



# Courier

A monthly publication  
of the  
Conrad Weiser Area  
School District

Fall 2015

Conrad Weiser Area School District Volume CCXXXIV (234)

## Distinguished Alumni, Honor Society Members to Be Inducted November 21

Community members are invited to join the Conrad Weiser administration, faculty, and staff as we congratulate three Distinguished Alumni as well as 24 juniors and seniors who have earned admission to the National Honor Society. The ceremony to honor both alumni and students will be held on Saturday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

Students who have earned a 3.5 average, assumed leadership positions inside or outside of school, provided service to others, and are of solid character will be inducted into the CW High School Chapter's National Honor Society.

Corey Gruber, Bill Huyett, and Ellen Rissinger will be honored that evening as Distinguished Alumni. Mr. Gruber, class of 1972, has served on the White House National Security Council and currently is an executive in the Office of Response and Recovery (ORR) at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Mr. Huyett works with some of the top pharmaceutical and medical device companies in the world as a management consultant. Ms. Rissinger is a multilingual vocal coach in Dresden, Germany.

National Honor Society inductees include Sierra Angstadt, Aubrey Eaken, Kaitlyn Hulina, Sheryll Jeanite, Trent Lessig, Mollie Makowski, Caroline Riegel, Erin Smith, Alyssa Williams, Jillian Barskey, Julia Boyer, Rosalie Brunner, Natalie Buck, Quinn Ford, Cassidy Franco, Kaitlyn Granger, Tori Hivner, Deismy (Daisy) Jimenez, Crystal Kaczmarczyk, Allison Kostaras, Nicholas Lagerman, Kelsey O'Brien, Victoria Organtini, and TanaLorraine Stellmon.

## CW West Students Celebrate Reading!

CW West students who met their summer reading goals celebrated their accomplishments in A & B Wing reading celebrations. Thank you to PTO for providing the reading incentives. Remember, readers are leaders!



## Congratulations!

## Help Middle School Students Answer the Trex Challenge

The Conrad Weiser Middle School has been challenged to collect plastic bags and other recyclable film. Our goal is to collect more film than other schools our size. Not only will we help our environment, but we could also win some great outdoor furniture built by Trex for CW!

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue. Please keep the following plastics in mind for this cause:

- grocery bags
- bread bags
- case overwrap
- dry cleaning bags
- newspaper sleeves
- ice bags
- wood pellet bags
- ziploc and other reclosable bags
- produce bags
- bubble wrap
- salt bags
- cereal bags

The FFA has volunteered to collect all bags and tally our results. Recycling containers will be located in the main lobby, gym lobby, and between 7/8 science classrooms. Bags may also be delivered directly to Mrs. Meredith's classroom: F-3.

Collections will run from  
November 15, 2015 until  
April 15, 2016.



The Middle School Student Council is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corps Toys-for-Tots toy drive. Please drop off donations at the middle school office until December 4<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Thank you in advance for your donations!

## High School Students Participate in Biomedical Science Research



*Sara Rumpf and Ally Kostaras prepare tissue samples for evaluation using a Shandon Excelsior Tissue processor.*

This past summer, high school students worked under the guidance of Ms. Adelle Shade, anatomy and physiology teacher, to develop research projects while collaborating with STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) experts. This experience helped students develop professional laboratory skills at the same time it prepared them for college and careers centered around STEM disciplines. The students were fortunate to have the opportunity to work with an automated tissue stainer and processor, PC and reagent kits, an auto IHC strainer, a slide writer, histology equipment and consumables.

This specialized equipment, some of which is so high tech that even colleges do not have it in their labs, was donated from the CV Path Institute in Gaithersburg, Md, Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Roche Tissue Diagnostics, and Metamarks Genetics in Collegeville.

Student projects included forensic science, 3D printing of medical prothesis, antibody recognition in various tissue samples, and histological (cell) processing.

## Missed on the 2015 Senior Celebration & Awards List

CW Lions Club Scholarship-Kayla Aulenbach

CWMA Jeff Rothenberger Memorial Scholarship-Kayla Aulenbach

Donald Zerbe Womelsdorf Rod and Gun Club-Kayla Aulenbach, Mykala Berger, Elizabeth Hawley, Makayla Lagerman, Leah Ruth, Rebecca Snyder

Friends of Robesonia Scholarship-Kayla Aulenbach

Jonathan Joseph McDonald Scholarship-Kayla Altland

Renaissance Scholarship-Kayla Aulenbach

*(apologies from the editor for these omissions)*

Richland American Legion Military Service Recognition-Eryk Janus, Joshua Pabon, Austin Sonon, Dylan Taylor  
Social Studies Department Award-Connor Dautrich, Austin Frownfelter, Anthony Gresoi, Tyler Moore, James Philactos, Emma Price, Patrick Scubelek  
US Army Reserve National Scholar Athlete Award-Reese Buckholtz  
Wernersville Lions Club Scholarship-Reese Buckholtz  
Womelsdorf Area Women of Today Award-Mykala Berger  
Women's Club of Wernersville-Kayla Altland

## Summer Academy Focuses on School Readiness



During the month of July the Middle School offered a Summer Academy attended by ninety students. In the Academy, students learned the hybrid style of learning and computer skills. They also toured the middle school and practiced opening lockers. Most students enjoyed the week, felt more prepared for the middle school and made new friends.

## Blue Team Uses Cemetery as a Classroom



The 8<sup>th</sup> grade BLUE (Explorers) Team traveled to Hain's Church cemetery on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> to collect data for an interdisciplinary unit. Math classes created scatter plots, drew best-fitting lines, calculated and classified slope. The students discussed the various military and religious symbols in social studies class, and, in science the students learned what simple and complex machines people would use in order to move and place the large grave stones in place.

## Student Initiates Marker Recycling Program at CW

Eighth grader Jacklyn Clauss has started a recycling program for used markers. The program, run through Crayola, is called COLORCYCLE and it takes the markers and recycles them into gasoline. Jacklyn and her classmates have created

informational postings and artwork with marker caps promoting her initiative. <http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle/frequently-asked-questions.aspx>

## Employees in the Spotlight



Cheryl Benfer, second grade teacher at CW West, was recognized at a recent board meeting for developing, organizing, and carrying out the CW West Summer School breakfast and lunch programs.

Linda Schneider, CW West Intervention Specialist, was honored with the Lauretta Woodson Award from



the Berks County Association of School Retirees for her work on organizing a peer tutoring program as well as her service on numerous school committees dedicated to taking care of kids.



Bev Yoder, CW West School Nurse, is the recipient of the PSEA (PA State Education Association) Certified School Nursing Leadership Award for 2015.

Some of the many programs Mrs. Yoder has initiated to support her students include The Weekender Program (backpacks with child friendly supplies and easily prepared meals and snacks for the weekend), mobile dentist, health fairs, fruit and veggie events, heart health and so much more.

### Artwork Featured at Train Station



Just a few of the pieces of artwork from 40 students in grades 5-8 are displayed at an art show held in conjunction with the Wernersville Furniture Festival at the train station in Wernersville.

### Day of the Dead Celebration Held at High School



High school students pose with a skeleton created in anatomy and physiology class.

This year's Day of the Dead Celebration represented a combined effort of the art, culinary, anatomy and physiology, Spanish, and social studies departments. Classes of students rotated through stations designed to educate about this Mexican custom that honors the deceased.

### Campfire Stories Kick-off Literature Study



Mrs. Lorraine Moore reads campfire stories to fifth grade students.

On Wednesday, September 30th, fifth graders from Mrs. Cathy Mason's and Mr. Timothy Feeg's Language Arts classes were treated to a special delight around the "campfire." Former CW fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Lorraine Moore, shared campfire stories with the classes to kick-off the students' literature study of *George Washington's Socks* by Elvira Woodruff.

In that novel, the characters create an adventure club and while camping are

transported back in time to meet George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Their neighborhood is transformed into the icy Delaware River on the eve of the Battle of Trenton. Along the way, the children meet several historical characters and witness actual events.

At the conclusion of the campfire stories, the students enjoyed s'mores as they eagerly anticipated the reading of this historical fantasy. (photo and article contributed by Mr. Timothy Feeg)

No time for breakfast at home?

Breakfast is available to all students every morning at school!

**Benefit Concert**  
**Sunday, November 22**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**High School Auditorium**



Benefits the Ruth Ann Rissinger and Barbara M. Bricker scholarship funds.

Come hear graduates Amanda Hornberger, Sarah Kreider, Mary McCormick, Josh Mountz, Tyler Ravert and Emily Snyder perform alongside Sean Young, with Ellen Rissinger on the piano, plus members of the CW Senior Chorus under the direction of Mr. Sean Hackett!

### IT Department Presents at County Level



A presenter joins members of the CW IT Department, Skip Knarr, Bill Knapper, and Gabe Horning, who presented information on social media at a meeting of the Berks Area School Counselors held at Reading Area Community College.

## Contemporary Issues Classes Hold Drive for World Food Day



Over 425 cans were collected for the Greater Berks Food Bank in a high school drive to call attention to World Food Day. The students also presented a check for \$200 to the cause.

## High School Library Media Center Celebrates Teen Read Week with Visit from Josh Berk



Author Josh Berk responds to a question from a student.

Young adult author Josh Berk visited the high school Library Media Center (LMC) in October to talk about his writing with students in celebration of Teen Read Week.

Mr. Berk is from Bethlehem and is the author of *The Dark Days of Hamburger*

*Halpin*, a Best Book for Children and Teens in 2010. *Guy Langman: Crime Scene Procrastinator* was published in 2012. His new book, released this year, is entitled *Say it Ain't So*.

## Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Plan in Place

The goal of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan at CW is to protect every student from pesticide exposure. Management procedures will typically only be done when students are not in the building.

Notices will be posted in areas which need treatment 72 hours prior to application and 48 hours following application. If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem (ex. stinging insects), notice will be provided by phone to any parent or guardian who has made a written request for such notification.

To request notification or ask questions about IPM, call Mr. Eric Lutz at 610-693-8507.

## Asbestos Inspection Conducted

In accordance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), the Conrad Weiser Area School District has conducted inspections of all district buildings for the presence of Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM). An asbestos management plan was developed for any building found to contain ACBM. These plans contain the location and condition of all ACBM along with the short-term actions to be taken to protect building occupants. These management plans are available for review by any interested persons in either the District Administration Office or at the individual school during normal business hours.

AHERA regulations require re-inspections every three years by an accredited building inspector. This triennial inspection was last conducted during the 2014 school year. Any questions concerning these inspections should be directed to Eric A. Lutz, Director of Facilities, at 610-693-8507.

**Attention Seniors and Senior Parents:** PHEAA has made changes to the initiation of a financial aid application. Information about the changes can be found on Schoology (High School Counseling Group), on the District website (High School Counseling) or at <http://fsaid.ed.gov>

## Explanation of the Family and Educational Rights Act (FERPA)

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with information regarding student records and directory information.

### *Student Records*

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's educational records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless, for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that a school correct records which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement within the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

*School officials with legitimate educational interest;*

*Other schools to which a student is transferring;*

*Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;*

*Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;*  
*Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;*

*Accrediting organizations;*

*To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;*

*Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and*  
*State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State Law.*

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification (special letter, inclusion in a PTO bulletin, student handbook, or newspaper article) is left to the discretion of each school.

For additional information or technical assistance, you may call (202) 260-3887 (voice). Individuals who use TDD may call the Federal Information Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339. Or you may contact the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202-5901

### *Directory Information*

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a Federal law, requires that the Conrad Weiser Area School District, with certain exceptions, obtains your written consent prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information from your child's education

records. However, the Conrad Weiser Area School District may disclose appropriately designated "directory information" without written consent, unless you have advised the District to the contrary in accordance with District procedures. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the district to include this type of information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples include the following:

- \*a playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- \*the yearbook;
- \*honor roll or other recognition lists;
- \*graduation programs; and
- \*sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Two federal laws require school districts receiving assistance under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) to provide military recruiters, upon request, with names, addresses and telephone listings--unless parents have advised the District that they do not want their student's information disclosed without their prior written consent.

**If you do not want the Conrad Weiser Area School District to disclose directory information from your child's education records without your prior written consent, you must notify the District in writing by November 30, 2014.**

The District has designated the following information as directory information:

- \*Student's name
- \*Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- \*Address
- \*Telephone listing
- \*Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- \*Electronic mail address
- \*Photograph
- \*Degrees, honors, and awards received
- \*Date and place of birth
- \*Major field of study
- \*Dates of attendance
- \*Grade level
- \*Most recent educational agency or institution attended.

## Notice to Parents on Screening, Referral, and Evaluation for Special Programs or Services

The Conrad Weiser Area School District, as prescribed by section 1402 of the School Code, routinely conducts screenings of a child's hearing acuity (grades K, 1, 2, 3, 7, and 11), visual acuity (all grades) and speech and language proficiency (kindergarten registration).

Gross motor and fine motor skills, academic skills, and social/emotional skills are also assessed on an ongoing basis by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and other educational specialists.

Parents with concerns regarding their son or daughter in any of these areas may contact the building principal, guidance staff or teacher to request a screening or evaluation of their child.

### Referral Process

The Conrad Weiser Area School District has in place a variety of regular education intervention services that are available to students prior to referring a student forward for an evaluation to determine special education eligibility.

Those services include the following:

<i>Differentiated Instruction</i>	<i>Individual Tutoring</i>
<i>Math and Reading Labs</i>	<i>Title I (Remedial Services K-6)</i>
<i>Response to Intervention Services</i>	<i>Behavior Teams</i>
<i>Guidance Services</i>	<i>ESL</i>
<i>Student Assistance Programs (SAP)</i>	<i>Summer Reading Programs</i>
<i>Homework Club</i>	<i>Study Island</i>
	<i>Foundations Courses (HS)</i>

If a student has not made progress while participating in any one or a combination of these interventions, the school may then initiate the process of referring a student for a Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Evaluation to determine eligibility for special education services.

Parents may also initiate the MDT Evaluation process by notifying (verbally or in writing) the building principal, teacher or guidance counselor requesting in writing to initiate this process.

Once initiated, the MDT Evaluation process involves the following:

- *permission to evaluate is requested from parents*
- *data from previous intervention services along with new assessments, testing, observations, and parent and teacher input is collected for the formal evaluation*
- *a final Evaluation Report (ER) is written based on this information within 60 calendar days from the date the parent permission is received*
- *a copy of the report is given to the parents and a meeting may be held to discuss report findings*

If a determination is made that the child is in need of special education services....

- *an Individualized Educational Program (IEP) will be developed within 30 calendar days of the final evaluation report date specifying services and specially designed instruction required to meet the needs of the student*
- *a Notice of Recommended Educational Placement (NOREP) is presented to the parents, at which time they may agree or disagree with recommendations by the IEP team*

The IEP will be developed through a team meeting involving the parents, a special education teacher, regular education teacher, district Local Education Agency (LEA) representative and when appropriate, any other individual with information or input that is integral to the education of the child. Once students reach the age of 16, they are also required team members in the IEP process.

If parents agree with the program being recommended....

- *the student begins receiving services through special education programming no later than 10 school days from the date of the meeting*

If the parents disagree with the program being recommended....

- *the disagreement may be taken to a mediation session or impartial due process hearing*

## Other Information Regarding Special Education Programs and Services

The Conrad Weiser Area School District strictly adheres to all state and federal regulations regarding the provision of special education services and programs to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of the information pertaining to students with disabilities.

Additional information about parent rights, due process procedures, student records, evaluations, and special education services is available on the District website under "District Services." Communication with parents and exceptional students shall be provided in English or in the native language of the parents.

The responsibility for educating all students belongs to the local school district. School districts have the ability to provide special education programs with district personnel and/or through contracted arrangements with another educational entity in meeting the needs of the child. The Conrad Weiser Area School District provides programs and services in the following areas:

Gifted Support  
Learning Support  
Life Skills Support  
Emotional Support  
Speech/Language Support  
Deaf/Hearing Impaired  
Physical Support  
Blind/Visually Impaired  
Autistic Support  
Multiple Disabilities Support

The Conrad Weiser Area School District is committed to meeting the needs of all school age children. Regardless of your child's school of attendance, public or private, if you believe there is need for testing to determine eligibility for special education services, you may obtain further information by contacting the Special Education Services Office at (610) 678-9236.

## Conrad Weiser Area School Board

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### Newsletter Editor

Kathleen A. Mohn, *Public Relations Coordinator*  
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 610-693-8548

Published for citizens of the Conrad Weiser Area School District. Submit news of school or community interest to the *Courier* at the address in the mailing panel. Deadline for Winter edition-December 12. Include your name and phone number for verification purposes. Timely articles will be used as space allows.

Fall 2015

### Athletic Pass Offered to 65+

All residents of the Conrad Weiser Area School District age 65+ are eligible for a Senior Citizen Athletic Pass for admission to all school-sponsored home athletic events. If eligible and interested in obtaining a pass, please call Nancy Flory at (610) 693-8545.

## Parental Information Notice on Chapter 15-Other Protected Handicapped Students

A protected handicapped student is a student who is school age with a physical or mental disability which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program.

In compliance with State and Federal Law, the Conrad Weiser Area School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aids, services, or accommodations needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. These services and protections for protected handicapped students are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provision of services to protected handicapped students, contact your building principal.

### Early Intervention Services

Children from birth to five years of age who are suspected of having a disability or developmental delay may be eligible for early intervention (preschool) services. To obtain information about early intervention eligibility and screening procedures, contact Berks County Service Access and Management Office at (610) 478-4900 for children up to three years of age; Berks County Intermediate Unit Office at (610) 987-2248 for children between three and five years of age.

Conrad Weiser Area School District  
 44 Big Spring Rd.  
 Robesonia, PA 19551

## Current Resident

"The Conrad Weiser Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and handicap in its activities, programs, and employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504." For information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and useable by handicapped persons, contact Robin L. Robertson, Director of Business (610-693-8542). For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Robin L. Robertson, Compliance Officer for Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504 at 44 Big Spring Rd., Robesonia, PA 19551. Telephone 610-693-8542.

## NOW HIRING: BUS/VAN DRIVERS & BUS ASSISTANTS

The Berks County Intermediate Unit is seeking individuals to serve as drivers or assistants to help transport students to and from school in the Conrad Weiser Area School District. Drivers must be at least 21 years of age, hold a valid PA driver's license, have two years driving exp. and have the ability to communicate effectively.

Bus drivers must have added ability to secure a CDL with the proper endorsements.

Assistants who have experience working with children and special needs preferred.

Regular and substitute shifts available: a.m., noon or p.m.

Hourly rate up to \$15.00 dependent upon assignment.

Earn up to \$890 for perfect attendance and a holiday stipend.

Already have your CDL and appropriate endorsements?

Receive a \$600 bonus.

Apply online at  
[www.berksiu.org/jobline](http://www.berksiu.org/jobline)  
 or call 610-987-8471. EOE

