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November 10, 2025

Dear Tiverton Families,

As we approach **Veterans Day**, we pause to honor and thank all who have served in the United States Armed Forces, including our parents, grandparents, relatives, alumni, and staff. Your service and sacrifice remind us of the importance of courage, community, and commitment to others. *Please note that schools will be closed tomorrow, November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.*

Families are invited to learn more about Tiverton High School's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs during our **CTE Open House on Wednesday, November 19**, from 6:00-7:00 PM. Programs include Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Computer Science, Engineering, Marine Carpentry, Public Safety, Multimedia Arts, and Plant Science. We encourage all families, especially middle school parents and students, to attend and explore the hands-on, career-connected learning opportunities available at Tiverton High School!

On Monday, November 24th and Tuesday, November 25th all Tiverton Schools will hold **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. Please select your child's school to sign up for a Parent/Teacher conference using [this link provided](#).

**Federal SNAP benefits** were delayed on November 1. The state continues to provide support while federal funding is restored. Rhode Island is issuing partial benefits using contingency funds and providing additional support. Up to \$6 million in state funds will help 20,000+ families with children. Payments will be made Nov 1 and Nov 16. Also, \$200,000 was provided to the RI Community Food Bank, plus donations and grants to keep local pantries stocked. What You Can Do:

- Check EBT balance: 1-888-979-9939 or [ebtedge.com](http://ebtedge.com)
- Submit DHS documents promptly via Customer Portal, HealthyRhode App, or regional offices
- [Ways to Reach DHS](#)
- Find food resources: 2-1-1 or [rifoodbank.org](http://rifoodbank.org) - [Food Assistance List](#)
- [Where to Donate](#)
- Report fraud: 401-574-8175
- Tiverton High School Food Pantry Hours: Every Tuesday excluding school vacation days 4-6 PM

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) [recently released](#) the **2025 School Accountability Report**. Under Rhode Island's accountability system, each school and district receives a star rating from one to five stars, based on multiple measures, including overall academic performance on state assessments, academic performance of student subgroups, overall growth and subgroup growth on state assessments, English proficiency for multilingual learners, and graduation rates. In 2024, each of Tiverton's schools earned at least three stars, with Pocasset Elementary School earning four stars. Our 2025 ratings remained the same.

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Visit us at [tivertonschools.org](http://tivertonschools.org)

The Tiverton School Department does not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, color, or handicap in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

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Last Thursday evening, we celebrated the induction of new members into the **National Honor Society**. Many thanks to English Department Chair Sara Gray for coordinating this event, and to Dr. Keough and Jeff Sowa, Tiverton parent and Rhode Island attorney, who delivered the keynote address. We are very proud of the accomplishments of this class of inductees.

Last week, school psychologist Celeste Kane and I were interviewed by the **Sakonnet Times** to discuss mental health challenges and the support available to students in our schools today. You can check out the story in this week's issue.

I am proud to share that School Resource Officer Jackie Smaldone has been named **School Resource Officer of the Year** by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD). This honor reflects Officer Smaldone's exceptional commitment to student safety, community engagement, and education around responsible decision-making. Her positive presence and proactive approach make a meaningful difference in our schools each day. Please join me in congratulating Officer Smaldone on this well-deserved recognition.

Last month, teachers and support staff participated in a **half-day professional development program** across all schools. Sessions were designed to strengthen instructional practice, deepen understanding of student needs, and support district-wide initiatives. Highlights included a RICAS Deep Dive for grades 1–8 teachers, Executive Function & Anxiety Support Programs for service providers, and *Understanding the Why Behind Behavior: Strategies for Managing Challenging Behaviors in Kindergarten Classrooms*.

As I shared last week, I want to review how the Tiverton School District will share information about **school cancellations or delays**. The most immediate and reliable source is the Rhode Island Broadcasters Association (RIBA). Local news outlets such as WJAR and WPRI receive updates directly from RIBA. Once a decision is made, I will notify RIBA first. Families will also receive a Thrillshare message by phone, email, and/or text. Decisions to cancel or delay school are made with input from the Tiverton Department of Public Works and surrounding districts, typically the evening before or early the following morning. In the coming weeks, I'll share details about our distance learning plan in the event of closures.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our school community. Together, we are building a stronger Tiverton, one that challenges, supports, and celebrates every student.

Yours truly,

Christopher Haskins, Superintendent of Schools

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