

2022-23 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

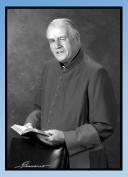
March 1932: The Interscholastic League was formally organized as it is today. It was organized to meet the expressed needs of high schools for a functional sports program that would be governed by a committee of principals.

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

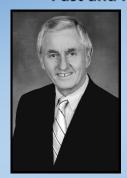
Today: Now in its 124th year of existence, the R.I. Interscholastic League is governed by the Principals' Committee on Athletics, and its 74 member schools.



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 2023/2024 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.

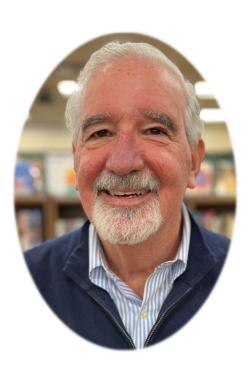
Our student athletes represent what is best about interscholastic sports. The dedication to their sport as well as their adherence to sportsmanship and clean competition, proves to be the tenant all can aspire to. The PCOA is committed to its mission of providing the foundation for educationally-based 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 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 more than 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



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 are a vital part of the educational development of students. Although there is certainly a place for the preparation and pursuit of winning at the high school level, the focus of school-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 that must be overcome. Let's 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 made in the lives of the student athletes we are so fortunate to serve.

Best wishes for a successful school year!

Sincerely,

Michael P. Lunney

White P. Lung

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 74 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 2022-23 school year:

Daniel F. Warner, Chairperson, Principal, Block Island School

Candace Caluori, Assistant Chairperson, Principal, Toll Gate High School

Thomas Barbieri

Principal, Cranston High School West

Scott D. Barr

Principal, Classical High School

Nathan W. Biah, Sr.

Principal, Alvarez High School

Adolfo Costa

Principal, Cumberland High School

Keith Cory

Athletic Director, Portsmouth High School/RIIAAA

Sue Craven

Principal, Tiverton High School

Mark DeCiccio

Principal, Bishop Hendricken High School

Robert DiMuccio

Assistant Principal, Central High School

Toby Gibbons

Principal, Pilgrim High School

Michael Green

Associate Principal, West Warwick High School

Robert McCarthy

Principal, Central Falls High School

Chip McGair, Ph.D.

Principal, South Kingstown High School

Daniel Richard

Principal, St. Raphael Academy

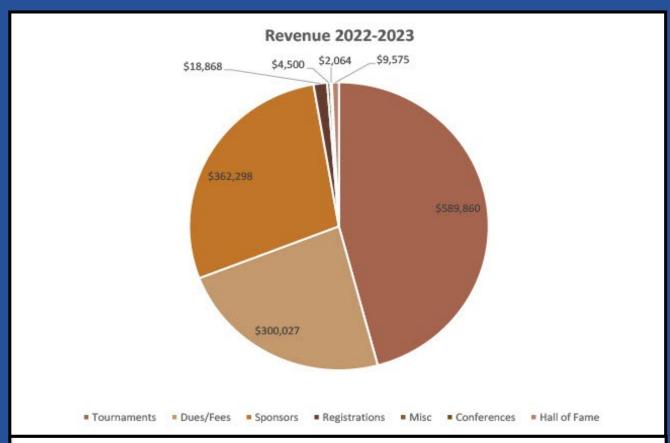
Michael Sollitto, Ed.D.

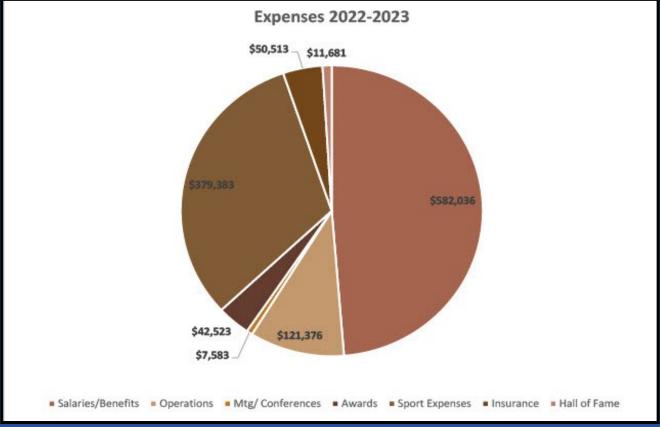
Superintendent, Burrillville Schools / RISSA

Kristin Ward

Assistant Principal, Cranston High School East

Financial Report





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

Provides guidance, support and interpretation of the by-laws, rules 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. In 2022-23, the RIIL created online portals for tracking coaches certification and transfers.

Support the Needs of the RIIAAA

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 31 athletic events, as well as esports, for its member schools.

Student Leadership Conferences

The League sponsors numerous opportunities for student-athletes to take part in an assortment of leadership workshops, sportsmanship activities and community service initiatives.

♦ 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 tournaments and other league-sponsored events 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 seven 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. During the 2022-23 school-year, 37 schools were utilizing automated Pixellot cameras, which enable schools with limited broadcasting resources (people, equipment, time, etc.) to produce live events.





To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the RIIL Super Bowl, the four teams that competed in 1972 championships - Cranston East, Woonsocket, Middletown and East Greenwich - were recognized at the first Injury Fund contests of the 2022 season. In addition, members of the teams that participated in those first Super Bowl games in 1972 served as honorary captains for the coin toss at the 2022 RIIL State Championship Super Bowl.



Class of 2022 inducted into RI Interscholastic League High School Athletic Hall of Fame

On Wednesday, October 26, 2022, the Class of 2022 was inducted into the Rhode Island Interscholastic League's High School Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony, at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI. The following athletes, coaches, officials and administrators were recognized for their distinguished contributions to RI high school athletics:



Elizabeth Beisel
Frank Caparco
Margaret Conaty
Ed Cooley
Manny DaSilva
Claudia DeFaria
Kelli Fay-Wolfe
Jameson "Jamie" Gresh
William Haberek
Kathleen Kelley
Thomas A. Mezzanotte
Bethany O'Dell Peloquin

RIIL attends Team Up for Sports Safety in Rhode Island Meeting

On December 9, 2022, the RIIL's Mike Lunney, Tom Marcello, Carolyn Thornton, Toll Gate Principal/PCOA Assistant Chair Candace Caluori and RIIL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee Chair/Barrington Athletic Director George Finn collaborated with local medical professionals, athletic trainers and members of the Korey Institute at Friday's Team Up for Sports Safety in Rhode Island meeting to discuss Emergency Action Plans, Exercise Acclimatization and various tools and measures to prevent heat injuries.







Rhode Island vs. Connecticut at inaugural Jiggs Cecchini Holiday Basketball Challenge

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference teamed up for the inaugural Jiggs Cecchini Holiday Basketball Challenge. The one-day inaugural event, was held on December 27, 2022 at Mohegan Sun Arena and featured 4 games - 2 boys games and 2 girls games. Teams participating from the RIIL were: the Bishop Hendricken and Classical boys teams and Bay View and Ponaganset girls teams.





The RIIL Spirit Challenge, presented by Navigant Credit Union, was held in March 2023 as a fun and easy way for members of the community to show their school spirit. Students, fans, alumni and community members were given the chance to support their teams through this social media event hosted on the RIIL Twitter account (@RIIL_sports). The RIIL Spirit Challenge featured a bracket comprising all RIIL member high schools. Each matchup was conducted via Twitter poll, with the school receiving the most votes advancing to the next round. Lincoln High School emerged as the 2023 champion.

RIIL Golf App, powered by iWanamaker, launched for 2023 spring season

The RIIL entered into a multi-year partnership with Wanamaker Corp., creator of the RIIL Golf app & iWanamaker golf event management software. Beginning with the 2023 RIIL golf season, the partnership makes iWanamaker and the RIIL Golf app the official online event management, player rosters, live scoring, and rankings hub for RIIL Golf. The official event management software for all RIIL regular and postseason tournaments, advancements and state-tournament qualifying. the platform provides athletic directors, coaches and student-athletes free access to schedules, live leaderboards, player scorecards, rankings and more. Spectators can purchase a ticket to access the content and follow their schools and players live through the RIIL Golf app.



OPERATION CLEAN COMPETITION (OCC)

Educating our community on the dangers of Appearance and Performance Enhancing Substances (APES) and Nutrition & Dietary Supplement Safety: Funded through a grant from the Rhode Island Foundation, Operation Clean Competition continued its outreach to middle schools, high schools, colleges and universities across the state. During year 10, a total of 109 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 and the creation of an OCC Toolkit on the RIIL website. We created new PSAs featuring RIIL Executive Director Mike Lunney and University of Rhode Island Women's Basketball Coach Tammi Reiss.

DPERATION CLEAN COMPETITION

LEARN. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.
DANGERS OF APPEARANCE &
PERFORMANCE ENHANCING SUBSTANCES

LIVEINFORMED

Operation Clean Competition made possible by a grant from the:
RHODE ISLAND
FOUNDATION

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 of achieving zero traffic fatalities in the State of Rhode Island through highway safety awareness. Student-athletes, coaches and other members of the RIIL 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. Students also assisted with creating traffic safety PSAs that included bilingual messaging. On November 22, 2022, the RIIL held a Thanksgiving Weekend Safe Driving Campaign at Bryant University, teaming up with RIDOT, the R.I. State Police, the R.I. Police Chiefs' Association and Bryant representa-

tives to place a special emphasis on observing the rules of the road





UNIFIED SPORTS

The RIIL and R.I. Special Olympics 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®.



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 ninth annual Peanut Butter Express, presented by BankRI, was a tremendous success with member schools collecting more than 4 tons of peanut butter to benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and its statewide network of emergency food pantries. For the third year in a row, Lincoln High organized the top collection effort with the school's student body donating nearly 1,630 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 1,063 jars of peanut butter. Toll Gate and Central Falls placed second and third, respectively. Other participating schools included Achievement First, Bay View, Chariho, Cranston East, Cranston West, Cumberland, East Providence, Hendricken, Johnston,

Lincoln School, Moses Brown, Mt. Hope, Pilgrim, Rocky Hill Country Day, and Scituate.





COACHES EDUCATION



The RIIL has implemented a comprehensive education certification process for all athletic coaches. This certification process, which must be renewed every five years, includes a combination of in-house and NFHS online courses approved by the RIIL to help athletic coaches meet the significant challenges they face each day. In 2022, the RIIL modified its existing coaching requirements to align with new standards established by the NFHS School Honor Roll Program, which places stronger emphasis on health and safety. Establishing a new professional development pathway for high school coaches through this program,

a coach can become a nationally-certified NFHS Level 1 Coach by completing "Fundamentals of Coaching" along with three free courses on the NFHS Learning Center: "Concussion in Sports," "Sudden Cardiac Arrest" and "Protecting Students from Abuse." When a school's coaches complete these courses, the school then earns Level 1 status through the School Honor Roll program. During the 2022-23 school year, the RIIL held virtual preseason coaches' rules interpretation meetings at the start of each season, reviewing current sport rules and providing presentations on such topics as concussions, heat acclimatization and injury prevention.



"The Rhode Island High School Sports Show" bi-weekly radio show and podcast showcases RIIL community

The RIIL and iHeartMedia once again collaborated on a radio show, "The Rhode Island High School Sports Show. 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 evenings at 6 p.m. on NewsRadio 920am and 104.7FM, WHJJ. Episodes also continue to be available as a podcast on the WHJJ channel on the iHeartRadio App.





RIIL Leadership Training Workshops

Working with league partners R.I. Army National Guard and iHeart Media, the RIIL offered two RIIL Leadership Training Workshops during the 2022-23 school year at Camp Fogarty in East Greenwich. The fall 2022 workshop proved to be one of the best turnouts ever with 22 schools and close to 130 student-athletes participating. The spring 2023 workshop also enjoyed a strong turnout with approximately 100 student-athletes representing 21 schools.









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.

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 September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May and June.



EDUCATOR SPOTLIGHT

Presented by





BOB BOUCHARD

CRANSTON EAST & PARK VIEW M.S.

TEACHING:

Phys Ed & Health Teacher for 38 years, the majority of those years in the Cranston School System including currently at Park View M.S.

COACHING:

At Cranston East, has served for 33 years as head coach of the cross country and boys & girls swim teams, as well as 23 years as boys outdoor track coach and 10 years as boys tennis coach. Has guided Thunderbolt teams to numerous division titles and four Sportsmanship Awards.

It has been extremely satisfying to see some of the kids that I taught in gym class in middle school work very hard at the high school level and turn themselves into excellent athletes in their particular sport . . . I have had the privilege to meet a lot of great families who support their kids' athletic endeavors and also support the coach.



Presented by





MARGARET McGREGOR

SOUTH KINGSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING:

Job Coach. Has also assisted with South Kingstown's Best Buddies and Unified teams for seven years.

Watching students of all levels in the classroom and on the field thrive from my positivity, encouragement, and belief has been the greatest part of my education/coaching career. Seeing old players return to watch the team, letting us know how much they miss the program and the sport, and come to say thank you, is the best and makes me so happy.

COACHING:

Head Coach of South Kingstown's field hockey team for 16 years, guiding Rebels to numerous regular-season divisional championships. Selected Division II Coach of the Year three times.

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.



BANKRI BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



Coaching in the community where we live makes us feel as though we are part of something greater than ourselves. It gives us opportunities to connect with people, to reach for our goals and to better the community.

VIN SCANDURA

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL &

BARRINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING:

Physical Education Teacher in Providence for 30 years – 20 years at Central High School and Departmental Teacher Leader for the last 10 years.

COACHING:

Central High School Girls Basketball Coach for 20 years, 19 as head coach. Barrington Baseball Coach for seven years. Has received Coach of the Year honors in girls basketball three times.



Presented by

BANKRI BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



SEAN McNAMARA

TOLL GATE HIGH SCHOOL & LA SALLE ACADEMY

TEACHING:

21 years in Warwick Public Schools - 14 years as a high school history teacher, 1 year as a high school assistant principal & 6 years as technology integration specialist

It is important for me as a coach to help our players understand that they need to be productive members of the communities that they live and socialize in. Our players are expected to be successful student-athletes who represent their school community with class and dignity.

COACHING:

12 years as La Salle Academy Girls Hockey Coach - 7 state championships, 5 team sportsmanship awards, 200+ career wins, 3X NFHS State Girls Ice Hockey Coach of the Year. Also Assistant Coach for Toll Gate H.S. Field Hockey

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.



RANKRI

BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



KAREN LOCKHART

EAST GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING:

PBGR-Senior Project Coordinator; Senior Class Advisor; Advisor for the Women in Leadership Club.

COACHING:

Head coach of East Greenwich Girls Soccer team; JV and Assistant Coach of EGHS Girls Basketball team; Assistant Coach of EGHS Softball team; 2020-21 NFHS RI Girls Soccer Coach of the Year; 2020 Division II Girls Soccer Champions; 3X Division I Maddie Potts Memorial Sportsmanship Award.

The minute I graduated from EGHS in 2012, I knew I wanted to come back and teach and coach here one day . . . Being a coach makes me a far better teacher, and being a teacher makes me a far better coach. I am lucky to be so well-loved by such good people in EG.



Presented by

BANKRI BANKRHODEISLAND.COM



SHAUN HORGAN

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING:

Technology/Music Teacher at Portsmouth H.S. for 16 years.

COACHING:

Head coach of Portsmouth boys cross country and track & field for 16 years. The 2022 Boys Indoor Track Coach of the Year, he has guided the Patriots to multiple Division titles and a Class B Championship. His teams have produced five R.I. State Champions, a New England Champion and two All-Americans. Has also been Coaches Assoc. Co-Director for Indoor Track for the last 4 years

I feel very fortunate to be a small part along a young person's journey through the high school experience. I work hard to make that experience as positive and fulfilling as possible. Both of my grandparents were dedicated educators in the Town of Portsmouth. It is extra special for me to continue their legacy.

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.



BANKRI

DANKRHODEISLAND.COM



My high school sports experience was full of competition, diversity and opportunity. This allowed me to form lifelong bonds with teachers, coaches and other athletes. These experiences have allowed me to be more understanding and compassionate towards the students' needs. I want all student-athletes to feel supported, challenged and understood. I believe that this will help them to achieve their goals.

JOSIE CHAVES

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING:

Athletic Director at Rogers since 2021. Previously taught physical education and health at Chariho High School.

COACHING:

Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Rogers High School since 2017. Helped guide the Vikings to the 2023 RIIL Final Four at the Ryan Center.



Presented by





As a teacher, I really enjoy getting to know all the students in the school, not just the ones who swing a bat. Physical education is a blast. Health is equally fun because you get to know students off the field and in the classroom as well. It's a great place to develop relationships.

BOB DOWNEY

EAST GREENWICH H.S. & COVENTRY H.S.

TEACHING:

Physical Education/Health Teacher at East Greenwich High School for 23 years; PE/Health Department Head for 11 years.

COACHING:

2022-2023: Coventry H.S. assistant baseball coach; 2000-2021: EGHS head baseball coach; 1994-2000: assistant coach for football, basketball and baseball at North Kingstown H.S.; Coached EG Baseball to two division titles, five Final Four appearances and four Sportsmanship Awards.

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.



Presented by

BANKRI



MELISSA LIPA MOUNT PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING:

Chemistry Teacher, 1991-2003. Professional School Counselor, 2003-2011. Teacher Leader Professional School Counselor, 2011-present.

COACHING:

A member of the RI Track Coaches Association Hall of Fame, Lipa has served as either head coach or assistant coach of Mount Pleasant's cross country & indoor and outdoor T&F teams for three decades, including boys & girls outdoor head coach since 2001. Teams have produced many N.E. and State champions.

Watching these amazing student athletes, many of whom were up against the worst odds for them to becoming successful, grow to become successful adults in our society. And they did this through their own perseverance, dedication, and commitment to never give up to become the doctors, therapists, nurses, social workers, nuclear engineers, teachers, school administrators, coaches, the first state Hispanic female trooper in RI, and the list goes on.



TRADES SCHOLARSHIP

As part of its partnership with the RIIL, UA Local 51 provides a trade scholarship to a graduating senior interested in pursuing a career in the trades industry. Learn more at: www.riil.org/page/6711



2023 Scholarship Recipient

Kyle Joyal, Coventry High School





The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored 21 individuals, including 16 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its 11th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, May 10, 2023 at Valley Country Club in Warwick.

The RIIL Student-Athlete of the Year awards recognize the outstanding efforts of two seniors in Rhode Island high school athletic programs. These awards are given to student-athletes who excel in the classroom and during competition, who participate in multiple school-sponsored sports, and who demonstrate good citizenship in their school and in their community.



A three-year letterman both in football and baseball, Andrew Ciarniello has been a key member of North Kingstown's 2021 Division I Super Bowl Champion football team and two-time state champion baseball team, earning multiple All-State, All-League and MVP honors. He was recently selected to the Golden Dozen, the most prestigious honors presented at the Rhode Island chapter of the National Football Foundation's annual scholar-athlete awards. A member of the National Honor Society, he has maintained a 4.14 GPA with a rigorous course load that had included Honors and AP classes. In addition to serving as a captain on the football and baseball teams, Andrew is a member of NK's Student Leadership Academy, is a member of Distributive Education Clubs of America and has served as a student representative on various district-level interview teams, including the team that has chosen North Kingstown's new assistant principal.

"Andrew is a born leader and a problem solver," said North Kingstown athletic director David Tober said of the accomplished student-athlete, who has been appointed to West Point U.S. Military Academy and will report to basic training on July 1.



Over the course of her high school career at Rogers, Maeve Crowley has played two seasons of softball, one season of volleyball, two seasons of lacrosse and four seasons each of soccer and basketball. She is a 1,000-point scorer in basketball and has earned a host of All-State, All-Division, All-Class honors in each of the sports along the way. A soccer and basketball captain, she helped lead the Vikings to an appearance in the 2022 Division IV Girls Soccer Championship and the Final Four of both the Division I and State Girls Basketball Tournaments. Headed to North Carolina State University in the fall, Maeve is ranked fifth in her class with a 4.26 GPA and is a member of the National and French Honor Societies. She is also a Rogers Key Club Board Member and is active in Student Government. Her extensive volunteer efforts have included organizing a shoe drive for children in Africa through St. Mary's Church, creating a playhouse for a child battling cancer through Rosemary's Wish Kids, volunteering at the MLK Food Pantry throughout the holiday seasons and volunteering with the Newport Recreation Youth Basketball League.

"Maeve is a natural born leader," Rogers athletic director Josie Chaves said. "She is smart, humble, kind and empathetic. Her personality is unique and captivating. Her peers naturally follow her lead and hold themselves to a higher standard when she is around. She is a special young woman and has a bright future ahead of her."



2022-23
DISTINGUISHED
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS









Announcing this year's nominees, listed alphabetically by school:

Abigail Martel, Barrington

William McClelland, Barrington

Francine Miller, Bay View

Amy Papa, Bay View

Alex Morin, Bishop Hendricken

Xavier Coleman, Blackstone Valley Prep

Leslie Lima, Blackstone Valley Prep

Garrett Dailey, Burrillville

Allie Trimble, Burrillville

Noely Castro Arias, Central

Jaiden Lee, Central

Yulianna Hernandez, Central Falls

Alex Maia, Central Falls

Drew DeNoncour, Chariho

Brooke Kanaczet, Chariho

Caroline Jankowich, Classical

Jared Weissmann, Classical

Christina Lang, Coventry

Hayden Myers, Coventry

Norah Flinn, Cranston East

Brady Kitterick, Cranston East

Marcus Chung, Cranston West

Alessandra Messina, Cranston West

Susanna Henderson, Cumberland

Cole McCue, Cumberland

Kanz Giwa, Davies

Adria LaBossiere, Davies

Nicholas Martin, East Greenwich

Alex Mega, East Greenwich

Jacob Poore, East Providence

Keira Quadros, East Providence

Tyler Lagasse, Ex./W. Greenwich

Victoria Pariseault, Ex./W. Greenwich

Arianna Jackson, Hope

Imanol Tavares, Hope

Ayomide Josephine Olagundoye, Johnston

Derek Salvatore, Johnston

Antonia Mitogo, Juanita Sanchez

Enrique Mitoga-Edjang, Juanita Sanchez

Caroline Cummings, La Salle

Jamezell Lassiter, La Salle

Jillian Leahy, Lincoln

Christian Toro, Lincoln

Courtney Boghosian, Lincoln School

April Rowe, Lincoln School

Isabelle Huntoon, Middletown

John Wiest, Middletown

Jaeson D'Alessandro, Moses Brown

Sophia Gorriaran, Moses Brown

Shivani Mehta, Mt. Hope



Announcing this year's nominees, listed alphabetically by school:

Matthew Gale, Mt. Hope

Shannon Chilel, Mt. Pleasant

John Colcha, Mt. Pleasant

Leah Laquerre, Mt. St. Charles

Colden Lawrence, Mt. St. Charles

Kylee Bennett, Narragansett

Sebastian Carlsson, Narragansett

Andrew Ciarniello, North Kingstown

Jade Shabo, North Kingstown

Santino Autiello, North Providence

Julianna Rodrigues, North Providence

Samuel Beauchemin, North Smithfield

Bethany Marsella, North Smithfield

Roxanne Garcia, Paul Cuffee

Luiso Daniel Henderson, Paul Cuffee

Elizabeth Cavanagh, Pilgrim

Ethan Pezzullo, Pilgrim

Nolan Allen, Ponaganset

Olivia Santos, Ponaganset

Morgan Casey, Portsmouth

Carson Conheeney, Portsmouth

Steven Quinn, Prout

Morgan Verdi, Prout

Blake Fuller, PCD

Finley Stock-Guild, PCD

Francesca McCaughey, Rocky Hill

Maeva Crowley, Rogers

Dylan Walker, Rogers

Sergio Espinosa, St. Patrick's

Devan Kipyego, St. Raphael Academy

Moses Meus, St. Raphael Academy

Rachael Pietrantozzi. Scituate

Marco Wiharso, Scituate

Catherine Nobre, Shea

Cameron Seaver, Shea

Lauren Boyd, Smithfield

Elijah Saddlemire, Smithfield

Lauren Fewlass, South Kingstown

Phoenix Sward, South Kingstown

Samantha Bettencourt, Tiverton

Keegan Dutelle, Tiverton

Ryan Dacey, Toll Gate

Sydnee Perreault, Toll Gate

Jaydel Hall, Tolman

lvy Par, Tolman

Dominic Lombard, Westerly

Kaya West, Westerly

Tianna-Lee Keovongvichit, W. Warwick

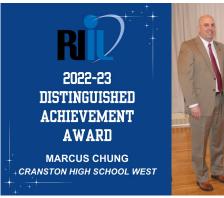
Brendan Rathier, West Warwick

Vincenzo Casieri, Woonsocket

Abigail Dumont, Woonsocket

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored 21 individuals, including 16 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its 11th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, May 10, 2023 at Valley Country Club in Warwick.

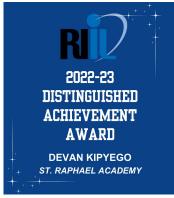




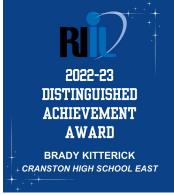














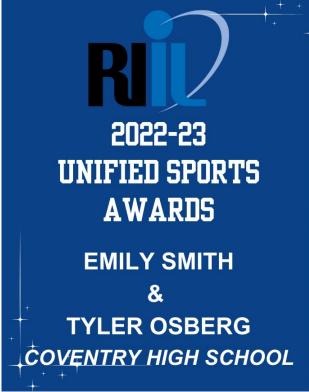


The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored 21 individuals, including 16 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its 11th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, May 10, 2023 at Valley Country Club in Warwick.











The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored 21 individuals, including 16 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its 11th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, May 10, 2023 at Valley Country Club in Warwick.





LEADERSHIP &

SERVICE AWARDS

BANKRI

DYLAN WALKER

ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL















The Rhode Island Interscholastic League honored 21 individuals, including 16 student-athletes, for their exemplary achievements over the past year at its 11th annual RIIL Awards Luncheon, May 10, 2023 at Valley Country Club in Warwick.



















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 31,000 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

875 Centerville Rd.

Building #3, Suites 7 & 8, Warwick, RI 02886

Email: info@riil.org; | Phone: (401) 272-9844 | Fax: (401) 272-9838 | www.riil.org