

# Red Clay Consolidated School District

## eNews

December 1, 2017

### In This Issue:

- **DOE Awards Grants to Career Pathways**
- **Harvey Hanna and Operation Warm Visit Richey**
- **New Job Pathway at AIHS Offers Financial Training**
- **Nutrition Jobs Available**
- **Arts Education Vital to Student Success**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

#### **DOE Awards Grants to Career Pathways**

Secretary of Education Susan Bunting announced earlier this month more than \$400,000 in public grants to support new high school pathway programs. The effort expands on the statewide Delaware Pathways initiative to prepare all students to excel in key fields that offer good job opportunities in the new economy. Red Clay received five grants, totaling \$55,000 for its business information management, computer science, early childhood education, environmental & natural resource science, and teacher academy pathways. The grants will support students as they enroll in advanced coursework and training, beginning in the 2018-19 school year.

Grant funds are used by school districts to implement career and technical education programs as part of a larger state effort to connect our public education system, post-secondary institutions, and employers. Students take hundreds of hours of specialized instruction and hands-on training in their pathways, giving them the opportunity to graduate with work experience, college credit, and industry credentials that are relevant to those industries. As a result, students receive a head start on getting a job and earning a degree. The Pathways programs currently serve about 9,000 students across 41 high schools. This is an increase from about 5,000 students last school year. Three years ago the program had one class of about 30 students. Since 2015, more than \$2 million has been allocated to support career opportunities for all youth.

Pathways are developed in partnership with Delaware employers and institutions of higher education. The Department of Education provides curriculum support for each pathway as well as training for teachers to successfully implement the coursework. In addition, the department is working on agreements with Delaware colleges and universities to ensure that students who complete the new programs will be eligible for college credit at one or more institutions of higher education in the state.

#### **Red Clay Grant Awards**

A.I. du pont High School: Academy of Business Information Management (\$12,000) **[New]**

A.I. du pont High School: K-12 Teacher Academy (\$5,000) **[New]**

Conrad School of Sciences: Computer Science (\$5,000) **[Expanded]**

Thomas McKean High School: Early Childhood Education Teacher Academy (\$11,000) **[Expanded]**

Thomas McKean High School: Environmental and Natural Resource Science (\$12,000) **[Expanded]**

### **Description of New and Expanded Pathways in Red Clay**

**Academy of Business Information Management** The NAF Academy of Business Information Management introduces students to the skills needed to plan, organize, direct, and evaluate business functions essential to business operations through courses focusing on entrepreneurship, global and domestic economics, information technology, customer service, and ethics. Students gain critical career knowledge through a series of work-based learning activities that are conducted in school as well as outside the classroom. These activities may include, but are not limited to, job shadowing, mock interviews, and resume writing workshops. In addition, a paid 120-hour summer internship is designed to be included as part of the program.

### **Computer Science**

The Computer Science program of study helps students to develop analytical thinking and problem solving skills as well as algebraic reasoning and quantitative analysis necessary for careers in computer science, programming, and IT.

### **Early Childhood Teacher Academy**

The Early Childhood Teacher Academy program of study prepares students for careers in an early childhood setting. The program engages students in developing a realistic understanding of early childhood education while exploring the importance and impact of teachers as well as the uniqueness of early childhood development. Observation opportunities including special needs and non-classroom settings, provide practical experiences to enrich the learning.

### **Environmental Science and Natural Resources**

The Environmental and Natural Resources Science (ENRS) program of study provides students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human-made, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing them. The program prepares students for a variety of careers including environmental engineer, environmental science and protection technician, geological and petroleum technician, natural sciences manager, wildlife biologist, and zoologist.

### **K-12 Teacher Academy**

The K-12 Teacher Academy program of study prepares students for careers in elementary and secondary education. Observation opportunities in a variety of age and discipline settings, as well as special needs and non-classroom settings, provide practical experiences while enriching the learning. Students participate in a long-term placement during their senior year which allows for in-depth experiences in a classroom setting.

### **Harvey Hanna and Operation Warm Visit Richey**



Thanks to the Delaware KIDS Fund and Harvey, Hanna & Associates, more than 440 brand new coats were given to students at Richey Elementary School on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2017.

Operation Warm, a national non-profit which manufactures the coats, was on hand, along with volunteers, to fit the children in the gym.

“You being here is totally unbelievable support for our kids, so thank you,” Superintendent Merv Daugherty told the crowd. “You will never know the impact this has for our young people.”

In order to raise funds for towards the coats, “Operation Warm Newport: Delaware KIDS Fund Camping Out for Coats” was launched on Nov. 16, 2017. Other school’s receiving coats will be Richardson Park Elementary and Richardson Parking Learning Center for a total of 1,100 coats.

“Providing a child in a need a brand new coat creates confidence, peer-acceptance and inspiration”, said Ryan Kennedy, Executive Director of the Delaware KIDS Fund. “If we can inspire these children during this critical period in their lives, they will go on to do amazing things for their own families and our community”.

For two nights and three days, members of The Delaware KIDS Fund, Harvey, Hanna & Associates and local supporters camped out in a field located at 10 S. James Street in Newport, to help create awareness for Newport’s population of poverty stricken children. The campout was created to raise enough money to purchase 1,100 coats for the Town’s 1,100 elementary school children. 71% of these children live at or below the poverty line which is three times the national average.

The Delaware KIDS Fund has partnered with Operation Warm, a regional non-profit organization that works directly with coat manufacturers to create their own line of carefully crafted winter coats made exclusively for kids in a wide variety of styles and colors.

**Sponsors:**

Harvey, Hanna & Associates  
Operation Warm  
James Street Tavern  
A-1 Sanitation Services  
Herr's Snacks  
Against The Grain Arts  
Gable Music Ventures  
Buckley's Auto Care  
Tile Market of Delaware  
E. Thomas Harvey, III

**New Job Pathway at AIHS Offers Financial Training**

At Alexis I. duPont High School, students who are interested in finance could get a head start on job training by enrolling in the new Academy of Finance Pathway.

Currently in its first year, the Academy of Finance Pathway offers students the opportunity to receive hundreds of hours of specialized instruction and hands-on training, and graduate with work experience and industry credentials.

The Academy of Finance is part of the Pathways to Prosperity Grants, first announced by former Governor Jack Markell. Last December the Delaware Department of Education, in partnership with the Delaware Business Roundtable Education Committee members, including Bank of America, gave \$450,000 in private and public grants to expand the program. The grants are part of a state effort to connect Delaware's public education system to higher education institutions and the employer community. The initiative is designed to prepare all students to excel in fields that offer good job opportunities. Forty-two students in grades 9-12 are currently enrolled in the finance pathway taught by business education teacher Nick Dominelli and coordinated by business education teacher Mark Vankerhoven. This year the students will study Principles of Finance and Financial Planning, two of the courses that make up the three level curriculum. The goal is for second year students, in addition to taking classes, to participate in job shadowing and third year students to have a paid internship, either in the building with the student-run Franklin Mint Credit Union or outside of school with a partnering business. Before the students complete the pathway, they must create a culminating financial literacy project. Projects are shared with the A.I. student body giving the Finance Academy students an opportunity to educate their peers. In addition, the students take a nationally rated test before completing the pathway.

The Academy of Finance engages students in the world of financial services by offering courses focusing on banking and credit, financial planning, accounting and insurance. Work-based learning activities are conducted both in and outside of the classroom and a National Academy of Finance, NAFTrack Certification is given upon completion of the program. Students who receive a NAFTrack Certificate are guaranteed an interview with a business affiliated with the National Academy of Finance.

"Academy of Finance courses introduce students to a wide array of careers such as personal finance advisor, tax preparation specialist, accountant, financial analyst, loan officer, account representative, insurance agent and claims representative," said Lou Mingione, Red Clay Office of Regulated and Federal Programs.

The National Academy of Finance, a nationwide program brings education, business and community leaders together to create a unique high school experience, especially for underrepresented groups. Last year there were 206 programs in 32

states including the U.S. Virgin Islands. Eighty-one percent of the students were female and/or ethnic minorities, with 65% classified as low-income.

In today's world, financial literacy is important to building a successful future. "The Academy of Finance allows students the opportunity to learn various aspects of the business and finance world through both in-class and on-the-job experience. Not only does the Academy prepare students for college-level courses in finance, but it teaches them the financial planning and budgeting literacy necessary to become successful adults," said Academy of Finance teacher Nick Dominelli.

### **Nutrition Jobs Available**

Are you looking for a fun and rewarding part time job that offers you the ability to work while your kids are in school? If so, look no further than Red Clay Café! Red Clay Café can offer you an opportunity to work in a school cafeteria serving nutritious meals to Red Clay students with a smile. If you are interested in applying, please visit us at the nutrition office to obtain a copy of the application or obtain a copy of the application from a Red Clay School Cafeteria or office near you. The Nutrition Office is located at 1798 Limestone Rd., Wilmington, DE 19804.

### **Arts Education Vital to Student Success**

From the earliest grades, the arts are not only fun for kids but help them learn and grow. Motions such as holding a paintbrush or drawing with a crayon are essential to the development of fine motor skills while play acting increases and refines oral language skills and story understanding.

Red Clay is strongly committed to arts education. "The arts are a vital way for students to develop creativity, perseverance, critical thinking, communication skills and teamwork," said Judith Conway, Red Clay Supervisor of Unified Arts.

From pre-school through high school, Red Clay students have opportunities to explore the arts. Elementary students have weekly art and music classes and have fun experimenting with percussion instruments such as drums, bells and xylophones. Traveling music teachers give students lessons on band and string instruments. Currently 774 elementary students participate in band lessons and 432 elementary and middle school students play string instruments.

Secondary schools have drama, art, music and band classes and students perform in plays and concerts during the school year. On November 30<sup>th</sup> a district middle school choral festival and art show will take place and this spring a high school band and elementary choral concert will be featured.

The arts allow students to express their ideas and enhance motivation, persistence and engagement needed for success in college and the workforce. The skills they learn while participating in the arts improve academic performance, develop visual-spatial skills and strengthen problem solving and critical thinking skills. Confidence grows as students see their own progress. Repeated practice involved in learning to play a musical instrument or a new dance routine teaches students that hard work, focus and perseverance pay off.

Special Red Clay arts programs include the performing arts at Cab Calloway, theater at Dickinson Middle Years Program and select elementary schools, musical performances at Mote, Forest Oak and Highlands, guitar classes at Lewis, an extensive pottery program at H.B. Middle School and after school band practices at most Title I schools.

Students studying the arts learn that collaboration is important to the success of the group. Band, choir, dance and theater require kids to work together and teach them that their contribution is integral to the success of the group, even if they don't have a solo or lead part. They learn to have an enhanced awareness and respect of others.

The arts challenge students at all levels to discover their talent and engage students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, English learners and students with special needs. Research studies support the belief that arts education reaches students academics do not normally reach and is effective in reducing dropout rates, raising attendance rates and developing better team players.

Red Clay arts programs offer students a means of personal expression and lifetime enjoyment and help them develop academic, social and personal skills. Parents, friends and the community play a vital role in supporting the performing arts curriculum for the benefit of Red Clay students.

### **Upcoming Meetings and Eve**

- Facilities Committee Meeting, Dec. 4, 6:00p.m., District Office Board Room
- Parent Advisory Council Meeting, Dec 4, 6:00 – 8:00p.m., A. I. Middle
- Warner Choice Open House, Dec. 4, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Lewis Choice Open House, Dec. 5, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Baltz Choice Open House, Dec. 6, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Highlands, Skyline Choice Open House, Dec. 7, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Richardson Park Choice Open House, Dec. 11, 6:00-8:00p.m.
- Brandywine Springs Choice Open House, Dec. 12, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.
- Community Financial Review Committee Meeting, Dec. 12, 6:30p.m., District Office Board Room
- School Board Meeting, Dec. 13, 7:00p.m., Warner
- Diversity Committee Meeting, Dec. 14, 4:30p.m., District Office Room 239
- A. I. Choice Open House, Dec 14, 6:00 – 8:00p.m.