SHARE:

Join Our Email List

be you. BE CRCSD.
EVERYONE • EQUIPPED • EMPOWERED • ENGAGED • EXCEL

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 Cedar Rapids Community,

We've expanded the room.

Over the past several months, we've widened the circle—inviting more voices, perspectives, and ideas. More than 70,000 residents were invited to engage in our facilities planning process, and nearly 8,000 of you responded. But the conversation didn't stop there.

I've listened and I've heard your hearts—in classrooms, libraries, offices, grocery stores, and community events. You've shared concerns, hopes, and ideas—and every word has mattered.

In February, we presented a $210 million bond proposal to address urgent needs across our schools. But you reminded us that big change must be manageable and reflective of the times. You said:

- "Fix what we have first."
- "Support our staff."
- "Create safe, welcoming spaces for every child."

So we listened. We refined. With input from students, families, staff, and community partners, **we developed a revised $117 million proposal—nearly 50% less than the original.**

In the past few weeks, we've continued engaging with you—through focus groups, classroom visits, and conversations across the city. And you've made it clear where to focus:

- **Modern security and technology** to keep schools safe.

- **Accessibility upgrades to** ensure every building welcomes every learner.
- **Reliable HVAC systems** that keep classrooms balanced and comfortable.
- **Flexible learning spaces t**hat reflect the excellence of our educators.
- **Thoughtful renovations** to restore the strength of our historic schools.

These buildings are more than brick and mortar—they are homes of learning, belonging, and dreams. You've told us we don't need to start over. We need to build on what's already strong.

On Monday, April 28, this revised plan will go to the Board of Education, alongside two other options: the original $210 million proposal or doing nothing— the option to do nothing—a path that would almost certainly lead to deferred maintenance, escalating costs, and challenges that grow harder to solve.

This process has been intentional, inclusive, and centered on what matters most—students and trust. We're not just planning projects; we're partnering with you to protect the future of public education.

Tune into the board meeting. Stay informed. Share your voice.
Because strong schools build strong communities—and you are co-authors of our next chapter.

With gratitude,
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

Leadership Transition Announcement: Jessica Auliff Named Next Principal of Wright Elementary



Cedar Rapids Community School District is excited to announce that Jessica Auliff, current principal at Jefferson High School, has been selected to serve as the next principal of Wright Elementary School, effective July 1, 2025, pending board approval.

Jessica brings 13 years of experience in education, including six years in school leadership. She began her career as an elementary classroom teacher and instructional coach, specializing in literacy development and intervention. Her leadership journey has included roles as both an elementary and intermediate principal, and for the past three years, she has led Jefferson High School with dedication, care, and a strong student-centered approach.

In her message to the Wright Elementary community, Jessica shared:

"I'm incredibly excited to join the Wright Elementary community. Elementary education is where my heart is," said Auliff. "It's where I feel most energized, inspired, and connected to my purpose. I look forward to building strong relationships with staff, students, and families as we create a positive, joyful, and inclusive learning environment together."

Jessica's passion for elementary education and inclusive leadership make her a strong match for the Wright community, and we look forward to the continued impact she will

have in her new role.

In a message to Jefferson staff and families, Jessica expressed the difficulty of her decision and her deep appreciation for the J-Hawk community:

“Leaving Jefferson was not an easy decision, as this community holds a very special place in my heart. I'm incredibly grateful for the resilience, care, and dedication I've witnessed here. While I remain proud of all we’ve accomplished together, I’ve realized that my passion lies in elementary education, where I feel most aligned with my purpose. I’m excited to return to the work that brings me the greatest joy, while also creating more balance for my family. I will always carry my time at Jefferson with deep gratitude and pride.”

The district will begin the search for the next principal of Jefferson High School in the coming weeks. Staff and families will have opportunities to be involved in the interview process to help select the school’s next leader.

Please join us in thanking Jessica for her leadership at Jefferson and congratulating her on this exciting next chapter at Wright Elementary!

CRCSD School Board President Honored as 2025 Woman of Influence



We are proud to share that Cindy Garlock, President of the Cedar Rapids Community School District Board of Education, has been named one of the Corridor Business Journal’s 2025 Women of Influence.

This prestigious award celebrates women who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and communities. Cindy’s recognition reflects her deep dedication to public education and her unwavering commitment to the students, families, and staff of Cedar Rapids.

Throughout her time on the Board, Cindy has been a strong advocate for equity, student success, and community engagement. Her leadership has helped guide the district through both challenges and opportunities—with a focus on ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education and a supportive learning environment.

Please join us in congratulating Cindy Garlock on this well-deserved honor, and in celebrating the powerful impact of women leading change in our community.

Learn more about the 2025 Women of Influence at corridorbusiness.com

CRCSD Schools Honored with 2025 STEM Awards



Congratulations to City View Community High School & Metro High School on being selected for the **2025 STEM BEST® Explore: Real-world Adventures Award**—a prestigious recognition from the Iowa Governor’s STEM Advisory Council.

This pilot award supports summer, career-connected learning experiences that help students explore future opportunities beyond the traditional classroom. The program is designed to increase access to work-based learning, reach new student audiences, and strengthen partnerships with local industry and community leaders.

Both proposals stood out for its innovation, inclusivity, and focus on real-world, hands-on experiences. We're excited to see how this initiative will further engage students in meaningful STEM pathways and skill-building this summer.

Kudos to the City View & Metro teams for leading the way in advancing student opportunity and success in STEM!

You're Invited: 52nd Annual Student Built House Unveiling – May 15



Mark your calendar! On Thursday, May 15, 2025, the Cedar Rapids Community School District will unveil its 52nd Annual Student Built House—a testament to the hard work, craftsmanship, and skill of our talented student builders.

Location: 3510 Fitzroy Road, Hiawatha, IA
Time: 3:30 PM – 6:30 PM (Open House Tours)
Student Recognition Ceremony: 5:15 PM – 5:45 PM
Light refreshments will be served

Join us for a public open house to tour this impressive, student-constructed home and celebrate the real-world learning that happens through our Student Built House Program. This hands-on experience gives students the opportunity to gain valuable skills in residential construction while building homes that benefit our local community.

We encourage families, staff, community members, and advocates for career and technical education to attend and support the outstanding work of our students.

Let's come together to recognize the next generation of skilled professionals—one project at a time!

Get Behind the Wheel at "The Yellow Bus Experience" Event



Calling all CRCSD staff—do you know someone who would make a great school bus driver? Or are you curious about what it's like behind the wheel? Join us at *The Yellow Bus Experience* on **May 2 from 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM** at Kingston Stadium for a fun and informative event open to anyone interested in school transportation.

Attendees will:

- **Test drive a real school bus** with the support of a certified trainer
- **Learn about the hiring process and paid training**
- **Explore the benefits** of a CRCSD transportation career, including IPERS
- **Chat with current drive**rs about their experiences

No experience necessary—just bring your interest and a valid driver's license!
Please share this opportunity with friends, family, and community members who may be interested in joining our transportation team. **Applications will be accepted on site!**

Let's keep our students moving forward—one bus ride at a time.

GreenState Give & Grow Match Program Now Open

The GreenState Credit Union Give & Grow to Schools program now accepts donations through **April 30**. This initiative allows GreenState members to have their donations matched—up to $500 per household— in support of the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation.

Please help spread the word and encourage participation in this great opportunity to support our schools!



Donate Today

Bringing Nature Everywhere: A Greener Future for Our Schools and Community



Cedar Rapids has been selected to join the **Nature Everywhere Communities** initiative—aimed at expanding access to nature where kids live, learn, and play.

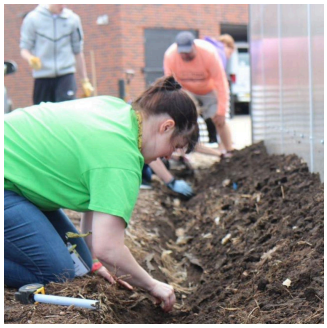
In partnership with **CRCSD, Indian Creek Nature Center**, and the **City of Cedar Rapids**, this project will bring more outdoor learning and play opportunities to our schools through green schoolyards.

These nature-based spaces may include outdoor classrooms, edible gardens, trails, native plantings, and nature play areas—supporting student learning, community wellness, and climate resilience.

Your voice matters! Community feedback will help shape how these spaces are built and used. Together, we can grow greener, healthier spaces for all.

Take the Survey

Glance Around CRCSD



Metro has had a busy and productive start to the 4th quarter!! Hands-on environmental and agricultural learning.



Hiawatha kids brainstormed & put sticky notes to represent their ideas. We then stacked our ideas and determined the BEST way for all of us to help the earth is to pick up trash!



Cleveland's Mrs. Reid helped the second graders understand how blood cells work together to form a scab once a student has injured themself.



KLA students took the stage at the Women Lead Change Conference, where they spoke passionately about their experiences at Leaders Who Lunch events and the importance of understanding through empathy.



Erskine students in Ms. Reis' class explored the science concept of motion! Students experimented with balls and ramps to observe how speed can change.



Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy held a Business & Leadership Showcase. Student leaders shared the 7 Habits of effective leaders with displays and interactive stations.

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 25, 2025

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

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Constant Contact

Try email marketing for free today!