are very concrete thinkers. This is where the Bee Bots come in, because they transform programming into a hands-on learning opportunity complete with manipulatives. It is a fun learning experience and a highlight of my week”. Students encounter directional language, sequencing, and programming vocabulary as they direct their Bee-Bots. Kindergarteners meet in small groups in the library and run the Bee-Bots. Organizational carpet markers provide the students with a maze to traverse. They must count how many forward commands are necessary to move their robot from one color to another, or decide which direction to turn to go toward the bookshelves versus the tables. They need to be careful not to run their Bee-Bot off the carpet or bump into furniture, people, or other robots. To do so is considered a “bug” and students must then “debug” their program by erasing their commands and starting over.

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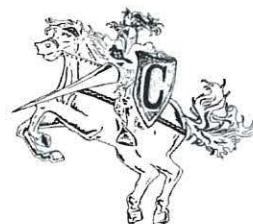




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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **The Academy to celebrate all students at upcoming Awards Ceremony**



**WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI, January 27, 2023**—Every student at the Chariho Alternative Learning Academy will be celebrated for at least one accomplishment at this week's Awards Ceremony.

Academy staff are creating individualized certificates for all students in both the Alternative Learning Program (ALP) and Clinical Day Program (CDP) at the school. Each award is meant to recognize student achievement and/or growth. This ceremony is important because it helps students see how they have improved in an area or garner recognition for something at which they have excelled. At the ceremony, students will be recognized by staff in front of their peers, which has a special significance. According to the Academy's Director, Brian Tetreault, "Everyone has something to celebrate. This will shine a light on positive aspects of our student's lives and school experiences. It also strengthens our culture and connects to one of our main school improvement goals, which is to ensure students feel connected, respected, and valued".

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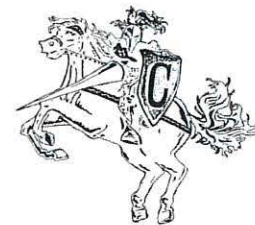
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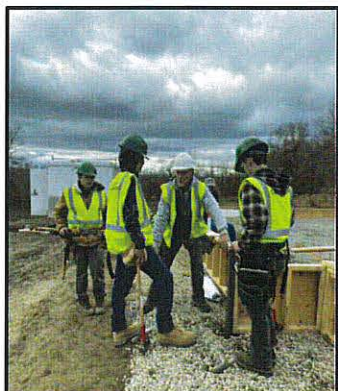
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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **CHARIHotech Construction students building Net Zero Ready Home in Hopkinton through partnership with Habitat for Humanity**



**WOOD RIVER JUNCTION, RI, January 30, 2023**—CHARIHotech Construction Technology Pathway students are working on their largest project yet—a new home in Hopkinton, which will be completed this spring.

Eight juniors and six seniors in CHARIHotech's Construction Technology Pathway, along with their instructors David Bannister and Bonny Pride, are partnering with [South County Habitat for Humanity](#) and [DeMetrick Housewrights](#) to build a Net Zero Ready home in Hopkinton, RI. Bannister shared that, "We have never done anything of this size before and the hands-on application from foundation to finish and the community connection makes this meaningful for our students". Students built the foundation forms, helped pour the foundation, installed all the foam insulation, and this week they will be installing the pre-fab walls on site, which they built in their CHARIHotech classroom. It is the goal of the

Pathway to partner with South County Habitat for Humanity on a new local home each school year. Students are learning a great deal about the importance of care and workmanship and the "value of what they are doing and for whom they are doing it," Bannister added. Others who have supported this work include Mike Guertin, an editorial advisor with Fine Homebuilding and Instructor and John Erickson, an Energy and Building Science Consultant with CLEAResult.

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