SHARE:

Join Our Email List

Future Ready. Today.

Cedar Rapids Community School District

Welcome Back!



Happy first newsletter of 2024! Thank you for taking the time to read the newsletter each week as we share informational items and stories of the great things happening across the district.

As we get back into the swing of things after winter break, we wanted to remind parents that the first semester of the school year wraps up next Friday, January 12th. Now is a great time to check Infinite Campus to see if your student is missing assignments.

News and Updates

Taft Middle School Reopens One Dome



Students at Taft Middle School returned from winter break with some exciting news! The repairs on the dome that houses the school's cafeteria, auditorium, and fine arts classrooms have been completed, and they can access the space again. Both domes at Taft and Harding Middle Schools were closed in October as a safety precaution after engineers confirmed the deterioration of some of the wood support beams.

Repairs to the Harding dome that houses their cafeteria and fine arts classrooms are still underway and expected to be completed in the next week or two. Attention will then turn to the other two domes that house each school's gymnasium. Weather permitting, crews expect to finish the structural repairs on these domes by the end of February.

CRCSD Magnet School Lottery Open

The CRCSD magnet school lottery for next school year (2024-25) is now open. Magnet schools are theme-based schools providing another choice for student learning. These schools still utilize state and Cedar Rapids Community School District educational standards, but deliver instruction within a designated theme.

CRCSD currently offers six magnet schools:

- Cedar River Academy at Taylor Elementary—Grades K-5 with a theme of sustainability.
- Johnson STEAM Academy—Grades K-5 with a STEAM theme (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) and an emphasis on the arts
- Kenwood Leadership Academy— Grades K-5 with a leadership theme using the Leader in Me programming
- McKinley STEAM Academy—Grades 6-8 with a STEAM theme (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) with an emphasis on medical sciences and the arts
- Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy—Grades 6-8 business and leadership theme using the Leader in Me programming
- City View Community High School—Grades 9-10 with a theme of community impact



If you would like to learn more about each of these magnet schools, CRCSD is hosting a "Meet the Magnets" event at the downtown Cedar Rapids Public Library from 4:30-6:30 PM on January 30th.

Students who live within a magnet school's attendance boundary are automatically enrolled in that school. However, if a student lives outside the magnet school's attendance zone and wishes to attend, they must enter the magnet school lottery. Online applications for the lottery will be accepted through Monday, March 4.

More information and to enter the magnet lottery

2024-25 FAFSA Form Now Available



Attention, parents of seniors! After a short delay, the government has opened the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The financial aid application typically opens in October, but it was delayed until December 31st this year due to changes being made to the application process. Although you can apply for financial aid throughout the year, it is recommended that you file by February 1st for maximum financial aid consideration. For more information and to file your FAFSA form online, visit StudentAid.gov.

If you are looking for additional financial support with college, CRCSD offers a scholarship resource webpage. The page contains a list of available scholarship opportunities and academic contests, along with helpful tips, resources, and links for scholarship search engines. The site is updated regularly with new information and opportunities, so make sure to check back regularly.

Preschool & Kindergarten Registration Opens February 1st

Mark your calendars! CRCSD new preschool, kindergarten, and alternative kindergarten student registration for next school year (2024-2025) opens on Thursday, February 1, at 8:00 AM. View important registration dates in the link below and stay tuned for more details.



Winter Weather Reminder



With the rumors of a possible winter storm impacting the area early next week, we wanted to remind you of the district's winter weather procedures.

Announcements of district weather-related decisions are communicated through School Messenger (phone calls, e-mails, and text messages), the district website, and the district's Facebook page, along with local news/media outlets. Make sure your family's contact information is up to date in Infinite Campus, as these are the phone numbers and emails that closings and delay announcements are sent to.

Late Start/School Delay:
Delaying the start of school due to weather conditions that are expected to improve throughout the school day. If possible, the decision to delay the start of the school day will be made and communicated before 5:30 AM.

- If there is a late start, there will be no morning preschool, morning practices, or before-school programs. Full-day preschool at Truman Early Learning Center will also be delayed.

Cancellation of Classes/Schools Closed:
Classes are canceled when weather conditions make it exceedingly hazardous or impossible for school buses to travel their routes and/or for employees and students to report to school safely. If possible, the decision to cancel classes will be made and communicated by 5:30 AM.

- All CRCSD schools & preschools are closed, with no before and after school programs and no school activities for elementary and middle schools.
- The cancellation of high school activities, practices, and athletic events are communicated by each building's administrator/athletic director.

Early Dismissal:
Releasing schools early due to weather conditions that are expected to worsen throughout the school day. If possible, the decision to release school early will be made and communicated by 10:00 AM. The exact dismissal time may vary depending on the weather conditions.

- No afternoon preschool, after-school programs, or evening activities unless otherwise noted.
- The cancellation of high school activities, practices, and athletic events are communicated by each building's administrator/athletic director.
- Lunch will be served to students before school is dismissed.

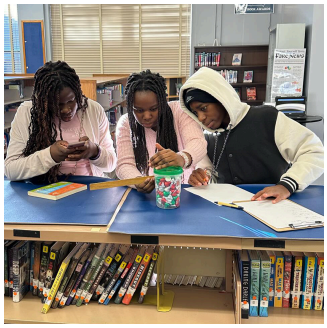
Winter Recess
Elementary and preschool students need snow pants, snow boots, and mittens/gloves to play in areas with snow during recess. Those not wearing snow pants and boots will be required to stay on the shoveled hard surface areas. Students are asked to change out of

their boots into a dry pair of shoes when inside the building. Also, students will go outside for recess unless the air temperature or windchill is 10 degrees or below.

Glance Around The District



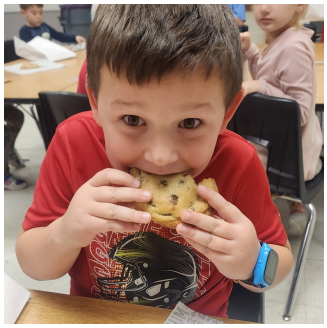
Right before winter break, 8th graders at Franklin Middle School spread holiday cheer by delivering handmade holiday cards to homes in the neighborhood.



A group of Wilson 8th graders are using their math and problem solving skills to try and figure out how many Hershey Kisses are in the container.



Who needs snow for bobsled racing? Students at Johnson STEAM Academy don't, thanks to scooters and the creativity of their PE teacher, Miss Self!



Students in the Baking Club at Viola Gibson Elementary have been learning to make several different types of cookies over the past few weeks. Of course, their favorite part is taste-testing their creations!



5th graders at Cedar River Academy tried their hand at making holiday luminaries in art class.



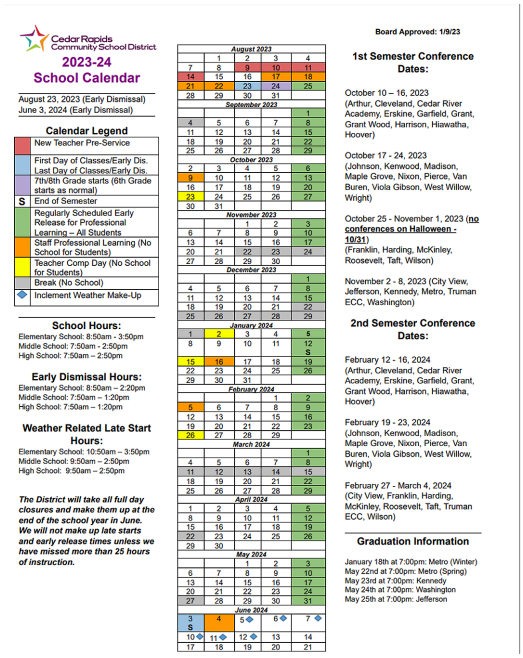
4th and 5th grade students at Cleveland Elementary have been learning about different animals and their habitats. Then, they held a science fair to share what they had learned with students and parents.

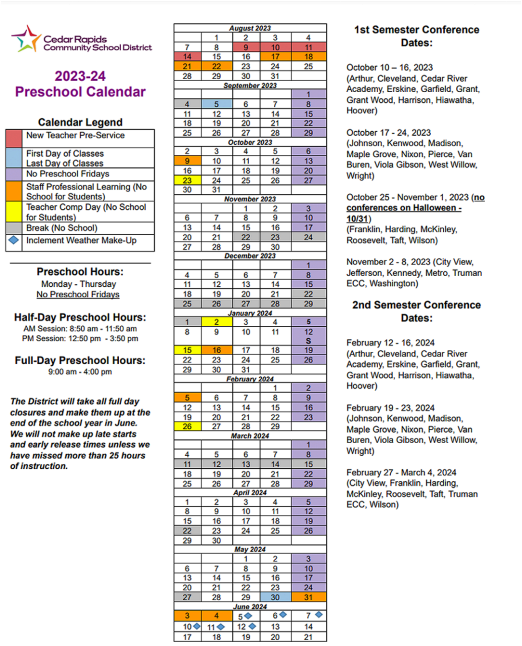
CRCSD In The News

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

- **Gazette:** 'Total systems renovation' to strengthen safety, security in Cedar Rapids schools
- **Gazette:** New Cedar Rapids schools' operation director to lead in new facility plan
- **Gazette:** Government Notes: Taft, Harding domes to reopen by February
- **Gazette:** New technology could become an important tool in keeping Cedar Rapids schools safe

District Calendars





2023-24 School Calendar

2023-24 Preschool Calendar

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.

January 5, 2024

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

Unsubscribe communityrelations@crschools.us

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by communityrelations@crschools.us powered by



Try email marketing for free today!