
CR Academic Focus

Quarterly Newsletter from the Caesar Rodney Academic Team

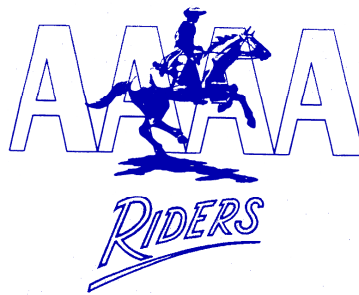
Caesar Rodney Home Access Center

What is the Home Access Center?

Our Home Access Center (HAC) provides parents with a portal to view their child's grades and attendance, as well as comments from teachers. The HAC will reduce the need to contact teachers for updates on grades. A few key-strokes can answer any questions you may have about your child's progress. Interim grades and report cards can be viewed on the Home Access Center as well.

How can I sign up for the Home Access Center?

Each Wednesday, from 8 -11am, then again from 1-3 pm, and on October 19 & 20 from 4-6, parents can come to the CRHS office to sign up for a user name and password for the Home Access Center. With one user name and password, parents and guardians will be able to view statistics for all of their children in the CR school district once all schools are online.



**Rider
Strong,
Rider
Smart**

First Edition - Fall 2009

Important Dates:

- October 16th—Homecoming
“Surrender Bucs: Walk the Rider Plank” - Parade, 6pm and kickoff, 7:30pm
- October 17th—CR Pride Day, 9am to 7:30pm
- October 28-30—Quarterlies
- October 30—half day for students
- November 2nd and 11th—School closed
- November 10th—Report cards distributed
- November 25-27—School closed
- December 9th—Interims distributed
- Dec 24—January 3—Closed

What's new in the classrooms at CR? Learning Focused Solutions (LFS)

If you ask your child what an “EQ” is, hopefully he or she will answer, “It’s an Essential Question”! CR teachers are being trained in Learning Focused Solutions, a research based instructional framework

that will be in place to standardize many aspects of classroom instruction. This framework will take the form of EATS lessons which will utilize Essential Questions, Activating Strategies, Teaching Strategies, and Summariz-

ing Strategies. CR’s multi-year training process requires teachers to attend professional development, observe other teachers, and ultimately, follow the EATS lesson framework to focus student learning.



College Application Process

The time is here for juniors and seniors who are considering college to begin the process that will hopefully lead to admission into the perfect school. For juniors, now is the time to speak with their guidance counselor to ensure that they have laid the foundation for the course of study that will be pursued in college. This is also an important time for students to participate in volunteer and extra-curricular activities as this is what sets students apart from the crowd!

Junior year is a great time to take the SAT test (multiple times, if necessary) to ensure

the student's score will support his or her efforts to get into their favorite school. It is a good idea to begin writing a college essay the summer before the senior year begins. Also, take some time over the summer to visit the colleges that are being considered; this is the only way to know if a particular college is a good "fit".

Seniors find the fall to be a very stressful time as most college applications for regular acceptance are due within the month of December. A lot of work and preparation goes into this important process. Students need to get recommendations from teachers, transcripts, and, in some cases, a port-

folio. Don't put off filling out applications until the last minute! Missing or filling in incorrect information could cost a student admission into his/her school of choice.

Finally, please visit our guidance office for LOTS of information on scholarships! Often there is money for which no students apply! Please contact your student's guidance counselor or a member of CR's Academic Team with any questions.

Guidance Counselors:

Jenny Dumas (A-Cr), Shawn Vogt (Cs-Hi),
Candace Simonini (Hj-Mh),
Renee Ivy (Mi-Se), Julie Harris (Sf-Z)

The DSTP is out; DCAS is in!

This is the final school year that the critically important Delaware Student Testing Program will be administered to Delaware students. Does this mean no more testing? No. A new test will take the place of the DSTP in 2010-2011. As of this writing, the new test is called the Delaware Comprehensive Assessment System (DCAS), and it will be a computer-based test. The benefits of the computer-based system are many. Teachers will have more immediate access to their students' grades. Under the DSTP, there was a wait time of several months for districts to receive their scores as an entire

school, and even longer for teachers to have access to his/her individual student data.

As this new testing system is being written, the state is asking for multiple tests in the areas of reading, math and science so that teachers can use the system to access student learning as the year progresses. For the school year 2012-2013, end-of-course tests will be in place for English, math, science, and social studies.

Additionally, a writing component will be given to assess students' capabilities in relation to the written word. Rather than

sending these items to Texas or other distant locales for scoring as was done in the past, these student responses will be graded locally by Delaware teachers using state scoring rubrics and guidelines. This will give our teachers better insight as to the strengths and weaknesses of their students' writing skills which will enable them to directly address areas of concern.

The web-based system will be given in grades 2-10, and will be used as a benchmark growth assessment throughout the year as well as to act as a summative assessment tool at the end of the year.

Who is on the CR Academic Team? You are!

If you are reading this newsletter in an effort to support a student you have attending our school, YOU are a member of our Academic Team. Our school exists to educate our young people. All of the people involved in making sure this process is successful are part of our CR Academic Team.

This team effort is being lead by Caesar Rodney's Administration and two additional positions that have been added to the high school. Ryan Fuller, formerly a high school

science teacher, is now our Academic Dean. Tracey Gross, formerly an English teacher, is the high school's Achievement Liaison Teacher. These two positions have been created to provide professional development for teaching staff, establish programming to boost student performance in their coursework and on state tests, and also to increase community involvement in our school.

Over the next two years, please look for our newsletter and take advantage of op-

portunities to become involved in YOUR school. Each day the school's daily bulletin will be linked to the school's website and will keep you informed of daily happenings in the high school:

Daily Bulletin and District Calendar:

Go to: <http://www.crhs.cr.k12.de.us/> and click on "Student Tools" to see the daily bulletin and "Calendar" to see the district calendar