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Cedar Rapids Community School District

Building Emergency Response Protocols

Hold, Secure, and Lockdown



As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a safe and secure learning environment, Cedar Rapids Community School District is implementing three updated safety protocols for the 2024-2025 school year: **Hold, Secure, and Lockdown**. These protocols are designed to ensure the safety of students and staff in various emergency situations. The district's Safe & Secure Learning Environment Administrator, Police Pals, and School Resource Offices will be discussing these protocols with students in the coming weeks.

Hold - The Hold protocol is used when we need to keep hallways clear due to an issue inside the building that is not related to an immediate threat. This could include a medical emergency or any situation where movement in the halls would be disruptive.

- Actions for Students and Staff: During a Hold, hallways will be cleared, classroom doors will be shut and locked, and all students and staff will remain in their classrooms. Learning and activities will continue as usual inside the classroom until an "all clear" is given.
- For Families: You may not notice a Hold protocol has been initiated unless you are at the school during the incident. Communication about the Hold will likely not be sent out afterward unless warranted.

Secure - The Secure protocol is used when there is a potential threat outside the school building, such as police activity in the surrounding neighborhood. The goal is to keep students safe inside while limiting access to the building.

- Actions for Students and Staff: All exterior doors and windows are closed and locked, and no one is allowed to enter or exit the building. Inside, it's business as usual, and classes continue uninterrupted.
- For Families: If a Secure protocol is enacted, no one will be allowed in or out of the building until the threat is resolved. You will receive communication from the school or district regarding the situation AFTER the "all clear" has been given.

Lockdown - A Lockdown is used when an immediate threat is inside or near the school. This protocol is designed to protect students and staff from harm.

- Actions for Students and Staff: During a Lockdown, all interior and exterior doors and windows are locked. Students and staff are instructed to initiate their Run-Hide-Fight Plan. They can "run" to escape, if possible. If escape is not possible, they can "hide" in a safe place away from view. As a last resort, they can "fight" if they come into direct contact with the threat. No one is allowed to move until law enforcement or school administration lifts the lockdown.

- For Families: In the event of a Lockdown, it is critical that families stay away from the school. Law enforcement will handle the situation, and no one will be allowed into the building until the threat is gone. The district will communicate with families as soon as it is safe to do so.

In any of these situations, we understand that your first instinct as a parent or guardian is to want immediate information or to pick up your child. However, it is essential for everyone's safety that parents refrain from calling or going to the school when these Safety Protocols are initiated. During a crisis, school staff and emergency responders must focus on students' safety. Unnecessary calls make it harder for staff to respond to the threat or to communicate with emergency personnel. Also, arriving at the school can place you in harm's way, complicate safety efforts, and reduce response time.

We thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our schools safe.





PPEL Renewal Vote on Tuesday!

Vote, Tuesday, September 10th



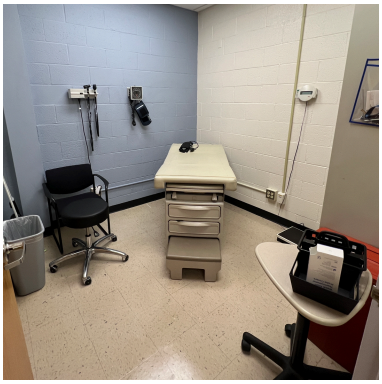
Next Tuesday, September 10, 20204, voters will have the opportunity to vote on renewing our District's PPEL (Physical Plant & Equipment Levy), listed as Public Measure C on the ballot. PPEL is the Cedar Rapids Community School District's primary funding source for urgent and ongoing maintenance and repairs of school buildings, as well as for purchasing essential equipment and vehicles. To learn more about PPEL, visit the website crschools.us/PPEL

This levy ensures our students and staff have a safe and conducive learning environment. It also allows the district to have a 10-year preventative facility maintenance plan and quickly address unexpected repairs, such as those caused by the derecho. **Renewing PPEL will NOT increase property tax rates.**

We hope you and your family will head out to the polls on September 10th. To find your polling location, click here and enter your home address. If you have questions about voting registration and to see a sample ballot, click here.

PPEL

Metro Health Clinics



Metro Care Connection, the Cedar Rapids Community School District's sponsored school-based health clinics, offers essential healthcare services to all PK-12 students in the District. Located at Washington, Jefferson, and Metro high schools, the clinics are staffed by licensed nurse practitioners who provide students with physical and preventative health care, regardless of their family's ability to pay.

The clinics provide sports physicals, routine PK physical examinations, immunizations for students who qualify, treatment of minor illnesses, basic lab tests, and health education. They also offer health counseling and can make referrals for students with more complex health conditions. By offering care directly within schools, Metro Care Connection eliminates many of the barriers that students and families may face in accessing health services, such as transportation, time, and cost. This critical support ensures that all CRCSD students can thrive both academically and personally in and out of the classroom. If you would like to make an appointment for a Metro Care Connection clinic, please contact your child's school nurse for more information and appropriate paperwork.

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.

Champions Information

CHAMPIONS

Cedar Rapids Community School District
Every Learner. Future Ready.

CRCSD is partnering with Champions to provide all-day childcare on days when school is not in session due to professional learning for staff. While the care will only be available at select locations across the district, it helps to give working families a convenient option for childcare on days when regular classes are not in session. Care will be available for any CRCSD kindergarten through 5th grade student at Erskine Elementary, Hiawatha Elementary, Kenwood Leadership Academy, and Viola Gibson Elementary School. In addition, Truman Early Learning Center will serve as the Champions childcare site for preschool students. More information about this program and how to register will be sent out by each elementary school.

Understanding the New Student Attendance Policy

With the recent changes in the district's student attendance policies, we have had to create some new attendance codes in our system to help reflect these changes and better track student attendance. As you may recall, these changes were required to ensure compliance with the new legislation (SF2435). Click here for a list of codes and what they mean.



Some questions have also been raised on what student absences are exempt from the student-level consequences per the new legislation (SF2435). The State of Iowa's code states, "a student is absent if they are not physically on school grounds or are not participating in an expected and school-directed activity under the direction, supervision, or instructional guidance of educational staff at an approved off-grounds location for at least half the school day."

School officials are responsible for objectively deciding whether or not a student's absence is exempt from the student-level consequences per SF2435. Reliable and credible evidence must be available in order for an absence to be considered exempt. Here are a few examples of absences and whether they would or would not be marked as exempt/excused.

Exempt Scenarios	Decision 1 Absent or Present	Decision 2 Exempt per SF2435?
Attending community college course, CTE placement	Present	NA
School-directed/supervised activity (e.g., FFA Conference, Art Show, Class Trip)	Present	NA
In School Suspension (ISS)	Present	NA
Youth Shelter/Detention Center [1]	Present	NA
Medically homebound/Medical excuse but completing work [1]	Present	NA
Participating in state athletic competition, Show Choir, art show	Present	NA
Watching classmates in state athletic competition, Show Choir, art show	Absent	No
Out of School Suspension (OSS)	Absent	No
Absent, parent excused, no reason given	Absent	No
Family Vacation, funeral, "Out of town"	Absent	No
Car trouble, vehicle accident	Absent	No
Helping family (e.g., planting, harvest, working shift at family business)	Absent	No
College visit, not school directed/supervised	Absent	No
Arrived to school then skipped classes	Absent	No
Absent, no parent contact	Absent	No

Hazel Health

CRCSD is partnering with Hazel Health to expand access to mental health services for all of our students! Hazel Health is a telehealth service that will help support student mental well-being without any out-of-pocket cost for families. This new resource will help us support more students, especially those who may not be our highest-need students but still would benefit from care.



Student appointments will be virtual and can take place on any internet-connected device either during school hours or at home outside of school. Students will work with locally licensed therapists who speak multiple languages, understand cultural differences, and are experts in the unique needs of today's youth. Hazel Health provides short-term evidence-based teletherapy, where therapists work with a student on a particular goal, such as anxiety reduction techniques. Services are 100% confidential and are free for students.

Your student's school will share more information about this new service in the coming week. The district hopes to start accepting student appointments beginning the week of September 30th.

Important Dates

High School Homecoming Dates

Homecoming, or HoCo as students call it, is right around the corner for Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools! It is a time for students, staff, and alumni to come together and celebrate their school. Each institution has its beloved homecoming traditions that echo the unity and spirit of our district. Below are the dates for each high school's upcoming homecoming celebrations. Check with each school on the specific times and locations of each activity.



Jefferson

- Parade: September 18
- Football Game: September 19
- Homecoming Dance: September 20

Kennedy

- Parade: September 25
- Football Game: September 26
- Homecoming Dance: September 27

Washington

- Parade and Bonfire: October 2
- Football Game: October 4
- Homecoming Dance: October 5

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
- Cleveland - 9/18
- Grant Wood Elementary - 10/15
- Harding Middle School - 9/16
- Harrison Elementary - 9/12
- Hiawatha Elementary - 9/18
- Hoover Community School - 8/30
- Jefferson High School - 9/9 & 9/10
- Johnson STEAM Academy - 10/10
- Kennedy High School - 9/11
- Kenwood Leadership Academy - 9/18
- Maple Grove Elementary - 9/11
- Metro High School - 9/16
- Nixon Elementary - 9/26
- Pierce Elementary - 10/9
- Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy - 10/7
- Trailside Elementary - 10/16
- Truman Early Learning Center - 10/1
- Van Buren Elementary - 10/8
- Viola Gibson Elementary - 10/8
- Washington High School - 8/26
- West Willow Elementary - 10/7
- Wilson Middle School - 10/17
- Wright Elementary - 10/3

Glance Around CRCSD



8th graders at Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy had an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills this week with math teachers Mr. Daws and Mr. Wollenberg.



Ms. Hentges' 4th graders got to meet Noodle, Cedar River Academy's hedgehog. They learned how important it is to stay calm and quiet to help animals feel comfortable around new people.



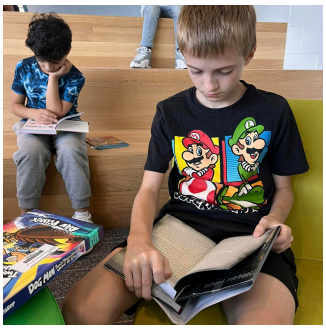
The 2nd graders at Maple Grove Elementary School are really enjoying the cooler weather this week during their recess time.



The Sunshine Spreaders made their way around Hoover Community School last Friday to cheer up our staff after they completed their first full week of school!



Johnson STEAM Academy 2nd graders created beautiful designs using pattern blocks and geoboards to practice their geometry skills during math this week.



Students at the new Trailside Elementary got the chance to check out and read books for the first time in their amazing new library.

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:** Voters to decide Tuesday on property tax levy vital to maintaining Cedar Rapids schools
- **KCRG:** Cedar Rapids schools provide update on crisis prevention policies

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.

September 6, 2024

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

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