

Inspired to Learn....Prepared to Achieve....Ready to Succeed!

WELCOME BACK!

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RED CLAY SHOWS IMPROVEMENT ON STATE TESTS

State Test Results:

- Families of students in grades 3-8 should have received student state test results in late July. Not only do students receive an overall score and an achievement level (1-4), they also get information on performance in different areas of the test. Please contact your child's school if you did not receive results.
- In addition to the scores juniors received on the School Day SAT from College Board, grade 11 students will also receive a performance level (1-4) from the state. SAT changed this school year to a total combined score out of 1600: 800 in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and 800 in Mathematics. Students also receive scores in Analysis of Science and Analysis of Social Studies, as well as scores in different reading, writing, and math skills. The essay is scored separately.

Red Clay Highlights:

- Improvements were seen in the percentage of students meeting and exceeding standards in English Language Arts (Smarter, grades 3-8)
- Grade 8 students improved the most from the prior year in both subjects (Smarter, English Language Arts and Mathematics)
- Red Clay reduced the achievement gap for English Language Learners and low-income students in both subjects (Smarter, English Language Arts and Mathematics)
- African-American students showed strong improvement from the prior year in most grades (Smarter, English Language Arts and Mathematics)
- Red Clay juniors outperformed the state and nation on SAT on average score and essay (district: 1060, state: 972, nation: 983)
- 68% of Red Clay juniors demonstrated college-and-career readiness in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and 47% in Math; outperforming the state and nation



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Upcoming Board Meetings

Sept. 21, 7 p.m., Cab Calloway

Oct. 19, 7 p.m., Cab Calloway

Nov. 16, 7 p.m., Warner

Dec. 14, 7 p.m., Warner

CAB'S GOLDER NAMED 2016-2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Holly Golder, social studies teacher at Cab Calloway School of the Arts has been named the 2017 Red Clay Teacher of the Year.

A leader in curriculum development at the district and state level and a 12 year teaching veteran, Holly presently teaches history and psychology. Prior to her assignment at Cab Calloway, she taught social studies at both A.I. du Pont High School and Thomas McKean High School.

Crediting her mother for teaching her the value of education and learning, Holly helped the students in her mother's resource room and came to understand that all students can learn but in different ways. She realized the need for students to feel success in the classroom and understood the value of differentiated instruction. In her classroom, Holly says she wants students to interact with history, become engrossed in the content and have fun doing it.

Holly Golder is a leader among teachers and is willing to share her insights, talents and expertise. She is a member of the Cab Calloway Building Leadership Team, a current social studies teacher leader and secretary of the Social Studies Curriculum Council. In addition, she is a cooperating teacher for University of Delaware student teachers. She is active in social studies curriculum development and has been named America History Teacher of the Year and History Teacher of the Year.

Inclusion and respect is a cause Holly strongly believes in and to address this issue she started and advised the Best Buddies middle school club at Cab Calloway. She supervised events and helped monitor friendships between Cab Calloway students and students at H.B. du Pont's Meadowood program. In addition she was club advisor for the International Thespian Society, Class of 2012 and Band Fronts. Outside of school Holly participates in fundraising activities for cancer organizations.

Holly Golder's goal as a history teacher is to have her students become informed citizens by interacting with history. She allows students to tackle

historical events with various perspectives so they will learn to think critically. In each lesson she strives to relate the objectives to today's world.

"Holly stands out as an exemplary teacher who goes above and beyond to insure that all her students are exposed to social studies content, while implementing best practice,

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TO THE RED CLAY COMMUNITY,

Welcome, Red Clay students, parents and staff to the 2016-2017 school year! I hope you had a safe and relaxing summer.

Though most of our students are off for the months of July and August, districts don't take a summer break. We remained very busy, preparing to welcome back students and staff. Nine buildings underwent major renovations over the summer, we launched a new, streamlined website (still www.redclayschools.com), prepared and delivered new technology and many teachers and administrators attended more than 120 professional development workshops.

We have been working to expand our most successful and valued programs, from Pre-K for the little ones to additional dual enrollment and Advanced Placement courses for the higher grades.

In the second year of our 1 to 1 computer initiative, we will be focusing on using technology to support teachers and learning.

Elementary schools will be focused first and foremost on creating a sense of belonging for all stakeholders; students, staff, parents and the community. Teaching and learning continues to be a priority as we continue to strengthen the implementation of Math Expressions and our Skill Focus reading model. Teachers will continue to integrate technology to support teaching and learning.

Secondary Schools are continuing to refine their strategies involving access to high rigor coursework. As more students take risks with AP and Honors coursework, we will continue to increase our support systems.

When school starts, we will be the first district in New Castle County to use the Smart 911 system in a joint project with NCC Office of Emergency Management and NCC Emergency Communications. In addition, we have updated all of the schools' emergency plans and trained with local police and fire agencies to prepare for the upcoming school year.

But, as you know, we cannot ensure each child reaches their full potential by ourselves. Parent and community support remains essential for providing an excellent education for all students. I encourage you to participate in the various educational opportunities at your children's schools. Become a PTO/PTA member, attend student performances and volunteer to mentor a student or serve on one of the many district community committees. School staff can provide this information to you.

With more than 18,000 students in 32 schools and programs, Red Clay can seem to be a large and complex district. We are very proud of all that Red Clay has accomplished in recent years, from leading the state in educational markers like SAT scores and the lowest drop-out rate, to the highest success rate on AP tests. While pleased with district-wide statistics, the one thing that remains the most important to each Red Clay staff member is the success that occurs each day in the classroom, with each child.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an outstanding 2016-2017 school year.

Sincerely,

Mervin B. Daugherty, Ed.D.
Superintendent

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH RED CLAY!

Whether you are looking to monitor an individual student's progress, or keep current with district events, we have a number of ways to get information. They include:

- **Automated Calls:** School closings, emergencies, and regular events are communicated to parents via the School Messenger phone system. To update your contact preferences - and sign up for text messages - go to infocenter.schoolmessenger.com.
- **Home Access Center:** Parents and students can view student registration, scheduling, assignments and grade information on the Home Access Center, accessible through the district website. Go to www.redclayschools.com and select the Home Access icon or go directly to <https://hac.doe.k12.de.us/> and select Red Clay from the district list. Enter your User Name and Password (Sent home in the student mailer)
- **eSchoolPLUS Family App:** Easy to download and use, this app provides information for parents on the go. You will have access to transportation information, classwork, calendars, schedules and grades. The app is available for iPhone, iPad on the App Store, for Android devices on Google Play and for Kindle Fire on Amazon.
- **Nutrition Services:** Keep track of how much money your student has in their meals account - and prepay for meals - at www.paypams.com.
- **District Website/School Websites:** Calendars, news, applications, and a host of additional information is available on the new, streamlined district website, at www.redclayschools.com. Access individual school websites through the district site as well.
- **Electronic Newsletter:** Every two weeks, the district sends an electronic newsletter, the Red Clay eNews. Look under Quick Links on the district website to subscribe.
- **Facebook and Twitter:** Daily happenings are regularly posted by Red Clay staff on the Facebook and Twitter accounts. On Facebook, type in Red Clay Schools. For Twitter, @RedClaySchools

RED CLAY WELCOMES NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Three new school leaders have joined the Red Clay administrative team. Anthony Gray-Bolden is the new principal at Mote Elementary School, Corey Heacock the new assistant principal at Stanton Middle School and Amina Sa'id Baaith the new assistant principal at A.I. Middle School.



A veteran administrator, Anthony Gray-Bolden the new principal of Anna P. Mote Elementary School, has proven success promoting a positive school climate. He has been an assistant principal at South Brandywine and North Brandywine Middle Schools, Dean of Students at Chester County Alternative Education Program and a special education teacher at the Centers of Alternative Secondary Education Program in Pennsylvania.

He completed his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from West Chester University and continued his education receiving a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from Penn State and certifications in Special Education and Education Leadership. With his strong instructional leadership and behavioral management skills Anthony Gray-Bolden will continue the tradition of excellence at Mote Elementary School.

Dr. Corey Heacock, new assistant principal at Stanton Middle School is dedicated to innovation and collaboration. Formerly an assistant principal and biology teacher at Indian River High School, Dr. Heacock was also an adjunct instructor at Delaware Technical and Community College in Georgetown.

She received her B.S. in biology from Loyola University, M.A.T. in secondary education from Wesley College and Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Wilmington University. Dr. Heacock has a proven ability to work with teachers and students and will make a positive difference in the education of the Stanton school community.



Amina Sa'id Baaith, an educator and administrator from the Colonial School District is the new assistant principal at A.I. Middle School. She started her career as an upper school English teacher in Washington D.C. and then transferred to Wilmington Friends School before starting her administrative assignment at McCullough Middle School.

Ms. Sa'id Baaith received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Hobart & Smith Colleges in New York and her M.A. in Writing from the University of Rochester. She also holds a M.S. in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania. With her level of education and experience, Amina Sa'id Baaith will positively impact the lives of the students at A.I. Middle.



TEACHERS OF THE YEAR 2016-2017 FINALISTS:

MICHELE BURKE

While working with children in a country club recreation program during high school, Michele Burke realized she had a good rapport with children. Her original intent was to become a speech pathologist but on her first day of student teaching at Heritage Elementary she fell in love with teaching.

After graduating from the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Elementary Education she became a long term substitute at Heritage Elementary and entered the Reading Specialist Program at St. Joseph's University. Michele received her M.S. in Education with a focus on reading and has a passion for teaching her students to engage with each other in rich academic discussions. Today she is a 5th grade teacher at Lewis Dual Language Academy.

As a teacher, Michele Burke feels her greatest contribution is having her students come in every day with a purpose and the desire to explore the infinite possibilities that lay ahead.

Michele seeks opportunities to become involved both within her school and in the community. At school she is a building and team leader and faculty presenter and a volunteer coach for Girls on the Run. She coordinates the Lewis monthly newsletter and is active with the Positive Behavior System. This summer she served as a Summer Reading Clinic Instructor at St. Joseph's University.

Michele Burke believes her teaching needs to reach every learner in her classroom and wants to give her students the opportunity to feel confident in the strengths they possess and knowledge of what they will need for their future success. She has earned the respect of her students and her peers because of her positive attitude, excellent teaching skills and willingness to give to others.

STEPHANIE FLEETWOOD

Like many young girls, Stephanie Fleetwood enjoyed playing teacher and setting up a classroom but it wasn't until 8th grade when she was a kindergarten helper that she realized how special a teacher can make students feel. Once she decided to become a teacher she went back to the kindergarten classroom to observe the teacher who after many years still loved what she was doing.

Stephanie went on to graduate from the University of Delaware with a B.S. in Elementary and Special Education and later received a M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from McDaniel College. She started her teaching career in the Cecil County, Maryland Public Schools and in 2006 became a classroom teacher at Heritage Elementary. The following year she transferred to Linden Hill where she has taught both special and general education classes. She is currently a second grade teacher at Linden Hill Elementary.

Active in many school leadership activities, Stephanie Fleetwood has been a building and second grade team leader and a math curriculum teacher leader. She is member of the School Climate Committee, a professional development presenter and a clinical educator for a University of Delaware student teacher and methods students. Outside of school she volunteers with baseball and swimming activities and teaches religious education classes.

Over the years, Stephanie has come to realize how important it is to provide an environment where students can grow not only academically but socially and emotionally as well. She believes every child can learn and be successful and it is her responsibility to create a welcoming, safe and stimulating classroom environment.

Stephanie Fleetwood is not only a teacher at Linden Hill, she is a parent and PTA member as well. She is a true leader who works hard every day to keep all of her students actively engaged in learning activities. She is dedicated to children and a master of classroom management and instruction.

PATRICK HEALY

Being a member and leader of his high school drumline sparked Pat Healy's interest in music and in helping others. His band director's belief in him gave him confidence in his ability and showed him what it meant to be your best. Although he started his career working for an insurance company he spent weekends working with high school band students and loved every minute of it.

Pat realized his passion was helping students achieve through experiences with music and went back to school and received his B.M. from the University of Delaware. He presently teaches 6-12th grade band and choral programs at Conrad Schools of Science and has worked with the Red Clay Summer Band Institute.

Pat Healy understands the band has been an integral part of the Conrad community and works at increasing the band's exposure within the community. He has led the band at Conrad Community Day and the Christmas Parade and has welcomed the alumni to play at concerts and parades.

Watching students perform to their highest level gives Pat his greatest joy in teaching. He strives to challenge his students as musicians while providing them with a fun and exciting environment. Pat Healy is a life-long learner and believes in sharing best practices. He gives workshops to music teachers and is a member of the Red Clay Music Council. This year he hosted a University of Delaware instrumental music education major.

Maintaining a fun and welcoming atmosphere for both novice and experienced musicians, Pat Healy has grown his music program in size and quality. He is dedicated to his students and strives to help them become their best. Pat is a model teacher whose passion for music has inspired the members of his music program to excel and reach their full potential.

CRISTINA KALESSE

Christina Kalesse didn't set out to be a teacher. It wasn't until she was in college, studying to become an archeologist, that she realized it was the discussion of an artifact's meaning, and not its discovery, that fascinated her. So she switched majors and never looked back.

She received her B.A. in History Education from the University of Delaware and has continued her education, receiving a M.Ed. in School Leadership and earning credits toward a M.S. in Special Education. She began her teaching career as a middle school teacher in Brooklyn, New York, then transferred to William Penn High School and finally to A.I. High School, where she teaches today.

Cristina Kalesse is a first-class leader both in and out of the classroom. She is committed to teaching social studies in a student-centered classroom and makes a special effort to understand and enlighten every student she teaches. She says one of her greatest accomplishments is becoming a leader and support person for other teachers. Cristina is co-chair of the Social Studies Curriculum Council and a member of the Red Clay Curriculum Cabinet and National and Middle States Council for Social Studies. At A.I., she serves as a mentor teacher, social studies department chair and lead teacher providing training to her peers. In addition, she gives back to her community, volunteering her time planning, fundraising and co-coordinating the Delaware Dance Festival.

She was named the District Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 2009 and recently was Cohen-Jordan award winner from the Middle States Council for the Social Studies.

Cristina Kalesse believes teachers should share their good practices with others, be willing to receive suggestions about new ideas and practices and invite others into their classrooms. She is dedicated to both her colleagues and her students and says one of her biggest rewards is when a student thanks her for a great year and tells her they would like to become a history teacher just like her.

BACK TO SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

(all 6 p.m.)

- Sept. 12...Cab and Conrad
- Sept. 14...Shortlidge, Marbrook, Richardson Park, RPLC
Cooke, Meadowood
- Sept. 15...Baltz, Brandywine Springs, Forest Oak,
Heritage, Highlands, Lewis, Linden Hill, Mote,
North Star, Richey, Warner
- Sept. 19...Middle Schools
- Sept. 20...A.I. High School
- Sept. 22...Dickinson
- Sept. 26...McKean

CAB'S GOLDER NAMED 2016-2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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resulting in a rich learning environment," said Rebecca Reed, Red Clay Supervisor of Social Studies, in her letter of recommendation. Cab Calloway principal, Julie Rumschlag added in her recommendation, "Her classes come alive with content."

Red Clay's 2017 Teacher of the Year has the best interests of her students in mind at all times. She is a vital member of her school leadership team and a leader in curriculum development. Holly Golder strives for excellence in all she does and finds ways to engage every child in learning. She makes her classroom a place students want to come to every day.

RED CLAY SHOWS IMPROVEMENT ON STATE TESTS

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- (state: 52% EBRW, 31% Math; nation: 56% EBRW, 34% Math)
- 232 more students took AP exams in 2016, compared to 5 years ago
- 610 more AP exams were taken than 5 years ago
- 456 more exams scored 3 or higher than 5 years ago
- Red Clay sophomores and juniors outscored the state and the nation on PSAT average score (Grade 10- district: 944, state: 875, nation: 932 ; Grade 11- district: 1016, state: 947, nation: 1009)
- 48% of Red Clay sophomores demonstrated college-and-career readiness in both subjects, 85% in Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and 48% in Math; outperforming the state (state: 35% both, 81% EBRW, 36% Math; nation: 47% both, 87% ERW, 48% Math)
- Red Clay graduation rate of 89% (class of 2015) exceeds the state and national rate

Schools Celebrate Success:

- Lewis Dual Language Program had double-digit gains in English language arts and mathematics. They also had some of the largest gains in the state in Social Studies. "There are certain non-negotiables that we believe are part of our classroom instruction at Lewis and are contributing to our success," said Principal Ariadna Castaneda. "First and most important is our belief in the dual language immersion program and its implementation. Every day teachers plan for content and language objectives. They have had systemic professional development on how to use effective strategies to make content comprehensible in the target language. You will find students doing math talks and learning science, arts, and music in the Spanish language while learning to read and write in both English and Spanish. There are meaningful conversations among teachers and staff about data, students, our triumphs, and also our challenges but always with an end in mind which is how to move forward keeping in mind our goal: 'to foster bilingual literacy and success for every child.'
- Forest Oak Elementary showed 14 percentage points growth in grade 4 social studies. Fourth grade teachers noted, "We did a lot of supplemental videos, online research, and projects to enhance the information in the text and the review book." Team leader Lexie Cordrey highlighted that in her class she utilized "real case scenarios to emphasize how to be a good citizen."
- Marbrook Elementary gained 9 percentage points in science. Principal Melissa Phillips attributes the success to her fifth grade team for creative scheduling and allocating more time with teacher specialization in the subject.
- Stanton Middle School students demonstrated 9 percentage point gains in English language arts and 5 percentage point gains in science. Principal Tawanda Bond highlighted the work of her staff. In particular the sixth grade team implemented Response to Intervention. According to Bona, "RTI is a multi-tiered approach to the early identification and support for our students and all students participated. Our staff felt that the literacy, math and social skill building provided through our RTI model was impactful for our students' academic and social-emotional growth. In addition, our staff implemented an altered DCAS testing schedule that provided students the opportunity to be assessed directly following completion of their half year Science course. Staff and families felt that student knowledge was fresh and that they were better prepared."

2017 TEACHER OF THE YEAR BUILDING WINNERS

SCHOOL	BUILDING WINNER
A.I. du Pont High	Cristina Kalesse
A.I. du Pont Middle	Ray Rocha
Austin D. Baltz Elementary	Quatina Hattley
Brandywine Springs	Heather Townsend
Cab Calloway School of the Arts	Holly Golder
Conrad Schools of Science	Pat Healy
Cooke Elementary	Heather Kennedy
Forest Oak Elementary	Martha Eldreth
H. B. du Pont Middle	Kathy Siberski
Heritage Elementary	Dawn von Fricken
Highlands Elementary	Jason Scott
William C. Lewis Dual Language	Michele Burke
Linden Hill Elementary	Stephanie Fleetwood
Marbrook Elementary	Don Spicer
Thomas McKean High	Chrystal Haas
Meadowood	Zoi Hoxhaj
Anna P. Mote Elementary	Christine Sweeney
North Star Elementary	Karen Cooper
Donald J. Richey Elementary	Gregg Johnson
Richardson Park Elementary	Michelle Finegan
Richardson Park Learning Center	Leighanne Spitzer
Evan G. Shortlidge Elementary	Adrienne Brown
Skyline Middle	Nick Ronaghan
Stanton Middle	Erin Doyle
Warner Elementary	Shauna Hopper