

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

FIVE TOWN CSD

CAMDEN HILLS
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

APPLETON • CAMDEN • HOPE
LINCOLNVILLE • ROCKPORT



Table of Contents

Superintendent Letter3

Board Chair Letter5

CHRHS Principal Letter6

By the Numbers8

Finance Chair Letter 10

Budget Information 11

Educational Experiences at CHRHS 15

District Organization 16

Alumni Employees 18

Administration & Board 19





Superintendent of Schools Letter

Maria Libby

First and foremost, congratulations to our Girls' Swim Team for winning their second consecutive Class A State Championship in February! This, on the heels of our Girls' Soccer team winning four consecutive state titles, is quite a testament to our community raising strong young women. While sports participation has significantly declined in most Maine (and national) schools, we are still going strong at Camden Hills. Our athletic teams, visual and performing arts programs, and after school clubs are thriving. Our high level of student participation at the high school is part of what makes our system so strong. It is not only our teachers and parents that are so committed...our students are too! Thank you Chills students for being an important part of what sets our high school apart in so many ways.

Clearly Camden Hills students have incredible opportunities during their high school careers. We want to capitalize on this and encourage students to engage in a variety of educational experiences during their four years to help them discover, delve into, and develop their interests and passions. A goal of mine is to redefine the paradigm for a high school experience as something more than traveling through the hallways from one classroom to another. We want students to take a dual enrollment course, join a cultural trip, pursue an independent study, go away for semester, do an internship, seek an endorsement or certificate, learn a skill at MCST, etc. It is the variety of experiences that will lead to self-discovery and keep students fully engaged during these years.

Finally, I want to thank the community for the opportunity I had to take a sabbatical for six months this year. It was such a blessing for me in so many ways, and I have returned renewed, healthier, and wiser. It meant the world to me and I look forward to continuing to lead our schools with great love, care, and attention.

"I love Camden Hills because of the people. It's rare that one finds such an inclusive and welcoming place, especially when it's filled with teenagers. But in my time at Camden, I've noticed just how warm everyone is. Even people who don't associate with each other very much are still polite and can laugh together. It's a great place to figure out who you are and feel supported by all of your classmates."

— Flora Gurdon, CHRHS Sophomore



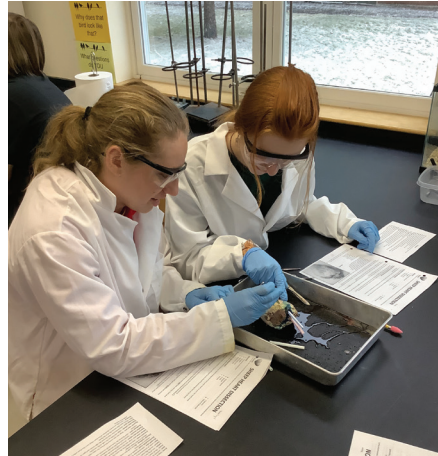


Board Chair Letter

Becky Flanagan

Last year, I went door to door collecting signatures for reelection to the school board and was chosen as chair again. During ensuing conversations with neighbors and friends, we discussed how the mental health of the students in our district is an area of increasing concern. Over the last few years, it has become apparent that youth everywhere are struggling. A forum held this winter for educators focused on the social and emotional health of our school-aged children in the mid-coast region. It attracted hundreds of participants, with standing room only. To its credit, CHRHS has and is responding with care and compassion to this call to action. The school has

implemented positive practices that include increasing student access to services. Two social worker positions originally funded through pandemic monies are in the 2023-2024 budget. This has allowed us to connect our students with essential aid and quality health education. We understand how critical it is that our children feel cared for at school as they develop strategies for healing and resilience. I offer my gratitude to you, the community, for your support as our students navigate their way in a changing world.



CHRS Principal Letter

Jen Curtis

As a community, we are the sum of our actions. I am grateful for the community mindset we embrace as we renew our focus on reconnecting within and outside our Chills community. Interpersonal connections are helping us move forward as we reclaim what is essential to our vibrant school community.

The collective power of many individuals makes amazing things happen, from Chills Assemblies to unmasked events with applauding audiences. We proudly filled the house with *Mamma Mia!* and our winter concert, not to mention bringing back Empty Bowl. Parent conferences were in person again, a welcome way to connect with our families.

We deepened our interdependence with our community by hosting local community experts, mentors, and guest speakers – including an author presentation to expand our understanding of the Maine refugee experience and a visit from Representative Doudera. We reinvested in service learning by batch-cooking for local food pantries as well as holding food drives.

In reclaiming what makes Camden Hills special, we must also recognize what has been a shining light: your support. Appreciation for our educators has prevailed as students, parents, and community members recognize the dedication and perseverance of our exceptional staff. Thank you for continuing to entrust us with the care of your children.





"To return home to teach, coach and be part of the high school community that I once learned in has been a tremendous honor. The pride I feel to be a 'Jammer' translates towards feeling incredibly passionate about teaching in the classroom and coaching on the basketball court. I feel right at home working at CHRHS. I strive to be a welcoming and positive person to my students each and every day so that they too can feel at home and a valued member of our school community as I once did as a student here."

— Joel Gabriele, Rising Tide Teacher

CSD Staffing

- 63.75 Full-time teachers
- 11 National Board Certified Teachers
- 65% with a Graduate Degree

Enrollment*

2023**	729
2022	719
2021	697
2020	714
2019	715
2018	690

*October **Projected

“CHRHS is home to creativity, collaboration, and kindness. From discussing life and Spanish homework with Mr Huertas, to going to math class early with a friend to get extra help, at CHRHS you can count on the fact that you are part of a vibrant community that wants nothing more than to help you thrive, both inside and outside the classroom.”

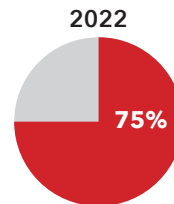
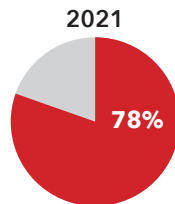
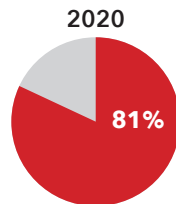
—Will Eggena, CHRHS Senior



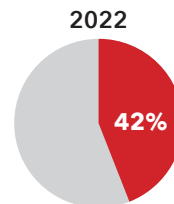
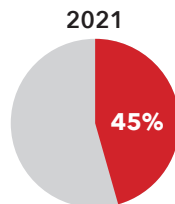
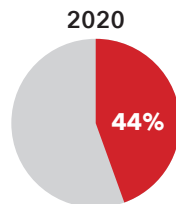
Allie McKenzie, 2023

Achievement Data

Percent meeting the **English and Writing** Benchmark on the PSAT (Grade 11)



Percent meeting the **Math** Benchmark on the PSAT (Grade 11)



NWEA Mean National Percentile (grade 10)

	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22
Math	82	81	N/A*	N/A*	73
Reading	84	83	N/A*	N/A*	66

*Not tested during COVID Year

Finance Chair Letter

Marcus Mrowka

This year, the Five Town Community School District has presented a total requested budget that represents a 6.09% increase in the overall impact to taxpayers. Our school district is not immune from the rising costs on everything from energy prices to facility repairs. The Board and administration have worked to minimize the impact to taxpayers while crafting a budget that provides our students a vibrant and engaging education, supports our incredible educators and school staff, and takes care of critical maintenance needs.

The budget also reflects changes to streamline our accounting process. Currently, the Camden Rockport Schools District pays the Five Town CSD \$1.3 million for shared expenses. Instead of showing this as a negative expense, we are moving to a revenue-based approach. While this budget shows a 17.3% expense increase, this is made up by the corresponding increase in revenue from the shared expenses. There is no change to taxpayer impact from this accounting change.

The Board has held multiple public deliberations on the budget. As always, our budget process is guided by our strategic plan, what is best for students and educators, and what is fair to taxpayers. We encourage continued community engagement on the budget and invite you to learn more about the budget on the district's website, attend public meetings, ask questions, and understand how your tax dollars are being spent to support the powerful teaching and learning in our district.



BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

**May 16, 2023
7:00–8:00 PM
CRMS Bisbee Theater
34 Knowlton Street**

Budget details and public hearing information are available online at:
sad.fivetowns.net/school_board/budgets_and_financial_statements

2023-2024 Expense Budget

	2022-2023 Budget	2023-2024 Requested Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Regular Instruction	\$ 5,460,385	\$ 5,764,180	\$ 303,794	5.6%
Special Education*	\$ 1,607,129	\$ 1,983,295	\$ 376,166	23.4%
MCST Program Assessment	\$ 56,494	\$ 99,622	\$ 43,128	76.3%
Clubs & Sports*	\$ 649,442	\$ 735,204	\$ 85,761	13.2%
Student and Staff Support*	\$ 1,213,611	\$ 1,516,188	\$ 302,577	24.9%
System Administration*	\$ 664,345	\$ 1,117,870	\$ 453,525	68.3%
School Administration	\$ 565,389	\$ 612,175	\$ 46,786	8.3%
Transportation*	\$ 523,165	\$ 696,006	\$ 172,840	33.0%
Facilities*	\$ 1,685,603	\$ 2,274,750	\$ 589,147	35.0%
Debt Service (MCST)	\$ 692,486	\$ 666,082	\$ (26,404)	-3.8%
Other Expenditures*	\$ 113,000	\$ 50,000	\$ (63,000)	-55.8%
Total	\$ 13,231,051	\$ 15,515,372	\$ 2,284,321	17.3%

* Change In Accounting Method Resulting in Additional Expenses (No Tax Impact Change)

Impact Over Time

	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24*	10 Year Avg.
Expense Budget change	3.1%	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%	1.2%	2.9%	2.5%	2.4%	1.0%	17.3%	3.8%
Impact to Taxpayer	5.7%	2.1%	-4.5%	3.7%	1.0%	4.0%	0.8%	2.7%	3.3%	4.7%	2.4%

* Change In Accounting Method Resulting in Additional Expenses and Revenues (No Tax Impact Change)

Financial Picture Over Time

	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Expense Budget	\$12,683,652	\$12,544,432	\$12,907,566	\$13,302,646	\$13,539,433	\$13,231,051	\$15,515,372
Taxpayer Assessment	\$10,269,228	\$10,375,188	\$10,792,769	\$10,627,173	\$10,827,597	\$11,139,874	\$11,665,150
Debt Service	\$1,162,086	\$1,794,972	\$1,724,234	\$1,695,664	\$1,663,353	\$692,486	\$666,082
Subsidy	\$1,912,127	\$1,601,500	\$1,563,735	\$1,701,951	\$1,753,434	\$945,676	\$1,181,086

Town Cost per Pupil

	Appleton	Camden	Hope	Lincolnville	Rockport
Subsidizable Students	67	196	67	95.5	202
State Subsidy	\$581,848	\$0	\$416,457	\$118,459	\$64,323
Local Share	\$504,892	\$4,244,050	\$773,598	\$1,874,920	\$4,267,691
Subsidy per pupil	\$8,684	\$0	\$6,216	\$1,240	\$318
Local Share per pupil	\$7,536	\$21,653	\$11,546	\$19,633	\$21,128
Total per pupil	\$16,220	\$21,653	\$17,762	\$20,873	\$21,445

Taxpayer Impact

	Dollars	Percent
Increase in Expenses	\$2,347,321	17.3%
Increase in Non-Tax Revenues	\$1,822,045	87.1%
Overall Taxpayer Increase	\$525,276	4.7%
Appleton	\$25,840	5.4%
Camden	\$175,698	4.3%
Hope	\$21,755	2.9%
Lincolnville	\$112,746	6.4%
Rockport	\$189,236	4.6%



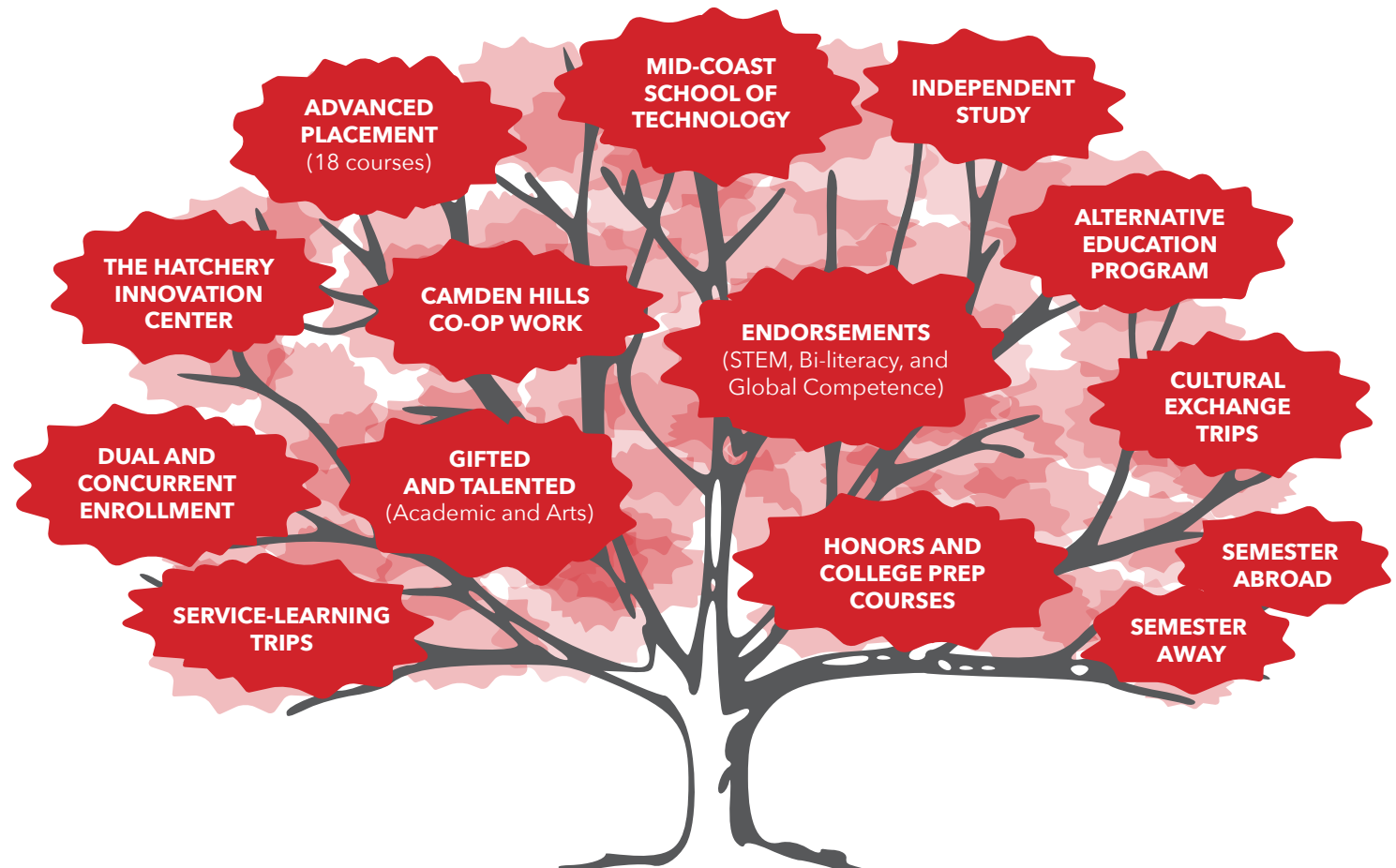
"There is no society without the arts, science, math, and culture. School is the one place that gives each individual a taste of these essential things in hopes of whetting the appetite for more. Without a strong and sensitive educational hub, we are not a community at all. We are merely people sharing a zip code. CHRHS moves us toward the values that truly tie us all together."

— Erin Donovan, Parent



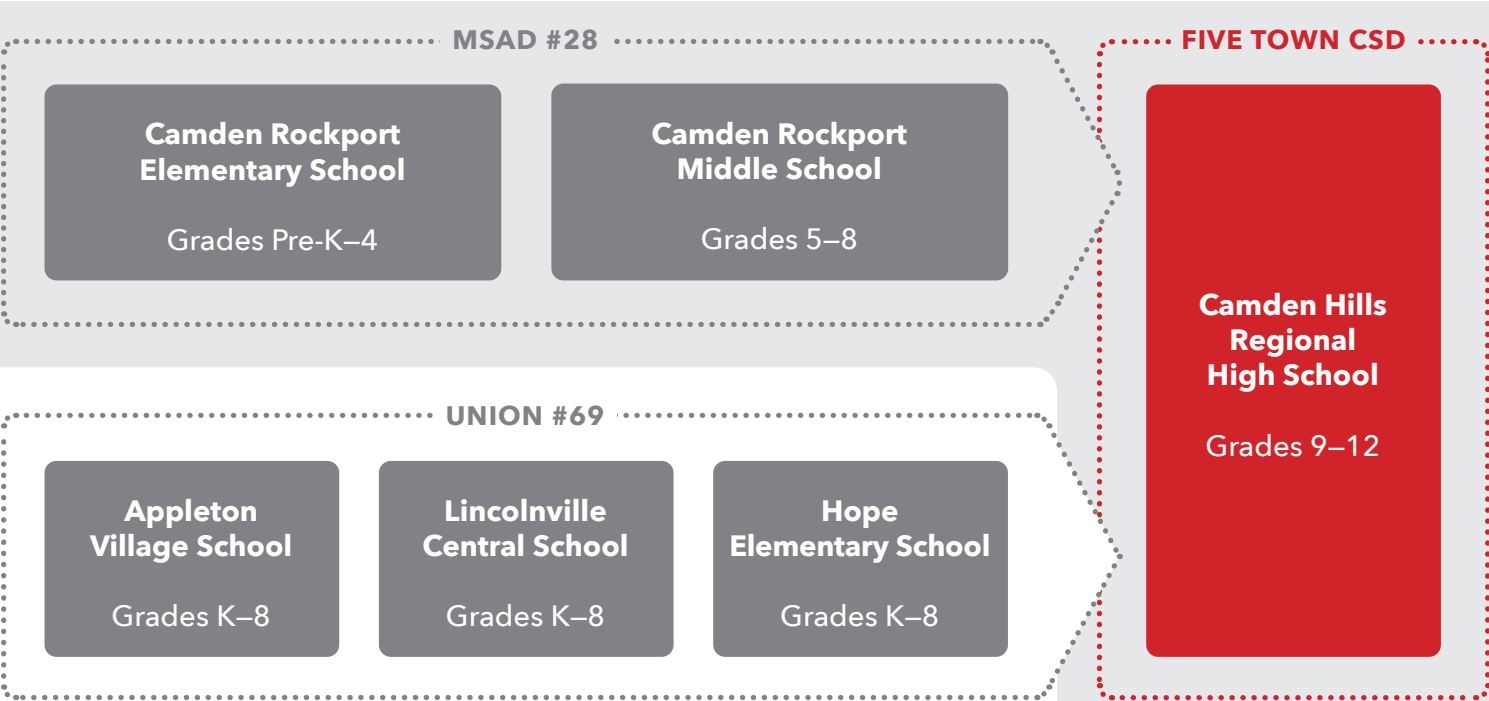
Willow McConochie

Educational Experiences available at CHRHS



Confused About School District Organization in the Five Towns?

The **Five Town CSD** includes one school, Camden Hills Regional High School, and includes the towns of Appleton, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, and Rockport. Camden Rockport Schools, also known as MSAD #28, functions as a separate district that serves Camden and Rockport’s K-8 students. Hope, Appleton, Lincolnville (HAL) have their own K-8 district known as Union #69.





"Returning to Camden Hills to teach Latin has been invigorating. The school and the surrounding community are magnetic and special. I now teach Latin in the same room where I learned it, and I am excited to help students find their passion for language learning and to continue the legacy of excellence that Bill Curtis and Mike Kinney were known for."

— Noah Holt, *Latin Teacher*

Coming Full Circle: Spotlight on our Alumni Employees

1960s

Apollo Space Program lands man on the moon

- **Bill Anderson**, 1965, Special Ed Teacher
- **Jennifer Turner**, 1969, Ed Tech

1970s

Microsoft and Apple Computer are founded

- **Byron Haining**, 1977, Bus Driver
- **Chipper O'Connell**, n/a, Ed Tech

1980s

MTV network begins broadcasting

- **Carolyn Brown**, 1980, Visual Arts Teacher
- **Patrick Kelly**, 1982, Health/PE Teacher
- **Ben Lerner**, 1982, Maintenance
- **Maria Libby**, 1982, Superintendent
- **Jill Morton**, 1982, Ed Tech
- **Gina Sawyer**, 1983, Bus Driver
- **Angie Carlson**, 1984, Registrar
- **Michelle Ames**, 1985, Food Service
- **Mike Grey**, 1988, History Teacher
- **Josh Sepe**, 1988, Ed Tech

1990s

The Soviet Union collapses

- **Danielle Patton**, 1991, Ed Tech
- **Ian McKenzie**, 1995, Computer Teacher
- **Michele Metzler**, 1996, History Teacher
- **Joanna Duke** 1998, Health/PE Teacher
- **Jon Moro**, 1999, Ed Tech
- **Jacalyn Williams**, 1999, Special Ed Teacher

2000s

September 11th terrorist attacks take place

- **Ashley Meservey**, 2002, Head Custodian
- **Will Russell**, 2004, Ed Tech
- **Sara Cole-Pardun**, 2007, English Teacher
- **Chris Bryant**, 2008, Computer Support Technician

2010s

SpaceX makes the first commercial space flight

- **Joel Gabriele**, 2011, Special Ed Teacher
- **Noah Holt**, 2013, Latin Teacher

Five Town CSD Administration

Maria Libby, Superintendent

Shawn Carlson, Assistant Superintendent

Peter Orne, Business Manager

Jen Curtis, Principal

Graham Bode, Assistant Principal

Nell Dailey, Assistant Principal

Jeremy Marks, Director of Counseling

Jeff Hart, Athletic Director

Valerie Mattes, Director of Student Special Services

Karen Gorris-Hicock, Assistant Director of Student
Special Services

David Watts, Adult and Community Education Director

Chris Fanelli, Director of Facilities and Transportation

Mikael Andersson, Director of Food Services

Colin Sutch, Director of Technology

Five Town CSD School Board

Rebecca Flanagan, Chair, Camden

Marcus Mrowka, Vice Chair, Camden

Marcia Dietrich, Rockport

Amelia Grant, Lincolnville

Brieanna Gutierrez, Rockport

Ramona Larsen, Lincolnville

Patrick McCafferty, Chair, Camden

Lori Perez, Hope

Taylor Pohlman (Alternate)

Than Porter, Appleton

Sarah Bradley Prindiville, Rockport


Rick Thackeray, Camden

District Office

22 Knowlton Street
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-3358

Camden Hills Regional High School

25 Keelson Drive
Rockport, ME 04856
207-236-7800



A learning
community that
fosters intellectual
and creative
excellence while
building strong
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