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CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL DISTRICT QUARTERLY
"WHERE EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IS A TRADITION"

THE CR REPORT

SPRING 2017



Teachers Teaching Teachers

Inside the T³ Expo!

Caesar Rodney School District, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, DE 19934

Message From the Superintendent

With weather more like spring, to say this has been a unique winter would be an understatement! This has truly been a remarkable winter for the Caesar Rodney School District.

Let me start off by saying how proud I am of Caesar Rodney High School students Julie Dumont, Aiden Wilson. These two seniors, both members of our ROTC program, were directly responsible for saving the life of a stranger they found on the side of the road. As a result of their heroic behavior, they were both awarded the ROTC's silver medal of valor. Then there's Zoe Scott, a CRHS sophomore, who



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

overcame a debilitating illness to help lead the girls basketball team to a 19-1 record and Henlopen Conference Championship. Zoe was recognized by the Delaware Sport Writers and Broadcasters with the Buddy Hurlock Unsung Hero award. Kudos to the members

of Allen Frear Elementary School's Girls on the Run for raising \$2,475 for fellow classmate Chloe Sharp, who is battling cancer and to the entire student body of Fred Fifer Middle School for the way in which they paid tribute to a fallen American hero, SSG John Perry. All of these students just make you feel proud and hopeful for the future.

Congratulations to the students and staff of both Nellie Hughes Stokes and W. Reily Brown Elementary Schools. Both schools were named 2017 Delaware Rewards and Recognition Schools. This was Stokes fourth such recognition, while Brown was a first time winner! Another award winner was Posthlewait Middle School's Sherri Bole, who was named Delaware's 2017 Geography Teacher of the Year!

Speaking of teachers, the Curriculum and Instruction Division once again put together a fantastic Teachers Teaching Teacher's Expo! This was an opportunity for teachers to highlight and share instructional strategies and new ways of using technology in the classroom. At the Expo, I shared what an educational leader in the state said "When Caesar Rodney leads others follow." When I look at the great work taking place throughout our district and the amazing things that our students are accomplishing whether in our classrooms, on our athletic fields or in our community it's impossible to feel anything but Rider Pride!

ON THE COVER...Most of the 110 presenters who spent their In-Service Day teaching teachers on January 27th during the 2nd annual T3 Expo (see pages 10-11)

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community. For questions or comments, please contact Community Relations Specialist Dave Chambers at:
david.chambers@cr.k12.de.us

What's Happening?

Board of Education Meetings

March 21 - CRHS 7pm
April 11 - Fifer Middle 7pm
May 16 - Postlethwait Middle 7pm



Special Events:

March 9, 10 & 11 - "Oklahoma!" @ CRHS 7pm
March 20 - CR Idol 7pm
April 13 - Elementary Chorus Festival @ CRHS 1pm
May 15 - CRHS Honor Cord Ceremony
May 20 - Charlton School Graduation
June 3 - CRHS Graduation

School Closings:

April 14 to April 21 - Spring Break
May 29 - Memorial Day
June 9 - Student Last Day



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Visit Twitter and FOLLOW "CaesarRodneyRiders" for all the latest information on ALL our schools!

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Visit Instagram and FOLLOW "CaesarRodneyRiders" for all the latest cool photos from ALL our schools!



Brown and Stokes Elementary Schools Named as 2016 Delaware Dept. of Ed. Recognition Schools

Brown and Stokes Elementary Schools were both honored January 11th during the Delaware Department of Education 2016 Reward and Recognition Schools Celebration held at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Dover.

Secretary of Education Steven Godowsky honored both Brown and Stokes as “Recognition Schools”. The awards, created by legislation passed by the Delaware General Assembly in 2009, formerly recognizes schools for closing the achievement gap and/or showing exceptional growth on state tests for two or more consecutive years.

“The source of W. Reily Brown’s pride is the beautiful children we are blessed to have enter our doors every day. The recognition of our children’s efforts, the staff’s dedication to improving their practice, and the community’s support is richly deserved. The foundation of our children’s’ success is the knowledge that they are loved, heard, respected, supported, and treasured.” said Principal Dr. Susan Frampton

“It is such an honor for Nellie Stokes Elementary to be named a 2016 Recognition School. Our success here at Stokes is based on a team effort and years of tweaking and revising what’s already been working for our students. While it isn’t just one magic thing that makes us so successful, our Early Bird and Title 1 programs have been instrumental in raising the academic achievement of our students.” remarked Principal Nicole Jones

The Caesar Rodney School District is very proud of the students and staff at both schools.



Principals Susan Frampton and Nicole Jones on stage at Booker T. Washington Elementary with former Delaware Secretary of Education Dr. Steven Godowsky and Delaware Associate Secretary of Education Dr. Amelia Hodges

RIDER EXCELLENCE!



Witty Knitter Bus Driver Parton Earns Spirit of CR Award

The highest honor that a Rider can receive is the “**Spirit Of Caesar Rodney Award**”. The award is given to outstanding community volunteers who have had a positive impact on an individual student, a classroom, a school or the entire school district; staff members who go above and beyond to make the Caesar Rodney School District a special place or students who exhibit the qualities that made Caesar Rodney a great Delawarean.

In January, the award was presented to Caesar Rodney School District bus driver Jacqueline “Jackie” Parton during the CRSD Board of Education meeting at McIlvaine.



CR bus driver Jacqueline Parton with the CRSD Board of Education and Supervisor of Transportation Jason Bonner, far right

Ms. Parton crocheted blue and gold winter hats for all of her W. B. Simpson Elementary School passengers and gave them out on December 15th as holiday gifts on one of the coldest days of the year.

“While CR has many wonderful and caring drivers, none are as dedicated as Jackie. Jackie exemplifies what it means to put others first, and that is truly what the Spirit of CR award is all about.”

- CRSD Supervisor of Transportation Jason Bonner

Starting in the summer, Ms. Parton crocheted 58 hats in total and gave 43 to her little ‘Riders’. The kind gesture by Ms. Parton, who has been driving a bus for the district for four years, generated an overwhelmingly positive response on social media and throughout the community. Her heart-warming generosity and kindness is a perfect example of Rider excellence.



DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS THE SPIRIT OF CR?

Nominations are collected year-round for members of the Rider Community.

Applications can be found at cr.k12.org. Completed applications can be forwarded to the Caesar Rodney District Office, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, Delaware, 19934, Attention: Lisa Rudolph.

Fifer Middle Students Salute Fallen Soldier and Family



Approximately 800 Fred Fifer III Middle School students volunteered to stand along Camden-Wyoming Avenue the morning of December 13th at 11:10am to salute the remains of SSG John Perry and his funeral procession from Dover Air Force Base to Arlington Cemetery in Washington D.C. as it made its way past their school.

Fifer Principal Brian Smith was contacted by Team RWB. Their mission is to “enrich the lives of America's veterans by connecting them to their community through physical and social activity”. They notified him of the procession and asked if his students would be interested in paying tribute to the family. The students proudly accepted the honor.



“It made me feel happy that people still do respect America and respect the people who have fought for us.” - Fifer Middle School 6th grader Jaxon Kopp



SSG Perry was killed in action on November 12th by an improvised explosive device at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. SSG John Perry was participating in a Veterans Day Fun Run at the base when a Taliban suicide bomber, dressed as laborer, had detonated himself.

SSG Perry's family was literally booed off of an airplane while en route to meet their son's remains at Dover AFB and the story made national news. While landing in Arizona, the pilot asked everyone to remain seated while a special military family de-boarded. The family was booed by multiple passengers.

The students at Fifer Middle would not stand for such treatment of an American hero's family and wanted to pay their respects. Fifer 6th grader Jaxon Kopp wore his Boy Scouts of America uniform and stood along the route saluting the entire time.

“I know that soldiers have died for me and my freedom and I wanted to respect that.” said Kopp to WMDT-47 News that day.



Star Hill Students Make Friends With New “Buddy Bench”

Star Hill Elementary School’s playground has a new symbol on it. A symbol of friendship and kindness - The Buddy Bench.

If a Star Hill student doesn’t have a friend to play with, they can go sit on the Buddy Bench and someone will come and ask if they want to play with them.

The Buddy Bench is the result of an idea of the Star Hill PTO. Last summer, Star Hill Elementary School PTO President Shannon Hardee was inspired to bring the bench to Caesar Rodney School District by a Facebook video she saw of a similar bench.

“We saw it and just started texting one another about it and decided to do it for the school.” she said to the Delaware State News during a recent interview regarding the bench. “It’s a great way to get the kids thinking about spreading their generosity.”

The Star Hill PTO received several donations to make the project possible. Lowe’s donated the wood, Sherwin-Williams donated the paint and a friend of one PTO member built the bench.

Star Hill Elementary School Principal Nicole Kurz-McDowell said the 500 students at her school are just about the kindest and most thoughtful she’s ever worked with.

“This is the fifth school I’ve worked at, and these kids are by far the nicest. When I first got here, I was blown away because when I’d ask them how their day was going, they’d ask me how mine was going, too...that’s surprising from an 8-year-old.” she explained to the Delaware State News.

“Even though the playground is large and hosts about 100 students at a time, no one ends up sitting on the bench long.” said Ms. Kurz-McDowell.



Students painted the bench with their fingerprints

Super Cool School!



Principal Nicole Kurz-McDowell and Assistant Principal Jean Allen with students at the bench

Special thanks to Delaware State News reporter Ian Gronau for use of excerpts from his January 24th article...it was a great story, Ian! Thanks!

U.S. Senator Carper Visits McIlvaine and Frear Immersion Classes



U.S. Senator Thomas R. Carper (D-Del) visited both McIlvaine Early Childhood Center and Allen Frear Elementary School to tour Caesar Rodney School District's fine language immersion program Friday, December 16th.

First stop was McIlvaine ECC where Senator Carper met with kindergarten students learning Chinese. He was amazed at the level of language proficiency the five-and-six year old kindergarten students are currently at.

Next up was Allen Frear Elementary where he visited third and fourth grade classrooms learning the same language but at a much advanced level. Thank you Sen. Carper for visiting our schools and taking an interest in our language immersion program.



Mr. Shanehsaz Goes To Washington

On February 1st, U.S. Senators Tom Carper and Chris Coons (D-Del) named two Delaware students as delegates to the 55th Annual U.S. Senate Youth Program that was held March 4 to 11 in Washington, D.C....and one of them was from CR High!

Cyrus Shanehsaz (along with Bobby Badiey of Newark Charter HS) was chosen from across the state to be part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program's 55th Annual Washington Week.



Cyrus serves as the president of the CRHS National Honor Society. Cyrus' other achievements include holding the offices of president, vice president, and now treasurer, of his high school Class of 2017. He is a member of the speech and debate team, newspaper staff, varsity tennis, jazz band, and Spanish club and served as an active participant in State Senator Bethany Hall-Long's campaign for lieutenant governor. Cyrus also participated in the Delaware congressional youth conference and Delaware Governor's School for Excellence. Congrats, Cyrus!



PMS Musicians Make All-State Band & Orchestra

In January, Postlethwait Middle School 7th grader Darin Jawahar, top right, auditioned for the DMEA All-State Orchestra and not only did he get in, but he placed in the first section of violinists.

It is believed that Darin is the first PMS student to make All-State Orchestra. Congrats, Darin!

Five CRHS students also made the cut for the DMEA All-State Orchestra. Abrielle Emory is 1st flute, Marisa Marts is 2nd flute and Ella Wisniewski is 2nd flute/piccolo. Andrew Bratcher is 2nd clarinet and Grace Collins is 1st trumpet.

Five PMS students made All-State Band as well. From left, at right, 8th graders Priya Gupta and Jacob Krance; 7th grader Ashton Mazzola, and 8th graders Michael Sell and Gizelle Villanueva.

"I'm extremely proud of the hard work and dedication that each student has shown in their pursuit of the All State experience!" said PMS music teacher Mark Crossley



PMS 7th grade violinist Darin Jawahar



PMS All-State Band Members

CRHS JAFROTC Cadets Receive Silver Valor Award

CRHS AFJROTC Corps Commander Cadet Lt. Colonel Julie Dumont and Command Chief Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Aiden Wilson were awarded the "Silver Valor" Medal during a Corps' Commander's Call January 25th after school.

The Silver Valor Medal is the second-highest honor a high school or college AFJROTC cadet can earn.

They earned the medal by assisting an elderly gentleman in distress along a roadside in September 2016. (See The CR Report - Winter 2017 Issue)



Cadets Julie Dumont and Aiden Wilson with CRHS Principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski and CRHS AFJROTC instructors Col. Mitch Berger, left, and MSgt. Jay Wedel after the award ceremony

Bole Named Geography Teacher Of The Year



Sherri Bole, social studies teacher at PMS, was named Delaware Geography Teacher of the Year on January 12th by the Del. Geographic Alliance Thursday evening at the Biggs Museum in Dover.

“To be recognized by an organization that does so much to promote geographic education and awareness is a great honor and I am looking forward to attending the National Geographic Conference in Albuquerque, NM this summer!” said Ms. Bole



Geography Teacher of the Year Sherri Bole

PMS AND FMS Students Make All-State Junior Chorus

On November 26th, many talented students from all over the state auditioned to be a part of the DMEA All-State Junior Chorus.

Nineteen Postlethwait students were selected to participate. The second most in the state after Cab Calloway School Of The Arts.

At top right, front row, Sarah Janney and Daniel Griffith. Sitting, L to R, Wyatt Simmons, Maggie McCarthy, Sammie Chittakone, Chris Claycomb, Sophia Kowalchick and Michaela Tucci. Standing, L to R, Aniya Carmona, Shannon Dolt, Michael Hammond, Madison Crossley, Gabriel Triger Tracy, Emmalee Young, Clay Friend, Gabby Rivera, Meleny Diaz and Tala Kershner.

Thirteen Fifer students were also selected to participate. At right bottom, front row, L to R, Josie Marasco, Alayna Gumpman, Allette Monsanto, Olivia Fretz, Alexis Handrinos and Mickenzie Davis. Back row, L to R, Allison Crissman, Sophie Brewer, Mahlon Dyer, Heavyn Lake, Olivia Gaines, Luis Moreno and Skylar Reynolds.



PMS All-State Junior Chorus Members



FMS All-State Junior Chorus Members

Congrats to all our merry musical minstrels!



Teachers Teach

#CRT3EXPO

*Where CR
leads,
Others
follow.*

*- Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald
Superintendent*



**CAESAR
RODNEY**
T³ EXPO 2017

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE...
PLUGGED AND UNPLUGGED



On the January 27th in-service day, teachers and specialists PreK-12 met at Caesar Rodney High School to participate in the district's 2nd Annual Teachers Teaching Teachers (T³) Expo. Inside the T³ Expo, over 110 presenters could be found teaching their colleagues in 89 different breakout sessions.

“With over 5,500 student devices in our classrooms across the district, it has become an exciting and challenging time as we embrace technology as a tool to enhance student learning. Now, more than ever it is important to look at best practice around blended and personalized learning where children are given the opportunity to explore their world both plugged and unplugged. The district's T³ initiative is part of an effort to utilize the expertise of our amazing teaching staff while offering differentiated professional development to all members of the Caesar Rodney teaching community. By providing a forum to learn from one another, educators are able to share real world experiences, make learning more relevant, and do so in a way where they are able to apply what they have learned the very next day.”

- Dr. Christine Alois, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Empowering Teachers



"I think this is an excellent use of our professional development time. One of the main things I like about it is that there are a variety of different topics and I am able to make my own choices."
- ILC Coordinator, Charlton

"I loved having the options of various knowledgeable colleagues to choose from on various topics relating to education today!"
- 5th Grade Teacher, Star Hill Elementary

"The Expo idea is so innovative and provides relevant PD options for all!" - Teacher, Fifer Middle School

"I truly enjoyed this event! Learning from our peers is so powerful and it helps to be able to connect with the presenter easier if I ever have any questions." - Teacher, McIlvaine ECC

"I really enjoy and appreciate that we are able to choose the sessions that are most meaningful to our needs."
- Special Education Teacher, CRHS

"The choices were great. It was difficult to choose which one to take. They were relevant and gave us great ideas to use in the classroom." - 3rd Grade Teacher, Welch Elementary

"The expo is still one of my personal favorite school events of the year." - Teacher, Postlethwait Middle School

RIDER EXCELLENCE!



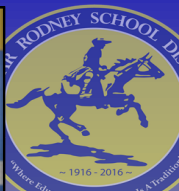
BASKETBALL

2016-17 CRHS Varsity Boys Schedule

12/02	DOVER	W	55-51
12/09	CAPE HENLOPEN	L	46-62
12/13	LAKE FOREST	W	65-36
12/15	SMYRNA	L	31-66
12/17	CONCORD	W	71-51
12/20	AI duPONT	L	44-49
01/03	SUSSEX TECH	W	73-70
01/06	SUSSEX CENTRAL	W	60-52
01/12	POLYTECH	W	68-38
01/17	DOVER	W	46-43
01/20	WOODBIDGE	W	65-62
01/21	SEAFORD	W	70-43
01/27	CAPE HENLOPEN	W	73-62
01/31	ST. MARK'S	L	55-57
02/03	SMYRNA	L	47-60
02/07	SUSSEX TECH	W	77-44
02/09	MILFORD	L	51-59
02/11	INDIAN RIVER	W	70-39
02/14	SUSSEX CENTRAL	W	62-33
02/17	POLYTECH	W	80-50



Boys Head Coach
Freeman Williams



Girls Head Coach
Bill Victory

2016-17 CRHS Varsity Girls Schedule

12/02	DOVER	W	69-40
12/06	HODGSON	W	70-61
12/09	CAPE HENLOPEN	W	67-44
12/12	ST. ELIZABETH	W	50-48
12/15	SMYRNA	W	63-29
12/20	AI duPONT	W	68-57
12/28	HODGSON	W	46-31
12/29	DAMASCUS (MD)	W	46-36
01/03	SUSSEX TECH	W	49-27
01/06	SUSSEX CENTRAL	W	57-43
01/12	POLYTECH	W	77-48
01/17	DOVER	W	73-36
01/18	LAKE FOREST	W	64-23
01/27	CAPE HENLOPEN	L	42-54
01/31	ST. MARK'S	W	80-50
02/03	SMYRNA	W	74-38
02/07	SUSSEX TECH	W	36-24
02/09	MILFORD	W	82-54
02/14	SUSSEX CENTRAL	W	50-42
02/17	POLYTECH	W	71-30

Henlopen Conference Championship			
02/24	LAUREL	W	75-38

"WE ARE A BAND OF RIDERS, SO WE
- Girls' head coach Bill Victory on his team"



Blue-Gold
Jaquan Hook
Joe Williams
Alissa Haith



"The Boys' b
season! When
things happened

ALL 2016-17



HUNT TOGETHER. RIDERS FOR LIFE.”

's 19-1 season and Henlopen Conference championship



All-Stars:
s (#10 Boys)
s (#32 Boys)
s (#21 Girls)



basketball team has developed a 'Find a Way to Get it Done' mindset during the 2016-17
we worked hard, stayed positive and put our team goals ahead of individual goals...great
d.” - Boys' head coach Freeman Williams on his team's 14-6 season.



CRHS Basketball Star Returns to Court After Tumor and Paralysis

CRHS junior Zoe Scott (#3) is back on the court! Which is a miracle considering just over a year ago she was in a bed at Nemours A.I. DuPont Hospital For Children.

She smacked her head on the court after falling in a game last season against Polytech in January 2016.

After the game, she was taken to Kent General Hospital after falling ill and vomiting. Scans indicated a tumor located in her spine. She was sent to A.I. DuPont for more tests and the tumor was removed.

The News Journal reporter Kevin Tresolini writes in his February 1st article "When she awoke from her operation, Scott had what is termed "transient" paralysis from the neck down resulting from trauma to nerves in the area. She has limited memory of those initial days and wasn't even fully aware of her limitations until she started therapy."

After a year-long struggle, with the help of family and friends, Zoe is back!

Zoe was awarded the Delaware Sportswriters & Broadcasters Association's 2017 Buddy Hurlock Unsung Hero Award on February 20th in Wilmington. The award is named in honor of The News Journal's high school sports reporter who died at the age of 40 from a brain tumor in 2012 and is given to athletes who have overcome great struggle and serious adversity.

"Her comeback makes me feel like anything is possible," teammate and classmate Brionna Brooks told Tresolini during a recent interview, "because when she was in the hospital I went and visited her and she could barely even walk and now she's on the court playing with us."

"Don't take anything for granted. At A.I., my accomplishments didn't seem as big as other people, kids going through chemotherapy and cancer."

- Zoe Scott



CRHS Junior Zoe Scott receiving the 2017 Buddy Hurlock Unsung Hero Award at the Delaware Sportswriters & Broadcasters Association's annual luncheon in February

Special thanks to The News Journal's Kevin Tresolini for use of excerpts from his February 1st article...Awesome job, Tres! Thanks!

PMS 8th Grader Is An All-American Basketball Star



Postlethwait Middle School 8th grader Jada McCullough has recently earned national recognition and has been named as a Middle School All-American for girls basketball.

She will represent Delaware (and Caesar Rodney School District) on April 2nd in Dallas, TX in a game prior to the NCAA Women's Basketball Finals.

In the five years that this award has been given nationally, Jada is the only Delaware player to earn a spot on the team.

“It's a great opportunity. It feels good to be named the first in Delaware to be selected for this event. None of this could have been accomplished without my parents, teammates, coaches and teachers.” said Jada.



8th grade basketball phenom Jada McCullough

The CRSD is very proud of Jada and her awesome accomplishment! Good luck, Jada!

CRHS Freshman Basketball Team Goes Undefeated



Head Coach Rayshaun Ward and his fab freshman pose after finishing their perfect season...an impressive 13-0!

The CRHS Freshman Boys' Basketball team refused to lose February 17th. Failure was not an option. Last game of the year. A perfect season was on the line.

Head coach Rayshaun Ward and his squad came from behind several times to stay alive in a double-OT classic eventually beating Polytech 66-65.

The team earned their perfect 13-0 season in true Rider style. Congrats on an excellent season!



Star Hill Stars Meet Delaware's Newest Political Star

Student leaders from Star Hill Elementary had the honor of leading a large crowd inside the Delaware Public Archives while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at a celebration of African American History Month in The First State on February 13th.

The Star Hill delegation included fifth graders Anne Jacob, Bowen Simmons, Eric Stewart, Mert Kayabas, Nariel Marshall, Cierra Gray, Jose Laureano-Colon, Paige Cannon and Dante Hippolyte.

Newly-elected Governor John Carney and new U.S. Congresswoman Lisa Blunt-Rochester were in attendance as the Archives unveiled an expansion of its "Delaware Votes" exhibit, chronicling the contributions of Delaware's African American elected officials including former Rep. Donald Blakey who was also in attendance.

At the ceremony, Governor Carney issued the state's annual proclamation officially naming February as African-American History Month and presented it to State Archivist Steven Marz. Congresswoman Blunt-Rochester, Delaware's first woman and first African-American elected to represent the state in Congress spoke to the crowd and offered a message of hope.

Star Hill 5th grader Nariel Marshall asked Rep. Blunt-Rochester for her autograph as she met the new Congresswoman which caused the new political star to smile and reflect on her own humble origins during her comments.

Afterwards, Gov. Carney and Rep. Blunt-Rochester took time to chat with the Star Hill stars asking them about their future academic plans and yes, she signed the autograph.



Star Hill Elementary 5th grader Nariel Marshall asks for Rep. Lisa Blunt-Rochester's autograph





Frear Elementary School holds “Coins For Chloe” Fundraiser

Sadly, Allen Frear Elementary School 3rd grader Chloe Sharp was diagnosed with cancer at the beginning of the school year.

The Frear Girls on the Run program decided to hold a “Coins for Chloe” fundraiser as part of their community outreach project to support Chloe and her family. The school raised **\$2,475!** “We want her to know her Frear family is supporting her during this difficult time.” remarked Frear Principal Julie Lavender.

The family is very appreciative of this donation as they will be traveling to Pennsylvania for Chloe’s treatment and they need money for gas, tolls, food, clothing (for Chloe due to weight loss) and to cover bills as the father is unable to work when taking Chloe for treatment. On Feb. 2nd, the Girls on the Run students presented Chloe and her family with a check in the school’s library. Get well, Chloe! Go Team Chloe!



CRHS Senior Wins Doodle4Google

CRHS senior Kiara Florez is the Delaware winner of the "Doodle4Google" contest!

With her art class in attendance all dressed in colorful Google T-shirts, her colored pencil design "World Education" was unveiled February 23rd as a 5' x 8' foot rendering which will permanently hang in the school.

U.S. Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del) was on hand to congratulate Kiara on her impressive achievement. This is the fourth straight year that Kiara has entered the contest...this year, she came up as the Delaware winner. She used her knowledge of languages and world cultures to create a very powerful piece of art. She received a T-shirt with her artwork on it and an awesome Android tablet from Google. Outstanding job, Kiara!



Kiara Florez and her award-winning Google doodle



Project SEARCH Offers Unique Opportunity For Students



From left, Eric Ballard, Brian Kelley, Amber McFadden, Jasmine Hayes, Dai'ontre Adams, Abraham Thomas and Emily Cox pose after signing their letters of intent to intern at DeIDOT

“Best of the best” “Trailblazers”

These are just two of the ways that CRSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald referred to the seven super students who have earned a remarkable opportunity to be the inaugural Project SEARCH interns during a special signing February 14th at CRHS. The students are from CRHS and John S. Charlton School.

The students signed their letters of intent to intern for DeIDOT during the 2017-18 school year at a ceremony inside the CRHS library.

Project SEARCH is a one-year high school transition program which provides training and education leading to employment for individuals with disabilities.

The students participated in the application and interview process to be an intern with Project SEARCH at DeIDOT over the past few weeks and were selected by the committee last week. The 2017-18 school year will be the first year that Caesar Rodney will have the program. One classroom will be located within the DeIDOT building and the students will be moving through three ten-week rotations for jobs that have specifically cultivated for them. They will be fully immersed within the business and supported by the various agencies with the final outcome being competitive full-time minimum wage employment within a community business and/or state agency.

Project SEARCH is open to students across Kent County aged 18 or over that are working toward a certificate of completion rather than a traditional diploma. The only other requirement is that they have the determination to be competitively employed upon exit.

The seven students included: Dai'ontre Adams, Eric Ballard, Emily Cox, Jasmine Hayes, Brian Kelley, Amber McFadden and Abraham Thomas.

***Congratulations to
these super students!***

DECA Students Take Care of Business At State Competition



Congratulations to the CRHS DECA students who won LOTS of awards at the state competition on February 1st at Dover Downs Hotel and Casino.

“The kids worked hard. DECA gives them business scenarios to respond to and they have to solve the problems using marketing skills.” said CRHS business teacher Chip Sams.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe.



These students went up against all the other high schools in the state and placed in the following categories:

Top row left to right:

Steven Platt – Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making – 1st Place
Amelia Robinson – Sports and Entertainment Marketing Individual – 2nd Place
Alison Boulerville – Community Service Project – 1st Place
Midori Morrow – Community Service Project – 1st Place
Madison Price – Marketing Communications Series – 3rd Place
Jake Hammond – Sports and Entertainment Marketing Team Decision Making – 1st Place
Melissa Popper – Retail Merchandising Individual – 2nd Place
Holly Ebert – Hospitality Services Team Decision Making – 3rd Place

Bottom row left to right:

Summer Thomas – Business Services Marketing – 3rd Place
Alexxys Harris – Apparel & Accessories Marketing – 2nd Place
Annastasia Jackson – Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making – 1st Place
Ashley Iglehart – Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making – 1st Place
Katheryn Hartley – Hotel and Lodging Management – 3rd Place
Tayla Beckles – Hospitality Services Team Decision Making – 3rd Place
Taylor Reeves – Principles of Hospitality and Tourism – 2nd Place



***Congrats to these
biz whiz kidz!***



CRHS Musicians Make All-State Band & Orchestra



Delaware All-State Senior Band:
(front, L to R) Abrielle Emory, Marisa Marts, Eryne Jenkins and Ella Wisniewskiz
(back, L to R) Jasmine Bryant, Andy Bratcher, Jason Blythe, Justin Anthony, Logan Pearson and Kaitlyn Gretencord



Delaware All-State Junior Band:
(L to R) Veronika Whiting, Morgan Stratton, Konner Metz, Elizabeth Smith, Jalen Rogers and Wesley Melvin



Delaware All-State Jazz Ensemble:
(L to R) Wesley Melvin, Andy Bratcher, Grace Collins, Jason Blythe, Justin Anthony and Logan Pearson

Congratulations to these marvelous musicians!

“At CR we are fortunate to have many student musicians who commit and dedicate themselves to individual practice and private study. This is the reason why we have many All-State caliber musicians. These students are developing skills that will serve them the rest of their lives.”

- CRHS band director Duwane Sandlin



Delaware All-State Orchestra:
(L to R) Marisa Marts, Abrielle Emory, Andy Bratcher, Ella Wisniewski, Sam Collins and Grace Collins

Two CRHS Students Selected as U.S. Presidential Scholar Candidates

The U.S. Department of Education announced candidates for the U.S. Presidential Scholar recognition award in January and kudos to CRHS seniors Johnny Bui and Madison Wahlsten who were named as two of the candidates.

Not only is Bui a candidate but he's a Candidate for U.S. Presidential Scholars in Career and Technical Education.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by executive order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Good luck to these two amazing Riders!



Madison Wahlsten and Johnny Bui

HR Director Dr. Michael Noel Appointed Assistant Superintendent



Assistant Superintendent Dr. Michael Noel in his office

Caesar Rodney School District Director of Human Resources Dr. Michael Noel has been appointed to the position of Assistant Superintendent by the CRSD Board of Education during January's board meeting at J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center.

Dr. Noel will serve as Assistant Superintendent concurrently with his duties as Director of Human Resources. The previous Assistant Superintendent Dr. Scott Lykens retired in early 2016 and the position had remained vacant since.

"Michael has come up through the ranks in Caesar Rodney as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and director. While he will continue in his role as Director of Human Resources his designation as Assistant Superintendent demonstrates the confidences that both the School Board and I place in his leadership and decision making skills." said Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent of the Caesar Rodney School District.

Dr. Noel has spent all twenty-five years of his educational career at Caesar Rodney School District, including the following: Supervisor of Instruction; Principal and Assistant Principal at F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School; Assistant Principal and Social Studies teacher at Caesar Rodney High School and Social Studies teacher at Dover Air Force Base Middle School.

Dr. Noel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in History Education from East Carolina University; a Master of Education degree from the University of Delaware and a Doctorate in Educational Innovation & Leadership from Wilmington University.

Congratulations, Dr. Noel.

"Being chosen as Caesar Rodney's Assistant Superintendent is quite an honor. I am humbled to have been appointed and excited to continue to work with the amazing group of staff, students and community of our district in this capacity."

- Dr. Michael Noel



Rodney The Elf Wreaks Havoc on CRSD During Holidays



From December 1st to December 22nd, the Caesar Rodney School District was visited by its own Elf On The Shelf - "Rodney". You know it's Rodney by his famous CR shirt.

Rodney proved himself to be a merry miniature maniac indeed by visiting all twelve of our schools. Only a few students managed to see him with their own eyes though. He could be found in the hallways and classrooms usually causing mischief and posting selfies on Facebook. At several Caesar Rodney schools he was so ornery that he broke into the principal's office and helped himself to some Christmas candy!

All mischief aside, Rodney brightened each and every day with fun holiday spirit for students, staff and parents during December and he has promised to return this year.



Rodney, the official CRSD Elf On The Shelf, had one last stop to make on December 22nd before returning to The North Pole and checking in with Santa...He had to report to Superintendent Fitzgerald



Santa Claus Visits Charlton Students For The Holidays



Santa Claus (aka Kris Kringle) of North Pole, Earth, visited the John S. Charlton School on December 20th and posed for holiday photos with some kindergarten students.

The students were overjoyed to catch a glimpse of the jolly fat man in red and were happy to meet with him and ask him for something special for the holidays.



CRSD Holds Holiday Celebration Luncheon & Performance

Caesar Rodney High School held its annual Holiday Luncheon and Performance December 15th and it was a fun, festive feast for all district employees.

Members of the CRHS Women's Vocal Jazz Ensemble performed for those in attendance along with groups Vox One and Jazz I. CRHS culinary students plated the food and FFA members served the diners in the Riders Cafe throughout the morning.



CRHS Principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski poses with mascots Caesar and Spirit at the 2016 Holiday Luncheon and Performance



