



CASD Responds To Covid-19 Outbreak

The Charleroi Area School District, along with all other schools in the state, are dealing with the challenge of providing a continuation of quality education for its students while following state mandated guidelines that closed all buildings for the remainder of the school year. Beginning in March, districts were notified first that they would be closed for several weeks, then for the rest of this school calendar year. School district officials devised a Continuity of Education plan that allows for the possibility of a long term closure with a goal to provide guidance and support to continue providing educational learning opportunities for students, based on feasibility and availability of resources. This allows the district to continue to maintain the mission of inspiring all students to achieve their greatest potential during this difficult time. Utilizing Google Classroom, teachers can create and follow lesson plans that follow their curriculum and interact with students to make sure they are understanding the material. In order to do that, the district first had to identify the technology needs for the household of each enrolled student. With that in mind, parents were asked to complete a survey regarding technology access for their children at home. School officials then had the challenge of providing Chromebooks for those students that had no viable way to access online learning. A system was devised to loan the computers, and dates and locations were scheduled for pick-up.

This uncovered a new need for our schools – the availability of Chromebooks.

Through the Education Foundation's one-to-one Chromebook campaign two years ago, the Middle School had enough for each student. The district was able to secure a grant to buy additional units for the High School. Moving forward, the Foundation hopes to aide the school in its effort to purchase Chromebooks for the Elementary Center.

Classroom learning was not the only challenge the district faced. There was also the concern of nutrition for students that rely on the school lunch program for meals. In an effort to provide support for students and their families, free breakfast and lunches are being provided at several locations twice a week, with multiple "Grab and Go" meals in each parcel. Additionally, the Harvest Bounty Program continues to provide their weekend bags.

During the district closure, all activities have been suspended and all district facilities, including athletic facilities, are unavailable for use until further notice. As always, the main concern is for the health, welfare, and safety of our students and their families. The Charleroi Area School District, Superintendent Dr. Ed Zelich, the Board of Directors, teachers, and staff should all be commended for their rapid response to the pandemic and their dedication to providing the best education available throughout this unprecedented time.

HOW TO CONTACT US:

By Mail: CASDEF, Post Office Box 382, Charleroi, Pa. 15022

By E-Mail: charleroieducationfoundation@outlook.com

Visit Our Website @ www.charleroisd.org

CHAMPIONS FOR COUGARS

"Compassion Is Contagious!"

Contributed by Amy Nelson, CAHS Asst. Principal

On Wednesday, April 15, 2020, a Charleroi parent, Michele Vidnjvich Zitz, approached Superintendent Dr. Ed Zelich with a donation from her boss, a local businessman who would like to remain anonymous. He donated money to be used for gift cards to help our Cougar families who are struggling at this time. Administrators, working with our school counselors, were able to identify a large number of families who need help. The donation would help some of the families, but not all. Then something incredible happened. High school counselor, Gina Cotton, wanting to donate, reached out to faculty members, who immediately responded with donations of their own. The local teachers' union also joined with a generous donation. While teachers are working remotely, they are very concerned with the needs of their students and could not wait to lend a hand. As the counselors were working on donations from the teachers, Mrs. Zitz again called the school. The employees and friends of hers and the original donor were so inspired by their boss's generosity that they, too, wanted to help. The original \$800 donation had ballooned to \$3,100 in just a few short hours! This quadrupled the number of families who could be assisted.

As soon as the CASD Education Foundation was made aware of this need, the Board of Directors voted to provide direct financial assistance, and to also raise funds through their Facebook page. Donations to this program will provide a gift card to the local Aldi in the amount of \$100 to our Charleroi families who are struggling. With the card, they will be able to purchase food and household items. In this time of uncertainty, it is inspiring to know that people are there to help one another. One little act of kindness can inspire others to do the same. Those who donated are true champions for our Cougars and the perfect example that compassion is contagious!

If you are interested in donating or want to help in another way, please e-mail Amy Nelson, the district's coordinator for the program, at anelson@charleroisd.org. You can also make a direct donation by clicking the donate button at:

CharleroiAreaSDEducationFoundation on our Facebook page, or by check to the district or the Foundation, made payable to the CASDEF, marking "Champions for Cougars" in the memo line to either: Charleroi Area School District or CASDEF % Champions for Cougars 125 Fecsen Drive, P.O. Box 382, Charleroi, PA 15022

You can be a Champion for our Cougars!

HARVEST BOUNTY GRANT



Harvest Bounty Program Receives NAP Grant

A little good news! Governor Tom Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development notified the Charleroi Area School District Education Foundation and the Charleroi Area School District that the district's Harvest's Bounty program will receive \$30,000 from the state's Neighborhood Assistance Program. The funds are provided by our friends at UPMC Health Plan in exchange for state tax credits. The NAP provides critical dollars to non-profit organizations. The amazing teachers at Charleroi will use the money to provide meals to food-insecure children in our district. In these uncertain times, that's more important than ever . . .

Facilitated by Johnna Pro, Southwest Regional Director for the PA Department of Community & Economic Development and graduate of the Charleroi Class of '82, Johnna was instrumental in securing the grant for Charleroi. *"I was honored to play a role in making this happen, and so inspired by my teacher friends at CAHS who created this wonderful program,"* said Ms. Pro. *"DCED Secretary Dennis Davin and our Southwest Deputy Director Ali Doyle share my passion for food security projects because they are an integral part of our community development mission. I'm grateful to them, to Governor Wolf, and to UPMC Health Plan for supporting the terrific work being done at my alma mater. It's been 38 years, and I'm still proud to be a Charleroi Cougar!"* The support from UPMC Health Plan was approved by Scott Lammie, Senior Vice President of Business Development and Board Treasurer UPMC Insurance Services Division, and Dana Scarpino, Manager of Community Relations. The Harvest Bounty Team, pictured above, have continued to supply meals for needy students throughout the pandemic, coming to the school to pack and distribute larger bags to cover more days on a bi-weekly basis. *"We can't let our kids go hungry,"* says Kathy Franks, a CAEC teacher and Harvest Bounty Team leader. *"We miss our students and want to make sure that they are at least getting the food in their bags to help them through this difficult period. It's hard not being able to see them in person and know they are doing well, so we'll just continue to do what we can. We are thrilled to receive this awesome grant and can't thank Governor Wolf, UPMC, and Johnna Pro enough."*

LAST CALL TO ORDER YOUR BRICK FOR 2020 INSTALLATION

Also a great way to honor a graduating senior!



BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

YOUR PURCHASE OF A BRICK HELPS PROVIDE CLASSROOM PROGRAMS, MATERIALS, NEW TECHNOLOGY
AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS OF THE CHARLEROI AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

BRICKS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING SIZES:

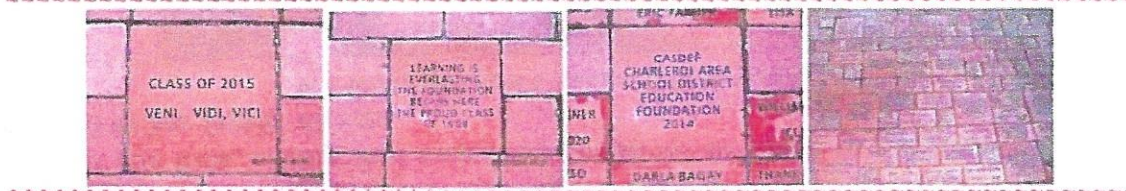
4 X 8 BRICK - 15 CHARACTERS PER LINE - 4 LINE MAXIMUM

8 X 8 BRICK - 15 CHARACTERS PER LINE - 6 LINE MAXIMUM

EACH SPACE OR SYMBOL SUCH AS A COMMA, HYPHEN, PERIOD, ETC. IS CONSIDERED A CHARACTER.

ALL TEXT WILL BE CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED.

ALL BRICKS ARE RED WITH BLACK CHARACTER ENGRAVING



YES, I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A PERMANENT BRICK ENGRAVED AS FOLLOWS:

4 x 8

BRICK

PRICE

\$64.00

8 x 8

BRICK

PRICE

\$96.00

SAMPLE

BRICK

G	O			N	E	W	T	O	N			H	I	G	H	I	
S	T	A	T	E			C	H	A	M	P	I	O	N	S		
		2	0	0	2		-			2	0	0	3				

SAMPLE

BRICK

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ AMOUNT PAID: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAIL THIS ENTIRE FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE CASDEF TO:

CASDEF - POST OFFICE BOX 382 - CHARLEROI, PA. 15022

VISIT OUR WEBSITE@www.charleroieducationfoundation@outlook.com

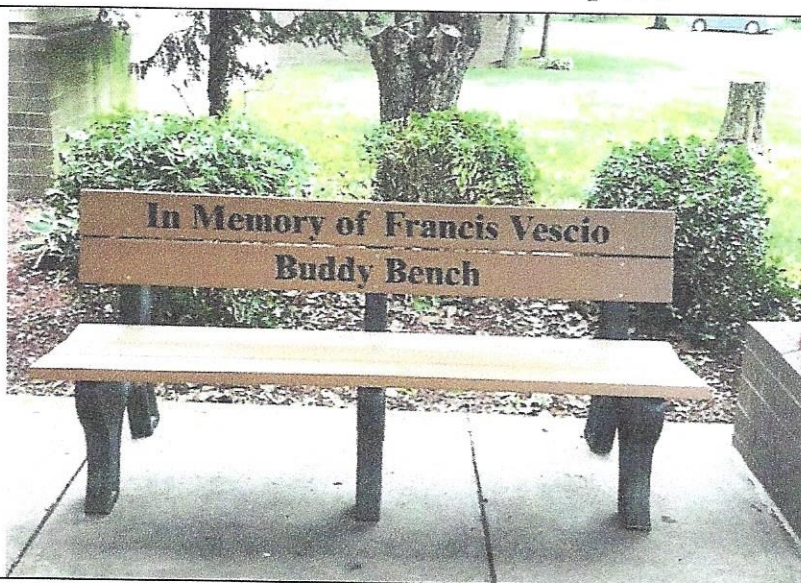
THE CASDEF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CENSOR BRICK MESSAGES DEEMED INAPPROPRIATE



REMEMBERING A FRIEND

The Charleroi Area School District and CASDEF lost a true friend with the passing of our Vice President, Carol Claybaugh. Carol was passionate about the district, especially the music and band programs, and worked diligently to raise money to support our students. It was Carol that came up with the idea for our annual Blast from the Past show, a huge success in both raising money and providing great entertainment right here in the valley. Her expertise and connections in the entertainment industry helped to bring it to fruition, and it remains our top fundraiser. Even in her death, Carol thought of the district and our kids, asking that memorial donations be made to CASDEF. The funds will be used as her family directs.

We will miss you Carol – rest in peace.



Memorial Donations Make a Difference

The family of Mr. Francis Vescio, former principal at the CASD Elementary Center, designated donations made in his memory to CASDEF to be used for the purchase of a Buddy Bench. The bench is a place set aside as a safe, friendly place to work out issues such as bullying or conflicts between students. It is located in front of the CAEC entrance.

NOW MORE THAN EVER

The CASDEF Needs Your Help Now More Than Ever!

The pandemic has forced the cancellation of all three of our major fundraising events, including the Blast from the Past and the Night at the Capital Grille. The funds raised at these events provide the basis for our ability to fund grants that our teachers request for their classrooms. Additionally, we continue to try and raise money for The Milo Project, our special education robot, which at this time is only 50% funded. The district has also asked that we commit to

helping to provide Chromebooks for our Elementary Center so that, in the event of a repeat of this type of crisis, they are equipped to provide the technology needed to allow for distance learning at full capacity.

If you are in a position to provide assistance for our kids, we hope you will consider doing so. No donation is too small - every dollar counts!

Our Cougar alumni have always come through for the Charleroi Area schools and our kids, and we need you again -

NOW MORE THAN EVER!

HOW YOU CAN HELP



*Be A Part of Education
in the
Charleroi Area School District*

DONATION FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

DONATION DESIGNATION

[Check Appropriate Blank]

____ EDUCATION [ALL DEPARTMENTS]

____ SPECIFIC DEPARTMENT: _____

____ GENERAL CLASSROOM USE

____ SCHOLARSHIPS

____ ATHLETICS [ALL SPORTS]

____ SPECIFIC SPORT: _____

____ FINE ARTS [ALL]

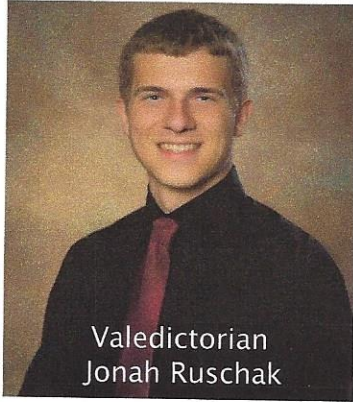
____ ART _____ DRAMA _____ MUSIC

____ IN HONOR OF: _____

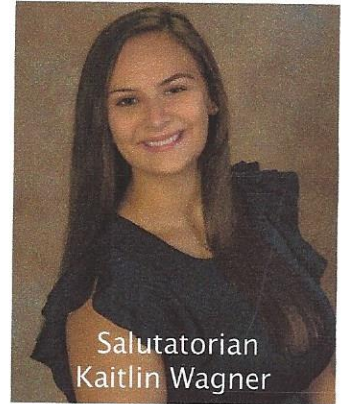
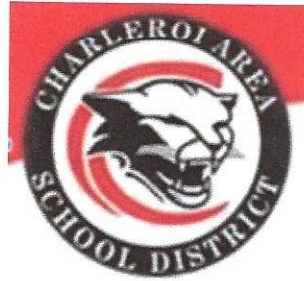
____ IN MEMORY OF _____

Remember: The CASDEF is a 501 [c] 3 Entity. So, Your Contributions are Tax Deductible.

SENIOR HIGHS & LOWS



Valedictorian
Jonah Ruschak



Salutatorian
Kaitlin Wagner

"Typically, there is no greater time in the life of a high school senior than the months of April and May. The bulk of the school year is over and the majority of rigorous coursework complete. Attention can now turn to the events we have been waiting our entire high school career to have. However, the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic brought our senior festivities to a screeching halt. Although, nothing has been outright cancelled, we seniors wait with baited breath to hear if or when we will have a prom, senior sports awards, salute to scholars' banquet, baccalaureate, senior Kennywood day, or senior tea and BBQ. While our education has continued, albeit in a different format, we miss our teachers, friends, and school. We will not get the chance to say good-bye, to walk the halls one last time, to thank teachers that have helped and guided us the last 4 years. We will persevere and be stronger for having gone through these challenging times, but we, the CAHS graduating class of 2020, will never be the same."

Kaitlin Wagner, Salutatorian, CAHS Class of 2020
