SUPERINTENDENT DAUGHERTY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

Red Clay Consolidated School District Superintendent Dr. Merv Daugherty announced last week that he would be leaving the district in November to take another position out of state.

The Red Clay Board of Education will meet in executive session on Aug. 28, 2018 to discuss naming an interim superintendent, engaging a search firm to assist and guide the board in moving forward and the process the district will use in its search for Dr. Daugherty’s replacement. Details will be released shortly thereafter.

“I thank Dr. Daugherty for his service and appreciate all he’s done for the district,” said School Board President Catherine Thompson. “Dr. Daugherty has worked hard to make Red Clay the preeminent district in the state. The board recognizes the importance of moving swiftly to determine the path forward for obtaining a successor superintendent who will continue Red Clay’s innovation and success as a district.”

Prior to his nine-year tenure as superintendent, Dr. Daugherty served as Assistant Superintendent for Academics and as a Director with Red Clay. He has also served as principal at the middle and high school levels.

In a letter to the board, staff and the community announcing his retirement effective Nov. 1, 2018, Dr. Daugherty said he was thankful for the opportunity to serve as leader of the Red Clay district.

“I am extremely thankful for this opportunity and I am very grateful to the outstanding staff members and the school board members for their professionalism and dedication to serve students and families,” he wrote.

“Through the next two months, I will continue to work hard for the students, parents and staff of the district. Each day will be extremely important for me to see the district continue to move forward and provide a smooth transition.”

Dr. Daugherty earned his Doctorate in Leadership in Education from Wilmington University. He received his Master’s Degree in Administration and Supervision from Salisbury University and his undergraduate degree in education from Frostburg State College.

During Dr. Daugherty’s educational career, he has served on state testing committees, advisory teams, coordinating."
Several new school leaders have joined the Red Clay school administrative team. Curtis Bedford at Brandywine Springs School and Lurleen Black at Stanton Middle School are new principals and Greg Johnson- Richey, Adam Domski-Warner and Emily Warren-RPLC have become assistant principals. In addition, Dr. Tawanda Bond has been named Red Clay Equity Officer.

A veteran administrator, Curtis Bedford is experienced in implementing support systems that increase student achievement and strengthen school community and culture. He worked in the Christina School District as the student advisor and principal at Newark High School and as the assistant principal at Christiana High School.

Curtis Bedford completed his Bachelor's degree in Physical and Health Education from the University of Delaware and received his Master's of Education in Secondary School Counseling from Wilmington University. A focused leader with instructional leadership experience, he will continue the tradition of excellence at Brandywine Springs School.

Dr. Lurleen Black, newly appointed principal at Stanton was a highly qualified teacher of English Language Arts and taught at A.I du Pont High School before becoming an associate principal in the Capital School District.

She received her B.A. in English Literature from the University of Delaware and M.Ed. in School Leadership and Doctorate of Education in Innovation and Leadership from Wilmington University. Dr. Black has a proven ability to work effectively with students and teachers and will positively impact the Stanton community of learners.

An assertive, self-motivated school administrator, Dr. Tawanda Bond has stepped into the newly created position of Red Clay Equity Officer. Her responsibilities will include overseeing the district’s Equity Policy which states that all employees and students are entitled to work and learn in an environment free of discrimination or harassment.

Receiving her Bachelor of Science in Education from Temple University, Dr. Bond continued her studies, completing a Master’s in Education from Delaware State University and a Doctorate in Innovation and Leadership from Wilmington University. Her expertise in relationship building and conflict resolution will serve as a foundation for developing and implementing the district’s equity policy.

New to Red Clay, Adam Domski, former academic dean in the Christina School District, has become the new assistant principal at Warner. Red Clay educators in new administrative positions include assistant principals Gregg Johnson at Richey and Emily Warren at RPLC. Additional administrative assignments include principals Jason Martin at Richardson Park and Melissa Brady at Linden Hill and assistant principal Michelle Burrows at Richardson Park.

The Red Clay Consolidated School District maintained performance in state tests last year while also remaining at the top in SAT test results among Delaware’s comprehensive school districts.

The Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) released results on Aug. 1, 2018 from the Smarter English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments given in grades 3 to 8 and the SAT administered in high school.

DDOE began administering SMARTER as its state test in the spring of 2015. In the spring of 2016, the SAT became the state accountability test for grade 11.

Overall, Red Clay maintained performance on Smarter with 49% of students in grades 3-8 meeting or exceeding standards in ELA and 38% in mathematics. Since last year, the district saw the most improvements in elementary grades 3 and 4 in both math and ELA.

Schools reporting two-digit gains in both subjects since 2015 - when Smarter was first given - are Ballitz and Marbrook elementary schools and Conrad Schools of Science.

“Marbrook is very fortunate to have a community of parents and teachers who work together to prioritize student success,” said Marbrook Principal Melissa Phillips. “Marbrook teachers regularly check on student progress in a target way so they can meet the needs of the individual child.”

Since the Smarter test was first given in 2015, the district has seen the most improvements in grades 4 and 5 in mathematics.

With the support of the community on the 2015 Operating Referendum, Red Clay was able to purchase new elementary math materials. Students began the use of Math Expressions, a National Science Foundation curriculum, in the 2015 - 2016 school year. Red Clay Math Supervisor Jodi Albers said that new materials could account for improvements.

“Thanks to the 2015 referendum we implemented a comprehensive, high-quality elementary mathematics curriculum in all classrooms. Beginning in June of 2015, teachers participated in professional learning focused on a balance of conceptual understanding, procedural skills and fluency, and real-world application in the mathematics classroom.”

Red Clay is implementing a new mathematics curriculum in middle school and hopes to see those scores rise in the future.

“We are encouraged to see some improvement in our schools where we have focused extra support,” said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Hugh Broomall. “We look forward to continuing the supports and expediting the improvement process.”

While still working on improving the percentage of student proficient, Alexis I. Middle School has shown noticeable gains since 2015. Warner Elementary School has seen gains in ELA.

On the SAT tests, Red Clay continues to outperform the state. The district leads the state in total average score among comprehensive school districts and tops other districts in Reading. It also has an impressive mathematics total average score. The state reports proficiency rates based on students’ scores. Red Clay has the highest proficiency rate in mathematics (40%) among comprehensive districts and is in the top three for Reading proficiency (61%) and Essay (47%).

Red Clay has four high schools in the top 10 for Reading and Math proficiency scores. These schools are the Charter School of Wilmington, Cab Calloway School of the Arts, Conrad Schools of Science and Delaware Military Academy.

Individual student scores will be mailed to families beginning this week, according to DDOE.

**Red Clay Welcomes New Administrators**

**Red Clay Top District in SAT**

**Reminder: School Start Times Adjusted**

As announced in May, Red Clay has adjusted start and end times at its schools to address a critical, national bus driver shortage.

In an effort to improve bus transportation service throughout the district, bus routes have been reorganized and the district will operate on a three-tier school schedule beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.

Because high school and middle school students will no longer be picked up at the same time, a three-tier system reduces the number by more than 50 how many drivers are needed to cover all routes.

This will reduce the amount of time many students spend on the bus and free up personnel to provide additional bus aides on routes.

In order to implement these service improvements, school start and end times needed to be shifted. New times include:

- The high school instructional day will start at 7:25 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m.
- The middle school instructional day will start at 8:05 a.m. and end at 2:55 p.m.
- The elementary school instructional day will start at 9 a.m. and end at 3:50 p.m.
DISTRICT INTRODUCES NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

Red Clay will introduce the country’s top-rated math program in its middle schools in the coming school year. Purchased with funds approved in the 2015 Operating Referendum, the new math materials – called “Illustrative Mathematics” – will be for grades 6 to 8. The 2015 referendum also paid for 1:1 computers in the district, where every child in grades 3 to 12 was issued their own Chromebook. The new math materials will be accessible in print as well as via Schoology and the internet.

Also purchased with the referendum funding is a high school curriculum called “envision A/G/A” which will be used in all Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 classes.

“The two initiatives combined will offer a new math experience in the district with more rigor and the tools for our students to succeed,” said Jodi Albers, the district’s mathematics supervisor. “We are very excited to be offering these new programs to our students.”

During the 2017-2018 school year, a yearlong trial of the high school materials and a multi-month trial of the middle school materials were held in several middle and high schools. There was near unanimous approval of the new materials from teachers, said Albers. “Many of our teachers used these materials in their classrooms and recommended they be available to students across the district,” she said.

One teacher wrote about the middle school materials, “IM (Illustrative Mathematics) has made it easier for students to grasp the information. My students have seen expressions and equations before, IM made it more relatable for students.”

Math teachers spent the last two days of the school year at an intensive training on the new materials. Secondary administrators attended the sessions as well.

Red Clay has also received a $150,000 “Reimagine Professional Learning” grant from the Delaware Department of Education for ongoing training for middle school teachers.

“Our goal here is to ensure high achievement in our mathematics classes,” said Albers. “Especially with 21st Century STEM learning, which requires a level of math skills that depend on problem solving and perseverance.”

The Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2 materials will be available to all on the Chromebook; print materials will be provided in class. Individual student books will not be issued, however the student book will be loaded onto the Chromebooks, allowing students to access the materials without the internet. For those students who would like a book, they can check out one from the library for the school year, said Albers.

Included in the materials are many virtual manipulatives, including the DESMOS online graphing calculator, making it much more interactive.

Students will practice the new math at home during homework. Albers said parents should resist the urge of trying to become the teacher.

“Homework should be a practice of what the student already knows,” she said. “The teacher uses homework as a way to gauge what a student knows and is able to do. From there, the teacher is able to tailor instruction to meet the needs of each student. Parents can offer a nurturing environment, a quiet space and a consistent time.”

Albers said the district is ready. “We have full faith that our students are ready for the next step in their education, and our teachers are there to support them,” she said. “Our teachers have been working very hard. They are waiting, they are ready, and they are excited.”

MORE STUDENTS TAKING AP EXAMS

This spring, more students than ever in Red Clay took an Advanced Placement (AP) Exam, giving them the opportunity to earn college credit to save money on tuition costs and graduate on time. In Red Clay, 1,209 students took 2,511 AP exams. Students scored a 3 or higher on 70 percent (70%) of the exams taken, an increase of 3 percentage points from last year. Red Clay continues to out-score the state and the nation by 10 or more percentage points.

“AP has been called the ‘single happiest education story of the century,’ because both participation and performance have grown steadily in tandem over the past decade,” said College Board President David Coleman. “We are inspired by the students and educators in Red Clay who demonstrate the power of hard work and the pursuit of excellence.”

Red Clay has removed obstacles and actively encourages students to take AP classes, and the exams. “We have made every effort to make sure Advanced Placement Courses are open to all students,” said Superintendent Merv Daugherty. “We have removed all obstacles for students to pursue rigorous course work. Red Clay administrators and teachers have done an excellent job in the classroom to promote rigor and encourage students to take AP courses.”

Across the nation, more students from all backgrounds are participating and succeeding in AP. “We know there are a number of benefits in taking high-rigor coursework,” continued Daugherty. “Students are immersed in high-level vocabulary, engaged in complex analysis and prompted in solving real world problems. These types of activities lead to increased achievement in high school, and further, at the college level.”

The benefits of AP have never been greater. Research shows that students who take AP are more likely to enroll in college, stay in college, do well in their classes, and graduate on time in four years. Nearly all U.S. colleges and universities grant credit and placement for AP Exam scores of 3 or higher. More than 3,800 U.S. and international colleges and universities received AP scores from students in 2017.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Back to School Night open houses provide an opportunity for parents to make a connection with their child’s classroom teacher or teachers, obtain an overview of the school year and become acquainted with classroom rules and procedures.

While it is not a time for conferences about individual students, Back to School Night is an opportunity for parents to learn about expectations and events that teachers have planned for the school year. Information about daily schedules, behavior management, subject area content, and methods of learning and grading may also be discussed.

Classroom teachers often suggest ways for parents to become involved in their child’s education and offer tips on how to have a successful school year. Communication between home and school is vital to student achievement.

Below is a schedule of upcoming Back to School Night open houses which are held from 6:00 – 8:00p.m.

September 24 High Schools (including 6-12 programs at Cab, Conrad & Dickinson)
September 25 Middle Schools
September 26 Shortlidge, Richardson Park, RPLC, Cooke, Richey & Forest Oak
September 27 Remaining Elementary Schools
October 1 Meadowood Pre-K & MTP
October 3 First State School (5:30 – 7:30p.m.)

12th Annual Family Resource Fair

Saturday, Nov. 3rd
10:00am - 1:00pm @ John Dickinson High School

Exhibitors • Refreshments • Giveaways Free & Fun! • Demonstrations

Page 1 / 1
2018-2019 School Board Members

Catherine H. Thompson
President
Term Expires: 2020
Email: Cathey.Thompson@redclay.k12.de.us

Adriana L. Bohm
Vice President
Term Expires: 2023
Email: Adriana.Bohm@redclay.k12.de.us

Jason P. Casper
Term Expires: 2023
Email: Jasonp.Casper@redclay.k12.de.us

Martin A. Wilson, Sr.
Term Expires: 2020
Email: Martin.Wilson@redclay.k12.de.us

Faith R. Newton
Term Expires: 2021
Email: Faith.Newton@redclay.k12.de.us

Ashley E. Sabo
Term Expires: 2022
Email: Ashley.Sabo@redclay.k12.de.us

José Matthews
Term Expires: 2023
Email: Jose.Mathews@redclay.k12.de.us

School Bus Safety Tips

Transporting students safely to and from school is a top priority in Red Clay. As the new school year approaches, school buses will once again be present in neighborhoods and on main thoroughfares. It is important for all drivers to understand when to stop for a school bus.

Flashing amber lights indicate a school bus is preparing to pick up or discharge students. When red flashing lights are activated and the bus stop sign is extended, students will be entering or leaving the bus. Drivers should stop if 1) they are on a one lane road behind the bus, 2) they are on a two lane, two way road and 3) they are on a four or more lane road or divided highway and approaching the bus from the rear. Drivers approaching the bus from the front of a four or more lane road should not stop but use caution and watch for children. Drivers should stop far enough from the bus to allow all students to safely enter and exit the bus.

Be alert at all times as children can be unpredictable. Student safety takes the effort of the entire community.

Red Clay Cuts Tax Rate

Continued from page 1

for managing the cuts. “We appreciate the district’s fiscal responsibility,” she said.

The tax warrant was delivered to New Castle County on July 12, 2018 for tax bills to be prepared and sent. Red Clay will present a three-year financial forecast at a workshop session of the school board to be held Aug. 28, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in the boardroom at district offices, 1502 Spruce Ave., Wilmington.

Superintendent Daugherty Announces Retirement

Continued from page 1

Dr. Daugherty was elected the President of the Delaware School Chiefs Officers Association in 2013. He was also selected as a 2013 Catalyst for Change winner for the State of Delaware and received the 2014 JAG National Educational Leadership Award - Jobs for Delaware Graduates. Dr. Daugherty was selected the 2015-16 Delaware Superintendent of the Year. In 2016, Red Clay received the Wilmington Education Award for the District’s outstanding collaboration with the City of Wilmington. The district also received the 2017 State Inclusion Award for the Project Search Program serving students with disabilities.

Dr. Daugherty is also on the boards of Vision to Learn, DIAA, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware and the College Board Advisory Council. In 2018, Red Clay was the Grand Prize Winner of the Magna Awards from the National School Boards Association.

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Red Clay’s new mobile app will keep you connected with the news you want and need.

The app will deliver real time school news to your smart-device for FREE. With the app, you can:

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• Get push notifications about breaking news, closures, much more!
• See the latest photos from school events
• Tap to see school locations, phone numbers and staff information

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