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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-style update! 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 Spotify, Amazon Music, Podchaser, and YouTube.

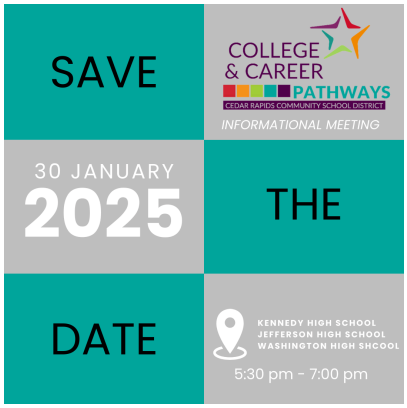
Listen To The Podcast

College and Career Pathways Update

Despite the frigid temperatures, 71 dedicated parents and community members gathered on January 21 for the second College and Career Pathways Parent Advisory meeting. We are extremely grateful for the advisory members' time and input as we continue to shape this innovative program so that it can benefit all students.

The primary focus of the meeting was the amended timeline proposal for the pathways program and the construction plans for Jefferson and Washington High Schools.

Revised Pathways Timeline Receives Strong Support
Based on feedback from staff, parents, and community members, the district has proposed adjusting the program's launch timeline by one year. The change gives schools more time to prepare while ensuring the program's success.



School Year	School	Program
25 - 26	Jefferson, Washington, & Kennedy	Preparing to Launch Phase • Freshman Seminar Offered as an Elective Course (not required) • Team teachers and students • Freshman are not in a dedicated space
26 - 27	Jefferson, Washington, & Kennedy	Freshman Academy Launch • Freshman Seminar Required

		• Team teachers and students • Move into dedicated Freshman space
27 - 28	Jefferson, Washington, Kennedy, City View & Metro	Upper Academy Launch

The revised timeline has been widely praised, with nearly 90% of high school staff and 95% of Parent Advisory Team members expressing support.

Construction Projects to Support Pathways
Director of Operations Chad Schumacher shared updates on upcoming construction plans at Jefferson and Washington High Schools. These projects, funded by SAVE (sales tax revenue) and PPEL (Physical Plant & Equipment Levy) funds, will create spaces tailored for Freshman Academies and future career academies. The designs aim to provide flexibility to accommodate future program needs.

- Jefferson High School: Construction begins in March 2025, following teachers' recommendations and the Freshman academy is expected to be completed by August 2026.
- Washington High School: Work will start in June 2025, and the Freshman Academy is anticipated to be completed by August 2026.
- Kennedy High School: No immediate construction is planned, but designated space within the existing building will house the Freshman Academy. Future renovations, including cafeteria updates and Freshman Academy classrooms, will depend on the proposed November 2025 bond vote.

The District is planning to hold another Community Informational Meeting on January 30th. The meetings will be held in the Jefferson High School Cafeteria, Kennedy High School Cafeteria, and Washington High School Library from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. The content shared will be the same at each location. Students, staff, parents, and the community are invited to attend to learn about updates on the Freshman Academy and the Pathways program. This is a great opportunity to hear directly from program leaders and building principals.

Magnet Spotlight



The Cedar Rapids Community School District Magnet Lottery is now open for grades K-8. Families interested in exploring unique, theme-based learning opportunities are encouraged to apply. Learn about the lottery here.

Magnet Spotlight
Johnson STEAM Academy is a magnet school that specializes in a STEAM curriculum with a distinctive focus on the arts. This unique approach allows students to explore their creativity while mastering technical subjects.
By integrating artistic expression into core subjects like literacy, social studies, science, and technology, the academy fosters a dynamic learning environment where innovation and creativity go hand in hand. Students are not only prepared academically but are also equipped with the skills and imagination needed for a wide range of future careers.

Meet the Magnets
There will also be a Meet the Magnets event on January 27, 4:30 - 6:00 PM, at the public library. This is a district-wide open house to inform families about the district's magnet school opportunities.

You can learn more about all our magnet schools on our website.

Kennedy Jazz One Shines at Triton Jazz Festival

On Friday, January 17th, Kennedy Jazz One delivered a show-stopping performance at the Triton Jazz Festival, taking home 1st place in the 4A division. Competing against 14 talented jazz bands, Kennedy Jazz One showcased their exceptional musicianship and teamwork, earning top honors.

In addition to the group's outstanding achievement, several members received individual recognition for their remarkable solos. Congratulations to Camden Neff, Andrew Campbell, Evan Goedeken, and Delaney Steenblock for being awarded soloist honors!

This victory highlights the dedication and talent of the Kennedy Jazz One ensemble, as well as the hard work of their director and supporting team. Their success at the Triton Jazz Festival is a testament to their passion for jazz and commitment to excellence.

Bravo, Kennedy Jazz One!



Metro High School Celebrates Winter Graduation



On Thursday, January 23rd, Metro High School proudly celebrated its Winter Graduation, honoring the accomplishments of over 20 dedicated graduates.

The ceremony was a momentous occasion, marking the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance, and personal growth. Family, friends, and faculty gathered to applaud the graduates as they turned the page to an exciting new chapter in their lives.

Congratulations to the Class of Winter 2025! Your resilience and determination have set the stage for a bright future ahead. Best wishes as you take your next steps toward success!

Kindergarten & New Student Registration Now Open



New Student Registration for the 25-26 school year, is now open. This includes any NEW student to CRCSD entering Kindergarten through 12th grade. Children who are five years old on or before September 15, 2025, are eligible for Kindergarten this fall. Please note that preschool registration will open at a later date.

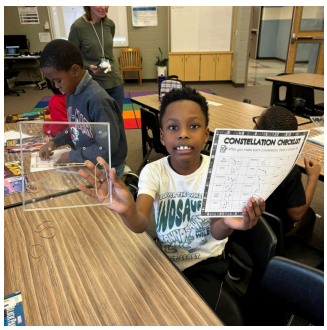
Our **Annual Verification will open on April 1, 2025**. Parents must complete the Annual Verification for all current CRCSD students each year to verify that they are attending a CRCSD school for the next school year, update important contact information, and complete yearly permission forms.

Register Now

Glance Around CRCSD



Kindergarteners at Hiawatha Elementary created teepees using tortillas and markers as a fun finale for their CKLA Native American unit. They learned that the Lakota Sioux used teepees because they were easy to set up



First graders at Hoover Elementary had a fantastic time designing constellations on their geoboards. It was a hands-on way to learn and spark creativity!



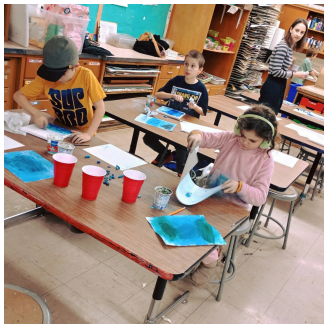
Taft Middle School students Cotasinga and Niewland made it to the final round of the Future City Competition, finishing 3rd and 4th, respectively. Their hard work and dedication are an

and move while following buffalo herds.

inspiration—great job to all the Taft teams!



The 2025 Future City Competition kicked off at Kirkwood, with Harding Middle School teams ready to compete. Best of luck to all the Harding students participating today!



Art Explorers at Grant Wood Elementary started their creative journey with a fantastic session last week. We can't wait to see what new art mediums they explore next!



The 5th grade Student Leadership Team at Maple Grove Elementary led an assembly to review PAWS school expectations. We're so proud to see our Grizzlies take the lead—way to go!

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: Cedar Rapids schools slowing launch of Pathways program
- Gazette: Cedar Rapids school district land buy answers a key question
- KCRG: Cedar Rapids school district slowing rollout of Pathways Program
- KCRG: Cedar Rapids school district to hold meetings on updated pathways timeline
- KWWL: Cedar Rapids School District seeking feedback on College & Career Pathway program

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:

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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.

January 24, 2025

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

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