

August 16, 2022

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey,

Ten years ago this week, Cristo Rey opened its doors to its first class of 124 students. This week, we welcome our entire student body back to school for Business Bootcamp and the start of our 11th school year!

There's a lot to be excited about this year. **We have welcomed 164 new students, 15 new team members, and 18 new job partners to our Cristo Rey Community.** This is thanks to our awesome team who have worked hard this summer to prepare for a great year. In fact, I quickly realized that a Cristo Rey summer is just as action-packed as the school year!



Soon after school ended, our rising seniors went on the first ever *Summer College Intensive*, spending three days at Holy Family University. The program provided an opportunity for students to spend dedicated time towards drafting their college essays and creating their college list, so that they enter their senior year ready for the college application process.

Also new this year was our *Summer Bridge Program* for the incoming 9th grade class. In July, we hosted our new students for a week at the school to meet their peers and teachers, get immersed in our Cristo Rey culture, and prepare them for their high school journey. One of the highlights was meeting our new families at various family activities throughout the week.

I heard one parent say, "I love it here. Everyone is so warm and supportive. I think I'm more excited than my son!" Her words are a true testament to the culture we are building here at Cristo Rey.



We also had 48 K-2nd graders, from our local neighborhood, for the second summer of *Horizons at Cristo Rey*. Returning students and new students participated in academic enrichment and fun activities over the six weeks, including swimming, dancing, yoga, reading, math and a field trip to the

African American Museum.



One special part of Horizons is the opportunity for Cristo Rey high school students to work as counselors in the program and be mentors to the children in their community. Rising senior Jaden Webb said he chose to work at Horizons because, “I knew the work we’d be doing is important, and so I wanted to get involved.” Learn more about Horizons at Cristo Rey on our [website here](#).



It’s full circle moments like these that remind all of us at Cristo Rey why we do the work we do. Our faculty and staff returned last week to kick-off the new school year and we reflected on the theme of “with pride and with purpose.” Just a few of the answers I heard included:

“I want to pay forward what my high school teachers did for me.”

“I’m committed to serving our students in unique, outside of the box ways.”

“Cristo Rey is an entire community deeply committed to building a space with and for our students to help them recognize and realize their full potential.”

The 2022-2023 Cristo Rey Team



I know many of you feel similarly, and that’s what makes this community truly special. **The work we do would not be possible without your support, and I want to thank you for that!** I invite you to get involved in our work and hope to see many of you at the school this year to be a part of our mission in action.

Have a great fall and see you soon,

Tom

Horizons at Cristo Rey 2022



Cristo Rey's first free community farm stand launches in partnership with Sharing Excess

Cristo Rey wins the Wawa Foundation Hero Award



Four students attend the Theology of Healing Earth in Action (THEA) Institute at Loyola University Chicago

Cristo Rey Philly hosts the annual Cristo Rey Network Admissions Conference



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