

March 10, 2023

Dear Students, Staff and Families:

I would like to provide you with some school updates and information from the Cumberland School Committee meeting held on Thursday, March 9, 2023

### **Cumberland High School News**

This week Cumberland High School announced the valedictorian and salutatorian of the class of 2023, the 129th graduating class of Cumberland High School.

After years of hard work and dedication, the valedictorian of the class of 2023 is Orion Le, who has achieved an outstanding academic record throughout his high school career. As a result of this remarkable accomplishment, Orion has earned the privilege of delivering the Valedictorian address at this year's graduation.

Furthermore, it was announced that the salutatorian of the class of 2023 is Susanna Henderson, who has also demonstrated remarkable academic prowess and has achieved a notable academic record during her time at CHS. Susanna has been invited to deliver the salutatorian address at graduation.

Please join me in congratulating Orion and Susanna, their accomplishments are a testament to their commitment and hard work.

Also at Cumberland High School, 450 students have achieved high honors or honors for Quarter 2. Among the 450 students, 138 are seniors, 99 are juniors, 103 are sophomores, and 110 are freshmen.

These students have demonstrated a high level of commitment to their studies and have earned excellent grades throughout Quarter 2. We are extremely proud of their academic achievements and their dedication to their education.

The [CHS Class of 2023 Graduation Ceremony](#) is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2023 at Tucker Field.

Check out other important news from the high school at [GoBlueNews](#) or the high school's daily bulletin [CHS Clipper Daily News](#).

### **B.F. Norton School News**

B.F. Norton School along with Rhode Island College had the privilege of providing an enrichment program for our students before school. Teachers used Mathematic Common Core Standards to develop a STEM curriculum using robotics. This program was possible thanks to a grant provided by The Mathematics Educational Trust Classroom Research Grant Pre-K-6 funded by The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Students were able to explore and program robots to further understand the concepts of measurements, estimation, and angles through coding. The data collected demonstrated the value of hands-on exploration and collaboration which further enhanced their understanding of these concepts. Our students were engaged, enthusiastic, and active participants during the program.

B.F. Norton teachers look forward to continuing this partnership and providing this opportunity to more students. [Elementary Mathematics & Robotics in the Early Grades-Final Report](#)

### **2023-2024 School Calendar**

The 2023-2024 School Calendar was approved by the school committee during its meeting last night. You can view the calendar under Quick Links on the [Cumberland School District's website](#).

### **Review of Student Enrollment**

As of March 8th, we have 5,000 students enrolled for the first time since March 2008 (5,060).

In the last two weeks, we have registered 14 new students. Students and their families are coming from all over the globe including Italy, Bolivia, Florida and Massachusetts.

We are also seeing an increase in preschool admissions. There are 151 students enrolled in preschool. As of this date, we have 24 preschool referrals that could possibly be eligible for services.

Steady enrollment certainly gives us an advantage as it increases our State Aid funding, but we do need to keep advocating for the building of a new 4-track school for B.F. Norton School. This uptick in enrollment is projected to continue for many years to come.

[NESDEC Projected Ten Year Enrollment Chart](#)

[State of Recovery in RI Presentation - Cumberland Enrollment](#)

### **School Construction Update**

As you are aware, we have school construction projects underway at Community, Ashton and Garvin Elementary Schools and it is important that we continue to provide a 21st century educational environment that will accommodate our students and staff for many years to come.

#### Ashton School -

The Ashton addition is on schedule and on budget. This [picture](#) shows work being done on the enclosed new addition including brick work, roofing and windows.

#### Community School -

The cafeteria and classroom addition at Community School is also now enclosed with framing, electrical and other interior aspects of the project underway. This [picture](#) shows the interior work being done.

#### Garvin Memorial School -

As you may recall, the Garvin project incorporates a new addition and a renovation of the existing school building. The renovation portion of the project is moving along on schedule with framing, electrical and rough plumbing all nearing completion. Sheetrock is now being installed in many areas. This [picture](#) shows the progress of the project.

The addition, while making progress, is currently behind our established schedule but we are continuing efforts to recover lost time on this part of the project.

### **School Sports Update**

The Winter sports season is wrapping up! Over 545 student athletes compete at the High and Middle School levels. Some of the highlights from the winter season:

- \* The Boys and Girls swim team were named 92 PRO-FM and Showcase Cinemas Team of the Week.
- \* The Taylor Hooton Foundation presented to the Freshman and Sophomore classes to educate them of the truths about Appearance and Performance Enhancing Substances.
- \* Congratulations to Indoor Track's Alyssa Yankee who was the State Champion in the Shot Put.
- \* North Cumberland Boys Basketball were the Northern Division Champions and made the final four of the State Tournament before being eliminated.
- \* Cumberland High Boys Basketball advanced as far as the Elite 8 in the State Tournament before being eliminated by Hendricken.
- \* Cumberland High Boys Hockey team has advanced to the Division I Frozen Four.

#### On the Horizon

\* Boys Hockey will play LaSalle on Sunday (3/12) 2:30 pm at Schneider Arena (Providence College) in the semifinals of the Frozen Four Hockey Tournament.

\* Spring sports start Monday, March 20th at the High school and Monday, March 27th for the Middle Schools.

\* Student -Athlete Leadership training workshop will take place at Camp Fogarty on May 4th.

### **2023-2024 Kindergarten / 1st Grade Registration**

The [online student registration portal](#) is now open for all kindergarten, first grade and any new students entering the Cumberland School Department for the 2023-2024 school year.

Additional information can be found here - [2023-2024 Kindergarten Registration](#)

### **RI Department of Health School-located Flu Vaccination Clinics 2022-2023 Report for Cumberland**

RIDOH has provided its annual report for school-located Flu Vaccination Clinics. You can review the report [here](#).



Remember to change your clocks!

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2023 at 2:00 A.M. On Saturday night, clocks are set forward one hour (i.e., losing one hour) to “spring forward.”

Sincerely,

*Philip D. Thornton, Ed.D.*

Superintendent of Schools