

# CSLA CELEBRATIONS

A glimpse into the every day at our school



A parent volunteer at the Appalachian market

WHAT'S INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE:

**Mrs. Sorrell**  
**Mrs. Burse**  
**Mr. Kramer**

## A PARENT AND FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

Volunteering and family engagement are at the heart of CSLA. On any given day, parents and family members are in and around the building, shelving books in the library, monitoring lunch times, or copying and organizing documents in the work room.

The CSLA community lives up to its mission to develop lifelong learners. It's rooted in family engagement and parent involvement in the school that starts from a student's first day as kindergartens give a presentation in front of their peers and parents about a book.

"Parent involvement is the silver bullet at our school," says CSLA Principal Krystal Scarbrough. "We have the same challenges as any other school, but parents are here to see what's going on and have input to move us in the right direction."

Step into any classroom on almost any day and you'll feel the energy of students' curiosity and independence. That's what we aim to showcase in this newsletter: the magic in the everyday experiences at CSLA.

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# A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

## Emily Sorrell, First Grade

Even on the busy day of the first grade Appalachian Market, teacher Emily Sorrell calmly guides students through the day. After visiting the market, students trickle in with their purchases, objects that represent a significant undertaking from each student, family and parent volunteer.

In her first year at CSLA, Mrs. Sorrell especially appreciates the parent volunteers and support. It's been a huge help, she says, and families are always willing to show up.

As Mrs. Sorrell refined her craft in her 13 years of teaching, she's really come to understand and appreciate teaching phonics, considered the stepping stones for reading and writing.

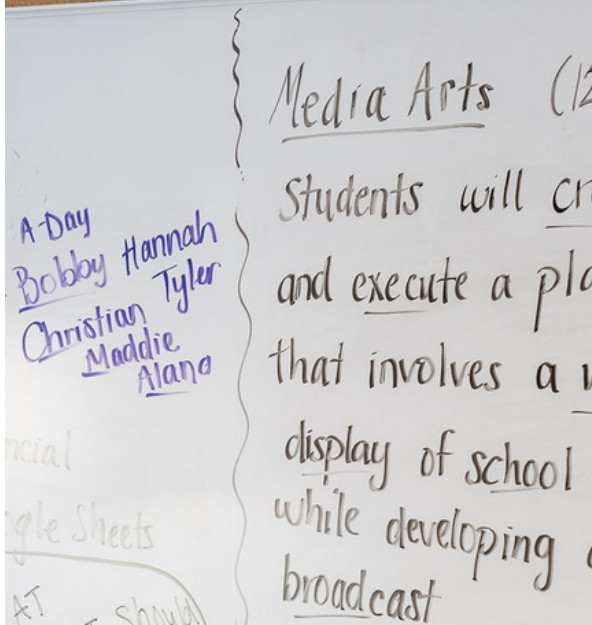
*"As a teacher, I get to be creative and incorporate fun learning in my classroom."*

"I was interested in learning more about phonics, and as I've grown as a teacher I can emphasize phonics to grow reading and writing skills," Mrs. Sorrell says. "My style of teaching fits well here, with lots of family connection in a student-driven learning environment."

As part of an elementary team of teachers, Mrs. Sorrell and her students take on classroom projects and activities that show how learning will take place and establish the foundational tools that prepare students for middle and high school.







## CSLA SCHOOL NEWS FROM MEDIA ARTS

Check out CSLA's daily announcements on  
[YouTube.com/@CSLASchoolNews](https://www.youtube.com/@CSLASchoolNews)

## GIVING STUDENTS A VOICE

### Kayla Burse, Media Arts/Career and Technical Education

Some students in Kayla Burse's class are bent over laptops while others run ideas by her at the front of the room. In Media Arts, students create, record and edit the school's daily video announcements.

"I'm excited students can take ownership over this daily project that gives them a voice at school," Mrs. Burse says.

As a CSLA alumnae, Mrs. Burse appreciates the foundations set early on at CSLA that enable students to think for themselves.

"I still feel the magic of CSLA I experienced as a student," she says. "Students take ownership of their thoughts and learning. The concepts don't stop at the classroom—these ideas expand around students and into adulthood.

"We support students to be accountable and to advocate for their ideas and opinions at an early age," Mrs. Burse says. "CSLA celebrates the process of learning."



# BRING HISTORY TO LIFE

## Ryan Kramer, Seventh and Eighth Grade History

Step into Ryan Kramer's middle school class before the end of the semester and you'll find groups of students pouring over game boards or computers, analyzing code or double-checking their card games.

Mr. Kramer caps the end of each semester with a creative project, whether a shoebox diorama or board, card or video game based on a previously covered unit. After completing the game, students will play them for review the next week.

*Mr. Kramer comes to CSLA with 23 years of experience in education.*

Mr. Kramer's energy and enthusiasm are contagious. After teaching high school history for 20 years, Mr. Kramer, in his first year at CSLA, is amazed by each student's growth in seventh and eighth grade as they spread their wings. He's eager to share new ideas and projects with them.

"I love early American history and the constitutional era," Mr. Kramer says. "I get to teach them who we are as a nation and they get to learn something new. With our game projects, we can make topics they may find boring into something really exciting."

Students agree—some of his seventh graders, diligently piecing together games, enjoy working in different groups together. They say Mr. Kramer encourages conversation and self-directed learning.

And as for being the loudest teacher at CSLA? The verdict may be out—though you'll likely hear Mr. Kramer coaching volleyball or baseball this spring.

