



# Smithfield Public Schools

## Newsletter

September 2022

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### Connect with Us:

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

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

Find us on 

### A message from the Superintendent

Dear Staff and Families,

I wish to welcome you to the 2022-2023 school year. As I have visited classrooms in each of our schools over the first few days, I have enjoyed watching the connections being built between students and their teachers, the positive interactions occurring between students, and the engaging classroom lessons and activities. The first day was filled with excitement as students arrived at school and as our administrators, teachers, and staff welcomed them. There were some new routines, continued traditions, and “getting to know you” activities in many of our classrooms. A focus area for our district this year is on **community building** - in each classroom, in each school, and throughout the district - so each student feels *valued, included, and engaged*. I hope to further develop student leadership opportunities throughout the district, including creating Superintendent’s Advisory Committees of students.



I have enjoyed meeting so many of our families throughout the summer and during the start of school. Smithfield is a special place where many of our family members have grown up and chosen to remain or who have returned to raise their children here. In several cases, I have met multiple generations of family members who have attended the Smithfield Public Schools and feel very connected. I wish to grow these connections throughout the year. The schools are clearly a valued part of this community and it has been heart-warming to see so many of our businesses, municipalities, community members, and groups welcoming our students, teachers, staff, and administrators to the new school year. The feeling of goodwill and collaboration is palpable as we *move forward together*.

*Moving Forward Together* is our theme this year as we begin this year after a difficult few years with Covid-19. Our athletic and extracurricular programs are beginning, our classrooms are full, our parents are organizing activities, and there is a strong sense of excitement to return for a normal school year. Our central office team has joined our school

*Our Promise:*

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

principals, assistant principals, teachers and staff in welcoming students to school each morning and saying goodbye each afternoon. We are happy to have our classrooms filled with students and for teaching and learning to be occurring.

We are also at the very initial planning stage for the next Five-Year District Strategic Plan. More information about the strategic planning process will be communicated to you over the next few weeks and months as we are looking forward to charting the course for the school district over the next five years, beginning Sept. 2023 through Sept. 2028. We will be looking for broad community input and involvement with our sights set on continuing to improve our school district and to bring us from great to exceptional.

Other information and reminders:

- There may continue to be some very hot and humid days through September and even into October so please be sure your children are dressed in cool clothing and have water or a reusable water bottle that can be filled at school.
- Fall sports and activities are back and these provide great opportunities for students to be a part of the school community outside of academics. They also teach our young people how to be part of a team and provide a sense of belonging.
- The late bus for middle and high school students begins Sept. 12 and runs each Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, except for school holidays.
- Additional updates on bus routes will be posted on the district website Friday, Sept. 2. This will include some additional stops.
- Open House schedules are posted and PTA/PTO meetings are beginning.
- Finally, if you have a concern or question about something in a classroom, please begin with the classroom teacher. Most issues are resolved easily and quickly at this level.

I look forward to meeting many of you at school events and in the community as I continue to learn more about our district and to hear your input. I enjoy hearing about what you value and what, if anything, you would like to add or change. Welcome to the 2022-23 school year.

Sincerely,



Dawn

## Upcoming Important Dates

- 9/5 Labor Day, No School
- 9/6 School Committee Meeting
- 9/7 Open House High School 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
- 9/8 Open House Gallagher Middle School 6-8 pm
- 9/13 Primary Election Day, No School
- 9/15 Open House OCRS, PVES, LaPerche 5:30-7:30 pm
- 9/19 School Committee Meeting
- 9/28 School Committee Workshop



*Check school websites for additional events*

The 22/23 school calendar can be found on our website: [www.smithfield-ps.org](http://www.smithfield-ps.org)

## Applications for Free/Reduced lunch

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 directly through this link: [www.smithfield-ps.org](http://www.smithfield-ps.org)

## Curriculum Corner

### Into Literature

English teachers in grades 6-12 will be implementing [Into Literature](#) this year. Into Literature is on Rhode Island's approved list of high-quality instructional materials and uses authentic literature and texts to engage students in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The online platform also contains *Writable*, a tool that provides students with frequent writing practice and feedback. According to the state's curriculum legislation, all students should have access to high-quality materials in English/language arts and mathematics by September 2023.



## Suicide Prevention

All personnel hired or contracted by the school district including lunch personnel, substitutes, transportation personnel, and coaches will complete suicide prevention training this fall in accordance with the "Nathan Bruno and Jason Flatt Act".

In addition to annual personnel training, all students in grades 6-12 will also receive annual training which will be incorporated into the health curriculum. Smithfield is using the state-approved Signs of Suicide (SOS) program which stresses the ACT message: Acknowledge, Care, Tell.

Please see the [SOS website](#) for additional information about the program.

## What's new in the 22/23 School Year

### School Renovations

Our facilities were thoroughly cleaned by our custodial staff, who also made minor repairs to ready buildings. Maintenance staff adjusted schools' HVAC systems and changed filters. Below are other facility projects.



#### High School:

Auditorium  
Sound and  
Lighting  
Upgrades:

- Installed new sound system and theatrical lighting.
- Electrical upgrades were also included



Art Room Renovations:

- Removal of all stationary tables, new sink installation & newly painted

#### LaPerche:

- New storage shed for playground equipment
- Mechanical system repairs were made to allow the building zone system to operate properly
- 7 classroom 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 (Sept)
- Gym floor repainted and refinished



## Welcome New Staff



### High School:

**Samantha Badger** - Special Education teacher

**Ashley DeLeo** - English teacher

**Ashley Dumas** - Science teacher

**Sarah Riley** - Special Education teacher

### Middle School:

**Rabia Bashir** - Math teacher

**Maria Tavarozzi** - Math teacher

**Meredith Whitaker** - Physical Ed. teacher

### Pleasant View:

**Michelle Haskell** - Reading teacher

**Katherine Pierpaoli** - Paraprofessional

**Lisa Storti** - Special Education teacher

### LaPerche:

**Karen Adams** - ISE Paraprofessional

**Madeline Pizzuti** - Grade 3 teacher

**Kimberly Preziuso** - ISE Paraprofessional

### Administration Office:

**Debra Descoteaux** - Admin. Assistant - Special Education

## Revive the Roots Event

ART  
MUSIC  
FOOD



374 Farnum Pike Smithfield, RI

tickets at [revivetheroots.org/rootstock](http://revivetheroots.org/rootstock)



## Summer 2022 Programs

### 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 the final day. Thank you to the faculty, families, and students for making this a success!

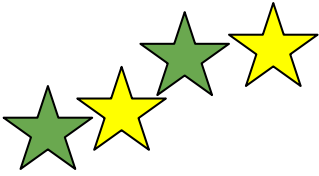


### K Riders

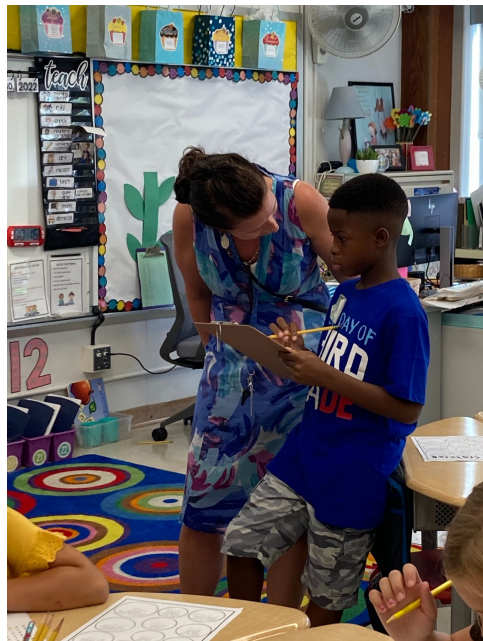
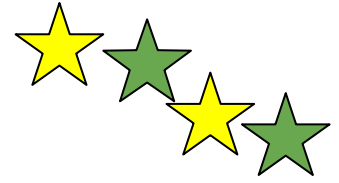
Week of August 22nd Kindergartener's rode Durham buses and had an informational session on bus safety.



## This Month's Spotlight: Opening Days



*The start of the new school year saw learning, joy, friendship, and collegiality. Best wishes for a successful school year!*





Our goal is to provide parents and guardians with a greater sense of comfort and visibility with your student's transportation. We are proud to offer our app which allows monitoring of your student's bus: **Durham Bus Tracker®**. Durham Bus Tracker® allows you to view your student's, current school bus location. Information about the route, in **near real time**, including the scheduled and estimated arrival times to your stop.

**Benefits Include:**

- User-friendly
- Free for parents and guardians to download and use
- View all routes and scheduled stops including field trips
- Receive messages that notify users of route delays and schedule changes
- Parents and guardians can track all of their students', buses in one screen
- Durham Bus Tracker® integrates seamlessly with the district's existing routing software
- Available in English and Spanish



**FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS  
SIMPLE. SAFE. SECURE.**

[WWW.DURHAMSCHOOLSERVICES.COM/DURHAMBUSTRACKER](http://WWW.DURHAMSCHOOLSERVICES.COM/DURHAMBUSTRACKER)



1. Download the free app:



Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to download the app immediately



Or access Durham Bus Tracker® from your computer:  
[m.durhambustracker.com](http://m.durhambustracker.com)



2. Create a **secure** User Name and Password
3. Enter your state, customer service center location, student ID number and child's last name
4. Log in and track your bus



View multiple stops along the route, including the scheduled arrival times for each stop



ACTUAL APP VIEW: "Routes" screen



View all your students' buses simultaneously



ACTUAL APP VIEW: "My Buses" screen

**BEGIN BUS TRACKING IMMEDIATELY**

**Students**



Enter all of your students into the app to be viewed simultaneously

**Settings**



Modify and update your account through this portal

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