

September 18, 2023

Friends of Cristo Rey,

Our community has kicked off the school year with a tremendous amount of Believing, Dreaming, Leading and Serving. I am so happy to share what that has looked like with all of you!

WE BELIEVE

With the beginning of each school year comes great anticipation for the challenges we are prepared for and those we are not. Each of our students is embarking upon a new journey and taking on new challenges this year. At Cristo Rey, the most obvious unknowns are entering a new grade level and receiving a new Work-Study assignment. The less obvious comes with fostering a new friendship in House, trying out for a sport, accepting the responsibility of Campus Ministry Student Leader, or mastering the challenge of an advanced subject level. We encourage our students to embrace new hurdles with both grit and grace, because we know there is no growth without challenge! Our young people know we will be right beside them to provide support and encouragement. Setting the bar high and offering strong support is the Cristo Rey way and our students, along with our entire community, would have it no other way.

WE DREAM

The second week of school was filled with a lineup of Work-Study events, beginning with Signing Day. This momentous occasion takes place each year so that our students can learn where they will be working. Job Partners traveled to Cristo Rey for a high-energy draft filled with music, games, and so much joy. The following Tuesday and Wednesday, our students boarded Cristo Rey vans and rode the subway for their first commute to their job sites. Faculty and staff traveled with our young professionals across the Greater Philadelphia area, on these two Site Visit Days, so that they could become acquainted with their supervisors and get excited for the year to come. We are so grateful for our Work-Study Supervisors, as an important extension of our community, who will support our student workers as they learn tangible skills, accept challenges head on, and embrace growth this year.



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311 likes

cristoreyphiladelphia PHOTO DUMP: Signing Day 2023



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cristoreyphiladelphia Scenes from Site Visit Day

WE LEAD ✨

The Class of 2027 jumped right into our twelve-year Cristo Rey tradition - the We Lead Video! On the First Day of School, our 9th graders answered the question: What does Leadership mean to you? In three words, the students quickly noted what being a leader meant to them and intentionally embraced this tradition and what it means to our community.



Another gathering that we begin each school year with is the Celebration of the Holy Spirit. This gathering of prayer is a centuries old tradition celebrated amongst Catholic, Jesuit, and Cristo Rey schools around the world. We assembled as one community of all faiths so that the Spirit of God can be present with us during, and bless us throughout, this school year.



As we begin our fifth week of school, it has been such a pleasure to have our students, faculty, and staff back on campus, together. We are fully settled into our routine of classes and work, Fall sports – Volleyball, Flag Football, Soccer and Cross Country – are happening daily, and new clubs and activities are underway. Most importantly, you can feel the sense of community everywhere! There is never a shortage of extraordinary things taking place, so I invite you to stop by and join us over the next few months. We look forward to welcoming you to campus so that you can meet our students and see the magic that is Cristo Rey in action.

Blue Pride,



Tom Shoemaker
President, CEO
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School





Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School | 1717 West Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132
cristoreyphiladelphia.org

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