

Introducing The College Crusade

The Children's Crusade has a new name!

The Rhode Island Children's Crusade is now called The College Crusade of Rhode Island! We hope you like our refreshing new name and tagline. They communicate what we have always been about: inspiring, supporting, and believing in you as you work toward your academic and career goals.

As you can see, *CruNews* also has a new look! It is still packed with fun news and important information about upcoming events that you need to know about. And if that wasn't enough... We also have a new website! Please visit us at www.thecollegecrusade.org. Our site describes the many programs and activities available for Crusaders. If you have any questions, don't ever hesitate to ask your College Crusade Advisor or to call 854-5500.



Ways to A's instructor Melissa Wheeler explains an assignment to new Crusaders this summer. (Photo: David O'Connor)

Welcome to our new sixth-graders!

Over 200 sixth-graders from Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket are starting middle school this fall as new members of The College Crusade. The students applied last spring while they were still in fifth grade. Over the summer, each student attended our study-skills program, called Ways to A's. They also enjoyed a fun orientation to the middle school experience. To all our new Crusaders: We wish you the best as you begin sixth grade and discover all the benefits of belonging to The College Crusade!

GEAR UP awards \$2.7 million to The College Crusade

The College Crusade recently received a \$2.7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's GEAR UP program. This grant will support our Advisory system and most of the programs for middle school and high school Crusaders described in this issue of *CruNews*. It will also help us provide college scholarships for financially eligible Crusaders.



The College Crusade is currently in the middle of an annual campaign to raise the final \$265,000 in local matching funds for the GEAR UP grant. These funds are needed to ensure that we will continue to receive the grant in the future. On behalf of all Crusaders, we are truly grateful for GEAR UP's support!

Please keep us notified

Have you changed your address or phone number, or has your Crusader changed schools? Call (401) 854-5500 or write to info@thecollegecrusade.org.

**Inspire.
Support.
Believe.**

Thank you:

Many thanks to the major sponsors and underwriters of our June 2007 Annual Dinner – H. Carr & Sons, Citizens Bank Foundation, Weybosset Research & Management, The Cavanagh Company, NBC 10, and Newport Coffee Traders. We also thank the June Rockwell Levy Foundation for its recent gift of \$7,500 to support our Adventures in Literacy program.

Inside:

Lots of fall programs for middle school and high school Crusaders and a peek at Cru Club, our new mix of college-readiness activities!

On the web:

Information about activities and events for families of Crusaders is available at www.thecollegecrusade.org. Click on the Family button to explore.



A message from the President, Mary Harrison

Dear Crusaders and Families,

There is so much going on at The College Crusade this fall, it's hard to know where to start! Our dedicated Advisors are busy greeting new and returning Crusaders. Our programs are ready to provide you with valuable opportunities to learn and grow.

Crusaders, remember that your membership in The College Crusade comes with responsibilities. We expect you to participate in our programs and to set educational goals for yourself.

In these pages, you will discover many ways to get involved with Crusade activities during school, after school, and on Saturdays. Make sure you understand our requirements, and plan ahead so you will be able to complete them.

One of the first things you should do is introduce yourself to your Advisor at school or at your Saturday Cru Club. Your Advisor cares about you and has the knowledge and skill to help you accomplish your goals.

I wish you the best school year ever. Go for it!

Sincerely yours,

Mary S. Harrison

Middle school Crusaders: Time to sign up

Welcome to all middle school students! We have been busy planning lots of programs and activities for you this fall. Here are some you should consider signing up for:

CAAP (Crusade Adventure and Academic Program) 101:

A high-intensity 10-week program designed to build your confidence by getting you involved in problem-solving tasks, group challenges, and risk-taking adventures. Activities wrap up with a ropes course where Crusaders work in teams and strategize. The program has an academic component with a focus on writing.

- **Dates:** Saturdays, October 20 to December 22, 2007
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Roger Williams Middle School, 278 Thurbers Avenue, Providence
- **Transportation, lunch, and snacks are provided**

Saturday Academy: This 3-hour program on Saturday mornings will improve your skills in math, English and reading. Great for Crusaders who need help or who want to get ahead.

- **Dates:** Saturdays, October 13 to December 15, 2007
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon
- **Where:** Blackstone Academy, 334 Pleasant St, Pawtucket
- **Transportation and snacks are provided**

Career Days: Learn about the educational requirements and training necessary for different professions. Career Days will be offered November 3 and February 16. Stay tuned for more details.

College Visits: Our first two college visits are to URI. They are scheduled for Saturday, October 13, and Saturday, November 17, for 7th- and 8th-grade Crusaders. You'll meet current URI students and participate in a campuswide scavenger hunt. After lunch, everyone will attend a football game. Go Rams!

Check your mail or ask your Advisor for information and permission forms. If you have any questions, call Lauren Schechtman, Middle School Manager, at 854-5506 ext 114.

Cru Club is...

A new requirement for all middle school and high school Crusaders

Crusaders! Here's how to get extra help with your class work, master tests, develop study skills, attend career workshops, and spend time with an Advisor. **Every middle school and high school Crusader must participate in a minimum of 10 hours of Cru Club each school year.**

Where & when: If you attend a school that has an Advisor, your Cru Club will be weekday afternoons in your school. If your school does not have an Advisor, your Cru Club will be on two Saturdays a month. The dates for Saturday Cru Club this fall are:

- October 13 & 27
- November 3 & 17
- December 1 & 8

The locations and times for Saturday Cru Club are:

- Johnson & Wales University, Harborside Campus, Providence, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Blackstone Academy, 334 Pleasant Street, Pawtucket, 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Watch your mail for more details, and be sure to sign up. Space is limited.



Fifth-grade Crusaders will have fun reading

The College Crusade is hosting a Saturday Adventures in Literacy program for elementary-school Crusaders this year. The 20-week program uses a computer-assisted learning program from Scholastic, Inc., called ReadAbout. For more information, contact Laurel Shepard, Elementary School Manager/Admissions, at 854-5506 ext 111.

Fall programs for high school Crusaders

This new school year brings lots of great opportunities for high school Crusaders. We encourage you to get involved! Check the Crusade bulletin board in your school for upcoming events, and be sure to meet with your Advisor every month.

For Grade 9

Peer Mentoring – Begins in late September Peer Mentoring is a 12-week program designed to provide support and guidance for incoming 9th-grade Crusaders to help them make the transition to high school. Crusaders in grade 9 are matched with older Crusaders, who serve as mentors.

For Grades 9-11

Saturday Academy 2007 Fall Session – Saturdays from October 13 through December 15

• **Learn It! Use It!** is a program for 9th-grade Crusaders that is based on the idea that

students learn by doing. Crusaders build essential math and English skills and make learning their own. Class size is small, to maintain personalized attention.

• **Smart Start** is a multi-level, comprehensive math and English skill-building course for **10th- and 11th-grade Crusaders** that lays the groundwork for more targeted test preparation later on.

For Grade 12

Getting to College Workshop – October 13, 2007, at the Providence Academy of International Studies, 182 Thurbers Avenue, Providence Crusaders learn how to master various elements of the college admission process. Participants analyze each component of the college application and begin to compile information needed to complete the application. College admission professionals also help you with the personal essay.

College fairs for high school Crusaders

Historically Black Colleges Fair – October 18, 2007 This year's event is at Boston College. If you wish to attend, please see your Advisor to sign up.

New! CCRI College Fair – Saturday, October 21, 2007 This year we invite parents and Crusaders to attend together. All families will meet at The College Crusade office for an information session before departing for the College Fair. The purpose of the orientation is to provide an overview of what to expect while attending the fair. Lunch will be provided during the orientation, as well as transportation to the fair.

Find out what college is like... Go on a visit!

High school Crusaders! Here is our schedule for college visits so far:

- November 7, 2007: Roger Williams University
- November 14, 2007: Northeastern University
- December (dates to come): Community College of Rhode Island, Connecticut College
- January 24, 2008: New England Institute of Technology
- January 31, 2008: University of Rhode Island

SAT and ACT test dates for high school seniors

Seniors, keep your college application schedule on track! Be aware of these important test dates for taking the SATs and ACTs. For help with registration or to request a waiver of your test fee, please see your Advisor or call us at 854-5500 and ask for Maria or Gina.

SAT & Subject Tests

October 6, 2007
November 3, 2007
December 1, 2007
January 26, 2008
March 1, 2008 (SAT only)
May 3, 2008
June 7, 2008

Register by

September 10, 2007
October 2, 2007
October 30, 2007
December 26, 2007
January 29, 2008
April 1, 2008
May 6, 2008

Register online at www.collegeboard.com

ACT Tests

October 27, 2007
December 8, 2007
February 9, 2008
April 12, 2008
June 14, 2008

Register by

September 21, 2007
November 2, 2007
January 4, 2008
March 7, 2008
May 9, 2008

Register online at www.actstudent.org

Crusade Spotlight



Crusade Advisor John Cruz (right) with Crusader Marlon Sanchez

College Crusade Advisor John Cruz met Crusader Marlon Sanchez when Marlon was in sixth grade. "Marlon was interested in everything, right from the first day," says John. "I could always count on seeing him at homework club and group mentoring. He's a very accomplished Crusader."

A lifelong Providence resident, John attended the city's public schools throughout his elementary, middle school, and high school years. He then earned a B.A. in Communication Studies from the University of Rhode Island. He has been an Advisor at Roger Williams Middle School since 2005.

In June, John invited Marlon to accompany him as a guest to The College Crusade's annual dinner celebration. Marlon is considering a career in culinary arts (veterinary science is another option), so a special thrill for him that night was the chance to meet Irving Schneider, the president of Johnson & Wales University.

Marlon is also a big reader. "Sometimes he'd spend the whole lunch period in my office with a book," says John. "He gets immersed." This summer, Marlon read *Eldest*, the 700-page second book in the Eragon series by Christopher Paolini, plus a spy novel. He starts high school this fall at the Academy of Service in Providence.

Crusade 2007 summer scenes



(At left) Middle school Crusaders get a little wet as they work together during CAAP. (At right) Ninth-graders share ideas during Ways to A's. (Bottom left) High school Crusaders team up for activities at URI. (Bottom right) A staff member at URI's University Library answers questions from visiting Crusaders. (Photos—far left and top right: David O'Connor)



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Inspire. Support. Believe.

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OF RHODE ISLAND



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