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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

Strengthening Our Schools Together -- A Message from Superintendent Dr. Grover



Dear CRCSD Families,

At Cedar Rapids Community School District, our top priorities are Safe and Secure Learning, Preparing Students for Life, Staff and Parents as Partners, and Fiscal Responsibility. As we navigate this period of change, we remain committed to our vision: Every Learner Future Ready.

What This Means for Your Child's School
I want to address your most immediate concern first: how these changes will affect your child.

- **Little to no change for most students.** We anticipate minimal impact on classroom experiences, as staff are being reassigned based on open positions and school needs.
- **No cuts to programs.** All academic programs, extracurricular activities, and student services will remain in place.
- **School-specific communication.** Families will receive a letter from their child's principal outlining any changes specific to their school.

Investing in Our Students' Success
Even while addressing financial challenges, we are directing $7.5 million into our classrooms:

- **$4 million** to help schools hire staff tailored to their unique needs.
- **$2 million** to expand behavioral support services and student well-being initiatives.
- **$1.5 million** to ensure every school has a dedicated Social Emotional Behavioral Health Support position.

Strengthening Behavioral Supports for Students
Student well-being is essential to a positive learning environment. We are:

- Enhancing proactive, school-based behavioral interventions to help students before challenges escalate.
- Exploring expanded intervention options for students requiring more structured behavioral supports.
- Increasing early intervention at younger grades to address challenges proactively.

More details on these supports will be shared **after April 25** as plans take shape.

Addressing the $12 Million Budget Deficit
Like many districts nationwide, CRCSD faces significant financial challenges due to declining state and federal funding, the expiration of ESSER funds, and enrollment reductions. Over the past two decades, our district has lost approximately 3,000 students, while staffing levels remained the same or increased.

To address our **$12 million budget deficit**, we've taken a strategic approach:
- **$5 million** in reductions at the campus level to ensure staffing aligns with enrollment and student needs.
- **$7 million** in reductions at the Educational Leadership & Support Center (ELSC) through department realignments and operational efficiencies.

While we are reducing overall FTEs by approximately 6%, we are working to ensure that most, if not all, of our staff members have the opportunity to remain in the district through natural attrition and reassignments.

Supporting Our Staff Through Change
We deeply appreciate our staff's professionalism and commitment during this transition. Your work does not go unnoticed, and we are committed to supporting you through these shifts:
- Working with our unions to continue the realignment process with care and attention to staff needs.
- Providing clear instructions, transition support, and guidance as staff move into new roles.

To our staff—**thank you**. Your dedication, adaptability, and unwavering commitment to students make our schools strong. **We are in this together.**

How You Can Support Public Education
CRCSD thrives because of our strong partnership with families, staff, and our community:
- Stay informed about state funding and how it impacts our schools.
- Advocate for public education funding by reaching out to legislators.
- Get involved in our schools—we welcome volunteers, community partners, and family engagement.
- Celebrate our educators and staff—their resilience and dedication continue to make a difference.

Our Commitment to You
These adjustments allow us to protect the quality of education, maintain manageable class sizes, and ensure every student has access to the resources they need to succeed. **Together, we will continue building a strong, sustainable future for every CRCSD student.**

Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent
Cedar Rapids Community School District

Superintendent's Serenity -- Rooted in Strength, Growing in Unity

This is not just a challenge—it's an opportunity to reinforce who we are. Not just a transition—it's a step toward long-term sustainability. Not just about change—it's about coming together to shape our district's future.
Our anxiety is comforted by our trust in the process.
Our unknowns are grounded in gratitude for what remains steady.
And our unity, planted in the soil of shared strength, continues to grow.

CRCSD Names New Principal For Washington High School

The Cedar Rapids Community School District is pleased to announce that Theresa Hall has been selected as the next principal of Washington High School, effective July 1, 2025, pending board approval.

Hall will succeed Ian LeMaster, who announced earlier this year that he will be resigning on July 30, 2025. She was chosen through a rigorous selection process by an interview committee of more than 40 stakeholders, including students, parents, and teachers.



Hall brings a wealth of experience in high school leadership, having worked in multiple districts to support students and educators. She currently serves as a school leadership coach and district lead for Instructional Empowerment, where she focuses on teacher development, strategies to support struggling students, and credit recovery programs. Additionally, she has successfully launched a Freshman Academy designed to help ninth-grade students transition into high school and achieve academic success.

"I am truly honored to join the Washington High School community as the new principal," Hall shared. "I look forward to working alongside students, families, and staff to build on the school's rich traditions while fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can succeed. Together, we will ensure all students are prepared for a successful future."

Hall's enthusiasm for Washington High School was felt throughout the interview process, and students on the selection committee were especially excited about her selection.

"I was really excited because she seemed excited to be here, and she seemed like she would be a really good fit for Wash," said Washington junior Macyn Davidson-Ware. "I just loved her energy and how excited she was to work here. She seemed so interested in everything that we had going on, and she's really fun and a really nice person."

Although Hall will officially begin her role on July 1, she will begin working with Washington leadership this spring to ensure a smooth transition. Please join us in welcoming Theresa Hall to Washington High School and thanking Ian LeMaster for his leadership and dedication to the Warrior community.

2025 ISASP Testing Schedule – What Parents Need to Know



ISASP testing is quickly approaching, and we appreciate your support in helping students prepare for a successful testing experience. Testing will take place throughout April at all schools.
How Parents Can Help:

- Check your child's testing dates (see schedule below) and ensure they arrive on time.
- Make sure they get a good night's sleep and eat a healthy breakfast on test days.
- Remind them to bring their charged device (if required) and any necessary materials.
- Encourage a positive mindset—remind them that doing their best is what matters most.

If you have any questions about your child's testing schedule or accommodations, please contact their teacher or school office.

Full ISASP Testing Schedule

Elementary Schools:

- Bertram – April 7-10
- Cleveland – April 1-3 & 7-10
- CRA – April 1-4

Middle Schools:

- Franklin MS – April 1-4
- Harding MS – April 7-10
- McKinley MS – April 1-4

- Erskine – April 1-4 & 8-11
- Grant – April 1-3 & 8
- Grant Wood – April 1-4 & 7-9
- Harrison – April 7-10
- Hiawatha – April 1-4
- Hoover – April 1-3, 7-9, 10-14, & 15
- JSA – April 1-3 & 8
- Kenwood – April 1-4
- Madison – April 1-4
- Maple Grove – April 7-11
- Nixon – April 2-3 & April 8-9
- Pierce – April 7-11
- Polk – April 1-4
- Trailside – April 1-4 & 8-10
- Van Buren – April 8-11
- Viola Gibson – April 2-4 & 8
- West Willow – April 2-4 & 7-10
- Roosevelt MS – April 1-4
- Taft MS – April 7-10
- Wilson MS – April 8-11

High Schools:

- City View HS – April 2-4 & 7-10
- Jefferson HS – April 1-4 & 8-11
- Kennedy HS – April 1-2
- Metro HS – April 1-3
- Washington HS – April 2-3

Other:

- Home School – April 8-1

No Newsletters During Spring Break



Spring Break is almost here! As a reminder, there will be no district newsletters next week.

Additionally, all district offices will be closed on Friday, March 21.

We hope you enjoy a restful and refreshing break. Regular newsletter communications will resume on Tuesday, March 25. Have a wonderful Spring Break!

School-Based Vaccine Clinics Available for Students

The **Cedar Rapids Community School District** is partnering with **Linn County Public Health** to offer a convenient way for students to receive their **required vaccines before the start of the next school year.**

What Parents Need to Know:

- A mobile vaccine clinic will visit all middle and high schools.
- This service ensures students receive their required immunizations before school starts.
- To participate, parents must complete and return the necessary paperwork to the school's health office before the clinic date.
- Contact your child's school nurse for more details or to sign up.
- This is a great opportunity to avoid the back-to-school rush and check this requirement off your list early.

Mobile Clinic Schedule:

- **Kennedy High School** – April 15, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Washington High School** – April 15, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- **Jefferson High School** – April 22, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Metro High School** – April 22, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- **Franklin Middle School** – April 24, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **McKinley Middle School** – April 24, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- **Harding Middle School** – May 6, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

- **Roosevelt Middle School** – May 6, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- **Taft Middle School** – May 8, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **Wilson Middle School** – May 8, 12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
- **Hoover Pilo**t – May 22, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

If your child still needs their required immunizations, this is a simple and convenient way to get them done at school. Reach out to your child's school nurse with any questions.

Glance Around CRCSD



Taft Middle Schools' Adrenaline put on a great performance this weekend at Xavier & place 4th!



Johnson STEAM Academy PE classes enjoyed the beautiful weather and built their agility skills with hopscotch!



Viola Gibson 3rd graders did an amazing job at their music performance!



Cedar River Academy 2nd graders to continued their States of Matter science unit outside! They took an expedition to Indian Creek Nature Center to learn how sap from maple trees boils down into syrup! It was a delicious trip!



During the 4th-grade CKLA block, Erskine students worked in collaborative teams to design an invention that would help a person throw paper into a recycling bin.



City View students explored the Cedar Rapids Water Pollution Control Facility, gaining valuable insight into how our community manages and protects this vital resource.

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.

- KCRG: Cedar Rapids Community School District to reduce 6% of its staff positions
- Iowa News Now: Cedar Rapids schools to cut 6% of staff positions amid budget deficit, enrollment drop
- Iowa News Now: Young leaders celebrated at Cedar Rapids' 14 Under 14 Awards

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.

March 14, 2025

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

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