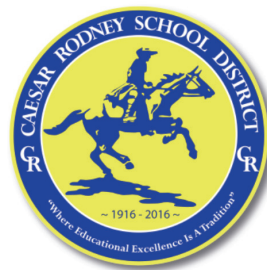


# THE CR REPORT

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



WINTER 2020-2021

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



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

# Message from the Superintendent

Now that the cold and inclement weather of this past winter is fading from view, we look ahead with renewed hope that this Spring, we will all begin to see some relief from the sadness, pressure and frustration of the pandemic. We are proud of the work of our teachers and students



Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent

during these challenging times and grateful for the support that we've received from our parents and the community.

While still under the mandate of the Governor's Executive Order, regarding social distancing, cleaning, mask wearing, and limitations on transportation,

we have managed to bring students into our buildings four days a week. We will continue to look for ways to expand those opportunities. Our students, staff and community's health and well-being are of the utmost concern to us, but we understand the value of students being in school and are working to make that happen.

I want to congratulate Allen Frear Elementary School for being named a National Blue Ribbon School and F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School has been recognized as one of ESPN's Top 5 Unified Sports Schools in the country. I also want to congratulate all of our Fall and Winter athletes, and their coaches, for following the health/safety protocols while having successful sports seasons! Now it's our Spring sports turn. After losing the opportunity to play last year our high school athletes

have finally returned to the field, track, courts and golf course!

Finally, I'd like to thank the Camden-Wyoming Rotary for their sponsorship of equipping five school buses with Wi-Fi technology, which will be used to support students in areas with low internet connectivity and the Hartly Ruritan Club for their generous donation of blankets, clothing, toiletries and cleaning supplies for families in need. These have been demanding and difficult times for us all, but together we will overcome this challenge.



## WHATS HAPPENING?

### BOARD MEETINGS:

March 16: Via Zoom Webinar from Allen Frear Elementary School, 7:00 pm

April 20: Via Zoom Webinar from W. Reily Brown Elementary School, 7:00 pm

May 18: Via Zoom Webinar from J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center, 7 pm

### SCHOOL EVENTS:

March 31: End of Marking Period

April 21: Report Cards Issued

May 12: Interim Reports Issued

### SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

April 1: In-Service Day

April 2-9: Spring Break

May 31 - Schools Closed for Memorial Day

### FRONT COVER:

Alexander Rodger, a first grade student in Mrs. Jilek's class at Allen Frear Elementary, expressing his excitement for learning and being in school.

### BACK COVER:

Caesar Rodney High School's Unified Flag Football team hoists the 2020 Runner-Up Trophy.

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

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# Camden-Wyoming Rotary Club Makes \$7,800 Donation to Fund Wi-Fi Equipped Busses



During the current pandemic conditions, concerns and restrictions, the life of many students in the public school system can often be difficult and stressful. As a way to provide student support and encouragement for learning in a remote setting, the Camden-Wyoming Rotary Club recently donated \$7,800 to the Caesar Rodney School District as funding to provide five Wi-Fi equipped “hot-spot” busses to be used in communities that often have difficulty securing or maintaining an internet connection.

Dr. Yasmith “Jazzy” Johnson, president of the Camden-Wyoming Rotary Club, stated, “The Camden-Wyoming Rotary Club is very excited to be presenting a check for \$7,800 to the Caesar Rodney School District. We know the Wi-Fi equipped busses will support students who need the service the most. Our club members were responsive to this effort and stepped up to support the students. Our dedication to “Service Above Self” made it possible to accomplish our goal.”

The Rotary Club Board voted to provide funds for one bus, and Club members John Kirby and Steve Welde announced they would each fund one bus each, on their own. In true Rotary fashion, they successfully challenged fellow members to commit the funds to support the final two conversions – for a total of five. The Camden-Wyoming Rotary has a long history of supporting the CR School District. Each year they deliver dictionaries to third graders and provide multiple scholarships for graduating seniors.

Currently the CR District has 3,843 students as part of the Hybrid/In-Person learning model, and 4,143 students who take their studies in a full remote setting. To aid in remote computer usage the District has equipped its mobile Nutrition Bus with Wi-Fi capability, all school parking lots are Wi-Fi accessible and the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3 in Kitts Hummock has been outfitted as a hot-spot site, as well.

“It is a great feeling to know that members of the Caesar Rodney community are willing to support our students. Efforts like what the Camden-Wyoming Rotary Club have done to provide this needed service for student learning is proof of that. I am very thankful for their generosity,” explained Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Superintendent.

# CR High School Seniors Sign National



Jada McCullough signed a Letter of Intent to play basketball with Delaware State University.



Mason Griffith signed a Letter of Intent to play lacrosse with Salisbury University.



Sydney Wissman signed her Letter of Intent to run cross country with Ursinus College.



Corey Handy signed his Letter of Intent to play football with Millersville University.



Blaise Moyer signed his Letter of Intent to run cross country and track with Radford University.



Giana Guido signed her Letter of Intent to play field hockey with Neumann University.

# Letters of Intent for College Sports



Geena Edmanson signed a Letter of Intent to play Volleyball with Rowan University.



Brandon Victory signed a Letter of Intent to play soccer with the Southern Virginia University.



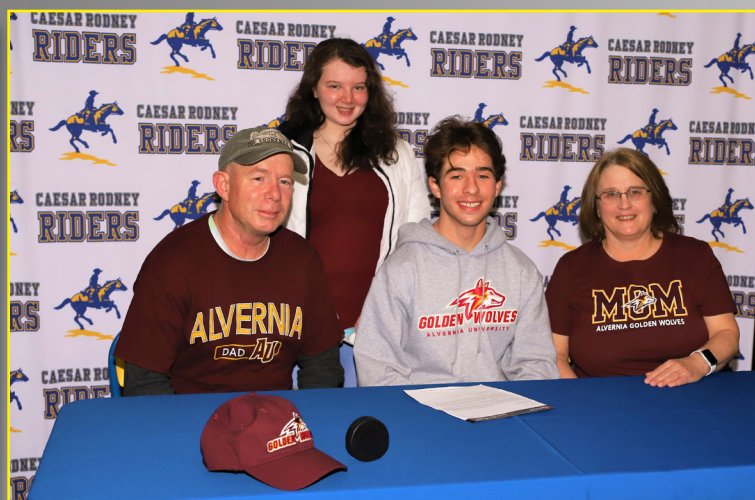
Emily Kravalis signed her Letter of Intent to play lacrosse with Shenandoah University.



Georgia May signed her Letter of Intent to swim with Franklin & Marshall College.



Ralph Nicholson signed a Letter of Intent to run cross country and track with Mount St. Mary's University.



Chris Claycomb signed a Letter of Intent to play ice hockey with Alvernia University.

# DISTRICT RECOGNITIONS

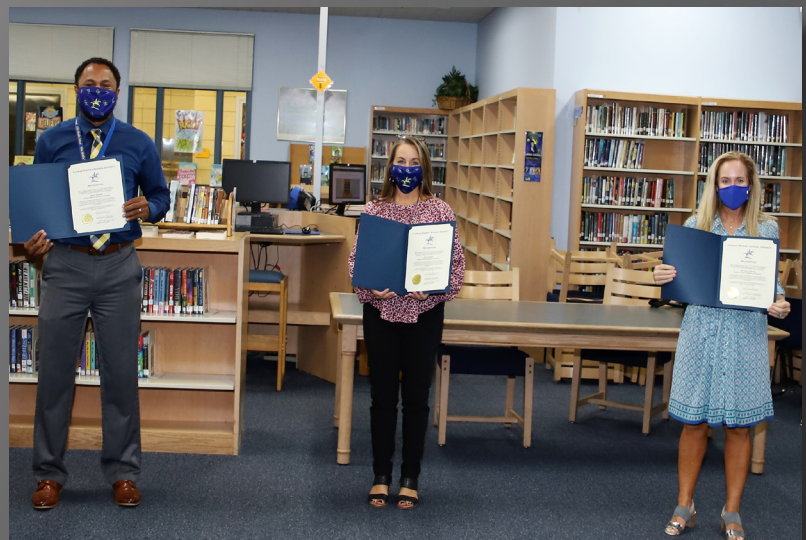


Paraprofessional Paula Kohout, of W. B. Simpson Elementary, was selected as CR's first Educational Support Professional of the Year, a new award recently established by State Legislation and coordinated by the Dept. of Education.

The Educational Support Professional program is designed to recognize outstanding service by school employees who provide direct or indirect services to students and their families.

Paula began working with the District in Nov. 2014 as a paraprofessional at the ILC. She transferred to Simpson Elementary in 2015 to support students in the Chinese Immersion program and continues to support those students, teachers, and programs today.

As part of Principal Appreciation Month last year, the Caesar Rodney School School Board honored the principals of Fred Fifer III Middle School. Kim Corbeil, Principal; Keith Wisher & Michele Waite; Assistant Principals; were presented with certificates honoring their service to the students of Fifer Middle School, and as surrogates for all the other principals and assistants who could not be in attendance due to COVID restrictions.



Dr. Kristina Failing, principal of F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School was named the Delaware Association of Educational Office Professionals (DAEOP) Administrator of the Year in a ceremony at the school. The award presentation for Dr. Failing was coordinated by DAEOP Vice-President Teresa Price, CEOE.

Recommendations for her nomination explained that Dr. Failing is recognized throughout the district "as being caring, well-versed, nurturing, and known to have an excellent rapport with all of her co-workers." She was said to "inspire everyone with whom she interacts with to encourage them to reach their highest potential personally, professionally, and academically."



# CR High School Seniors Sign National Letters of Intent for College Sports



Jaelin Joyner signed his Letter of Intent to run cross country and track with Virginia Wesleyan University.



Mahlon Dyer signed his Letter of Intent to play football at Campbell University.



Zander Omans signed his Letter of Intent to play soccer with Goldey Beacom University.



Danielle Stewart signed her Letter of Intent to pursue swimming with West Chester University.

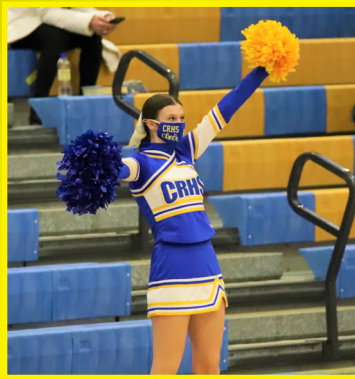


Justin Green signed his Letter of Intent to run cross country and track with East Stroudsburg University.

# FALL SPORTS



# WINTER SPORTS



# 2020 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

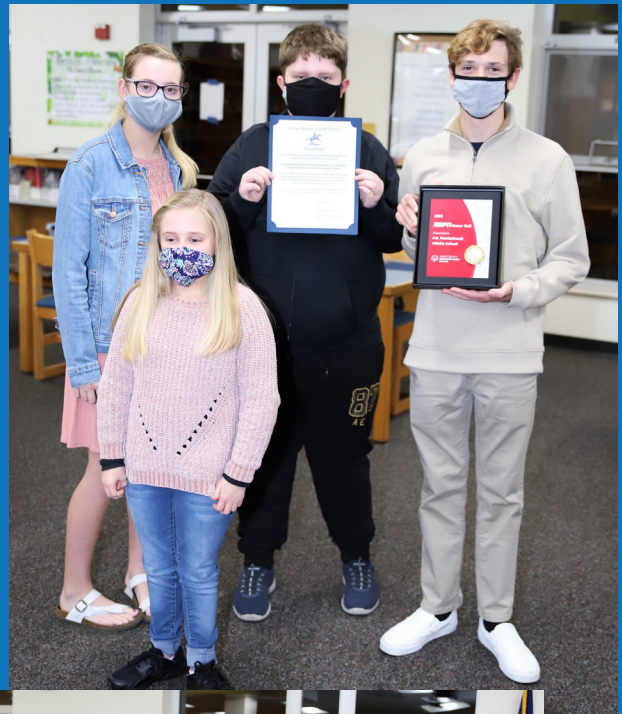
## Allen Frear Elementary



Caesar Rodney School District's Allen Frear Elementary School was chosen as a 2020 National Blue Ribbon School award recipient! Only three Delaware schools, among the national group of 317 public and 50 non-public schools received the honor this year.

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of our CR educators, families, and community in creating a safe and welcoming school where students succeed with challenging and engaging content.

Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools.



In just two short years, F. Neil Postlethwait Middle School has gone from beginning the planning process of incorporating the Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools program into the core values of its school - to recently receiving the program's highest honor.

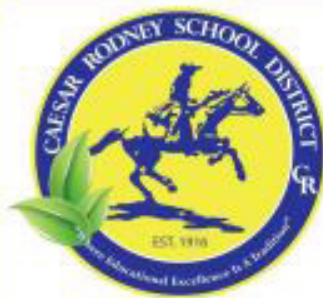
**F. NEIL POSTLETHWAIT MIDDLE  
SCHOOL NAMED A NATIONAL  
TOP 5 UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOL  
BY ESPN & SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

## Legislative Recognition



In a ceremony held at the High School earlier this year State Representative Lyndon Yearick presented Legislative Proclamations to long time CR family. Coach & educator Brian Berns was recognized for his career of 40-years (and still going). Long-time Band instructors DuWayne & Vanessa Sandlin were also recognized for their 30+ years each, of dedication to music programs and their students, upon their retirement.





# 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 for Green Schools

### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS Winter 2021

- Provided support to 5 teachers of CRHS' new freshman science course "Environmental Science & Sustainability"
- CRHS freshman and staff attended first **Guest Session Series Webinar** on Environmental Science & Sustainability with Mr. Kevin Denman
- Awarded \$147,302 grant from **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation** for outdoor learning spaces at 10 schools
- Established partnership with **CR Department of Equity & Diversity** to explore **Equity Through Environment**
- Launched pilot of student designed **Campus Service App** for organizing volunteer land stewards in partnership with **Keep DE Beautiful** to help maintain our expanding network of outdoor learning spaces

WEBINAR



### FEATURED RIDERS

**WHO:** Ms. Beron, Ms. Burton, Ms. Crosby, Ms. Parish-Short, Ms. Stokes, Ms. Ramsdel\*

**WHAT:** Science teachers who designed, and are now teaching, the new freshman science course *Environmental Science & Sustainability*

**WHEN:** This is the first year this course has been offered

**WHERE:** Caesar Rodney High School (in hybrid scenario)

**WHY:** These women of science are increasing student opportunities for meaningful hands-on learning through field work

**HOW:** Through discussion, case study, experiential field work, and the exploration of science and sustainability issues both locally and globally; graduating more environmentally literate citizens

*"In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught."*

Baba Dioum

\*Ms. Ramsdel was part of the initial course design and teaching team

### GOOD TO KNOW Scan & Go!

The USDA plant hardiness map is based on average annual minimum winter temperature, divided into 10°F zones. This helps gardeners and growers determine which plants are most likely to thrive in their geographic location.



These beautiful benches are made from about 31,000 recycled plastic bags right here in Delaware! Plastic bags & small plastics, like bottle caps & container seals, cannot be placed in blue recycle bins, but can be taken to special collection centers to be made into sustainable items.

Looking for a good read? Why are African Americans so underrepresented when it comes to interest in nature, outdoor recreation, and environmentalism? In this thought-provoking study,



Carolyn Finney looks beyond the discourse of the environmental justice movement to examine how the natural environment has been understood, commodified, and represented by both white and black Americans.

# Unified Flag Football



2020 State Runner Up