

# CLRI at CHS



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## City Honors School CLRI Team

- William Kresse, Principal
- Maria Monaco, School Psychologist
- Cassie Cammarata-Gonlag, Instructional Coach
- Elissa Banas, Guardian of Equity & IB DP Coordinator
- Danielle Grzymala, Parent & Parent Engagement Liaison (& CHS alumna)
- Nevaeh Foster '24, CLRI Student Scholar
- Charles Augustine '25, CLRI Student Scholar

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## What is CLRI?

- It stands for: Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Initiatives.
- The Buffalo Public Schools started to integrate a Culturally Responsive Curriculum into the curricula of the Buffalo Public Schools in 2016. This mission was spearheaded by our keynote speaker, Dr. Fatima Morrell (named Time Magazine's Innovative Teacher of the Year in 2022).

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## Buffalo Public Schools: Leading the way in New York State

- In 2018, New York State adopted its Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education framework – a significant part of that framework is based on the work of the Buffalo Public Schools.
- Every teacher in every public school district in New York State is required to integrate this framework into their teaching and learning.

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## Principles of the NYS CR-S Education Framework



Welcoming  
and affirming  
environment



High  
expectations  
and rigorous  
instruction



Inclusive  
curriculum and  
assessment



Ongoing  
professional  
learning

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## Why do NYS & BPS incorporate it?

- ❑ It embraces students' identities. It is a way of seeing diversity as a source of knowledge.
- ❑ Students use their own identity to receive an education. They learn using aspects of their race, social class, gender, language, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, or ability.
- ❑ Studies show that students learning within a culturally responsive sustaining education are more active in class. They graduate more often, with better grades. Their self-esteem improves, and they become better citizens.

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## CLRI Initiatives at CHS

### Our Story Project – run by Mr. O’Neil-White

An after-school and Saturday academy program that gives learning opportunities to all BPS students in grades 9-12. It focuses on BPS’s anti-racist curriculum, promotes student voice & social justice, includes lessons on diversity, and raises awareness on current and historical events.

### Big Sister, Little Sister

Created to support and empower one grade 11 and one grade 12 female scholar at every Buffalo Public School encompassing grades 11/12.

### My Brother’s Keeper Leadership Academy

Created to support and empower two grade 11 male scholars at every Buffalo Public School with high school juniors.

### CLRI Team

Attends monthly sessions on Disproportionality and is made up of five staff members and two student scholars.

### Guardian of Equity

Part of the CLRI Team, every Buffalo Public School has a guardian who is a liaison for the CLRI Office at the district level. They provide support for students and faculty to ensure that all students have equitable access to a culturally-responsive curriculum. Guardians participate in monthly PD related to the implementation of a culturally-responsive curricula.

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## FYI: We are lucky to live in NYS!

- 12 days ago, a law went into effect in Texas that mandated the elimination of all Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Offices in all state colleges and universities.
- In May 2023, state colleges and universities in Florida were banned from spending any funds on any diversity, equity, and inclusion programs or activities and a statewide review is occurring to eliminate any college courses or programs that assert “systemic racism, sexism, oppression, and privilege are ingrained in American society.”
- At the beginning of this school year, **all** Florida public school teachers were **required** to start teaching an updated middle school curriculum that asserts “slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit.”

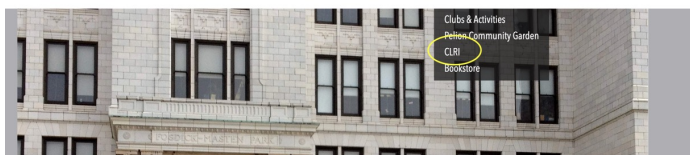
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# Want to know more?

Check out our brand new page on the CHS website (it is still being built out): <https://cityhonors.org/school-life/clri/>



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- Cassie Cammarata-Gorling, Instructional Coach
- Danielle Crzymala, Parent & Parent Engagement Liaison
- Neveeh Foster '24, CLRI Student Scholar
- Charles Augustine '25, CLRI Student Scholar

#### Our Story Project Coordinator:

- William O'Neil White, CHS Teacher