

**2010 -- H 7432**

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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010**

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**H O U S E   R E S O L U T I O N**

**CONGRATULATING AND HONORING THE ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, STAFF,  
AND STUDENTS OF NORTH SMITHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Introduced By: Representative Brian C. Newberry

Date Introduced: February 09, 2010

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, "The future," in the wise words of Eleanor Roosevelt, "belongs to those who  
2 believe in the beauty of their dreams." It was first a dream, but it soon became the mission of the  
3 School Department of the Town of North Smithfield to develop an approach that would inspire  
4 middle school students to find the very best in themselves and to make the most of that discovery;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, North Smithfield Middle School's leaders and teachers decided that being  
7 "run of the mill" was not where their students deserved to be; and

8           WHEREAS, The changes began in earnest with the opening of the brand new North  
9 Smithfield Middle School in the fall of 2008. The school is comprised of grades 6 through 8 and  
10 in 2008 had an enrollment of 456 students; and

11           WHEREAS, "High expectations" became much more than a catch phrase. It became the  
12 life force behind every action at North Smithfield Middle School and ignited a spark that has now  
13 shone a spotlight on the incredible success that the elevated philosophy produced; and

14           WHEREAS, In one year's time, the school's test scores soared 20 percentage points in  
15 reading, the largest improvement in the state, and more than 9 percentage points in math, placing  
16 the school in the top quarter of Rhode Island's middle schools in that subject; and

17           WHEREAS, Led by Principal John Lahar, Assistant-Principal Clare Arnold, and backed  
18 wholeheartedly by a staff of forty dedicated teachers, the students at North Smithfield Middle  
19 School, who were challenged by rigorous academic challenges on every level and in every

1 course, made strides and accomplished goals that by all standards are truly remarkable; now,  
2 therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
4 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes and congratulates the students, teachers, support staff,  
5 and administrators of North Smithfield Middle School who achieved successes that very few  
6 people would have even dared to imagine as they demonstrated what “high expectations” can  
7 achieve. We furthermore wish them continued success in reshaping the educational experience  
8 for Rhode Island’s young people; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to  
10 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Principal John Lahar, North Smithfield Middle  
11 School.

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