

# Red Clay Consolidated School District

## eNews

August 17, 2018

### In This Issue:

- **Superintendent Daugherty Announces Retirement**
- **Back to School Letter from Dr. Daugherty**
- **August Board of Education Meeting**
- **Red Clay Remains Tops in Delaware SAT Results**
- **New Math Materials for Middle Schools**
- **More Red Clay Students Taking AP Exams**
- **Warner Wellness Center to Open**
- **New Food Truck Rolls Out**
- **Cab Calloway Announces New Partnership with DCAD**
- **District Seeking Facilities Committee Members**
- **New Red Clay App Available for Free Download**
- **atTACK Addiction to Honor Dr. Daugherty**
- **Teen Volunteers Stay at McKean**
- **District Accepting Nominations for Hall of Fame**
- **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

#### **Superintendent Daugherty Announces Retirement**

Red Clay Consolidated School District Superintendent Dr. Merv Daugherty announced Thursday 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, coordinated interventions and awareness school programs, and helped to develop after school programs for students. He has also developed programs to help students develop problem solving techniques and leadership skills.

Recently, Dr. Daugherty has worked with the Latin American Community Center and the Hilltop Lutheran Center to develop partnerships and programs to provide academic assistance for students. He has developed partnerships with Children and Families First, Christiana Care and the Nemours Foundation to offer additional resources for schools.

He has worked with the City of Wilmington, New Castle County Chamber of Commerce and the State Business Chamber Association to develop partnerships to enhance and promote education in Delaware. As leader in Red Clay, he worked with the Yale Teacher Initiative at Yale University to improve classroom instruction.

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 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.

Click [here](#) to read a Back to School letter to the community from Dr. Daugherty.

#### **August Board of Education Meeting**

- [Approval of Fiscal Year 19 Preliminary Budget](#)
- [School Choice Enrollment and Policy](#)
- [Superintendent’s Report](#)

#### **Red Clay Remains Tops in Delaware SAT Results**

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 Baltz 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 targeted 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 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.

"We know curriculum is a key factor to student success," said Albers. "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 last week, according to DDOE.

### **New Math Materials for Middle Schools**

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 students. 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 Red Clay 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. Seventy percent (70%) of exams taken by Red Clay students

scored 3 or higher, 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.

## **New Food Truck Rolls Out**



Food, fun, music and raffles came to Baltz Elementary School on August 14<sup>th</sup> as the Red Clay Lunch Box food truck hit the streets to make its grand debut.

The large brightly colored truck was at the playground from 11:30a.m. – 2:00p.m. to give out free healthy lunches to those under 18. Adults were able to taste free samples or purchase a meal. Its mission is “to serve nutritious and A-Peel-ing meals with a smile”.

In addition to the food truck, Red Clay sponsored a nutrition wheel to educate participants about healthy food choices. After spinning the wheel and answering a healthy choice question guests received a prize. The Elsmere library also participated in community outreach by giving away free gift bags and school supplies.

The Red Clay Lunch Box is designed to provide access to nutritious meals to students outside the school day where food insecurity still exists. Red Clay Nutrition Specialist Jessica Farrand said, “At the onset the Red Clay Lunchbox will have the ability to feed students during after- school programs and on weekends. We want to reach students that have limited access to food during these times.” The meals will be provided through a combination of the Child and Adult Care Feeding dinner and weekend program as well as the Summer Food Service program when school is not in session.

The food truck project began with the purchase of a 16-foot truck and a contract with Custom Sales, a food truck outfitting company in Hammonton, New Jersey. The design phase involved deciding on the purpose of the truck and menu followed by a layout of equipment and storage. Once the blueprint with the specs and layout was received, retro-fitting of the vehicle got started. After more than a year of planning, designing, installing and permit approvals, the truck was ready.

Red Clay’s newest and only kitchen on wheels is equipped with a stone pizza oven, two flat top griddles, warming stations, a cook top and convection oven, refrigeration and freezer space, a beverage bin and much more. There is ample storage to offer healthy well balanced meals to Red Clay students and adults.

“In addition to using the truck to provide meal service to students experiencing food insecurity, there are additional plans to use the truck during the school day to provide an innovative style of school meals as an incentive program”, said Nutrition Manager Jessica Terranova. During the summer of 2019 the Lunch Box will be used in the Red Clay Summer Feeding Program.

Once school is in session, high school music groups will be asked to work to create a Lunch Box jingle for the truck to play upon arrival at its service site. Red Clay will have the opportunity to vote on the best food truck jingle. Needless to say the Lunch Box is a welcome addition to Red Clay.

### **Cab Calloway Announces New Partnership with DCAD**

Delaware College of Art and Design (DCAD) and Cab Calloway School of the Arts are teaming up to provide Cab’s visual arts students with an early start on their art and design degrees. Beginning this fall, DCAD will send instructors and curricula to Cab to offer “Figure Drawing” and “Animation I” that will count toward both a high school diploma and a college degree. Students also will produce relevant drawings and animations for their college application portfolios and have the opportunity to be mentored by a college instructor.

Cab Calloway is a public middle and high school for students in the performing and visual arts that boasts a graduation rate of 100 percent. Also located in Wilmington, the Red Clay Consolidated School District magnet school offers combines traditional academics with concentrations in dance, digital media and communication arts, instrumental music, piano, strings, technical theatre, theatre arts, visual arts and vocal music to lead to a State of Delaware High School Diploma.

DCAD, the Mid-Atlantic’s only two-year professional art and design college, is accredited by both the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. It offers associate of fine arts degree programs in animation, fine arts, graphic design, illustration and photography on its downtown Wilmington campus.

DCAD Dean Katy Ro noted that the development of this collaboration exemplifies DCAD’s mission and commitment to cultivating partnerships with local art and design entities. She also said the program will help make students more college-minded while helping them prepare for the academic rigors of college via previously unavailable instruction and experience. Cab Calloway Dean Julie Rumschlag agreed.

“This program gives our students an opportunity for coursework that our school typically does not offer,” Rumschlag said. “Dual-enrollment will provide both breadth and depth to our arts curriculum at Cab Calloway.”

Many students who have graduated from Cab Calloway over the last 20 years have gone on to earn associate of fine arts degrees from DCAD. These include Katlyn Cofrancisco, who earned a diploma from Cab, an associate’s degree from DCAD and a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and in addition to continuing to make pottery also works as one of DCAD’s two admissions counselors. “Giving high school students access to college-level studio classes truly benefits and enriches their learning experience,” Cofrancisco said. “DCAD sees a need to encourage and provide access for students who are talented and dedicated so they may get on an accelerated path to becoming artists and designers, and I believe this program with Cab Calloway will be the beginning of what we hope to achieve with other schools in the Tri-State area.”

Cofrancisco said moving from the close-knit creative community she experienced at Cab Calloway to the atmosphere at DCAD was a comfortable progression. Both offer a similar environment of support and inspiration.

“As I look back on my transition from high school to college,” she said, “the impact of being encouraged to take risks, learn to be a creative problem-solver and encourage my peers made me a more well-rounded artist.”

### **District Seeking Facilities Committee Members**

Help plan the future of the district on the Red Clay Facilities Committee. The committee was established to assist the Red Clay Board of Education with facilities oversight and ensure community involvement in Red Clay's facilities processes.

- Provide affirmation/verification of the prioritization of projects, changes to the scope of major capital improvement projects, and long-range facilities plans of the Red Clay School Board
- Provide a medium for the dissemination of facilities information, reports and materials to the community relative to Red Clay School District and its long-range facilities plans
- Provide consultation and guidance to the Red Clay School Board on matters relating to minor and major capital improvement projects and perform other review and recommendation functions as directed by the Board.

Anyone interested in serving on the committee can send a letter of interest to Assistant Superintendent Ted Ammann, 1502 Spruce Ave., Wilmington DE 19805. Letters should be submitted by the end of October. To learn more about the committee, you can attend the next meeting on September 11, 2018, at 4 p.m. in district offices, at Baltz Elementary School.

### **New Red Clay App Available for Free Download**

With the touch of a button Red Clay's new mobile app will keep you connected to the current news, events and updates. The app will deliver real time school news to your smart-device for FREE. With the app you can:

- Follow the latest school and district news
- Receive notifications about closures, breaking news and announcements
- View the latest photos from school events
- Select schools you want to follow
- See school locations, phone numbers and staff information

To download the free app, visit the iTunes App Store, search and select Red Clay CSD. The app will also be available on Google Play in the near future. Keep informed from the start of the new school year!

### **atTACK Addition to Honor Dr. Daugherty**

Red Clay Superintendent Dr. Merv Daugherty will be honored by atTACK Addiction at its annual gala on October 18, 2018.

The board of atTACK Addiction unanimously agreed that Dr. Daugherty be the recipient of the Courage Award, for demonstrating outstanding courage in leading others in the war against substance use disorder.

Dr. Daugherty will be recognized for all of the work he has done to support prevention and education of substance abuse. Also, for the past several years, Dr. Daugherty has been working with atTACK Addiction Founder Don Keister on a plan to bring a recovery high school to Delaware. It would serve children recovering from addiction.

Tickets to the dinner may be purchased on the group's Facebook Page, or on its website at [www.attackaddiction.org](http://www.attackaddiction.org).

### **Teen Volunteers Stay at McKean**

Hundreds of teens from 14 states stayed at Thomas McKean High School for a week earlier this summer for Wilmington Workcamp 2018.

Sponsored by eight local churches, 280 teens from various youth groups volunteered a total of 8,400 hours to make significant repairs to 34 homes in New Castle County, totaling an estimated \$249,136 in repairs. Red Clay School District enthusiastically provided McKean High School for lodging for the teen workcampers. At least 12 other organizations (government and commercial) provided funding, in-kind donations, and in-kind services.

### **District Accepting Nominations for Hall of Fame**

In partnership with the Red Clay Education Foundation, the Red Clay Consolidated School District is now accepting nominations for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Red Clay Hall of Fame Recognition Gala. The event this year will be held on **Tuesday, October 30, 2018**. The dinner is a way in which to thank educators and community members who have dedicated their time and effort to support Red Clay students throughout their career. This is a wonderful time for the district to honor teachers, administrators and community members for their tireless efforts in supporting YOUR, as well as OUR children!

If you would like to nominate a past teacher, administrator or community member, which you believe meets the criteria below, please click here: <https://goo.gl/forms/RIOSY6kchxtpq2m2> to access the nomination form.

1. *Provided outstanding service or activities for children over a period of time during their career*
2. *Loved, encouraged, and inspired children to be successful*
3. *Dedicated their career to support children and education*

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018.**

The form must be completed in its entirety. Please ensure all questions are answered. Incomplete forms will not be considered. If you have any questions, contact Maria Stevens at 302-552-3703 or by email at: [maria.stevens@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:maria.stevens@redclay.k12.de.us)

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- Middle School Open House Events, Aug. 22
- Elementary School Open House Events, Aug. 23
- First Day of School – Grades 1-6 & 9, Aug. 27, Kindergarten Split Week
- All Grades Report to School, Aug. 28, Kindergarten Split Week
- Red Clay Financial Workshop, Aug. 28, 5:30 – 7:00p.m., District Office Board Room

- **Schools Closed, Aug. 31**
- **Schools/Offices Closed – Labor Day, Sept. 3**
- First Day for Pre-K Students, Sept. 4
- Back to School Instrument Night, Sept. 5, 7:00p.m., Brandywine Springs School
- **Schools Closed – In-service Day, Sept. 6**