

ALL: Good evening, Board of Directors, We are representatives of the current fifth-grade class in the Carlisle Area School District. We represent all seven elementary schools from each part of our district, but tonight, we want to share our Carlisle story with you.

C: Hi, I'm Abdul from Crestview Elementary School, located in the northern most end of the district. My school has close to 550 students in it.

ND: Hello, I'm Molly from North Dickinson Elementary School, located in Dickinson Township on the south side of the district. My school has just over 200 students in it.

B: Hello, I'm Ahzani from Bellaire Elementary School, located in the Borough, adjacent to the high school complex. My school is just shy of 400 students.

L: Hi, I'm Serenity from LeTort Elementary School, located in the heart of Carlisle, next to LeTort Park. My school has approximately 250 students in it.

H: Hello, I'm Titus from Hamilton Elementary School, located next to the Carlisle Fairgrounds on the north side of town. My school has roughly 370 students in it.

MtH: Hi, I'm Evan from Mt. Holly Springs Elementary School, located in the southern most end of the district in Mt. Holly Springs. My school has approximately 220 students in it.

M: Hello, I'm Hudson from Mooreland Elementary School, located in the Borough next to Dickinson College. My school has just over 380 students in it from both the south and north sides of the district.

C: We all come tonight from various neighborhoods and communities with unique perspectives and experiences from each of our elementary schools.

ND: But our story is the same.

B: It's one of resiliency and determination.

L: Persistence and perseverance.

H: Tenacity and grit.

MtH: Love and compassion.

M: Tonight, we want to share with you our Carlisle story. The story that unites us as One Carlisle, as one community.

ND: There is nothing quite like the smell of spring in Dickinson Township on your way home from school. I open my window and take a nice big whiff of that country air. I grab my homework out of my backpack because mom tells me that I have to get it done before practice. Writing. My favorite. We are currently working on a persuasive essay. Mine? Convincing my teacher to get rid of homework. Mrs. Perez says that the draft is due tomorrow. I get to work and finish the first paragraph before my bus gets to my house. Mom rushes me to get ready for practice and in the car we go. At practice, I run into Ahzani, my friend from Bellaire.

B: I've always loved school. I've received a Bellfie with Mr. Bell every year! And my mom has them all hung on our refrigerator. Today, we're getting a new student. I am so excited I can hardly wait to get to school. Mrs. Yerkes told me that I'd be able to help him. I can't wait. "Bye, mom," I yell, as I rush out of the door and begin my walk to school. Just about the same time I walk in the room, Mrs. Yerkes introduces him to the class. His name is Titus, and he's from Hamiton.

H: I grab my scooter from the bike rack and head home for the day. Ms. Moyer's advise to be careful runs on replay in my mind as I zigzag through families and the car show traffic. I love the hustle and bustle of the car shows every fall and spring, but leaving school during the car shows can be a bit hectic. I scoot past the high school swim team selling hotdogs, and I wave to my brother's friend, Sam. I yell back, "Say hi to Hudson for me!" Hudson goes to Mooreland. One day we'll go to Lamberton together.

M: Field Day always ends too quickly. Mr. Grala always plans awesome games, and it's over before you know it. Cup stacking. Tug of war. Relay races. And the water games! Who doesn't love the water games? This year, I'm one of the helpers to clean the field at the end of the day. Mr. Grala gives us the okay to bring the equipment inside. Game by game, we help Mr. G disassemble field day. The bell rings and the announcement is made for early bussers to head to the library. Tommy grabs his belongings and heads to the library for dismissal. Tommy rides a van home each day. Not exactly sure why, but I wave goodbye to him as he heads home for the day.

MtH: Tommy is my younger brother, and he used to go to school with me. Now he goes to Mooreland for some extra help. Me? I'm still at Mt. Holly. And I wouldn't have it any other way. Looking out my classroom window at the trees as the leaves change color is my favorite past time. Don't tell Mrs. Shull! There is nothing like staring up at the mountain and feeling its strength and power. Who has a better view than me in Mrs. Shull's classroom? Swimming tonight. Looking forward to our next meet. I wonder if Abdul will be there. I only see him at swimming because he goes to Crestview. Fingers crossed he'll be there tonight.

C: Can you believe it? Mr. Carmichael dressed like a turtle and crawled around on the playground to kick-off this year's Turtle Race! My mom still talks about the times she had her Turtle Races at Crestview! I can't believe we still do the Turtle Race. I wonder if other schools have a Turtle Race. I'll have to ask Serenity. She goes to LeTort. Her brother and my sister are in band together. Tonight is the football game. When I see her at the game, I'm going to ask.

L: I just received a letter from my pen pal who now lives in Texas. I met Caroline last year when we were in fourth grade, and her father attended the War College. I miss her, but I look forward to her letters. This year, Maxine is my new Caroline. We are best friends. She tells me about her time overseas, and I tell her about all of the great places to eat in Carlisle. I'll be sad to see her go at the end of the year, but there will be a new Caroline and Maxine next year. And that's pretty cool. What other school can say that?

C: Our experiences are unique.

ND: And our memories are truly ours alone.

B: But our story is Carlisle's story.

L: When a daydreamer in Mt. Holly connects with a Turtle Race enthusiast from Crestview, and two students connect over siblings who both play in the high school marching band.

H: We may be seven elementary schools,

MtH: Stretched over 70 square miles from mountain to mountain.

M: But this is what it means to be a student in Carlisle.

ALL: This is Carlisle's story. We are ONE CARLISLE.