

March 2, 2023

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey,

After a full year on the job I am more convinced than ever what a special place Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School really is! And I may even be close to fully understanding the complex operations that make our school so unique and valuable to our community. Here is my "insider's perspective":

As many of you who actively engage in our mission well know, Cristo Rey is the ultimate "partnership model" in that we work with every company, not for profit and individual that wants to give back to their community. How this unique model delivers the nurturing and challenging environment our students need and deserve is the most fascinating part.

It all starts with our 540 remarkable students. Yes, we provide a wonderful environment that leads to great successes, but our young people do the heavy lifting. Their dedication, hard work and grit amazes me every day!

Our faculty and staff, Board of Trustees, donors, scholarship partners and volunteers are also incredibly committed to our mission. I am humbled by their commitment and perseverance and I am very proud to work side by side with them on this journey.

Our Work-Study program is an incredibly important part of our financial model and so much more for our students. Our Partners are an extension of our school – working with our students as mentors and coaches, fostering confidence and enthusiasm for their future careers. Can you imagine walking into the Comcast Tower at 14 years-old to work side by side with seasoned professionals? Our students do so every day, under the guidance of Job Supervisors who cultivate an environment where they can develop important life and professional skills as well as life-changing confidence. A junior who has significantly improved his grades and level of engagement in school activities attributed these positive changes to his job at Independence Blue Cross. He said as a freshman, he didn't believe in his own ability to graduate from college into a meaningful career, but after six months of mentorship and coaching at his job, he is confident and dedicated to his dream of becoming an engineer.

Our holistic approach to education rests on the three pillars of Academics, Work Study and Student Life. Academics is always our first focus at Cristo Rey and our faculty set high expectations and provide strong instruction so our students can achieve our rigorous curriculum. We heard about the benefits of Work Study above, and Student Life programming is truly the glue that binds our community together.

Cristo Rey students come from over 80 different grade schools across Philadelphia and Camden as well as Delaware and Montgomery Counties, so very few enter with a ready-made group of friends. Yet, when they play a sport (as almost 60% do), join a club, or participate in a Campus Ministry, they bond with one another and find those kindred spirits that will help them through the challenging days of their high school lives. They cheer one another on, as they did this past Thursday when our boys' basketball team won the first Penn Jersey League Championship in Cristo Rey Philadelphia history!

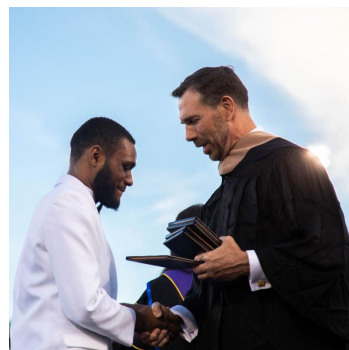
We have also determined that we can measure our work in the smiles of our students, staff, and community members. And we are racking up big smile numbers these days! We smile while working hard because we know that hard work leads to big payoffs. Some of these smiles are in the pictures below.

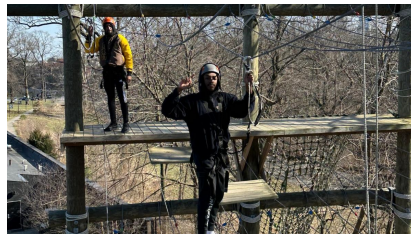
Thank you for all you do to make Cristo Rey Philadelphia more successful every day! And if you are interested in smiles and don't mind some hard work, reach out to our team so we can get you even more involved.

With appreciation and in celebration,

Tom

Thomas A. Shoemaker
President & CEO





Clockwise from left: The CRPHS Boys' Basketball Team celebrates their victory in the Penn-Jersey League Championship; Seniors embark on their Kairos retreat; Students participate in Grad @ Grad programming at Philadelphia Outward Bound School; Students interested in careers in healthcare participate in a phlebotomy certification course.



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