

# Student Spotlight

Morgan Mabray, North Kingstown High School '25



Back to School 2024

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## Student Spotlight

# Balancing Goals

As a standout field hockey player for North Kingstown High School (NKHS), Morgan Mabray has demonstrated remarkable talent and dedication. This summer, she's taking her drive to the next level by interning at DeSisto Law in Providence, where she's gaining invaluable real-world experience in the legal field. Not one to shy away from a challenge, Mabray is also stepping out of her comfort zone academically, taking all of her senior year classes at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) this fall. Her willingness



Morgan during a college tour. *Courtesy: Morgan Mabray*

to embrace new opportunities and push her limits sets her apart as a truly inspiring student-athlete.

"I've known for so long that I want to go into law," said Morgan. "I want to be a family lawyer. I'm gaining such good experience and I'm learning so much."



Morgan participates in field hockey year-round. *Courtesy: Morgan Mabray*

Morgan's internship at DeSisto Law is more than just a summer job; it's a hands-on educational experience that bridges the gap between academics and the professional world. By sitting in on depositions and attending court sessions with seasoned attorneys, she gains firsthand insight into the legal processes and courtroom dynamics. This exposure not only enhances her understanding of the law but also sharpens her analytical and critical thinking skills, which are invaluable for her academic pursuits at CCRI. The real-world experience she's acquiring complements her classroom learning, providing a practical foundation that will serve her well in both her studies and future career aspirations.

"Law is a ton of reading and writing,"

said Morgan. “Sometimes I’ll read a deposition transcript and it’s 150 pages long, and I have to train my mind to stay focused. I learn good reading comprehension. I’ve been exercising my brain. I can sit down and read a book for English and retain everything I was reading. That will be super helpful in college.”

This fall, Morgan will participate in CCRI's Running Start dual enrollment program, which allows eligible Rhode Island high school seniors to take a full-time (12 or more credits) course load for the fall and spring semesters and earn college credit. While she will be taking classes on the CCRI campus, Morgan will remain active in the NKHS community. Through this program, she will continue to engage in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, pep rallies, and honor societies. This unique arrangement enables her to experience the best of both worlds: the rigorous academic environment of college-level courses and the vibrant, supportive atmosphere of her high school.

“Some of my friends did it last year and shared what a great opportunity it was and how much they learned and how prepared they felt going into college,” said Morgan. “The fact that I’m getting a full year of college credits for free is insane and amazing. [My parents] were head over heels. When they found out it was something feasible for us, they were so happy.”

Morgan’s parents are incredibly proud of her for participating in the program,

recognizing the dedication and hard work she has put into her academic journey to reach this milestone.

“I thought it was a fabulous opportunity and it showed how hard she worked in all the years previous to get to this place,” said her mother, Lisa Martinelli. “We just did a few tours and I’m shellshocked on how expensive university and college education really is. Just to get some of the foundation classes covered and under her belt is astonishing.”

North Kingstown Superintendent Dr. Ken Duva says Morgan’s plans for her senior year exemplify the school’s commitment to fostering excellence in learning.

“Morgan's achievements and proactive approach to her education are a testament to the opportunities that North Kingstown High School strives to provide for all its students,” said Dr. Duva. “Her dedication and hard work



Morgan speaks at the #AttendanceMattersRI news conference with Governor Dan McKee, Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green, and Representative Joseph McNamara looking on. *Courtesy: Governor's Office*

serve as an inspiration to her peers and highlight the value of dual enrollment programs in preparing Rhode Island students for future success."

Early college opportunities allow high school students in Rhode Island to explore new fields of study and prepare themselves for the rigors of college or career. Research by the Regional Education Laboratory Northwest and Islands suggests that Rhode Island students who participate in early college courses, also known as accelerated college credit programs, are significantly more likely than similar students to graduate high school, enroll in college, and avoid remedial classes at the college level.



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- MORGAN MABRAY, NKHS ‘25

Rhode Island’s Readiness-Based Graduation Requirements, which go into effect with the upcoming freshmen class, promote dual enrollment opportunities and schedule flexibility for students pursuing work-based learning.

While Morgan is excited for the fall and all the new experiences it will bring,

she knows that prioritizing her attendance is essential to her success. Balancing college courses at CCRI, competitive field hockey and track demands, and her involvement in NKHS activities will require her to be present and engaged consistently.

“I really need to try to be at every lecture because it’s all my responsibility,” said Morgan. “If you’re not there, that’s your fault. It’s really my responsibility to be there when I can be, every time that I can be. It’s that much more pressure, more emphasis on my attendance.”

Morgan shared her commitment to being present at the Rhode Island State House event this August to kick

off the #AttendanceMattersRI campaign for the 2024-2025 school year and announce notable strides in reducing chronic absenteeism statewide. Morgan shared she will make the most of every opportunity by ensuring she attends all her classes and commitments regularly.

“Same with work, I lifeguard at North Kingstown Town Beach and attendance



there is important, too. If a guard is missing, obviously that's not good," she said.

As Morgan prepares for an exciting fall filled with new challenges and opportunities, she will first wrap up her summer with a meaningful mission trip to Honduras with her church community. This trip will provide her with a chance to give back to the community and gain a broader perspective on the world, adding another layer of depth to her already impressive list of experiences.

"We're going there to build a community

resource center for underprivileged kids," said Morgan. "I'm so excited to go there and be a part of that."

***Learn more about the Running Start Dual Enrollment program and other early college opportunities on the RIDE website. For attendance resources, visit [www.attendancemattersRI.org](http://www.attendancemattersRI.org)***



Morgan and her family at a National Honor Society ceremony. *Courtesy: Morgan Mabray*



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