



Christina School District • 600 North Lombard Street • Wilmington, DE 19801 • 302-552-2600 • www.christina.k12.de.us

STRATEGIC PLANNING TARGETS ACHIEVEMENT AND INNOVATION



The Christina School District has begun a Strategic Planning process that will target ways the District can improve student achievement and foster innovation. The “Plan for Excellence” will chart an accelerated course for excellence and equity for all students, and the District hopes to have a high level of community involvement in developing the plan.

The community is invited to share feedback on four high-interest topics: Student Achievement, Learning Environment, Innovations in Instruction, and Parent and Community Involvement. Community meetings are scheduled on each topic, and there will also be opportunities to get involved in ways that require a smaller time commitment, such as sharing feedback through a survey, website, blog, or social networking site like Facebook.

“Community input is critical in making this process successful,” said Christina Superintendent Dr. Marcia V. Lyles. “We need help to identify the priorities our parents and community members value so we can develop the best path forward for our students. We plan to give busy parents multiple ways to communicate with us.”

The first meeting, on the topic of Excellence and Equity: Accelerating Student Achievement, was held on Tuesday, December 1. It focused on student achievement and ways the District can strengthen opportunities for all students to achieve their full potential. Participants were asked,

“What do you want to improve?” and “What are the problems we want to solve?” and worked as a group to begin the process of developing action steps to address these questions. In addition to volunteer community members, the group meeting on this topic includes teachers, school principals, administrators, and board members. The next meeting on Excellence and Equity: Student Achievement will be held on:

Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m., Bayard Middle School.

The topic of **Learning Environment: Creating Positive School Environments** will be the next area of focus. This group will look at Christina’s current school environments and explore ways to improve the overall school experience for students. Ideas to be explored include graduation rates, school discipline, extracurricular activities, opportunities for gifted students, strategies for struggling students, college and work preparation, and ways to make school more inviting and meaningful for all students. Two community meetings are scheduled on this topic on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 5, 7:00 p.m., Brader Elementary School

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m., Christiana High School

The topic of **Innovations in Instruction: 21st Century Schools** will be the next topic for discussion. This group will explore initiatives in technology integration in schools, innovations in teaching and learning, jobs of the future, preparing students with 21st century skills, business partnerships, and sustainability and stewardship. Two community meetings are scheduled on this topic on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 26, 7:00 p.m., Smith Elementary School

Tuesday, February 2, 7:00 p.m., Shue-Medill Middle School

The fourth and last topic will be **Strengthening Partnerships: Welcoming Parents and the Community as Partners**. This group will discuss ways the District can improve its parent involvement strategies, involve more members of the community in supporting schools, and increase partnerships and outreach. Two community meetings are scheduled on this topic on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 16, 7:00 p.m., Bancroft Elementary School

Tuesday, February 23, 7:00 p.m., Keene Elementary School

More information about the Strategic Planning process is available on the district website at www.christina.k12.de.us or by calling the Public Information Office at 552-2670.

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DR. MARCIA V. LYLES DETAILS SUPERINTENDENT’S FIRST 100 DAYS: LISTEN, LEARN, AND LEAD

MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. MARCIA V. LYLES

As I embarked upon my Christina journey I pledged to listen attentively, learn quickly and lead boldly. It has been a fascinating, illuminating, challenging and rewarding 100 days, and I thank every member of the Christina community for being gracious, welcoming and informative guides. I’ve spoken with hundreds of people having different relationships with and perspectives of the Christina School District. I’ve spoken with community leaders and met with PTAs. I’ve hosted a legislative breakfast, met with our mayors and attended community events.

Our schools and district administrators contributed a great deal to my Christina education, but my most powerful experiences have been during my school visits. This is where I saw our educators in action and I met firsthand Christina’s greatest asset, Christina’s most precious resource – our children, our future.

After three months of reviews and visits and meetings, I have deepened my resolve that we must Expect Excellence – Every day, for every child, in every class, in every school. In a presentation to the Christina Board of Education on November 10, I presented my observations about areas that need attention, and outlined four goals that must shape the work ahead if we are to become the high-performing school district we have the potential to be. These include:

- Achieving Excellence and Equity
- Creating Nurturing Environments
- Engaging Our Community
- Developing a Plan for Excellence

The work ahead must focus on charting an accelerated agenda for excellence and equity for all students. As everyone who has gotten to know me these past three months can attest, I believe that you cannot have excellence without equity, and it will be a major goal of our District to generate an aggressive agenda for both excellence and equity. To do this, it will be necessary to align the curriculum, improve instruction for key groups, support teachers and principals, use research-based practices, and strengthen communications efforts.

We must focus on cultivating safe, nurturing learning environments that foster responsible, productive, and positive behaviors. If we expect Christina graduates to be confident, prepared citizens schooled in 21st century skills, we must create opportunities for them to thrive.

We must focus on engaging and mobilizing stakeholders in support of our students and schools. This includes enhancing communication, support the development of parent resources, and eliminating the divide between city and suburb and become a unified district.

Finally, we must focus on developing an aggressive timeline for engagement which holds everyone to high standards and expectations. This includes involving the community, establishing benchmarks, and measuring our success.

Each of these key areas is discussed in my presentation (available on the our website (www.christina.k12.de.us/superintendent), with suggestions for how we can sustain effective initiatives and introduce fresh approaches and strategies. The District has begun a Strategic Planning process, which provides a vehicle for the community to focus its ideas and energies on achieving excellence and equity for all students.

I invite you to read and print my presentation to the Board and contact me with any comments or suggestions. I hope that parents and members of the community will get involved in the Strategic Planning process. I will continue to listen, learn, and lead in the months ahead, as we chart an ambitious course for future greatness in Christina.



Marcia V. Lyles, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Christina School District

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STRATEGIC PLANNING continued

The first meeting on the District's new Strategic Plan was held on December 1 at Newark High School, and was attended by 52 participants, including 30 parents and community members, 6 students, 2 local legislators, 2 members of the Christina Board of Education, and 22 Christina staff members. The topic of the meeting was Excellence and Equity: Accelerating Student Achievement, and activities were lead by Team Leaders Vilicia Cade, Director of Secondary Curriculum and Professional Development, and Heather Bordas, Director of Elementary Education and Professional Development. The Christina Board of Education liaison for the Excellence and Equity team is Elizabeth Scheinberg, and the community liaison is David Coker from the School of Education at the University of Delaware. There are also two teacher liaisons for the Excellence and Equity team, Shirin Skovronski from Newark High School, and Michelle McClure from Keene Elementary School.

The meeting included a lengthy sharing session that allowed participants to voice ideas to improve the District over the next three years. Their suggestions are listed below.

Suggested Priorities for the Christina School District in the next three years:

- **Expand Early Education (from birth through Kindergarten)**
Areas to explore: Early Head Start, parent training, early education centers, pooling resources.

Make a "Wish List" to Help Improve Our Schools

What do you wish for the students in our District? If you could improve our schools, prepare students for the future, support our teachers, or dream up a great idea that would make a difference, what would it be? We want to know!

We are seeking comments and suggestions from parents and the public about the future of our District and ways we can support our students, teachers, and parents as a high-achieving organization.

All Wish List items and suggestions are welcome, and will be published on the District website. From the ideas submitted, we hope to gain a better understanding of our values and priorities as a community, which will help us in developing an effective Strategic Plan.

There are several ways to complete the Wish List. You may complete an online Wish List form on the District website at www.christina.k12.de.us/wishlist. You may fill out the form below and send it to the Christina School District, Attn: PIO, 600 North Lombard St., Wilmington, DE 19801. You may also fax the form to 302-429-5857.

Christina School District "Wish List"

What do you wish for the students in our District? If you could improve our schools, prepare students for the future, support our teachers, or dream up a great idea that would make a difference, what would it be? Please share your ideas with us!

My Wish List for the Christina School District

1. To accelerate student achievement for all students, I wish...

2. To create more positive learning environments, I wish...

3. To prepare students and schools for the 21st Century, I wish...

4. To make schools more welcoming to parents and the community, I wish...

5. Other wishes for our students, teachers, and schools...

- **Set Higher Academic Expectations for All Students**
Areas to explore: second language beginning in the elementary school, higher standards for high school science and math, SAT preparation, college preparation, "magnet" programs in the arts and science, future areas of job growth and how they tie in with the curriculum.
- **Ensure Equity**
Areas to explore: more focus on students' learning styles, vocational opportunities for special education students, Student Success Plans for every student, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings held in September, offer same opportunities at all three high schools, determine the causes of the high drop-out rate.
- **Increase Professional Development for Teachers**
Areas to explore: Engaging all teachers in students' IEPs, classroom management and discipline, effective use of Block Scheduling, systematic professional development for all teachers.
- **Increase Extracurricular Activities**
Areas to explore: duplicate successes at one school to all schools, require students to participate in extracurricular activities beginning in elementary school, expand sports and arts offerings at elementary and middle school.

Come and join the conversation! See below for a complete list of Strategic Plan meeting dates and locations.

Too busy to attend meetings? Here are some other ways to get involved!

- Become a fan on Facebook: Search "Christina School District" to find our page and join others interested in Christina School District news and events. We have more than 100 fans and interest is growing every day!
- Follow us on Twitter: Visit our Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/christinak12> to create a Twitter account and sign up to follow us. Brief updates may be sent to an email account, mobile device, or both.
- Visit our Strategic Planning Blog: <http://christinaexcellence.blogspot.com>. On this website, you may read the latest news about the Strategic Plan process, post questions and comments, and access links to resources.

Schedule of Meetings for the Strategic Planning Process

Tuesday, December 1, 2009

7:00 p.m., Newark High School Library – **Topic 1, Excellence and Equity: Accelerating Student Achievement**

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

7:30 p.m., Christina School District Board of Education Meeting, Jones Elementary School—Strategic Plan Update to the Board

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

7:00 p.m., Bayard Middle School Library— **Topic 1, Excellence and Equity: Accelerating Student Achievement**

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

7:00 p.m., Brader Elementary School Cafeteria — **Topic 2, Learning Environment: Creating Positive School Environments**

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

7:30 p.m., Christina School District Board of Education Meeting, Gallaher Elementary School – Strategic Plan Update to the Board

Tuesday, January 19

7:00 p.m., Christiana High School Library—**Topic 2, Learning Environment: Creating Positive School Environments**

Saturday, January 23, 2010

10:00 a.m., Sarah Pyle Academy Café—**Sum it Up Saturday for Excellence and Equity and Learning Environment Topics**

Tuesday, January 26, 2010

7:00 p.m., Smith Elementary School Cafeteria—**Topic 3, Innovation in Instruction: 21st Century Schools**

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

7:00 p.m., Shue-Medill Middle School Library— **Topic 3, Innovation in Instruction: 21st Century Schools**

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

7:30 p.m., Christina School District Board of Education Meeting, Douglass Alternative School—Strategic Plan Update to the Board

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

7:00 p.m., Bancroft Elementary School Library—**Topic 4, Strengthening Partnerships: Welcoming Parents and the Community as Partners**

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

7:00 p.m., Keene Elementary School Library—**Topic 4, Strengthening Partnerships: Welcoming Parents and the Community as Partners**

Saturday, February 27, 2010

10:00 a.m., Eden Support Services Center Library—**Sum it Up Saturday for Innovation and Instruction and Strengthening Partnerships Topics**

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

7:00 p.m., Newark High School Cafeteria –**Summary and Review Meeting**

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

7:30 p.m., Gauger-Cobbs Middle School, Christina School District Board of Education Meeting—Strategic Plan Draft Presented to the Board

NEWS FROM SCHOOLS

FMC BioPolymer Grants Benefit Christina Schools

Thirteen teachers representing eight elementary schools and Newark High School are this year's recipients of educational mini-grants totaling more than \$5,000 from the FMC BioPolymer Plant and its Community Advisory Panel. Classes from Leasure Elementary, Maclary Elementary, Thurgood Marshall Elementary, Jennie E. Smith Elementary, Downes Elementary, Henry M. Brader Elementary, Porter Road Elementary, and Newark Charter School, as well as Newark High School have received cash mini-grants of up to \$500 funded by FMC BioPolymer's Newark, DE facility to use for the advancement of educational studies related to science and the environment. A total of 23 applications were received from area teachers. This is the fifth year that FMC and its Community Advisory Panel have sponsored mini-grants for teachers in the Christina School District. Each of the teachers receiving the awards will visit with the panel and FMC BioPolymer representatives to report on the outcome of their class activities and share the reactions of the students who directly benefit from the program.

Delaware School for the Deaf Students' Work Exhibited at Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts

Exhibit open through January 3



The Christina School District community is encouraged to visit a new art exhibit on display through January 3 featuring artwork by students from Delaware School for the Deaf, now on view in the DuPont I Gallery of the Center for the Contemporary Arts in Wilmington. The exhibit, entitled "Elettrostatica," features original pieces developed during an 8-week artist in residence program that paired middle school students from DSD with Philadelphia artist Ben Volta.

Volta facilitated the students' exploration of concepts of identity and representation by asking them to consider and select objects and symbols that reflected their self-perceptions and interests. Their abstracted drawings and personal emblems comprise the basis for the collaborative artworks. More information is available on the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts website: at www.thedcca.org

Ferguson Award Recipients Announced

Delaware's Department of Education (DOE) and the Delaware Higher Education Commission (DHEC) are pleased to announce the awarding of 272 Michael C. Ferguson scholarships of \$1,000 each to 235 students statewide who have attained high scores in reading, mathematics and writing on the March 2009 Delaware Student Testing Program (DSTP) in grades eight and ten. In the Christina School District, the following students have been awarded Ferguson Scholarships:

Gauger-Cobbs Middle School

- Adam Ginn, 8th Grade Reading - \$1,000
- Yolanda Morales, 8th Grade Writing - \$1,000

Kirk Middle School

- Angeliki Adamopoulos, 8th Grade Math - \$1,000
- Tashreefa Zunaid, 8th Grade Math, 8th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Writing - \$3,000

Shue-Medill Middle School

- Zain Azzaino, 8th Grade Math - \$1,000
- Emily Bourne, 8th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Writing - \$2,000
- Jonathan Deputy, 8th Grade Math - \$1,000
- Jasmine Hill, 8th Grade Reading, 8th Grade Writing - \$2,000

Christiana High School

- Erica Lane, 10th Grade Math - \$1,000

Glasgow High School

- Sola Choi, 10th Grade Math - \$1,000
- Christina Simmons, 10th Grade Math, 10th Grade Reading - \$2,000

Newark High School

- Amanda Bartholomew, 10th Grade Math, 10th Grade Reading - \$2,000
- Arturo Gourentchik, 10th Grade Math - \$1,000
- Camille Harris, 10th Grade Writing - \$1,000

- Isaac Watkins, 10th Grade Math - \$1,000
- Leslie White, 10th Grade Reading, 10th Grade Writing - \$2,000

Kirk Middle School Student Wins National Award

Xander Opiyo, a 6th grade student at Kirk Middle School, received a 1st place award for Verbal Aptitude from Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth on October 25th at their Fall Awards ceremony. He was the only public school student in Delaware that received an award from 5th-8th grade. Xander participated in the gifted/talented tests administered by the Center for Talented Youth when he was a 5th grade student at Leasure Elementary. Since 1979, The Center for Talented Youth has identified the most academically able elementary and middle school students each year from across the country.

Newark High School Students Honored by National Merit Scholarship Program

Newark High School Senior Holly Firlein has been named a National Merit Semifinalist. Of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit® Scholarship Program. Fellow seniors **Jessica Palmer** and **Anna Dmytrenko** have received Letters of Commendation, as they placed in the top 5% of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2010 competition by taking the 2008 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT). Senior **Ryley L. McDuffie** is an outstanding participant which recognizes that her score was in the top 3% of 160,000 African Americans who requested consideration in the 2010 National Achievement Program when they took the 2008 PSAT/NMSQT. Congratulations to these outstanding students for their achievements.

Two Christina Schools named Title I Distinguished Schools

Two Christina School District elementary schools, **Maclary Elementary School** and **McVey Elementary School** have been named Title I Distinguished Schools by the Delaware Secretary of Education and the Delaware Title I Office. Delaware recognizes schools in the state that have used their resources to meet the needs of children. The purpose of the Delaware Title I Distinguished Schools Recognition program is to identify schools that are taking extra steps to ensure that all have access to effective instructional strategies and challenging academic content. The award also recognizes that a school has demonstrated success in ensuring that all children, particularly those who have educational or social challenges, make significant progress towards learning that content, and ultimately succeeding in school. In 2008, Gallaher Elementary School was named a National Distinguished Title I School, and in 2007, Wilson Elementary School and McVey Elementary School were both named National Distinguished Title I Schools. This year's recognition of two Christina schools brings Christina School District's total national and state Title I awards to 5 in the past three years.

Christina Music Teacher Wins Christi Award



Mrs. Fostina Dixon-Kilgoe, a music teacher in the Christina School District, was honored by the Christina Cultural Arts Center on October 22 with a Christi Award as an Outstanding Arts Educator. Dixon-Kilgoe is a composer, arranger, lyricist, vocalist, saxophonist, and band leader in addition to being an elementary music teacher. She is a member of a national touring band and a leader of a community youth jazz group. She said the award is particularly touching to her, because it means that

her hometown has recognized achievements that have been acknowledged around the country and Europe but were little known here. Dixon-Kilgoe also founded the Wilmington Youth Jazz Band, a nonprofit organization that seeks to educate a diverse group of teenagers about jazz. She currently teaches music at Pulaski and Elbert-Palmer Elementary Schools.

Two Christina Schools Receive Grants from National PTA Organization

Shue-Medill Middle School and Maclary Elementary School are the recipients of grants from the National PTA. Shue-Medill will receive a \$1,000 Healthy Lifestyles grant to assist in the launch of their after school, co-ed intramural program. Maclary will receive a \$1,897 Take Your Family to School Week grant for their 2nd annual International Festival to be held on February 10th.

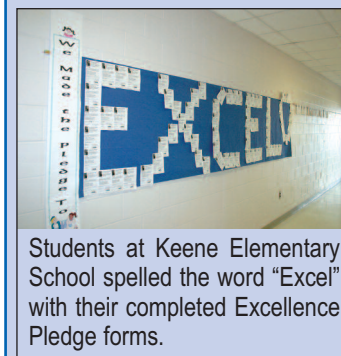
Glasgow High School Drill Team Earns Top Awards

On November 21, The Glasgow High School AFJROTC Drill Team competed at Dover High School in a drill competition. They were awarded 4 Trophies: 1st Place - First Year Cadets Armed Regulation — Marching with rifles performing rifle movements; 2nd Place - First Year Cadets Unarmed Regulation - Marching without rifles; 2nd Place - Dual Rifle Exhibition - Cadets Jacob Bennett and Joshua Ein; 3rd Place - Unarmed Inspection - Cadets are inspected for uniform wear and are questioned on current events.

MORE THAN 11,000 CHRISTINA STUDENTS PLEDGE THEIR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

Students in the Christina School District expect a lot of themselves this year, and they are proud to show it. 11,865 students completed an Excellence Pledge at the beginning of the school year, representing 70% of the District's student population. Parents, teachers, administrators, and staff members were also involved in the Excellence Pledge campaign.

The student pledge states simply: *I pledge to work hard in school throughout the year and to strive for excellence in academics, citizenship, and behavior every day. It is my responsibility to make sure that I complete my homework, study hard and come to school prepared, treat others the way I wish to be treated, have high expectations for myself, and understand the Student Code of Conduct.*



Students at Keene Elementary School spelled the word "Excel" with their completed Excellence Pledge forms.



NHS Principal Curt Bedford is presented with 75 signed Excellence Pledge forms by a member of the Newark Football Team.

The pledges helped to kick off Christina Superintendent Marcia V. Lyles' theme for the year: Expect Excellence: Every day, for every child, in every class. Schools had until October 2 to return their pledge tallies, and the schools and programs with the highest percentages received "Empowering Excellence" prizes. The winning schools were Christiana High School, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School, Downes Elementary School, Gallaher Elementary School, McVey Elementary School, the Networks Program, and Sarah Pyle Academy.

"We wanted to begin this school year on a positive note, giving students and parents a chance to express their commitment to success," said Lyles. "I am extremely pleased that so many students and parents showed their support for this effort. We had eleven out of 28 schools achieve a return rate of 90% or higher, and that was very impressive. I hope that this will become an annual tradition."



Glasgow High School proudly displayed their completed pledges.

School Closing Information

When bad weather or other factors cause us to change the normal schedule of our school day, we use the ParentLink parent notification system, news media, e-mail notification, District website and the State of Delaware School Closing Information website and Voice Activation System to inform parents and the public. We encourage you to tune in early when bad weather is predicted as we try to make the announcements as soon as the decision is made. Please remember that any decision affects only **one** school day; a new announcement will be made if the situation continues beyond one day.



District E-mail Notification

Sign up to receive School Closing E-Mail Notifications from Christina School District. This is easy to do directly from our website: <http://www.christina.k12.de.us/JoinE-News>

State of Delaware School Closing Information

You may register to receive email from the State's School Closing Information Website at the following link: <http://schoolclosings.delaware.gov>

You may also sign up for E-Mail or Text Message Notification from the State. Visit the CSD website to learn more: <http://www.christina.k12.de.us/ClosingInfo>

Register for the State Voice Activation System: Call 1-877-831-7215 for more information.

Delmarva Broadcasting Offers Text Messaging Service for School Closings

Delmarva Broadcasting, the operator of local radio stations WDEL and WSTW, offers a text-messaging service to those who wish to have school closing information sent to their cell phone in the form of a text message. Interested subscribers should visit the following link to register: <http://wstwstore.hipcricket.com/>

Radio

WDEL 1150 AM - View the SnoWatch listings and listen online - www.wdel.com

WILM 1450 AM - Listen online to WILM - www.wilm.com

WJBR 99.5 FM - View the Operation Snowflake listings and listen online - www.wjbr.com

WSTW 93.7 FM - View the SnoWatch listings and listen online - www.wstw.com

Television

Channel 3, 6 and 10 will carry school closing information when applicable.

Wilmington News Journal

School closing information is available online at www.delawareonline.com

Calendar Reminders

Saturday, December 12

- Delaware School for the Deaf Winter Bazaar Fundraiser, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Glasgow High School Annual Craft Fair, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 15

- Pulaski Elementary School Winter Holiday Cultural Arts Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Shue-Medilil Middle School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Strategic Planning Process Community Meeting, Bayard Middle School, 7:00 p.m.
Topic - Excellence and Equity: Accelerating Student Achievement

Wednesday, December 16

- Financial Review Committee Meeting, Gauger-Cobbs Middle School, 6:30 p.m.
- Bayard Middle School Winter Wonderland, 7:00 p.m.
- Brader Elementary School Chorus Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Brookside Elementary School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17

- High School Night at Bayard Middle School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Bayard Middle School Winter Arts Festival, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Gallaher Elementary School Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Christiana High School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Keene Elementary School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- Leasure Elementary School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m. (Location: Kirk Middle School)
- Newark High School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- West Park Place Elementary School Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 21

- Maclary Elementary School Holiday Concerts, 6:30 p.m. PK, K, 1st & 2nd Grades; 7:30 p.m. 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades

Tuesday, December 22

- McVey Elementary School Winter Concert, 6:30 p.m.
- Newark High School Winter Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.

December 24 - January 1

- SCHOOLS CLOSED - Winter Holiday

December 24, 25, 28, 31 & January 1

- OFFICES CLOSED

January 4

- SCHOOLS REOPEN



CHRISTINA IS NOW ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER!

Become a fan on Facebook:

Search "Christina School District" to find our page and join others interested in Christina School District news and events. We have more than 100 fans and interest is growing every day!

Follow us on Twitter:

Visit our Twitter page at <http://twitter.com/christinak12> to create a Twitter account and sign up to follow us. Brief updates may be sent to an email account, mobile device, or both.



Dr. Willard Baxter Celebrates Milestones at Newark High School



Dr. Willard Baxter, a volunteer at Newark High School, recently celebrated his 80th birthday and a decade of dedication and contributions to the students at NHS. After retiring from university teaching 15 years ago, Dr.

has logged countless hours as a school volunteer.

"I've had nothing but good experiences at Newark High School," Baxter told student Zainab Akande in 2008. "The students I get are interested in learning and have the determination to do better. They come to me to get help on their own and respond positively."

Baxter humbly started out his ambitious math career in Pennsylvania where he was born and raised. In the eighth grade, Baxter became certain of what he wanted to do in life; his love of helping others and sharing his knowledge with others lead him to teaching. Baxter attended Ursinus College after graduating from high school. At Ursinus, Baxter said, "I found out that I was pretty good at math. I figured that I could combine my two interests together. That's when the thought of being a university professor first came to me." When Baxter graduated from Ursinus, he attend-

ed the University of Wisconsin, where he attained his master's degree. Finally, Baxter went back to his home state, studied at the University of Pennsylvania, and received his Ph.D. He then taught for two years in Athens, Ohio at Ohio University before relocating to Delaware, where he taught and was a part of the UD faculty for thirty-six years.

Students have praised Baxter for helping them to understand concepts, prepare for tests, and clarify what they have learned in class. "He gets the message across perfectly," one student said. Their glowing appraisal of Dr. Baxter's skills is only a minor testament to the selfless effort he has contributed exclusively to Newark High School. Baxter's "volunteer hours" are an outstanding example of what it means to give back to the community.

Zainab Akande, Class of 2009

Baxter felt the need to utilize his individual talents. He chose to do this by offering one-on-one math help to the many students in grateful need at Newark High School. He volunteers his time four days a week, and