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CRCSD Future Ready Today Newsletter

Listen to the Newsletter This Week!

We know life gets busy—between work, family, and everything else, it can be hard to keep up! That's why we're shaking things up and bringing you an easier way to stay in the loop. **Introducing our new podcast!** In just a few minutes, you'll get all the highlights from this week's newsletter.

Hit the button below to listen, and if something catches your ear, scroll down for all the details. You can also **find it on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, and YouTube.**

Listen To The Podcast

A Message of Hope from Dr. Grover



Dear CRCSD Families,

At this week's Education Address, there was something unmistakable in the room—**hope**.

Hope in the words of our student speaker, Kennedy High School junior Malick Sogur, who also serves as our first-ever student liaison to the Board of Education. He shared how the leadership opportunities and learning experiences he's had at CRCSD are preparing him for life—and for the world beyond graduation.

Hope in the progress we've made together:

- Fewer safety incidents and more support for student well-being
- Rising graduation rates and expanded early childhood programs
- Parents, teachers, and students coming together as true partners in shaping our schools
- Strong financial stewardship that allowed us to reduce the tax rate while expanding programs

And perhaps most memorable of all—**hope in the final note**. Harrison music teacher, Avery Anderson, closed the event by singing *"What the World Needs Now Is Love."*
It was a powerful reminder that while we often end with a call to action, this time, the message was simple:
All we need is love.
Love for the students we serve.
Love for the work we do.

Love for the future we're building—together.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are creating a school system full of promise, purpose, and, yes—hope.

With gratitude,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent
Cedar Rapids Community School District

Check Out The Event Photos

A Letter From President Garlock:



Next Steps for the CRCSD Bond Proposal

Dear Cedar Rapids Community,

Thank you to the many parents, staff, and community members who completed our recent survey and shared feedback on the bond proposal. **Your voices are vital—and we heard you.**

While our community recognizes the urgent need to improve school facilities, it's clear the original proposal was too costly, especially given the current economic climate. We understand, and we're going back to the drawing board to revise the plan.

This month, we are inviting key stakeholders to join us for focus groups to help shape a more affordable plan that still addresses critical needs. These groups include:

- Bond Taskforce (staff, parents, community)
- All Principals
- Staff at schools impacted by the bond proposal
- Voluntary CRCSD Staff (open to all district staff)
- PTA/PTO/Parent Leaders (identified by school principals)
- Superintendent Student Cabinet (student leaders from each high school)
- Superintendent Teacher Cabinet (teacher leaders representing every school)
- Superintendent Community Cabinet (business/community leaders)
- School Improvement Advisory Committee (Board-appointed committee made up of students, staff, parents & community members

If you are not part of one of these groups and would like to share your input, please CLICK HERE.

The CRCSD School Board will review focus group feedback and proposed adjustments at the board meeting on April 28. We remain committed to a collaborative process that puts students first and reflects the priorities of our entire community.

Thank you for continuing to engage with us as we work together to create the future of Cedar Rapids schools.

With gratitude,
Cindy Garlock
Board President
Cedar Rapids Community School District

District Updates

CRCSD Educator Selected for Prestigious NASA LiftOff Summer Institute



We are proud to announce that Sara Yedlik, an outstanding educator at Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD), has been selected for the prestigious **LiftOff Summer Institute**—a nationally competitive program sponsored by the University of Texas Center for Space Research, Louisiana Space Grant, and Wisconsin Space Grant.

This highly selective institute chooses educators who are passionate about expanding their knowledge of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through the lens of space education. Sara will be representing CRCSD among a small group of teachers from across the nation this summer.

This year's institute, themed "**Flight Patterns to Innovation**," will explore cutting-edge aerospace research and technology spearheaded by NASA. Topics will include innovations like the **X-59 supersonic aircraft,** groundbreaking developments aboard the **International Space Station (ISS),** and satellite technologies that are shaping the future of Earth and space exploration. Participants will also delve into NASA's ambitious **Artemis program**, which is preparing to return humans to the Moon and lay the foundation for human exploration of Mars.

From June 23–27, Sara will join fellow educators to conduct hands-on experiments, learn directly from NASA scientists and astronauts, and collaborate with peers to develop innovative lesson plans designed to inspire the next generation of STEM learners.

Please join us in congratulating Sara Yedlik on this incredible opportunity. We're excited to see the ideas, energy, and inspiration she'll bring back to our classrooms!

Way to go, Sara — your CRCSD family is cheering you on!

Join the Adventure: *Swiss Family Robinson* at Washington High

Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre and Washington High School invite you to experience *Swiss Family Robinson*—a family-friendly production filled with adventure, creativity, and heart. Based on the classic novel, this story of resilience and exploration is perfect for all ages.

Showtimes:

- April 17 at 5:00 PM
- April 18 at 5:00 PM* & 7:00 PM
- April 19 at 11:00 AM* & 2:00 PM

*ASL interpreted

Tickets: $5 (available at the door and online—details coming soon)

This marks the final high school production of Playtime Poppy's 73rd season and includes special educational experiences like *Operation Backstage* for 3rd graders and a student matinee with classroom resources.

Plus, Playtime Poppy continues its in-school programs—**Book Adventures** and **One Great Line**—and will award a **$1,000 scholarship** to a CRCSD senior passionate about

theatre.

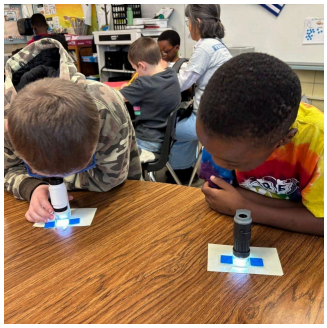
Stay connected: www.playtimepoppy.org

Get Tickets Today!

Glance Around CRCSD



For the first time in school history Kennedy Jazz has placed at the state championship! Congrats on finishing 8th in the state in 4A!



Hoover 2nd grade students in Mrs. Puhrmann's class had a great time using handheld microscopes this week to explore different slides!



Harrison Elementary had so much fun on National Unicorn Day!! Their students were greeted by a giant purple unicorn and we had fun making unicorn hats!



We're brewing up something special…Something warm, welcoming, and worth the wait is coming to City View



At Cedar River Academy, Ms. Martin's class got to do Lollipop drums in music class. How fun!



Cleveland 4th graders had a career readiness experience that allowed them to connect with local businesses, see how their interests can lead to a career, and set the stage for their educational journey.

In The News

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

- Gazette: Cedar Rapids school leaders cite opportunities, obstacles
- KGAN: Cedar Rapids schools discuss 2025 bond plans, family feedback at educational address
- KCRG: Third generation tennis players at Jefferson strive to be some of the state's best

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.

April 11, 2025

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

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