



Thanks for reading CISNC Connections, our bimonthly Communities In Schools e-newsletter. Check your inbox every two months for updates on our work across North Carolina, inspiring student stories, and ways to get involved. Our first issue welcomes CIS students back to school in a year affected by COVID-19.

When North Carolina's schools reopen, some students will learn remotely. Others will return to social-distanced school buildings. Both options are a big change from the norm and unsettling for students, families, and teachers alike.

COVID-19 disproportionately affects students living in high need communities. It has created food insecurity and difficulties accessing medical care. Many students and families now face financial gaps and limited access to the technology and connectivity needed for online learning. As students navigate through, CIS will be there to help.

LEARN HOW WE'RE ADAPTING



Meredith Allen, Student Support Specialist at Royal



A CIS student receives food donations and homework

Oaks Elementary, wears her mask and prepares coloring pages for her students.

packets from his CIS Student Support Specialist earlier in March.



“Samara quickly turned her behaviors around and brought up her grades to play the game she is so passionate about. She is a huge light and has thrived as a CIS student.”

-Megan Albert, CIS Student Support Specialist

Student Support Specialist Megan Albert has worked with Samara since she was in fifth grade. Now, Samara will start high school during a school year affected by COVID-19.

Throughout middle school, Megan helped Samara improve her behavior and grades so she could stay eligible to play basketball. When the pandemic closed school buildings, Megan stayed in contact with Samara and her grandparents through text and email. Like so many other students, Samara relies on Megan as a safe-haven where she can find the academic and social-emotional supports she needs to stay on track, cope with social isolation, and know she has someone she can trust.

Learn how students like Samara are heading back to school [here](#).

READ MORE

CISNC WINS TRIANGLE NC CARES AWARD



Triangle NC Cares and Ricci Law Firm recently awarded CISNC the July 2020 Triangle NC Cares Award for the work of CIS staff during COVID-19. ABC-11 aired attorney Brian Ricci presenting CISNC COO and Acting CEO Jill Cox the gift on Friday, July 3. Thank you to Triangle NC Cares and Ricci Law Firm for supporting our students!

Watch the full video [here](#).

WATCH HERE

SUPERINTENDENT AND PRINCIPAL HIGHLIGHTS

"J.F. Webb High School serves students from a rural area, with many who are economically disadvantaged. Having CIS in our school allows our students to understand and believe that college is an option for them."



**Amy C. Rice, Principal
J.F. Webb High School
Granville County**

As we look toward the back to school season, we want to take a moment to highlight our amazing partners in the school systems we serve. North Carolina principals and superintendents are crucial partners that make our work possible. Learn how you can partner with us [here](#).



**Jan King, Asst. Superintendent
Henderson County Public Schools**

"CISNC's Jobs for North Carolina Graduates program has been a wonderful addition to the Henderson County Career Academy. The program, under the stellar leadership of CIS Specialist Virginia Haynes, bolsters student success and career-readiness.

Mrs. Haynes goes the extra mile to support the students she serves. Whether in face-to-face instruction or in remote learning due to COVID-19, Mrs. Haynes provides individual, whole-child supports to the Career Academy JNCG students."



#InSchoolsAndBeyond

PARTNER WITH US

CIS PRESIDENT REY SALDAÑA KICKS OFF NC SCHOOL YEAR



On August 6, CIS president Rey Saldaña gave a virtual kickoff address

welcoming North Carolina students back to school for the 2020-2021 year, attended by board members, executive directors, Student Support Specialists, and other staff across the state. **"There is so much opportunity and hope for what we do,"** Saldaña said during his address. **"When students return, whether virtual or hybrid, we are the organization that has the training and evidence to connect with students who need us now more than ever."**

Watch one of Rey's inspiring messages about students' return to schools [here](#).

[WATCH HERE](#)



Communities In Schools of North Carolina is striving each day to practice anti-racism in all that we do.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL STATEMENT](#)

A student's story should not begin with "your options are limited." It should begin with "you can be and do anything you set your mind to." But for many of our students, the playing field is not level.

We must reaffirm our commitment to be anti-racists and take meaningful action to invoke equitable practices – thus providing equitable opportunities for all. Communities In Schools of North Carolina and its statewide affiliates have offered hope, empowerment, and the opportunity for all children to thrive for more than 30 years. We are working on a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Plan that is foundational to our new Strategic Framework, all state office employees have participated in DEI Training, and we have formed a DEI Committee (for both the Board & Staff) that works to provide education, resources, and support.

Click [here](#) to continue reading our commitment to DEI work.

[READ OUR COMMITMENT TO DEI](#)

GET INVOLVED

- Become a one-time or monthly donor at <https://cisnc.org/donate>
- Follow us on social media and post using the hashtags #InSchoolsAndBeyond and #AllInForKids.
- Support us on your birthday by starting a Facebook fundraiser [here](#).
- Learn how you can [become a CIS community partner](#).

ABOUT CISNC

Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.
Learn more at www.cisnc.org.



Communities
In Schools

North Carolina



Copyright © 2020 Communities In Schools of North Carolina, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).