Celebrating a Legacy and Embracing the Future

As we bid a fond farewell to our esteemed superintendent, Dr. Christine Alois, we celebrate her remarkable tenure and contributions to our educational community. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Alois on her retirement. She has spent the last 29 years dedicated to education and has given her passion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to fostering academic excellence and shaping the lives of our students. Her visionary leadership has left an indelible mark on our district, ensuring that every child receives the best possible education and support to thrive in an ever-changing world. I speak for the entire School Board and the Rider community in wishing her a fulfilling and joyful retirement.

As we embark on the next phase of our district’s educational journey, the selection of a new superintendent is a crucial process. The members of the Board of Education are committed to finding a candidate who shares our vision, possesses exemplary leadership qualities, and is dedicated to the holistic development of our students. To that end, a comprehensive search has begun with stakeholders, educators, parents, and community members to identify the most suitable individual to lead our district. It is our aim to ensure a seamless transition and maintain the unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional education to our students that the Caesar Rodney School District is known for.

The Caesar Rodney School District remains steadfast in our dedication to the strategic plan that Superintendent Alois played a pivotal role in developing. The plan will continue to serve as our roadmap, guiding us towards a future of innovation, inclusivity, and educational excellence. The components of the plan prioritize personalized learning experiences, innovative teaching methods, and a supportive environment that nurtures the unique talents and strengths of every student.

The school board remains resolute in our efforts to enhance community engagement and collaboration. We believe in the power of partnerships and the collective wisdom of our community members, parents and educators. Together, we will continue to build bridges that strengthen our educational ecosystem, encouraging lifelong learning and preparing out students to become responsible global citizens.

As we express our gratitude to Dr. Alois for her extraordinary contributions, we also embrace the new opportunities that lie ahead. The search for a new superintendent will allow us to bring fresh perspectives, energy, and expertise to our district. We invite our community to join us in this exciting journey as we continue to move forward with our strategic plan, empowering our students and preparing them for a future full of possibilities.

Jessica Marelli - President, Caesar Rodney Board of Education

2023 - 2024 DISTRICT HONORS

EMILY WHITE
Fred Fifer III Middle School
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL

MELISSA RAPP
Caesar Rodney High School
TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SINEAD RONAN
Magnolia Middle School
EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL

WE ARE HIRING

Teachers - multiple grades
Foreign Language
Paraprofessionals
Special Education
Custodians
Coaches

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Meet the New School Board Member
Nicole Hill elected for 5-year Term

At the annual Caesar Rodney School Board reorganization meeting held on Wednesday, July 5, the newest member was sworn in by Board of Education President, Jessica Marelli. Nicole Hill was elected as a member of the School Board in May 2023. Nicole is a proud 1996 graduate of Caesar Rodney High School, and received a Bachelor of Science from Delaware Valley University and a Master of Science from Wesley College. She is the Kent County Coordinator for Read Aloud Delaware, a non-profit promoting the importance of childhood literacy. Nicole lives in Dover with her husband, Kyle, a Special Education Resource Teacher with the District. They have three children that attend Caesar Rodney schools.

Over the Edge for Special Olympics

The 2023 “Over the Edge” for Special Olympics Delaware was held on May 11. The money raised fuels the mission of Special Olympics to provide year-round competition, leadership opportunities, and health screenings to 4,200 athletes. A dozen CR staff from across the district participated this year, including Megan Polichetti, Gwen Clark, & Ray Failing who all rappelled 17-stories down the north face of 300 Delaware Avenue in Wilmington - that's 222 feet!

Magnolia Middle Students Make Ultimate Macaroni & Cheese

Seventh grade Magnolia Middle School students of Haitian descent collaborated with CRSD Child Nutrition to include a Haitian inspired speciality on the school’s lunch menu. A group of culinary-inclined students worked to prepare the Creole-influenced dish of macaroni and cheese. It was a big hit with the lunch crowd!! (L. to R. Lyod-Mishammah Coutilien; Joscaline Simon; Samantha Saint-Juste-Orelus; Darla Koff, Child Nutrition Specialist; Suandra Shaw; and Jocenitha Anathol.)

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BOARD MEETINGS

August 22, 2023:
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School

September 19, 2023:
David E. Robinson Elementary School

October 17, 2023:
Magnolia Middle School

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jessica Marelli, President
Dave Failing, Vice-President
Mike Marasco
Dr. Joyce Dennman
Nicole Hill

The CR Report is a publication created exclusively for the Caesar Rodney Community.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Williams, Public Information Officer at:
david.williams@cr.k12.de.us
John S. Charlton & Caesar Rodney High School Graduation Speakers
Are Also Caesar Rodney Alumni

Jillian Mathews is a 2016 graduate of the John S. Charlton School. Jillian is employed at DelDOT as an Operation Support Specialist in the Planning Department where she scans maps and documents three days a week. Jillian has participated in community plays, runs in 5k fundraising events, and participated in several Special Olympic activities at the national level.

Dr. Rebecca Tenney-Soeiro is a 1993 graduate of Caesar Rodney High School. Dr. Tenney-Soeiro wears many hats at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia: Program Director, Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellowship; Section Chief of Education, Division of General Pediatrics; and both Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Advisory Dean, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.
CAESAR RODNEY SCHOOL NEWS

Dover Air Base Middle: The DABM Odyssey of the Mind team, comprised of 6 sixth graders, chose Problem 1 which was “Pirates and the Treasure”. The team created an original skit, song, and sea monster that they had to fight while sailing in their pirate ship. The team did an outstanding job winning the state competition with an overall perfect score of 350 points. After much fundraising, the team headed to Lansing, Michigan for the World Finals with high hopes. The team came in 26th place out of 67 global teams.

Nellie Stokes Elementary: The Multilingual Learner (MLL) Program at Nellie Stokes celebrated its 2nd Annual MLL Awards on May 24. The awards were created to recognize the achievements of MLL scholars for their hard work on the yearly ACCESS language proficiency test. In addition, five scholars were celebrated for achieving proficiency on the test and exiting the program.

Fred Fifer III Middle: Fifer Middle’s Young Men of Promise traveled to the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The district’s Coordinator of Equity and Diversity, Cliffvon Howell, provided a guided tour for the young men which added insight into the 600 years of history highlighted in the museum.

W. B. Simpson Elementary: First through fifth grade students from Simpson and the Countywide ILC partnered with DelDOT to host an outdoor Bicycle Rodeo as a celebration of the fundraiser, “Health. Moves. Minds”. This events promotes physical activity and mental health awareness for our students!

Star Hill Elementary: On May 17, Star Hill’s Early Intervention Program and PreK Countywide Programs hosted a successful Touch-a-Truck event for the students to have a hands-on experience with vehicles from around the community. A big thank you to all participants for making it a success: Dover Motor Speedway, Delaware Solid Waste Authority, Delaware State Police, DelDOT, Kent County Paramedics, Camden-Wyoming Fire Company, DNREC and the Delaware Farm Bureau Mobile Ag Lab.

W. Reily Brown Elementary: Students at Brown hosted a “Leadership Day”, and invited community members to experience the great work on their campus. Members of Brown’s clubs and organizations shared information about their impact throughout the year, and members of the Student Lighthouse Team explained the importance of “The Leader in Me” program to the community.
Major George S. Welch Elementary: On his 105th birthday (May 10), a special “Major George S. Welch Day” was held at Welch Elementary on Dover Air Base. With all students in attendance, DE State Representative Kerri Evelyn Harris presented House Resolution 11 declaring the day in honor of Major Welch. Special guests received a Welch Elementary Challenge Coin from the student body in recognition of their support for the school and its programs.

Allen Frear Elementary: Allen Frear students enjoy participating in a school-wide book club featuring the book “Love That Dog”. As a culminating activity, students read poetry with Penny, the dog. Penny, a 4-legged district employee, visits Frear often as she is a certified reading buddy and fur baby to Dr. Kim Weber (CR District Resource Teacher).

David E. Robinson Elementary: David E Robinson’s “Fuel Up to Play 60” leaders worked hard all year to achieve touchdown status for our school. Select 4th & 5th grade leaders were invited to Philadelphia where they got to meet and play games with Eagles player Landon Dickerson, some dairy farmers, and the Eagles mascot, Swoop! They learned about the work that goes into dairy farming, and a couple students won signed mini helmets by answering trivia questions.

J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center: Spring rains couldn’t stop the students at McIlvaine from having fun on field day! Students headed indoors for games like Duck, Duck, Goose!

F. Niel Postlethwait Middle: Eight students from Postlethwait Middle attended the 2023 Special Olympics Student Leadership Conference at Caesar Rodney High School, in May. Designed as an opportunity for all attendees to learn more about Unified Champion Schools, the conference showed how student leaders can become resources for the district to become more inclusive. The topic “Agent of Change” was the theme, with all students learning about the huge impact that can be made by implementing small changes one at a time.
Caesar Rodney High School Girls Tennis Team Head Coach Dan Candeloro and team members celebrate winning the DIAA State Championship vs Tower Hill School on May 16, 2023.

Girls Tennis Individual State Champions

Evelyn Snyder
Third Singles

Yatra Patel & Allyson Lebending
Second Doubles

Ava Vu & Noelle Snyder
First Doubles

Ian Cain
Boys Track & Field
800M State Champion

Abby Cholewa
Girls Track & Field
Pole Vault State Champion

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