

Alumni Spotlight

BRADY RINALDI 2011

COMPLETED HIS MASTERS DEGREE IN ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT FROM OHIO UNIVERSITY AND HAS WORKED WITH MICRON TECHNOLOGY IN BOISE FOR THE LAST 3 YEARS, PROMOTED TO A MANAGER POSITION ABOUT A YEAR AGO. CURRENTLY HE IS IN EUROPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS WITH HIS FIANCE, COMING BACK TO CDA TO GET MARRIED AT THE RESORT IN JUNE WITH CHARTER'S FORMER BASKETBALL COACH, BRENT LOOYENGA, AS THEIR PHOTOGRAPHER!

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COEUR D'ALENE

CHARTER

ACADEMY

Winter
2020

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, celebrating 20 years!

A letter from the Principal...

I sit down to write this article in an empty school building on a Monday afternoon. It's oddly quiet for a Monday. The intermittent bells still signify the beginnings and endings of class periods, but without the accompanying sound of hundreds of trampling feet. Today is a snow day. I started getting questions on Friday—"Do you think we'll have a snow day on Monday?"

Well, I don't have an inside line on weather prognostication. I sit and look out the window and check the weather outlook on my phone just like everyone else, and I keep doing it until about 5:00 a.m. It's rare to know anything much sooner than that. My kids have an app that offers a percentage chance of school closure, which they continually want to compare to my estimates (which I remind them are no more valid than theirs...)

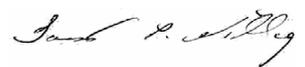
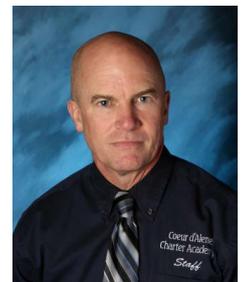
Although I can't foresee a snow closure any better than anyone else, I am VERY happy with the rolling out of our School Messenger notification system. Gone are the days of phone trees, or staring at the TV news, waiting for your school's name to crawl across the screen. With the push of a button, we are able to notify all of our stakeholders of a closure or emergency. It worked beautifully in this, its latest test. If you found yourself bleary-eyed, watching the TV screen at 6:00 a.m., I encourage you to contact our office to get signed up for Messenger alerts. We don't use it for trivial matters or daily announcements, so you won't be bombarded with useless notifications, and you may be able to sleep in on those snowy mornings.

Winter break brought the annual migration of alumni back to their alma mater. We love seeing our graduates and hearing of their successes "out there." The stories are exciting and inspiring. The most rewarding thing to hear is also the most common—"College is easy!" I have heard this for years, of course, but I never tire of it. I especially enjoy the look of revelation in the eyes of the speaker. Even though we've told our students of this phenomenon, it seems they have to experience it for themselves to believe it. This is usually accompanied by amazement that their classmates are struggling and finding the college workload too much to handle.

To be a Charter graduate is to be prepared for success. When we use the term "college prep," we use it advisedly. Our students know how to study, how to work independently, and how to think. Those are the requisite skills to succeed when you leave the comfortable world of high school. Unfortunately, not all students are as well prepared as Charter students, as evidenced by the woeful statistics related to college attendance and completion in the state of Idaho. The legislature and State Department of Education will continue to scratch their heads over the "Go On" rate, and roll out never-ending gimmicks to make it better, but until they realize that college success is the result of rigorous preparation, nothing will change.

As we roll into semester exams, don't lose sight of the goal. The homework, the demands, and the stress of exams are precisely what bring our alumni back to thank their teachers and tell us that they were indeed prepared for life after high school.

Principal
Dan Nicklay



719

Number of graduates
from the Academy

#1

Best High School in Idaho
from U.S. News

#1

Best Charter High School
in Idaho from Niche.com



December Student of the Month

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy's Sunrise Rotary Student of the Month for December was Maria Aguiar. Nominated by Mr. Gabrielsen, teacher after teacher seconded his praise of Maria as someone with dedication to everything she does: academics, Knowledge Bowl, music, and Mathcounts. Ms. Bright noted, "she was president of the Spanish club last year and prepared activities that made the club fun for students of all ages." From tutoring to mentoring, Maria's service to others was mentioned by many. She is a model Charter student. We are proud to have her honored by our community!



January Student of the Month

Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy's Sunrise Rotary Student of the Month for January is Gabe Kamalani. Nominated by Ms. Fleming and Dr. LeBlanc, Gabe has proven to be a helpful, gracious, and kind member of our student body. Dr. LeBlanc remarks that Gabe "engages easily and joyfully with others... He is able to show his playful side in French class..., and understands when it is time to learn and when the time is sanctioned for students to play." That delightfully theatrical quality in Gabe has been nurtured through the instruction of his drama teacher Ms. Fleming, who said, "Gabe is a brilliant performer, scholar, linguist and person. He is unique, and has grown in his confidence, willing to stand out in a crowd."



Michelle Bredeson, mbredeson@cdacharter.org – Enrollment
Terri Walker, twalker@cdacharter.org – Records & Transcripts

HAPPY NEW YEAR, CHARTER FAMILIES!!

Welcome back! We have just a few more days before finals week! Please note we have a modified school week.

Monday, January 20: NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 21*: Period 1 & Period 2 Finals

Wednesday, January 22*: Period 3 & Period 4 Finals

Thursday, January 23*: Period 5 & Period 6 Finals

Friday, January 24: NO SCHOOL

*Early Release at 12:30 pm - NO LUNCHESES and NO AFTER SCHOOL STUDY HALL

SECOND SEMESTER SCHEDULES – HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Second semester begins on January 27. Some high school students may have semester schedule changes. We will be emailing new semester schedules to students and parents during finals week. Contact Mrs. Wasson (jwasson@cdacharter.org) if you have any questions about your high school student's second semester schedule.

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

Any seniors needing transcripts sent out need to fill out a "Permission to Release Records" form. Forms are available at both offices and on our website. Remember, all requests must be signed by a parent if the student is under 18.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2020-2021

As hard as it is to believe, we are now accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Current students DO NOT need to re-apply and will receive registration information during second semester. Any siblings of current students who would like to attend Charter next year must have an application submitted by March 13 to receive priority in the lottery this spring. Apply online at <https://www.cdacharter.org/apply/> or pick up an application at either office.

PLANNING TO WITHDRAW?

If you know your student will not be returning next semester, please contact Michelle as soon as possible at mbredeson@cdacharter.org to arrange a time to come in and complete a withdrawal form and return books. This will ensure a quick checkout and timely delivery of your student's records to their new school.



20 Martin Luther King Day
NO SCHOOL!

21-23 FINALS!
All grades dismissed @ 12:30

23 END OF FIRST SEMESTER!

24 NO SCHOOL!

Thank You for your Fantastic Support of the CPO!

Because of you...
\$7,261.15 in grants went back to the school!

Grants awarded at our November CPO meeting:

- \$198.30 to National Honor Society for recruitment and induction supplies.
- \$500 to CDA Charter's Volleyball team to help pay for gym rentals.
- \$770 to purchase a mobile PA system that will be used for various school events.
- \$1,500 to the Boys Soccer Team to purchase training equipment.
- \$1,000 to the Girls Soccer Team to help replace worn-out uniforms.
- \$1,500 for the purchase of a drinking fountain that enables water bottle filling.
- \$300 to Mrs. Wasson to help restock her closet with student supplies.
- \$192.85 to the Sixth Grade Teachers for wobble cushions to help students focus.
- \$1,300 to the Drama and Music department for additional stage lighting.

Our next Grant meeting will be March 10, 2020. If students or staff have any grant requests please fill out this [form](#) and email it to Jen Vest (jenvest4@gmail.com) no later than March 7. You can also access a grant request form on our CPO page on the school website.



To Our Incredible CPO

The grants you provide are so valuable to our school and enrich the learning environment here at Charter. We are all so grateful for your continued donation of your time and talents!

From the Entire Charter Staff

Please continue to support their fundraising efforts:

- Triple-Play Nights
- Lunch Snacks
- Used Uniform Closet
- Fred Meyer Community Rewards
- Vending Machine in the Middle School



APPLICATIONS FOR BOYS AND GIRLS STATE ARE OPEN

In these programs, students learn more about state government by participating in week-long programs during which students interact with one another as representatives of different government entities, conducting legislative sessions, elections and other activities meant to teach students about the objectives of the structures of city, county and state governments. Current students with junior standing should apply to local American Legion and Auxiliary posts. Please see Mrs. Wasson for that information. Selected students must be available to participate for the duration of the entire event.

Our Support Staff Team is GROWING!



Rachel

You may have noticed a new face in the middle school office! Rachel Reiswig is the new assistant to the Vice Principal and is excited to get to know you and your students. Rachel spent the last 6 years at Bryan Elementary and is looking forward to a new adventure here at Charter! Please make sure to give her a warm welcome when you see her. You can contact Rachel at reiswig@cdacharter.org



Michelle

Michelle Bredeson has moved into the role of registrar in the high school and is looking forward to welcoming new students and families to Charter. Contact her if you have any questions about enrollment or scheduling a tour for your soon-to-be 6th grader! You can reach Michelle at mbredeson@cdacharter.org



Laura

Laura Beyer has moved into a brand new position and will be doing marketing and development for Charter. She is excited for the new challenges that will be sure to come with the position and for the opportunity to share our school with the community! You can contact Laura at lbeyer@cdacharter.org

Stop by any time and say hello!

COMEDY SHOW

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Charter's Annual Sketch Show!

7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 5th in the HSMDD
Come for laughs, music and glow-sticks!



Thank you to all who donated to *Jingle Books!*

We received over 22,000 books from our incredible giving community! We distributed books the week before the break to all kindergarten through third-grade students in the Coeur d'Alene School District. Each child was able to choose up to six books for his or her home library. Literacy is of the utmost importance for a successful education. As a community and as a nation we must continue to support our most fragile learners and help them graduate from third grade with strong literacy skills. Thank you for your support and thank you to Norman and Diana Gissel and the wonderful volunteers who help keep this program running year after year.



Lunch Program!

Our Charter Parent Organization has created a lunch program to assist families in need of school lunch support. If you would like to learn more about this program being offered by the CPO, please contact Stephanie Holecek at: stephholecek@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



January 28, 6:30-8pm, HSMMPR-High School & College Planning Information Session. This OPTIONAL session is open to all, particularly families of 8th-11th graders. We'll talk about activities students can be doing to prepare for the next stage. Attention will be focused on career considerations, research into the best college fit, requesting letters of recommendation, scholarship search, etc.

February 18, 19 and 20, 6:30-8pm, HSMMPR- Panther Pathways. This event will be mandatory for current 8th grade families. The goal of Panther Pathways is to inform families of the benefits of continuing at the Academy, as well as providing supports for creating the 4 year plan that all 8th grade students are required to have on file. More information on this event will be announced in the coming weeks.

February 25, 6:30-8pm, HSMMPR- Dual Credit Information Night. This session is geared toward current 10th and 11th grade students interested in learning more about dual credit enrollment. We'll talk about the pros/cons of dual credits and provide information on how to move forward.

March 4- Senior Project Presentation Night. More information about this will be sent out soon. To stay up-to-date on upcoming deadlines or grading criteria, see the Academy website under "Student Services" and "Senior Calendar".

See Mrs. Wasson with questions Jwasson@cdacharter.org

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Southwestern Idaho Society of Women Engineers - open to women pursuing degrees in the fields of engineering or computer science. Do not have to attend an Idaho college to receive. Deadline is January 31
<http://swidaho.swe.org/scholarships.html>

Better Business Bureau (BBB) Scholarship - open to juniors and seniors. Two different awards - one for a video submission, another for an essay. See link for details.
<https://bbb-scholarship.org/>

Executive Women International (EWI) Spokane chapter - scholarships for current juniors. Award is up to \$6,000, due March 13, 2020. Read the criteria very carefully. See Mrs. Wasson with questions.
<https://ewispokane.org/scholarships/2020-ewisp-application-download/>

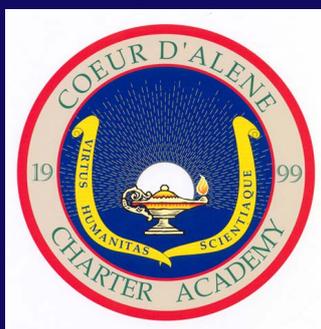
Remember to review the scholarship listings on the CDA Charter website.

FEB

05 WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

07 MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE

08 HIGH SCHOOL DANCE



LAURA BEYER
Marketing and Development

TERRI WALKER
Student Services

GAYLA FLEMING
Personnel Services Manager

MICHELLE BREDESON
Registrar

FAITH MITCHELL
Attendance

RACHEL REISWIG
Assistant to the Vice-Principal