



North Kingstown School Department

Inspiring Students to Reach Individual Excellence

December 1, 2022 • District Newsletter

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Important Dates

- 12/5 - School Committee Biennial Meeting
- 12/13 - School Committee Meeting
- 12/23 - 1/2 - Holiday Recess

Connect with Us

Judy Paolucci, Interim Superintendent
401-268-6403
judith_paolucci@nksd.net
www.nksd.net



District Twitter feed (@nk_schools)

Find us on 

Happy Holidays

For all faiths and cultures, lights are a symbol of the season. May this season of lights bring you joy and our children's excitement spread throughout the community.

~Judy Paolucci



NK Welcomes Two New School Committee Members

Thomas Briody and Erin Earle will be sworn in as School Committee members on December 5th at 7pm. They will join Jennifer Hoskins, Jennifer Lima, and Robert Case to take on the important work of policy development and fiscal oversight.

Mr. Briody has lived in NK for 24 years and works as an attorney in Providence. He ran for School Committee interested in a modern school curriculum, school safety, mental health, fiscal responsibility, acceptance of all students, and ensuring that people are heard.



Dr. Earle, a product of the NK schools and a parent of current students, works in higher education and holds a doctorate in educational leadership. She hopes to rebuild NK's scholastic reputation, meet student needs, provide academic and social-emotional support, improve school facilities and school safety, and to consider all perspectives.

We welcome our new school committee members and thank Lisa Hildebrand and Gregory Blasbalg, outgoing members who have served as public servants for many years.



NKHS Junior Wins Design Competition

Marykate Hanus, a junior at North Kingstown High School, was awarded a golden ticket on October 25th by a panel of judges at the Junk Kouture in the New York City Finals.

One of the judges Emma MKee a.k.a. The Stitch Gawd, commented on Marykate's "Buttons" fashion piece stating: "I think this piece is just genius. I really love it. I think it's almost like a time capsule where you can collect all these old very unique individual buttons and to create a whole look using that is just amazing and I know it took a lot of time to sew those buttons on, so really amazing work, and I would love to order one in my size."

Junk Kouture is an international competition of recycled fashion which challenges students to design, create and model high end couture from 100% recycled materials.

The top ten golden ticket winners from Dublin, Paris, Abu Dhabi, London, New York, and Milan will showcase their designs to a global audience and compete for a space at the first ever world final taking place on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi on January 11th 2023. Junk Kouture covers the costs of travel for the winning designer and visual art educator, Janice Strain, to attend this event.

Budget Process

The School Committee approves a district budget that is forwarded to the Town Manager and Town Council by the end of February each year. The process that leads up to this budget submission includes work done by district and school administrators as well as a public review by the School Committee. To better understand the process, the timeline for key events is provided below. Public meetings are indicated with an asterisk (*).

November 16-23	Current staffing plan is reviewed by administration
November 28	Staffing Meeting and Non-Staffing Budget Process Rollout at Admin Council to Directors and Principals
Month of December	District Administrators Draft Utilities, Technology, Facilities, and other District Budgets
December 19*	Joint Meeting with Town Council to Discuss FY23 Budget (RIGL 16-2-21)
January 6	Principals Submit Budget to Superintendent
January 9-13	Individual Budget Meetings with Principals
February 7*	Budget Workshop for SC Scheduled Prior to Regular Budget Meeting
February 21*	School Committee Vote on Budget
February 27	Deadline for Submission of School Committee Budget to Town Manager
March 13	Submission of Town Manager's Proposed Budget to Town Council
March 16*	Budget Work Session with Schools and Town Departments
March 20*	Adoption of Preliminary Budget by Town Council
April 17*	Town Council's Preliminary Budget Hearing
April 24	Deadline for Submission of Petitions to Town Council, Town Council Meeting to Consider Petitions and Adopt Budget

Athletic Highlights

The fall sports season came to a close with many first place finishes as well as a number of individual and team acknowledgements. Specifically:

- Field Hockey: Division I Champions
- Girls Soccer: Division I State Champions
- Girls Volleyball: Division I State Champions
- Unified Volleyball: Division II State Champions
- Football: Semi-Finals (Loss to LaSalle)
- Boys Cross Country: Individual (Jackson Borge) 4th Place Finish in State Championship
- Boys Soccer: Division I Runner-Up (Loss to SK in finals)
- Freshmen Boys XC Champs
- Freshmen Football Champs



North Kingstown Awarded \$279,852 for Furniture Upgrades

RIDE awarded the North Kingstown School District \$279,852 from the 21st Century Technology and Equipment Fund to support the district's efforts to provide innovative classroom environments that foster Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) learning and Career and Technical Education (CTE). Over the next month, the district will develop a plan to strategically use these funds. Monies will be expended by June 30th.

Necessity of School Construction

The district is working on a Stage 2 application to the School Building Authority. This process secures state funding for significant building projects, such as roofs, windows, boilers, renovations, and new buildings. The building committee, which consists of school and town personnel as well as community members, will be meeting soon to assess the progress of the application and decide on next steps.

Help Wanted

- [Director of HR](#)
- [Director of Pupil Personnel Services](#)
- [Behavior Management Assistants \(2\), Davisville Academy](#)
- [1:1 Teacher Assistants, NKHS](#)
- [Special Education Teacher, Davisville Academy](#)

For listings and applications, see our SchoolSpring page at:



<https://www.schoolspring.com/jobs/?employer=11099>

Mental Health Resources

There are a variety of supports available to children and families both within the district and in the community and state. The best resource is our own staff who can point families in the right direction for whatever need they may have. The social workers and psychologists have maintained a list of resources and can make individual recommendations based on how a student is presenting. Families are welcome to contact them. See contact information below for in-district contacts and on the next page for referral networks and outside agencies.

School	Social Worker	School Psychologist
Fishing Cove and Preschool	Justine Pasquale justine_pascale@nksd.net	Lisa Arruda lisa_arruda@nksd.net
Forest Park	Andy Josephson andon_joseph@nksd.net	Jill Lusignan jill_lusignan@nksd.net
Hamilton	Andy Josephson andon_joseph@nksd.net	Jill Lusignan jill_lusignan@nksd.net
Quidnessett	Beth Welshman elizabeth_welshman@nksd.net	Dr. Sue Curley susan_curley@nksd.net
Stony Lane	Andy Josephson andon_joseph@nksd.net	Lisa Arruda lisa_arruda@nksd.net
Davisville Middle	Monica Andrews monica_andrews@nksd.net	Amanda Madore amanda_madore@nksd.net
Wickford Middle School	Monica Andrews monica_andrews@nksd.net	Amanda Madore amanda_madore@nksd.net
Davisville Academy	Justine Pasquale justine_pascale@nksd.net Jessica Chamoures jessica_chamoures@nksd.net	NA
NKHS	Matt Hughes matthew_hughes@nksd.net	Sherrie Monaco sherrie_monaco@nksd.net

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Thank you North Kingstown Town Employees, Police and Fire Departments, and District Staff

Special thanks are in order for town staff and members of the NK police and fire departments who led the search for the missing North Kingstown child. Their perseverance and professionalism contributed to the positive outcome and instills the confidence of NK residents as well as a strong sense of community. Appreciation is also deserved for Michael Waterman, Chief Operating Officer, Marissa Eisner, DMS Assistant Principal, and Jason Maguire, Network Manager, who assisted the search teams.



Best wishes for a peaceful and joyful Hanukkah and Christmas season.



Mental Health Resources (continued from previous page)
REFERRAL NETWORKS AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Kids Link 1-855-543-5365

BH Link (referrals or crisis care) (401) 414-LINK
www.bhlink.org

211 @ United Way (for referrals) Call 211 or go to
<https://www.uwri.org/2-1-1/>

Thundermist Health Center (401) 767-4100 or go to:
[https:// www.thundermisthealth.org/](https://www.thundermisthealth.org/) Offering integrated behavioral health. To obtain behavioral health services, individuals must first be a medical patient of Thundermist.

Interfaith Counseling Center (sliding scale counseling and referrals) (401) 461-5234 or Email: info@interfaithri.org

RI Psychological Association Telehealth Referral
<https://www.ripsych.org/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
1-800-799-4889 (TTY)

See Something Say Something
<https://www.yourlifeyourvoice.org/Pages/contact.aspx>
There is a text (20121), phone 1 800-448-3000 and email line.

SAMHSA - 24 hour disaster hotline to connect w/a crisis counselor. Call or text 1-800-662-HELP (4357)

The Trevor Project - 24/7 crisis & suicide prevention helpline for LGBTQ+ youth
1-866-488-7386 www.thetrevorproject.org

National HOPELINE Network
24/7, free & confidential support for people in distress
1-800-442-HOPE(4673)

National Domestic Violence Hotline
24/7, free & confidential support for anyone experiencing domestic violence 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
1-800-787-3224 (TTY) Also via online chat: www.thehotline.org

North Kingstown School Department Assessment Results

The RI Department of Education has released the spring 2022 state assessment results, which include: RICAS (Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System) for students in grades 3-8; NGSA (Next Generation Science Assessment) for students in grades 5, 8, and 11; PSAT for sophomores; and SAT for juniors. These assessments gauge a student's proficiency towards grade-level English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science standards.

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College Signing Ceremony

NKHS athletes signed letters of intent to compete in college. Pictured below are:

- Clara Drinkwater, Lacrosse, Colorado State Pueblo
- Emily Kallman, Lacrosse, Vassar
- Noah Santos, Soccer, Merrimack
- Connor Froberg, Soccer, URI
- Owen Ennis, Soccer, West Point
- Ethan Wordell, Track & Field, Brown University
- Robbie Lamond, Baseball, Wheaton
- Abby Tober, Soccer, Merrimack



North Kingstown Assessment Results Continued from Left

North Kingstown Schools followed the overall trend of the state, with an increase in the area of math and a decrease in ELA. Stony Lane Elementary, Fishing Cove Elementary, and Forest Park Elementary all scored significantly higher in math than pre-Covid RICAS scores. Additionally, the NGSA scores in Grade 5 are higher than pre-Covid scores. While there are areas to celebrate in math and science, there was an overall decline in ELA scores in NK and, indeed, throughout the state. This year we are addressing these needs through the overhaul of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Framework. The MTSS system provides regular analysis of student assessments in order to provide tiered support to address learning needs. With the hiring of 7 additional academic support staff with ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) Fund we are able to provide small group support to help close the achievement gap.

Teachers and administrators are in the process of analyzing the results of the current and former students in order to determine how instruction can be further improved. Individual RICAS and NGSA student scores were sent home on Tuesday, November 29th. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school and/or teacher with any questions or concerns.

The table below shows the percentage of students meeting and exceeding expectations of the last four administrations of these assessments. For a more detailed view of North Kingstown's results and to see the results of other districts, visit the [RI Department of Education Assessment Data Portal](#).

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
RICAS ELA	52.5%	58.4%	COVID	59.7%	54.3%
RICAS Math	52.0%	45.2%	COVID	50.7%	47.5%
PSAT ELA	84.5%	83.5%	COVID	83.3%	86.4%
PSAT Math	54.9%	57.1%	COVID	61.2%	65.1%
SAT ELA	73.7%	83.0%	COVID	81.7%	81.2%
SAT Math	55.7%	54.5%	COVID	61.4%	59.7%
NGSA	55.6%	58.1%	COVID	56.1%	NA

School Committee Policies

One of the important jobs of a school committee is to adopt policies that can guide the work of district staff and communicate to both staff and the community how things are done throughout the district. The job of keeping a policy manual up-to-date is challenging; even with 4 to 6 policies reviewed/developed each month, policies can become obsolete. Each monthly newsletter will include a synopsis of selected policies and/or provide a listing of policies that are under review. This month, the [Employee Professional Conduct policy \(GBEBB\)](#) is included, in its entirety, since the policy requires a yearly notification to members of the school community. This policy was adopted at the end of June. For a complete listing of NK Policies, go to this link: <https://www.nksd.net/page/policies>

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS POLICY

PURPOSE This Policy is established for the purpose of establishing standards and guidelines of professional conduct for the employees of the North Kingstown School Department (the "District") with respect to the District's students ("Students"), to ensure and promote a learning environment that is safe, appropriate, and conducive to learning. This policy is applicable to all individual students registered and enrolled as students within the District, to District employees, and to District Partners. For the purposes of this policy, "District Partners" shall include District, contractors, consultants, vendors, representatives from outside organizations, coaches and volunteers who work with, or otherwise have contact with students. This policy shall be incorporated, in its entirety or by

Wickford MS Raises \$10,150 for the NK Food Pantry



Fishing Cove's Turkey Trot Engages Students in Reading and Movement



Professional Conduct Policy (cont.)

reference, into all school student, employee, and athletic handbooks, which shall be distributed to and acknowledged by all students, employees, and athletic coaches on an annual basis. This policy shall apply to all employee conduct, irrespective of the location, means, or mode of the conduct or contact.

PHILOSOPHY

The North Kingstown School Committee (the “Committee”) cares about the health, safety, and well-being of its students and recognizes the importance of creating and maintaining a workplace and learning environment that fosters and promotes the safety and well-being of both students and employees. The Committee further recognizes and affirms the responsibility of the District’s employees to abide by the standards of professional conduct, to promote the safety, dignity, and health of students, and to act as appropriate role models for students at all times. Relatedly, the Committee also recognizes the importance of maintaining professional conduct and relationships in the workplace.

LEGAL AUTHORITY Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-9, the Committee is duly authorized to establish standards for conduct in the schools, to address the health and wellness of the District’s students and employees, and, accordingly, to create and adopt policies thereto.

POLICY STATEMENT

A. PROHIBITED CONDUCT

District employees and District Partners are encouraged and expected to foster positive and supportive relationships with students, recognizing students’ unique abilities, talents, and challenges, while treating all students with dignity and respect. Relationships between District employees and District Partners must be of a professional nature at all times. District employees and District Partners must establish and maintain appropriate boundaries with students and must not engage in any conduct that could reasonably be construed as being improper. Such conduct is prohibited irrespective of a student’s age, whether the student or the Employee/District Partner initiated contact, and irrespective of whether or not the student reciprocates the attention or contact. Prohibited conduct includes actions and behaviors that take place both on and off school grounds or District property, during and outside of the school day, including times of school vacations, and to all forms of contact and communication that may occur between District employees/ District Partners and Students, at any time, including any form of contact on social media. Prohibited Conduct between District employees/District Partners and students includes, but is not limited to:

1. Dating students. For the purpose of this Policy, “Dating” includes, but is not limited to, a social appointment, engagement, or interaction, preplanned or not, in which the purpose is to initiate or continue an intimate personal relationship for personal pleasure or sexual gratification.
2. Engaging in a romantic relationship with students – or otherwise stated, a relationship in which the District employee/District Partner become involved to the point of dating, exchanging personal affection, intimate or sexually suggestive communication, emotional attachment, and/or any form of sexual or physical intimacy.
3. Flirting with students – or otherwise stated, engaging in any behavior with or communication to a student that indicates that the District employee/District Partner is attracted to the student, irrespective of intent.
4. Making romantically or sexually suggestive comments to or about students, irrespective of intent.
5. Fostering, encouraging, or participating in inappropriate emotionally or socially intimate relationships with students.
6. Direct communications with students for any reason, through any social media medium or platform, that is not an officially sanctioned school or District account, and which is not immediately publicly visible.
7. Providing drugs or alcohol to students or consuming drugs or alcohol in the presence of students.
8. Discussing sexual matters outside of an appropriate educational context, including the use of sexual jokes,

slang, or innuendo, whether with a single student, multiple students, or to a class of students.

9. Commenting on a student's physical appearance or body in any manner that can have the effect of objectifying the student and/or compromising the student's social and emotional well-being.

10. Engaging in any physical contact with students as a punitive measure.

11. Engaging in any physical contact that is not necessary or reasonable within the confines of the employee's job description.

12. Intimate physical displays of affection.

13. Accepting or giving inappropriate personal gifts.

14. Meeting alone with a student in an area that is secluded or that is not openly accessible/visible to others, such as a room without windows or without visibility through a door. If an employee needs to meet with a student, that meeting must be observable and interruptible.

B. REPORTING PROHIBITED CONDUCT WITH STUDENTS

Students or their families who wish to report a violation of this Policy may do so by completing an online form, or by telling a District faculty, staff, or administrator with whom they are most comfortable, preferably a teacher or principal. Students and families are encouraged to document all reports in writing.

Faculty, staff, or administrators in receipt of a report of Prohibited Conduct must document all communications and maintain all evidence relevant to the initial report and subsequent actions and communications.

Any District employee/Partner who has direct or indirect knowledge of Prohibited Conduct outlined in this Policy must immediately report the conduct to the Human Resources office at hr@nksd.net. The Human Resources office will document all reports, and determine whether to pursue further action in accordance with the District's policy ACA – Title IX – NonDiscrimination on the Basis of Sex.

If the incident does warrant a Title IX investigation, Human Resources will provide said documentation to the superintendent who shall designate an investigator and determine if there has been a violation of this Policy.

In addition, All District employees/Partners are required to follow the mandatory reporting requirements under state law for reporting suspected child abuse/neglect in accordance with the District's policy JLF Child Abuse reporting. Consistent with this policy, District administrators will report instances of Prohibited Conduct to the North Kingstown Police Department, and seek advice from legal counsel regarding further law enforcement involvement, as appropriate. Violation of any part of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment, or relationship as District Partner.

C. SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

Members of school support staff shall be available to support and guide students affected by prohibited conduct, including but not limited to providing supportive measures as outlined in Policy ACA – Title IX – Non-Discrimination on the Basis of Sex.

D. REPORTING TO SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

Annually, the Superintendent or his/her designee, shall provide a summary report of the number of actions filed under this policy, the actions taken and the findings of all reports made under this policy.

First Read: 6/14/22

Second Read: 6/28/22

Adopted: 6/28/22



This Month's Spotlight: Wickford Middle School

Wickford Middle School carried on their 30+ year tradition of Turkey Trot. Every year we work to raise donations for the North Kingstown Food Pantry. This year our WMS Community raised over \$10,150 (rough count). Our community pulled out all the stops and worked together to crush our \$5000 goal. We are so proud of our WMS community and the generosity of our town.



Nine students, 3 from each grade, and 3 teachers run for Head Turkey. They plan, prepare, organize and perform skits, performances, and raffles to raise money. The one teacher and one student who raise the most money are named Head Turkey and donned with a handmade Head Turkey sweatshirt designed, sewn and donated by our very own Jenny DeBlois, from the NK IT department. Then, our Head Turkeys lead the WMS



Turkey Trot through the town of Wickford. We had a fabulous time during this high energy event. Our students and staff continue to show just how amazing they truly are!

