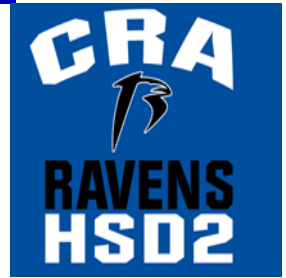




# CRA Chronicles



Career Readiness Academy  
(719) 579-2580



## From the Principal's Desk

Dear CRA Parents,

It seems as if August was a blur in our rearview mirror with just a week to go before finals and Winter Break. We look forward to some much-needed rest and family time for our students and staff. As we embark upon the holiday break, we want to give thanks for the wonderful students that you have given us a chance to teach, mentor and support this semester. Your students have made us proud with all of their hard work and self-perseverance throughout the school year.

Career Readiness Academy would like to congratulate all students who will graduate this semester! The hard work and accomplishments have not gone unnoticed and we at Career Readiness Academy are extremely proud of their success. Congratulations once again!

For those students who will continue at Career Readiness Academy semester, we encourage you to keep working towards your dream of graduation in May 2023. Although it may seem like a long way away, it will be here before you know it. So, keep your head to the grindstone and finish strong! The light at the end of the tunnel is shining brighter and brighter as we near graduation. Your student's education and well-being are very important to us, so feel free to reach out to us when needed.

The staff here at Career Readiness Academy would like to wish each one of you a **HAPPY HOLIDAY!!!!**

*Terry Dunn, Principal*

## Dates to Remember

- Dec 14 - No School for CRA
- Dec 15 - Winter Break Begins
- Jan 3 - Teacher Work Day
- Jan 4 - Students Return
- Jan 15 - MLK Day / District Closed
- Feb 19 - District Closed
- Feb 20 - 23 - No School
- Feb 21 - Parent Conferences

## Attendance/La Asistencia



Parents/Guardians, please remember to call each time your child is going to be absent. If you do not call, absences are marked as unexcused. (719) 579-2580

Padres, si su hijo/a va a llegar tarde o va a estar ausente, por favor llame a la oficina 579-2580 lo antes posible. Puede dejar un mensaje.

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE

**Your students enrollment at CRA may be at risk due to excessive absences, tardies, or lack of progress.** The biggest factor in your student's success is regular and punctual attendance. Frequent tardiness or absence can quickly interfere with a student's progress and result in poor academic work. We have been working hard with students to impress upon them the importance of getting to school and class on time. A tardy that is 10 minutes or more becomes an absence for the class. After the third absence with no parent contact, class accounts will be deactivated and will not be reactivated until a parent conference is held.

**Please remember to call 579-2580 and excuse your son/daughter when they are absent.** Students are allowed 10 parent excused absences within a school year. This does not include absences that are excused with professional documentation. Once a student has reached their 10 days of parent excused absences, additional absences will be unexcused unless professional documentation is provided by a medical provider, court documentation etc.

### DISTRICT UNEXCUSED ABSENCE POLICY

- (3) Unexcused absences = call home, conference with student.
- (5) Unexcused absences = call home, conference with parents, student may be placed on an attendance contract .
- (7) Unexcused absences = District Attendance letter will be sent home informing the parent/guardian that they are in danger of being referred to truancy court. An administrator will hold a meeting with the parent/guardian to review the content of the letter.
- (10) or more unexcused absences = the student will be referred to the Compulsory Attendance Officer, who will notify of the process for referral to truancy court if any more unexcused absences occur.

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Have an Amazing Winter Break!!

# CRA Classroom News

## *CRA Night School - Ms. McKinnon and Mr. Tsambarlis*

CRA Night School Students have been putting in a lot of work and progress has been made on credit recovery and getting closer to graduation! Night school already has 3 seniors who have met all credit requirements to graduate! Congratulations to them! All other students continue to work hard each night and are very focused on completing classes.

If you know of any students who would benefit from a night school schedule because of extenuating circumstances, send them our way! We would love to help them reach their goal of Graduation!

## **Ms. McKinnon - Career Education**

The end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter and the semester are here! This has been an exciting time in room 110! Several students have created and perfected their resume writing as well as applying for jobs, which some have successfully obtained. The students also participated in a group project where they researched and explored possible job opportunities to pursue once they graduate. This project also had them looking at what their monthly take-home paychecks would be and they then looked at what type of housing they would be able to afford with their income if they someday obtained their chosen career. This project was an eye-opener for many of them as to what it cost to live in an apartment or house that they find appealing. Students have completed 61 career and elective classes 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter with an average of 51% of students meeting their student written weekly goals.



Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns about your students progress!

## *Social Worker ~ Miss Nikki Oliphant*

Hello everyone!

I can't believe we are halfway through the year already! This quarter, students worked on mock interviews, applying for jobs, and taking brain breaks. Students are able to take breaks from their classroom for a designated time depending on class progress and it has really helped to increase motivation. They have also learned the importance of putting down their laptops and cell phones to work on something that can improve their mental health, such as puzzles, coloring, and playing board games.

I look forward to teaching the students about community resources and other life skills this upcoming quarter as they get closer to finishing another school year. As always, please reach out to me with any questions or needs such as food, housing, clothing, mental health, etc. I would be more than happy to help!

## *Counselor's Corner... Ms. Melva Hall*

**We are so thrilled to share the achievements of another successful semester:**

- **453 Classes completed:** Our dedicated students have successfully completed a total of 453 classes, contributing to a remarkable 2226.5 credits earned.
- **Eight Early Graduates:** Congratulations to the eight students who graduated early. Your hard work and dedication are truly commendable.

**Upcoming Events:**

- **D2 FAFSA Night - January 27, 2024:** Join us for an informative evening dedicated to helping you navigate the FAFSA process. Your education and financial future matter to us.
- **Sierra/CRA FAFSA Night - February 7, 2024:** Save the date for another FAFSA Night tailored to the Sierra/CRA community. Let's work together to unlock the possibilities of financial aid.

Please create your account prior to attending one of these events: <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>

**We also take pride in giving back to our community:**

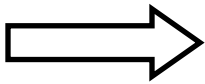
- **Holiday Sponsorship:** This season, we sponsored 12 families through partnerships with United Way and the Israel Church of God In Christ. Your support has made a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.
- Our strong commitment to student success leads to building great future leaders that build great communities.

# CRA Classroom News

## Mr. Jensen— English Language Arts

- Happy Holidays, CRA Family!
- The year and the semester are coming to an end.
- All of our students have put in a tremendous amount of effort and work so far this year. It's not easy, though. We hope to see a lot more work in the new year as semester two starts. As hard as our students have worked already, there is even more work to be done.
- Your students will be engaging in standardized testing, assessments, and more as the new year progresses. This is in addition to the hard work they will be putting into completing classes and getting the credits they need to graduate.
- With that in mind, I hope each of them gets to really relax and recharge over the winter break. They'll need their strength and their focus sharp to finish the year strong. As always, I will be here to support them and you in achieving the goals we have set.
- Feel free to reach out at [jojensen@hsd2.org](mailto:jojensen@hsd2.org) with any questions or concerns about your students progress.
- Looking forward to a great rest of the year, Jensen.

### Mr. Delos Reyes Science & Social Studies



Mabuhay!

"Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go." - T.S. Eliot

Almost five months of spending time at Carrer Readiness Academy with the students, colleagues, and administrators have been a rollercoaster ride of pure excitement, nervousness, and fun. Getting to know the students personally when they share some of their stories has been a part of my adventure in the land of opportunity. What makes this experience worth taking on is that not only do I get a part of their lives but also of their successes here in CRA. I believe that every day is a constant battle on the part of the student, be it personal, professional, social, or their academics, and what I want to instill in them is to improve, not to be ahead of anyone, but to be better than who they were yesterday. I came in United States with the thought of not competing with others, but to compete with myself.

This school year has been starting great, and I hope that all of us will continue to move forward with our aspirations in life in mind. I wish you a happy and fulfilling holiday!

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Mr. Gallegos – Math

**Congrats to our  
1st Semester  
Early Graduates!!!**

- Kyzhaneyah Buford**
- Le'Azia Brandt**
- Daezere Drain**
- David Flores**
- Alexander Garcia**
- Jessica Garcia**
- Lanessa Huery**
- Taylor Marshall**



I want to first thank the students for one of the most successful fall semesters in CRA history with a record high class completion rate in Math! One of the reasons I love working for this school is to make an impact on students' lives in helping prepare them to become professionals for the future and the workplace. Also, providing meaningful curriculum to students that they will need for their lives. It is always good to remember that Math is essential to carry out important tasks whether it is work or personal related.

Continuing next semester, students can still choose to work on any of the following to receive credit: worksheets, Edmentum, or IXL. After receiving students' feedback and data from performance, the results were that implementing worksheets into the curriculum had been the most popular and successful method. Since many students are kinesthetic learners, it would be beneficial for them to write down their thought processes on paper. Edmentum will remain the main platform for CRA while IXL will serve as an additional intervention strategy for their Math classes. The main goal of IXL is for students to test what they already know and build a foundation of skills by completing recommended assignments that are designed specifically for each student.

It is important to reach out to teachers and administrators for communication and support. My email is [magallegos@hsd2.org](mailto:magallegos@hsd2.org) if you have any questions.

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: [facebook.com/CareerReadinessAcademy](https://facebook.com/CareerReadinessAcademy)**

## District Corner News - December 2023

Out of District Choice Enrollment is open for the 2024-2025 school year!

What can District 2 offer you?

- International Baccalaureate and K-8 options
- Aspire Online Academy K-12
- Specialized Dyslexia School K-5
- Gifted Education Program starting in kindergarten
- Laptops provided for all students
- Internet for families in need
- Free breakfast and lunch
- Free K-8 school supplies
- Free before and after care at all elementary schools
- Free AP classes and AP tests
- Earn an associate degree before you graduate high school at no cost
- Earn your high school diploma and a trade certificate at no cost
- Free college through the Dakota Promise Program at Pikes Peak State College for D2 graduates

Choice forms are available on the D2 website, in the Student Support office in the administration building, and at the school. The completed choice form with supporting documents\* must be turned in to Student Support at the District Administration Office, 1060 Harrison Road, during business hours Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

\*Students currently attending out-of-district schools or charter schools must provide the most recent attendance record, discipline record, and grades/transcript from their current school as supporting documents. When you turn in your forms, you will need to bring a photo ID for verification purposes.

Applications are on a first come first serve basis and will be reviewed and approved or denied based on available space, attendance, and behavior.

Parents will be notified of their status.

A Choice form must be filled out when moving to the next level if your student is currently choiced into a school other than your neighborhood school (from elementary school to middle school, or middle school to high school).

The D2 district offices will be closed December 22, 2023 – January 1, 2024.

## Esquina de Noticias del Distrito - diciembre 2023

La inscripción de traslado o Choice para estudiantes que viven fuera de nuestro distrito están abiertas para el año escolar 2024-2025.

¿Qué ventajas ofrece nuestro distrito?

- Escuelas que ofrecen kínder hasta octavo grado (K-8) y el programa International Baccalaureate
- La escuela en línea Aspire Online Academy (K-12)
- Escuela especial para estudiantes con dislexia (K-5)
- Programa para estudiantes dotados desde el kínder
- Computadoras portátiles para todos los estudiantes
- Servicio de internet para las familias que lo necesitan
- Desayuno y almuerzo gratis
- Útiles escolares gratis para estudiantes de K-8
- Cuidado infantil antes y después de la escuela en todas las escuelas primarias
- Cursos y exámenes AP de nivel avanzado
- La oportunidad de obtener un título universitario básico (Associate Degree) antes de graduarse y sin costo alguno
- Obtener su diploma de secundaria o un certificado vocacional sin costo alguno
- Educación universitaria gratis a través del programa Dakota Promise en la escuela Pikes Peak State College para los estudiantes graduados de nuestro distrito

Las solicitudes están disponibles en nuestra página de internet, en la escuela o en las oficinas del distrito. Se debe llenar y entregar la solicitud junto a los documentos requeridos\* en las oficinas centrales del distrito, en el departamento de Student Support ubicado en 1060 Harrison Rd, lunes a viernes de 7:30 am a 4:30 pm.

\*Los estudiantes que vengan de una escuela afuera de nuestro distrito o de una escuela charter deben entregar un reporte de calificaciones, asistencia y comportamiento de su escuela actual junto a la solicitud. Por favor, traiga su identificación con foto (licencia de conducir, pasaporte, etc.)

Las solicitudes serán procesadas en el orden recibidas y serán aprobadas o rechazadas dependiendo del espacio disponible y los reportes presentados.

Le avisaremos tan pronto procesemos la solicitud.

También debe llenar una nueva solicitud cuando el estudiante cambie de nivel escolar (de primaria a escuela media o de escuela media a secundaria) y la escuela previamente aprobada no corresponde a su domicilio.

Las oficinas del distrito estarán cerradas desde el 22 de diciembre hasta el 1 de enero de 2024.