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

THE CR REPORT

AUTUMN 2017

Back to School '17

Nearly 8,000 Riders begin the school year!

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

Message From the Superintendent

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. The second year of our second century!

The 2017-18 school year brings excitement and change to the district as we continue to grow and expand our educational opportunities.

This expansion includes opportunities for all our students through our interactive distance learning program. We are also planning the expansion of our outdoor classroom facilities and the construction of the new ninth grade academy at Caesar Rodney High School!



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

It's hard to believe, but we are now into our sixth year of our Chinese Immersion program and the fourth year of our Spanish program. In preparation for expanding our immersion programs into the middle schools, this year will be spent working with our immersion partners from around the country as we plan for this transition.

Speaking of transitions, I want to congratulate the 499 students that graduated from Caesar Rodney High School last June and the ten students who completed the Charlton program. While the challenges our students face in today's world are considerable, we are proud to have provided a solid foundation upon which they can build careers and lives. I wish them the best of luck as they pursue their dreams and I wish all of you a terrific school year!

Kevin R. Fitzgerald, Ed.D.

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

Oct 24 - W. B. Simpson Elem 7pm
Nov 14 - Charlton School 7pm



Special Events:

Oct 11 - CRHS Future Freshman Night 6pm
Oct 27 - CRHS Homecoming parade 5:30pm
CRHS Homecoming football game 7:30pm
Oct 28 - CRSD Rider Pride Day
Nov 2 - End of 1st Marking Period

School Closings:

Oct 27 - Inservice Day
Nov 3 - Inservice Day
Nov 10 - Veterans Day
Nov 22-24 Thanksgiving Break



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



Caesar Rodney School District
188 Teacher/175 Student
School Calendar
2017-18



2017			Teacher Days	Student Days	Student Hours
July 31	(Mon.)	9th grade Success Academy starts			
August 3	(Thurs.)	9th grade Success Academy ends			
August 22	(Tues.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed			
August 23	(Wed.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed			
August 24	(Thurs.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed			
August 25	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed			
August 28	(Mon.)	Student First Day	8	4	26
September 1	(Fri.)	Schools Closed (12 month employee workday)			
September 4	(Mon.)	Labor Day/Schools Closed (12 month employees off)			
September 22	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed	19	18	117
October 27	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed	22	21	136.5
November 3	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed**			
November 10	(Fri.)	Schools Closed/Veteran's Day Observed (12 month employees off)			
November 20	(Mon.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton Half Day Evening Conferences			
November 21	(Tues.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton Half Day Afternoon Conferences			
November 22-24	(Wed.-Fri.)	Thanksgiving Break/Schools Closed (11/22-12 month employee workday)	18	17	104.5
December 22-31	(Fri.-Sun.)	Winter Break/Schools Closed (12/26-29-12 month employee vacation days)	15	15	97.50
2018					
January 1	(Mon.)	New Year's Day/Schools Closed (12 month employees off)			
January 2	(Tues.)	Schools Re-Open			
January 15	(Mon.)	Martin Luther King Day/Schools Closed (12 month employees off)			
January 22	(Mon.)	CRHS Semester Exams Full Day			
January 23	(Tues.)	CRHS Exams Half Day			
January 24	(Wed.)	CRHS Exams Half Day			
January 25	(Thurs.)	CRHS Exams Half Day			
January 26	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed	21	20	130
February 9	(Fri.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton Half Day Afternoon Conferences			
February 19	(Mon.)	Presidents' Day/Schools Closed (12 month employees off)			
February 26	(Mon.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed**	19	18	114
March 19	(Mon.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed			
March 30	(Fri.)	Spring Break/ Schools Closed (12 month employee off)	21	20	130
April 2-6	(Mon.-Fri.)	Spring Break/Schools Closed (12 month employee work days)			
April 9	(Mon.)	Schools Re-Open			
April 13	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed**			
April 27	(Fri.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton Half Day Afternoon Conferences	16	15	94.5
May 28	(Mon.)	Memorial Day/Schools Closed (12 month employees off)	22	22	143
June 5	(Tues.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton/CRHS Half Day			
June 6	(Wed.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton/CRHS Half Day			
June 7	(Thurs.)	Elementary/Middle/Charlton/CRHS Half Day Last Student Day			
June 8	(Fri.)	Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed			
June 11	(Mon.)	Teacher In-Service/School Closed	7	5	23.5

On all half days dismissal will be 3 hours early.

Cafeterias will be open on all half days.

This calendar reflects 188 teacher days, 185 paraprofessional work days, 175 student days and 1116.5 student hours.

** The three dates marked with (**) are paraprofessional non-working days.

Revised 7/31/17



McIlvaine Kindergarten First Day of School 2017

Members of the Class of 2030 arrived at J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center to begin their kindergarten year bright and early on the first day of school in August.

CR Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald was on hand to personally welcome to newest “Little Riders” as they entered the building to begin their first day of school ever.

Principal Brook Castillo and her staff greeted the new students with hugs and big smiles and wiped away only a few tears. Good luck to our newest Little Riders!



*We got this!
We're Riders!*





McIlvaine Early Childhood Center staff pose for the traditional funny "First Day" photo before the students arriving.



"The first day of school is such a momentous occasion for both kindergarten students and their parents. It is the first step in an academic journey that will shape their future as they progress through school and beyond. Our hope is that their first day with us sets them up to have a lifelong love of learning and the confidence they need to tackle first grade and beyond when they leave McIlvaine." - McIlvaine principal Brook Castillo

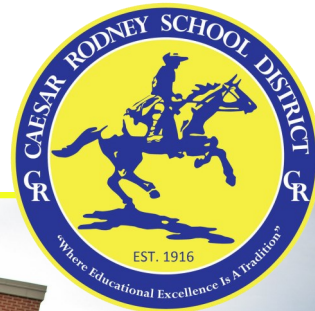


Back to School!

*Welcome to
the Class of
2030!*



3rd Annual Truckin' Back To School



Thousands of Riders, past, present and future, descended upon Caesar Rodney High School August 23rd for the 3rd annual CR Truckin' Back To School event. Food trucks for any taste, tunes to dance to, games to play, vendors to explore, entertainment to watch and friends to enjoy could all be found at CRHS that evening. See ya next year!



I'm all about Rider Pride!





“Truckin’ Back to School is great way for students, staff, and district families to come together in a relaxed atmosphere filled with Rider Pride! What an awesome way to start the school year.” - CRHS principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski



Rider Pride! Rider Excellence! Rider Fun!





2017-18 Back To School Breakfast



No. That's not an elderly Rider! It's CRHS grad Mike Hines ('82) in disguise ready to rock the house!

Caesar Rodney School District staff, alumni and friends gathered together in August at Caesar Rodney High School for the annual Back To School Breakfast Kickoff which was jam-packed this year with entertaining Rider-riffic surprises.

CRSD Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald and his staff presented an outstanding kickoff showcase after a lengthy breakfast.

The Riders were then treated to entertaining slide show videos, a performance from CRHS' Vox Chorus and a rendition of "Seasons Of Love" from the Broadway musical RENT performed by CRHS teachers.

The CR Building Teachers of the Year were each honored for their hard work and dedication before District Teacher of the Year Kyle Hill gave the keynote address. CRSD Board of Education president Jessica Marelli thanked those in attendance for helping to contribute to Caesar Rodney's outstanding success as the #1 school district in Delaware.

Dr. Fitzgerald ended the ceremony with a surprise. He told the audience he was bringing an elderly Rider onto the stage but after the lights dimmed, he was reveled to be CR alum and local superstar entertainer Mike Hines who blew the roof off of CRHS with a show-stopping number. Teachers jumped from their chairs and danced for the remainder of the kickoff....ready for the First Day Of School.





"Your trophies come from your students' success. When students win, we win. When they're successful, we're successful."
said CRSD Teacher of the Year 2017 Kyle Hill during his speech.



FOOTBALL

"We're off to a good start in this 2017 season. The Riders have started the year creating 6 turnovers in the first two games. The Riders have Trammell, Manny Kennedy and Kevin Robinson on offense. We look forward as we head into our tough conference games." - Coach Candeloro

2017 CRHS Varsity Football Schedule

9/8	@ Appoquinimink
9/15	ST. GEORGES TECH
9/22	WILLIAM PENN
9/29	@ Polytech
10/6	SMYRNA
10/13	@ Cape Henlopen
10/20	@ Sussex Tech
10/27	BRANDYWINE (Homecoming)
11/03	SUSSEX CENTRAL
11/10	DOVER



Head Coach: Dan Candeloro (3rd Year)



#GORIDERS



Photos from the Riders' season opener at Appoquinimink HS on Friday



ALL 2017



have won their first two games. Our defense is also very strong this
are led by quarterback Jared Wagenhoffer, running backs Julian
The defense had been led by Jackson Rall, Josh Windsor and Will
ce schedule.” - CRHS football head coach Dan Candeloro



y, September 8th.



THE CR REPORT



2017-2018 New Teacher Orientation

On August 17th & 18th, Caesar Rodney High School welcomed all new CR teachers to New Teacher Induction Day - a day when the district's newest teachers gather to learn about their new school, the community and the CR family.

CR Board of Education president Jessica Marelli welcomed the new hires to Caesar Rodney High School this morning and CR Teacher of the Year Kyle Hill gave an inspiring speech to the new teachers telling them to focus on their students.



CR Teacher Of The Year Kyle Hill



"Each year I look forward to the New Teacher Induction days where we officially welcome new colleagues to the Caesar Rodney family. Teachers, administrators, students, and members of our local community participate in sharing how the 4 A's (Academics, Athletics, Arts, and Atmosphere) play a role in CR's tradition of excellence. From the very first day of their career in Caesar Rodney, we hope our new teachers know there is a community surrounding them that will be there to encourage and support them as they work with our students across the district."

- Director of Instruction Dr. Christine Alois



6th Grade Transition Academy 2017



Middle school can be tough, right? At CR, we try to make it easy.

On August 16th, across Caesar Rodney School District it was 6th Grade Orientation Day.

Rising sixth-graders at Fifer, Postlethwait and Dover Air Base Middle Schools arrived at 9am to begin a day of learning the ropes and making a successful adjustment to middle school life.

At Fifer Middle that day, principal Brian Smith welcomed approximately 200 sixth-graders to his school and took selfies with his new students before the students split up into groups.

At Postlethwait in the afternoon, principal Dr. Kris Failing assembled another approximate 200 for a funny group photo after they learned the ropes of sixth grade.

And at DAFB Middle, principal Nicole Smith welcomed her fifty new 6th graders who spent their day learning their schedules and locker combinations.

Fifer Middle School principal Brian Smith said, "6th Grade Transition Day is a great offering for our rising 5th grade students. Let's be honest, middle school can be tough. 6th Grade Transition Day allows students to get more comfortable with their new school environment while getting a jump on changing classes, opening a locker and making new friends. On this day, the school feels smaller and students get tips on how they can flourish in their new learning community. Every student who attends leaves excited and better prepared to start their first full day of middle school."



*Welcome to
the Class of
2024!*





CRHS Summer School Graduation 2017

Thirteen students graduated from Caesar Rodney High School July 19th during a short commencement ceremony for summer school students.

CRHS Teacher of the Year Nora Tuke was the keynote speaker and Dr. Sherry Kijowski arranged for each grad to receive a bottle of Coca-Cola with a custom printed label.

Senior Dorell McIver led the graduates in the tassel ceremony after singing the alma mater. Graduates included: Stanley Bayard, Areyon Bratcher, Anthony Clark, Kevin Domfeh, Dixon Honore, Najmir Johnson, Ameer Khan, Dorell McIver, Tessa McWilliams, Shaunyce Moore-Bethea, Niani Rasheed, Davon Waddler and Benny Warncke.



Stokes Holds 9/11 Ceremony



At 9am on September 11th, the entire student body of Nellie H. Stokes Elementary School gathered in front of the school for a short ceremony observing Patriot Day - the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

With teachers and staff by their side, the students (some wearing red, white and blue) sang "The Star Spangled Banner", recited the Pledge of Allegiance and bowed their heads for a moment of silence with their school flag at half staff. Great job Stokes!



Stokes students honor the victims of September 11, 2001.



CRHS AF JROTC Holds 9/11 Ceremony

CRHS Air Force JROTC cadets held a short flag raising ceremony at 7:45am on September 11th honoring the victims of the 9/11 tragedy sixteen years ago.

JROTC instructors Mitch Berger and Jon Wedel saluted as their cadets raised a brand-new American flag into the air in front of the school. CRHS junior Justin Anthony had the honor of performing "Taps" on the trumpet once the flag was raised back down to half mast.



*Rider
Respect!*



Outgoing Board Member Precourt Retires

The Caesar Rodney School Board commended board member Cheryl Precourt for her dedication to the children of the Caesar Rodney School District during her final school board meeting in June.

Mrs. Precourt has served on the Caesar Rodney Board of Education for five years from 2012-2017. During her time on the school board the Caesar Rodney School District was acknowledged for having four schools recognized with National Blue Ribbons, one school recognized with a National Green Ribbon and the School Board being recognized with the prestigious Magna Award for Excellence from the National School Boards Association.



She also contributed to the passage of a referendum that has allowed for our schools to be renovated, a Ninth Grade Academy to be built, four classrooms added to our Early Childhood Center, and the construction of a new Elementary School.

Mrs. Precourt is to be commended for her leadership, her advocacy and for making decisions based on what was in the best interest of all students.

We'll miss you, Mrs. Precourt !

Incoming Board Member Failing Sworn In

Caesar Rodney High School grad David Failing ('75) was sworn in as the newest member of the CRSD Board of Education in July. All school board members serve for five-year terms.

Mr. Failing of Camden-Wyoming won the at-large school board seat with 73 percent of the vote in May.



Mr. Failing's grandfather was a Rider, as was his father. His eldest daughter graduated from CRHS in 1994 and is currently the principal at PMS. His younger daughter graduated from CRHS in 1996 and is currently the principal at the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington D.C. He has a son at Fred Fifer Middle School and his youngest is at W.B. Simpson Elementary. He has three grandchildren that also attend CR schools - one at CRHS, one at PMS and one at Stokes. Five generations of Riders!

He has owned and operated Wyoming Millwork for over 30 years.

Welcome aboard, Mr. Failing!

CRSD Lunch Bus Kickoff Event Successful

Parents stood with their children on July 28th waiting to get on the bus as well during Caesar Rodney's Summer Food Service Program kickoff at Brecknock Park.

Many kids rely on getting meals like lunch at schools during the academic year. During summer break, this can present a challenge for some low-income families. This summer, the Caesar Rodney School District is bringing meals to students with the use of a "Lunch Bus" that travels to a number of locations on weekdays.

It serves kids and teenagers who are 18 years old or younger, even if they're not students in the district. About 100 kids spent a beautiful summer day at the park enjoying a free meal including a slice of Papa John's pizza that day.



Excellent CR Grad Excels at Excel

17-year-old CRHS grad Anirudh Narayanan is THE BEST in the US at using Microsoft Excel. In July, he was recognized by the Del. Dept. of Technology and Info.

Anirudh recently took top honors in a competition that included more than 320,000 total entrants and 124 finalists in Orlando, Florida. 320,000! Narayanan won first place in the Microsoft Excel 2013 category, and in addition to a \$3,000 cash prize, he and a chaperone won a trip to Anaheim, California, for the MOS World Championship from July 30 to Aug. 2.

Anirudh's achievement was celebrated by state officials, CR administration and family. The reception was hosted by Delaware Chief Information Officer James Collins who presented Anirudh with a tribute from Gov. John Carney. Anirudh is currently a freshman at Carnegie Mellon U.





Last Day of McIlvaine's CR Immersion Camp



July 28th at McIlvaine Early Childhood Center was the final day of CR's K-1 Language Immersion Camps. All week, rising kindergarten and first-grade students have been learning Chinese during the camp.

The rising kindergarten students held a special performance that day at MECC. The performance included a dragon dance entrance, a Chinese ribbon dance, an awesome kung-fu routine and several fun songs...all in Chinese.

"The Caesar Rodney School District held its annual Immersion Summer Camp for incoming Kindergarteners and rising first grade students from July 24 – 28 at McIlvaine Early Childhood Center. Assisted in the classroom by Caesar Rodney High School world language students, our teachers prepared engaging lessons that allowed their students to experience an Immersion classroom to learn basic words and phrases, to sing songs, to learn print concepts as well as other math, science and social studies content in their soon to be second language."

- Supervisor of Education Dr. Darren Guido



这是一个伟大的日子成为骑士 (It's a great day to be a Rider)

CR Chinese Immersion Students Visit Philly's Chinatown



CR 5th graders cross in front of Philadelphia's Chinatown Friendship Arch.

Rising fifth-grade Chinese Immersion students traveled to the City of Brotherly Love July 27th with the visiting Chinese high school students from Beijing.

Caesar Rodney School District Supervisor of Instruction Dr. Darren Guido led the excursion which began at the Philadelphia Convention Center and the Reading Terminal Market. From there, the students walked a few blocks to Philly's Chinatown district.

The fifth-graders have been learning Chinese since kindergarten and the trip gave them an opportunity to put their language skills to the test. In Chinatown, the students participated in a scavenger hunt with help from visiting Chinese high-schoolers who assisted at the camp that week.

The students ventured into markets and restaurants searching for select items such as a Chinese fan, a fish tank and a lantern. After lunch, the fifth-graders made their way down to Independence Hall. Dr. Guido arranged for a tour of the famous historic building. Afterwards, on the walk back to the bus, the travelers stopped by The Liberty Bell to pay their respects to the legendary piece of Americana.



