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Cedar Rapids Community School District

100th Day of School

On Thursday, February 8th, students and staff at CRCSD celebrated a milestone: the 100th day of school. Each elementary school marked the occasion with unique activities for their students. Hoover kindergarteners crafted 100-day crowns, while Cleveland students created necklaces to commemorate the day. Erskine students had a “glow party” and wore neon outfits to celebrate. Some students and staff even dressed up like centenarians. Kenwood Leadership Academy captured the moment with a 100-day photo, arranging students to make the number 100 on the playground. This special day is a way for students to celebrate that the school year is more than half over and also acknowledge their achievements and growth so far this school year.



See more image of the 100th Day

Taft Gym Dome Now Open

Classes at Taft Middle School are finally back to normal this week, with the completion of the repairs on the dome that houses the school’s gym. The repairs on the cafeteria dome were completed over winter break. Crews continue to work on the Harding’s gymnasium dome and hope to have it open next week, weather permitting.



News and Updates

Iowa School Counselor of the Year



What better way to kick off National School Counseling Week than by recognizing one of our own? This past weekend, Kennedy High School counselor Lori Clore was in Washington, D.C., to receive the “Iowa School Counselor of the Year” award! Lori earned the honor for her excellence in supporting students. As a school counselor, she enjoys meeting with students. She can be a supportive listener or a problem solver for them. But in the end, she loves watching them grow and achieve their goals. Lori has been a counselor for over 28 years. Congratulations to Mrs. Clore!

CRCSD Announces New Principal Placements

We are pleased to announce a couple of principal promotions in our district. Jefferson Interim Principal Jessica Luna and Harding Interim Principal Jessica Johnson are being named principals of their buildings. We would also like to announce that Jennifer Nurre has been named principal of Trailside Elementary when it opens in the fall. Congratulations to these three, and thank you for your leadership and dedication.



Black History Month

Celebrating Black History Across CRCSD!

CRCSD students and staff are celebrating Black History Month with special performances, assemblies, and guest speakers. Here is a look at just a few of the things happening

across the district. Last Friday, Johnson STEAM Academy kicked off its celebration with an assembly at St. Paul's Methodist Church. Students got to experience performances from black artists in the district and community. Metro High School is celebrating Black History Month with guest speakers throughout the month. Each speaker is a black professional in our community. CRCSD Superintendent Dr. Tawana Grover had the opportunity to talk with 8th graders at Franklin Middle School on Tuesday. She shared information about her life, what it means to her to be a black female leader, and ways students can celebrate Black History Month. Thursday evening, families of Hoover Community School gathered for an ethnic meal and celebrated black leaders. They even had a student fashion show, and shared personal grooming items popular in the African American community. Washington High School will be holding its 6th annual Black Excellence Assembly on February 12th. The event, planned by staff and student leaders, honors the history and legacy of Black Culture with special community and alumni guests.





What is PPEL?

PPEL stands for Physical Plant and Equipment Levy and is one of the district's primary revenue sources for funding our school infrastructure and equipment repairs, purchases, and improvements. These funds can only be used for specific purposes related to building and grounds upkeep and repairs, new construction, technology, and equipment such as vehicles, maintenance equipment, furniture, and musical instruments.

The district's current voter-approved PPEL is set to expire in June 2025. So, this fall (September 2024), we will be asking voters to renew our PPEL for another 10 years at the current rate. Renewing the levy will NOT increase your property tax rate.

PPEL is a critical revenue source and has been instrumental in the maintenance and upkeep of our older buildings and 425 acres of grounds. Over the next several months, we will be sharing more information about PPEL and the project it has been used over the past few years as we work to mobilize our community.

Preschool & Kindergarten Registration Now Open



We are excited to announce that preschool and kindergarten registration for the next school year (2024-2025) is now open! Preschool and kindergarten set the foundation for school success and a lifetime of learning. In fact, did you know that kids who go to a high-quality preschool are 35% less likely to drop out of school, 40% less likely to become a teen parent, and 70% less likely to be arrested for a violent crime?

CRCSD currently offers a variety of options for local families, including 3 and 4-year-old preschool, alternative kindergarten, and traditional kindergarten. Our preschool and

kindergarten classrooms provide a safe and nurturing environment where students are embraced, educated, and empowered to be future-ready. Click here to enroll now!

New Therapy Dogs Find Their Way into CRCSD Schools

The halls of three schools in the Cedar Rapids Community School District have gotten a lot furrier lately with the addition of three new therapy dogs, each with their own unique paw-sonality. Chile, Ashe, and Penny have quickly become stars at Taft Middle School, Van Buren Elementary, and Harrison Elementary, respectively.

These furry ambassadors are not your average pooches. Each dog has received specialized training from CARES, Inc. or Alliance of Therapy Dogs since they were puppies. Each of their handlers, school counselors Alice Kitterman, Kristi Rummel, and Marie Wheeler, also had to complete a rigorous handler training.

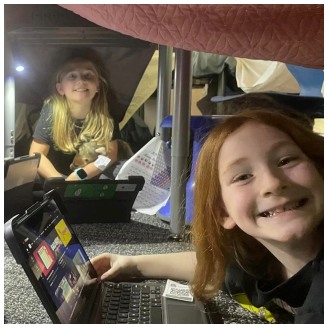
These furry companions are not just adorable; they bring a wealth of benefits that contribute to our students' emotional and social well-being, academic success, and overall happiness. They act as teachers, motivators, listeners, and friends to our students and staff. They help to reduce stress and anxiety 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.



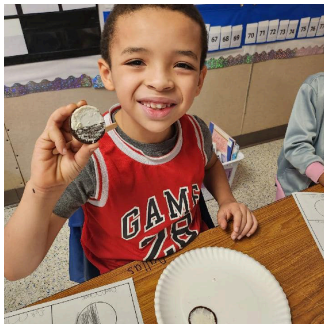
MoShow Show Choir Event

On Saturday, February 10th, Washington High School will host its annual MoShow choir competition. Schools across the area will perform all day and into the evening. A complete list of the schools performing and schedule can be found here. Later this month, Kennedy High School will be hosting its Raise the Roof show choir event at the PowerHouse Arena on Feb. 24th. And finally, Jefferson High School's show choir will be hosting their Show Choir Invitational on March 1st-2nd. Good Luck to all of our talented students who make up each school's show choir!

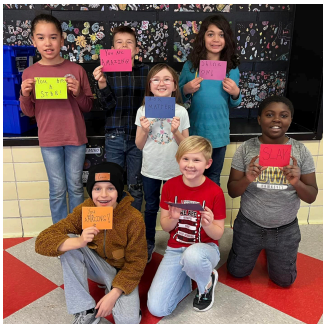
Glance Around The District



Students in Sarah Wright's third-grade class at Maple Grove recently got to celebrate their growth in PBIS by having a fort-building party.



First graders at Cedar River Academy are some smart cookies! They used Oreos to create models of the different phases of the moon!



Erskine Elementary kicked off Kindness Month last week. Every student was surprised with a kindness card on their desk. They have a fun month of events planned to help spread kindness.



Garfield students are trying to take advantage of the last bit of snow at recess before it all melts



2nd graders at Viola Gibson got to experience what it is like to be a coal miner. They dressed up and used tools to dig for chocolate chips in muffins.



The Kennedy varsity boys basketball team got another win on Tuesday over #2 Iowa City West. Kennedy's team is currently rated #1 in the state with a record of 18-0!

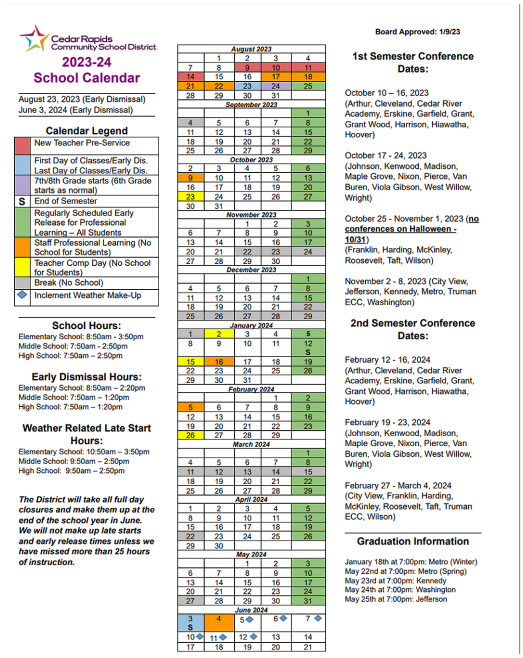
CRCSD In the News

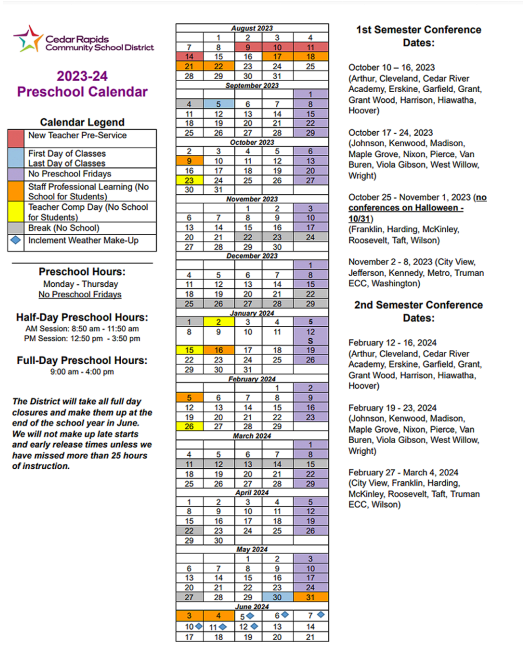
High School Decathlon Teams Advance to State

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.

- **Gazette:** Cedar Rapids schools eye hiring consultant for next bond vote
- **Gazette:** Sleep in on a snowy day? Not Cedar Rapids schools' transportation manager
- **Gazette:** Cedar Rapids police respond to swatting call at Jefferson High School
- **KCRG:** More Eastern Iowa School Districts seeing increased stop arm violations
- **KGAN:** Taft Middle School domes resume service, Harding's repair due next week

District Calendars





[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:

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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.

February 9, 2024

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

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