

December 9, 2022

Dear Students, Staff and Families,

I would like to share with you some information and exciting news that was presented at last night's school committee meeting.

Cumberland's 2022 District Education Support Professional of the Year - Kelli McPherson



Teachers Jillian Pullano & Jennifer Marvel, Kelli McPherson and Superintendent Thornton

We congratulate Kelli McPherson on this outstanding achievement! As an Administrative Assistant at Ashton Elementary School and the Cumberland Preschool Center, she has numerous responsibilities throughout the school day. Kelli is devoted, hard-working and a great benefit to the school. Her warm and caring demeanor is portrayed on a daily basis. She is readily available to provide support to the school's faculty, staff, students and their families. Kelli is a valued member of our school system. [Click here](#) to view the full announcement.

Kelli was recognized at the Cumberland School Committee meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2022.

Congratulations to Feinstein Golden Ticket Winner: Beckett Cameron

Beckett was recognized at last night's school committee meeting. A \$5,000 grant was awarded to his school - Community School. He also received a \$1,000 grant which he donated to the Northern RI Food Pantry. Mr. Feinstein also gave special gifts to Beckett recognizing him as an outstanding Feinstein Junior Scholar.



Principal Cheryl Vaughn, Beckett Cameron and Superintendent Thornton

Thank you Paul DiModica!

School Committee Member Paul DiModica will resign on January 1, 2023.

He has been a very valuable member of the committee and his absence will be felt by many.

We are truly appreciative of his dedication and commitment to the Cumberland School Department and the School Community.

Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment (RICAS) Results

Our annual RICAS data analysis provides the community with an opportunity to gauge how Cumberland's school system fares in comparison to itself and how we progress or regress as an academic institution.

But it also allows us to understand how our performance compares to other districts in RI in addition to some local districts in neighboring Massachusetts.

The District has made it its mission to approach student performance with a high degree of urgency, yet the additional variable of having to recover from the impact of the pandemic has created greater challenges for our school system. While data can sometimes be difficult to accept or understand, it remains a concrete way to objectively measure who we are.

Our current ranks in the state are as follows: Please keep in mind we compare districts that test the same number of grade levels we do.

Cumberland ranks 8th in the state this year in ELA performance & 4th in the state in Mathematics. We also look at how Cumberland would fare if we were to compare ourselves to Massachusetts districts.

In ELA we performed better than 67% of Mass. districts and better than 76% of Mass. districts in Mathematics.

We remain focused on a road to recovery. We would like to get back to our standing prior to the pandemic and we aspire to be among the top 3 school systems in the state. Our office, administrators, and teachers are all committed to maximizing the achievement of our students.

To view the full RICAS 2021-22 Presentation, please [click here](#).

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) Training District Safety Initiative Update



Cumberland has recently trained 23 individuals as ALICE trainers. This comprehensive two day training involved teachers, administrators, and police officers in Cumberland. Next steps will include providing training to all district faculty and staff over the coming months.

Fall Sports Season Wrap-Up

- Participation was at an all time high this fall as over 650 Student athletes at Cumberland High, North Cumberland and McCourt Middle Schools competed this fall for their respective athletic programs
- North Cumberland Boys Soccer team are your Undefeated State Champions. In the championship game after battling through a 2-2 tie in regulation and overtime, the NorthStar's won the title in exciting fashion, taking the crown in a penalty kick shootout.
- CHS Boys and Girls Cross Country Squads both had Historic Seasons. The boys team finished 3rd at the State Meet and had its highest finish at the New England Meet in 39 years finishing 7th.

- The Girls team finished 2nd at the State Meet, its highest finish since 1983 and followed that up with a 10th place finish at the New England's.
- Cumberland Girls Soccer, Volleyball and Field Hockey squads, McCourt Boys Soccer all advanced to the semi-finals of their leagues.
- CHS Football defeated Woonsocket in the 58th Annual Thanksgiving Day Classic

On the Horizon

Winter Sports are in full swing at all levels with a full slate of games starting next week. Schedules can be found at www.riil.org

Superintendent's School Committee Report - 12.8.2022

Sincerely,
Philip D. Thornton, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools