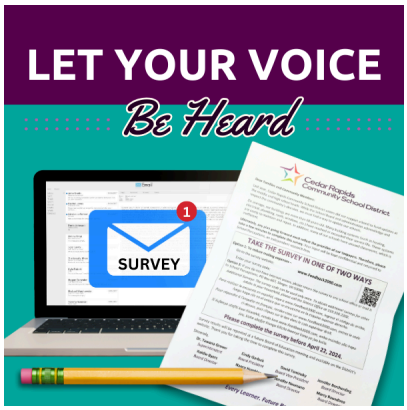
SHARE:

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Future Ready. Today.

Cedar Rapids Community School District

Help Shape the Future of Our District



Last week, a survey landed in the email inboxes and mailboxes of staff, families, and voters across our district. This survey is your chance to help shape the future of CRCSD. Our schools are the cornerstone of our community, but time has taken its toll on our facilities. Now, we stand at a crossroads, and we want your input on how to move forward.

The survey, administered by School Perception, an independent education research firm, asks you to share your thoughts on the district's Future Ready Facilities Plan and how we should address our aging buildings. It's available in English, Spanish, French, and Swahili, ensuring every member of our diverse community has a seat at the table.

The deadline to complete the survey is Monday, April 22nd. All responses and personal information will be kept confidential and returned directly to School Perceptions for analysis. They will share their findings with the Board of Education at the May 13th board meeting and provide suggestions for our next course of action.

Your participation is essential! Together, we can build a future where every child thrives and every community member finds pride in our schools.

News & Updates

From Textbooks to Totality: Students Learn Through Viewing Eclipse



From playgrounds to football fields, students and staff from across the district gathered on Monday, April 8th, to witness a rare celestial event. Excitement filled the air as students donned their special eclipse glasses and watched as the moon passed in front of the sun. While the moon only covered about 85 percent of the sun here in Iowa, a total solar eclipse was visible in several states around the country.

In science classes leading up to the event, teachers like Taft's Jill Anderson taught students about the mechanics of a solar eclipse and the importance of protective eyewear. Many younger students got the chance to craft their own eclipse-viewing masks and crowns, adding a touch of fun and creativity to the special event.

While you can teach and read about an eclipse, taking the students outside and letting them experience it firsthand helped bring the learning to life. Though the next solar eclipse visible in the United States is still many years away, hopefully, the memories from Monday will stay with our students for years to come.

Eclipse Viewing Photos

Operation Backstage



The magic of live theater was revealed to 3rd graders from Erskine Elementary and Johnson STEAM Academy this week. The program, called Operation Backpack, was a collaboration between Playtime Poppy and Washington High School and allows students to experience life behind the scenes of a theatrical production and what it takes to bring a story to life on the stage. The program also helps to reinforce a few literacy and language art standards like storytelling, summarizing, visualization, and making inferences. From wielding paint brushes to mastering a spotlight, these budding thespians learned about building sets, costume design, applying theatrical make-up, lighting, rigging systems, stage effects, and more.

Photos

Washington Thespians are On The Case



Preparations are underway at Washington High School as they get ready to present a modern twist on the beloved classic, “The Hardy Boys.” This interactive production invites theatergoers of all ages to join Frank and Joe Hardy on a sleuthing adventure as they investigate a mystery that shakes their town of Bayport.

“*We’re excited to share the thrills and mysteries of the iconic Hardy Boy books with a new generation*," said Kyle Woollums, Washington High School Theatre director and playwright of the production.

This Playtime Poppy production is family-friendly and will hit the stage April 18-20. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased online or at the door.

Kennedy Spring Musical



Be prepared to be transported to the streets of Victorian London for Kennedy High School’s spring musical “*Sweeney Todd: A Musical Thriller*.” The musical follows a 19th-century London barber seeking revenge for being framed and wrongfully imprisoned. Released from prison, he rents a room over Mrs. Lovett’s struggling pie shop and opens a barber shop. Soon, however, his road to revenge leads to murder. His new thirst for blood soon inspires the introduction of a “special ingredient” into Mrs. Lovett’s pies, which have customers lining up around the block.

The musical will run April 18-20 at Kennedy High School. Click here for tickets and show times.

Graduation Ceremony Dates



In a little over a month, high school seniors across the District will walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. Here are the dates and locations for the upcoming graduation ceremonies. Mark your calendars!

- Metro High School - Wednesday, May 22, 2024, 7:00 PM, DoubleTree Convention Complex
- Kennedy High School - Thursday, May 23, 2024, 7:00 PM, Alliant Energy Power House
- Washington High School - Friday, May 24, 2024, 7:00 PM, Alliant Energy Power House
- Jefferson High School - SaturdayMay 24, 2024, 7:00 PM, Alliant Energy Power House

PPEL Renewal Coming

For fifty years, the community has supported Cedar Rapids Community School District's PPEL (Physical Plant and Equipment Levy). It is the District's primary source of funding for the repairs, purchases, and improvements of our facilities, equipment, and vehicles. Of Iowa's 331 public school districts, more than 85% have a voted PPEL in place.

Maintaining 34 buildings spanning 2.7 million square feet and 425 acres of grounds is no small feat. But with the help of PPEL, the district has been able to complete 506 different projects across the district over the last 10 years. This includes safety improvements, building repairs, bus purchases, technological advancements, asbestos management, ADA compliance, and more.

PPEL requires voters' reapproval every ten years, and it will appear on the ballot once again this September. If renewed, the district's PPEL would continue at the current rate of $1.34 per $1,000 of assessed property value, and it would NOT impact residents' property taxes.

Teacher of the Year Nominations

Has a CRCSD teacher made a difference in your student's life? The Iowa Department of Education is now accepting nominations for the 2025 Iowa Teacher of the Year award through April 16th. Staff members, parents, and community members can submit a nomination for an outstanding teacher in our district. Nine semi-finalists will be selected from all the nominations to receive the Regional Teacher of the Year awards. Then, one lucky teacher will be named the 2025 Iowa Teacher of the Year.

Over the last twenty years, CRCSD has had two teachers chosen for this prestigious honor, and many more have received regional awards. Help shine a light on the fantastic teachers in our district by submitting your nominations today!

Nominate a Teacher

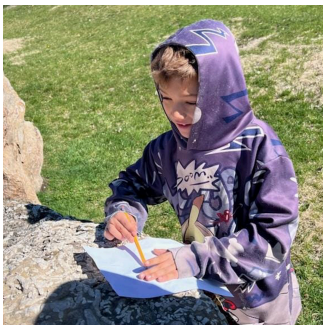
Glance Around The District



Hiawatha Elementary Fourth and fifth graders created these awesome cat toys for the Humane Society during Kindness Club. They look great!



2nd graders at Johnson STEAM Academy got a musical treat this week. The school's 3rd-5th grade Orff Ensemble presented a mini-concert to excite and inspire the younger students to join the musical group next year.



Cedar River Academy Third graders took an expedition to the Fossil Gorge! They were surprised to learn that Iowa was an ocean 375 million years ago, but found plenty of seashells and coral fossils as evidence of prehistoric marine life!



Kids On Course students from Jefferson High School visited the University of Iowa baseball stadium this week and got a behind-the-scenes tour with the Iowa baseball team!



Metro High School's Field Science Class conducted water quality tests at McLoud Run this week. They plan to monitor the stream for any fluctuations in water quality and investigate the underlying causes.



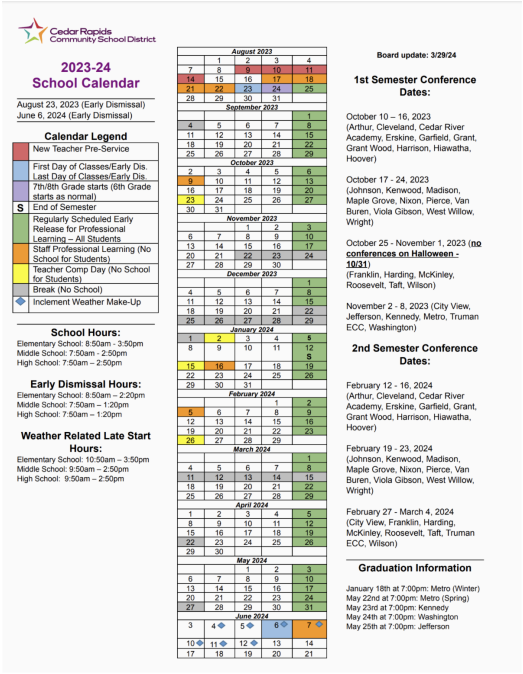
A group of Washington High School students had the opportunity to attend the Black College Expo in Chicago, where they attended seminars and connected with different historically black colleges and universities.

CRCSD In the News

In case you missed it, here are recent news items about or of interest to Cedar Rapids Community School District students, teachers, and parents.

- Gazette: Growing enrollment leads to stability in Cedar Rapids schools' budget
- KCRG: Cedar Rapids Schools hold survey for future bond plan
- Gazette: 'Payday' for Cedar Rapids science teacher as students watch solar eclipse
- Gazette: Cedar Rapids schools begin design of new college and career academies

District Calendars


Cedar Rapids Community School District

2023-24 School Calendar

August 23, 2023 (Early Dismissal)
June 6, 2024 (Early Dismissal)

Calendar Legend

- New Teacher Pre-Service
- First Day of Classes/Early Dis. Last Day of Classes/Early Dis.
- 7th/8th Grade starts (6th Grade starts as normal)
- S End of Semester
- Regularly Scheduled Early Release for Professional Learning – All Students
- Staff Professional Learning (No School for Students)
- Teacher Comp Day (No School for Students)
- Break (No School)
- Inclement Weather Make-Up

School Hours:
Elementary School: 8:50am - 3:50pm
Middle School: 7:50am - 2:50pm
High School: 7:50am – 2:50pm

Early Dismissal Hours:
Elementary School: 8:50am – 2:20pm
Middle School: 7:50am – 1:20pm
High School: 7:50am – 1:20pm

Weather Related Late Start Hours:
Elementary School: 10:50am – 3:50pm
Middle School: 9:50am – 2:50pm
High School: 9:50am – 2:50pm

August 2023

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April 2024

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June 2024

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Board update: 3/29/24

1st Semester Conference Dates:

October 10 – 16, 2023 (Arthur, Cleveland, Cedar River Academy, Erskine, Garfield, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison, Hiawatha, Hoover)

October 17 - 24, 2023 (Johnson, Kenwood, Madison, Maple Grove, Nixon, Pierce, Van Buren, Viola Gibson, West Willow, Wright)

October 25 - November 1, 2023 (**no conferences on Halloween - 10/31**) (Franklin, Harding, McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson)

November 2 - 8, 2023 (City View, Jefferson, Kennedy, Metro, Truman ECC, Washington)

2nd Semester Conference Dates:

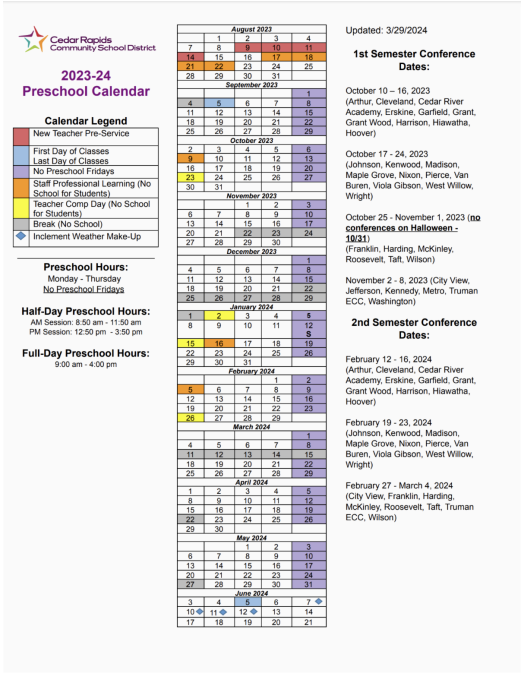
February 12 - 16, 2024 (Arthur, Cleveland, Cedar River Academy, Erskine, Garfield, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison, Hiawatha, Hoover)

February 19 - 23, 2024 (Johnson, Kenwood, Madison, Maple Grove, Nixon, Pierce, Van Buren, Viola Gibson, West Willow, Wright)

February 27 - March 4, 2024 (City View, Franklin, Harding, McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Truman ECC, Wilson)

Graduation Information

January 18th at 7:00pm: Metro (Winter)
May 22nd at 7:00pm: Metro (Spring)
May 23rd at 7:00pm: Kennedy
May 24th at 7:00pm: Washington
May 25th at 7:00pm: Jefferson


Cedar Rapids Community School District

2023-24 Preschool Calendar

Calendar Legend

- New Teacher Pre-Service
- First Day of Classes Last Day of Classes
- No Preschool Fridays
- Staff Professional Learning (No School for Students)
- Teacher Comp Day (No School for Students)
- Break (No School)
- Inclement Weather Make-Up

Preschool Hours:
Monday - Thursday
No Preschool Fridays

Half-Day Preschool Hours:
AM Session: 8:50 am - 11:50 am
PM Session: 12:50 pm - 3:50 pm

Full-Day Preschool Hours:
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

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Updated: 3/29/2024

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[2023-24 School Calendar]

[2023-24 Preschool Calendar]

Visit our Calendar page

[Jefferson High School Activities Calendar]

[Kennedy High School Activities Calendar]

[Washington High School Activities Calendar]

CRCSD is hiring! [View open positions and apply here.]

[Learn more about breakfast and lunch meals here.]

[View your school's virtual backpack]

Follow us on social media for the latest updates:

Sign up for Future Ready Today

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to discriminate in educational programs and/or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, disability, age (except for permitting/prohibiting students to engage in certain activities) or genetic information and in employment opportunities on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability or genetic information. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact Darius Ballard, Chief of Human Resources, Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

April 12, 2024

Cedar Rapids Community School District | 2500 Edgewood Dr NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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