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Cedar Rapids
Community School District

A New School Year is Underway



We are thrilled to welcome our students back for another exciting school year! The first day of school was filled with energy, excitement, and lots of smiles as our students reconnected with friends and teachers. Our schools once again became the vibrant centers of activity that we all cherish.

Our dedicated teachers and staff have worked hard all summer to prepare for the new school year. We are committed to equipping, empowering, and engaging our students so they can excel. We look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and achievement, and we are excited to see all that our students will accomplish.

We are also excited about the opportunities this year for our families and the broader community to engage with our schools. Your involvement plays a crucial role in your child's success, and we encourage you to stay connected and get involved with our schools. Together, we can make a significant impact on the education and well-being of our students.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we work together to make this school year a success.



News and Updates

Kingston Stadium Updates



Now that the fall sports season is underway, we wanted to remind you of the rules at Kingston Stadium. These policies are to ensure a safe, supportive, and collaborative environment for all athletes, officials, staff, and spectators.

- High school students must present their ID in order to enter the stadium.
- Middle school-aged children and younger must be accompanied by a paying adult.
- Only clear bags will be allowed in the stadium with adults and are subject to search. Students may NOT enter with backpacks, bags, or cinch sacks.
- No outside food or drink is permitted.
- All spectators must enter and stay on their assigned sides of the stadium
- All spectators will be respectful, safe, and responsible and follow the directions of the on-site administration, Kingston staff, and security.
- No weapons, alcohol, non-prescription controlled substances, or products containing nicotine will be allowed in the stadium.
- Once you leave the stadium, you cannot return.
- No loitering in and around the stadium.
- Spectators must leave Kingston Stadium grounds immediately after the game is complete.
- Abusive, threatening, or inappropriate verbal or physical conduct directed toward students, school officials, employees, officials, players, activity sponsors, security personnel, or other individuals will not be tolerated
- Please review and adhere to the District's Code of Conduct at all times.

We also want to remind families and spectators that you can buy digital tickets for Kingston games ahead of time online using GoBound. When you buy a ticket online, you will show the ticket on your phone or print the QR code at the entrance gate. Student and adult activity passes are also available online, which saves you money. Plus, purchasing tickets online allows you to use credit/debit cards and reduces wait time at the entrance gate.

PPEL Renewal Vote Coming



For 50 years, the community has supported our District's PPEL (the Physical Plant & Equipment Levy). This levy serves as the primary funding source for urgent and ongoing maintenance and repairs of our facilities, equipment, and vehicles, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for our students and staff. To learn more about PPEL and to see what projects it has helped fund, visit our website crschools.us/PPEL

PPEL is up for renewal and will appear as Public Measure C on the ballot for a special election on September 10, 2024. During this special election, voters will have the opportunity to renew the existing PPEL funding for another ten years. Renewing this levy will NOT increase property tax rates. In fact, our District is lowering our property tax rate for 2025, making it the lowest of all the school districts in Linn County. Click Here to see a sample ballot.

Absentee voting is available for this upcoming election. However, you must request your ballot by August 26th. For detailed instructions on absentee voting, including how to

request an absentee ballot and request/filing deadlines, please refer to the Linn County voting resources HERE.

Update on Senate File 496



Ongoing litigation around Iowa Senate SF 496 has recently resulted in a fast-approaching need to comply with the terms of that legislation. In general terms, it requires all school districts in Iowa to remove certain books from their online and on-display library collections and restricts the use of those books in the curriculum. The legislation has yet to become enforceable but will be very soon. In anticipation of the effective date, however, CRCSD is taking necessary steps by removing certain books from circulation and making them unavailable for the curriculum as the law requires. This process will be complete before the law takes effect.

CRCSD recognizes and respects the wide variety of opinions and emotions around this legislation. This is true for students enrolled in our schools, all community members, and our personnel.

This general update will soon be followed by written guidance for librarians, teachers, and building administrators with more specific information about the new law's requirements. We are working quickly with legal counsel on those guidelines.

CRCSD continuously ensures its operations comply with all applicable legal authority. As an educational institution, our foremost objective is to equip, empower, and engage our students so they are future-ready. We must adhere to all statutes and regulations at any level, whether local, state, or federal, and our commitment to student development is steadfast. In this particular case, the source of the laws in question is the Iowa Legislature, and the source of the regulations is our state Department of Education. As it always has, CRCSD will respect applicable laws while encouraging students to think critically from diverse standpoints. We continue our promise to graduate students who are equipped, empowered, engaged, and future-ready with even more than a high school diploma.

Supporting All Students - Crisis Prevention at CRCSD Update



On Sept. 12, 2022, the Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) entered into an agreement with the United States Department of Justice around the areas of seclusion and physical restraint of students with behavior concerns. The district has worked diligently with our school buildings to ensure that we are implementing approaches to student behavior that are evidence-based, positive, and the least restrictive means of responding to each student. As a result, our efforts provide a heavy emphasis on prevention and de-escalation strategies such as truly knowing and understanding the reason for individual student behaviors, giving a student choices, listening to a student, and encouraging/collaborating with the student to find a solution.

On Thursday, September 5th, we will host a community event at the Educational Leadership and Support Center at 2500 Edgewood Road. NW from 5 PM to 6 PM for our parents and community to learn more. CRCSDwill also live stream this event. If you have any comments or questions on the agreement or strategies, please provide it in the form below. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to Ryals Parker, Executive Director of Behavior Supports.

Submit your questions here

Important Dates

School Picture Days



Get those smiles ready! School pictures for CRCSD students are right around the corner. This year, CRCSD will use HR Imaging Partners, Inc. as our school photo vendor. Below is the schedule of the picture dates for each school in the District. Your student's schools will communicate any changes to these dates. Picture make-up dates are scheduled to start in October.

- Cedar Rapids Home School - 10/17
- Cedar River Academy - 9/23
- City View High School - 8/29
- Cleveland - 8/27
- Erskine Elementary - 8/29
- Franklin Middle School - 8/30
- Grant Elementary - 9/4
- Grant Wood Elementary - 10/15
- Harding Middle School - 9/16
- Harrison Elementary - 9/12
- Hiawatha Elementary - 9/18
- Hoover Community School - 8/23
- Jefferson High School - 9/9
- Johnson STEAM Academy - 10/10
- Kennedy High School - 8/27-8/28
- Kenwood Leadership Academy - 8/29
- Madison Elementary - 8/28
- Maple Grove Elementary - 9/11
- McKinley STEAM Academy - 8/29
- Metro High School - 9/16
- Nixon Elementary - 9/26
- Pierce Elementary - 10/9
- Polk Alternative - 8/30
- Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy - 10/7
- Taft Middle School - 9/5
- Trailside Elementary - 10/16

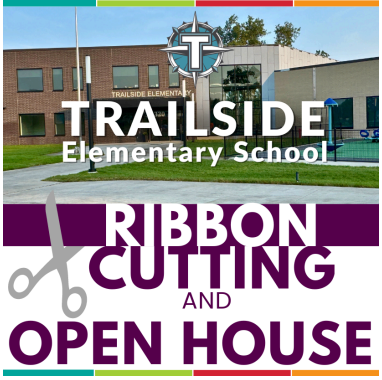
No School September 2 - Labor Day



Just a reminder that there is no school for students, and all District offices will be closed on Monday, September 2nd, in observance of Labor Day. You can check out the 2024-25 District Calendar to see future school holidays and scheduled no school days.

Trailside Elementary School Ribbon Cutting

Students, families, and the community are invited to Trailside Elementary School's official ribbon-cutting ceremony and community open house on Thursday, September 12, 2024. The ribbon-cutting presentation will begin at 4:30 PM, with the community open house immediately following. We hope you can join us as we celebrate this momentous occasion.



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: New task force begins examining Cedar Rapids schools' needs
- Gazette: Renew PPEL for Cedar Rapids schools
- KCRG: Cedar Rapids Community School District hosts "Bus Rodeo" training for school bus drivers
- KCRG: Cedar Rapids schools superintendent asks voters to show up for Sept 10 PPEL vote
- KGAN: Cedar Rapids Community Schools Superintendent reflects on first year, eyes bond success
- KGAN: Cedar Rapids schools to enforce stricter attendance policy to comply with new Iowa law
- KWWL: Cedar Rapids Superintendent talks about what students and parents can expect for the upcoming 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.

August 23, 2024

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

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