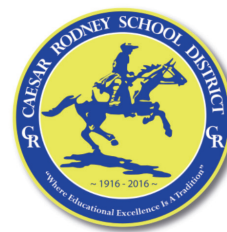


THE CR REPORT

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



SUMMER 2019

www.crk12.org

**SPECIAL
GRADUATION
ISSUE**



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

Message from the Superintendent

As the 2019 school year draws to a close, I would like to thank our community for their continued support. As you look through the summer issue of The CR Report, I hope that you experience the sense of pride and satisfaction that we experienced in the 2018-19 school year!



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

With graduations, moving up ceremonies, numerous awards and recognitions, we certainly have had a great deal to be proud of! First, let me congratulate our graduates. Caesar Rodney High School saw 413 students walk across the stage and receive their well-deserved diplomas.

504 Little Riders graduated from McIlvaine ECC and 76 from Welch Elementary. Our Charlton program graduated 4 students and we had 9 students complete their internship with DELDOT through our Project Search program. It certainly has been a great time to be a Rider! – Not only for our students but for their proud families and friends!

As you may have noticed new construction and renovation can be seen throughout the district. As we complete the connector and start work on the ninth-grade academy at the high school; we have also begun the site work on the new elementary school in Magnolia, along with work being done at Postlethwait, Charlton, Stokes and Fifer!

I'd like to congratulate Sabra Collins – our District Teacher of the Year and all of our Building Teachers of the Year. Congratulations is also in order for Dr. Sherry Kijowski,

for being named Delaware Secondary School Principal of the Year! Their hard work and dedication is appreciated throughout our District and is what makes this district so special!

As the year comes to a close and we begin preparations for the 2019-20 school year, I want to thank the parent, teachers, staff, administrators and community for making our children their priority!

Have a great summer!



WHATS HAPPENING?

BOARD MEETINGS:

Aug 20: Paul L. Dunbar
Administration Building

Sept 17: John S. Charlton
School

Oct 22: McIlvaine Early
Childhood Center

SPECIAL EVENTS:

July 30: 9th Grade Success
Academy starts

Aug 15: 6th Grade

Orientation Day

Aug 21: Truckin' Back to

School 5:30pm

Aug 26: First Day of School

SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

Aug 30: School Closed

Sept 2: Labor Day

Sept 16: In-Service Day

Oct 11: In-Service Day

Nov 1: Schools Half Day

Nov 11: School Closed

FRONT COVER:

Dean Poplos shows off his new diploma at the Caesar Rodney High School One Hundred Third Commencement.

BACK COVER:

Field Day photos from around the Caesar Rodney School District.

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney community.

For questions or comments, please contact Jason Minto, Community Relations and Information Specialist at: jason.minto@cr.k12.de.us

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from ALL our schools!



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for all the latest information
on ALL our schools!



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

Caesar Rodney's

Social Media Posts



In June, Dover AFB held a ground breaking for the new Welch Elementary School/Dover Air Base Middle School. The \$48 million-dollar project, federally funded by the Department of Defense Education Activity, is scheduled to open at the beginning of the 2021 school year.



In April, Dr. Susan Bunting, Delaware Department of Education Secretary, was at the McIlvaine Early Childhood Center where she got some help from kindergarten students and Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, on her response to the Laurel Elementary School plank challenge she received from Secretary Manning at the Delaware Department for Services for Children, Youth and their families.



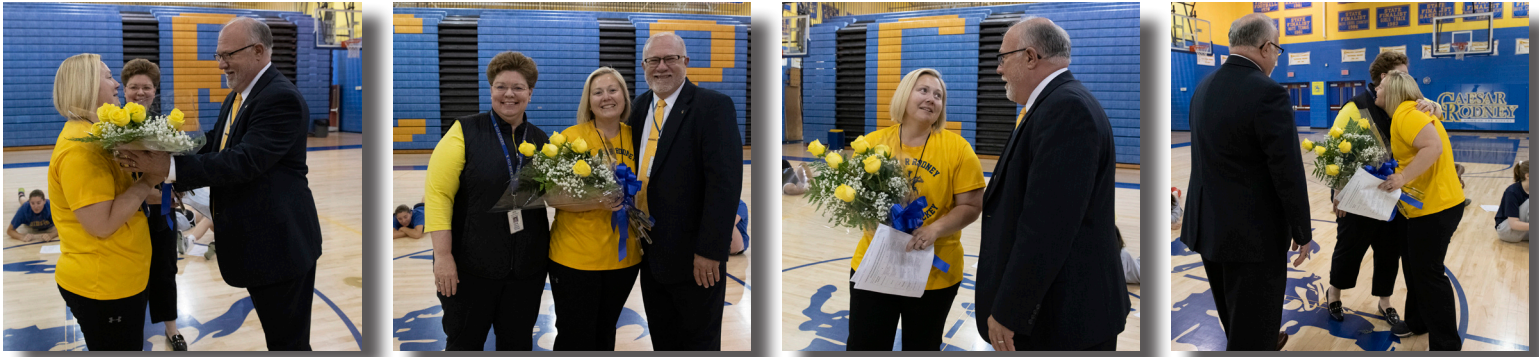
In May, Caesar Rodney School District students participated in Project ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) which occurs on the first Wednesday in May as part of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month along with National Physical Education Week. Project ACES was created by physical education teacher Len Saunders in 1989 as a method of motivating children to exercise. Since 1989, millions of children from all over the world exercise together to promote proper health and fitness habits.

"CRHS Decision Day Donut Party"

Caesar Rodney High School college bound seniors gathered in the school gymnasium on May 3rd to celebrate College Decision Day wearing the colors they will be wearing in the fall at college or in the military. Each senior received a donut which they then could decorate with their new school colors. There were different colors of sprinkles, crystallized sugar, M&M's, gum drops and gummy bears for the seniors to choose from as fun toppings for their Decision Day Donut.



CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOL'S SABRA COLLINS NAMED CRSD TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Sabra Collins, a physical education teacher at Caesar Rodney High School, is Caesar Rodney School District's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

"Sabra truly exemplifies the reason why Caesar Rodney is such a special place for our students. She has proven herself to be inventive and innovative in preparing the type of lessons that her students will be able to practice long after they leave her class. I am proud of her and believe that she is an outstanding representative of the type of teaching excellence found throughout the district," Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald said.

"I have been extremely humbled by the entire Caesar Rodney Teacher of the Year experience so far, and I am overwhelmed by the amount of support my school and district have given me. I am thankful to have the distinct honor of teaching and working in the best school district in the state of Delaware," Collins said. "I would like to take this opportunity to thank every single teacher, staff member, and administrator within our Caesar Rodney School District for the outstanding work they do each and every day here in Rider Country. It is a great day to be a Rider!"

Caesar Rodney High School Principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski praised Collins for her teaching excellence.

"She brings an energy and level of excitement to her classroom that is a model for all to emulate," she said. "It is a privilege to work with her and see her lead students in the classroom, work with her colleagues in a collaborative manner, and coach young women to be the best version of themselves."

The process for determining the district's Teacher of the Year begins with recommendations from students, teachers, parents and administrators at each school building. Building teachers then vote to select the top five teachers. Those nominees then develop portfolios that are then reviewed and scored by a committee of parents, teachers and students from each school. From that process, one teacher in each building emerges as a District Teacher of the Year candidate.

A more in-depth portfolio is then created by each candidate. It contains information including: educational history and professional development, awards and recognition, philosophy of teaching, community service, and letters of support. These portfolios are then read and scored independently by administrators, school board members, teachers, parents and students. From this process, candidates emerge as finalists.

Teams consisting of the district superintendent, principals, teachers and parents then conduct classroom observations and interviews with the finalists. Individually, each team member awards an overall score for each candidate. After a discussion and review of all scores, the District Teacher of the Year is selected.

Sabra Collins will now represent Caesar Rodney School District and compete against 19 other Teacher of the Year nominees for the honor of becoming the Delaware's Teacher of the Year. That announcement will be made by Governor John Carney in October.

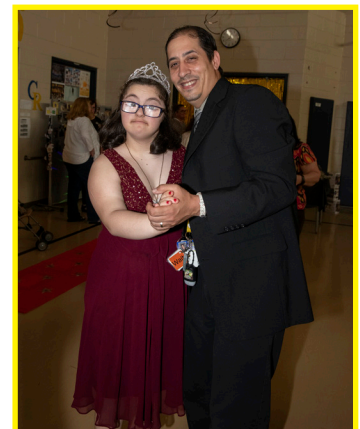
DR. FITZGERALD HONORED BY GOVERNOR JOHN CARNEY



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, superintendent of the Caesar Rodney School District, was honored by Governor John Carney for his term as the 2018 Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents. Along with Dr. Fitzgerald's family, Rep. Bill Bush, Rep. Lyndon Yearick and Rep. Jeff Spiegelman were in attendance and gave remarks.



3RD ANNUAL JOHN S. CHARLTON SCHOOL PROM



On May 30th, the John S. Charlton School held their 3rd annual prom with a "Lights, Camera, Action" theme. Students dressed in formal wear, walked the red carpet, and enjoyed the music and danced the night away. Great job to the staff at Charlton for hosting this event!

CR Board of Education

Recognitions



Kobus, a registered pharmacist with Safeway Pharmacy, has graciously volunteered many hours of his time and expertise to provide work site flu vaccine clinics for the Caesar Rodney School District for the past several years. Work site flu vaccine clinics increase the number of employees vaccinated because of their convenience. They also decrease absences of employees due to illness, increase productivity and increase morale of staff. During the 2018-2019 school year Kobus held thirteen flu vaccine clinics at Caesar Rodney School District schools and the district office. All told he vaccinated 315 employees at the clinics. This school year Kobus volunteered over 30 hours at the flu vaccine clinics. This does not include the hours spent preparing for each clinic, managing the paperwork and billing of services to the insurance companies for the clinics. We greatly appreciate Kobus' commitment to the health and well-being of the Caesar Rodney community!



When Corey Drum and another student (withdrawn from Delaware) approached Joseph Hartman, 9th Grade Language Arts teacher at Caesar Rodney High School, early in the 2018-2019 school year after the Mike Smith assembly, with an idea to start a club at Caesar Rodney High School for the sole purpose of helping people without expecting anything in return, the Caesar Rodney Silent Helpers were born. The student run club does all of the work, while being run out of Mr. Hartman's classroom. Since their inception they have recruited twenty plus students to join the

CR Silent Helpers. They have collected boxes of socks for sock drives to help the homeless. They have helped with clothing drives during the winter seasons for Code Purple Dover and with food drives during the holiday seasons for the Delaware Food Bank. The club has provided two carloads of water for the Shepard's Place and has raised more than \$500 for the Kent County Chapter of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. On May 18, 2019, the CR Silent Helpers took 12-14 children from the Shepard's Place to Tre Sorelle Dolce. While the Marasco family donated the ice cream for the children, the CR Silent Helpers held a fundraiser so the children were able to play mini-golf.



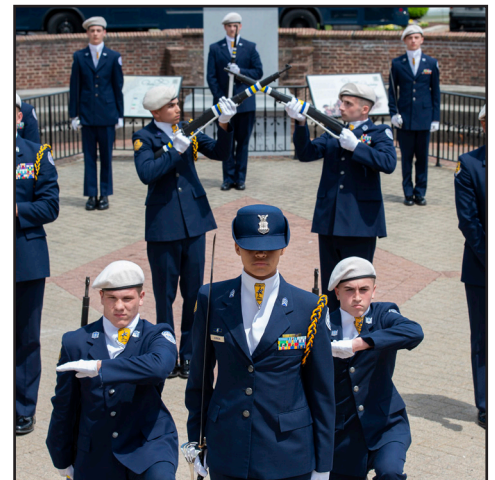
Mildred Johnson, 82 years young, is a foster grandmother who comes to Major George S. Welch Elementary School to volunteer in the classrooms. This has been Mildred's routine for the past nine years. This year Mildred volunteered in Mr. Akers and Mrs. Wallace's kindergarten inclusion classrooms. She comes in every day for around five and a half hours to work one on one with children of all abilities. Mrs. Johnson is eager to lend a hand with all of the behind the scenes tasks to keep the classroom running smoothly. Mildred is busy in the classroom and takes care of a variety of things without being asked. She is kind and caring. The students love Mrs. Johnson and will go to her if they need anything. Mrs. Johnson is always willing to give a listening ear to their endless stories about dinosaurs, pets, loose teeth, and birthdays that won't be here for another three months. She is knowledgeable in all things kindergarten, especially shoe tying! Both students and teachers couldn't survive without her warm smile and genuine care for everyone. Her spirit is remarkable!



CRHS AFJROTC DRILL TEAM NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

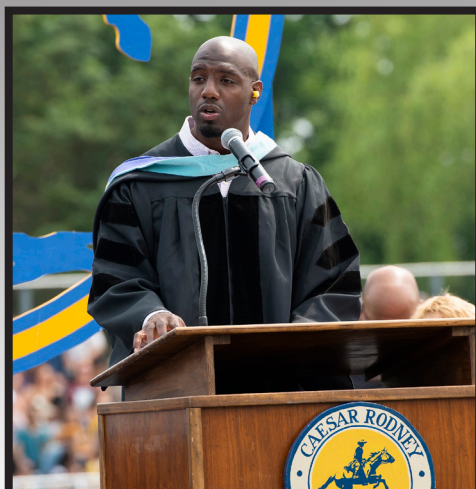


Caesar Rodney High School's Air Force JROTC Drill Team are National Champions! CR AFJROTC's Armed Exhibition Drill team won the National Championship in Armed Exhibition at the Air Force National Open Drill Championships in Dayton Ohio in March. Thirty four schools from around the country were there to compete. The Unarmed Exhibition Team also placed 3rd in the Nation. Our cadets won their eighth consecutive state championship and ninth overall, on April 13, 2019 during the Eagle Classic State of Delaware JROTC Military Drill Championships held at Dover Air Base. Approximately 250 cadets from ten schools competed in the competition which includes inspection, colors, armed and unarmed regulation and exhibition drill events.



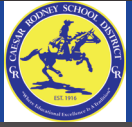
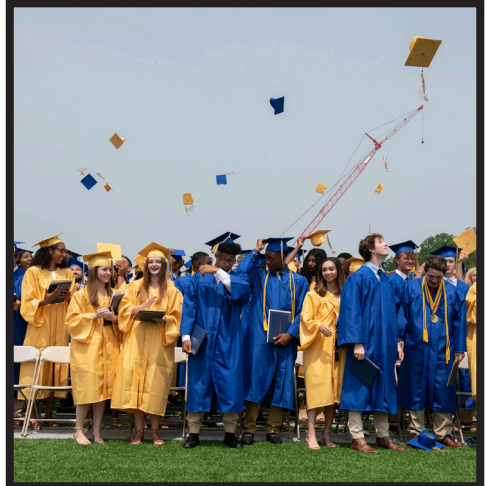


413 GRADUATE FROM CAES



Caesar Rodney High School held its 103rd Commencement Ceremony Saturday June 1st. The guest speaker for the Class of 2019 was Three-Time Super Bowl Champion and Caesar Rodney alumni, Duron Harmon. He gave the Class of 2019 some words of wisdom before they entered the world after high school and reminded them to “Do Your Job”!

CAESAR RODNEY HIGH SCHOOL





504 "LITTLE RIDERS" GRADUATE F



FROM MCIIVAIN KINDERGARTEN





76 "LITTLE RIDERS" GRADUATE FROM V



WELCH ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN



Four Graduate From John S. Charlton School



Congratulations to Jenifer Renee Bergold, Pamela Rector, Zaviere Mikal Roberts and Michael Alexander Sine on your graduation from the Charlton School! Thanks to guest speaker Thomas “Tommy” Gangemi for his words of hope for our graduates!



Caesar Rodney Countywide Program



Simpson Students Celebrate Dragon Boat Festival



Students at W.B. Simpson Elementary followed step-by-step instructions on how to build boats out of paper and then raced them against their classmates. The students also got to decorate their boats. Students at W.B. Simpson have been learning about the origin of the Dragon Boat Festival, as well as how it is celebrated today. They filled out a graphic organizer as they learned about the origins, activities and food used to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival. The Dragon Boat Festival celebrates the life of Qu Yuan, who was a poet and advisor to the emperor before drowning in the river.

ams Kindergarten Graduation 2019



1ST ANNUAL BLUE AND GOLD LIVESTOCK SHOW

Caesar Rodney High School FFA members and John S. Charlton students participated in the first annual Blue and Gold Livestock Show at Wicked R Western. CRHS students worked closely with students enrolled in the Charlton program over several weeks to help them learn how to care for and handle goats. Students were judged on showmanship and knowledge of the goats. It's been incredibly rewarding to see the confidence grow in all students involved and we can't wait for them to show off their new skills! Congratulations to Tyler Tylman for winning Grand Champion!



NHS MEMBERS RECEIVE HONOR CORDS

In May, members of the Class of 2019 received their National Honor Society graduation honor cords for maintaining an "A" grade point average and upholds the NHS tenets of Scholarship, Character, Service and Leadership.

Graduating senior officers passed on their duties to selected incoming seniors. Senior members of the CRHS Chorale sang the alma mater to conclude the ceremony. Congratulations to all of these superior scholars!



AIR BASE MIDDLE PEN PALS



At first glance, a middle schooler and an elderly person appear to have nothing in common. One is growing up in a technology-rich world that provides information and entertainment at the touch of a button. The other endured the trials and tribulations of childhood with very little technology. Even so, this does not mean there is not a common ground that can bring these two groups of people together for an activity that produces laughter and smiles on both sides. Mrs. Nelle Cox's ADV ELA & Senior Citizen Pen Pal Program accomplished that. Each month, students corresponded with a senior from Cadia Healthcare. "Each letter provided an opportunity to tell a story, share a piece of history, and make a connection," Mrs. Cox stated. "My students loved reading about their pen pal's life experiences and words of wisdom." Seventh-grader Kaylee Rivera reflected, "I thoroughly enjoyed writing to the senior citizens! When I started writing to my pal, I was pleasantly surprised to find out that we shared many of the same interests and traits! It was fun to discuss topics like favorite books and places we have visited or lived. After corresponding throughout the year, I was extremely excited to meet her in person at the end of the year event arranged by Mrs. Cox. I cherish that face to face time. I feel so lucky to be able to count my pen pal as a friend." Seventh-grader Gabrielle Dupras feels the same. "Writing to my pen pal and then getting to meet her was an incredible experience. I look forward to continuing the correspondence with her and hearing more about her happy childhood experiences from a different time period. Mrs. Cox believes students embraced the writing assignment because they were fond of the person reading it and it was "real" writing. Written communication is a critical skill and I am pleased that this activity was such a success."

POSTLETHWAIT MIDDLE TALENT SHOW

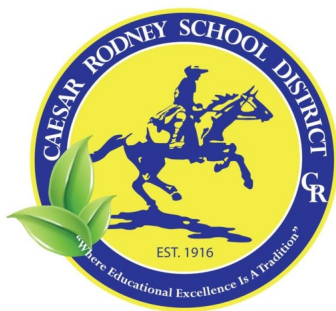


CAESAR RODNEY



SPRING SPORTS





GREEN RIDERS

Planning For 21st Century Sustainable Schools

Our *CR Center for Green Schools* 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

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS *Spring & Summer 2019*

- **CRSD** awarded 2019 USDOE Green Ribbon Schools Sustainable District
- **Brown Elementary EcoTeam** hosted 2019 Delaware State Green Ribbon Schools ceremony
- **Simpson Elementary** installed high tunnel greenhouse for growing native plants and produce
- Professional development retreat at **Killen's Pond** for **volunteer EcoTeam staff sponsors**; guest speakers from partners at **DE Forest Service** and **The Jefferson School**
- Three professional development courses hosted at **Simpson Elementary** covering topics on waste management and recycling, nature study skills, and how to be safe and comfortable in CRSD's expanding network of outdoor learning spaces



US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS (ED-GRS)

WHO: US Department of Education

WHAT: Federal outreach and engagement tool structured as a **recognition award for schools**; communicates **resources and practices**, and connects potential national and local **partners**



WHEN: In **2011**, after public request from 80 non-government organizations, ED-GRS was launched as a pilot

WHERE: Only **76 school districts** have been recognized to date; in 2019, 14 school districts from just **28 nominating states** across the country were awarded as 2019 USDOE Green Ribbon Schools Sustainable School Districts, CRSD was one of these! Go **GreenRiders**! Scan the **QR code above** to see the highlights

WHY: The **aim** of U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS) is to inspire **schools, districts and institutions of high education** to strive for **21st-century excellence** by highlighting promising school **sustainability practices and resources** that all can employ

HOW: Interested schools and districts must be **nominated by Delaware Department of Education** after completing an **application** that includes **extensive data about the school** or district's facilities, health and safety policies, food services and environmental and sustainability curriculum initiatives

THREE PILLARS OF ED-GRS GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS

Having a net zero environmental impact through reduced greenhouse gas emissions, water conservation and improved water quality, reduced waste production, and expanded support of alternative transportation

Improving the health and performance of students and staff through coordinated school health programming including nutrition and outdoor physical education, health counseling, and maintenance of facilities and grounds

Ensuring 21st century environmental and sustainability literacy of all graduates through interdisciplinary learning about key relationships between dynamic systems, STEM content knowledge derived from the environment and sustainability, and the development of civic engagement knowledge and skills

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
GreenRibbonSchools



2019
DISTRICT
AWARD
WINNER

Center for GREEN Schools



W. Reily Brown Leader in Me Day



In May, W. Reily Brown Elementary held their annual Leader in Me Day which gives the students the ability to share with the community the hard work they are putting in to become leaders. Students learn how to set goals and make a plan to achieve them, monitor their progress toward meeting their goals, and celebrate the achievement of their goals.

Passports Around the World



During Major George S. Welch Elementary's annual Passports Around The World event in May, students dressed up and gave short presentations based on different countries around the globe and the cultural differences between them.

#goriders

Volunteers Celebrated at W. B. Simpson Elementary



On May 23rd W.B. Simpson Elementary held a Volunteer Tea Party to thank all the volunteers that have helped throughout the school year. Student council members help check in the volunteers and also help pass out thank you gifts at the end. Thank you, Volunteers!

Donuts for Dad, Muffins for Mom at Nellie H. Stokes Elementary



May 7th, Nellie H. Stokes Elementary held their Donuts for Dad, Muffins for Mom breakfast. Parents enjoyed their pastries with their children and afterwards they were invited to shop at the school book fair.

Fine Dining for Teachers at Air Base Middle



For teacher appreciation week members of the student council at Dover Air Base Middle School provided a fine dining lunch experience for the teachers and staff at Dover Air Base Middle School. Students served chicken piccata over rice, green beans, tossed salad, rolls and desserts. #ilovedeteachers



Field Day FUN!

