



# District Newsletter

## August 2022

*Our Promise: Every student will be prepared for continued learning, career, and life*

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### Important Dates

- 8/8 - Holiday, Offices Closed
- 8/15 - PD Day for Administrators
- 8/22 - School Committee Meeting
- 8/29 - PD Day for Staff
- 8/30 - First Day of School

### Connect with Us

Dawn Bartz, Superintendent \*231-6606

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[www.smithfield-ps.org](http://www.smithfield-ps.org)

 District Twitter feed:  
[@SmithfieldSchls](https://twitter.com/SmithfieldSchls)

 Dawn Bartz Twitter feed:  
[@SmithfieldSuper](https://twitter.com/SmithfieldSuper)

Find us on 

### A message from the Superintendent

*It is my pleasure to serve as your Superintendent of Schools. I began July 1 and have been trying to meet as many members of the school community as possible. I have enjoyed speaking to so many of you and enjoyed meeting with local stakeholders. I know this is going to be a fantastic school year and our administrative team is working hard to ensure our schools are ready to welcome our students on August 30. Our Administrators will attend professional development on August 15 and prepare their schools for our teachers and students; our teachers will return on August 29 for professional development and to prepare their classrooms. At the Central Office, we are very excited for the upcoming school year. Please follow us on twitter @SmithfieldSchls and @SmithfieldSuper. I am looking forward to seeing our students and meeting our families.*



Sincerely,  
Dawn Bartz

### Kindergarten News

We will be offering our kindergarten families the opportunity to attend bus safety informational sessions during the week of August 22. Families are invited to attend the session at their school and each session will feature a short safety program in the cafeterias, kindergartners will learn how to board their bus and will go for a short ride while their families wait for them at the school. Thank you to the Durham Bus Company for providing this program for our students. The programs begin at 10 a.m., as follows:  
Pleasant View August 23; LaPerche August 24; and Old County August 25



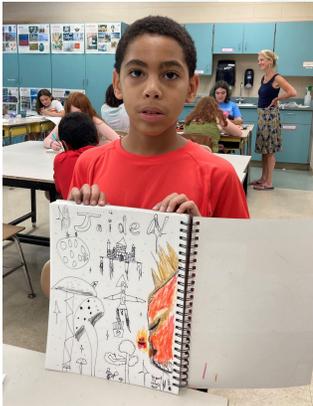
### District Policies

The School Committee policies are located on the district website under district info (also directly at <https://policies.smithfield-ps.org/>).

### Curriculum Corner

Summer Arts Program: SmArts!

Approximately 100 students participated in the grant-funded Smithfield Arts Program which ran at Gallagher Middle School from July 18th - 29th.



Students participated in 3 art and/or music courses and showcased their work at an exhibition on Friday, July 29 at

Gallagher Middle School. Thank you to the faculty, families, and students for making this a success!

### Reminder: No Vehicle Idling on School Grounds!

In accordance with state law (RI General Law 31-16.1) and to protect the health of our students, no school buses or vehicles may idle vehicles unnecessarily on school property. It is the expectation that parents and others visiting the school follow this policy.



### Applications for Free/Reduced Price Lunch Available

Parents are strongly encouraged to submit free/reduced hot lunch application forms yearly as well as when household information or income changes. Applications can be submitted at any time and are available on the district's website: [www.smithfield-ps.org](http://www.smithfield-ps.org).

### Substitute Rates

The School Committee approved the following new rates for the 2022-2023 school year:

**Teachers:** \$115 per day for days 1-30  
 \$130 per day for days 31-135  
 Step 1, per diem if certified for days 136+

**Retired RI Public School teachers:** \$130 per day

*At the discretion of the district, some assignments may be paid higher.*

**Nurses:** \$220 per day for up to 135 days

**Secretaries, paraprofessionals & custodians:** \$14.00 per hour.

If interested in serving as a substitute, please apply through [SchoolSpring.com](http://SchoolSpring.com)

### Facilities Projects Summer 2022

#### High School Art Room Renovations

Removal of all stationary tables and new sink installation.



#### High School Auditorium Sound and Lighting Upgrades

Install new sound system and theatrical lighting.

Electrical upgrades were also included.



### LaPerche Mechanical System Repairs

Mechanical repairs were made to allow the building zone system to operate properly.



### LaPerche 7 Classrooms HVAC Upgrades

Installation of new HVAC controls that will allow proper climate control.

### Old County Road School Gym Renovations

Installation of new motorized bleachers  
Installation of new wall padding in all areas



Installation of new scoreboard.  
Gym floor completely repainted and refinished

### Farm to School Institute

A team from SPS spent a few days at the Northeast Farm to School Institute in Vermont learning more about how to incorporate local food into our cafeteria menus and learning activities. This is a continuation of the work that began when Smithfield received a USDA Farm-to-School grant in 2020.

The original grant enabled Smithfield to fund additional refrigeration units, mobile cooking carts, a smoothie bicycle, student tastings, family take-home kits, field trips, signage for the cafeterias, and more.

Stay tuned for the 2022-2023 action plan which includes farm-to-school field trips and activities that are aligned with current curriculum topics, expanded local food options, and a continuation of student and family tastings featuring local foods.

Pictured right:

Rose Marie Cipriano, School  
Committee and Wellness Co-Chair

Karin Wetherill, RI Healthy Schools  
Coalition

Julie Dorsey, LaPerche Principal

Stephanie Bush, Farm Fresh RI

Sara Monaco, Assistant  
Superintendent and Wellness  
Co-Chair

Reece LaVacca, Smithfield Chef



### **This Month's Spotlight: Extended School Year Summer Program**

The Extended School Year (ESY) program provides special education services to those students who qualify. Students may qualify based on a variety of circumstances. Students are eligible for these services based on data that shows regression on a specific goal especially when there are breaks in instruction, such as weekends, extended vacations, or summer break. Students can also qualify for services due to the severity of a disability or if at the end of the year a student demonstrates an emerging skill, based on the goals and objectives outlined in their Individual Education Program or IEP. Services range from walk in services for speech, literacy, and math to half day classrooms or full day classrooms. Over the course of the week, there are 124 students



that receive varying degrees of services from 48 staff members.



In addition to academics and diverse therapies, ESY is also a place where students are encouraged to take part in a variety of enriching activities. For example this summer many classes participated in weekly art classes which will culminate with a tie-dye tshirt project. Classes have also headed to the playground for cooperative play and socializing as well as picnic lunches in the courtyard. Students have learned math skills through games and play while always focusing on individualized plans and goals. One class even spent a morning on the Providence Riverboat as part of their unit on Rhode Island.

A big thank you goes out to our facilities department for their help and support. Another thank you goes out to Durham transportation for developing bus routes for students participating in ESY.