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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 in between, 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

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Celebrating the Class of 2025: A Community Effort



Dear CRCSD Families,

Graduation season is a time of pride, reflection, and gratitude. This weekend, we will celebrate the Class of 2025—remarkable students who are ready to take their next steps into the world, armed with knowledge, resilience, and purpose.

One of the most heartwarming CRCSD traditions leading up to graduation is our Senior Walks, organized by the Cedar Rapids Community Schools Foundation. During these walks, our graduating seniors return to their elementary schools, walking the halls in their caps and gowns where their educational journey began. It's a powerful moment for everyone involved. Our younger students get a glimpse of what's possible. Our teachers are reminded of the lasting impact they make. And our graduates have a chance to reflect on just how far they've come.

To our CRCSD families — *Thank you.* Your love and commitment have guided your students from their very first day of school to this life-changing milestone. Whether you read bedtime stories, helped with math homework, packed lunches, or simply ensured your student showed up ready to learn, your support has made all the difference.

To our students — *Congratulations.* Your perseverance, curiosity, and heart have brought you to this moment. We are so proud of all you've accomplished, and we can't wait to see the incredible things you will do next.

Graduation is more than a ceremony. It's a celebration of community, shared effort, and hope. Thank you for being part of the village that helped our seniors soar.

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

Key Information

Calendar Reminder



As we wrap up the school year, please note the following important dates:

- **No School on Monday, May 26,** in observance of Memorial Day. We hope you enjoy a safe and relaxing holiday weekend.
- The **last day of school** for students is Thursday, June 5, and it will be a full day of classes.

Thank you for a great school year!

Graduation 2025: Everything You Need to Know!



Graduation is just around the corner, and we're excited to celebrate the Class of 2025! For the full list of graduation details, updates, and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit our website here: https://crschools.us/2025/05/2025-graduation-information/

Plus, be sure to check out the district's social media pages! We're celebrating some of our top-performing seniors, nominated by their schools for outstanding academic achievement. — it's a great way to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the Class of 2025.

Let's make this a memorable milestone for our seniors — we can't wait to celebrate their accomplishments!

Free Summer Meals Available for Children and Teens



CRCSD is proud to support the Summer Meals Program, by 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 required
- Weekly menus are available on Nutrislice
- Meals are 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 a generous grant, free adult meals will be available at the following schools. Each adult may receive one meal and must be present to receive it.

- Johnson Elementary
- Roosevelt Middle School

Summer Meal Sites:
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!

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 baseball 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 the 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!

District Updates

Sean Neilly Named Assistant Principal at Taft Middle School



We are excited to share that Sean Neilly has been selected as the next Assistant Principal of Taft Middle School, effective July 1, 2025, pending board approval. Sean will step into this new role as current assistant principal Jessiah Gilchrist transitions to principal, following the retirement of longtime principal Gary Hatfield.

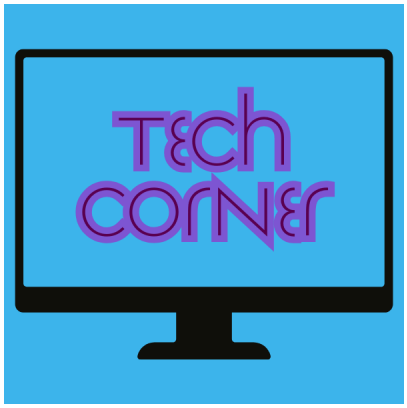
Sean brings over 25 years of experience within the Cedar Rapids Community School District. He currently serves as an Instructional Coach and social studies teacher at Harding Middle School. His CRCSD journey has also included teaching roles at Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools, three years of service at the Educational Leadership and Support Center (ELSC), and district leadership in social studies curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

"I am thrilled to join Taft's leadership team as a long admirer of their school climate and culture. It's a very welcoming staff, and I'm looking forward to working with students, staff members, and the Taft community in my new role," shared Sean.

Incoming principal Jessiah Gilchrist expressed confidence in Sean's leadership and alignment with Taft's values.
"Sean has extensive experience in educational and instructional leadership that will greatly benefit Taft students, staff, and families. His deep care and understanding will help Taft students grow and achieve more in their learning as they transition from elementary to high school."

Please join us in congratulating Sean Neilly on this well-deserved appointment.

Summer Chromebook Expectations for 8th through 11th Graders



As you head into summer, please remember these important guidelines for taking care of your district Chromebook. This is the first time in a few years that 8th graders will be taking their devices home over the summer. Following these helpful tips to ensure your device is ready for high school this fall!

Handle with Care
- Always carry your Chromebook with two hands.
- Keep it inside the protective case at all times.
- Never lift or carry it by the screen.

Keep it Clean
- Keep all food and drinks away from the device.
- Use a soft, dry cloth to clean the screen and keyboard.

Watch the Temperature
- Do not leave your Chromebook in cars or outside.
- Do not leave in direct sunlight or extreme temperatures.

Report Issues Promptly
If your Chromebook is lost, stolen, or damaged, contact the IT Help Desk at your future high school right away:
- Jefferson HS: 558-2435 | jeffhelpdesk@crschools.us

- Kennedy HS: 558-2251 | kennhelpdesk@crschools.us
- Washington HS: 558-2161 | washhelpdesk@crschools.us
- District Helpdesk: 558-2900 | helpdesk@crschools.us

Cost Responsibility
Families are responsible for the repair or replacement costs of any Chromebook or accessories that are lost, stolen, or damaged due to neglect or misuse.

Return in August
Be sure to bring your Chromebook and charger back in August in good working condition for the beginning of the new school year.

Students Recognized at Annual Quota Luncheon

Congratulations to students from each of our middle schools, who were recently honored at the 9th Annual Quota Luncheon, held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Rapids.

Quota International hosts this special event each year to recognize eighth-grade students who have demonstrated significant personal growth, not only in academics, but in their overall development as middle school students.

Honorees are selected based on a variety of criteria, including:
- Making positive choices
- Demonstrating leadership
- Showing improvement in behavior or attitude
- Helping fellow students
- Overcoming challenges with resilience
- And other impactful contributions recognized by their school staff

We're proud of these students for their accomplishments and for representing CRCSD so well!



Ja'Nayah Clark - Franklin Middle School



Logan Davis - Franklin Middle School



Diana Pac-Tamayac - Harding Middle School



Tatum Wilson - Harding Middle School



Ahmed Yusuf - McKinley STEAM Academy



Suleidy Perez Garcia - McKinley STEAM Academy



Garcia Akakpo - Roosevelt Creative Corridor



Owen Osborn - Roosevelt Creative Corridor



George Robinson - Taft Middle School



Jaedyn Rhatigan - Taft Middle School



Brianna Blahnik - Wilson Middle School



Raphael Selemani - Wilson Middle School

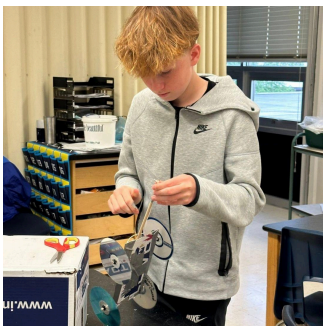
Glance Around CRCSD



Hiawatha Elementary had a great time at Camp



Metro High School had Llama Friday for their



At Harding Middle School, Mrs. Poggenklass's extended class has been

Courageous.

Phoenix Phriday and it was so amazing!

learning how to make mousetrap cars and tested them out.



Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy's band and orchestra students had a blast visiting 5th-graders. They introduced the students to various instruments and got them excited about joining band and orchestra in middle school.



Ms. Drzycimski at Cleveland Elementary led a successful Lego Club this year. It's great to see students use their creativity as Lego builders!



McKinley Steam Academy's Culinary Club went to Newbo Market to make pizzas! These chefs spent the last school year cultivating and sharpening their cooking skills so they could be ready to make their very own pizza today!

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: CRCSD administrators take on new duties amid cuts
- Gazette: Campaign for Cedar Rapids schools' $117M bond gets underway
- Iowa News Now: Linn County Board backs Cedar Rapids schools' bond proposal for facilities upgrade vote

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 23, 2025

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

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