



"The Purest Form of Sport"



2021-22 Annual Report

History of the RIIL

March 9, 1899: A meeting was held with delegates from Cranston High School, Hope High School, East Providence High School and Classical High School to state their ideas as to the advisability of forming a league. On a motion made and carried, the league was formed by the schools represented and officers were elected.

A committee was elected to draw up articles of agreement, and Article 1 named the association The Interscholastic League. In all, 15 articles of agreement were discussed by section and adopted.

The first recognized sport was baseball, and the member schools were asked to develop the schedule. On June 13, 1899, the Interscholastic League awarded Classical High School the Baseball Championship of the 1899 season.

September 29, 1899: Manual Training High School, Providence English High School and Pawtucket High School were admitted to membership. In addition, the committee approved a football season. The football schedule was approved, and the first football game was held on October 13, 1899 between Cranston High School and East Providence High School, with East Providence prevailing, 5-0. The Spalding Football Rules were adopted. East Providence High School was awarded the first Football Championship.



January 23, 1900: The Board of Directors moved and seconded that the sport of polo be accepted. Hope St. High School was awarded the first Polo Championship in 1900.

February 23, 1900: The Board of Directors voted to approve **five eligibility rules** to be applied to all League Athletics:

- No professionals were allowed to participate*
- The Board of Directors would investigate all eligibility matters*
- Five years of eligibility for each player*
- There was a transfer rule*
- Penalty for violations was forfeiture*

May 5, 1900: The league approved the Interscholastic Field Athletic Meet (track & field). Classical High School was awarded the first Field Day Championship.

January 1901: The Board of Directors voted mandating that all member schools submit a list of eligible athletes in all sports.

December 16, 1901: Woonsocket High School was admitted to the Interscholastic League.



History of the RIIL

December 2, 1902: The Board of Directors voted to allow the league to arrange for a hockey season. Hope St. High School was awarded the first Hockey Championship for the 1903 season.

March 1904: The Board of Directors voted to approve the National League Baseball Rules with the exception of the foul strike.

Initial League Issues:

- * Uneven competition
- * Lack of eligibility standards
- * Organization
- * Spectator riots, mob scenes....
- * Few suitable playing surfaces
- * No professional preparation for coaches
- * Officials were usually chosen from the crowd
- * If the home team lost – the visiting team was stoned out of town

1928: A group of high school principals became interested in forming an organization which would control and administer athletics as one of its objectives.

1932: The R.I. Secondary School Principals' Association was organized, defining its objectives as follows: *Its object shall be to raise the standards of the secondary schools of RI and to advance the professional interests of the members of this association.*

Committees were established: * R.I. Honor Society * Relations with the Office of the R.I. State Director of Education * Athletics

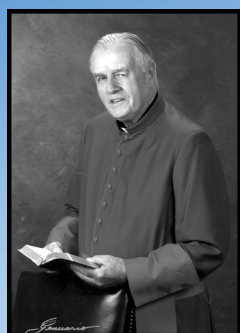
March 1932: The Interscholastic League was formally organized as it is today. It was organized to meet the expressed needs of high schools for a functional sports program that would be governed by a committee of principals.

1952: The RIIL joined the National Federation of State High School Associations.

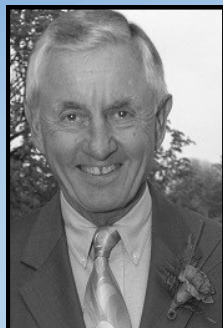
Today: Now in its 123rd year of existence, the R.I. Interscholastic League is governed by the Principals' Committee on Athletics, and its 73 member schools.



R.I. Interscholastic League Executive Directors Past and Present . . .



Msgr. Robert C. Newbold
Executive Director, RIIL
1969-1994



Richard B. Lynch
Executive Director, RIIL
1994-2004



Thomas A. Mezzanotte
Executive Director, RIIL
2004-2020



Michael P. Lunney
Executive Director, RIIL
2020-present

Greetings from the RIIL

Letter from the Chairman

As Chairman of the Principals' Committee on Athletics (PCOA), I am both proud and excited to serve our student athletes and the member schools who make up The Rhode Island Interscholastic League. The Principals Committee on Athletics is the governing body of The Rhode Island Interscholastic League.

On behalf of the Principals' Committee on Athletics and our assistant chair, Ms. Candace Caluori, I am happy to welcome everyone involved in Rhode Island interscholastic sports to an exciting 2022/2023 school year. I am proud and humbled to look back over the past few years and see the tenacity and competitive spirit exhibited by our student athletes.

Our student athletes represent what is best about interscholastic sports. The dedication to their sport as well as their adherence to sportsmanship and clean competition, proves to be the tenant all can aspire to. The PCOA is committed to its mission of providing the foundation for educationally-based athletics. Through fair competition, and respect to our rules and regulations, our student athletes are learning lessons that will stay with them for life; teamwork, communication, perseverance and humility are life lessons that enhance our schools and our communities.

The past few years have been a challenge to schools, communities and our families. Covid 19 has caused everyone to readjust their approach to the many aspects of our lives. This has not deterred the league from providing a safe and healthy athletic environment. While many in our communities adjusted work and social commitments, our schools carried on. We must all tip our caps to our schools, our coaches and our teachers, for stepping up and providing opportunities for our students to engage, persevere, and thrive. Our member schools were thoughtful in their undertakings and dedicated to their students. I can give no greater compliment to our principals and educators throughout the state.

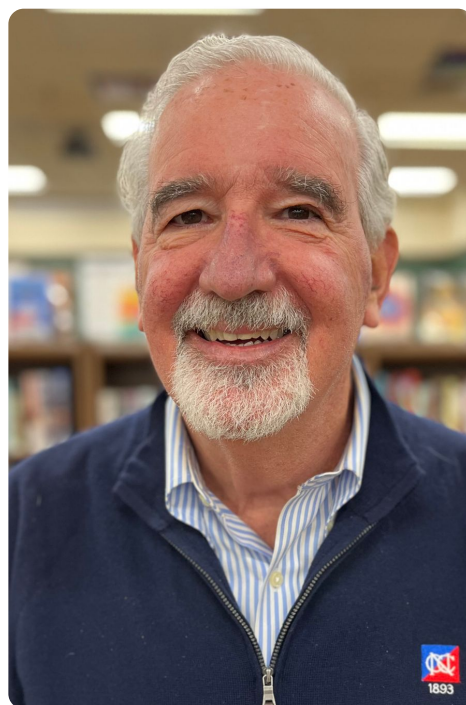
The RIIL is a dynamic, evolving organization, made up of our member schools, that keeps our student athletes at the forefront of what we do and why we do it. Through the dedication of our Executive Director Mr. Michael Lunney, and our Assistant director Thomas Marcello, as well as our wonderful office staff, we are able to provide outstanding opportunities for our schools and student athletes. On behalf of the Principals' Committee, Ms. Caluori and the 30,000 student athletes, I can tell you with confidence that our future is bright, and we are well positioned to deal with any issues that may arise. I want to thank our corporate sponsors as well as our media friends for their continued support. We are here to serve our schools and our athletes, and we welcome your feedback as well as your suggestions. With open and honest communication, we are able to move forward and accomplish our shared goals. I look forward to working with everyone and making our great organization even greater. Thanks for all you do for the students of Rhode Island, and I look forward to serving as your Chair, for what I know will be a great school year.

Thank You.

Daniel F. Warner

Chairman, Principals' Committee on Athletics

Principal, Narragansett High School



Greetings from the RIIL

Executive Director's Message:

As high school sports and activities begin across our great state, the Principals Committee on Athletics, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and everyone involved in our member schools and communities look forward to the year ahead with great anticipation. Now, more than ever, participation in school-based sports and activities continues to play a vital role in the education of our students. Although there is certainly a place for the preparation and pursuit of winning at the high school level, the main focus of educational based athletics must continue to be the growth and development of students for their next level of life. The values gained through participation in high school athletics and activities are the foundation for building good citizens, future leaders and successful families.

One of the greatest values that sports teach is how to properly respond when adversity undoubtedly arises. Perseverance, resilience, determination, teamwork and faith in the process are all tools that we all must utilize to ultimately overcome the obstacles that will stand in the way of another successful year in the classroom and throughout the high school sports and activities calendar in Rhode Island. The lessons learned will serve our student athletes well as they become our future leaders later in life.

Every year brings its own set of challenges and adversity that must be overcome. We must stay committed to supporting and recognizing the efforts of School Administrators, Athletic Administrators, Coaches, Officials and staff members that continue to give of their time and talents to provide our students with opportunities to compete and learn. I remain humbled, honored, grateful, proud and appreciative to be part of such a special community of outstanding individuals. The proof that the long hours and family sacrifices are worthwhile is not measured by championships won; they are validated by the positive difference you make in the lives of the student athletes we are so fortunate to serve.

Best wishes for a successful school year and thank you again for all that you continue to do!

Sincerely,

Michael P. Lunney

Executive Director
Rhode Island Interscholastic League



Governing Process of the RIIL

The legislative body of the League is the ***Principals' Committee on Athletics***, which consists of principals/assistant principals of the 73 member high schools. The Committee meets regularly. All meetings are open to the public and anyone who wishes may attend. Standing Committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Principals' Committee on Athletics with the approval of the Principals' Committee on Athletics. Standing Committees are established for each sport. Sport committees are established to address issues of general concern to the RIIL membership, alignment and to plan programs/activities for the members. The following administrators served on the Principals' Committee on Athletics during the 2021-2022 school year:

Sean T. Kelly, *Chairperson*, Principal, Cranston High School East

Daniel F. Warner, *Assistant Chairperson*, Principal, Narragansett High School

Thomas Barbieri

Principal, Cranston High School West

Scott D. Barr

Principal, Classical High School

Nathan W. Biah, Sr.

Principal, Alvarez High School

Candace Caluori

Principal, Toll Gate High School

Christopher Coleman

Assistant Principal, Cranston High School West

Adolfo Costa

Cumberland High School

Robert DiMuccio

Assistant Principal, Central High School

Michael Green

Assistant Principal, West Warwick High School

Gerald Habershaw

Principal, Pilgrim High School

Neeltje Henneman

Principal, Wheeler School

Donald J. Kavanagh

Principal, La Salle Academy

Karen Massaro

Athletic Director, Middletown High School/ RIIAAA

Robert McCarthy

Principal, Central Falls High School

Renee Palazzo, Ed.D.

Principal, Ponaganset High School

Michael Sollitto, Ed.D.

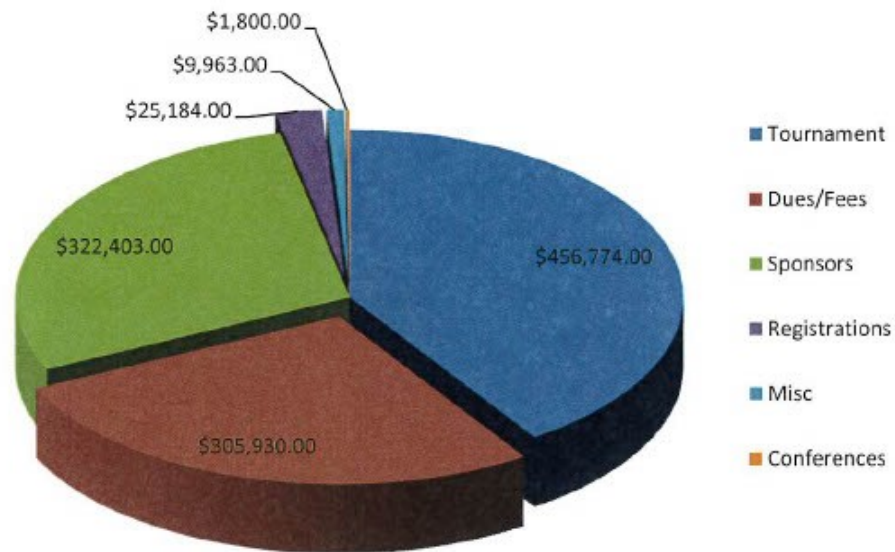
Superintendent, Burrillville Schools / RISSA

Michael Whaley, Ed.D.

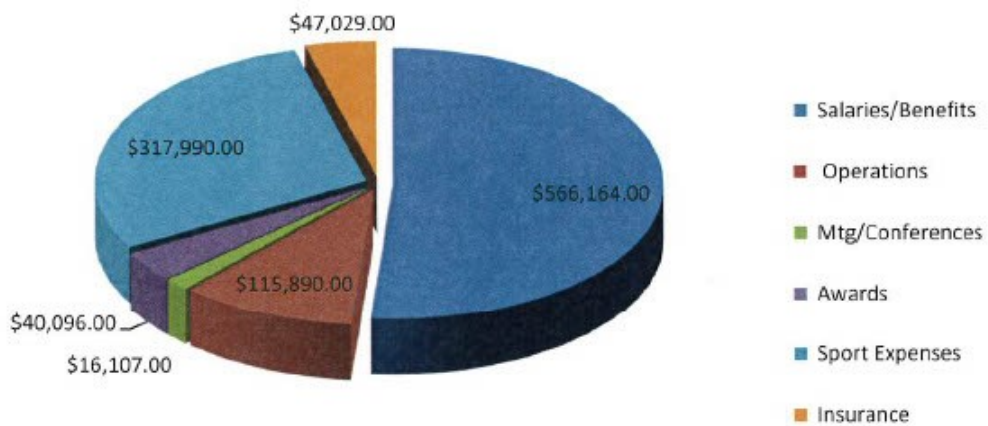
Principal, Burrillville High School

Financial Report

Revenue 2021-2022



Expenses 2021-2022



Services to Member Schools

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a service organization providing its member schools with publications, training opportunities, recognition programs, tournaments, rules interpretation meetings and other services that assist in the administration of interscholastic sports.

♦ Athletic Rules and Regulations

Enforces the by-laws and regulations for the RIIL.

♦ Recognition

The RIIL recognizes and congratulates the accomplishments of numerous athletes, teams, coaches, athletic directors and school administrators.

♦ Official Pay Program

Through the RefView Program, the RIIL assists school Athletic Directors and Business Offices in the assignment and payment of game officials.

♦ Computer Management Program

Tool that will upgrade and improve information for all RIIL fans. In addition, it will streamline all RIIL management functions for school Athletic Directors and coaches.

♦ Support the Needs of the RIAAA

Every two years, the RIIL and the RIAAA conduct an extensive and objective process of aligning teams in all sports. This process serves to provide competitive balance among all teams in all sports.

♦ Tournaments

The League supervises and administers state tournaments in 30 sports, as well as esports, for its member schools. The RIIL assists the media outlets statewide in their coverage of high school sports.

♦ Student Leadership Conferences

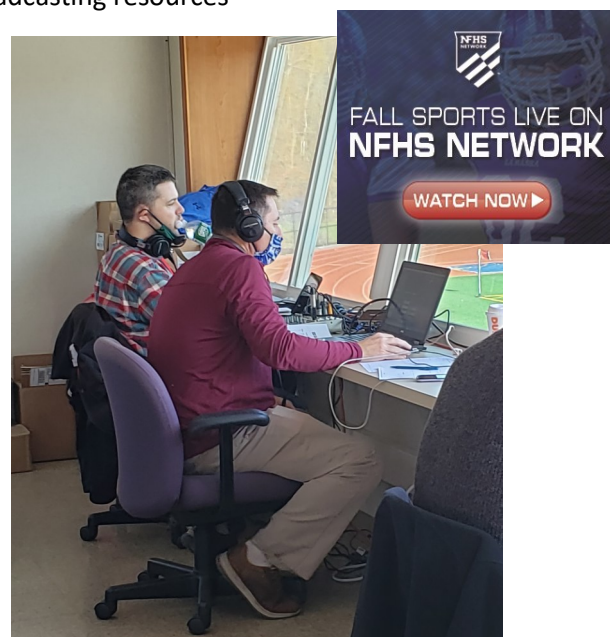
The League sponsors numerous opportunities for student-athletes to take part in an assortment of leadership and sportsmanship activities, such as the New England Student Leadership Conference and NFHS National Student Leadership Summit.

♦ RIIL WEBSITE/SOCIAL MEDIA

We continue to upgrade and improve the riil.org website, which features a new homepage, online statistics, links to RIIL initiatives and resources for coaches, officials, student-athletes and parents. RIIL Director of Multimedia Content Carolyn Thornton is an experienced journalist who oversees the league's Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as the RIIL Blog. These social media platforms allow the RIIL to inform parents and student-athletes about important RIIL initiatives, provide real-time updates on RIIL events and happenings and share the accomplishments of member schools.

♦ RIIL/NFHS Network

The RIIL has partnered with the NFHS Network to stream tournament events and promote a school broadcast program. The RIIL/NFHS Network Sport has produced internet broadcasts for most sports during the past six years of operation. The NFHS Network School Broadcasting Program gives all of our schools and communities the opportunity to highlight our programs, our fans and our athletes. By the spring of 2021, 37 schools were utilizing a new automated sport production product—Pixellot. This new hardware/software solution is for schools that have limited broadcasting resources



Overview of 2021-22 School Year

RIIL “TRAFFIC SAFETY IS A TEAM SPORT” PROGRAM

Through a grant from the R.I. Department of Transportation, the RIIL joined RIDOT in its mission to reduce the number of traffic crashes and fatalities in the State of Rhode Island through highway safety awareness. Student-athletes and members of the community were encouraged to take an online Traffic Safety Pledge, and messages delivered on RIIL social media and at RIIL events focused on Occupant Safety, Impaired Driving, Speed and Distracted Driving.



UNIFIED SPORTS PROGRAM



The RIIL and Special Olympics Rhode Island began a partnership to establish a Unified Basketball League in 2010, followed soon after by a Unified Volleyball League. Unified Basketball has since grown to include 36 high school teams, while there are 22 high school teams competing in Unified Volleyball. Unified Sports in RIIL member schools, creates an inclusive environment where everyone benefits. Unified Sports® combines people with intellectual disabilities (called athletes) and without intellectual disabilities (called partners) on sports teams for training and competition. The athletes experience new social opportunities and make new friends they may not have otherwise. The partners describe their

mentorship role as being equally rewarding. Many parents and siblings also find that Unified Sports offers a new way to spend time together and meet other families. Using sports to help break down barriers that have historically kept people apart, Unified Sports® promotes meaningful inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities in the community. In fact, 93% of partners say they gained a better understanding of their teammates through Unified Sports.



Overview of 2021-22 School Year

SHOWCASE CINEMAS TEAM OF THE WEEK, TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

SHOWCASE Cinemas continued as the presenting sponsor of Team of the Week, recognizing outstanding efforts and contributions RIIL student-athletes are making on and off the playing fields. Chosen winners selected from a pool of nominations weekly, recorded radio shout-outs played on air on Hot 106, 92.3PRO-FM and Lite Rock 105. Winning storylines ranged from teamwork, support, unity, fundraising and awareness efforts for charities and many more.



The Rhode Island Interscholastic League's eighth annual Peanut Butter Express, presented by BankRI, proved to be a great success with member schools collecting more than 2,100 jars totaling approximately 1.2 tons of peanut butter to benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. For the third year in a row, Lincoln High organized the top collection effort with the school's student body donating nearly 1,430 pounds of peanut butter. BankRI actively pitched in, as well, by placing collection boxes at each of its 20 branch locations. BankRI employees and customers came through with an impressive 840 jars of peanut butter.

"We would like to congratulate Lincoln High School on another job well done, as well as the other schools that participated," said RIIL Executive Director Michael Lunney. "We understand that our member schools con-

tinued to face many challenges this year because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, so we are especially appreciative of the schools that were able to lend a hand this year. We would also like to thank BankRI for supporting this important initiative to fight hunger in our state."



Overview of 2021-22 School Year

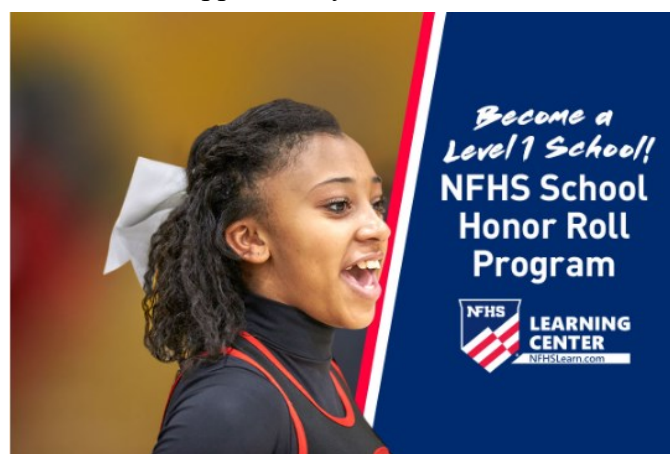
“The Rhode Island High School Sports Show” radio show and podcast showcases RIIL community

The RIIL and iHeartMedia announced the launch of a new radio show, “The Rhode Island High School Sports Show,” which debuted on January 27, 2022. The program focused on a wide array of high school sports, including the weekly score and standings, previews of upcoming matchups and interesting storylines involving local teams. Hosts Andrew Meehan and Nick Marra interviewed student-athletes, coaches, administrators and experts about the topics impacting high school sports. The twice-monthly show could be heard on Thursday’s at 6 p.m. on NewsRadio 920am and 104.7FM, WHJJ. It was also available as a podcast on the station’s website, www.NewsRadioRI.com. The podcast is also available on the WHJJ channel on the iHeartRadio App.



COACHES EDUCATION

The RIIL has implemented a comprehensive certification process for all athletic coaches hired after January 1, 2012. This certification process which incorporates elements of the NFHS Coaches Ed program will help athletic coaches meet the significant challenges they face each day. This process, which must be renewed every five years, includes a combination of in-house and NFHS online courses approved by the RIIL. To assist, we are organizing an annual conference for new and grandfathered coaches to fulfill their certification obligations. In addition, the conference will offer other coaches and athletic directors the opportunity to address numerous sport-related issues. During the 2021-22 school year, we held our preseason coaches’ rules interpretation meetings virtually, reviewing current sport rules and providing presentations on concussions, heat acclimatization, orthopedic injuries and the benefits of playing multiple sports. By the start of the 2023 Spring Season, 100% of our school’s coaches will be Level 1 nationally certified.



Overview of 2021-22 School Year



LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP

"Overcoming Obstacles and Learning to Lead with Confidence"

Thursday, October 21, 2021

Camp Fogarty Armory, 2846 South County Trail, East Greenwich, R.I.
(8-8:30 a.m. registration)
8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Student-Athletes will participate in an interactive team-building leadership training program. Will include a series of group and individual activities that will focus on communication skills, confidence building and problem solving

Interested students should have their principal or athletic director contact the RIIL Office at info@riil.org or (401) 272-9844.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP

Powered by the R.I. Interscholastic League & R.I. Army National Guard

How to Lead with Confidence, Character & Integrity

Thursday, April 7, 2022 --- 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Camp Fogarty, 2841 South County Trail, E. Greenwich, R.I.

Student-athletes will participate in a FREE interactive team-building leadership training program that will include activities focused on communication skills, confidence building and problem solving. Lunch will be provided.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

Interested students should have their principal or athletic director contact the RIIL Office at info@riil.org or (401) 272-9844.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS PROGRAM

Student-athletes were encouraged to represent their schools as RIIL Student Ambassadors. Ambassadors received information about various leadership opportunities and were asked to spread the word about RIIL initiatives with their school communities.

Overview of 2021-22 School Year



**FREE Virtual & In-person Programming
for Schools & Youth Sports Groups!!!**



OPERATION CLEAN COMPETITION

LEARN. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

**DANGERS OF APPEARANCE &
PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES**

LIVEINFORMED

RIIL RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

www.riil.org | info@riil.org | 401.272.9844

Educating our community on the dangers of Appearance and Performance Enhancing Substances (APES) and Nutrition & Dietary Supplement Safety: Funded through a grant from the R.I. Foundation, Operation Clean Competition continued its outreach to middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across the state. During year 9, a total of 64 OCC programs were delivered through a combination of in-person and virtual presentations reaching nearly 4,000 student-athletes, youth, teens, college and university students and adult influencers. The free programs were delivered by OCC educational partner, the Taylor Hooton Foundation. Additional resources were also made available to member schools through the website: operationcleancomp.com.



TRADES SCHOLARSHIP



As part of its partnership with the RIIL, UA Local 51—the trade union for plumbers, pipefitters and refrigeration technicians in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts—awarded a \$500 trade scholarship to a senior interested in pursuing a career in the trades industry. Michael Etchells of Narragansett, who was presented with the scholarship from Local 51 business manager Paul Alvarez last spring, is shown beside the pipe fabrication he created through the Narragansett Mechanical Trades-Plumbing Program. He is joined in the picture with his teacher Eric Gartner (far right) and Narragansett Mechanical Trades-Plumbing Program instructors Michael Raposa & Tony Vacchelli.

Learn more at:
www.riil.org/page/6711



2021-22 Awards & Recognition

RIIL Educator Spotlight, presented by BankRI

As part of a new “Educator Spotlight,” presented by RIIL partner BankRI, the achievements of dedicated individuals in the community who are both coaches and educators were recognized during the months of November, December, January, February, March, April, May and June.

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

presented by

BANKRI
BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



MARC BROCATO

EAST GREENWICH H.S.

TEACHING:

English teacher at EGHS for 26 years; school newspaper advisor & college essay coach.

COACHING:

Girls Tennis Coach at EGHS for 20 years, guiding Avengers to 3 State Championships (2004, '05 & '06); Golf Coach for 26 years, guiding EGHS to 5 runner-up finishes at RIIL State Championships.

“ With both my sports being so mentally challenging, I embrace the psychology of coaching. I always say that my job is to get kids, no matter their skill level, to believe they are even better than they are. Always keep striving. ”

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

presented by

BANKRI
BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



HELEN WHITLOCK

COVENTRY H.S.

TEACHING:

School Psychologist at Coventry High School.

COACHING:

Head Coach of Coventry's Unified Volleyball Team since it was formed three years ago.

“ Being a coach has allowed me (and my assistant coaches) to give students with disabilities the opportunity to participate in a sport, as well as building friendships and inclusion with students without disabilities. Witnessing first-hand the collaboration, encouragement, passion, and support, on and off the court, is truly heartwarming! ”

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BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



Charles Holliday

**Mt. Pleasant High School
&
Central High School**

TEACHING:

Classroom Behavior Specialist
at Bradley School for 14 years.

COACHING:

Mt. Pleasant High School boys
basketball coach for 31 years, 14 as head
coach; Central High School football
assistant coach for 13 yrs; Central High
School Freshman Baseball Head Coach
for 8 yrs; Has coached all three teams to
multiple State & Divisional Championship
Finals.

“It is great to see student athletes in the community excel in the classroom and on the playing field. My goal is to try and reach as many kids in the community as possible, so they have a chance at being successful in life.”

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

presented by

BANKRI
BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



KATHRYN MAHONEY **NARRAGANSETT H.S.**

TEACHING:

Former Special Education teacher
in Westerly. Co-owner, vocational
& special educator at Holistic
Development Center.

COACHING:

Head Coach of Narragansett's
girls soccer and girls basketball
teams for 13 years. Has led the
Mariners to two Division III
Soccer Championships, as well
as one DIII & two DII Basketball
Championships.

“An ongoing 'highlight' is watching these young adults grow into productive adults and maintaining a bond into their adult years. I cherish the relationships I keep with players well beyond their high school years.”

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EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

presented by

BANKRI
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KEVIN LENDRUM

MIDDLETOWN H.S.

TEACHING:

Ninth-grade Science Teacher for 13 years. Also taught at Middletown's Alternate Learning Program for at risk kids.

COACHING:

Middletown boys basketball head coach for 12 years; Named 2012 D3 Coach of the Year. Previously assistant coach at Rogers for 18 years. Helped coach the teams to a combined five championship appearances

“ Being a teacher/coach at Middletown means a lot to me as I went to school and played basketball here. I teach in the same classrooms I sat in and coach on the same court that I played on. ”

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

presented by

BANKRI
BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



RUTH PLANTE

WOONSOCKET H.S.

TEACHING:

Retired in 2020 after 37 years as a Physical Education/Health Education Teacher & Guidance Counselor at Woonsocket Senior High School

COACHING:

Coached girls basketball for 7 years at Woonsocket H.S.; Coached girls volleyball for 26 years - the 1st 19 at Woonsocket & 7 at Cumberland H.S. Coached boys soccer at Woonsocket for the 2020 season and has been coaching the Novans' boys volleyball team since 2018.

“ The athletes' academic standing is most important to me . . . Representing Woonsocket on the court is an honor, and athletes are aware good sportsmanship is required not optional. Playing in the games is the athletes' time to shine and shed a positive light on our school and city. ”

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RICHARD GRENIER

**WEST WARWICK H.S.
CRANSTON H.S. EAST**

TEACHING:

Interim Dean of Students at West Warwick H.S. since January 2021; English Teacher for 30+ years in the Cranston (1990-2006) and West Warwick (2006-present) School Systems.

COACHING:

More than three decades of coaching high school basketball, soccer and baseball. Currently Cranston East head boys soccer coach and West Warwick head baseball coach. Teams have won multiple state and divisional titles, as well as many Team Sportsmanship Awards.

“It really is difficult to express how much it has meant that I have been able to stay young while mentoring the student-athletes that I have coached . . . Words cannot express the gratitude and pride in seeing how they have excelled in life and how I may have played a small part in their growth.”

EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

presented by

BANKRI
BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



GIANA NASSI

NORTH PROVIDENCE H.S.

TEACHING:

School Counselor at North Providence High School for the past 3 years. Previously taught Science at North Providence H.S. and Birchwood Middle School for a total of 11 years.

COACHING:

North Providence High School Head Cheerleading Coach from 2015-present; 2X RI Cheerleading Coaches Association Coach of the Year (2019 & 2022); Guided Cougars to 2019 RIIL Game Day Championship & two RIIL Division II Championships (2019-20 & 2021-22). Has served as RICCA President from 2018-present.

“My goal for working with both students and athletes focuses on being a positive role model, as well as developing well-rounded students in their academics, athletics, and throughout the community . . . Although winning championships has always been exciting, the relationships that I have built with my student athletes is what I consider most rewarding.”

2021-22 Awards & Recognition



RJIL
Student-Athlete of the Year Award
PRESENTED BY  **Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Rhode Island**

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

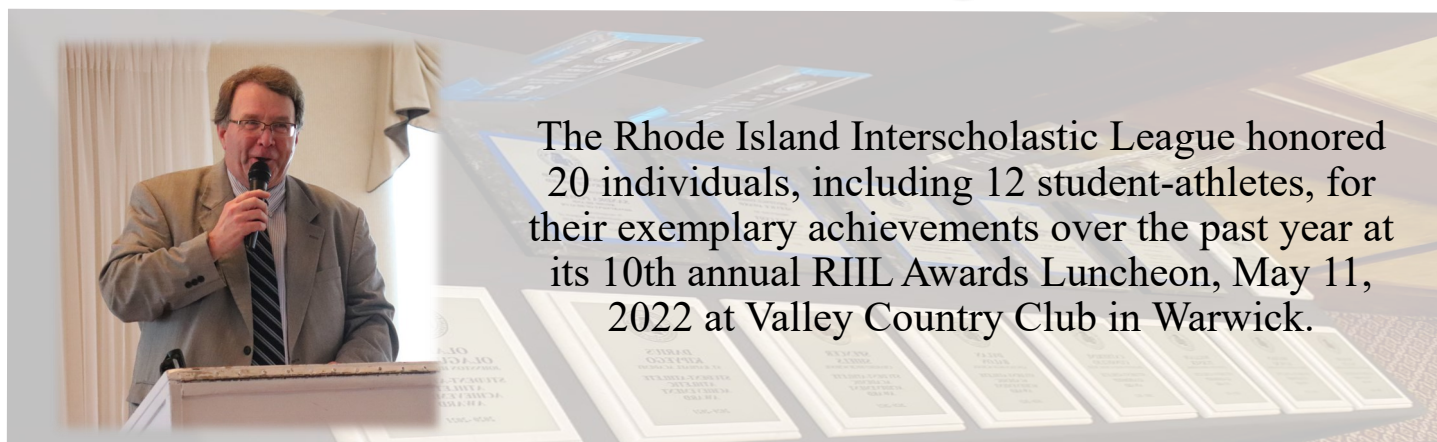
Congratulations to all of this year's nominees!

Joey Acciardo, Johnston
Victoria Adegboyega, St. Raphael Acad.
Madison Alves, Cranston West
Madeline Barbieri, Cranston West
Amayah Bell, Central Falls
Victoria Bird, West Warwick
Charlotte Boss, Lincoln School
Marquis Buchanan, Classical
Lianaie Calderon, Coventry
Gina Carpenter, Tolman
Amisadai Avila-Sosa Carrillo, Shea
John "Jack" Casey, La Salle
Christian Chase, Moses Brown
Nina Cillino, Westerly
Madison Clark, Toll Gate
Travis Cobain, Wheeler
Jacob Connolly, East Greenwich
Maurice Cooper, Hope
Luke Del Deo, Tiverton
Henry Dennen, Cumberland
Andre DePina-Gray, St. Raphael Acad.
Brandyn Durand, B. Hendricken
Jackie Edoro, Classical

Brianna Fernandes, Woonsocket
Nathan Fowler, Woonsocket
Thomas "TJ" Gormley, N. Kingstown
Lizzie Hayes, Rocky Hill
Ryan Hazard, S. Kingstown
Liam Hickey, Smithfield
Jacob Holland, Pilgrim
Mia Holroyd, Smithfield
Justin Hood, Ponaganset
Jenna Hooper, Cumberland
Emily Iannuccilli, Johnston
Wesley Jakubowski, Hope
Drew Jalbert, Prout
Kareem Jefferies-Hazard, Central
Quinn Kortick, West Warwick
Anna Lacroix, Chariho
Benjamin Liebermenssch, Rocky Hill
Emma Lopes, Tiverton
Maarten Lopes, Tolman
Meghan Mancini, Prout
Samantha McFee, Ponaganset
Samuel Merriam, Mt. Hope
Janelle Mixner, Pilgrim

Mallory Mongeon, Mt. St. Charles
Lucy Noris, Blackstone Vly. Prep
Joseph Pankowicz, Toll Gate
Ainsley Pattie, Bay View
Carl Picerno, North Providence
Zeah Pivorunas, Wheeler
Emma Prestage, La Salle
Deem Quinn, Cranston East
Cole Rinne, Chariho
Trinity Saab, Cranston East
Jacob Serra, Westerly
Sadie Souls, North Kingstown
Kendall Stearns, East Greenwich
Mia Stilley, Moses Brown
Nathan Tessier, Mt. St. Charles
Carly Tomlinson, South Kingstown
Ahrian Vasquez, Shea
Adam Vesey, Coventry
Noelia Tavera, Central
Chloe Weber, Block Island
Eva White, Mt. Hope
Paula Zhuang, North Providence

2021-22 Awards & Recognition



The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored 20 individuals, including 12 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its 10th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, May 11, 2022 at Valley Country Club in Warwick.



Bound for the University of Kentucky on a Division I baseball scholarship this fall, Brandyn Durand has been an Honor Roll Student at Bishop Hendricken every quarter of high school, maintaining a 3.49 GPA and earning membership to the National Honor Society, the Ambassador's Club and the President's List. A highly-decorated multi-sport athlete, heading into his final season of baseball, Durand had already earned eight All-State selections, three apiece in football and indoor track and one each in baseball and outdoor track. He was named 2021 Gatorade R.I. Baseball Player of the Year, 2021 MaxPreps R.I. Football Player of the Year and MVP of the 2021 State Championship Super Bowl among many other athletic honors. A captain on all four teams, Durand is a member of Hendricken's Leadership Academy and is a peer minister. He has volunteered at the school's youth sports camps and is an avid supporter of Special Olympics. This year, he also organized a fundraiser to support those impacted by the recent devastating tornado in Kentucky.

"Brandyn Durand will go down as potentially the best student athlete that has walked these storied halls," Bishop Hendricken athletic director Jamal Gomes said. "As great of a student athlete he is, it is not what stands out the most. His character is of such a high moral code, it is truly special. . . . Brandyn is the total package and an all-around great person."



A dual high school and R.I. College student, Eva White is the valedictorian of her class with a 4.939 GPA while taking almost entirely Honors and AP courses. She has collected multiple Academic Excellence Awards over the course of her high school career and will bring that wealth of knowledge with her to the U.S. Naval Academy, where she hopes to study nuclear engineering and compete in either swimming or tennis. White excelled in both sports at Mt. Hope, serving as captain for both and setting seven school records in swimming, while earning the title of 2022 Swimmer of the Year by the swim coaches' association. She played at No. 1 singles for the Huskies' tennis team, helping Mt. Hope to the 2019 Division II Championship and another appearance in the 2021 Division II Finals. An All-State musician and member of Mt. Hope's marching band, White is proficient in piano and flute and this year earned Southern New England Honors in Band. In addition, she is a member of the World Language and National Honor Societies and is a member of Mt. Hope's Math Team and Science Olympiad. She also sails and volunteers with Rhode Races RI and Swim Across America.

"Eva excels in all that she does and is a fantastic representative of sports and academics in Rhode Island," said Mt. Hope athletic director Christy Belisle.

2021-22 Awards & Recognition




**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Madison Alves
Cranston High School West




**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Marquis Buchanan
Classical High School



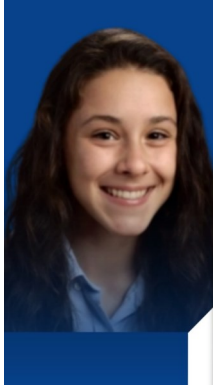

**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Andre DePina-Gray
St. Raphael Academy





**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Emily Iannuccilli
Johnston Senior High School



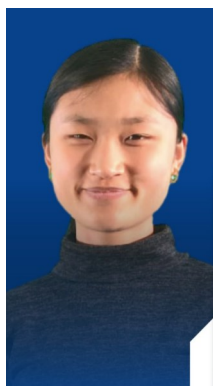

**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Quinn Kortick
West Warwick High School




**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Lucy Noris
Blackstone Valley Prep




**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Jacob Serra
Westerly High School




**2021-22
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
Paula Zhuang
North Providence High School

2021-22 Awards & Recognition

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2021-22 Awards & Recognition



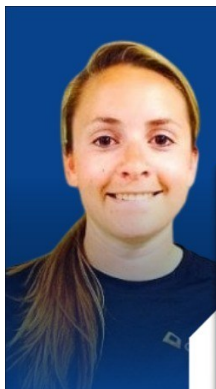
RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
ROBERT DIMUCCIO
RIIL WRESTLING SPORT DIRECTOR



RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
LEE MARKOWSKI
RIIL GIRLS LACROSSE SPORT DIRECTOR



RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
BOB MURRAY
TIVERTON DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



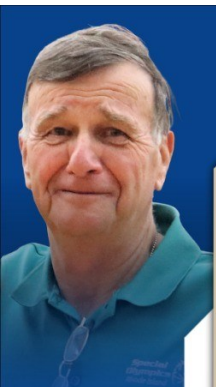
RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
AMANDA TASSONI
ICE HOCKEY OFFICIAL



RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
DENNIS DEJESUS
SPECIAL OLYMPICS RHODE ISLAND



RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
CHRIS HOPKINS
SPECIAL OLYMPICS RHODE ISLAND



RiI
**DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD**
JERRY DANDENEAU
SPECIAL OLYMPICS RHODE ISLAND





Prior to the passage of Title IX, Alice Sullivan had already been passionately advocating for the addition of girls athletics to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League. A long-time teacher and administrator in East Providence, R.I., she organized a group of fellow female physical education teachers in the 1960s that began holding intramural playdays for girls, along with workshops and officials clinics under the umbrella of the Rhode Island Division of Girls and Women's Sports.

In 1972, Rhode Island's Principals' Committee on Athletics appointed Sullivan as the RIIL's coordinator of girls' athletics. She later became the league's first assistant executive director and served the RIIL for 24 years before retiring in 1996. She remained a staunch supporter of girls athletics until her death in November 2003 at the age of 78, paving the way for today's female athletes who now have the opportunity to choose from 15 girls sports in the RIIL.

Cranston High School West sophomore Patricia Voccola was crowned the champion of Rhode Island's first official girls' interscholastic event when she won the Rhode Island Interscholastic League Girls State Individual Golf Tournament, June 21, 1971 at Exeter Country Club.

The tourney was organized after the Cranston (RI) School Committee petitioned the Principals' Committee on Athletics on Voccola's behalf, requesting a waiver of the RIIL rule limiting Interscholastic League competition to male competitors. The PCOA granted the request and the golf tournament was held. The 15-year-old Voccola beat out three other competitors for the golf title, which she successfully defended the following year.

The RIIL offered six additional sports for girls - cross country, basketball, field hockey, gymnastics, outdoor track and volleyball - for the 1971-72 school year. Fifty years later, the league now offers 15 girls sports, which also include soccer, tennis, competition cheerleading, ice hockey, indoor track and field, swimming, lacrosse and fast-pitch softball.



RIIL Mission

Who we are: The Rhode Island Interscholastic League was established in 1899. It is a voluntary, private, incorporated, non-profit organization of principals who pledge their high schools and participants to follow the Rules and Regulations of the League. There are 73 public, private, parochial, alternative education and charter high schools that make up the membership. The RIIL sponsors championships in 31 sports and activities. More than 35,000 young men and women compete annually in thousands of competitions. The purpose of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to supervise and administer the athletic programs, contests, schedules and matters related to participating schools in the state of Rhode Island.

Core Beliefs and Values: Athletics is an integral part of education in our schools • Interscholastic athletics is a privilege that enhances the education of students • Leadership, responsibility, sportsmanship and scholarship are essential parts of athletics • Athletics is an enjoyable experience which fosters valuable life lessons • All member schools have the opportunity to be represented and are accountable to the standards of the RIIL • Fostering a professional relationship among its colleagues is a responsibility of the RIIL.

Vision: The RIIL is an organization with high standards for its member schools, student athletes, and constituencies. Through professional collegiality the League advocates and promotes the value of interscholastic athletics. The League provides athletic experiences that enable student athletes to reach their highest level of academic and athletic potential and prepares them to become responsible citizens.

Mission: The mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League is to provide its member schools governance, leadership and support for interscholastic athletics which gives student athletes opportunities to compete in an environment that stresses education, sportsmanship, integrity and safety.



Rhode Island Interscholastic League

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