



# The District Update

## Burrillville School Department

### April, 2018

#### News Worth Celebrating:

- In a “flashback” to last month’s celebrations - belated congratulations to **Ryan McNulty** and **Meghan Mania**, the BHS Debate Club Advisors who took their team to 3rd place in the state Championship Debate Tournament!
- Congratulations to the many teachers in our district who applied for and have been awarded grants from the Burrillville Schools Alumni Education Foundation! **Lisa Nichols (SFE)**, **Janet McLinden (BHS)**, **Kim Pristawa (BHS)**, **Krystal Alves Amoroso (BHS)**, **Melissa Masi (SFE)**, **Mary Belisle (SFE)**, **Kelly Rodgers (SFE)**, **Diane Lebrun (BMS)**, **Barbara DeMasco (BHS)**, **David Alba (BHS)**, and **Officer David Beauchemin (BHS)** received grant allocations totaling nearly \$3000.00 for special projects in their schools and classrooms! (Thanks to **Lynn Clark** and the board of the BSAEF for their continued support of our district’s teachers and students!)
- Congratulations to BHS Senior **Sierra Miller**, advisor **Amanda Lemos**, and the entire cast (including special teacher guests **Molly Gouveia**, **Ashley Crenca**, **Matthew Daigneault**, and **Michael Kropman**) and crew of the BHS Spring Musical for their terrific performance on April 7th!

#### Spotlight On:

##### Burrillville Middle School!

- Our 8th graders attended the **Junior Achievement Inspire Career Fair** in March! They participated in 4 lessons where they had the opportunity to research and explore career options that would be suitable for their interests. Our students participated in a brief survey asking what they thought of the program, and the responses were well received. 75% of students reported that Junior Achievement introduced them to careers they didn’t know prior to attending. 80% of students would recommend this program to next year’s 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- BMS students have partnered with Bryant University and BHS students to offer **mentoring** for some of our students. 10 students have been paired up with either a BHS or Bryant mentor. This program has had a positive impact on student’s academics and social-emotional well-being. A big thanks to Mandy Lecomte for coordinating this important program!
- 7th-8th Grade **Chorus** earned an excellent rating at their choral festival and the 6th Grade Chorus is attending a choral competition on Friday. Both 6th and 7th-8th Grade Chorus sang in the Burrillville Alumni Association Talent Show on Thursday night.
- This year we’ve been able to offer after-school tutoring for students at **BELLA**. Many students have taken advantage of this opportunity and have improved their academic progress with the additional support. Students have worked collaboratively on projects with friends, re-took tests, worked on homework, or remediated skills while at BELLA. It’s been a great resource for BMS students!
- We’ve opened up a **technology pathway** for students interested in Engineering at BMS! This year, Kyle Rose began teaching the Project Lead the Way course, Design and Modeling. This course, and the successive

Automation and Robotics course, will serve as the gateway courses for students interested in pursuing the Engineering Pathway at BHS.

- BMS has partnered with **Day One** to complete a 3-year research project that focuses on healthy relationships for our students. They've worked throughout the year with all grade levels to hone in on middle school dating violence prevention. They've created posters, conducted surveys with students, and visited classrooms regularly to address the current concerns that our students face on a daily basis. We feel fortunate to partner with them on such an important topic for our middle schoolers!

### From the Curriculum Director:

- Grades 3-8 have successfully completed the first year of state assessments in math and ELA using the newly- developed RICAS. All assessments this year were completed online, a task that was made easier by the presence of classroom sets of Chromebooks throughout our elementary schools and 1:1 Chromebooks at the Middle School. Special thanks to our Technology Department (**Justin Allen, Ken Jancef, and Jesse Dellacona**) and Data Manager **Darcey Johnson** for setting up accounts for teachers and rosters of students, managing student changes throughout testing, preparing devices with the platform requirements for testing and quickly sorting out the few issues that arose on testing days. A huge thank you, too, to all our teachers who prepared their students for testing and provided encouragement and support along the way! W.L. Callahan's School Improvement Team (with the organizational support of **Brenda Costa** and **Gayle DelPrete**) got creative and fun about boosting kids' confidence for testing, providing a special treat with a message of encouragement for each day of assessment: Smarties ("You're a real SMARTIE"); Tootsie Rolls ("You're on a ROLL; Keep it up!"); Mints ("You were MINT to ace this test!") and Oranges ("Orange you glad this is the last day of testing? Finish the test with zest!")

### From the Superintendent's Office:

- At their regular meeting on April 10th, our School Committee appointed Dr. Michael Sollitto as the new Superintendent of the Burrillville School Department. Dr. Sollitto comes to us from Scituate, where he is currently serving as Assistant Superintendent. A graduate of Rhode Island College and Johnson & Wales University, Dr. Sollitto has held a variety of positions and acquired a broad range of teaching and administrative experience over his 23 years in education. From a pool of several highly qualified candidates, Dr. Sollitto distinguished himself both to the district's screening team and to our School Committee as an excellent leader and a great fit for our Burrillville community. We are excited to be bringing Dr. Sollitto on board, and we look forward to his "official" start date on July 2nd.

### Upcoming District Events:

- **The last District Update for this year will be posted on May 31st!**