

FYI

WE ARE CHARIHO

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



February 2021, Volume 1: Issue 6

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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

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!



Chariho Sweethearts: Thawn and Eleanor (MacKenzie) Harris '97

Thawn and Eleanor have known each other since childhood, although attending Chariho allowed them to see each other on a more regular basis. They both graduated from Chariho High School in 1997 and were the first class to go through the Middle and High school, grades 5-12. They were married a month after graduation on July 25, 1997 in Hope Valley. They have 7 children; Lynsea Montanari, Sherentè, Nkéke, Pummukau, Yoyatche, Mishánogqus, and Máshisha Harris, in order from eldest to youngest. They live in Charlestown and are both teachers at the Met School in Providence.

When asked about their adventures since graduating, they acknowledge that raising seven children is their biggest adventure! They try to do everything together with joy and look at the bright side of everything that life brings. Thawn and Eleanor are committed to renewing their vows every 10 years so they have married each other three times so far. They are truly blessed!

We are still accepting submissions for March. 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 PERFORMING ARTS PATHWAY, MUSIC PROGRAM

The Performing Arts Pathway, **Music Program** at CHARIHOTech is a much loved program for both Pathway students and the community. The Pathway officially began 4 years ago when Mrs. Hall became the Humanities Specialist. Chariho is lucky to be the only school in South County that offers a Performing Arts Pathway in music. The Program is led by veteran Chariho High School teacher, Ms. Lynn Dowding. She started out as a general music teacher at the Middle School in 1999. Her degrees are in special education and music education, which she received after attending Hood College in Maryland, the Hartt Music School in Connecticut, and St. Thomas University in Minnesota. Over the years Ms. Dowding has taught chorus at the middle school and chorus and honors chorus at the High School. She runs several after school groups, such as Chariho Vocal Select, Women's Group, Men's Group, and supports the Drama club and Ms. Burns.

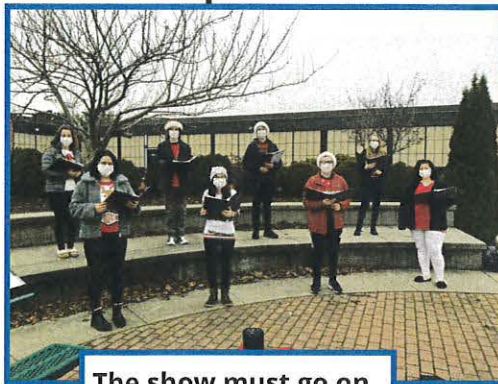


2019 Holiday concert



Virtual rehearsals

Students interested in music need not complete the Pathway. They can join chorus, even if they were not in chorus in the Middle School. They can also audition for after school singing groups like Chariho Vocal Select (CVS), Women's Group and Men's Group. There are also opportunities for All State and other singing competitions, as well as Independent study. In addition to four years of chorus, students have the opportunity to take honors-level courses, earn college credit, while learning about and preparing for careers in music or related fields. The courses in the pathway are designed to immerse students in the all that the music world has to offer through courses like AP Music Theory to Advanced Music Technology. Ms. Dowding has also partnered with many groups. Students have worked with The George Kent Performance Hall in Westerly for their annual Benefit Concert. Andrew Howell, their director has been a guest artist several times. Several years ago they partnered with Westerly High School for a concert. They have also partnered with Westerly Hospital, TF Green Airport, Warwick Mall, Mystic Village, Mystic Aquarium, Redwood Library in Newport, Richmond Grange, Briarcliff Senior Home, Scallop Shell Senior Home, Westerly Adult Daycare Center, and others to provide music in the community.



The show must go on

COVID-19 has deeply impacted chorus and band this past year. The complexities of the issue are outlined in an **OpEd** in The Providence Journal by David Neves, advocacy chairman for the Rhode Island Music Education Association. Ms. Dowding is also clear, "This has been a challenging year for musicians. Through the support of staff like Mrs. Hall and Mrs Burns and our principal, Mr. MacKenzie, we have been able to maintain chorus under difficult circumstances during the pandemic. Students continue to find new and creative ways to show their love and passion for music".



Outdoor rehearsals

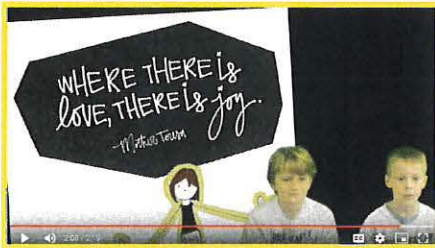
Do you have an inspiring Chariho story to share or know an inspiring Chariho alum? If so, reach out to katie.kirakosian@chariho.k12.ri.us to share.

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



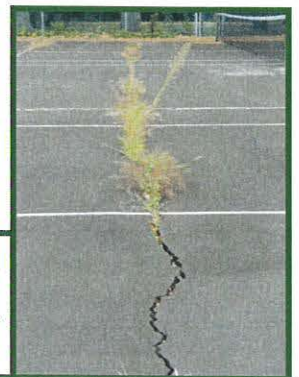
Ashaway Elementary School, with their Engineering and Robotics focus, is working to create a Mobile Makerspace so students can explore STEM activities in the great outdoors. The Mobile Makerspace would include a large supply cart, a shade structure and folding tables and benches.

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.



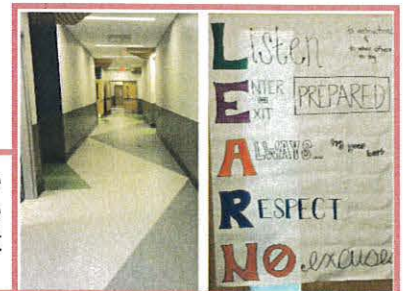
Chariho Middle School is hoping to provide all their students with some essentials to go along with their laptops this year. Their goal is to provide each student with a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone.

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.



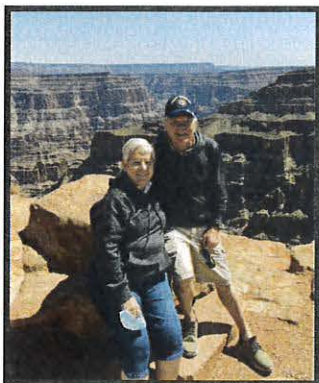
WITH **YOUR** SUPPORT, WE CAN PAVE THE WAY
FOR A YEAR FULL OF LEARNING ADVENTURES.
CONTACT US TO FIND OUT HOW.

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:

- Donation from Anthony Rotelli, of Englewood FL, of a Boston Whaler, boat electronics, Johnson Outboard, a trailer, and miscellaneous hardware and rigging to the CTC Marine Technology Program.
- Donation from the Chariho Rotary Club of 3,000 Masks to the District.

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.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

In January, Katie Kirakosian sat down with Barb (Bitgood) Sebring ('62) to learn more about her time at Chariho and her adventures since graduating. Click [here](#) to learn about her time in the Navy and how she fought for equal rights for female veterans and won!

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 January 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.



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




KRISTEN MERRITT
Human Resources Administrator

LINDA D. LYALL
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
FEB 11 2021

TO: Gina Picard 

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: February 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Update

Name	Position	Reason
Geoff Bowen	Night School Coordinator – Middle School	Appointment effective 3/1/2021 through 6/30/2021
Beverly Duquette	Special Education Resource Teacher – Middle School	Resignation effective 6/23/2021
Danielle Bruneau	Afterschool Tutor – CALA	Appointment effective 2/22/2021 through 9/30/2021
Raymond Gomes	Afterschool Tutor – CALA	Appointment effective 2/22/2021 through 9/30/2021
Grace Fitch	National Junior Honor Society Advisor – Middle School	Appointment effective 2/12/2021 through 6/30/2021

Kristen Merritt

From: Gregory Zenion
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Kristen Merritt
Cc: Mary Beth Florenz
Subject: Night school

Kristen,
CMS would like to move Geoff Bowen forward for the position of night school.
Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thanks,
Greg

Kristen Merritt

From: Geoffrey Bowen <geoffrey.bowen@charihochargers.org>
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2021 3:06 PM
To: Kristen Merritt; Gregory Zenion; Mary Beth Florenz
Subject: Night School for Middle School Students

Hi Kristen,

This is Geoff Bowen. I've finished talking with Greg and Mary-Beth in regards to a Night School program that is being offered to students here so that they may earn credit to pass onto the next grade.

Some more of the details still need to be fleshed out in regards to the total amount of hours - but the plan right now is for me to meet with students for an hour, twice a week. I will be providing the students with Virtual Instruction and helping them complete work within the Edunity program.

Please let me know what you need from me as we move forward with this venture. Right now it is estimated that we will have a start date of March 1st.

Have a great day.

--

Sincerely,
Geoffrey Bowen
Substitute Teacher
Chariho School District

Kristen Merritt

Subject: RE: resignation letter

From: Beverly Duquette
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2021 12:58 PM
To: Vincent Levcowich
Cc: Gina Picard; lflorio@neari.org; Susan Allen
Subject: resignation letter

Effective the last day of the 2020-2021 school year, I hereby resign from my position as special education teacher at Chariho Middle School. In addition, I request that they stop my evaluation process.

Thank you very much.

Beverly Duquette

Beverly Duquette
Special Education Teacher
Chariho Middle School

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Chariho Regional School District, 455A Switch Road, Wood River Junction, Rhode Island, USA, www.chariho.k12.ri.us

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Kristen Merritt

From: Brian Tetreault
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Kristen Merritt
Subject: recommendation

Good afternoon Kristen,

I formally recommend Danielle Bruneau and Ray Gomes for appointment to the positions of CALA Afterschool Tutors.

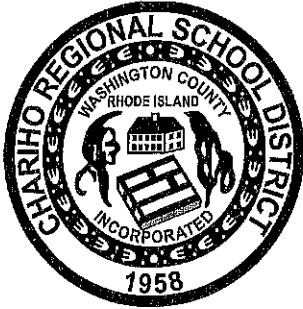
Sincerely,

Brian L. Tetreault
Chariho Regional School District
Director of Alternative Learning Programs
401-315-2880

Kristen Merritt

From: Gregory Zenion
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 7:44 AM
To: Kristen Merritt
Cc: Mary Beth Florenz; Grace Fitch
Subject: National Junior Honor Society

Kristen,
CMS would like to move Grace Fitch forward in the process to be appointed as the National Junior Honor Society advisor.
Please let me know if you need anything else.
Thanks,
Greg



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Office of the Human Resources Administrator

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Wood River Junction, Rhode Island 02894

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LINDA D. LYALL
School Committee Chairperson

GINA M. PICARD
Superintendent of Schools

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
FEB 23 2021

KRISTEN MERRITT
Human Resources Administrator

TO: Gina Picard

FROM: Kristen Merritt

DATE: February 23, 2021

SUBJECT: Staff Update

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

Name	Position	Reason
Kathryn McGeehan	Girls Volleyball, Head Coach – High School	Appointment effective 3/1/2021 through 6/30/2021
Shawn Cole	Girls Volleyball, Assistant Coach – High School	Appointment effective 3/1/2021 through 6/30/2021
Christen Clarke	Soccer/Football Cheerleading Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 3/1/2021 through 6/30/2021
Nicolas Russo	Football, Head Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 2/25/2021 through 6/30/2021
Todd Kenney	Football, Assistant Coach – High School	Re-appointment effective 2/25/2021 through 6/30/2021
Joshua Silva	Football, Assistant Coach – High School	Appointment effective 2/25/2021 through 6/30/2021
James Miceli	Football, Assistant Coach – High School	Appointment effective 2/25/2021 through 6/30/2021

My name is Kathryn McGeehan. I am interested in the position of Head Women's Volleyball Coach posted on SchoolSpring.com. I have attached my resume for your consideration.
My husband John and I have recently moved to North Kingstown from Montauk, New York . In 2012 I retired as a Physical Education teacher but have continued to coach girls varsity volleyball at East Hampton High School in East Hampton New York up to the fall of 2019. I am very interested in continuing my passion for coaching girls volleyball here in Rhode Island!
I look forward to speak with you regarding the opportunity available to join the Chariho coaching staff.

Truly,

Kathryn E. McGeehan

Kathryn E. McGeehan

North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852

Profile: I have 40 years of experience in the fields of Physical Education, Health and Wellness and Women's Athletics.

Experience: East Hampton High School Physical Education Department Chair – 2006-2012
Duties included overseeing and coordinating school wide Physical Education and Health Department K-12. My responsibilities included curriculum development, budget, schedule, assessment standards and procedures.

East Hampton High School – 1980-2012 Physical Education Teacher K-12
Instructed students in lifetime fitness and wellness, ballroom dance, gymnastics, racquet and team sports activities. Responsibilities included attendance, budget, assessment, parent portal.

East Hampton High School – Head WOMENS Volleyball Coach 1980-2018 Compiled a 417-173 Win-Loss Record over 38 years
13 League Championships, 2 County Championships, 1 New York State Final Four Appearance 10 League Coach of the Year Awards
AVCA American Volleyball Coaches Association NYS High School All American Selection Committee

2012-Present Spin Instructor/ Owner Rincon Ride Rincon, Puerto Rico (December - May)
July 2019- Dec 2019 Spin Instructor Luxe Fitness Center South Kingstown, RI.

Education: Long Island University - MA Elementary Education 1986
Hofstra University - BS Physical Education 1980
Level 3 Maddog Elite Spinning Instructor 2019

Certifications: New York State Permanent K-6 Elementary Education
K-12 Physical Education Teaching Certification
New York State Permanent Coaching Certification
Rhode Island Coaching certification
Rhode Island BCI background check TCN# RS0062019120517358
NFHS Concussion, CPR, First Aid, Fundamentals of Coaching, RI State Coaching Rules, sudden cardiac arrest

Kathryn McGeehan

Level 3 Elite Maddog Spinning Instructor

Recognitions: 2019 East Hampton High School Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee

AVCA 400 Victory Club Dec. 2019

2009 Suffolk Zone Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year

1992-2002 ASSOCIATION OF VOLLEYBALL PROFESSIONALS

AVP Beach Volleyball Tour 1989-1992 WOMENS PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION WPVA
Beach

Volleyball Tour

1998-2009 Age group Triathlete

References: EHHS Athletic Director Joe Vasile-Cozzo vasillecozzo@ehschools.org 631-329-4143

Evan Silberstein Assistant Beach Volleyball Coach University of Hawaii 808-634-0359

evansilb@hawaii.edu

Lenny Zaloga Westhampton Beach Volleyball Coach 516-702-1417 lzaloga@optonline.

Joshua Silva

Westerly RI 02891

March 19, 2019

Mr. Michael Shields

Chariho Regional High School

Wood River JCT

Dear Mr. Shiels,

I would like to submit this letter in response to the Assistant Football Coach opening that I saw listed for your team. I feel that my leadership skills when coupled with my love for the game are put to the test; I always come out a winner and would offer this winning spirit to Chariho High School.

In summary, I would be an asset to this position because I have:

- I have been a Football coach for over 10 years and BOD in the Westerly Pee Wee organization. as well as the Chariho JV head coach this past season
- I have a great outlook on which players have the skill and talent to make up a winning team and also can get them to play at their highest level. I can wear many hats as they say, coach, mentor, father figure, negotiator and many more.
- Working with the players to make sure that their grades stay within the standards is one of the most vital tasks that I have and I will go out of my way to work with the school to make sure all players are academically on track.

As a Former Charger Graduate and Varsity Baseball player myself I feel I can instill that Charger Pride and excellence that is expected from this football team.

I am excited to sit down and discuss with you what I can offer your baseball team. Feel free to contact me anytime at _____ or email me at _____

Sincerely,

Joshua Silva

James J. Miceli

North Kingstown, Rhode Island 02852

To Whom It May Concern, As a veteran coach and administrator with 35 years of coaching collegiate and high school football with previous head coaching experience, including a .580 career Head Coaching winning percentage, I would like to respectfully submit the enclosed resume and references for the vacant candidacy of Asst, Football Coach at Chariho High School. I have a strong desire to pursue my passions of molding young men in the sporting arena and in the classroom . With my abundant experiences on various levels of collegiate and high school football, I have the knowledge, experience, and passion to be the person to help lead your program. . While I offer 35 years of coaching experience and a litany of players that have gone on to the professional ranks, including two Pro Football Hall of Famers, I am most proud of my experience of recruiting individuals who have the passion, talent, and determination to turn programs around. Along with that ability, I have demonstrated abilities to nurture and develop relationships with University administration, boosters, alumni and fans of the program. Finally, my recruiting coordination prowess, strong communication skills, and my football and administrative background make me the ideal candidate for the position. I have the talent, motivational skills, and the experience to help continue the athletic success at Chariho High School. I would expect nothing less. I implore you to explore my resume and references at your convenience. Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information. Thank you for taking the time to evaluate me as a candidate to be an Asst, Football Coach for your school. I am very excited to help maximize the potential and take us to the next level! Respectfully yours, Jim Miceli