



CRA Chronicles



Career Readiness Academy
(719) 579-2580



From the Principal's Desk

Welcome, CRA parents and families to our September Newsletter!

Since the beginning of school in August, a lot of exciting things have happened at CRA. We have had guest speakers from International Spa and Beauty Salon as well as a visit and presentation from Chadajah Craig, a renowned speaker from Jackson, Mississippi.

CRA welcomed two new staff members, Mitch Delos Reyes, Science and Social Studies teacher and Kate McKinnon, Career Education and Electives instructor. We welcome them to the CRA family!

We are in our second year of Night School and continue to attract students from in district and other districts. CRA Night school enrollment has increased and so has our CRA staff! Teachers Ms. Kate and Mr. Tsambarlis, together with our classroom assistants Mr. Walker and Mr. Nemanich, work together so our students have a successful experience. Our on site Night School Administrator is Ms. Melva Hall. Please reach out if you have any questions!

Since August, our CRA student population has grown to 84 students and continues to grow. We are excited about our upcoming Back to School Night and look forward to our Family Night which will occur in November before Thanksgiving Break.

CRA staff are very excited about our students and the direction in which they are headed! Students have been hard at work and class completions are coming in! Great job students and Staff! Keep up the good work!

CRA provides several academic options and welcomes students who wish to complete their high school education and receive their high school diploma. Please visit our website for additional information. **GO RAVENS!!!!**

Terry Dunn, Principal

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.

Dates to Remember

Sept 4 - Labor Day
 Sept 5 - Teacher Work Day
 Sept 13 - Back to School Night
 Sept 27 - Mock PSAT
 Oct 3 - ACT WorkKeys Testing
 Oct 9 - Teacher Work Day
 Oct 10 - Parent Conferences
 Oct 11 thru 13 - No School

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.

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Doubting yourself is normal. Letting it stop you is a choice.
 ~Mel Robbins

CRA Classroom News

CRA Night School - Ms. McKinnon . / Mr. Tsambarlis

We are Ms. Kate and Mr. Tsambarlis, together with our classroom assistants Mr. Walker and Mr. Nemanich, we work together teaching CRA Night School with students who come from both HSD2 High Schools and other schools in our community. Our students are traditional high school students who have found that night classes work better for them so that they may seek employment during the day as well as students who are working on credit recovery to earn their high school diploma.

Our goal is to promote collaboration between students and teachers to help the students get the most out of their Night School experience, to graduate, and to move into the career field of their choice. Collectively our students have completed 60 classes since the beginning of the school year which is an amazing 30 credits recovered!

Ms. McKinnon - Career Education

Hi! I am Ms. Kate and this is my 8th year with HSD2 and my 1st working with CRA! I started out in HSD2 as a paraeducator in Special Education and later a teacher in Special Education and have now been teaching in HSD2 for 5 years.

I am the career education teacher for CRA and I work with students on completing their elective classes as well as career orientated classes that relate directly to their own career goals. It is a professional goal of mine to make sure students are getting out and about in the community as much as possible and getting hands-on experience in fields of interest to them. I am excited to be working with CRA and to work with students and help them figure out the next step in life after graduation.

When I am not working, I have two dogs that I like to spend my time with. We go on walks in our neighborhood as well as explore different parks and open spaces around Colorado Springs.

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



Social Worker ~ Ms. Nikki Oliphant

Hello everyone!

My name is Nicole Oliphant, aka Ms. Nikki, and I am the school social worker. I was born and raised in Colorado. I have a son that I spend most of my free time with. We love music, anime, going to parks, playing basketball and baseball, and going to his football games. Aside from hanging out with him, I play Fortnite and watch basketball; I know...so exciting!

This is my second year here at CRA and I couldn't be more grateful to work for an amazing school and the wonderful families we serve. I recently received all the materials I need to start groups, so this year I will be conducting a weekly young men's and young ladies group. Group is a good way for students to reflect on themselves, as well as hear other perspectives, to ultimately gain skills necessary to grow mentally and emotionally. We will discuss topics such as finances, budgeting, relationships, empathy, and many more. Aside from group, my classroom is a safe space for students to come see me about anything they need, even if it's just to vent their frustrations. If you need any community resources for food, finances, clothing, or any other needs, please don't hesitate to reach out!

Counselor's Corner... Ms. Melva Hall

My name is Melva Hall, and this is my fourth year as the counselor for CRA Day School and my second year as the CRA Night School Administrator. As I walk through classrooms, students are focused and working diligently. We are a month in and 25+ courses have been completed. What a way to start!

Students will need 23 specific credits to graduate and will need to successfully complete one item from the **Menu of Options**. Our students have or will take the ACT Work Keys Test to satisfy the requirement if they have not met the SAT requirement as an 11th grader.

<https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/grad-menu>

I am currently meeting with seniors on their graduation and career plans. I am here to help students with career or college goals. I will assist your student with filling out the Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) Application and any other college, work, or apprenticeship applications as well.

<https://www.pikespeak.edu/admissions/apply.php>

I can also assist a little with the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** page, however, parents will have to provide the needed documents to complete.

<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>

You can contact me at mehall@hds2.org at any time. I am excited to work with your student.

CRA Classroom News

Mr. Jensen— English Language Arts

Greetings, CRA Family!

I'm Mr. Jensen, the English teacher here at CRA. This is my third year here, and I'm honored to be back.

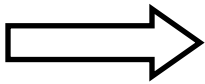
It has been an exciting start to the year so far. We've introduced IXL, a new program designed to assess your students' needs and provide them with tutorials on how to fill those needs. We're looking forward to sharing their progress with you at the parent-teacher conferences in October. We are also going to be continuing the Reading for Relevance program we started last year. It was a student favorite, and they are eager to pick it back up.

I have been teaching for 6 years now, and I love working with the students at CRA. We have a special opportunity to connect and get work done in a way traditional schools are missing.

One last thing: Every week, I will be sending out emails with student progress, so keep your eyes peeled for those emails on Mondays!

Feel free to reach out at jojensen@hds2.org with any questions or concerns about your students progress.

Mr. Delos Reyes Science & Social Studies



Mabuhay!

My name is Mitch Joe and it is my 1st year working with HSD2 and CRA! I applied for the BRIDGE USA Program which attracts 300,000 individuals from 200 countries, including my country the Philippines. The mission of the program is to increase mutual understanding between Americans and people of other countries which remains vital to U.S. national security and building people-to-people connections around the world.

While in the land of dreams, I will be teaching Science and Social Studies for Career Readiness Academy. Before coming into America, I already had three years of public teaching experience. I am excited to meet new students, mutually learn from each other, and be part of their success. This cross-cultural experience will be a learning curve that in the future I can share in the development of alternative learning education in my home country.

I like to play badminton, eat good food, and go on new adventures! I think Colorado is a good place to start!

I would like to hear from you and let us work together towards your child's success.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Congrats to the
first class completers
of the year!!**

LANESSA HUERY

DAVID FLORES (2)

ALEX YOKEUM

AYAD AL LAMI

HELENA BUKURU



Mr. Gallegos – Math

My name is Mr. Marcos Gallegos, and I am the Math Teacher at Career Readiness Academy. I graduated from James Irwin Charter High School in 2013 and received my bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2017. This is my fourth year at Career Readiness Academy and my fifth year employed at Harrison School District 2. It has been an honor getting to know every student. I welcome all new and returning students to be a part of the Academy for Fall 2023. One of the reasons I love working for this school is making an impact on students' lives to prepare themselves 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 an important task whether it is work or personal related.

This year, students can choose to work on any of the following curriculum in all their math classes for credit: Edmentum, IXL, or worksheets. Edmentum is the main platform for CRA. This Fall, a new program called IXL was added. The main goal is for students to test what they know and build a foundation of skills by completing recommended assignments designed for the student. Lastly, in Spring 2023, I also incorporated worksheets to enhance kinesthetic learning. The best way to practice math problems is by writing down each of the steps by hand. When looking at student feedback from last year, most of them prefer paper assignments.

I know that Math can be a difficult subject for many which is why there are currently 3 options for students to work on. I hope this can help alleviate academic stress and increase student autonomy where they can take control of their own education. The beauty of CRA is that students work at their own pace and show mastery of the fundamentals at a high school level to align with the Colorado Standards.

It is important to reach out to teachers and administrators for communication and support. My email is magallegos@hds2.org if you have any questions.

CONGRATULATIONS KYZHANEYAH!!
Our First Class of 2024 Early Graduate!

District Corner News - September 2023

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year in Harrison School District 2. We offer many opportunities for you to be informed about the direction of our school district and hope you will take advantage of each one. Be in the know!!

- Provide your child's school with your current email and cell phone number – allowing you to receive emergency and inclement weather updates
- Follow us on social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Vimeo
- Download our District app **for free** from the App Store or Google Play
- Check our website regularly at www.hsd2.org
- Watch Board of Education meetings monthly via the District's Facebook page and website

Esquina de Noticias del Distrito - September 2023

Bienvenidos al año escolar 2023-2024 en el Distrito Escolar Dos de Harrison (D2). Ofrecemos muchas oportunidades para que se informe sobre la dirección de nuestro distrito escolar y esperamos que aproveche cada una. ¡¡Estar en el saber!!

- Proporcione a la escuela de su hijo su correo electrónico y número de teléfono móvil actuales, lo que le permitirá recibir actualizaciones de emergencias y condiciones meteorológicas adversas
- Síguenos en las redes sociales: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram y Vimeo
- Descargue nuestra aplicación del Distrito de forma gratuita desde la App Store o Google Play
- Visite nuestro sitio web con regularidad en www.hsd2.org
- Ve a las reuniones de la Junta de Educación mensualmente a través de la página de Facebook y el sitio web del Distrito.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT: facebook.com/CareerReadinessAcademy

IT'S YOUR
VOICE

HOW WILL
YOU USE
IT?

safe2tell
Colorado

1-877-542-7233
safe2tellico.org

Available on the App Store and Google Play



Don't forget! Harrison School District offers Entrada Health Clinic which is free to all HSD2 students and siblings from birth to 21 years of age. Services include Physical Health and Sick Child Care, Behavioral Health Care and Counseling, Dental Referrals, Immunizations, Dental Referrals and Medicaid, CHP+, CACP, Sliding Scale Enrollment. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please call (719) 344-6743 to make an appointment or to enroll.