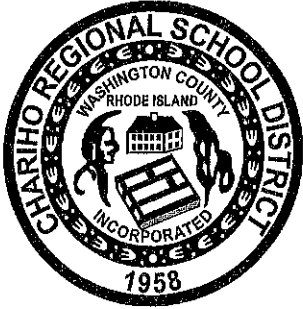


FYI



Chariho Regional School District
Office of the Human Resources Administrator

455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

All Kids...All of the Time



LINDA D. LYALL
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD
Superintendent of Schools

KRISTEN MERRITT
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: January 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Update

**Pending season approved by
RIIL/State of RI**

Name	Position	Reason
Scott Perrin	Girls Basketball, Assistant Coach – Middle School	Appointment effective 1/15/2021

Kristen Merritt

From: Michael Shiels
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 12:16 PM
To: Kristen Merritt
Cc: Gregory Zenion
Subject: ms girls basketball position

Hi Kristen,

I would like to recommend Scott Perrin for the position of Middle School Girls Assistant Coach. Thank you

Scott Perrin

Charlestown, RI 02813

December 27, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Girls Basketball Coach. For several years I have coached youth sports in the Chariho area including coed soccer, basketball, baseball and football. I am currently employed by the Charlestown Police Department and I am acting as the Student Resource Officer at the Chariho Middle School.

I feel this experience makes me an excellent candidate for this position. I look forward to hearing from you and appreciate your time.

Sincerely,
Scott Perrin

Scott Perrin

Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813

Education

Roger Williams University

Bristol, Rhode Island

Master of Science

Major: Justice Studies

GPA: 3.800

Attended September 2000 to December 2002

Degree conferred December 2002

Western Connecticut State University

Danbury, Connecticut

Bachelor of Science

Major: Administration of Justice

Attended September 1987 to May 2001

Degree conferred May 2001

Experience

Charlestown Police Department

Patrol Officer

Charlestown, RI

Jun 2018 - Present

Supervisor: Chief Michael Paliotta (401-364-1212)

Experience Type: Other, Full-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

Mashantucket Tribal Police Department

Patrol Officer

Ledyard, CT

Jan 2018 - Jun 2018

Reason for leaving: Job offer from Charlestown Police Department

Supervisor: Sgt. Kenneth Washburn (860-396-6662)

Experience Type: Other, Full-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

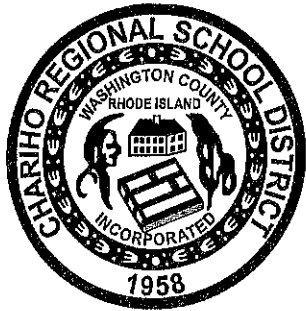
Narragansett Police Department

Captain

Narragansett, RI

Aug 1997 - Jan 2018

Reason for leaving: Retired



Chariho Regional School District
Office of the Human Resources Administrator

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All Kids...All of the Time



LINDA D. LYALL
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
JAN 21 2021

KRISTEN MERRITT
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard
FROM: Kristen Merritt
DATE: January 22, 2021
SUBJECT: Staff Update

Pending season approved by
RIIL/State of RI

Name	Position	Reason
Dan LaBelle Jr	Boys Basketball, Assistant Coach – Middle School	Appointment effective 1/22/2021

Kristen Merritt

From: Michael Shiels
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Kristen Merritt
Cc: Gregory Zenion
Subject: coaching position

Good morning,

I would like to recommend Dan LaBelle Jr. for the position of Middle School Boys Basketball Assistant Coach. Dan is currently completing RI coaching certifications. Thank you.

Basketball has been a part of my life for all of it as as soon as I could start playing I have. The game has given me so much good and as given me a place where I can take a break from the aspects of everyday life that can get stressful sometimes. In addition to enjoying playing the game, I have had great coaches that have supported me through every level and because of this, I want to be that some role model and teacher to young kids. The satisfaction of seeing kids improve not only their basketball skills but their communication and team skills is something that I want to give young kids. The relationships that I have formed with kids through coaching basketball camps and an aau team last summer made me realize even more that coaching is something that I was made to do. Thank you for taking time to look at my application!

Dan Sean LaBelle

Hope Valley , Rhode Island 02832

Education

Chariho Regional High School

Wood River Junction, Rhode Island

GPA: 3.500

Attended August 2015 to June 2018

Degree conferred June 2018

Experience

A and L Mechanical

Mar 2019 - Aug 2020

Hvac helper/assistant

Pawcatuck Connecticut

During my time at A and L I worked with many different individuals which has helped me learn to adapt and work with all sorts of different personalities while working. Also, I helped get tools and do tasks that the licensed technicians needed me to do to help get the job done quicker. I gained a great experience from working at this company as I gained HVAC and plumbing knowledge, as well as built great relationships with many from that company.

Reason for leaving: My reason for leaving was simply because I didn't like the HVAC trade and wanted to do something else. The boss of A and L understood completely and we maintain a great relationship even today. Plus I was going back to school at that time so it would've been tough for me to work there while going to school and playing basketball.

Supervisor: Lou Matthews (401-500-6388)

Experience Type: Other, Part-time

It is **OK** to contact this employer

Shelter Harbor Golf Club

Jun 2017 - Sep 2018

Dishwasher

Charlestown Rhode Island

While I was here my job was to primarily wash dishes and clean around the kitchen during my shift and at the end of the night. From time to time I also helped with the preparation of some of the food that was served. This was a great first job for me.

Reason for leaving: This was my first job and I gained many great experiences from being a dishwasher but I just wanted an upgrade in pay and didn't want to do dishes anymore. I couldn't of asked for a better first job as all of the people at Shelter Harbor Golf Club were great to me during my time there.

Supervisor: Joseph Abitabilo (401-322-0060)

Experience Type: Other, Summer

It is **OK** to contact this employer



Chariho Regional School District
Office of the Human Resources Administrator

455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

All Kids...All of the Time



LINDA D. LYALL
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
FEB 04 2021

KRISTEN MERRITT
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: February 5, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Update

Name	Position	Reason
Elizabeth Brennan	School Counselor – High School	Maternity leave starting around 5/4/2021 returning approximately 7/5/2021
Michael Regine	District Custodian 2 nd Shift – High School	Resignation effective 2/1/2021

February 2, 2021

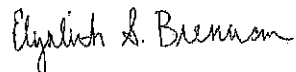
Dear Ms. Picard,

In accordance with Article 17 section C, I am writing to provide you with notice that beginning on approximately May 4, 2021, unless otherwise directed by my doctor, I will be taking maternity leave.

Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, I anticipate taking nine weeks available to me for maternity leave. Pending release from my doctor, I will be returning to work on approximately July 5, 2021. I understand that I may not have enough PTO and APTO days to cover the entire leave.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I am happy to meet with you to discuss any concerns and provide you with any documentation, including documentation from my physician.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth S. Brennan".

Elizabeth S. Brennan

Kristen Merritt

To:
Subject: RE: Michael Regine

From:
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2021 11:28 PM
To: Kristen Merritt
Subject: Re: Michael Regine

Per the contract it says I should give 2 weeks notice that is why I originally gave notice on February 1st

So if it doesn't matter, I will say 2-1-21. Thank you Kristen.

Mike

On Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 07:56:39 AM EST, Kristen Merritt <kristen.merritt@chariho.k12.ri.us> wrote:

So sorry to hear you are resigning. Can you please confirm if your resignation date is as of 2/1/2021 or 2/12/2021?

Kristen Merritt

Human Resources Administrator

Chariho Regional School District

455A Switch Road

Wood River Junction, RI 02894

(401)364-3260, Ext. 2029



Chariho Regional School District Office of the Superintendent

455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894



LINDA D. LYALL
School Committee Chairperson

All Kids. All of the Time.

GINA M. PICARD
Superintendent of Schools

JANE L. DALY
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

February 9, 2021

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, 2021 through June 30, 2023. On March 1st 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 1st of its intent to allow the term to expire at the end of the current term. Your salary for 2021-2022, 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 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.

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.

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.

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 1st 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

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.

WE ARE CHARIHO

A newsletter celebrating Chariho's past, present, and future

December 2020, Volume 1: Issue 4



LEARN MORE

Visit the District's [website](#)

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SHARE WITH US

We Are Chariho spotlights stories about our students, alumni, staff, community partners, schools, and our diverse school programs. If you have a story idea for an upcoming issue, please contact our Development Officer, [Katie Kirakosian](#). She will be more than happy to speak with you at your convenience.

CONNECT WITH US



Chariho Alumni & Friends Network



@Chariho_Pride



401.552.7277



katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us



Chariho Regional School District
455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, RI 02894

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: CELEBRATING RELATIONSHIPS THAT WERE SPARKED IN CHARGER TOWN

We hope these submissions put a smile on your face and remind us all of what is most important--human connections! Click on the names below to read their story.



High School sweethearts: Brenda ('67) and Jerry Cahoon ('67)



High School sweethearts: Dawn ('83) and Cassius Spears, Sr. ('81)



Colleagues: Gerry Auth, Andrea Spas, and Craig MacKenzie

We are still accepting submissions for January. If you are interested, please contact Katie Kirakosian at 401-552-7277 or katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us to be added here.

PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT: THE MARINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AT CHARIHOTECH



Hope Jeffries working on the Block Island Ferry

CHARIHOTech's Marine Technology Pathway is not offered at every Career and Technical Center in the state, but it is a natural fit for Chariho. The Pathway attracts a unique array of students, with curricula that spans the marine trades, renewable energy, composites, and so **much more**. Marine Tech students get hands on experience throughout the year, in part, through generous donations from the community and restoration projects. Jacob Guilbert, CHARIHOTech's Marine Technology instructor, is also a Chariho and Marine Tech Program graduate, who completed his postsecondary training at the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) School of Technology and Trades in Newport, RI. He works with students to get them unique hands-on learning experiences, such as a recent tour and on-site training at the Point Judith Marina. He is always looking for opportunities for his students to learn on-site from diverse practitioners in the Marine Technology trades.



Hope Jeffries on the oil tanker Magnolia State

Wyatt Jeffries has a job with a view.



Over the years, many students have completed the Marine Technology Program. Marine Tech seems to run in the family for Hope ('16) and Wyatt Jeffries ('18) however. After graduating from Chaiho, Hope went on to complete a degree from Massachusetts Maritime Academy ('20) and is currently working for Military Sealift Command as a 3rd engineer on the USNS Carl Brashear, operating in the south China sea and Indian Ocean. Her younger brother, Wyatt, graduated from Chariho High School and completed the Marine Tech Program in 2018. He completed a 6 month program in Composite Technology at IYRS. Since March of 2019 he has been working on wind turbines for GEV Wind Power. This work allows him to "see a view not a lot of people get to". Wyatt received specialized training in England and has worked in Indiana, Illinois, Texas, Pennsylvania, and New York so far. He sees his career path as a great return on investment, having gone straight into the workforce after a 6-month training program. His work is not for the faint of heart. He works 10-12 hour days, 7 days a week, for 6 weeks straight and then he gets 12 days off, in between work assignments. On any given day, you might find Wyatt on ropes, working inside a wind turbine blade, or working from cable suspended platforms doing tip rebuilds. He would not have it any other way though. He sees his decision to complete the Marine Trades as a "defining moment" and "a breath of fresh air". He certainly encourages other students to consider the trades, as they are critical, in high demand, and a great return on investment.

Click [HERE](#) to see a video of Wyatt at work.



Wyatt Jeffries working inside a wind turbine.

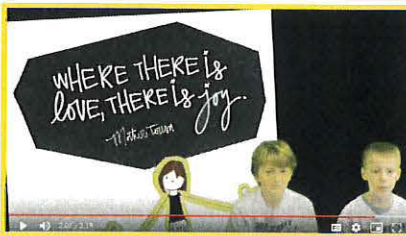
Do you have an inspiring Chariho story to share or know an inspiring Chariho alum? If so, reach out to katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us to share.

IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, LET'S MAKE ONE THING CERTAIN-- OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL KIDS. ALL OF THE TIME.



Ashaway Elementary School, with their Engineering and Robotics focus, is working to create a Mobile Makerspace so students can explore STEM activities in the great outdoors. The Mobile Makerspace would include a large supply cart, a shade structure and folding tables and benches.

Charlestown Elementary School has a big year planned. School staff are focused on ways to expand their existing outdoor classroom space. They also hope to improve the running area in the front of the school to ensure students interested in the wildly popular before-school running program can "take off" again soon.



Hope Valley Elementary School is focused on adding items to support their Visual and Performing Arts Specialty. Their goal this year is to purchase a green screen kit, expand their Makerspace, and purchase a kiln to fire student's pottery.

Richmond Elementary School hopes to fix their tennis and basketball courts, which are cracked and no longer in use. They are also working to expand a new beautiful outdoor learning oasis in their inner courtyard.



Chariho Middle School is hoping to provide all their students with some essentials to go along with their laptops this year. Their goal is to provide each student with a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone.

Chariho High School is seeking to strengthen their Peer Mentoring Program this year, which would connect all interested incoming 9th graders with a Peer Mentor to ensure a successful high school career.



CHARIHotech is focused on working with community partners to increase the number of job shadow and internship opportunities for our students. This will help them gain invaluable insight and hands-on work experience in many, diverse job sectors.

Chariho Alternative Learning Academy students will be working on hands-on projects this year, such as the Adirondack Chair project they began last year that taught students math while building beautiful chairs.



WITH **YOUR** SUPPORT, WE CAN PAVE THE WAY
FOR A YEAR FULL OF LEARNING ADVENTURES.
CONTACT US TO FIND OUT HOW.

THE GENEROSITY OF THE CHARIHO COMMUNITY IS FELT THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT THIS NOVEMBER

A heartfelt thanks is extended to the following individuals and groups for their generosity in November:

- Donation from Chariho Youth Task Force in Partnership with the South County Prevention Coalition of seven (7) NaloxBoxes (to hold NARCAN®) for each of the District's schools.
- Donation from Westerly Walmart (with the support of Assistant Manager Patrick Truman) of school supplies to the District.
- We also thank Chariho Rotary Club members for volunteering their time on Saturday, November 7th to clean the campus courtyard and library grounds.

If you would like to make a donation to support the Chariho Regional School District, or a particular school, or initiative; please contact Katie Kirakosian, the District's Development Officer, at 401-552-7277 or email her at katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING CHARIHO HIGH SCHOOL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGHOUT THE '20-'21 SCHOOL YEAR



If you have not seen the story in the Westerly Sun about Chariho High School's 60th anniversary, you can find it [here](#). We are celebrating the 60th anniversary this school year. For December and January we are spotlighting the many important relationships that started in the District and continue today. See page 1 for our December submissions. If you would like to share a photo and a short write-up about an important relationship in your life (mentors, colleagues, best friends, wife, husband, etc.) that you can trace back to the District, please email a photo and a short description/story to katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us. We look forward to sharing

many more stories of support, friendship, and love next month!

Thank you for reading the *We Are Chariho* newsletter.
If you have ideas for a story to share in the newsletter, please contact Katie Kirakosian at 401-552-7277 or katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us.

WE ARE CHARIHO

A newsletter celebrating Chariho's past, present, and future



January 2021, Volume 1: Issue 5

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We Are Chariho spotlights stories about our students, alumni, staff, community partners, schools, and our diverse school programs. If you have a story idea for an upcoming issue, please contact our Development Officer, [Katie Kirakosian](#). She will be more than happy to speak with you at your convenience.

CONNECT WITH US



Chariho Alumni & Friends Network



@Chariho_Pride



401.552.7277



katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us



Chariho Regional School District
455A Switch Road
Wood River Junction, RI 02894

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN: CELEBRATING RELATIONSHIPS THAT WERE SPARKED IN CHARGER TOWN

We hope these submissions put a smile on your face and remind us all of what is most important--human connections!



Colleagues/Performing Arts Pals ~ Ms. Burns & Ms. Dowding

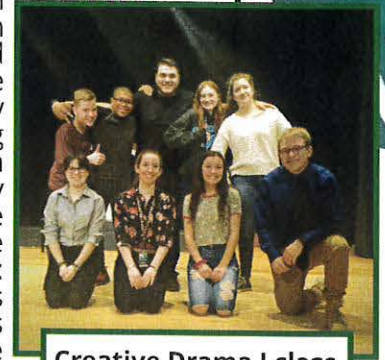
CHS theatre director, Ms. Burns, and chorus director, Ms. Dowding, are never without a project. Always preparing for their next production or concert, the two can be found after school multiple days a week holding rehearsals in their neighboring classrooms. Since they share many of the same students, Ms. Burns and Ms. Dowding have their scheduling down to a science to ensure that students can take advantage of all theatre and chorus opportunities. Ms. Burns and Ms. Dowding support each other in many of their events throughout the year. Burns, for example, assists Dowding with choreography needs for the annual Benefit Concert and Dowding serves as the vocal coach for the CHS Theatre Company's musical each spring. Now, during the pandemic, the two are working extra hard to make sure students can still take part in the performing arts. Ms. Burns and Ms. Dowding have maintained the mindset of 'don't give up; get creative.' With film adaptations of plays, virtual concerts, and outdoor rehearsals, Ms. Burns and Ms. Dowding are proving that "the show must go on" at Chariho.

We are still accepting submissions for February. If you are interested, please contact Katie Kirakosian at 401-552-7277 or katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us to be added here.

PATHWAY SPOTLIGHT: THE THEATRE ARTS PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

CHARIHOTech PERFORMING ARTS

The **Theatre Arts** Performing Arts Pathway at CHARIHOTech offers an excellent creative outlet for students. CHARIHOTech Director Gerry Auth and Chariho High School teacher and Humanities Specialist Dana Hall worked together to get the Pathway approved two years ago. Chariho is the first and only high school in Rhode Island to offer the complete Performing Arts Pathway in Theatre Arts. Mrs. Hall, who joined Chariho in 2003, works closely with Rebecca Burns, a Chariho faculty member since 2013. The first cohort of students to complete the formal Pathway will graduate in '22 and will take the following progression of courses, mainly taught by Ms. Burns: Creative Drama I and II, Focus on the Play, Stagecraft, Children's Theatre, Approaches to Drama: Page to Stage, and the Performing Arts Capstone. In Ms. Burns' roles as Director of the Chariho Theatre Company and the advisor for InkStigators Creative Writing Club, her days are busy working with Pathway students and others interested in Theatre the Performing Arts. Chariho students are lucky to have so many options for participation, such as the Chariho Theatre Company, Chorus, Band, InkStigators, Poetry Out Loud, the Shakespeare Competition, Art Club, Cinemates, the Film Festival, and other Humanities-based classes, clubs, and events. Over the years, Chariho students involved in the theatre arts have been able to partner with many professional groups, such as Contemporary Theater Company, PPAC, Rhode Island College, Trinity Repertory Company, and the Courthouse for the Arts. It is also inspiring to see how the Theatre Arts has found ways to partner with other Pathways and student groups. For example, Advertising and Design creates show programs and promotional materials, Cosmetology assists with hair and makeup, and Carpentry and Welding build props and set pieces for productions. They have even joined forces with Criminal Justice for a Murder Mystery Dinner and the Children's Theatre class works in collaboration with Early Childhood Education. What one learns in Chariho's Theatre Arts Pathway can shape a whole students' experience moving forward. As Ms. Burns explains, "Theatre skills are life skills. It is so inspiring to watch students collaborate, create, and problem-solve in the challenging and rewarding world of the performing arts." The Performing Arts have had a challenging year due to COVID-19. Mrs. Hall is ever hopeful, acknowledging "Despite the current pandemic, there are endless possibilities in the performing arts--- and we want our students to be part of the industry's comeback story."



Creative Drama I class

Newsies cast



**Stage Combat Workshop
with Michael Liebhauser**

Students performing in Catch Me If You Can



Over the years, many students have been inspired by the Theatre Arts at Chariho, even before the Pathway had been formally approved. We were able to sit down and talk to several former and current students, who shared the many ways that the Theatre Arts inspired their future career goals. Click on the names below to learn more about each student:

- **Melie Hayes '18**
- **Andrew Ackroyd '20**
- **Madison Lawing '21**

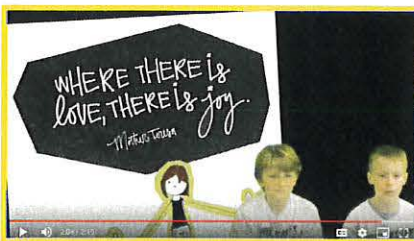
Do you have an inspiring Chariho story to share or know an inspiring Chariho alum? If so, reach out to katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us to share.

IN THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, LET'S MAKE ONE THING CERTAIN-- OUR COMMITMENT TO ALL KIDS. ALL OF THE TIME.



Ashaway Elementary School, with their Engineering and Robotics focus, is working to create a Mobile Makerspace so students can explore STEM activities in the great outdoors. The Mobile Makerspace would include a large supply cart, a shade structure and folding tables and benches.

Charlestown Elementary School has a big year planned. School staff are focused on ways to expand their existing outdoor classroom space. They also hope to improve the running area in the front of the school to ensure students interested in the wildly popular before-school running program can "take off" again soon.



Hope Valley Elementary School is focused on adding items to support their Visual and Performing Arts Specialty. Their goal this year is to purchase a green screen kit, expand their Makerspace, and purchase a kiln to fire student's pottery.

Richmond Elementary School hopes to fix their tennis and basketball courts, which are cracked and no longer in use. They are also working to expand a new beautiful outdoor learning oasis in their inner courtyard.



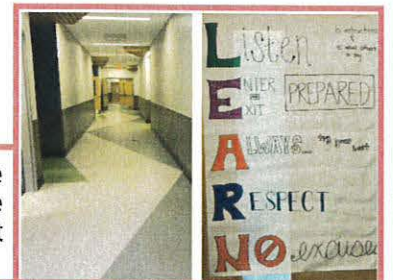
Chariho Middle School is hoping to provide all their students with some essentials to go along with their laptops this year. Their goal is to provide each student with a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone.

Chariho High School is seeking to strengthen their Peer Mentoring Program this year, which would connect all interested incoming 9th graders with a Peer Mentor to ensure a successful high school career.



CHARIHOTech is focused on working with community partners to increase the number of job shadow and internship opportunities for our students. This will help them gain invaluable insight and hands-on work experience in many, diverse job sectors.

Chariho Alternative Learning Academy students will be working on hands-on projects this year, such as the Adirondack Chair project they began last year that taught students math while building beautiful chairs.



WITH **YOUR** SUPPORT, WE CAN PAVE THE WAY
FOR A YEAR FULL OF LEARNING ADVENTURES.
CONTACT US TO FIND OUT HOW.

THE GENEROSITY OF THE CHARIHO COMMUNITY IS FELT THROUGHOUT THE DISTRICT

A heartfelt thanks is extended to the following individuals and groups for their generosity in December:

- A donation from the Ricci family to establish the Barry J. Ricci Memorial Scholarship, open to all Chariho High School Seniors. More information can be found [here](#).
- A donation from Staples Westerly of school supplies to the District.
- A donation from Jessica Ferrol, Westerly, RI of one (1) 2006 Toyota Sienna Van to the CTC Automotive Program.
- A donation from Jean Pacillo, Hope Valley, RI of one (1) 2008 Chevrolet Impala to the CTC Automotive Program.

If you would like to make a donation to support the Chariho Regional School District, or a particular school, or initiative; please contact Katie Kirakosian, the District's Development Officer, at 401-552-7277 or email her at katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us.



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING CHARIHO HIGH SCHOOL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGHOUT THE '20-'21 SCHOOL YEAR



If you have not seen the story in the Westerly Sun about Chariho High School's 60th anniversary, you can find it [here](#). We are celebrating the 60th anniversary this school year. For the remainder of the school year, we are spotlighting the many important relationships that started in the District and continue today. See page 1 for our December submissions. If you would like to share a photo and a short write-up about an important relationship in your life (mentors, colleagues, best friends, wife, husband, etc.) that you can trace back to the District, please email a photo and a short description/story to katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us. We look forward to sharing many more stories of support, friendship, and love next month!

Thank you for reading the *We Are Chariho* newsletter.
If you have ideas for a story to share in the newsletter, please contact Katie Kirakosian at 401-552-7277 or katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us.