Back to School ‘16!

New School Year! New Century! New Look!

Caesar Rodney School District, 7 Front Street, Wyoming, DE 19934
Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. The first year of our second century!

While our centennial year was certainly one we can all take pride in, this year promises to be a busy and exciting year as we begin our construction projects at McIlvaine, Caesar Rodney High School and our Charlton School. The additions and improvements to these schools and the eventual building of a new elementary school will provide much needed space as our district continues to grow.

The District is also expanding opportunities for our students through our distance learning program. This year, students at all three of our middle schools and Charlton will be able to participate in classes being taught at the high school.

It’s hard to believe, but we are now into our fifth year of our Chinese Immersion program and the third year of our Spanish program. In preparation for expanding our immersion programs into the middle schools, this year will be spent working with the Delaware Department of Education to plan for this big transition.

Speaking of transitions, I want to congratulate the 465 students that graduated from Caesar Rodney High School last June and the seven students who completed the Charlton program. While the challenges that all these students face in today’s world are considerable, we are proud to have provided a solid foundation upon which they can build careers and lives. I wish them the best of luck as they pursue their dreams and I wish all of you a terrific school year!
# Caesar Rodney School District
## 188 Teacher/177 Student
### School Calendar
#### 2016-17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Teacher Days</th>
<th>Pupil Days</th>
<th>Pupil Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 1 (Mon.)</td>
<td>9th grade Success Academy starts</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 4 (Thurs.)</td>
<td>9th grade Success Academy ends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23 (Tues.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24 (Wed.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 25 (Thurs.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 29 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Students First Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Schools Closed (12 month employee workday)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>133.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 5 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Labor Day/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 13 (Tues.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed (Primary Election Day)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Columbus Day/Schools Closed/Teacher In-Service **</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>99.5 (K-8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 8 (Tues.)</td>
<td>Schools Closed (Election Day)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>104 (9-11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 11 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Schools Closed (Veterans Day)</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 21 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Elem./Middle/Charlton Abbreviated Day - Evening Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 22 (Tues.)</td>
<td>Elem./Middle/Charlton Abbreviated Day - Afternoon Conferences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 23-25 (Wed.-Fri.)</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday/Schools Closed (12 month employee workday 11/23/16)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 23-30 (Fri.-Fri.)</td>
<td>Winter Vacation/Schools Closed (12 month employee vacation days 12/27-12/30)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>104</td>
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### 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Teacher Days</th>
<th>Pupil Days</th>
<th>Pupil Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 2 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Winter Vacation/Schools Closed</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>123.5 (K-8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 3 (Tues.)</td>
<td>Schools Reopen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>114.5 (9-11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17 (Tues.)</td>
<td>CRHS Semester Exams Full Day</td>
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<td>January 18-20 (Wed.-Fri.)</td>
<td>CRHS Semester Exams ½ Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 27 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 10 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Elem./Middle/Charlton Abbreviated Day Afternoon Conferences</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>121.25 (K-8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 20 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Presidents’ Day/Schools Closed</td>
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<td>March 31 (Fri.)</td>
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<td>April 7 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Elem./Middle/Charlton Abbreviated Day Afternoon Conferences</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 14 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Spring Vacation/Schools Closed</td>
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<td>93.25 (9-11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Schools Reopen</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 29 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Memorial Day/Schools Closed</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 7 (Wed.)</td>
<td>Elem./Middle/Charlton Abbreviated Day; CRHS Half Day</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>38.75 (K-8)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8 (Thurs.)</td>
<td>Elem./Middle/Charlton Abbreviated Day; CRHS Half Day</td>
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<td></td>
<td>36.5 (9-11)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9 (Fri.)</td>
<td>Last Student Day/Abbreviated Day; CRHS Half Day</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 12 (Mon.)</td>
<td>Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
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<td>June 13 (Tues.)</td>
<td>Last Teacher Day/Teacher In-Service/Schools Closed</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>1134.7 (K-8)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1132.5 (9-11)</td>
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</tbody>
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**On all abbreviated days, dismissal will be 2 hours and 15 minutes early. On half days, dismissal is 3 hours early. Cafeterias will be open on all abbreviated days.**

**This calendar reflects 188 teacher days, 185 paraprofessional workdays, and 177 student days.**

**The three dates marked with (**) are paraprofessional non-working days.**
Over five hundred new "Little Riders" arrived at J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center for their first day of kindergarten August 29th.

Principal Brook Castillo and her team met the young students upon arrival and Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald greeted the youngsters as they began their thirteen year educational journey. Although there were a few sad faces, most of the kindergartners were excited to start their studies.

Good luck to all the students of the Class of 2029 as they begin their school year. It was a great (first) day to be a (new) Rider!
Welcome to the Class of 2029!

“The first day of school is always special but the first day of kindergarten is more than that, it is a milestone. Each year, McIlvaine welcomes new students to an educational journey that we hope prepares them for a lifelong love of learning. By the end of the year it is our goal to send our kindergarten students to first grade feeling prepared and confident in the academic and social skills they developed throughout their time with us at McIlvaine!”

- McIlvaine ECC Principal Brook Castillo

Only thirteen years left to go.

Welcome to the Class of 2029!
Approximately 420 incoming Rider freshmen of the Class of 2020 arrived at Caesar Rodney High School at 8:45 a.m. Monday, August 1 reporting for the first day of Freshman Success Academy.

CRHS Principal Dr. Sherry Kijowski welcomed the freshmen to the school during a quick overview period in the school auditorium to start the day. "You have two million minutes." said Dr. Kijowski referring to the two million minutes students spend at CRHS during their four years at the school. Dr. Kijowski told the students "We expect great things out of you. Great things. The future Class of 2020 valedictorian is in this room. The future salutatorian is in this room. The future marching band drum major is in this room."

The four-day Freshman Success Academy offers students the opportunity to meet with their teachers, acclimate themselves with the building and facilities, learn more about the curriculum and interact with their fellow classmates. On Thursday, the freshmen enjoyed guest speaker Amillion The Poet (CRHS ‘01) and a cookout field day in the school stadium.
6th grade students at Fifer, Dover Air Force Base and Postlethwait Middle Schools took a day off from summer break on August 17, and went into their new schools and spent a day meeting the faculty, getting their schedules, finding their lockers and meeting lifelong friends.

Postlethwait Principal Derek Prillaman remarked, “The Transition Academy gave our students the ability to interact with peers and teachers in a very relaxed and supportive environment prior to the arrival of our returning students. Having a small, focused group gave us the ability to address the specific needs of our new students and respond to any questions or concerns that may have existed.”

Fifer Principal Brian Smith said, “The Academy provides our rising students with an opportunity to get acclimated to their new middle school environment. Our hope is that this experience will ease our new students’ nerves, fuel their excitement, and jump start their success. Their excitement is contagious and makes us eager to start the school year.”

Welcome to the Class of 2023!
Almost 70 new CRSD teachers enjoyed the first day of New Teacher Orientation at Caesar Rodney High School Thursday, August 18th. The newest members of the Rider Family. Upon arrival, the new teachers received a T-shirt before being split into four groups rotating between workshops reflecting the district's core values - Academics, Arts, Athletics and Atmosphere. During lunch the following day, the tradition of funny photos continued and new Community Relations Specialist Dave Chambers was happy to oblige.

“On August 18th and 19th, the Caesar Rodney School District welcomed its new teachers at the annual induction held at Caesar Rodney High School. The teachers were engaged in activities to become more familiar with the district values with presentations by district personnel and students as well as community members. After the two days together, teachers left ready to start the school year as the newest members of the Rider family.” remarked Director of Instruction Dr. Christine Alois
Wednesday, August 24, thousands of Riders met at the Caesar Rodney High School parking lot to enjoy the 2nd annual Truckin' Back To School event and enjoy the delicious food available with other members of the CR family.

With performances from the CRHS cheerleaders & Yoon's Karate students to moon bounce slides & face painting, the CR community celebrated students going back to school in style proving once again that CR is the place to be.

“Truckin’ Back to School was a fantastic way to kick off this school year! Rider Pride was certainly in full-force at CRHS during the event with students, staff, and families from all of our schools enjoying food and friendship in a relaxed atmosphere last evening. What a great way to head into the district’s next century of greatness.” said CRHS Principal Dr. Sherry Kiljowski
Every CR teacher, every CR administrator and every CR staff member gathered Friday, August 26 at Caesar Rodney High School for the district's annual Back To School Breakfast. After having breakfast together in the school cafeteria, hundreds of Riders enjoyed a spectacular program including Superintendent Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald's Top Ten list, a spontaneous dance mob, a performance from the CRHS chorus and cool videos of photographs taken throughout the previous school year.

The 2016 Teachers of the Year were congratulated and district-wide Teacher of the Year Melissa Rapp, a CRHS history teacher, gave an inspirational speech about her love of teaching. The highlight of the district-wide back-to-school kickoff was CRHS grad Amillion The Poet (’01) who, after reciting several of his poems, got every Rider on their feet during his electrifying show-closing hip-hop performance.

CRHS grad Amillion The Poet gets the CR teachers on their feet.

Celebrating the start of our 101st year!
“Know that you have an impact—wherever you are, whatever you do, whether it is in the classroom or outside of the confines of the four walls. There is so much more to a student than what we see in the brief time we have them each day. Every child has a story to tell. Maybe you are the educator meant to hear it.” said CRSD Teacher of the Year 2016 Melissa Rapp during her speech.
2016 CRHS Varsity Football Schedule

9/9  @ Middletown
9/16 @ Salesianum
9/23 GLEN MILLS HS (PA)
9/30 ST. GEORGES TECH
10/7 SUSSEX TECH
10/14 @ Sussex Central
10/21 CAPE HENLOPEN
10/28 @ Smyrna
11/04 POLYTECH (Homecoming)
11/11 @ Dover

Head Coach: Dan Candeloro (2nd Year)

“The Riders are very excited to start the 2016 season. Having one of the toughest schedules in the state, we have worked hard to develop a very competitive group of athletes that have become a family. We are looking forward to a great season.”

KEY PLAYERS
Najee Whitted RB/DE
Nhaighere Wills RB/DB
Isaiah Washington TE/LB
Bailey DeAtley TE/LB
Kyle Satterfield OL/DL
Kenny Shahan OL/DL
Julian Trammell WR/DB
Dominic Cruz WR/DB
Sequann Daniels WR/DB
Brenden Holder OL/DL
Jared Wagenhoffer QB
The Riders are very excited to start the 2016 season. Having one of the toughest schedules in the state, we have worked hard to develop a competitive group of athletes that have become a family. We are looking forward to a great season.” - CRHS football head coach Dan Candeloro

Photos from the Riders’ season opener at Middletown, Friday, September 9th.
CRHS Band Camp 2016

Caesar Rodney High School marching band members spent two very hot and humid weeks participating in the school’s annual Band Camp from August 10 to August 24. Band director DuWane Sandlin, assistant directors Keith McCarthy & Vanessa Sandlin and drum major Grace Collins led the musicians during early morning marching practice outside in the school parking lot and during band rehearsal inside the school band room in the afternoons.

Mr. Sandlin remarked, “We lost a lot of talent and leadership to graduation, but so far everyone is stepping up and our new members are really starting to catch on…so far so good!”

Art Students Paint CRHS Murals

Showing their art’s in the right place, Caesar Rodney High School senior art students volunteered their valuable summer vacation to help paint huge, colorful murals on the walls of their school. Since 2015, CRHS art teacher Rob Sample and his team of students have been designing and painting murals for each academic department throughout the hallways of the school.
Riders Win at Delaware State Fair

Delaware FFA members from schools up and down The First State gathered at the Delaware State Fair inside the Free Entertainment Tent Friday, July 29, for their annual State Fair Awards Breakfast. CRHS graduated senior Molly Harris helped emcee the event as Delaware FFA Association reporter.

The Riders took home a few awards including:

**National Dairy Cattle - Individual Placing:**
Emma Statham (1st) and Sydney Simmons (3rd)

**National Dairy Cattle - Team Placing** (1st)

**National Horse Judging - Individual Placing:**
Madison Cook (1st), Joshua Bethard (2nd)

**National Horse Judging - Team Placing** (1st)

Madison Cook, a 17-year-old CRHS junior, shows cows, swine, lambs and goats at the fair and was named All Around Livestock Showman at the fair for the second consecutive year. A judge after one of her shows at the fair this summer remarked "That gal can show anything, in any fair, in any state!"

She won Champion Market Lamb, Reserve Champion Market Lamb and Reserve Champion Market Goat this summer at the fair. She was also named the Highest Placing Individual in Horse Judging this year at the fair and her team qualified for nationals in Indianapolis in October.
Outgoing Board Member Heavner Retires

After five years of dedicated service to our district, Caesar Rodney School Board vice-president Melody Heavner said farewell during her final school board meeting held at Frear Elementary School in June.

Mrs. Heavner thanked her fellow board members for their hard work and dedication to the district before receiving gifts and a special cake in her honor. Thank you for your service, Melody.

Incoming Board Member Marasco Sworn In

New Caesar Rodney School Board Member Mike Marasco was sworn into office in July, with his family by his side, during a board re-organization meeting held at the district office.

Mr. Marasco is a 1991 graduate of CRHS and a former Mayor of Wyoming. He has also been a member of the Camden-Wyoming Lions Club since 1997 and served as president in 2004. Welcome Mike, we look forward to your service.

CRHS Holds Summer Mascot Camp

Caesar Rodney High School held their 1st annual Mascot Camp July 21st & 22nd in the school's gymnasium. Our own beloved "Caesar and Spirit" (well, two of each, actually) participated as well as "Talon" from Smyrna High School, "Ty-Grrrr" from Moon Township High School in Pennsylvania and "Sir Bill" from Johnstown High School in New York. The camp concluded with “Mascotapalooza” - a show with humorous bios of the characters, several entertaining and funny dance routines and jolly good fun for all.
CRSD’s Susan Shelor Attains DCISO Certification

Caesar Rodney School District Technology Coordinator Susan Shelor received her Delaware Certified Information Security Officer (DCISO) certification from Gov. Jack Markell and Delaware Department of Technology and Information Chief Security Officer Elayne Starkey inside the Governor's Legislative Hall office in June.

Susan earned this certification by completing 4 core requirements over the last 2 years. DCISO certification recognizes the commitment that Susan has towards information security at Caesar Rodney School District and her dedication to providing the State of Delaware with excellence in the information security field.

Riders Win DIAA Sportmanship Award

Twenty-one Delaware schools were honored for sportsmanship by DIAA in 2015-2016 with Caesar Rodney High School being among them.

The Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association (DIAA) offers an annual statewide competition in sportsmanship. The member schools compete against a set of 10 standards, not against other schools. Member schools submit an extensive application book that is judged by the Sportsmanship Committee to determine if each school has successfully met the standards.

Thirty-one different member schools have now won at least once in the award’s 20-year history. CRHS has won six times. Go Riders!!!
July 11th was the first day of McIlvaine Early Childhood Center’s “Camp Aloha” – a two week day camp with both incoming and outgoing kindergarten students in attendance. The program offers incoming kindergarten students an opportunity to get to know McIlvaine, learn procedures and routines, as well as ease any anxieties students might be having about the first few days of school.

For outgoing kindergarten students it offers the opportunity to refresh skills and prevent the “summer slide” from happening as they move on to first grade. This program is made possible for just over 100 students through the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant in conjunction with the University of Delaware.

Select students were offered the opportunity to participate based upon a variety of factors which included their pre-school & kindergarten experiences.
Twenty-three cadets from Caesar Rodney High School were among the four flights of Air Force JROTC students who graduated from the State of Delaware Air Force Cadet Leadership Course June 20th at the Delaware National Guard training site in Bethany Beach. CRHS Air Force JROTC instructors Col. Mitch Berger and MSgt. Jon Wedel are very proud of the cadets. Go Riders!!!
Darrell Gravatt is the most successful soccer coach in the history of the Henlopen Conference. Period. A true CR legend. His CRHS teams – both boys and girls – are perennial contenders for the league title. The Rider girls have won the Henlopen Conference championship 17 out of 19 years under Gravatt.

He achieved a remarkable 300 career wins with the Lady Riders in the Spring of 2016 and that milestone was recognized at a CR School Board meeting at Allen Frear Elementary School in June.

Here’s some of Coach Gravatt’s impressive stats as of June 2016:

**GIRLS SOCCER**
- Started coaching the girls in 1998
- Overall record coaching girls: 300-44-7
- Qualified for state tournament 19 out of 19 years
- Reached the state finals 6 times

**BOYS SOCCER**
- Started coaching the boys in 1996
- Overall record at CR is 261-63-7
- Qualified for state tournament 19 out of 20 years
- Reached the state finals 3 times
Postlethwait Middle School students attended the Technology Student Association Nationals in Nashville, Tennessee from June 27 to July 2.

Adam Hanna and Evan Cheng placed 2nd in the Technology Problem Solving. In this competition, competitors are given a design challenge with limited materials to solve a problem within a two hour time span. With only their problem solving skills, this year’s challenge required Adam and Evan to build a tower that could support a basketball. Adam and Evan built a 72 inch tower to support the basketball positioning them in 2nd place.

“Postlethwaitcompetitors did an amazing job executing events at nationals and I couldn’t be more proud of their drive and intensity in all their events.” said advisor Laura Barnas.

Nathaniel Allen, Sophia Weldin and Priya Gupta also placed 7th in Systems Control Technology.

Other competitors included Mia Ritchey, Sara Noor, Dhruti Patel and Meghana Yarlagadda.

Postlethwait’s Middle School Advisor, Mrs. Laura Barnas was also recognized as National TSA Advisor of the Year.

Rider Academic Excellence!
Chinese Students Visit CR Immersion Camp

As part of W. B. Simpson Elementary School's Chinese Immersion Camp this past summer, sixteen high school students and two teachers visited Caesar Rodney School District from China. The students acted as cultural ambassadors and language partners for the 2nd-4th graders at W.B. Simpson and Allen Frear, who also participated in the camp.

Many CR Immersion families accepted the opportunity to become a "buddy family" for each student helping provide cultural experiences and to learn about Delaware and the United States during their week-long stay. Buddy families don't provide housing for the students, they will pick up their student from camp at the end of each day and then spend time together until the evening visiting local attractions and going shopping.

On Sunday evening, July 17, the visiting students arrived and were welcomed to the Camden-Wyoming area with "Pizza in the Park" - a pizza party at Brecknock Park where they had the opportunity to meet their buddy families. The visiting teenage students were most taken with the playground equipment at Brecknock Park, however. Playgrounds are very rare in China and the students couldn't resist having some good old American fun.

During the pizza party, the students gave Caesar Rodney School District Supervisor of Instruction Darren Guido a stuffed bear from China dressed in their school uniform as a gift.
4th grade Chinese Immersion students from W.B Simpson Elementary School and Allen Frear Elementary School visited our nation's capital Thursday, July 21 along with the sixteen visiting high school students from China who spent a week with the youngsters at Chinese Immersion Camp at Simpson.

First stop was the Chinese Embassy where the students were granted tours of the building. Afterwards, the Riders rode down to Chinatown for lunch and to participate in a scavenger hunt with their chaperones looking for items such as chopsticks, a red envelope and the price of ice cream (in Chinese).

“We are really excited to take part in this cultural exchange. We see that although we may speak different languages and live in different cultures, we share many more similarities than differences.” - CRSD Supervisor of Instruction Dr. Darren Guido
McIlvaine “Little Riders” Enjoy Camp Nǐ Hǎo

The "Little Riders" of J. Ralph McIlvaine Early Childhood Center celebrated their final day of "Camp Nǐ Hǎo" - their Chinese Immersion Camp - by performing a dragon dance and singing songs in Chinese to the delight and amazement of their families who packed into the school cafeteria August 12th to watch the soon-to-be kindergarten students in action practicing the language skills they've learned all week.