

May 23, 2019

PA Secretary of Education Visits Greater Latrobe SD to Tour New Latrobe Elementary School, Honor Fred Rogers on '1-4-3 Day'

Latrobe, PA – In a twist on a Schools That Teach visit, Secretary of Education Pedro A. Rivera today joined Greater Latrobe School District Superintendent Judith Swigart to serve lunch to 5th and 6th-grade students at the new Latrobe Elementary School. The activity was part of Pennsylvania's "1-4-3 Day" honoring late Latrobe native Fred Rogers and his efforts to promote acts of kindness.

"This is a special visit on our Schools That Teach tour because we're visiting a school in the hometown of the late Fred Rogers and honoring his legacy of kindness by serving lunch to students," said Secretary Rivera. "It is a different but fun way for us to engage with both students and school employees, and hopefully it serves as an example of how intentional acts of kindness can take many forms."

Following lunch, Secretary Rivera joined educators, school board members and local officials to tour the new school and discuss current issues, including the importance of expanding student opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and in computer science.

Earlier this month, Governor Tom Wolf proclaimed May 23 as "1-4-3 Day" in Pennsylvania in honor of Fred Rogers' favorite number and issued a challenge to all Pennsylvanians to show neighbors more kindness to one another.

Pennsylvania native Fred Rogers, best known as Mister Rogers, regularly used 1-4-3 as a way of saying I-Love-You throughout his life and on his beloved television series, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. His reference was to the number of letters in each word: 1-4-3. May 23 is the 143rd day of the year.

The state's website is home to a "Kindness Generator" at pa.gov/143-day, to provide inspiration for the day, and a "Kindness Tracker" will tally good deeds and kind gestures Pennsylvanians do throughout the day. Residents are also urged to use #143DayInPA on social media to share and help spread the movement.

Through the Schools That Teach Initiative, Wolf Administration officials from multiple agencies have visited dozens of schools across the state to learn from educators and to discuss the governor's initiatives. Included in this year's budget proposal is the governor's new [Statewide Workforce, Education, and Accountability Program \(SWEAP\)](#), which calls for lowering the compulsory age for school attendance from 8 years to 6 years, raising the age at which students can drop out of school from 17 to 18, and increasing the minimum salary for teachers to \$45,000.



Mrs. Swigart and Secretary Rivera serve lunch to 5th and 6th grade students at Latrobe Elementary School.



Secretary Rivera speaks with students about their Day of Kindness activities in honor of #143DayinPA



First grader Blair Bernard reads to Secretary Rivera during his visit to the new Latrobe Elementary School. First graders made a Kindness Tree.

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