



The District Update

Burrillville School Department

December, 2017

News Worth Celebrating:

- Congratulations to Melissa Rhodes, 5th Grade Teacher at the W.L. Callahan School, for being accepted to serve on RIDE's 2018 RI State Science Assessment Item Review Committee! As a member of the committee, Melissa will represent Burrillville in decision-making around the content, alignment, and accessibility of potential items for the new science assessment being piloted this spring.

Spotlight On:

Burrillville Middle School! Grade 6 teachers at BMS have embraced the district's Blended Learning initiative!

During a normal day at BMS, you may see...

- All students carrying Chromebooks with the ability to have quick access to the internet at any time
- Teachers facilitating classroom warm ups using **Padlet**, where students can post their input/thoughts/comments for the entire class to see.
- A teacher using **Padlet** to collect classroom responses after watching a **YouTube** video.
- Students accessing online content through **Google Classroom** and having the ability to work at their own pace
- Teachers using playlists within **Google Classroom**
- Students & teachers using **Kahoot** as a test prep
- **Goformative** used as an assessment tool
- **Station rotation** being used classrooms (teachers work hands-on with one group while the other completes an assignment in Google Classroom)
- Students fill out a short **Google Form** exit slip posted in **Google Classroom** before leaving class
- Teachers **videotaping** students while they participate in the *Read, Reflect, Discuss* protocol
- Teachers **flipping** their classrooms and posting videos to **Google Classroom**
- Teachers posting educational **Podcasts** for students to listen to
- Teachers using **YouTube** videos as an introduction to writing projects
- Students using **Webquests** - an inquiry-oriented lesson in which most or all the information they work with comes from the web.
- Teachers using **EdPuzzle** - creating self-paced, interactive lessons. They add their voice and questions to videos.
- Students using **Quizizz** - Students have a blast taking online quizzes - they play together but work at their own pace.

From the Superintendent's Office:

- Each year at this time we take a few moments to reflect on the accomplishments of the school district, and this year is no exception. We have a lot to be proud of, but some of the most telling data comes from the senior class of 2017: they outperformed the state average in every section of the SAT - and 92% of them graduated with a diploma. Although these statistics are specific to high school, they reflect the hard work and dedication of teachers at every level. It takes 13 years to prepare our children for life after graduation, and that mission begins in Kindergarten. Congratulations to all!

Technology Update:

- This month, for the very first time, elementary school report cards were posted electronically in Skyward for families. This saved a tremendous amount of paper - and time! A process that used to take days of printing and copying at each school was condensed into about 20 minutes! All families in Burrillville are also now able to log into Skyward and update their own contact information as it changes, representing greater convenience for them and ensuring accurate information for all our schools.

Upcoming District Events:

- The Next District Update will be posted on January 22nd - Best wishes for **Happy Holidays** and a wonderful vacation to all!