



The Rhodes Review

The Publication of Rhodes College and Career Academy

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V
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M
B
E
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2
2

In This Issue

Mayor Bibb
RCCA Heroes
Staff
Spotlight
How Not to be
Broke
Give Thanks
News You
Can Use

Q and A: Mayor Bibb

Recently, our Rhodes Review journalists met and interviewed Mayor Bibb

Q What aspects of your personality made you want to be the mayor of Cleveland?

A You should have a desire to serve others. My dream of becoming mayor started when I was 17 years old and a junior at Trinity High School. At that time, my mom – who happens to be my personal hero – was the only one who knew about these plans, but the seed was planted. While my path to City Hall was not a linear one, I held fast to the belief that it was time to break the status quo in Cleveland and get to work on what I, and a growing group of supporters, believed our city could be. I had a call to public service and improving the lives of our residents. From day one, I had my supporters, as well as many who said that it couldn't be done. They said I was too young, too naïve, too black, not black enough, didn't have enough experience – you name it, I have heard it. I was told it was impossible. That there was no way I could win the election and do this job. I believed otherwise. And so, we kept on going. And the impossible became possible. When we support each other, so many things become possible. I didn't get here

alone. And I don't do the work alone. Grassroots advocacy and community leadership are both near and dear to my heart and an important part of my agenda as mayor.

Q As mayor, what is your biggest goal for the city of Cleveland?

A It is important that during my time as Mayor I put policies and practices in place that will sow the seeds of progress even 10 years from now. Any legislation that I propose undergoes a rigorous evaluation process, so that I am making the best impact for those that need it the most through a strategic and sustainable lens. While we balance the need to continue delivering basic city services to our residents, we are also working as quickly as we can to lay the groundwork for bold change. Strong neighborhoods are vital to a strong city. It's our vision of what Cleveland can become: a safer, healthier city with good jobs and great neighborhoods that will offer new opportunities for all Clevelanders.

Q What issues are the most important in the city of Cleveland right now?

A At the end of August, we proposed the first set of initiatives for ARPA funding as part of my rescue and transformation plan. Some of

these initiatives include Housing for All, Violence Prevention and Public Safety, Inclusive Economy Recovery, Education for Everyone, Arts & Neighborhood Amenities, Modernizing City Hall, and COVID Relief. The safety of our residents is my number one priority. I take this extremely seriously and am working every day in partnership with public safety, EMS, and our police and fire departments to make our city a better place for all residents. We continue to expand on a smarter, more proactive approach to tackling crime and violence before it starts. We are working on a range of programs for youth and young adults to provide constructive learning and work experiences and to keep them productively engaged.



Mayor Justin Bibb with Kennedy Vason-Hatcher, Antoine Brown, and Gabryella Glenn

Mayor Bibb, continued

Q Students in our school have suffered losses due to violence. How do you plan to address gun violence in the city?

A First, we acknowledge that addressing gun violence in Cleveland is not the responsibility of law enforcement alone and must be addressed as a public health crisis. We are working with the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Community Relations, and the Chief of Youth and Family Success as well as other external partners to draft a theory of change and put a plan in place. This plan will hopefully not only hold those accountable of perpetuating violence in the city, but also prevent future violence from occurring. While we are undergoing this process, I would encourage students and other Cleveland residents to utilize the resources provided by our Office of Prevention, Intervention, and Opportunity and Department of Recreation. Some of these resources include programming and the availability of a Social Support Specialist in each of our Neighborhood Resource and Recreation Centers.

Q What are your plans to help CMSD students catch up after COVID?

A COVID-19 has impacted every corner of our community, but education is among the hardest hit. My administration is working with CMSD to help every student feel a deeper sense of belonging in their communities and supporting the holistic recovery

our kids need to be successful. I am pleased to see the progress students made during the most recent school year according to the Ohio Report Card and aim to help the district continue and accelerate that progress going forward. I am particularly concerned about literacy for our youngest learners and about making sure that the learning experiences our middle and high school students have access to are relevant and prepare them for the future. We are in collaboration with the CMSD on how to move these key areas forward most effectively.

Q Finding affordable and safe housing is an issue graduates face. Do you have a plan to help students move from school to “the real world”?

A The housing crisis in Cleveland affects many families. City Council passed the Pay to Stay ordinance-which allows families to avoid eviction if they pay past due rent, any late fees, and court costs to the landlord before an agreed upon date. We acknowledge that families still might struggle with paying that sum, but the Pay to Stay ordinance allows families more time to find assistance or vouchers that will help pay those costs. Additionally, I have proposed that \$50 million of the remaining ARPA funds be used for Housing for All which focuses on a multitude of areas including funding toward grants to incentivize renovations of affordable housing, home repairs, and developer acquisition and a loan pool, and many more.

Q When Barack Obama was president, he encouraged students

to study hard, take responsibility for their education, set goals, believe in themselves, and be the authors of their own destinies. What words of wisdom do you have for CMSD students?

A As a young student entering a world where there isn't a solid trajectory for post-secondary plans, there are few things that feel as if they are in your control. Being a strong leader requires more than just making decisions. It also requires listening to those impacted by the decisions, working together with peers, and making informed decisions reinforced by data and evidence. I encourage students to ask questions, advocate for yourself, always be willing collaborate with others, and do research so that you may take advantage of the resources available to you - including your education. I also encourage you to get involved with the things that are important to you and the things you are passionate about. Hang on to your dreams and nurture your creativity. Share your big ideas with the people that support you and grow them for the future. Leadership can come from anywhere, and we are going to need you, the next generation, to keep up the momentum. Don't let the naysayers hold you back. Civic involvement is critical to the future of our city. It is imperative that you vote so that you participate in the process and that you pay attention and hold those in power accountable – myself included. You are the future leaders of Cleveland and of this great nation, and I believe you will do incredible things.



Janiya Weakley

RCCA Rescuers by Staff

Treva'on Green responded to compliments for rescuing children found roaming Bellaire Road after a football game by saying, "Just because we're teens, doesn't mean we don't know any better. Just because we're young doesn't mean we don't want to help other children."

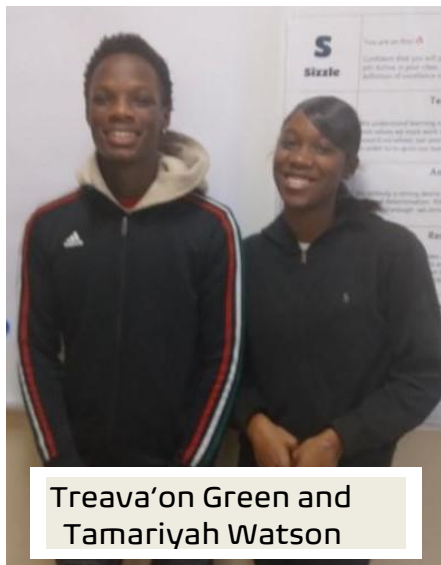
When RCCA students Deshawn Hester, Janiya Weakley, Tamariyah Watson, Treava'on Green, De'Markis Duncan-Hill, and Rahim Stubblefield made their way home after the Rhodes/Marshall game, they saw two young children alone in the streets. Although it was a chilly night, the little girls were only wearing leggings and T-shirts. One child did not have any shoes on. Deshawn and his friends took off their coats to cover the toddlers as they tried to find their parents.

The children were too young to talk; they pointed at houses when asked where their parents were. Deshawn picked up one little girl; his cousin Janiya picked up

the other little girl. Then, they and their friends walked from house to house knocking on doors to find the toddlers' family.

When no one claimed the children, their RCCA protectors called the police to be sure the children would be safe. They waited with the police until an ambulance arrived to pick up the children. Sergeant Maggie Crespo, the officer who responded to their call, was so impressed by our students that she called the school to let Assistant Principal Theresa Lockhart know about the incident. "People are so willing to see the bad in teenagers today," Crespo said. "I just have to commend these kids because they did something so good."

The teens themselves see nothing remarkable about their actions that night. As Janiya put it, "I love kids. Kids should be somewhere safe and supervised at all times. We just helped 'em because if we weren't there, something really bad could have happened to those babies."



Treava'on Green and Tamariyah Watson

VOTE! By Keisha Reyes

As election day approaches, the debate over who gets the seat of our retiring Ohio Senator Rob Portman comes into question. The two that are running for this election will be Tim Ryan and J.D. Vance. Tim Ryan is a Democrat, while J.D. Vance is a Republican. On the 10th of October, a debate was held between Mr. Ryan and Mr. Vance in Youngstown, Ohio.

In this debate, the conversation tended to be heated and sometimes even personal. At one point, Tim Ryan even accused Vance of being a fraud. During the debate he said, "J.D Vance, with all due respect, is a fraud."

You might be asking yourself, "How does this involve me?" Well, this involves everyone in the state of Ohio. The values of each candidate can even greatly affect us young adults, for example, Mr. Vance and Mr. Ryan both support the use of natural gasses and want to increase production. Tim Ryan wants to raise minimum wage and make healthcare more affordable, while J.D. Vance, a conservative, wants to represent the majority of Ohio which is predominantly conservative and pro-lifers.

Issues like this matter and are important to us Ohioans because we choose who gets to represent us down in Washington, DC. Whether or not you support J.D Vance or Tim Ryan, politics play a very important part in running our state and country. Be involved and, if you are old enough, remember to vote on November 8th.

Spotlight: Mr. Musser

By Anita Niyogushima



After interviewing Mr. James Musser, who has been teaching at RCCA for three years, I've come to the realization that teachers are more than simply instructors, they deserve plenty of appreciation and love. They're truly one of the most important people in our daily lives who protect us and ensure that we grow up to be successful. Mr. Musser was prepared for the questions I was about to ask him and answered them effortlessly. That's what makes him a great teacher, he is adept in his line of work.

I asked, "What's the biggest misconception people have about your job?" He replied, "The biggest misconception people have about being a teacher is that teachers have it easy." People don't understand that teachers have difficult moments as well as every other human being. When people think of educators, they don't

realize the number of stressful situations they encounter."

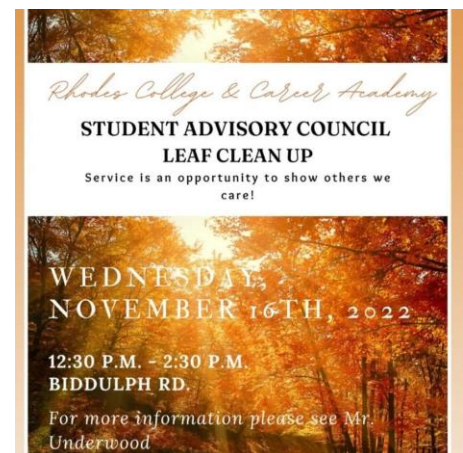
Many people have different opinions of our generation, so to hear one from a teacher's perspective would be interesting to know. That's why I asked him, "What are your thoughts about this generation?" Mr. Musser gave a wonderful response to that question, not many people have much hope for this generation due to what's been going on.

Mr. Musser thinks differently about this generation, he believes that this generation has so much more potential than it lets on. In his words, "I'm very hopeful that this generation is going to participate in their own self-rule more so than the one before. There are a lot of issues facing this generation, specifically those issues are already starting to affect everyday life for a lot of people. It's either this generation is going to bring that under control or not."

Next, I asked him, "How do you balance your personal life with your professional life?" I was curious to know how teachers can maintain their work life and life outside of work. His response was, "Since I've become a teacher, I've wanted to be the best I could be and that requires a lot of time outside of a school day. That requires sacrificing summer vacations and requires sacrificing my evenings and weekends. The time that I would have to myself I'll be with my family but that's often interrupted because of this job." This shows that Mr. Musser takes his jobs seriously, he wants

to make sure that his students are well-educated for a better future.

The last question I asked was, "What is something that would surprise people about you?" He said, "I love it when people make me laugh, one good laugh a day is all I need." I found that response interesting as some people say that teachers are humorless. To know that laughing can make his day shows that people are wrong about (most) teachers being humorless.



Get a Side Hustle

By Ciara Saborski

Why should it take a whole hour to make \$13-\$15? I don't believe that we should be working a whole 6-7-hour shift to make about \$78-\$90 for the day. Especially when the government takes taxes out. There are so many other ways to make money. If we took the time to think differently, we could make money so much faster. For example, I'm a lash tech, and if I have 3 clients a day, I make about \$230 with no taxes taken out. If you want to know more ways to make more money in less time, keep reading.

Heartbreak by Natasha Smith

**All I can say is
watch out for
heartbreaks,
they are not a
joke.**

How would you go about getting over heartbreak? I can assure you that many people take the subject very seriously because their feelings are getting played with. I know a few people who have dealt with heartbreak. They opened my eyes to how I should deal with a horrible heartbreak. Heartbreaks don't just happen in relationships. A family member or person you'd never think would hurt you could break your heart. All I can say is, watch out for heartbreaks, they are not a joke.

The worst way to deal with heartbreak is letting the person back in your life after they hurt you. I experienced heartbreak. Would I say I coped with it well? No, I didn't. I got back with the other person, and I didn't regret it until I saw how much love she had for the next person. I should've just gone about my life. That shows how much you could hate a person for doing you wrong that you try to get back at them. Instead, they're happy with someone else while you're obsessing over them.

Some people take that hurt to the heart for a very long time and who could ever blame them? When people need a shoulder to cry on, everyone should have their family there for them. Avoid heartbreak and start listening to what matters the most.

Remember, life gets better once that one mistake is out of your life. You can be much happier if you learn how to move on and forget and forgive. Yes, I wish I could take my own advice, but I can't because I already did it. Still, I've learned how to forget and move on. I'm hoping my story will help people too.

Side Hustle continued

It's always good to have a side hustle. You can still work your 9-5's and 4-10's if you want a little more extra cash, but if you have a side hustle, get scheduled 2-3 days a week. That takes the burden of work off your shoulders. For example, when I have days off, I book an appointment to make extra money on the side. It's a good side hustle, but your side hustle doesn't have to be lashes. You can always do different things such as selling products, doing yard work, or doing hair and makeup.

Selling things is a great way to earn your money. Especially selling snacks. If you go to a high school or middle school, kids are always hungry during school. You can go to Sam's Club or Costco and buy items then sell those products for whatever your heart desires. Boom! Now you made twice the amount you paid for the product. It doesn't even have to be snacks, you can sell shoes, games, any product that people are interested in nowadays. What I will say about this method though, is that to make money you must spend money.

After you try these hustles, you can get your bag up. Congratulations! You are becoming a hustler. You have income from the job you barely work, and you are hustling on the side of that job to make more money by doing productive things. The money won't come fast; it takes a process to get your money. But, if you do it right, your money will be up and you won't have to worry about being broke. On top of this, you don't even have to work a job. If I started taking lashing more seriously if I quit my job, I could be making twice the amount of money I make working 2 shifts, but I want that extra money (ha-ha). Hope this works out for you!

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November is a Month of Gratitude by Samantha Kennedy

What are we grateful for? I know something I'm grateful for is the community at Rhodes. I'm glad I chose to enroll into this high school because it really feels like a family here. I'm thankful for how caring our staff and teachers are. They make school feel like home. And I feel like my classmates really have a special type of bond. If you walk through the halls, you can really see how much the students care about each other. I know I love some of the friends I've made here like they are my own blood.

I'm thankful that I can go to my teachers for help with anything whether it's something inside or outside of school. The teachers know how to inspire us to learn, and they make class fun while also being able to get work done. Sitting in class doesn't really feel like you're sitting in a classroom, it's not like an uptight or stressed feeling but instead I feel comfortable and focused like I can learn and still be able to laugh at the same time.

This school is really surrounded by a warm energy, everyone here has a good heart - although you know we like to tussle sometimes. But that's what a family is all about. We may fight each other, but we also celebrate together, laugh together, cry together, grieve together, and grow together.

Family or Not Be Grateful by Jayden English

The person that I am most grateful for is my mother. Besides giving me the very air I breathe, she has also been the greatest mother I could have imagined. She was there for me no matter what, even when I felt like I was alone I always had my mom. Even at the darkest points in my life my mom was the one I went to because I knew she truly cared. When I was sick, or even when she was sick, she was always there for me no matter what. My mom was and will forever be my superhero; I truly owe her my entire life.

I am also very grateful for my friends. No matter what kind of day I'm having, these guys keep me laughing and I am forever grateful for that. These are some of the most loyal people I've ever met. I know that if I ever needed one of them for anything, they would be there for me, and I would do the same for them. The friendships that I've grown in high school have been some of the strongest friendships that I've ever had, to me this is a brotherhood.

From my mother who is related to me and from my friends who are not, I've learned that "family" is a word that applies to people who are not always relatives. That's the most important thing to remember as the holidays roll in: be grateful for those who are always there for you. Family or not.