

# Red Clay Consolidated School District

## eNews

March 16, 2018

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### Red Clay Earns National Magna Award

The Red Clay Consolidated School District is among three grand-prize winners in the 24th annual Magna Awards program sponsored by the National School Boards Association's flagship magazine, [American School Board Journal \(ASBJ\)](#). This year, the Magna Awards recognize school districts and their leaders for their efforts to bring educational equity to their students.

The Magna Awards, supported by Sodexo, a leader in delivering sustainable, integrated facilities management and food service operations, honor districts across the country for programs that break down barriers for underserved students. A panel of school board members, administrators, and other educators selected the winners from more than 100 submissions.

"Educational equity is a crucial issue today," said Thomas J. Gentzel, National School Boards Association Executive Director & CEO. "These Magna Award winning districts are examples of how public schools all over the country are making sure each of their students gets the support and services they need to succeed in school and in life."

This year's three grand prizewinners and 15 first place winners were selected from three enrollment categories: under 5,000 students, 5,000 to 20,000 students, and over 20,000 students. Each of the grand prize-winning school districts will give a special presentation at NSBA's annual conference, to be held April 7 to 9 in San Antonio, Texas.

All 2018 winners are highlighted in the April issue of *ASBJ*. Read their stories at <http://www.nsba.org/newsroom/american-school-board-journal/asbj-april-2018/breaking-down-barriers>.

Red Clay was singled out for a new strategic plan, #Futureready, which focuses in part on college and career readiness and increased rigorous instruction at the high schools.

In 2012, Red Clay embarked on a journey to a new Strategic Plan. The district noted a lack of districtwide focus on college and career readiness, a stalled strategic planning process and limited access to high rigor instruction. In the five years since, the district has turned that around.

Using ten strategies to improve college and career readiness, Red Clay now can claim nationally ranked high schools, state leadership in college and career readiness and a place on the College Board AP Honor Roll.

In essence, the "future ready" program removed barriers to high rigor coursework for typically underserved groups. District school counselors and administrators proactively searched for students who can stretch themselves academically. Red Clay dedicated resources to supporting these students who try more rigorous coursework. Finally, the district eliminated course pre-requisites, encouraging all students to try their hand at the tougher classes.

Because of these and other efforts, Red Clay has seen its dropout rate dip to historic lows. The district's graduation rate has risen, there are fewer out-of-school suspensions, and more Red Clay graduates are enrolling in four-year colleges and universities.

"As a system, we raised our expectations of what our students can accomplish and we are pleased to say that our students have risen to meet the challenge," said Superintendent Merv Daugherty. "To be recognized by the National School Boards Association for our efforts is a great honor, but the more satisfying reward is that greater numbers of our students are succeeding."

### **District Releases Multi-Purpose Course Catalog**

Red Clay has released its 2018-19 Course Catalog, the first districtwide listing of all available high school programs, classes and pathways in one multi-use publication.



For the first time, Red Clay students and parents can see everything in one place: high school policies and procedures, a complete list of all the ways to earn college credit during high school, more than 40 future-ready pathways and programs of study, and a master listing of every course offered our school district.

The Red Clay course catalog consolidates what used to be five separate handbooks into one high quality, user-friendly resource, making it easier for high school students to see all of their options and make the best choices for their future.

In designing the catalog, the district thought digital first. Knowing that high schoolers live on their Chromebooks, the catalog was designed with bookmarks and links for easy navigation. **[The course catalog is available at redclayschools.com](http://redclayschools.com) under Resources.** (For best viewing on a mobile device, a reader-friendly app like iBooks or Adobe Reader is recommended.)

Recognizing that the high school planning process can be a daunting one for 8th graders and their parents, Red Clay will send home a printed copy to every 8th grader this month. Printed copies will also be made available to high school students with IEPs that require printed materials, high school students who may not have access to a Chromebook, and a limited number of will be available in each school's main office.

Producing the catalog was a key project of the Strategic Plan 2017-2022, which is focuses on preparing today's learners to thrive in tomorrow's world. The district wanted to make it easier for students to navigate the high school experience and set themselves up for success--and that started with improving the high school planning process.

The catalog was 10 months in the making, the result of tremendous collaboration between counselors, teachers and principals from Red Clay's five comprehensive high schools and magnet schools, curriculum specialists, and district leaders. The catalog is divided into five sections:

- *Introduction*, which standardizes high school policies, procedures and processes and the way they are communicated to Red Clay families. Topics include Planning & Scheduling, Course Levels, Grading & Evaluation, and Graduation.
- *Earning College Credit in High School*, which helps students learn about the many ways they can get a head start on college. Students can now see which high schools offer which AP courses and dual enrollment options, and also

explore the International Baccalaureate program at John Dickinson High School and the Early College Academy at Alexis I. du Pont High School.

- *Our High Schools*, which highlights each high school's unique offerings and maps out which courses to take when, on the road to graduation.
- *Career Clusters, Pathways & Programs of Study*, which lets students explore over 40 pathways and programs and their specific course requirements, career paths and industry-recognized certifications.
- *Course Descriptions*, which contains a master listing of all high school courses in Red Clay, grouped by core content area or career cluster.

Printed copies are arriving at schools this week, and counselors will distribute them to students during the course selection process this month.

Red Clay is asking for feedback on the catalog, which will help the district deliver an even better tool for high schoolers next year. Please report any ideas, suggestions or other comments to [taylor.green@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:taylor.green@redclay.k12.de.us).

### **Red Clay Students Honor National School Walkout**

On the one-month anniversary of the Parkland, Florida school shooting, students at all Red Clay high schools, and one middle school, joined the call for a national school walkout to protest gun violence. At 10 a.m. on March 14, 2018, hundreds of students left their classrooms and joined classmates in auditoriums and on football fields to hear from speakers and hold moments of silence honoring the 17 victims of the Florida shooting. Superintendent Merv Daugherty said student leaders at most schools had worked with principals to plan orderly and respectful ceremonies. Red Clay had previously announced that the district would directly organize the events, leaving that to the students, but that no one would face disciplinary action for joining the walkout.

Administrators were stationed at key spots throughout the district, along with extra security, to assist if needed. Red Clay had several guests at schools supporting the students, including New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer, New Castle Police Chief Bond, Rep. Debbie Hudson, Rep. Kim Williams, the Buckley's and Buzzy Cooke at Dickinson. At Cab Calloway School of the Arts, students held a ceremony with guest speakers Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki and State Sen. Bryan Townsend.

### **School Board Elections May 8**

Two sitting board members are running unopposed, and two candidates have filed for an open seat on the Red Clay Board of Education in elections to take place on May 8, 2018. Candidates include:

#### **Nominating District "A" - Term expires June 30, 2023**

Adriana L. Bohm, unopposed

#### **Nominating District "D" - Term expires June 30, 2023**

Joseph DiMichele, Sr.

Jose Matthews

**Nominating District "E" - Term expires June 30, 2019**

Jason P. Casper, unopposed

While candidates must reside in the nominating district to run for a seat, residents can vote districtwide. Voters must have proof of identity and a Red Clay address, and be at least 18 years old. People may vote at any Polling Place from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. on the day of the election. Polling Places in Red Clay include:

<b>Building</b>	<b>Address</b>			
<a href="#"><u>A. I. duPont High School</u></a>	50 Hillside Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Baltz Elementary School</u></a>	1500 Spruce Ave			
<a href="#"><u>Brandywine Springs School</u></a>	2916 Duncan Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Cab Calloway School of the Arts</u></a>	100 N duPont Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Conrad Schools of Science</u></a>	201 Jackson Ave			
<a href="#"><u>Dickinson High School</u></a>	1801 Milltown Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Forest Oak Elementary School</u></a>	55 S Meadowood Dr			
<a href="#"><u>H. B. duPont Middle School</u></a>	735 Meeting House Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Highlands Elementary School</u></a>	2100 Gilpin Ave			
<a href="#"><u>Hilltop Lutheran Community Center</u></a>	1018 W 6th St			
<a href="#"><u>Lewis Elementary School</u></a>	920 N Van Buren St			

<a href="#"><u>Linden Hill Elementary School</u></a>	3415 Skyline Dr			
<a href="#"><u>Marbrook Elementary School</u></a>	2101 Centerville Rd			
<a href="#"><u>McKean High School</u></a>	301 McKennan's Church Rd			
<a href="#"><u>North Star Elementary School</u></a>	1340 Little Baltimore Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Stanton Middle School</u></a>	1800 Limestone Rd			
<a href="#"><u>Warner Elementary School</u></a>	801 W 18th St			

### **College and Career Fair Huge Success**

Hundreds of students, family and community members attended the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Red Clay College and Career Fair at Dickinson High School on March 13, 2018.

Representatives from close to 60 colleges, universities, trade schools and the military services handed out information and answered questions from students and their parents about the college application and admission process.

In addition and new this year were representatives from 33 community businesses who shared knowledge about the current and future job market, needs of employers and work skills needed for future jobs. Highlights included business volunteers from engineering, health, construction, finance, law enforcement, entertainment and education. Families learned about the best ways to get into different professions and students were able to fill out work applications.

Three workshops provided information about the College Board SAT, workforce in-demand skills and financial aid and scholarships. Presenters included Pauline Carroll and Louis Mingione from Red Clay and Nicole McDaniel-Smith from Wilmington University.

The larger than ever turnout, support from the Dickinson Honor Society students, especially Samra Arshad and their advisor, Kathy Sheehy, the administrative staff, and attendance by many regional higher institutions and area businesses helped make this year's College and Career Fair a big success.

### **Stanton AVID Students Observe Read Across America Day**



AVID students from Stanton Middle School joined the Kindergarten and 1st Grade students of Richardson Park Elementary School to celebrate the sixteenth annual National Education Association's (NEA) Read Across America Day on Friday, March 2, 2018 from 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

NEA's Read Across America Day, which celebrates Dr. Seuss's birthday and the joys of reading, expects more than 45 million readers, both young and old, to pick up a book and read.

To honor the good doctor and celebrate the fun and value of reading, the AVID students of Stanton Middle School volunteered to read to the kindergarten students of Richardson Park Elementary School. The students joined NEA and many of America's leading literacy, youth, and civic groups in bringing a nation of readers together under one hat, the red and white stovepipe made famous by the Cat in the Hat for a flurry (or furry) of reading excitement!

The goal was to show America's children the joy of reading and build a nation of readers on March 2nd and every day. For more information on NEA's Read Across America, visit [www.nea.org/readacross](http://www.nea.org/readacross) and [www.readacrossamerica.org](http://www.readacrossamerica.org) and learn of other reading celebrations that are happening from coast to coast.

### **Sing Into Spring March 27**

Red Clay's annual "Sing Into Spring" Elementary Choral Festival will be held at 7 p.m. on March 27, 2018 at Cab Calloway School of the Arts. This event is free and open to the public. More than 275 Third-Fifth Grade singers from Baltz, Brandywine Springs, Cooke, Lewis, Linden Hill, Mote, and Richey Elementary Schools will be performing a wide range of repertoire. An Honors Chorus of approximately seventy-five students will be performing under the direction of Dr. Marci Major, Assistant Professor of Music Education at West Chester University. Performances will be accompanied by Ms. Kyra Bostic and Ms. Olivia Fennimore, Piano Majors at Cab Calloway School of the Arts.

The "Sing Into Spring" Elementary Choral Festival was created in 2010 with the vision of providing students from Title I schools the opportunity to come together with students from different backgrounds and sing in high-level choral groups at no cost to families. We hope to see you there!

### **Applications Available for Cattermole Scholarship**

Applications are being accepted for the George S. Cattermole Scholarship. To apply for this scholarship, the course of study should be in one of the STEM fields – Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics. Scholarships will be presented to the winners on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at the Red Clay Education Foundation (RCEF) Board of Director’s meeting at 8:30 a.m. Student winners and parents are asked to attend this meeting.

This Book Scholarship, valued at \$1000 each, will be offered to one senior student from each of the following high schools:

A.I. du Pont High School	Cab Calloway School of Performing Arts
Conrad Schools of Science	Delaware Military Academy
John Dickinson High School	Thomas McKean High School
The Charter School of Wilmington	

Apply here: <http://bit.ly/2GrVchE>

**Dickinson Color Run April 28**



The John Dickinson MYP (Middle Years Program) Support Association welcomes you to join them as they run, walk, and jog while raising funds for their school on Saturday, April 28th!

The My School Color Run is an untimed fun run/walk featuring a designated course. Throughout the course, participants will experience color splash zones where they'll be doused in color and end with a final color toss celebration!

The My School Color Run program aims to go beyond traditional fund raising. Rather than sell goods, this program aims to engage the entire student body in a fitness initiative that aims to instill a life-long healthy way of living.

This fun run/walk is open to EVERYONE in the community and we hope to see you there!

Registration includes a race bib, color packet, and t-shirt only if you sign up before **4/14/2018**. You can pick up your items at the registration table the day of the event. Paper registration forms are available upon request.

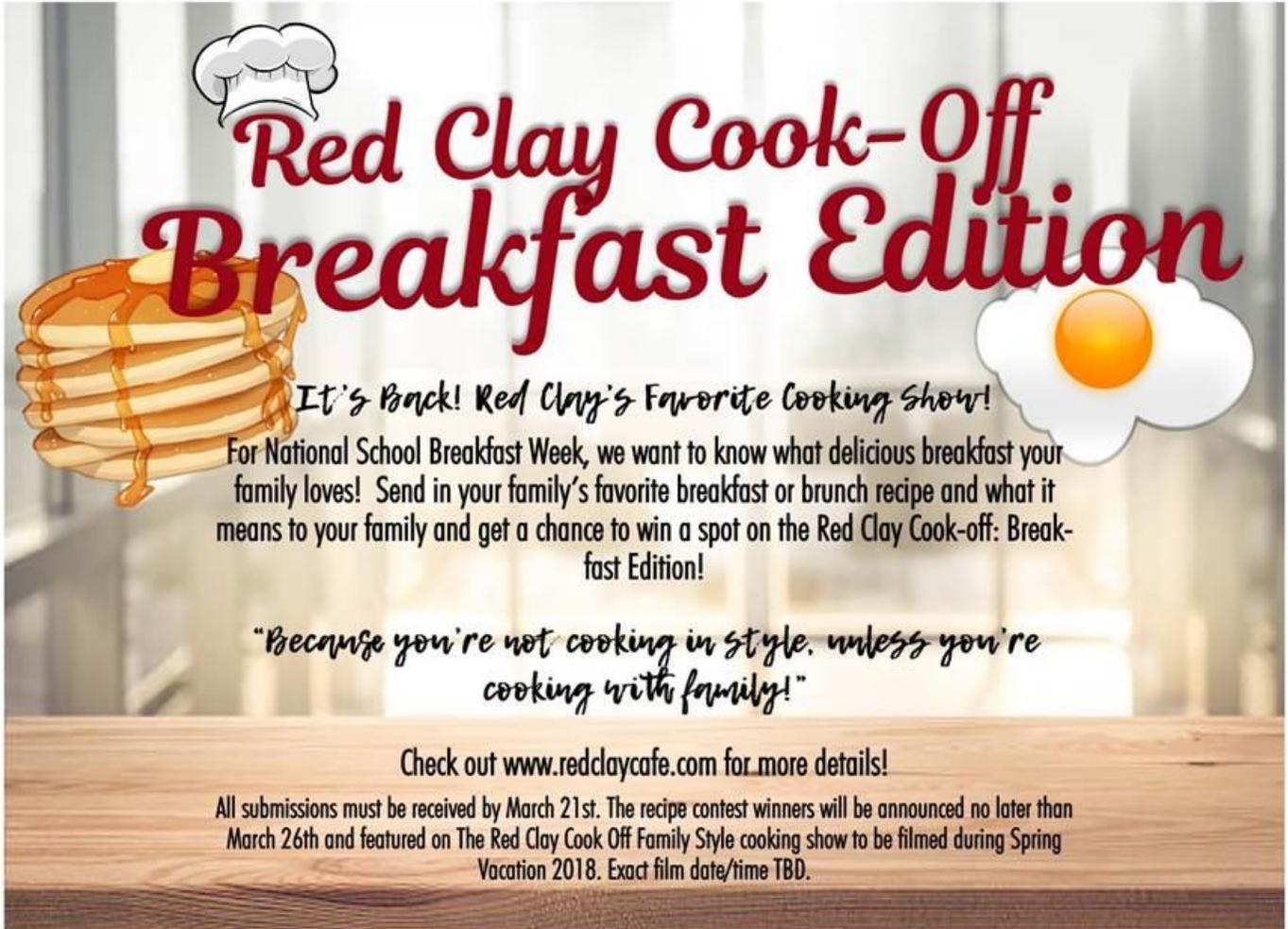
SHARE WITH YOUR FRIENDS WHEN YOU REGISTER

Registration and event information is available here: \_

<https://events.myschoolcolorrn.com/event/2018---John-Dickinson-High-School---Wilmington-DE>

We thank you in advance for participating and making this a successful event. Please contact Tara Scarborough at [tpscar@comcast.net](mailto:tpscar@comcast.net) with any questions.

Cook-off Contest Features Breakfast

A promotional poster for the Red Clay Cook-Off Breakfast Edition. The background is a blurred kitchen scene. At the top left is a white chef's hat icon. To its right, the title "Red Clay Cook-Off Breakfast Edition" is written in a large, red, cursive font. Below the title, on the left, is a stack of pancakes with syrup. On the right is a sunny-side-up egg. The text "It's Back! Red Clay's Favorite Cooking Show!" is written in a black, cursive font. Below that, in a black sans-serif font, is the text: "For National School Breakfast Week, we want to know what delicious breakfast your family loves! Send in your family's favorite breakfast or brunch recipe and what it means to your family and get a chance to win a spot on the Red Clay Cook-off: Breakfast Edition!". A quote in black cursive font reads: "Because you're not cooking in style, unless you're cooking with family!". At the bottom, in a black sans-serif font, it says: "Check out www.redclaycafe.com for more details!". Below that, in a smaller black sans-serif font, is the text: "All submissions must be received by March 21st. The recipe contest winners will be announced no later than March 26th and featured on The Red Clay Cook Off Family Style cooking show to be filmed during Spring Vacation 2018. Exact film date/time TBD."/>

**Red Clay Cook-Off  
Breakfast Edition**

*It's Back! Red Clay's Favorite Cooking Show!*

For National School Breakfast Week, we want to know what delicious breakfast your family loves! Send in your family's favorite breakfast or brunch recipe and what it means to your family and get a chance to win a spot on the Red Clay Cook-off: Breakfast Edition!

*"Because you're not cooking in style, unless you're cooking with family!"*

Check out [www.redclaycafe.com](http://www.redclaycafe.com) for more details!

All submissions must be received by March 21st. The recipe contest winners will be announced no later than March 26th and featured on The Red Clay Cook Off Family Style cooking show to be filmed during Spring Vacation 2018. Exact film date/time TBD.

Are you, or do you know, the next Red Clay EDtv Chef?! If so, do not miss your opportunity to submit your favorite recipe for a chance to be featured on the Red Clay Family Cook Off show on EDtv! To submit your recipe, click the link below to complete the online recipe submission form before March 21st! Good luck and we look forward to cooking with you.. Family Style! <https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLSeeDirVEMesYsFwG6.../viewform>

### **Tickets Available for Hall of Fame Gala**

Red Clay will honor 12 teachers, administrators and community members at the third annual Hall of Fame Gala on March 22, 2018 at the Executive Banquet Hall & Conference Center.

The event is intended to recognize and thank educators and community members who have committed to working with children and the Red Clay Consolidated School District throughout their career.

“This wonderful group of people have made service to Red Clay students and the community their life’s work, so it is only fitting that we recognize their outstanding efforts,” said Superintendent Merv Daugherty. “We are extremely excited about this event and take great pride in honoring these individuals.”

Those to be inducted into the Hall of Fame – which will be displayed in the hallway at district offices – include: administrators Robert Andrzejewski, Theodore “Ted” Blunt, Francis Ryan, Mary Norris; teachers Mary Jane Bennett, Frederika Jenner, Edward Clark, Mary Beth Tash; community members Patricia Blevins, Maria Matos, Sally McBride and Marguerite “Peggy” Vavalla.

All monies raised will go towards funding educational and school activities sponsored by the Red Clay Education Foundation (RCEF).

Through the years, the RCEF has provided for distance learning labs, computer labs, travel to academic competitions and school trips to Junior Achievement and the Grand Opera House, among many other projects. This evening will allow the RCEF to continue its good work.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by contacting Maria Stevens in the Superintendent’s Office at 302-552-3703 or [maria.stevens@redclay.k12.de.us](mailto:maria.stevens@redclay.k12.de.us). The gala will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the hall, located at 205 Executive Drive, Newark.

### **Conrad to Hold BioTech Fair**

The 9th Annual Biotechnology Fair will be held at Conrad Schools of Science on Tuesday, March 27th from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

BioTech Teachers Bill Coughlin and Cristin Brown are encouraging the community, parents, local scientists, and business professionals to support students by viewing and interacting with them regarding their research projects.

The Biotechnology Fair is presented by our Biotechnology II, III and IV students. The Biotech-2's have created trifold posters and portfolios and will be presenting topics that represent the latest techniques scientists use today in the field of

biotechnology. They chose their and created a visual display of their solution. The Biotech-3's and 4's will be presenting the findings they collected from their own experiments. These students had the opportunity to design and plan every detail of their research. Some of the research they conducted included methods of creating biofuels from algae and food waste and methods to recognize the optimal time to extract energy from algae according to the light intensity produced when it glows. Other research projects have sought to solve a real world problem to benefit society such as finding cures or remedies. The Conrad Schools of Science Biotechnology Fair provides Biotechnology II, III and IV students with the opportunity to present their findings through research and experimentation to the scientific community.

### **Substitute Teachers and Paraprofessionals Needed**

Now Hiring Substitute Teachers and Paraprofessionals! Experience what it is like to make a difference in the lives of many students in the Red Clay Consolidated School District! Kelly Educational Staffing has many needs across Red Clay! Substitute Teachers provide instruction, encourage student progress, and manage the learning environment in the absence of the full time classroom teacher.

Positions for Paraprofessionals (Teacher Assistants) are also available!

All positions require high ethical standards, professionalism and effective interpersonal skills interacting with students, teachers, administrators, and parents in addition to:

1. Minimum of a high school diploma
2. Six months of experience working with groups of students

Apply now to take advantage of: Flexible scheduling, weekly electronic pay, access to Group Medical Benefits/Dental/Vision Care at group rate insurance options, 401K, Service Bonus plans and more Perks and discounts! Our fabulous initial training will help guide you whether you are new to the world of education, or an experienced Teacher, and will help ensure your success! Help us help student learning! To get started today, please email us your resume to [1822@kellyservices.com](mailto:1822@kellyservices.com).

### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

- FACE of Red Clay, Mar. 19, 5:45p.m., A. I. Middle School
- District High School Strings Concert, Mar. 20, 7:00p.m., Cab Calloway
- School Board Meeting, Mar. 21, 7:00p.m., Warner
- Red Clay Hall of Fame Banquet (tickets required), Mar. 22, 5:30p.m., Executive Banquet and Conference Center
- District Elementary Music Concert, Mar. 27, 7:00p.m., Cab Calloway
- End of Third Marking Period, March 29
- **Spring Break – Schools Closed Mar. 30-Apr. 6, Offices Closed Mar. 30, Apr. 2**

