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Cedar Rapids Community School District

CRCSD Garners Sufficient Petition Signatures to Include Bond on November Ballot



Thanks to support from parents, staff, and community volunteers, the district successfully collected 6,909 petition signatures, surpassing the required amount needed to get the bond language included on the November 7th ballot. The CRCSD Board of Education approved the resolution to call an election during a special board meeting on Thursday night. On Friday morning, CRCSD submitted the resolution to the Linn County Elections.

"This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved. With this bond, we can look forward to a brighter future for our schools, students, and community," commented David Tominsky, CRCSD School Board President.

If approved by voters in November, the bond measure will generate funds to allow the district to address critical improvements and investments to enhance infrastructure, safety measures, and learning environments for students and staff, including:

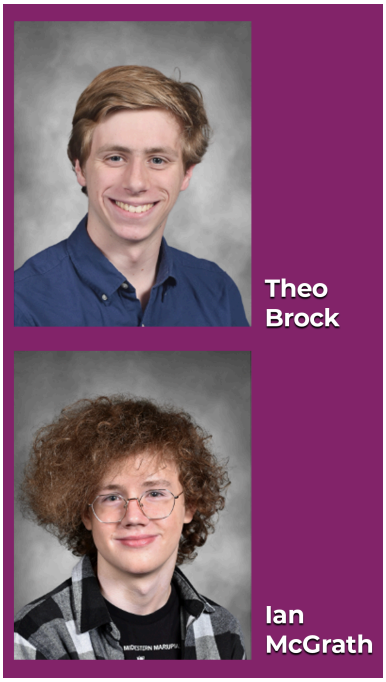
- Construction of a new 6th-8th middle school in the Kennedy school feeder system on a site that needs to be acquired.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) additions to Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools to expand and improve the district's vocational and technical education programs, ensuring students graduate career and college-ready.
- Install a new turf practice field at Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington, offering safer and more versatile playing surfaces for sports teams, marching bands, and PE classes.
- Renovations and Upgrades to the Kennedy cafeteria and kitchen, Metro High School gym, and Franklin Middle School to make needed repairs and improve overall functionality.

"Together, we can continue to invest in public education and the future success of our students by ensuring that they have the tools and facilities they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world," added CRCSD Superintendent Dr. Tawana Grover. *"It's an investment in our children's future and the prosperity of our district and community."*

The district will now embark on a comprehensive community outreach campaign to educate and engage voters to ensure everyone has the information needed to make an informed decision on November 7th. The district invites community members to stay

informed about the bond measure and the upcoming November election by visiting our official website, build.crschools.us.

2024 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists



In a remarkable achievement, two Cedar Rapids Community School District students have been named semifinalists in the prestigious 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. Theodore Brock and Ian McGrath, both seniors at Washington, have demonstrated exceptional scholastic abilities to earn their place among the nation's brightest students. This accomplishment is a testament to their dedication and hard work.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is a highly competitive and esteemed academic competition that recognizes outstanding students across the United States. To become semifinalists, students must score in the top one percent of students nationwide on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. A total of 154 Iowa high school students are among the 16,000 students nationally to be named as a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist.

The next step in the National Merit Scholarship competition involves meeting additional standards and fulfilling several requirements. These include submitting a detailed scholarship application, a written essay, a recommendation from a school official, and SAT or ACT test scores. The finalists will be announced in early 202 and will go on to win some of 7,140 scholarships worth over $28 million.

District Spotlight

Jefferson Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



In a colorful and spirited celebration, Jefferson High School students gathered Thursday for an assembly to honor Hispanic and LatinX Heritage Month. Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month, which runs from September 15th to October 15th, is a time to recognize and celebrate the culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans.

The assembly, which was planned by the students in the school's Latinx Club, shared information about the Hispanic and Latinx communities and traditions, along with performances of several Latin dances. One of the highlights of the assembly was a "serenade" dance the students performed with Jefferson Principal Jessica Luna.

The Latinx Club students hope the assembly helped their classmates learn and appreciate their diverse culture more while also shining a light on the importance of embracing the unique diversity at Jefferson High School. The group looks forward to organizing more events for the students, such as a "Baile" and Day of the Dead Activities later this year.

Check out the images

News, Updates, & Reminders

Homecoming Dates



Homecoming, or HoCo as students call it, has arrived. This week is Washington High School's homecoming. Students had a jam-packed spirit week full of amazing festivities, including their annual parade and bonfire on Wednesday evening. The Washington Warriors will take on the Jefferson J-Hawks tonight for their homecoming football game, where they will also crown this year's homecoming court. Next week, Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools will hold their homecoming festivities. Below are the dates for each high school's upcoming homecoming celebrations. Check with each school office on specific times and locations.

Washington
- Game - Sept. 22
- Dance - Sept. 23

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

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

Annual Verification Milestone



We wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude to our students' families for your prompt and diligent response to our annual verification process. We have reached a remarkable 90% completion rate! Your participation in the annual verification process is instrumental in ensuring the accuracy of our student records, free/reduced school fee verification, as well as helping to improve communication between our schools and families. If you have not yet completed the annual verification process for your student, we kindly ask you to take a moment to do so by logging in to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Please contact your student's school office if you have any questions or need assistance with the verification process.

America Reads

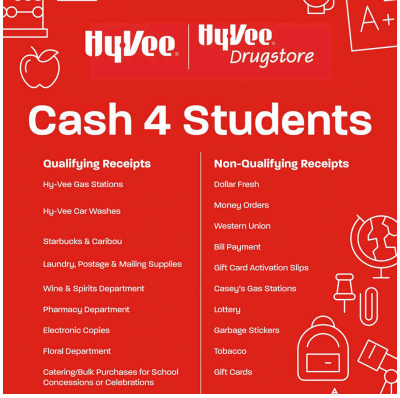


Online registration is now open for the 26th annual America Reads literacy celebration, which will take place on October 19th & 20th. This program is designed to highlight the importance of reading. During the event, community members visit elementary classrooms to share their favorite children's book with the students. Click here for more information and to register to read to a class. Registration closes on October 13th.

Save Your Receipts to Earn

Money For Your School

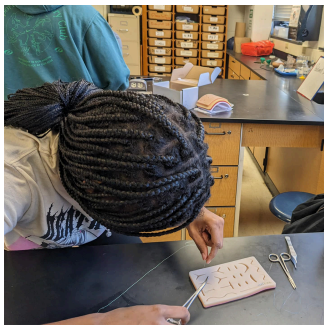
Many CRCSD schools are participating in Hy-Vee's Cash 4 Students program again this year. This fundraising program allows local schools to earn money by saving and submitting Hy-Vee receipts brought in by students, staff, and community members. The schools receive $1 for every $200 worth of receipts submitted. The schools then use the money for field trips, classroom supplies, and special student activities. Receipts can be turned in to any school office and must be dated **April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024**, in order to be eligible for this year's program.



Glance Around The District



The Cedar Rapids branch of the NAACP held a welcome reception for CRCSD Superintendent Dr. Tawana Grover on Tuesday evening at the Cedar Rapids Public Library



Washington students in Mr. Johnson's Anatomy and Physiology class got a chance to practice their surgery and wound suturing skills.



Students in the new Business Leadership Studies class at Roosevelt learned about email etiquette this week.



The Cedar Rapids Fire Department visited the kindergarten students at Erskine Elementary to teach them about fire safety.



5th graders at Johnson Steam Academy learned how to canoe and engaged in hands-on science and engineering learning opportunities as part of the School of the Wild program this week.



Franklin Middle School held its fall spirit week. Students and staff participated in the third day, Dress Like a Teacher Day!

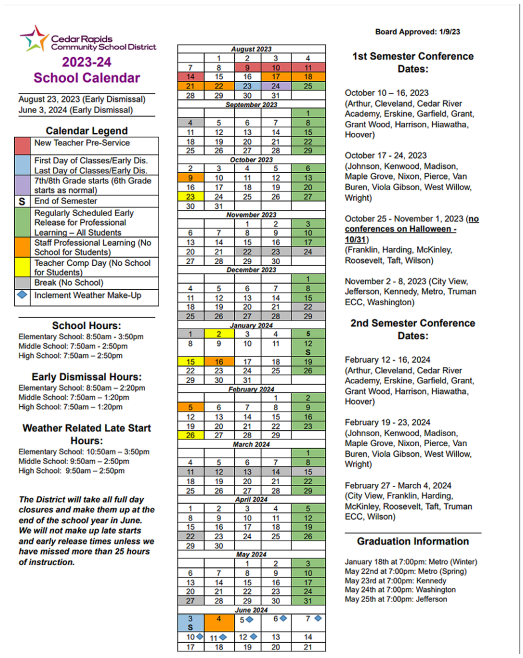
CRCSD In The News

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.

- KGAN - *Ed Thomas Coach of the Week: Cedar Rapids Jefferson's Ed Miles*

- Gazette - *Cedar Rapids schools' proposed $220M bond referendum would keep property taxes comparable*
- Gazette - *Harding band director Melissa Voss is runner-up for 2023 Excellence in Education Award*

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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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:

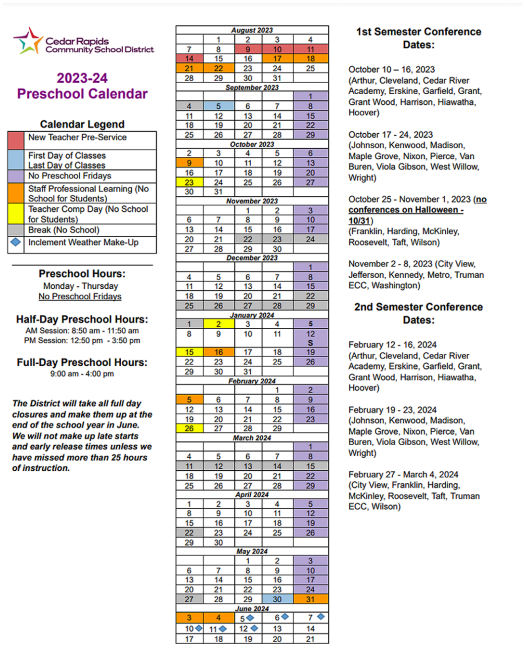
February 12 - 16, 2024
(Arthur, Cleveland, Cedar River Academy, Erskine, Garfield, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison, Hiawatha, Hoover)

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 22, 2023

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

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