

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

School Committee

09.09.2026



I have several items to share this evening.

Opening of the 2026–2027 School Year

I am pleased to report that the opening of the 2026–2027 school year has been a smooth and positive one across the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District. Our students have returned to classrooms, routines are taking shape, and our schools are once again filled with the energy that comes with the beginning of a new year. I want to recognize and thank our teachers, support staff, administrators, transportation staff, custodians, food service staff, and families for the tremendous amount of work that goes into a successful opening. While the start of every school year brings adjustments, our staff have responded with flexibility and a continued focus on ensuring that students feel welcomed, supported, and ready to learn.

Attached to this report is the slide deck for staff convocation.

Community Events & Opportunities

There are several upcoming opportunities for our students, families, and staff to connect beyond the school day. Please see the attached flyers for each opportunity.

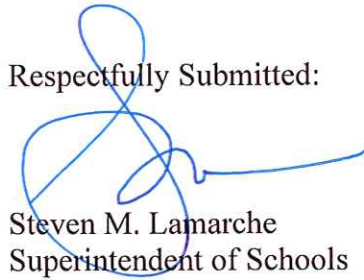
Charlton Police Department - On Saturday, September 12, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Charlton Police Department will host its “Barks, Badges & Boots” community event at St. Joseph’s Church, 10 H Putnam Road in Charlton. The family event will feature the Charlton K-9 Unit, drone, detective, motorcycle and communications teams, along with activities including face painting, games, a bounce house, police-versus-fire tug of war, and free ice cream. It is a great opportunity for families to meet local first responders and enjoy an afternoon together.

Tackle the Stigma - We are also looking forward to the Second Annual Tackle the Stigma 5K & Wellness Fair on Sunday, September 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This district-wide event focuses on mental health, wellness, community, and connection. Students, staff, families, and community members are encouraged to participate by running, walking, volunteering, or simply joining us for the day. The event will include a 5K and 2.5K Run/Walk, guest speakers, food trucks, student activities, and community organizations.

Charlton PTO - I want to recognize the Charlton PTO and the many parent volunteers who have already planned a full calendar of activities and fundraisers for the 2026–2027 school year. Upcoming activities include the Klem’s Cares fundraiser on September 12, the Fall Catalog fundraiser beginning September 22, and the Pie Fundraiser beginning September 28, with many additional events planned throughout the year. We appreciate the PTO’s continued commitment to creating opportunities that bring our schools, families, and community together.

As we move beyond opening day and into the rhythm of the school year, I remain grateful for the collective efforts of our staff, families, community partners, and students. It has been a strong start, and I look forward to building on that momentum throughout the fall.

Respectfully Submitted:



Steven M. Lamarche
Superintendent of Schools

Here a few important dates for school year 2026-2027

September

Friday, September 25, 2026 – Early Release – All Students/Educator Prof. Development
Sunday, September 27, 2026 – Tackle the Stigma 5K/2.5K Walk/Run – 10:00 a.m.
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 – District Capital Plan Ballot Vote

October

Friday, October 9, 2026 – No School for Students/Educator In-Service Day
Monday, October 12, 2026 – Columbus Day – No School
Friday, October 30, 2026 – End of Quarter 1 – SHRHS and Middle Schools

November

Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Early Release – All Students/Parent Conferences
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Veterans Day – No School
Friday, November 20, 2026 – End of Elementary Trimester 1
Wednesday, November 25, 2026 – Early Release – All Students
Thursday and Friday, November 26–27, 2026 – Thanksgiving Recess – No School

CHARLTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



BARKS, BADGES & BOOTS



A COMMUNITY EVENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SEPT 12
11AM – 2PM

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
10 H PUTNAM RD
CHARLTON, MA

- ★ CHARLTON K9 UNIT
- ★ DRONE TEAM
- ★ DETECTIVE UNIT
- ★ MOTORCYCLE UNIT
- ★ CHARLTON 911 COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



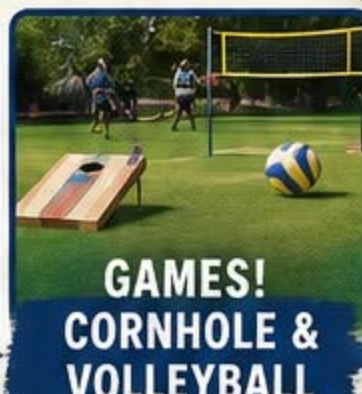
FACE PAINTING



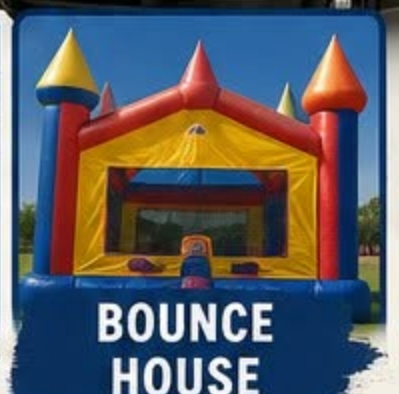
POLICE vs FIRE
TUG OF WAR



U.S. ARMY
RECRUITMENT



GAMES!
CORNHOLE &
VOLLEYBALL



BOUNCE
HOUSE



FREE ICE CREAM
PROVIDED BY

Suzy Q's
ICE CREAM TRUCK!

COME OUT,
MEET YOUR
FIRST RESPONDERS
& HAVE SOME FUN!
WE CAN'T WAIT
TO SEE YOU!

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY. ★ WORKING TOGETHER. ★ MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

TACKLE THE STIGMA 5K & WELLNESS FAIR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH FROM 8AM-2PM

We are so excited for our Second Annual Tackle the Stigma 5k!

Join us for a district-wide day focused on mental health, wellness, community, and connection.

Students, staff, families, and community members are invited to run, walk, volunteer, explore local resources, and help us Tackle the Stigma together.

Featuring:

5K & 2.5K Run/Walk • Guest Speakers • Food Trucks • Student Activities • Community Organizations and so much more!

RUNNER REGISTRY HERE



PTO Meetings, 6PM @ CMS

2nd Tuesday of the Month

September 8

October 13

November 10

December 8

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11 (Board Elections)

June 8

CHARLTON PTO

2026/2027 EVENTS CALENDAR



The Charlton PTO is a
non-profit 501c3
community organization

Events and dates are subject to change. Please follow us on Facebook for updated information.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
All Year	Glass Card Fundraiser	All Schools
September 6	OHD Kids Fun Run	Town Common
September 12	Klem's Cares Fundraiser Event	Klem's, Spencer
September 22 – October 6	Fall Catalog Fundraiser	Online
September 28 – October 20	Pie Fundraiser	All Schools
October 29 – December 1	Square 1 Art Fundraiser	Kindergarten– Grade 5
November 2 – 6	Scholastic Book Fair	Charlton Middle School
November 24	Pie Fundraiser Pick-up Night	Charlton Middle School
December 5	Kids Shop & Vendor Fair	Heritage School
January 30	Wizards Game	Shepherd Hill
February 5	CES Someone Special Dance	Heritage School
March 11 – 12	Chuck E. Cheese Fundraiser	50 SW Cutoff, Worcester
March 15 – 19	Scholastic Book Fair	Charlton Middle School
March 22 – April 9	Heritage School Coin Wars	Heritage School
March TBD	Klem's Cares PTO Night	Klem's, Spencer
April 9	Heritage School Glow Party	Heritage School
April TBD	Car Wash Fundraiser	Honey Farms/Alltown Car Wash
May 3 – 7	Teacher Appreciation Week	All Schools
May 21	Grade 8 Send Off Celebration	Charlton Middle School
June (dates TBD)	End of Year Italian Ice	All Schools
2027 Save the Date: September 5	Old Home Day Kids' Fun Run	Charlton Common

Have ideas or questions? Contact us at charltonpto@gmail.com or join us at one of our meetings!

Sign up for information and
volunteer opportunities here!



Join the PTO today!



Check out our full selection of Spirit
Wear with all school logos available.
Free delivery to the schools!

Check out our

Un-Fundraiser here:



Venmo: @CharltonPTO



#WEAREDUDLEYCHARLTON



WELCOME BACK

Nobody Panic. It's Just September.

DCRSD 2026–2027 Opening · August 31, 2026

Please find a seat near someone you like.

Agenda

Student performances – Colden Blackwell

Welcoming remarks — School Committee Chair Costello

2026 SHRHS Quo Vadis recognition

The year ahead, everything is *figuroutable*

Time Out – Seclusion is *figuroutable*

Jimmy Cash



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STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Colden Blackwell

Producer

12TH GRADE

#WEAREDUDLEYCHARLTON





STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Javier Miranda

“Proud of Your Boy”

12TH GRADE



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School Committee



Jeanne Costello	Chair Charlton	Caitlynn Panczyk	Vice Chair Dudley
Cathleen Carmignani	Dudley	Kelly Szela	Charlton
Maureen Chickering	Dudley	Anthony Aube	Charlton
Kristin Martin	Charlton		

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STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Rylee Blackwell

“Colors of Wind”

10TH GRADE



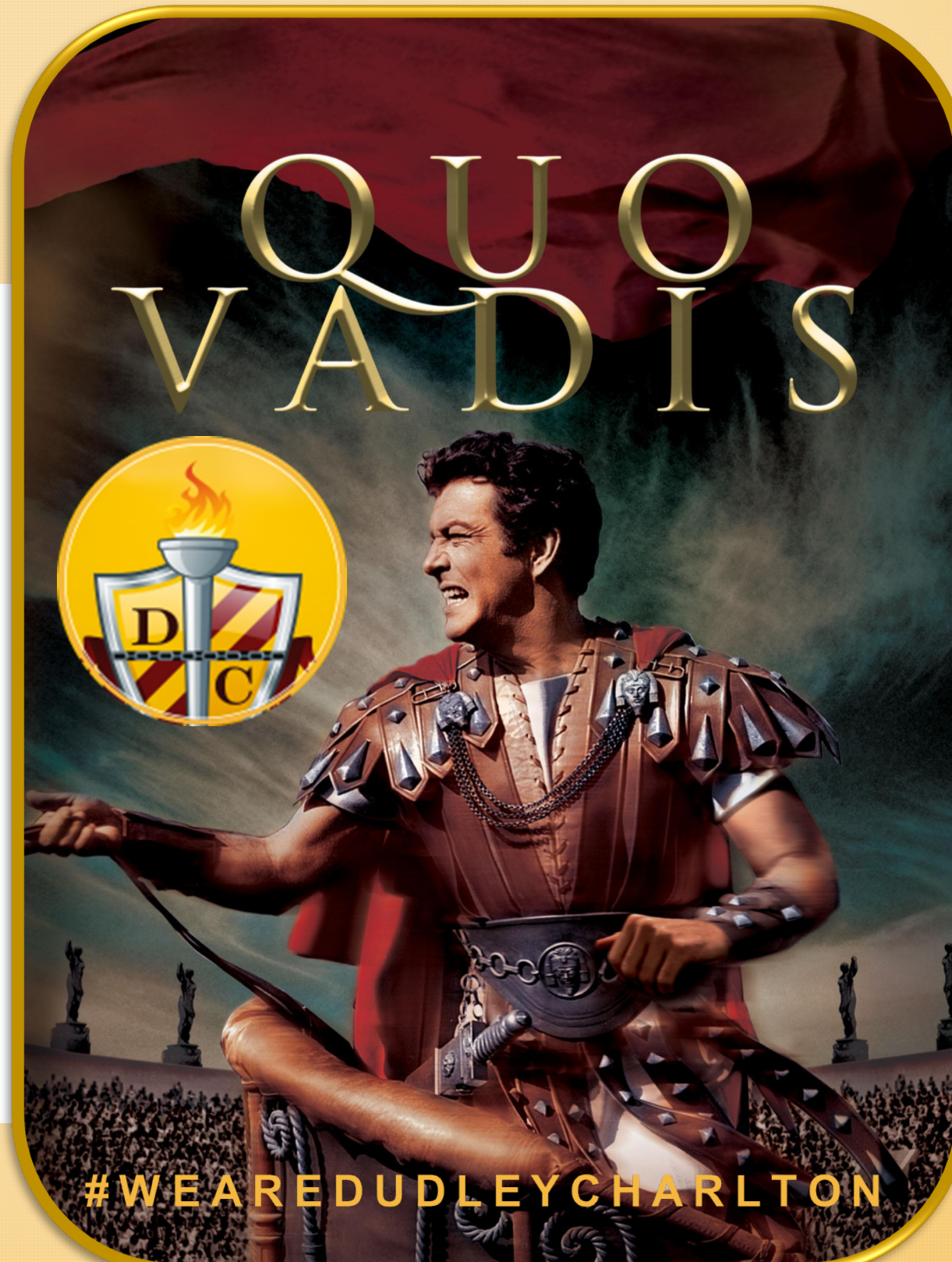
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QUO VADIS 2026 RECIPIENTS

Where are you going? Here, apparently.

**Corey
Stefan**

SHRHS



**Shaune
Ducharme**

SHRHS



STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Lia Nguyen

“Nothing you can take from me”

9TH GRADE



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Housekeeping

LITIX – October 1, 2026

Previously called ArxED

Includes 2+ modules

Mandatory Trainings

Cyber Security

~~Substitute Training~~

Conflict of Interest (MA)

Personal Days

DCTA and MNA

Consecutive Use/Holiday

DCPA and Wage and Benefits

Principals

Thank you – Sorry!!!!!!



Tackle the Stigma 5K

Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at SHRHS

Registration is \$35.

**“Running toward awareness. Standing up for support.
Tackling the stigma, one mile at a time.”**

Capital Plan Phase 2

<https://www.dcrsd.org/about-dcrsd/budget-and-finance/capital-planning>

- September 2 at 6:30 p.m. at SHRHS
- September 3 at 6:30 p.m. at CMS
- September 29 – vote noon-8:00 PM

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A BRIEF WORD ABOUT THE COPIERS

The copier can smell fear.





STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Natalie Brayton

“SOS”

9TH GRADE



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Nobody Panic. It's Just AI.

Sometimes you have to go where the horse is pointing!

Ted Lasso Season 4

When artificial intelligence tools are permitted, required, limited, or prohibited as part of a course or assignment, those expectations should be clearly communicated to students



STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Kai Dumont

“Ghost Garden”

12TH GRADE



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Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

Highlights from DESE's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the Implementation of Regulatory Amendments to 603 CMR 46.00 and 604 CMR 18.00 (Time Out and Seclusion)

August 31, 2026



Time Out vs. Seclusion

Time Out		Seclusion	
 Student temporarily separates from the learning activity or classroom by choice or direction from staff		Involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area	
 Continuously observed by staff		With or without adult supervision	
 Permitted to leave		Not permitted to leave	
 Ceases as soon as student is calm		Prohibited except when safeguards are met	

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What is seclusion?

Seclusion is defined as “**the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area with or without adult supervision.**”

Clarification from DESE

01



The student is alone in a room or area.
with **no adult present**, and

02



The student is **not permitted to leave.**

What constitutes “not permitted to leave”?



“Not permitted to leave” means a student is **directed, verbally or physically, or otherwise prevented** from leaving a room or area.

01

General Rule: A student is not considered secluded solely because they are subject to the same movement restrictions that apply to all students in that setting.

02



Permissible Expectations:

-  Remaining in class during instruction
-  Asking permission to use the restroom
-  Expecting students to stay in the building



What constitutes being alone in a room or area?

*“Alone” means a student is considered alone when **no adult is physically present in the room or area with the student.***

Clarification & Standards

01

Indirect Supervision:

Observation through a window, camera, doorway, or other means **does not** constitute an adult being present.

02

Presence of an Adult:

If an adult is physically present in the room or area, the interaction is **not considered seclusion.**





Does blocking a doorway automatically constitute seclusion?

*DESE's Answer: It depends on the unique facts and circumstances. Seclusion depends on whether a student is **alone in a room or area** with no adult present, and **not permitted to leave**.*

Clarification & Examples

01

Engaging Presence:



An adult standing in an open doorway while engaging with the student is **not seclusion**.

02

Functional Blockade:

An adult using an item to block the door so the student is functionally alone **could be seclusion** when the student is not permitted to leave.

If a student is removed from the classroom to a different room or area and not permitted to leave, but is with an adult, is that considered seclusion? IS it considered time out?



*NO. This is **not seclusion** because the student is not alone, and **not a time out** because time out requires that the student be permitted to leave. There are a range of interventions that schools and districts use to manage student behavior. Schools must use care when implementing disciplinary measures or removals that significantly interfere with a student's instruction and participation in school activities.*

Clarification & Scenarios

01

Classroom Cleared:

If a classroom is cleared but an adult remains in the room with the student, it is **not seclusion or time out**. This is an active behavior management intervention.

02

Prevented from Exiting:

If a student tries to exit the classroom or building but an adult is present and prevents them from leaving, it is **not seclusion or time out**.



Are sensory rooms, calm rooms, and classroom calming areas permissible under the regulations?



YES, with critical exceptions.

*These areas are permissible. However, it is **considered seclusion** if a student is **alone in the room** and is **not permitted to leave**.*

Key Standards & Compliance

01

Permissible Use

When used as **voluntary calming spaces** where students are free to enter and exit, or remain supported by staff.



02

Seclusion

If a student is left **alone in the room** and is physically or functionally **prevented from leaving**, then this would be emergency seclusion.

What is required for schools, districts, and programs by August 17, 2026?



Implementation Deadline

August 17, 2026



Schools, districts, and programs are required to **fully implement** the revised regulations.

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DESE Resources: Time Out & Seclusion Regulations



[Time-Out Practices: Guidance on the Implementation of Regulatory Amendments to 603 CMR 46.00 and 603 CMR 18.00](#)



[Special Education Policy Memo SY2025-2026-9](#)



[Use of Seclusion: Frquently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) on the Implementation of Regulatory Amendments to 603 CMR 46.00 and 603 CMR 18.00](#)

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STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Colden Blackwell

“Wagon Wheel”

12TH GRADE



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Jimmy Cash Comedy

<https://www.jimmycashcomedy.com/>



[ABOUT JIMMY](#) [SCHEDULE](#) [SOCIAL MEDIA](#) [CONTACT JIMMY](#)



About Jimmy

Jimmy draws from his experience as a father of a teenage daughter, an uncertain amount of stepchildren, sobriety and 18 years as a public school janitor. Cash can be seen performing stand up at night as way to stay grounded. He has worked with some of the biggest acts in comedy and currently opens for comedian Bob Marley.

He is the recent winner of Last Comix Standing 2021, held at Mohegan Sun.

Make sure to follow him on social media.



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**Nobody Panic.
It's Just September.
Here's to a good year.**



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