



# The District Update

## Burrillville School Department

### February, 2018

#### News Worth Celebrating:

- Congratulations to Burrillville High School Robotics Team 154 Renegade! Earlier this month, BHS students Seth Kamer, Andrew Lacouture, Cora Gaucher, Zach Lawton, Draven L'Etoile, Madison Moriarty, Faith Blanchard, Ashley Godfrin, Chris Charron, Reid Morin, Paul Miller, Peter Spencer, Isaac Astillero, Erik Falcone, Massimo Musto, and Jason Duquette earned the championship title in the 12th annual FIRST Tech Challenge, beating 32 other teams from around the state! This is the team's 11th state championship title in 12 years. We all wish them well as they move on to the Super Regional competition in Scranton, Pennsylvania in mid-March!

#### Spotlight On:

**Burrillville High School!** At BHS, we are focused on ensuring that every student is ready to transition from school to career. Just in the past two months:

- Students from Mrs. Deely's class and Mrs. Beaulieu's class attended the New England Tech Health Sciences Career Day. They were able to explore career pathways in Medical Laboratory, Physical Therapy, Veterinary Technology, and Nursing.
- MTTI in Seekonk, Massachusetts, gave students from Mr. Santoro's class a tour of their programs, all of which can be completed in under 2 years. MTTI offers diplomas for Medical Assistant, Automotive Services, Computer Services, Personal Fitness, HVAC/R, Building and Property Trades Technician, and Motorcycle/Power Technician.
- 38 students from Mrs. Forrest's class and Mr. Ferraro's class visited URI for a campus tour. Many students have applied to URI, so this was a great opportunity for them to see the campus and determine if it is a good fit for them.
- Mr. Aldrich took his students to the CS4RI Summit again this year. Students were able to see all the various ways computer science is integrated with many everyday apps and products we use. (One interesting booth showed how quickly and easily a cell phone can get hacked!)
- For the second year in a row, students in Mr. Stockwell's class went to Hull Forest Products in Pomfret Center, CT, to see the process of making hardwood floors - from the cutting down of the trees, debarking and cutting the wood, to the finished product of the floor.
- BHS hosted an in-house guest speaker from G-Form, Providence, RI, (manufacturers of protective athletic gear) who spoke to Mr. Cash's class about the importance of social media and how psychology and sociology play an integral part in marketing.
- Students from Mr. Cash's class attended a Business Tomorrow Panel at Bryant University. This panel discussed many aspects of working in the business world. BHS was well represented, with more students attending than any other school!

- Universal Technical Institute presented to students in Mr. Durigan's class about enrollment at their school in Norwood, Massachusetts. They offer career opportunities for students interested in Automotive/Diesel Technology and Industrial Technology.
- A representative from Electric Boat presented to our students about career opportunities at Quonset. The presentation emphasized on-the-job training as well as entry-level salaries and their benefits package.

For further information on any school to career activities, please contact Elaine Sardella in the School to Career office!

### From the Superintendent's Office:

- As most of you likely have heard by now, Dr. Pallotta will be retiring at the end of this school year. The search for a new superintendent has begun. The position was posted early in January. A 12-member screening team representing a broad range of stakeholders has been formed, and interviews will be held in mid-March. At that time, finalists will be forwarded to the school committee for further review. Our hope is to have a new superintendent appointed at the May school committee meeting, with a start date in early July.

### From the Curriculum Director:

- **SurveyWorks!** is underway, and every voice counts! Each year parents, students, teachers, and administrators have the chance to share their views about how our schools are doing by answering questions about their children's school on everything from parent communication to student safety. Parents can access the general Family Survey by visiting [surveys.PanoramaEd.com/RIDE](https://surveys.PanoramaEd.com/RIDE) and entering their unique school code. **If you do not have a code, please contact your child's school and they can provide it.** The survey is anonymous, and **your feedback helps your child's school improve.** We can't emphasize enough how important SurveyWorks is when it comes to improving our schools. Please take just 20 minutes of your time to fill the survey out. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Special Education Update:

- We are pleased to announce that the Burrillville School Department is providing the Community Care Alliance with space in our schools to allow our families and students ease of access to counseling services. Community Care Alliance is not an affiliate of the Burrillville School District and their services are not provided by nor paid by the Burrillville School District. Families must make arrangements directly with Community Care Alliance or through their healthcare provider or health insurer for payment for these services. We are happy to support this effort to increase student access to counseling, and to work with families to assist in making referrals as needed. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your child's school and ask to speak with the school psychologist or social worker.

### Upcoming District Events:

- **The Next District Update will be posted on March 23rd!**