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Future Ready. Today.

Cedar Rapids Community School District

Student Preferred Names

The Cedar Rapids Community School District is reaching out to provide you with an opportunity to update important information regarding your student(s). Due to recent changes in the law, CRCSD is asking all parents to confirm any alternative names, nicknames, or preferred names that their student(s) will be using. For example, if your son's legal name is Anthony, but he typically goes by Tony. School employees will not be able to call your student(s) by their preferred name/nickname until it has been confirmed by a parent and updated in Infinite Campus.

An email will be sent to all parents on Tuesday, September 17th, asking you to confirm your student's preferred name/nickname. This email will contain a link to a form allowing you to update this information directly in Infinite Campus. This form will only be available from September 17th to October 3rd. We appreciate you taking the time to review this now.

Should you need to make any change to this information after October 3rd, you will be required to fill out a paper form located in each school's office. You can also update the information each summer during Annual Verification. Please contact your building administrator should you have any questions.

Drive-Thru Petition Signature Collection



There's another chance for the community to sign the petition for the proposed $220 million bond on the November ballot. Come to Kennedy, Jefferson, or Washington High Schools on Monday, September 18th, for a Drive-Thru Petition Signature Collection Event. From 4:30-6:30 pm just drive through the Kennedy horseshoe, the Jefferson Arcade, or the Washington Arcade (all located near the main entrances of each high school). Volunteers will be on hand for you to sign the bond petition from your car or to drop off any signatures you've collected. It's important to note that signing the bond petition does not indicate support or opposition to the bond itself. Rather, it allows the petition language to be placed on the ballot for voters to decide.

District Spotlight

Trivia Igniting Classroom Engagement

It's no secret that keeping middle school students engaged and focused can be quite a challenge. But Mr. Ciabatti, an 8th-grade social studies teacher at Franklin Middle School,

is using an innovative approach to change that.

Mr. Ciabatti has started introducing a little friendly competition at the beginning of his class periods. As students enter his room, they log on to an online trivia game. They compete against each other, answering general knowledge questions. With their scores projected live on a screen at the front of the room, their competitive spirit kicks in.





"*I found students are VERY competitive when it comes to earning some type of reward. The trivia competition sparks their competitive spirit, but it also gets them participating and learning. They really focus and give their all*," said Mr. Ciabatti.

The top 3 scorers in the class get the coveted title of "Trivia Champions of the Day" along with a small treat. While the competition only lasts a few minutes, Mr. Ciabatti sees the effects lasting throughout the class period.



"*I find they are more attentive and engaged afterward. Even those who typically don't pay much attention or don't participate in class get into the trivia, which carries over into the lesson*," adds Ciabatti.

While he is excited to see the trivia working in his classroom, his ultimate goal is to foster a lifelong love of learning among his students.

Meet our Bark-tastic Helpers!

Since September is National Service & Therapy Dog Month, we thought it was the perfect time to introduce the district's bark-tastic therapy dogs - Hopkins, Harper, Keely, Bleu, and Eco. These furry companions are not just adorable; they bring a wealth of benefits that contribute to our students' emotional and social well-being, academic success, and overall happiness. All of the CRCSD therapy dogs are trained and certified. They act as teachers, motivators, listeners, and friends to our students and staff. They help to reduce stress and anxiety levels and provide a calming influence on students. Many students also read aloud to the dogs since they offer a non-judgemental audience, helping them to build confidence and improve their literacy skills. If you want to learn more about these paws-some helpers, click here.



News, Updates, & Reminders

Homecoming Dates

Homecoming is just around the corner for Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools! It is a time for students, staff, and alumni to come together to show their school pride as they celebrate their school. Each school has its beloved homecoming traditions that echo the unity and spirit of our district. Below are the dates for each high school's upcoming homecoming celebrations. Check with each school on the specific times and locations of each activity.



Jefferson

- Parade - Sept. 27
- Game - Sept. 28
- Dance - Sept. 29

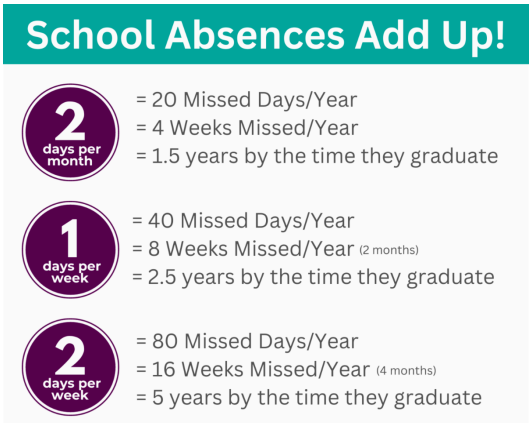
Kennedy

- Parade - Sept. 27
- Game - Sept. 29
- Dance - Sept. 30

Washington

- Parade & Bonfire - Sept. 20
- Game - Sept. 22
- Dance - Sept. 23

Attendance Matters!



September is Attendance Awareness Month, and we wanted to remind our students and families of the importance of regular school attendance. When students miss school, they miss important instructional time that can't be replaced. In fact, missing 10% or more of the school year (18+ days a year) can put children at risk of academic failure. Research shows they are less likely to read proficiently and graduate high school. For our students to succeed, they need to be at school. Help your child get to school every day so that they can stay engaged, successful, and on track to graduate.

Glance Around The District



Police Pal Shawn visited 2nd graders at Wright Elementary to teach them about stranger danger. Officer Shawn Burke visits the class several times a year to teach various safety lessons.



First graders in Mrs. Harrison's class at Harrison Elementary have been learning about the life cycle of apple trees. As part of the lesson, they sampled apples to compare their taste, smell, and feel.



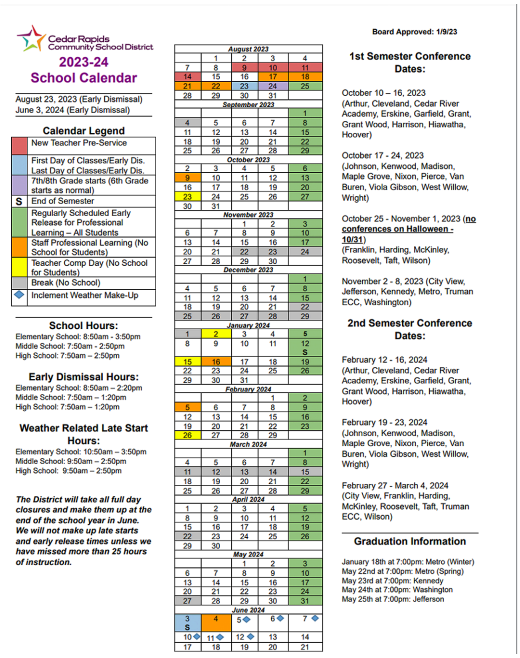
Johnson STEAM Academy 4th graders worked on their team work, communication, and problem-solving skills this week during a cup tower challenge.

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.

- KCRG - *Jefferson team knows 3-0 start is making former coach and dad 'smile' in heaven.*
- KCRG - *Kennedy tackle Nick Brooks verbally commits to the Hawkeyes.*
- Gazette - *Study: Tide could turn on Cedar Rapids school enrollment.*
- Gazette - *'Heart of the school': Cedar Rapids nutrition staff accommodate 700 different diets.*

District Calendars



Cedar Rapids Community School District

2023-24 School Calendar

August 23, 2023 (Early Dismissal)
June 3, 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

The District will take all full day closures and make them up at the end of the school year in June. We will not make up late starts and early release times unless we have missed more than 25 hours of instruction.

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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April 2024

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May 2024

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June 2024

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Board Approved: 1/9/23

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:

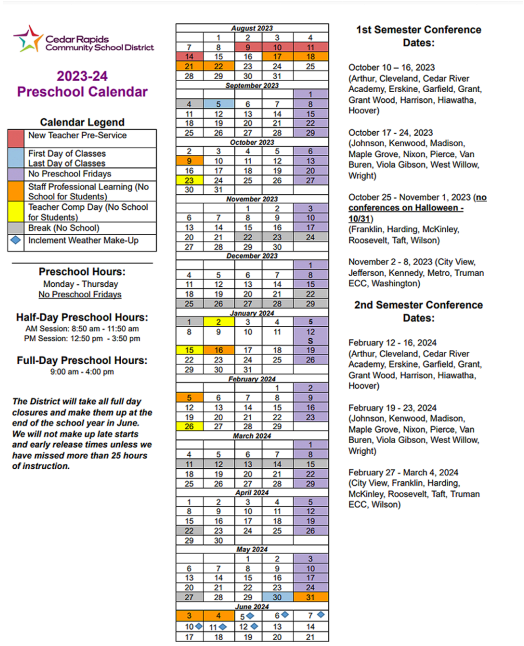
February 12 - 16, 2024
(Arthur, Cleveland, Cedar River Academy, Erskine, Garfield, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison, Hiawatha, Hoover)

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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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.

September 15, 2023

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

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