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CRCSD Future Ready Today Newsletter

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A Letter From Dr. Grover



Dear CRCSD Families,

As we wrap up the school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your partnership and support. It has been an honor to educate and serve your students this year. Thank you for entrusting us with their growth, learning, and care.

This has been a year filled with progress, challenges, and many proud moments. Through it all, your encouragement and involvement have made a meaningful difference.

As we head into summer, we celebrate all that your students have accomplished and look forward to the continued journey ahead. We are proud to be part of their story and grateful to be a part of your family's educational experience.
Have a great summer! We encourage students to keep reading and stay curious. We look forward to seeing your students back next school year!

With appreciation,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent

Key Information

Farmer’s Market Kick-off!

We’re kicking off the first Downtown Farmer’s Market of the year with a community-wide effort to support our schools! Join us on Saturday, June 7, from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the corner of 2nd Avenue and 3rd Street, near the US Bank building.

Volunteers will be on hand to gather signatures for the Cedar Rapids school bond petition and hand out balloons featuring each high school’s logo and colors, a fun way to show your school pride!

This is a great chance to support the future of CR Schools while enjoying one of the community’s favorite events. We’d love to see you there!



Introducing Mr. Sam Hostetler as the Next Principal of Jefferson High School

We are excited to announce that Mr. Sam Hostetler will become the next Principal of Jefferson High School, effective July 1, 2025, pending board approval.

Mr. Hostetler will succeed Mrs. Auliff, who is moving to a new role as Principal of Wright Elementary. We thank Mrs. Auliff for her dedication to Jefferson and wish her well.

Many know Mr. Hostetler as Jefferson’s associate principal. A proud J-Hawk with over a decade of experience and a background in special education, he is committed to student success and inclusive learning. He brings leadership experience from Kennedy High School in the Twin Cities and Grant Wood AEA and is passionate about advancing Jefferson’s College and Career Pathways.

Mr. Hostetler, along with his wife Julianne and their three CRCSD students, are proud Cedar Rapids residents. He looks forward to working closely with Mrs. Auliff this summer to ensure a smooth transition.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Hostetler as he prepares to lead Jefferson with heart and pride.



Wilson Middle School Welcomes New Principal, Charlie Goetzinger



We are pleased to announce that Charlie Goetzinger has been named the next principal of Wilson Middle School, effective July 1, 2025, pending school board approval.

Goetzinger brings 14 years of experience within CRCSD, having served as a teacher, facilitator, and, most recently, associate principal at Jefferson High School. His career has been shaped by a strong commitment to creating positive, student-centered experiences, especially for youth on Cedar Rapids' Westside.

A proud Westside resident, Goetzinger and his wife, Rachel, are raising their three children, who are all current or future CRCSD students. Deeply rooted in the community, he also serves on the boards of the Iowa Children's Museum and CR netWORK. In his free time, he enjoys coaching his children's activities, woodworking, and spending time outdoors with his family.
In reflecting on his new role, Goetzinger shared:

"I'm excited to partner with the incredible staff at Wilson to continue improving the experiences of all our stakeholders—students, families, community, and staff alike. I look forward to connecting with each of you and working together to make Wilson a place where everyone thrives."

Please join us in welcoming Charlie Goetzinger to Wilson Middle School. We look forward to the next chapter of leadership, growth, and collaboration under his guidance.

Jennifer Van Fleet Named Executive Director of Student Services

Cedar Rapids Community School District is excited to welcome Jennifer Van Fleet as the new Executive Director of Student Services, starting July 1, 2025, pending board approval.

Jennifer brings over 15 years of experience in public education, most recently serving as the State and Federal Programs Specialist for Davenport Community School District. Her

leadership has focused on MTSS, English Learner programming, at-risk services, and equity-driven student support.

She holds master's degrees in Educational Leadership and Library and Information Science and is committed to building collaborative, student-centered systems.

"I am honored to join the Cedar Rapids team and excited to support the incredible work already happening across the district," Jennifer said. *"I look forward to building strong relationships and ensuring every student receives the support they need to thrive."*



Register Today

District Updates

In-District Permit Applications Due June 15

Families interested in submitting an **In-District Attendance Permit** for the 2025–2026 school year must submit an application by **June 15, 2025**. In-District Permits allow students to attend a school outside of their assigned attendance area if they meet one of the following criteria:

- Continuation: Student has moved but wishes to remain at their current school (proof of new address required)
- Sibling: Student has a sibling currently attending the requested school
- Unique Circumstance: Bullying/Harassment, Custodial right change, etc.

Please note: Transportation is not provided for students attending on a permit.

Due to the need to assess school capacity levels, permit **approval or denial notifications may not be sent until July 31, 2025**. For questions, please contact the Office of School Supports at schoolsupports@crschools.us. Click here to access the application.

3-Year-Old Preschool Now Available



We're excited to share an early learning opportunity for families in our community! Our Half-Day Preschool Program for 3-year-olds is designed to support young learners in building social, emotional, and academic skills in a nurturing classroom environment.

This program is made possible through the Shared Visions income-based grant and is available at only two CRCSD locations for the 2025–26 school year:

Program Locations:

- Cedar River Academy at Taylor
- Grant Wood Elementary

Program Schedule:

- Monday through Thursday
    - Morning Session: 8:50 – 11:50 AM
    - Afternoon Session: 12:50 – 3:50 PM

Please Note:
- This is a half-day program only
- Wrap-around care is NOT available
- Transportation is NOT provided – parents/guardians are responsible for daily drop-off and pick-up

Eligibility & How to Apply:
This program is income-based and funded by the Shared Visions grant. To be considered, families must provide:
- Proof of income
- Your child's birth certificate

If you're a parent or know someone in the community with a child who will be 3 years old and may qualify, we encourage you to apply early — space is limited!

For more details or to begin the application process, please contact our Early Childhood Office or visit our district website.

Tech Corner: Graduating or Leaving CRCSD? Don't Forget to Take Your Google Data—and Update Your Accounts!



As the school year comes to a close, we want to remind all graduating students and staff who are leaving the district to **take their Google data with them** before their CRCSD Google account is deactivated. You can use **Google Takeout** to download an archive of your emails, drive files, calendars, photos, and more—or use **Google Transfer** to copy your Gmail and Google Drive content to a personal Google account.

Get started at takeout.google.com or takeout.google.com/transfer.

Important Reminder:
If you've used your CRCSD email address to sign up for various platforms/subscriptions, such as Apple ID, Xbox, PlayStation, social media, or online shopping accounts, be sure to update those email addresses now to avoid losing access after your CRCSD account closes.

Need help? Contact the CRCSD Helpdesk at 319-558-2900.

Keep Kids Reading This Summer—with Freebies!



Looking for a fun way to keep your child reading all summer long? There are plenty of national and local summer reading programs that reward kids for picking up a book. From free meals to game tickets and even books, these incentives make summer reading extra exciting. Here are just a few options available to families this year:

- **Barnes & Noble –** Kids who read 8 books and complete a B&N Reading Journal can choose a free book from a designated list.
- **Pizza Hut Book It! –** Track reading through the digital dashboard and earn free personal-sized pizzas.
- **Panda Express –** Kids can earn a free meal coupon after reading 5 books.
- **Scholastic –** Use the Home Base App to log books and unlock digital experiences and rewards.
- **Cedar Rapids Kernels –** Minutes spent reading can lead to free food or tickets to a Kernels baseball game!
- **Cedar Rapids Public Library –** Participate in the library's summer reading program and win prizes based on time spent reading.
- **Half Price Books –** Submit a completed reading log to earn a $5 coupon toward any in-store purchase.

Encourage your child to set a summer reading goal and take advantage of these fun, educational incentives. Happy reading!

Free Summer Meals Available for Children and Teens



CRCSD is proud to support the Summer Meals Program, offering free meals to all children age 18 and under from June 9 to August 22, 2025. No registration or paperwork is required—just show up and enjoy!

Important Details:

- No grab-and-go meals—meals must be eaten on site
- Child must be present to receive a meal
- No ID needed
- Menus available on Nutrislice
- Meals served Monday–Friday
    - Breakfast: 8:00–9:30 AM
    - Lunch: 11:00 AM–12:30 PM
    - *No service on June 19 or July 4*

Adult Meals:
Thanks to grant funding, free meals for adults will also be available at:

- Johnson Elementary
- Roosevelt Middle School
- (One meal per adult; adult must be present)

Meal Sites Include:
Erskine, Kenwood, Truman, Viola Gibson, West Willow, Metro, McKinley, Taylor (CRA), Cleveland, Trailside, Hiawatha, Noelridge Park, and Morgan Creek.

To view all locations, dates, and eligibility information, visit:
https://crschools.us/2025/05/free-summer-meals-2/

Let's make sure no child goes hungry this summer!

Glance Around CRCSD



Washington held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new addition being added for the freshman academy and CTE spaces.



The historic mural from Harrison was moved to the ELSC this week. The mural will stay in the ELSC atrium while Harrison undergoes renovations.



Viola Gibson students participated in a color run! They ran around the track 2 times, with 2 colors each round. Students varied from a small dusting to being head-to-toe covered!



Metro finished building their S.H.E.D. Learning Lab. SHED stands for Sustainable Habitat for Energy Development. A hands-on, experiential space focused on energy, sustainability, and practical solutions for real-world environmental challenges.



Students learned about fire forensics at Washington by constructing two-story ‘houses’ out of cardboard and setting them on fire to discover how first can start and spread.



Hiawatha Elementary 1st graders had a wonderful time at their end-of-the-year celebration at Guthridge Park. Students enjoyed the playground, splash pad, and a picnic lunch.



Harrison staff are saying goodbye to their building for 2 years while tit undergoes renovation. Students and staff will join with Madison until the project is complete.

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: Freshman Academy to give incoming Cedar Rapids Washington High students a ‘Warrior hug’
- Gazette: Six Metro High students will travel to Prague thanks to state pilot program that encourages summer learning

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.

June 5, 2025

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

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