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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

An Open Letter to the Cedar Rapids Community



Dear CRCSD Families, Staff, and Community,

I am writing to you today with a full heart and a spirit of gratitude.

When we first shared our plans to realign staffing across the district, we did so with the clear intention of prioritizing student success, protecting classroom instruction, and maintaining our commitment to the incredible educators who serve our students every day. Today, I am proud to share that every single one of the **60 certified teachers impacted by the surplus process has been placed in a new role for the 2025–26 school year.**

This is not just an operational milestone—it's a promise fulfilled.
While these placements may mean that some teachers will be in new buildings or teaching different grade levels or subjects, **what remains unchanged is our commitment to ensuring every child is taught by a dedicated, highly qualified educator.** And what continues to drive our work is our unwavering belief that students thrive when the adults around them are supported, valued, and empowered.

From the beginning, we approached this realignment with care, empathy, and collaboration. I want to especially recognize the Cedar Rapids Education Association (CREA) for their partnership throughout this process. Together, we

made thoughtful, student-centered decisions to ensure each teacher was placed where they could continue making a meaningful difference.

This news is a bright spot during a time of great change. It is a testament to what's possible when we come together—with transparency, shared values, and a focus on what matters most: our students.

To our families and community members—thank you for your support and patience. Your trust allows us to do this work with purpose.

To our staff—thank you for your resilience, your professionalism, and your care for one another and for our students.

To our teachers who navigated this transition with grace—thank you for staying rooted in your calling.

This success reminds us that even during difficult times, we can move forward with both courage and compassion. Our shared strength continues to grow—and so does our belief in the future we are building together for every learner in Cedar Rapids.

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

Annual Verification Is Open

It's time for families to complete **Annual Verification** for the upcoming school year! This important process ensures your student's information is up to date.

Log in to your **Infinite Campus Parent Portal** to review and submit your forms. Completing verification early helps us prepare for a smooth start to the school year.

District Updates

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6–10!

Next week, we celebrate the incredible educators who inspire, guide, and support our students every day. Join us in thanking our teachers for their passion, dedication, and the lasting impact they make in our classrooms and beyond. Let's show them how much they're appreciated!

Outstanding Volunteer Recognition



On Monday, before the board meeting 32 volunteers were celebrated for their outstanding work and contributions to our schools. From helping kindergarteners at lunch to running concession stands, donating supplies, fundraising, and helping students learn math and reading, today's incredible volunteers make a huge impact in our schools. You can see a complete list of volunteers and to read each volunteer's story, you can check it out here. A special congratulations to Jennifer Trembath, a volunteer at Grant Wood Elementary, who has been selected for this year's honor. Jennifer will also be the District's designated recipient of the 2025 Iowa

Governor's Award for Volunteerism, presented during the summer. Thank you to all the volunteers who make an impact!

Celebrating Excellence: Amy Hanisch Honored with Statewide Music Award



West Willow Elementary music teacher Amy Hanisch has been selected for the prestigious Iowa Choral Directors Association (ICDA) Elementary/Middle School Choral Educator Award!

Amy has dedicated an incredible 37 years to teaching elementary music in Cedar Rapids Community School District. Beyond her classroom instruction, she has directed several honor choirs for the ICDA, including the Opus All-State 5th/6th grade choir, and has presented workshops at the association's summer institutes. She also directs the children's chorus that performs with Orchestra Iowa, demonstrating her deep passion for choral music.

Reflecting on the award, Amy shared, "There are many fine choral directors throughout the state, so it is truly an honor to be selected. Thank you to ICDA for this recognition!"

Congratulations to Amy on this tremendous honor, and thank you for your many years of inspiring students and sharing your love of music across our district!

Celebrating the Class of 2025: Senior Walk Schedule Announced



Cedar Rapids Community School District is excited to once again celebrate a beloved tradition—Senior Walks! This special event gives graduating seniors the chance to return to their elementary schools, walk the halls one last time, and inspire the next generation of students.

Families and community members are invited to join in the celebration and cheer on our seniors as they visit their former schools. These walks are a powerful way to reflect on students' journeys and recognize their achievements as they prepare for graduation.

Here is the 2025 Senior Walk schedule:

May 13
- Van Buren | 3:00 PM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*

May 14
- Cedar River Academy at Taylor | 8:50 AM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*
- Hoover | 2:30 PM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*

May 16
- Cleveland | 3:00 PM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*

May 19
- Nixon | 9:00 AM | *Kennedy HS Seniors*
- Madison | 9:15 AM | *Kennedy HS Seniors*
- Coolidge & West Willow | 2:30 PM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*
- Kenwood | 9:20 AM | *Washington HS Seniors*
- Grant Wood | 9:30 AM | *Washington HS Seniors*
- Johnson | 9:30 AM | *Washington HS Seniors*
- Erskine | 10:00 AM | *Washington HS Seniors*
- Arthur, Garfield & Trailside | 12:45 PM | *Washington HS Seniors*
- Harrison | 3:15 PM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*

May 20

- Pierce | 8:45 AM | *Kennedy HS Seniors*
- Truman, Jackson & Maple Grove | 9:00 AM | *Kennedy & Jefferson HS Seniors*
- Grant | 9:10 AM | *Jefferson HS Seniors*
- Hiawatha | 3:00 PM | *Kennedy HS Seniors*
- Viola Gibson | 3:00 PM | *Kennedy HS Seniors*

May 21

- Wright | 3:00 PM | *Kennedy HS Seniors*

We encourage all to celebrate this milestone with our students and show your support as they close one chapter and prepare to begin another. Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

School Lunch Hero Lunch Day



Behind every nutritious meal served in our cafeterias is a team of dedicated food and nutrition professionals who work hard every day to support student success. On Friday, **May 2, we celebrate National School Lunch Hero Day**—a special opportunity to recognize the incredible staff who prepare and **serve more than 16,000 healthy meals each day across our schools.**

These behind-the-scenes heroes ensure our students are fed, fueled, and ready to learn. While school is not in session today, please join us in thanking them the next time you see them for their vital role in our school community and the positive impact they make in the lives of every child who enters the cafeteria.

Get Moving on National Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day – May 7!



Mark your calendars! **Tuesday, May 7, is National Walk, Bike & Roll to School Day**, and Cedar Rapids Community School District is excited to participate in this nationwide event.
We hope to see even more students and families taking this opportunity to get active, enjoy fresh air, and embrace the many benefits of walking and biking to school.
Studies show that students who walk or bike to school arrive more alert, focused, and ready to learn. Plus, skipping the car reduces traffic congestion around schools and benefits the environment.

To ensure everyone stays safe, please be mindful of crosswalks and crossing guards as you make your way to and from school. If you live too far to walk or bike the entire way, consider parking a few blocks away and walking the rest.

This event is part of a global movement encouraging communities to make walking and biking a regular part of students' daily routines.

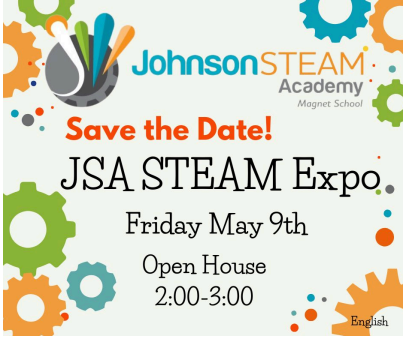
You're Invited: JSA STEAM Expo – May 9

Johnson STEAM Academy is excited to invite families and community members to our **STEAM Expo** on **Thursday, May 9, from 2:00–3:00 PM**!

This open-house style event will showcase the incredible STEAM-infused learning happening across our school. Stop by to explore student demonstrations, hands-on

projects, and creative problem-solving in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math.

Come celebrate curiosity, innovation, and student learning with us—we can't wait to see you there!



Glance Around CRCSD



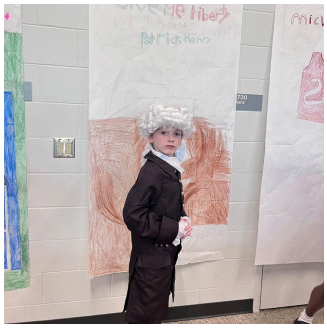
Hoover Elementary students had an exciting day celebrating Balloon Day. They had a great time.



Cleveland Kindergarten night was a huge success! They welcomed their new Cleveland Chargers! Class of 2038!



City View sophomore, Liam, hosted a special event for area Veterans at the Swisher Legion Hall this past weekend as part of a school project.



Trailside 5th graders had their Wax Museum Exhibit this week. They each chose a historical figure and had to research them and write a research paper. Then they had to dress as them and pose just like being in a real wax museum.



Truman Pre K Indoor Farm Day fun! These kids had so much fun with their farm themed activities, and they were so excited that the indoor farm day still had many adorable animals!



Five Taft Tigers participated in today's State National History Day Contest in Ames. Willa Petersen qualified for the National Contest in DC!

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 school district presents revised bond proposal to school board
- KCRG: Cedar Rapids school district holds special hiring event for bus drivers
- Gazette: Families will start paying tuition for Truman Preschool's full-day program in Cedar Rapids

- Gazette: Cedar Rapids schools' proposed $117M bond created with 'actively engaged' public
- Gazette: Preservationists get peek at how historic Harrison Elementary will be renovated
- KWWL: CRCSD announces $3.5 million dollar investment for 2025-2026 school year

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.

May 2, 2025

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

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