



Courier

A monthly publication
of the
Conrad Weiser Area
School District

Fall 2014

Conrad Weiser Area School District

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School Calendar 2014 - 2015

November	
26	Early Dismissal (K-12) In-Service
27 -28	Thanksgiving Holiday-No School
December	
1	Thanksgiving Holiday-No School
23	Early Dismissal (K-12) In-Service
24-31	No School-(K-12)-Winter Holiday
January	
1-4	No School (K-12) Winter Holiday
19	No School (K-12) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
21-22	Early Dismissal (Conferences K-8)
21-22	Early Dismissal (Final Exams-9-12)
23	No School (K-12) In-Service
26	Start of Second Semester
February	
13	Early Dismissal (K-12) In-Service
16	No School-(K-12) Presidents' Holiday
March	
20	Early Dismissal (K-12) In-Service
30	No School (K-12) Spring Holiday (Snow Make-up Day #1)
31	No School (K-12) Spring Holiday (Snow Make-up Day #2)
April	
1	No School (K-12) Spring Holiday (Snow Make-up Day #3)
2	No School (K-12) Spring Holiday (Snow Make-up Day #4)
3	No School (K-12) Spring Holiday
6	No School (K-12) In-Service (Snow Make-up Day #5)
May	
25	No School (K-12) Memorial Day
June	
10	Early Dismissal (K-12) In-Service
11	Early Dismissal (K-12) In-Service
12	No School (K-12) In-Service
12	High School Graduation

Testing Dates

If at all possible, please plan for your child to be in school during the following dates.

PSSA-ELA	April 13-17
PSSA-Math	April 20-24
PSSA-Science	April 27-May 1
PSSA Make-up	May 4-9
Keystone-Winter Wave 1	December 3-17
Keystone-Winter Wave 2	January 7-21
Keystone-Spring	May 13-27

CW Students Intern in Jefferson Research Lab



Students Aarika Ferko and Alexa Schneck join Adelle Schade, high school anatomy and physiology teacher, and CW alum Pete Eisenhauer in the Orthopaedic research laboratory of the Sidney Kimmel/Jefferson Medical College this past summer.

Two high school juniors as well as a CW graduate worked with Ms. Adelle Schade, high school anatomy and physiology teacher, in her research throughout the summer. Ms. Schade is a PhD candidate in Cell and Developmental Biology at Jefferson and has been researching non-thermal plasma emission, ultra-sound, tissue healing and regeneration. She worked in Philadelphia one night a week throughout the 2013-2014 school year and selected a team of

two current students and one previous student to intern in the research lab.

This cutting edge research has implications for promoting tissue growth, healing and sterilization. It is funded by the National Institute of Health. What an opportunity for these students as well as Ms. Schade's students for the 2014-2015 school year to work with and learn from a professional medical researcher!

Sattazahn Places 4th in Nation



Jenna Sattazahn and Elizabeth Wissinger

Jenna Sattazahn and advisor Mrs. Elizabeth Wissinger attended the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) National Leadership Conference in Nashville in June. Jenna earned fourth place in the nation in the Agribusiness competitive event. Jenna is furthering her education at Messiah College.

Distinguished Alumni, Honor Society Members to Be Inducted November 22

Community members are invited to join the Conrad Weiser administration, faculty, and staff as we congratulate three Distinguished Alumni as well as 33 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 22 at 7:00 pm. 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.

Dr. William (Bill) Gruber, Michael Firestine, and Dr. Amy (Casselberry) Cuddy will be honored that evening as Distinguished Alumni. Dr. Gruber, class of 1961, is an author as well as a professor of English and Theater at Emory University. Mr. Firestine, class of 1968, is a farmer as well as a banker who specializes in agricultural interests. Dr. Cuddy, class of 1990, is a social psychologist and Hellman Faculty Fellow at the Harvard Business School.

National Honor Society Inductees include Kirsten Brochu, Vanessa Colon, Michael Confalone, Devon Drexel, Matthew Duong, Kathryn Fegley, Taylor Franco, Tamana Gupta, Zack Hable, Tyler Hoss, Alexandra Jimenez, Julia Kesselring, Kallie Lutz, Kennedy Lutz, Emily Madden, James Philactos, Brittany Plue, Hailey Potsklan, Emma R. Price, Rachel Rathman, Elijah Reber, Sara Rumpf, Briana Sassaman, Alexa Schneck, Dylan Schoemaker, Patrick Scubelek, Benjamin Sumner, William Sumner, Phillip Weiser, Katelyn Williams, Kylie Wirebach, Charlotte Wood, and Grayson Ziegler.

Instrumental Music Professors from Kutztown University Conduct Masterclasses



Professor Jeremy Justeson from Kutztown University mentors CW students Neil Long, Curtis Gurney, and Forrest Lamm on the saxophone. Mr. Neal Lutz, instrumental music teacher, held a masterclass for his high school students with eight instrumental music professors from Kutztown University to encourage them to build their tone, technique, and practice habits.

High School Social Studies Department Highlights French and Indian War



Students pose in a dug out similar to one used by Native Americans during a special French and Indian War Day sponsored by the high school social studies department. Janet Johnson, curator of the Pennsylvania State Museum, discussed Native American culture and archaeology as part of this exhibit. Allen Schaeffer, a blacksmith from Furnace Creek Forge, demonstrated blacksmithing. Lynn Otto led the Weiser 1st battalion of the Pennsylvania Regiment in military drilling, and spoke about camp followers as well as various viewpoints of the war.

Fifth Grade Heads to Hawk Mountain



Fifth grade students traveled to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary where they learned about raptors in the morning and hiked in the afternoon.

Students Study Creek Life



Two students take a sample of creek life from Furnace Creek in Robesonia to prepare for the trout they will raise in November.

Young Adult Author Motivates Student Writers



Young adult author Tiffany Schmidt signs one of her books for a student. The high school library media center sponsored a talk to inspire young writers by Mrs. Schmidt, author of *Send Me a Sign* and *Bright Before Sunrise*.

Employee of the Month Named



Pat Swoyer, Materials Handler, was named Employee of the Month at a recent board meeting. Swoyer always goes above and beyond for the students and staff of Conrad Weiser, but she was recognized on this particular occasion for driving to Philadelphia not once but twice in August to make certain that the laptops and carrying cases being used for the 1:1 initiative in fifth grade were ready for students at the start of the school year.

Leroy Schaeffer Inducted into CW Athletic Hall of Fame



Leroy (Lumpy) Schaeffer was inducted into the CW Athletic Hall of Fame in May of 2014. A caption in the July Courier misidentified his brother as his son. Leroy passed away prior to the ceremony and his brother accepted the honor on his behalf. Apologies from the editor for this error.

FBLA Service Projects Continue

Thanks to community members for the cell phones and manufacturers' coupons donated to the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) community service projects—Coups for Troops and Cell Phones for Soldiers!

Each month cell phones and coupons are mailed to the appropriate contact. As convenient, please clip the coupons before donating!

Collection containers for each cause are located at schools in the district as well as the Robesonia, Womelsdorf, and Richland public libraries, and select branches of Fulton Bank.

Thanks for supporting these worthwhile FBLA community service projects.

Middle School Student Council Collects Toys for Tots

Middle School Student Council is collecting new, unwrapped toys for the Marine Corp. Toys-for-Tots toy drive. Please drop off donations at the middle school office until December 5th between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Thank you in advance for your donations!



CW Alum Lands Producer Role for "Mother of Hip-Hop Invention"

Glen "DiVinci" Valencia Jr., a 2000 graduate, is a hip-hop talent who collaborates with the "mother of hip-hop invention, Lauryn Hill. Hill performs with the Solillaquists of Sound. The group recently performed in Los Angeles as well as Lake Buena Vista in Florida.

Congratulations to CW East Readers and Writers

Please join us in congratulating students on this page as well as the next who read and journaled over the summer. Reading specialists Kathy Pachuillo and Casey Yenser held an assembly to honor these hard-working students who met their summer reading and writing goals.



First grade readers and writers



Second grade readers and writers

Walking School Bus Gets Kids Moving



Sherri Sattazahn and Cindy Schaeffer escort CW West students across the street on their walk to school. National Walking School Bus Day encourages students to walk to school on specified routes for exercise and safety.

Congratulations to CW East Readers and Writers



Third grade readers and writers



Fourth grade readers and writers



Fourth grade readers and writers who were recognized for completing their summer reading and writing for all four years of elementary school!

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.

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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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 2014

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.
 Robeson, 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., Robeson, PA 19551. Telephone 610-693-8542.

CW East PTO Provides Buddy Benches



Two CW East students invite a student from one of two "buddy benches" to join them at recess. The PTO provided these benches so that everyone feels included.

Superheroes Kick Off Bullying Prevention Week at CW East



CW East teachers and staff dressed as superheroes for Bullying Prevention Week. Themed days followed for the rest of the week, all of which was geared toward building self-esteem and pride in Weiser choices!