



North Providence Public Schools

www.nprovschools.org

A Message from Superintendent, Joseph B. Goho

Now that the school year is in full swing, I'd like to take a moment to highlight the academic accomplishments of our students. As educators, and as the families we serve know well, the primary function of a school system is to improve student achievement and academics. With that in mind, we recently received our data for the 2023 state testing on RICAS in grades 3-8 and the PSAT/SAT in grades 10 and 11, as well as the related school accountability rankings by the R.I. Department of Education. In general, we were relatively pleased at our results, as North Providence students demonstrated progress in many areas especially the fact that four elementary schools improved in all three tested areas, ELA, math and science. While we are close to reaching our pre-pandemic levels at most schools, we know that there is much work to be done to catch-up our students and ensure there is recovery from the lost learning that occurred throughout the pandemic. However, we are cautiously optimistic about our RICAS and PSAT/SAT results which showed that significant improvement and growth are attainable. While we know that there is much work to be done to close achievement gaps for all students, the recent state testing results indicate that a solid foundation is in place for continued growth and improvement. Some estimates state that it could take 3-5 years for students to recover from pandemic learning loss. However, North Providence Public Schools has implemented numerous interventions to ensure that our students improve more quickly. Currently our principals and teachers are reviewing school level data to identify areas for improvement, and all schools are working with the central office to develop and implement specific action plans to ensure that meaningful improvement and growth continue to occur. North Providence Public Schools also continues to implement new high-quality written curricula in ELA, math, and science which are available online to all students and families. Lastly, there is a professional development plan in place to ensure that high quality instruction and rigorous learning occur daily in every classroom. Working together as an invested school community, we have no doubt that with the support of our talented principals, teachers, and support staff members, our students will continue to excel and graduate college and career ready.



An update from Assistant Superintendent, Louise K. Seitsinger:

Happy New Year! It's been a wonderful start to 2024! We have many things we are working on at all levels, including continuing to revise our ELA, Math, and Science Curriculums. We are in our second year of implementation for StudySync at the Middle Schools and NPHS with success. We are also in our second year of implementing Reveal Math for the Elementary schools and NPHS, third year at our Middle schools. We are in the third year of implementing Amplify Science in Grades K - 8. We are experiencing a great deal of success with these and other curricula resources to best support all of our students' learning needs. With these high-quality curricula along with professional learning, we expect it to have a positive impact on our students' achievement. We are continuing professional learning through curriculum team meetings, grade level meetings, content level meetings and more, to address alignment and improvements in our curriculum. We are also conducting Learning Walks across all of our schools in ELA and Math to improve instructional practices. We are looking forward to including Science into our Learning Walks soon. We are continuing to add instructional resources and supports for our multilingual students and special education students across all grade levels. Our goal is to continue to decrease achievement gaps for all of our students and increase achievement levels. We are looking forward to our annual District Spelling Bee for students in Grades 4-8 on February 1, 2024! It's always a positive and successful experience for all! This year it will be held in person at McGuire Elementary School. Stay tuned for more details. In the spring, we are also working diligently to respond to our state assessment and accountability data across all schools. Through our district and school strategic plans and school improvement plans respectively, we are specifically addressing our student achievement data with measurable goals and action steps for improved outcomes this year. We are getting prepared for all of our state assessments beginning at the end of March and ending in May. Best wishes for Health and Happiness in 2024!



Highlights from the Director of Student Services, Cynthia VanAvery:

Embrace the New Year with a Splash of Adventure and Inclusivity!

Happy New Year! I wanted to share a unique experience that reminded me of the importance of stepping out of our comfort zones. Recently, I had the pleasure of joining several members of the Centredale faculty, including our esteemed principal, at Centredale Elementary School for a special event - the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Amidst laughter and screams, we all took the plunge, raising funds for the Special Olympics. This exhilarating experience emphasized the significance of self-care and the joy that comes from embracing the unknown. The event not only brought our community together but also highlighted the power of inclusivity.

As we embark on this new year, I encourage each one of you to step out of your comfort zone. Embrace inclusivity, welcome the unknown, and discover the incredible opportunities for adventure and learning that lie beyond the familiar. A heartfelt thank you to the Special Olympics for hosting such a wonderful event and for fostering an inclusive environment that brings joy and support to all. Wishing you a year filled with exciting adventures, personal growth, and the warmth of inclusivity.



*****Please join us at our upcoming NPSELAC meeting on
January 17th @ Ricci Middle School at 6:00 pm.**



Centredale Elementary School:

We continue to build our community of learners and engage our families. This year we kicked off our school year with our annual "Welcome Back Ice Cream Social" Students and families were excited to meet their new teachers and continue in their academic journey. Students engaged in rock painting, games and of course ice cream. Centredale faculty and staff were all united in supporting our kindness campaign, "Start with Hello." Kindness lessons and activities were plentiful throughout the week. October proved to be a very busy month. We hosted our annual "Bee in the Know" event in which families and students were invited to an afterschool event. Parents participated in various groups that provided information relating to school; for example, how to access their child's report card on Skyward. Students participated in "fun" activity sessions provided by classroom teachers. October culminated with a Trunk or Treat and Glow Dance Party event. Students were super excited at both events. This event drew a high number of participants from families, students and staff. In December, we hosted our first Polar Express event. This event was extremely successful as indicated by all of our families and students. The event consisted of a Polar Express train ride, holiday activities, snacks, pictures with Santa as well as creating memories with families. All classroom teachers expressed their creativity by decorating their classroom doors and hallways to represent the Polar Express. These are the amazing events from the first part of the school year. We are looking forward to an even better second half of the year. The success of these events could not be possible without the extensive support from our PTO and school faculty.



Greystone Elementary School:

Greystone Book Club

The Greystone Book Club is a great way for students to get excited about reading. Each year three titles are chosen by Mrs. Montecalvo and Mrs. Eastman. Then once a trimester students in grades three through five all read the same book, come together after school in the library, discuss ideas and different perspectives of the book all while sharing a small snack. This is a great way for kids to share in the joy of reading!



STEM Education in Library

During library classes last week, students in kindergarten through grade 5 participated in coding activities for Hour of Code. Hour of Code is the introduction to computer science through fun activities and videos for learners of all skill levels. Students participated in various coding activities which included Dance Party, Kodable, Space Invaders, The Grinch and activities from Code.Org. So much learning and fun was happening during these coding classes!



Holiday Bazaar

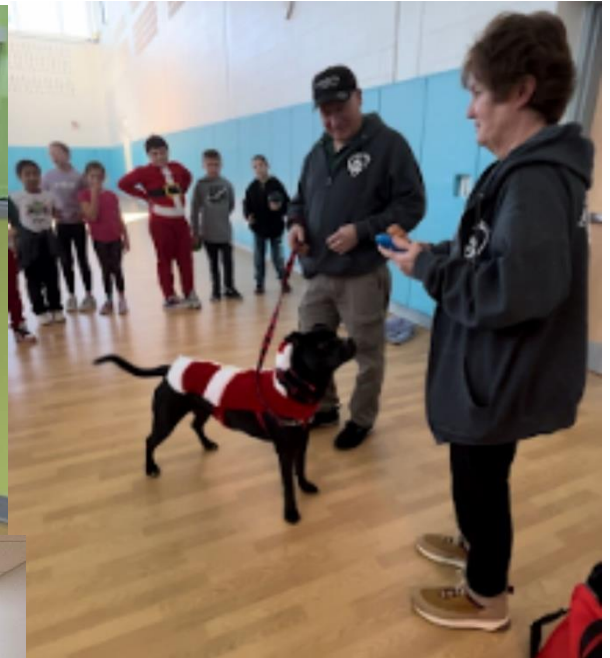
Congrats and thank you to our Greystone PTA for providing another successful, and fun Holiday Bazaar! The items were plentiful and the students enjoyed using their shopping skills!

McGuire Elementary School:

"McGuire ROARs into the New Year!"

The students and staff at James L. McGuire Elementary School have been able to celebrate our scholars for their Academic Achievement, Awesome Effort, and continue to recognize our monthly P.A.C.K. Leaders for the role models they are! We have had school-wide assemblies for Student Recognition, a Kindergarten Sing-A-Long, and a fan-favorite guest, Keith Munslow. Our students and staff collected canned goods for a Thanksgiving Food Drive, they got to show their school spirit with fun holiday themed days, the PTO hosted a Family Ornament Night, and the Giving Tree was a great success again this year for our McGuire families!

We are kicking off the new year with a focus on increasing our daily student attendance to ensure our McGuire students are in school, on time, and attend all day to engage in the fun learning opportunities their teachers work so hard to prepare! Our community would also like to welcome Ranger, our school support dog that will work with students once a week.



Stephen Olney Elementary School:

As we embrace the upcoming chilly days, we're excited to share some heartwarming news about our students' achievements. This semester has seen remarkable progress, with a 15% proficiency improvement in RICAS ELA, a 9% increase in RICAS Math, and an impressive 15% rise in NGSA Science proficiency. We're equally thrilled to announce a stellar 23% improvement in attendance as compared to last year, reflecting our commitment to creating a supportive and engaging learning environment. Our spirited community celebrated two fantastic spirit weeks in October and December, fostering a sense of unity and fun. Looking ahead, we want to commend our dedicated teachers and hardworking students who are gearing up to showcase their knowledge in the upcoming state testing. Together, we're creating a winter wonderland of learning and achievement!



Whelan Elementary School:

It has been quite a busy year at Whelan Elementary!

Our school has focused on providing fun learning experiences to our entire population! We have much to celebrate this year at Whelan Elementary. We are continuing to make improvements in the area of ELA and Math!

Whelan hosted many events prior to our Winter break with a big help from our PTO. Our Polar Express Night was so well attended and brought holiday fun for all! Our chorus recently performed at Generations Adult Day Care in North Providence. Our teachers have planned wonderful field trips and are continuing to provide community experiences for our students. A big thank you to our PTO for helping fund these opportunities! Our Thanksgiving baskets and Giving Tree program was a success! Our entire school community contributed to our donations. It was a heartwarming experience for all!

Our school improvement team members wrote and received a grant through the RI Black Storytellers. Students in grades 4-5 are participating in a writing/storytelling program through this grant. We are also welcoming Electric Boat representatives into our grade 5 in the upcoming month! Students will participate in hands on science lessons.

We are excited to continue our year of learning in 2024!



Birchwood Middle School:

The students and staff at Birchwood Middle School have been busy learning both inside and outside of the classroom. Our STEAM classes have been working hard on the planting and nurturing of our winter gardens inside of our greenhouse. Students grew poinsettia plants for the holiday season. We were able to donate 20 plants to the residents of Lincolnwood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on Smithfield Road in North Providence.



The Korean Culture Project of New York visited our school to talk with our students about Far East culture. The presenters then worked with the students to create their very own lotus lantern to take home with them. Over 70 students had the opportunity to participate in this program. This is a big hit for our school community every year!



Mr. Gilmore and 50 Birchwood students & staff made their yearly visit to New York City. The group visited the MoMath Museum in lower Manhattan. They were also able to go to the Top of the Rock, Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral and visit Times Square. The highlight may have been taking over Famous Original Ray's Pizza to have dinner before the journey back to Rhode Island.

Ricci Middle School:

Ricci Middle School had an outstanding first half of the 2023/2024 school year. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and faculty members. Our Latinx Family Bingo Night and Holiday Festival were both extremely successful events that brought our school community together to celebrate our great school. Ricci Middle School secured a grant from the State of Rhode Island for six thousand dollars to enhance our Mechatronics Program and another two thousand dollar grant from The Feinstein Foundation to restock our food bank for our community outreach. Our students took a field trip to Gillette Stadium to learn about the design and engineering processes that are involved with the production of football helmets. We continue to celebrate the success of our students and teachers through our student and teacher of the month awards ceremony. We wish everyone a safe and successful new year!



**Blue Team
Field Trip!**



North Providence High School:

It has been a busy few months at NPHS. We started our year with volunteering at the NP Fall Festival. A little rain could not keep us away. Before we knew it, it was time for Spirit Week, Spirit Night and Homecoming. What a fun week we had. At the Homecoming game a new King and Queen were crowned. Congratulations to Olivia Catelli and Danell Amparo-Santana. We danced the night away at the Homecoming Dance. We had several charity games benefiting organizations. Our Marching Band was a highlight of the Columbus Day Parade. Our American Studies students put their learning into action when they visited the Freedom Trail in Boston. There were several college visits for our Engineering students. Who could forget our Superbowl Championship! Michael Allard '24 was named the MVP. The weather was cold that night but our hearts were warm with pride for these athletes. Our NHS students showed the Class of 2028 exactly how wonderful NPHS is when they acted as tour guides to our 8th grade families. Most recently, Mrs. Gelinas was awarded the 2023 RI High School STEAM Workshop Educator of the Year. Congratulations to Coach and Teacher Michael Tuorto on his selection as the Division IV Coach of the Year. Our students always enjoy a mock Supreme Court Hearing. Our AP US Government Students participated in this hearing at the NP public safety complex. The votes were in as our Computer Science students won an Excellence Award this past week at The Computer Science Summit.





The District Spelling Bee will be held on February 1st



at McGuire Elementary School
6:30pm-8:00pm



Snow Date: February 8th (same place and time)



PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

THE NORTH PROVIDENCE SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE has four meetings per year that include a speaker and/or a presentation on topics related to special education. The committee strives to meet the needs of parents, students and faculty. The next meeting is scheduled for January 17th, 2024, 6-8 pm at Ricci Middle School. For more information you can contact the committee at NPSELAC@npsd.k12.ri.us

THE NORTH PROVIDENCE SCHOOL COMMITTEE typically meets the last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the North Providence High School Library/Media Center. A complete list of meeting dates is available on the District's Website. The next few scheduled meetings will take place on January 24th, February 28th and March 27th, 2024. The agenda for each meeting will be available on the Secretary of State website 48 hours prior to a scheduled meeting or at the North Providence School Department Central Office.

North Providence School Committee

Chairman-Dr. Frank Pallotta (District 1)
Vice Chairman-Roderick E. DaSilva (District 2)
Steven M. Andreozzi (District 3)
Arthur Corsini (District 3)
Anthony R. Marciano, Sr. Esq. (at large)
Gina M. Picard, M.Ed. (District 1)
Charles F. Pollock, Jr. (District 2)



School Contact Information:

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1828 Mineral Spring Ave. 02904 T: 401-233-1150

Birchwood Middle School, Brian Gilmore, Principal
10 Birchwood Drive 02904 T: 401-233-1120

Ricci Middle School, Thomas Mellen, Principal
51 Intervale Ave. 02911 T: 401-233-1170

Centredale Elementary School, Donna Hanley, Principal
61 Angell Ave. 02911 T: 401-233-1145

Greystone Elementary School, Lorraine Moschella, Interim Principal
100 Morgan Ave. 02911 T: 401-233-1130

McGuire Elementary School, Alicia Lisi, Principal
55 Central Ave. 02911 T: 401-233-1135

Stephen Olney Elementary School, Anthony Pacitto, Principal
1378 Douglas Ave. 02904 T: 401-233-1160

Whelan Elementary School, Amanda Donovan, Principal
1440 Mineral spring Ave. 02904 T: 401-233-1180

For more information you can visit the District's website @ <http://nprovschools.org>



The Mission of the North Providence School District, as an urban ring community with a strong neighborhood identity, is to recognize its individual and cultural diversity and to adapt to the needs of students and families. Our goal is to educate and prepare our students in a safe, nurturing, and challenging environment for college and career readiness. We believe that all students can achieve and develop future-ready skills in academics, communication, technology, and the humanities to ensure they become productive and contributing members of a global society