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

CR REPORT

Winter 2019

www.crk12.org

Music Harmony

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

Message From the Superintendent

On behalf of the Caesar Rodney School District, I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year. We look forward to 2019 being an exciting year for the school district.

We continue to move forward with our construction projects at CRHS and at Dover Air Force Base as well as breaking ground for the new elementary school in Magnolia. We have poured the footers for the new Ninth Grade Academy at CRHS and expect the steel to go up sometime in the spring. This will give a shape to the facility where people can begin to see the way in which the school will be transformed.

We are told that in March, Dover Air Force Base will have an official groundbreaking for the new elementary school which will be located across from the Student Youth Center replacing George Welch Elementary School and Dover Air Base Middle School. At some point in the future, both schools will be torn down. We believe Dover AFB could possibly repurpose that land for a pre-kindergarten program.

Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

With support from our local legislators, we hope to secure the funding that is needed to move forward with the elementary school project in Magnolia and break ground sometime in the spring.

I want to give a shout out to Dover Air Base Middle School for being recognized by the State of Delaware for creating Christmas ornaments that adorned the Delaware Christmas Tree and the White House Visitors Center in Washington D.C. A group of students from Air Base Middle, family and staff had the honor of attending the annual lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

I also want to commend Nellie Stokes Elementary on being recognized by the Department of Education for their accomplishments on the state assessments. Dover Air Base Middle, George Welch Elementary and Stokes Elementary were also recognized by the State of Delaware as schools that have exceeded expectations.

I would also like to congratulate former Board member Bill Bush who had served as president and vice president and now serves as the representative for the 29th district.

And lastly, a fond farewell to longtime bus contractor Tom Dawson, a CR alumni and a member of the Camden-Wyoming community who devoted his life to the safety of our students traveling to school and home every day safely.

FRONT COVER: Student chorus from George Welch Elementary perform during their holiday concert.
BACK COVER: Student chorus from Allen Frear Elementary perform during their music program.

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community. For questions or comments, please contact Ron Gough, Public Information Officer at:

ronald.gough@cr.k12.de.us

What's Happening?

Board Meetings:

January 15: Fifer Middle 7:00 pm
February 19: CRHS 7:00 pm
March 19: Postlethwait Middle 7:00 pm

Special Events:

January 25: Fifer School Dance 6:00-8:00 pm
Postlethwait School Dance 6:00-8:00 pm
DAFB Middle School Dance 6:00-8:00

School Closings:

January 18: Teacher In-Service
January 21: Martin Luther King Day
February 4: Teacher In-Service
February 18: President's Day
March 25: Teacher In-Service

Like us on Facebook!

Visit Facebook and LIKE "Caesar Rodney School District" for all the latest information and photo galleries from ALL our schools!

Follow us on Twitter!

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

Follow us on Instagram!

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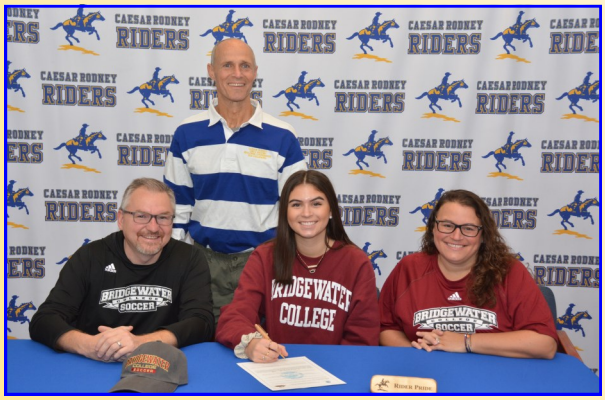
High School Seniors Sign Letters Of Intent



With step dad Beau and mom Victoria looking on, Madison Fitzhugh signs a Letter of Intent to play soccer with Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Virginia.

With her parents Perry and Susan looking on, Maleah Chumley signs a Letter of Intent to run cross country with the University of Cumberland in Williamsburg, Virginia.

With her parents Sharrie and Mitch by her side, senior Alex May signs a Letter of Intent to compete in swimming at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland.

W. Reily Brown Celebrates Cultures From Around The World

Students and staff from W. Reily Brown Elementary and Caesar Rodney High School presented a Culture Festival to a packed house where different countries were showcased reflecting the diverse population of the Caesar Rodney School District.

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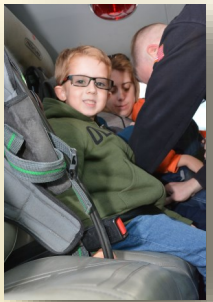
Beron Named Delaware's Athletic Director of the Year

In only his fourth year as athletic director for the Caesar Rodney High School, the members of the Delaware Association of Athletic Directors (DAAD) unanimously selected Mr. Bob Beron for this prestigious honor. Prior to becoming the Caesar Rodney High School's Athletic Director, Mr. Beron taught physical education at the high school level for six years, while also coaching boys and girls soccer.

In addition to the DAAD recognition, Mr. Beron has also received the National State Award of Merit. Congratulations, Bob, on a job well done!

Nothing Like Getting A Ride Home In A Fire Truck

Jessie Cook was this year's winner in the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center's Fire Prevention poster contest. The Magnolia Fire Company sent out Deputy Chief Scott Vautard and firefighter Matt Stoltz to congratulate Jessie and to take him home at the end of the school day in one of their fire trucks. I think we have a future firefighter in the making!



Star Hill Receives Walmart Check For $2000

Walmart transportation operations manager in Smyrna John Bridges recently stopped by Star Hill Elementary School in Dover to present students and staff with a check for $2,000.00 to be used for class

supplies and other school needs. The check is a donation from Walmart's "Miles For Smiles" campaign where one penny is raised for every safe mile driven in one month by Walmart drivers based in Smyrna, DE. A vote by associates then decides who or where the donations will be given to. The Walmart associates chose Star Hill Elementary to receive $2000.00 based on nominations by students and the community.

Nellie Stokes Student Principal For A Day

As one of five top five fundraisers at Stokes Elementary, and with a choice of five different prizes, student Lily Moffett chose to be "Student Principal For A Day" with school principal Darisa Everett. Lily raised $340 which will be used by the PTO for student activities.

Fifer Student Praised By City of Dover Mayor

Sixth grade student Noel Kim was recently named a winner in the "Honorable Mention Division" of the 2018 City of Dover's Mayor's Essay Contest.

Left to Right: Fifer Middle School Principal Kim Corbeil; Noel Kim; Dover Mayor Robin Christensen.

Mayor Robin Christensen stated, "Your essay effectively expressed the theme, 'Annie Jump Cannon, Astronomer: Defying Limitations and Paving the Way for Women in Science' while articulating how the limitations in your life have become fuel to help you achieve your dreams as well as inspire others to achieve their own."

Noel was invited to the Old State House in downtown Dover where she read her winning essay before picking up her award. She also attended Annie Jump Cannon's birthday celebration and toured her house. Congratulations, Noel!

Published Author Praised at Monthly Board Meeting

Irelynn Farrington, a student at F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School became a published author at age 11 for her book "The Perfect Unicorn." Since then, Irelynn has been donating her time by visiting district classrooms and reading her book to students; she then donates the book to their teachers. Irelynn also volunteers her time at the Ronald McDonald House in Wilmington, giving her book to families staying there. She has also donated a portion of her book sales to the A.I. DuPont Hospital oncology ward.

Bus Driver Keeps Her "Riders" Warm With Knitted CR Headbands

Jackie Parton, Hilton bus driver for bus #51, has for the past seven years knitted Caesar Rodney headbands for all the children on her school bus!

Not only that, but at the end of the school year, she also knits her CR bus riders slippers!

Thank you, Jackie, for safely driving our children every day! And a special thank you for your kindness and caring for all of your CR Little Riders!

Department of Education Names Nellie Stokes Recognition School

Nellie Hughes Stokes Elementary School has been named a Delaware Recognition School for making remarkable progress in closing the achievement gaps between student groups, including those from low-income families, racial

minority groups and students with disabilities. Stokes will receive an $8,000 grant from the Delaware Department of Education's School Improvement funds.

A committee consisting of parents and teachers at Stokes Elementary will determine how to best use the funds for students and staff. Congratulations for a job well done!

Congratulations, Stokes Elementary!

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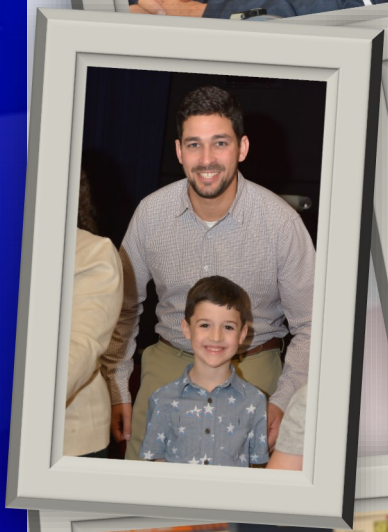
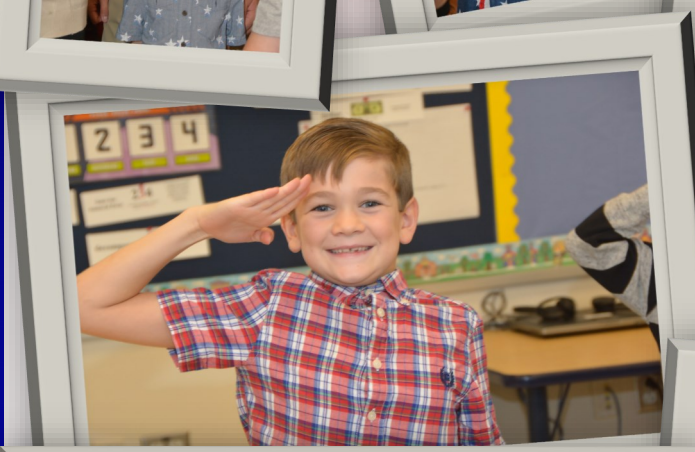
Saluting Our Veter





Ninety-four year old Leo Tos was
Elementary and Dover Air Base M
during World War II. Mr. Tos dro
the Navy then would also serve in

rans Then and Now

recognized by George Welch
Middle School for his service
pped out of high school to join
the Army and the Air Force.

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Secretary Bunting Donates Blood At Caesar Rodney High School

Delaware's Secretary of Education Dr. Susan Bunting recently stopped by Caesar Rodney High School to donate blood. More than 60 students volunteered to help with the first of two blood drives to be held at CRHS.

More than 120 students signed up to donate blood during the first drive. For each 100 pints of blood donated, the school will receive a $500 scholarship through the Delmarva Blood Bank. Last school year, CRHS was #2 in the state for pints of blood donated. According to Deb Yingling, Scrub Club advisor and American Red Cross teacher at CRHS, their goal is to be #1 with the second blood drive to be held on April 17, 2019.

Stokes Staff Donate Gift Cards To California Fire Victims

In a members only page on Facebook named "School Nutrition Professionals, there was a post that stated "…32 of the 38 student nutrition employees in Paradise, California have lost their homes in the Camp Fire and many left with only the clothes on their back."

Caesar Rodney School District Child Nutrition Specialist Darla Koff and the child nutrition staff at Nellie Stokes Elementary learned of this tragedy and dug into their own pockets and purchased $220 worth of Walmart gift cards to help out their fellow child nutrition professionals in California.

Photo attached: From left to Right: Carrie Goodman; Ethel Burris; Lori Ogden; Terri Welday; Darla Koff; Fran Anderson; Elisa Costello; Kyong Holland; Rachel Brago, and Amy Barbuto.

High School Seniors Sign Letters Of Intent

With dad Derek and mom Sandy looking on, CRHS senior Jessie Prillaman signs a Letter of Intent to play soccer at the University of Richmond beginning in August, 2019.

With mom Leslie and dad Daniel watching, CRHS senior Macy Ramsey signs her Letter of Intent to play soccer at Grambling University in Louisiana in 2019.

With mom Vilmarys and dad Shane looking on, CRHS senior Chris Crossen signs his Letter of Intent to compete in Goldey Beacom's cross country program following graduation in August, 2019.

"Where Educational Excellence is a Tradition"

Nineteen Postlethwait Middle School Students Selected For All-State Chorus

Recently, talented students from all over the State of Delaware auditioned to be a part of the All-State Jr. Chorus. At the F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School, 19 students were selected to participate in the All-State Chorus. This is the second largest number of students from one school in the state to participate in the holiday festivities.

Those 19 students are: Cierra Adams, Nathan Atchley, Cameron Cazzell, Peyton Cole, Arianna Diaz-Carde, Marissa Doucette, Timothy Hammack, Tyroniece Hampton-Jones, Juliet Irizarry, Xava Manall, Bailey Minear, Shreyal Patel, Emily Peppard, Makenzie Ridenour, Sarah Schlauch, Lauren Tucci, Cody Waski, Olivia Weldin and De'Va Williams. Congratulations to all of for a job well done!

High School "Girls Who Code" Mentor Middle School Students

"Girls Who Code" is intended to support and increase the number of women in field of computer science. The program works to close the gender gap in technology and change the image of what a programmer looks like.

The first annual GWC event at CR High School allowed high school female computer enthusiasts to mentor and lead CR middle school girls events that were both

"plugged" and "unplugged." A special thanks to Mrs. Birch and her entire team of mentors for putting this program together.

"Tommy" Dawson Remembered At School Board Meeting

At a recent Caesar Rodney School Board meeting, John Tom "Tommy" Dawson of the Dawson Bus Company was fondly remembered for his many years of service to the Caesar Rodney School District and the greater Camden community. Mr. Dawson passed away in 2018.

A graduate of Caesar Rodney High School Class of 1965, Mr. Dawson returned to Camden after leaving the service of the United States Army in 1968. For the next fifty years, Mr. Dawson both worked and managed the school transportation side of the Dawson Bus Company. In this capacity, he cared for the safety and well-being of thousands of children, who every morning and afternoon were transported both to and from their schools.

His dedication and commitment to providing well maintained buses, driven by well-trained bus drivers, gave comfort to our districts' parents and contributed to the education of our students.

For his contributions and many years of service the Caesar Rodney School Board posthumously presented the Spirit of Caesar Rodney Award to the family of Tommy Dawson. His family also received a photograph montage of all 12 Caesar Rodney school outdoor electronic message boards lit up to say "Thank you, Mr. Dawson.

Culinary Arts Program at CRHS All About Partnership

The Caesar Rodney High School Culinary Arts program has partnered with Fifer Farms to create incredible food dishes and recipes that are then shared with the community.

Each week, Fifer Farms donates to the CRHS program a Community Sustainable Agriculture (CSA) food box filled with locally grown fruits and vegetables. These boxes (which are sold to the community) include items such as apples, pears, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, spinach, carrots, radishes, beets, asparagus, sprouts and so on.

Culinary Art teams of 2-3 students, under the guidance of Chef Senn, then brainstorm using all of these ingredients and prepare/cook their creations then create recipes that are shared by Fifer Farms with the community.

Recently, in front of local media representatives, one of Chef Senn's classes prepared several mouth-watering dishes which clearly displayed the student's creativity and skills. Perhaps one day we will see some of these students in their own restaurants.

Frear Artists Display Their Talent Through Hallway Artwork

Cole Szabo, Delaney Miklus and Logan Foor shown hanging their artwork at the new Allen Frear Student Art Galley.

According to Allen Frear's art teacher Michael Kenney, student art is selected each month to be framed and permanently displayed throughout the school's hallways. "The artwork is fantastic, but what is most impressive is the hard work, effort and time taken in class, along with the attention given to the artistic process, in creating the pieces of artwork to achieve the final result and being selected for the gallery!"

All student artwork created by Frear students are proudly displayed on the Artsonia.com website on each student's own personal webpage. Check it out! There is some great artwork to see.

Tennis Coach Jim Harvey Recognized By School Board

Coach Jim Harvey was recently honored by the Caesar Rodney School Board for being selected as the National High School Boys' Tennis Coach of the Year.

Mr. Harvey led his student athletes to a perfect 15-0 record during the 2017-2018 season; captured state championship titles in five of the last six years; amassed more than 300 wins as head coach; served as head tennis coach at Caesar Rodney High School for the past 34 years; named the National High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year and being inducted into the Delaware Tennis Hall of Fame.

Air Base Middle School Creates Decorative Origami Ornaments For National Christmas Tree Lighting

Students from Dover Air Force Base Middle School in the Caesar Rodney School District designed one-of-a-kind ornaments for this year's “National Christmas Tree Experience.” Students created handcrafted Origami ornaments to adorn one of 56 trees surrounding the national Christmas tree. The 56 trees represent each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia as part of the America Celebrates display located in Washington D.C.'s President's Park.

Under the guidance of Amy Laslow, Dover Air Base Middle visual art and technology education teacher, more than 20 students decorated ornaments with a theme all about the First State. Included in the national display were ornaments featuring horseshoe crabs, the state bug (ladybug), the state drink (milk) and the capital (Dover).

"Caesar Rodney School District was honored to have students from Dover Air Base Middle School selected to represent Delaware by creating ornaments that now decorate smaller trees surrounding our National Christmas tree in Washington D.C.," said Caesar Rodney School District Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald. "Our students were thrilled to go to Washington D.C. not only to see their ornaments on display but to witness the lighting of the National Christmas Tree.”

The National Park Service were so impressed with the detail and labor involved in creating the Origami-encased ornaments that they sat all of the Air Base Middle students, staff and Caesar Rodney School District administrators in the front VIP section. Just yards away, the entourage were able to see President Donald Trump and his entire family on hand for the ceremony.

“I am personally amazed and proud of the artwork created by Mrs. Laslow and her students,” said Dr. Fitzgerald. “I am sure all of Delaware will be proud as well if they have an opportunity to visit and see Delaware's ornaments at the Washington Mall."

The National Christmas Tree experience began in 1923 with President Calvin Coolidge. To this day, the purpose of the tree lighting has been the same: to bring local and national communities together to celebrate the season and share the universal message of peace during the holidays.

DABM students are interviewed by national media before the lighting of the National Christmas Tree.

With the White House in the background, the National Christmas Tree is lit

Two Delaware ornaments were added to this Christmas tree in the White House Visitors Center.

THE CR REPORT

GREEN RIDERS

Planning For 21st Century Sustainable Schools

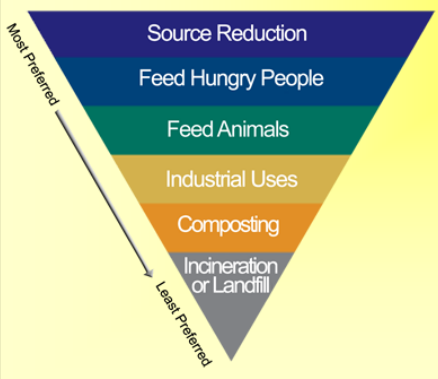
CHILD NUTRITION TEAM

Dedicated to Our Students' Health, Well Being and Their Ability to Learn.

The Caesar Rodney Center for Green Schools

Stokes' EcoTeam Shows That "Sharing is Caring" When it Comes to Community and Environment

Last fall, students and staff at Nellie H. Stokes Elementary 'dove into' one day's trash collected from their lunches. They sorted, counted, weighed and tallied everything students threw away in the cafeteria. They discovered that their garbage was actually a mix of trash, recyclables, and food. That day they measured 28.5 pounds of food waste and 48 pounds of food and utensils that were UNUSED! Startled by this research, the **EcoTeam** set out to begin taking action. These students proposed starting a share table, similar to what is already being done at Postlethwait Middle School. The USDA says that "using share tables is an innovative strategy to encourage the consumption of nutritious foods and reduce food waste in the National School Lunch Program. Share tables are tables or stations where children may return whole food or beverage items they choose not to eat...in compliance with local and State health and food safety codes. These food and beverage items are then available to other children who may want additional servings." As for the food that does get wasted, our **EcoTeams** are starting up their own *Compost Centers* where food waste can be safely collected from school cafeterias and kitchens. Way to go **GreenRiders**!



Excerpt from Interview with Child Nutrition Team

Anthony Kesler & Anna Thompson: 4th Grade, Mrs. Foresman & Mrs. Shelor

Q: Which item do you think is most popular on the table?
A: Juice and milk goes a lot.

Q: Which class do you think uses the Share Table most helpfully?
A: Mrs. Wyatt's and Mrs. Marroquin's class.

Q: How does it feel to know you are helping the environment?
A: It feels really good to know we are helping the environment.

GREEN RIDERS

Planning For 21st Century Sustainable Schools

Our CR *Environmental Education Specialist* brings you the latest news regarding the district's efforts to raise awareness about sustainability, environmental literacy, and all things GREEN.

The Caesar Rodney Center for Green Schools

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS *From Autumn 2018*

- *Installed bulb garden with **MECC** for lesson on **"Planting a Rainbow"** book by Lois Ehlert*
- *Launched new **Share Table** at **Stokes Elementary**, modeled after a **Postlethwait** initiative*
- *Finalized **cooperative agreement with US Fish & Wildlife Service** to fund* **habitat restoration**
- ***Farm to School Month** produce harvested by students, prepared by Child Nutrition Team*
- *Environmental Specialist appointed to **Governor's Recycling Public Advisory Council***
- *Hosted 2nd annual **CR Children in Nature Day Celebration at Fifer and Postlethwait***
- ***Completed designs** of various outdoor spaces at **Charlton, CRHS, Brown, Frear, & PMS***

FEATURED RIDER

"Sometimes there's value in getting a little mud on your shoes."

WHO: **Brian Marsh**

WHAT: Biologist with US Fish & Wildlife Service; community partner with CRSD; creating schoolyard habitats at several campuses

WHEN: 2010 to present

WHERE: USFWS, Delaware Bay Estuary Project

WHY: Working to increase biodiversity and dispel the notion that all habitats are green, clean, and tidy manicured gardens

HOW: Habitat projects at schools take time, need to involve everyone, and need to be engaging to both students and school staff for them to be sustainable. It's our responsibility to work with schools to understand the challenges they face.

GOOD TO KNOW

Photo courtesy of HGTV.com

Gardening can continue through the seasons! Upcycled lumber and old windows make effective, attractive cold frames.

EcoTeams *restore native habitat for wildlife throughout the district. We also need to manage these spaces for humans too. Trail building allows for safe access to explore.*

Can you identify creatures like this native tree with dinosaur feet shaped leaves? Download the FREE iNaturalist *app to help you when exploring nature!*

THE CR REPORT

Career Day At Fred Fifer Middle School

At Fred Fifer Middle School, students were treated to another "Career Day" where representatives from an assortment of agencies and private companies talked with students about law enforcement, probation, military, food service, engineering, social services and more. Looks like a lot of future opportunities for these students when they eventually enter the workforce.

Former School Board President Recognized At Meeting

Seen here with his former fellow school board members, Mr. Bill Bush, former president, vice president and member of the Caesar Rodney School Board, receives a proclamation from the school board for his many years of service to the Caesar Rodney community. Mr. Bush was recently elected to the state legislature. We wish Mr. Bush all the best in his new position.

Special Olympics Basketball Held at CRHS

Caesar Rodney High School once again hosted the annual Basketball Special Olympics where more than 100 participants from Kent County came together to demonstrate their basketball skills in dribbling, passing and throwing. The competition lasted all morning as these young men and women competed for Olympic medals. A special thanks to the students and staff of CRHS for volunteering their time to assist our guests.

Dr. Fitzgerald Reads To Students During Holiday Season

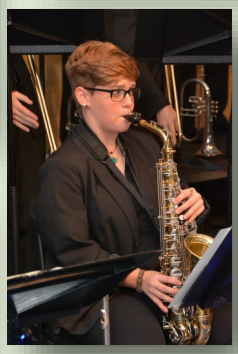
In what has been an annual holiday tradition, elementary classroom teachers across the school district asked Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald to take time to read to their students.

Chorus and Band Performances Highlight the Holiday Season

THE CR REPORT

Annual Holiday Luncheon Celebrates Friendships

Great memories shared once again at the annual Holiday Luncheon where former superintendents, principals, board members, teachers, administrators, family and friends came together to share memories, holiday greetings and listen to amazingly talented CRHS musicians and singers supported by student volunteers and staff.



Project SEARCH Applauds Some Very Special People

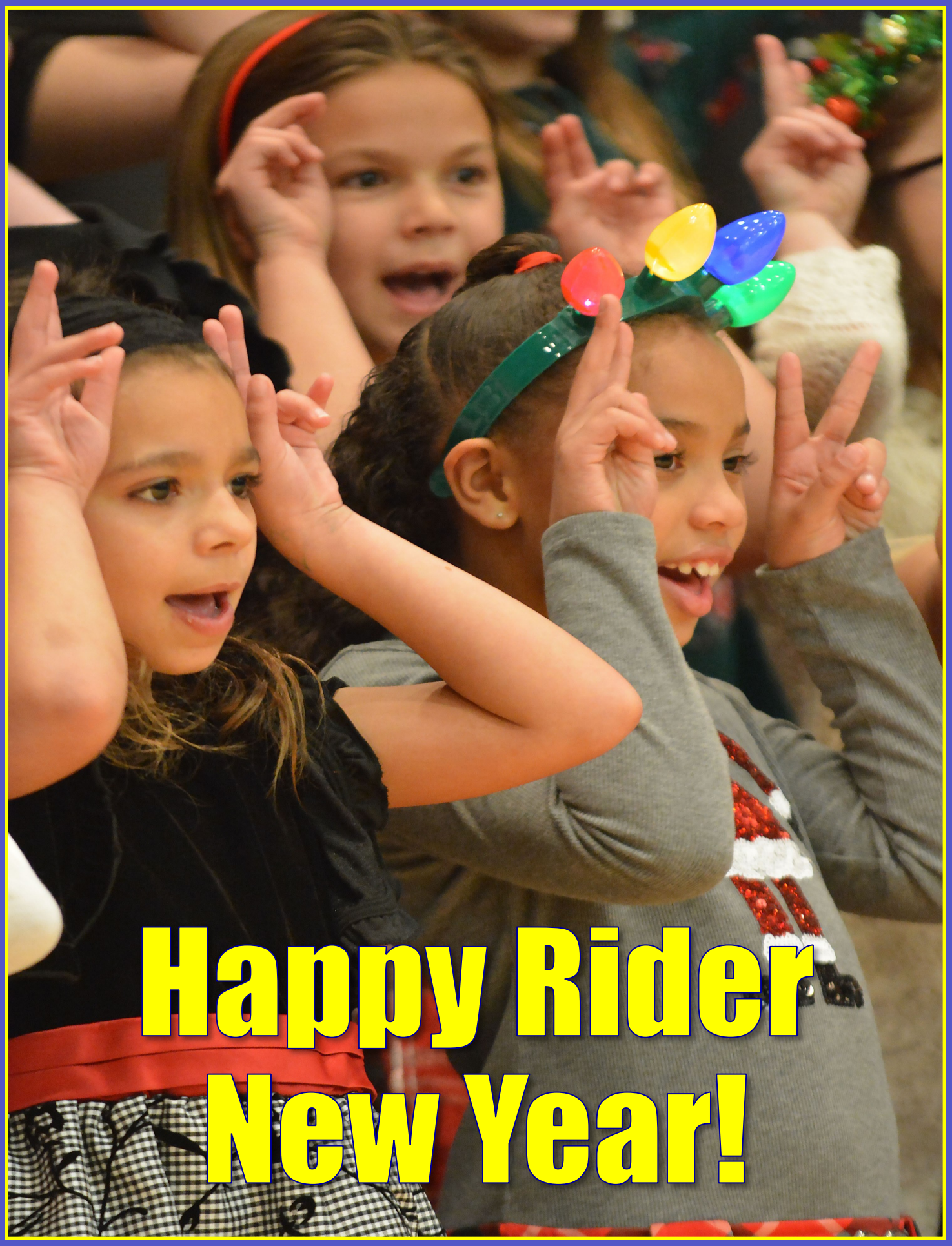
Nine students from the Project SEARCH Program at DelDOT recently presented their plans for future independence at the Caesar Rodney School District Board of Education Meeting. These young adults are diligently working in vocational internships this year with their eye on future employment at the completion of the programs.

Project SEARCH is a one-year, internship program for students with disabilities who have completed their graduation requirements. The program is targeted for students whose goal is competitive employment in the community and who have had some non-paid job training experience.

The unpaid, internship program takes place within the DelDOT organization where students are immersed in the workplace. Interns participate in a functional, academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent-living skills such as working

responsibly, communicating with/without accommodations, problem solving, developing critical thinking skills, planning and managing a career, applying technology, developing self-advocacy skills and demonstrating independent community travel skills.

Interviews for potential applicants will begin in February. For more information and a link to the Project SEARCH application, go to https://www.crk12.org/Page/2908.


Happy Rider
New Year!