



# W.R. Brown Elementary School



*Saddled up for achievement and riding to success...*

360 Webbs Lane Dover, DE 19904

302-697-2101

[www.crk12.org/brown](http://www.crk12.org/brown)

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Caesar Rodney School District

December 2022

## Upcoming Dates

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Holiday Gram Sales Begin

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

Cultural Festival Drive-Thru  
5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>**

Holiday Spirit Week

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Board of Education Meeting  
W.B. Simpson Elementary  
School

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Interim Reports Issued

**December 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>**

**December 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>**

**January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

School Closed-  
Winter Break

**Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Schools Re-Open

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Schools Closed  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

Schools Closed  
Teacher In-service



Dear W. Reily Brown Families,

Happy Holidays! This is always an exciting time of year at W. Reily Brown. Students will be learning about holidays, traditions, and cultures from around the world as we prepare to celebrate our annual Holiday Culture Festival. Classrooms, hallways, and our cafeteria are adorned with festive decorations as we celebrate the holiday season with your children.

We are extremely proud of our W. Reily Brown Chorus and Step Team for showcasing their talents at our winter concert on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We would also like to congratulate our Girls on the Run team for completing their fall season and culminating 5K on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.

We are thrilled to host our Drive-Thru Holiday Culture Festival on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We welcome you to enjoy the lights of the season as you drive through our campus. A dinner treat will be provided along with hot chocolate and other yummy goodies. Students will receive fun items as they visit each of our stations. This is sure to be an event to remember.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyous and peaceful holiday season.





## Nurse's Corner



Happy Holidays from the Nurse!

Reminders:

\*Let the nurse know if your child receives their flu vaccine. We are trying to "shield" out the virus.

\*If your child is sick, please do not send to school. This includes fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or any cough accompanied by a fever.

\*There are rapid COVID test kits available at first come first served basis. Please stop by the main office to pick up a kit, as these will not be sent home with the children.

Please reach out with any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful holiday season and stay safe.

Nurse Wendy  
302-697-2101/2102  
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## Caesar Rodney School District Strategic Plan

The development of the Caesar Rodney School District (CRSD) Strategic Plan was a community-wide effort led by a committee of 35 individuals representing students, teachers, parents, support staff, administrators, central office staff, and business leaders. The committee met multiple times over the past few months to review stakeholder feedback, 1,500 survey results, research, and data so that they could develop draft content. The content was reviewed by 15 focus groups who provided reactions and feedback. The feedback was used to make revisions and recommendations to the CRSD Board of Education who adopted the plan. Follow the QR Code below to view the new CRSD Strategic Plan.



## My Very Own Library

The University of Chicago's My Very Own Library Program is a literacy initiative that provides access to books and learning resources for students in public elementary schools. My Very Own Library collaborates with Scholastic Book Clubs to provide W. Reilly Brown students with educational programming and book fairs at no cost to the students or our school. During each school year, students will enjoy two My Very Own Library book fairs and receive ten books, at no cost, to build up their own home library.

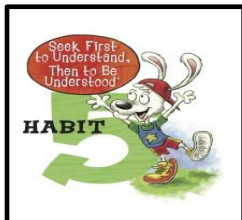
### Read-At-Home Plan For Student Success

Reading with your child is a proven way to promote early literacy. One of the best things you can do to prepare your child for his/her future is to make sure that your child spends time reading each day outside of school. Some ways to do this include reading out loud to your child, listening to your child read, echo reading (you read a line, then they repeat), reading together at the same time, rereading or retelling favorite stories, and talking to your child about the reading.

Make reading something your family does every day! Keep it simple and enjoyable!

# Leader in Me: Habits at Home

W. Reily Brown is a *Leader in Me* school. We promote leadership for everyone through the 7 Habits.



## **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood**

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

People who seek first to understand, then to be understood try to fully understand another person before presenting their own point of view. Habit 5 means balancing courage and consideration and expressing our views with clarity and respect.

Ways to practice Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood:

- Try to go one whole hour without talking even once. Instead, just watch the people around you and listen to what they are saying.
- Think of someone in your life who you think is a good listener. What do they do that makes them a good listener?
- The next time one of your friends is sad, notice his/her eyes or the way he/she holds his/her body. Tell him/her you know he/she is sad and that you want to help.



## **Habit 6: Synergize**

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different from me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas because I know that by teaming with others, we can create better solutions than what any one of us could do alone. I look for Third Alternatives.

People who synergize understand that everyone has unique talents and that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. They also work together to arrive at new and better alternatives.

- Write down three things that you are good at. Then write down three things that someone else you know is good at.
- Watch your favorite sports team play a game. Pay extra attention to how all of the players work together as a team.
- Set up a lemonade stand with your friends. One person can create a poster, one can make the lemonade, and one can set up the table and bring the cups and ice.

## Counselor's Corner: Mindful Breathing

Recently, students have been learning the mindful practice hot chocolate breathing! For the month of December, we will be focusing on how we can use this coping skill to handle stress, manage frustration and anger, increase focus, and calm anxiety. Hot chocolate breathing is a successful mindful practice/coping strategy because it uses a combination of guided imagery, breathing, and engaging multiple senses-and it is just fun! Please find a sample script for Hot Chocolate Breathing below:



### Hot Chocolate Breathing

**Imagine you are holding a cup of hot chocolate in your hands.**

**It feels nice and warm.**

**It is much too hot to take a sip, so you need to cool it off.**

**Bring your cup close to you; take a long breath in through your nose smelling the chocolate goodness.**

**Slowly blow out through mouth to cool off your hot chocolate.**

**Repeat until you start to feel your body warm and relax.**

**Now take a tiny sip of your hot chocolate, and say "Mmmmmmmmm...!"**