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Future Ready. Today.

Cedar Rapids Community School District

Community Survey Coming Soon



In the next few weeks, the District will mail and email out a community survey to all households in our district. The survey aims to gather input from staff, families, and the community on how best to address our facility needs.

The email and mail survey will come from School Perceptions, an independent education research firm we are working with to administer the survey. The survey will be available in English, Spanish, French, and Swahili. Your input will be kept confidential and returned to School Perceptions, who will analyze the data and report the findings to the Board of Education in the coming months.

Your voice is important to us and will help shape the district's future. We greatly appreciate you taking the time to participate and fill out the survey.

Shive Hattery and MA+ Architects Visits Schools

Over the last four days, a collaborative team comprised of members from Shive Hattery Architects, MA+ Architects, Larson Construction, and CRCSD Building and Grounds personnel did an extensive tour of all 32 Cedar Rapids Community School District school buildings. Besides the tour, the team also had in-depth discussions with each school's administrative team to help identify their building's current needs and their ideas for improving and optimizing their schools.

"Walking through a building when it's empty doesn't give you a full understanding of the activities that take place there," said Heath Tate, Principal Architect at MA+. *"There is value in experiencing the school environment firsthand. Seeing how big the lunchrooms are and how many lunch periods they run, facing the congestion in hallways, and seeing the organized chaos."*

Chad Schumacher, CRCSD Director of Operations, underscored the significance of these tours in aligning present realities with future aspirations. *"The tours are very important to see where we're at now and understand what we need to do to get to the future,"* remarked Schumacher. *"We understand that education programs and things offered within our buildings change constantly, so we need to be agile and be able to pivot as things change."*

The building tours were just one facet of the team's multifaceted approach to creating a comprehensive review of the district. They will also use data and insights from previous assessments, including a 2017-2018 analysis of the district's elementary facilities and a

2022 analysis of the district's secondary buildings, to help understand the district's diverse educational landscape. The information gathered will help the team formulate a comprehensive strategy to address the district's aging infrastructure and how we should move forward.

Looking ahead, the team will present their findings and proposed action plan to the Board of Education in the coming months.



News & Updates

Harrison & Madison Announcement



We wanted to provide you with an update on Harrison and Madison Elementary Schools. It has been decided that Harrison and Madison students will continue to attend their current schools for the 2024-2025 school year. Given some of the variables we are currently working with, we believe this is in the best interest of our students, staff, and families for next year. We are also pleased to announce that Trista Manternach will continue to serve as principal for both buildings next year.

ISASP Testing April 3-19



Every year, schools across Iowa are required to give the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP). This assessment meets the requirements of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and is aligned with the Iowa Core Academic Standards. It provides a clear and accurate assessment of student learning, growth, and proficiency.

All Iowa students in grades 3-11 are required to participate in ISASP testing. Students in grades K-2 and high school seniors DO NOT take the ISASP. CRCSD students will be taking the ISASP tests between April 3-19. Specific testing dates will be sent to families from their students' school buildings.

Here is some additional information about ISASP testing:

- All students will take the ISASP assessment online. Secondary students must bring their school-issued Chromebook and power cord for testing.
- ISASP assesses reading, language/writing, and math in grades 3-11. Science is also assessed in grades 5, 8, and 10.

- The assessment is untimed, however students must complete an assessment on the same day it is started.
- Test questions include multiple choice, matching, sorting, and short answer.
- Assessment results will be made available to schools and families. We hope to receive this information by the end of the school year, but we may not have final results until the fall.
- Practice assessments are available online and can be done at home with your student to help prepare. Practice assessments can be found here: https://iowa.pearsonaccess.com/test-prep/.
- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a good breakfast before taking the assessment.

Puckering Up for a Good Cause



Over the past few weeks, the class councils at Kennedy High School united to create a memorable fundraiser to raise money for Waypoint Services, a local nonprofit dedicated to helping people experiencing housing instability, poverty, and domestic violence. With an ambitious goal of raising over $1,300 the group came up with a unique incentive for the student body to help rally support and donations. If they managed to meet their fundraising goal, a group of teachers would kiss a cow at the next pep assembly.

In a week and a half, the group raised $580. Despite falling short of their original goal, five brave teachers still agreed to pucker up. So, at a school pep assembly on Thursday afternoon, Kennedy teachers Kyle Clark, Tracy Bowers, Kristina Merritt, Hillary Nekvinda, and Miranda Arends all planted a kiss on the snout of a baby cow. The "moo-larious" sight brought a chorus of laughter, screams, and cheers from the crowd.

While the comedic spectacle provided a lighthearted moment of entertainment, it also showed the dedication and willingness of the faculty to support their students. The fundraiser also served as a powerful reminder of the power of community and collective action in creating positive change within the community.

Glance Around The District



Johnson STEAM Academy held its second "Family STEAM Night" last week. Those in attendance enjoyed several hands-on STEAM activities, books, and pizza.



On Wednesday, Maple Grove Elementary welcomed Orchestra Iowa's woodwind quintet for an engaging musical experience. This visit was part of Orchestra Iowa's "Music in the Schools" initiative, designed to teach students about music.



This week, Hoover Elementary students celebrated earning 10,000 P.B.I.S. tickets with a glow party this week. Students earn P.B.I.S. tickets for being respectful, responsible, and safe in school each day.



The Kenwood “Battle of the Books” team scored among the top 16 teams in Iowa on the Battle of the Books Qualifying Test, demonstrating their knowledge of 21 different award-winning books they had read!



Congrats to Kennedy High School's Happiness, Inc! They finished 6th in the Show Choir National Competition in Nashville last weekend. They also took home awards for Best Stage Crew and Best Female Performer (Raiya Hurt).



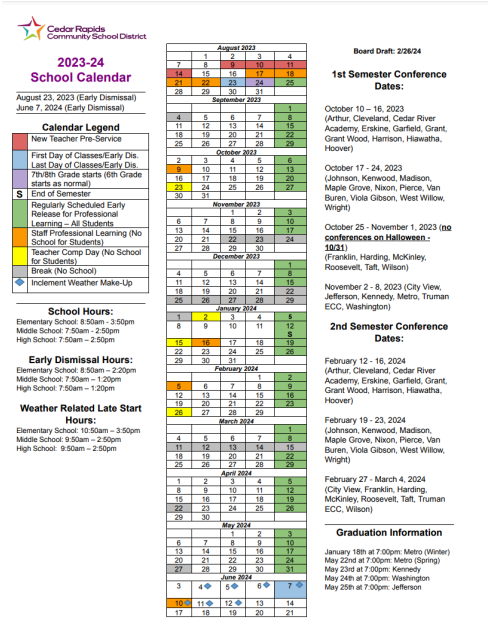
A group of Washington High School students and teachers traveled to Guatemala for a service trip over spring break. They worked with Imaginguatamala and built four homes for families in need. Check out the Recap video

CRCSD In the News

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

- **KCRG:** CRCSD invites architects to tour schools as part of their new facilities master plan
- **KWWL:** Architects visit Cedar Rapids to come up with new ways to update school buildings
- **KGAN:** Architects tour CRCSD schools for potential improvements

District Calendars


Cedar Rapids Community School District

2023-24 School Calendar

August 23, 2023 (Early Dismissal)
June 7, 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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September 2023

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October 2023

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November 2023

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December 2023

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January 2024

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February 2024

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April 2024

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May 2024

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June 2024

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17	18	19	20	21		

Board Draft: 2/26/24

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)

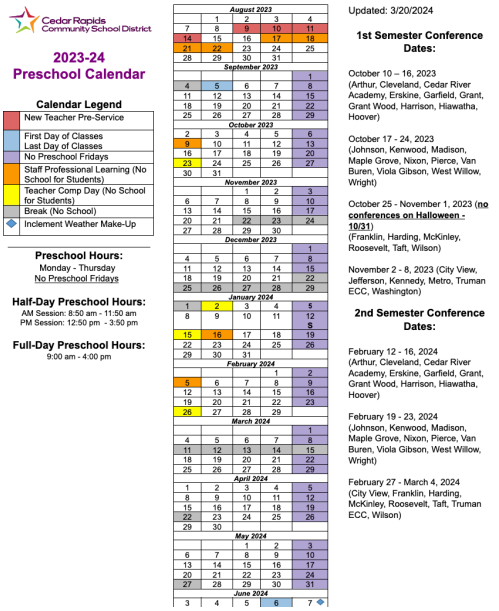
February 19 - 23, 2024 (Johnson, Kenwood, Madison, Maple Grove, Nixon, Pierce, Van Buren, Viola Gibson, West Willow, Wright)

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

[2023-24 School Calendar]


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

August 2023

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January 2024

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February 2024

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March 2024

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June 2024

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Updated: 3/20/2024

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[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.

March 29, 2024

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

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