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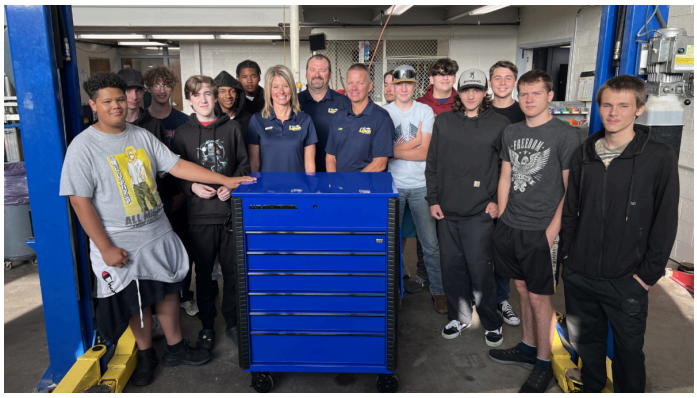
Future Ready Today Newsletter

Board of Education Meeting - Monday, September 23rd



On Monday, our regular Board of Education Meeting will be held. The meeting starts at 5:30 PM in the Boardroom of the Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd. NW. You can go ahead and access the agenda of the meeting here.

Ratcheting Up Learning With a Gift



This week, wheeling into the first block of the Automotive class at Jefferson High School, was a gift. "We are going to have so much fun learning with these tools," said one Jefferson student after opening the newly donated toolbox from Lynch Ford Chevy in Mount Vernon. CRCSD would like to thank Lynch for partnering with us. The Automotive program received the gift, which will help assist students in being equipped, empowered, and engaged in College and careers.



CRCSD Facilities Task Force Update



The Cedar Rapids Community School District's facilities task force recently met to discuss funding sources and their respective uses and restrictions. The three primary funding sources explored were:

- **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL):** This funding source is typically used for purchasing and improving grounds, buildings, and equipment. It has specific limitations on what it can be used for, often excluding operational costs.
- **Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE):** SAVE funds are derived from a state-wide sales tax and are used for infrastructure improvements, technology purchases, and other capital projects. They have more flexibility compared to PPEL but are still restricted from covering operational expenses.
- **Bond Referendum:** Bonds are used for large-scale capital projects like building new schools or major renovations. They require voter approval and are repaid over time through property taxes.

During the meeting, participants engaged in table discussions to identify important values for the school district. Each table selected a spokesperson to report common themes, which will help guide the development of the facilities plan.

Learn more

It's Important to Attend!



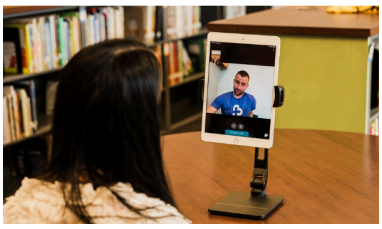
With the recent changes in the district's student attendance policies, we have had to create some new attendance codes in our system to help reflect these changes and better track student attendance. As you may recall, these changes were required to ensure compliance with the new legislation (SF2435).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

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.

Go Guardian Filtering



The District's IT Department recently upgraded the system used to filter and block inappropriate online content on all district-managed devices and accounts. This new system, called GoGuardian, also offers parents visibility into their student's online activity on school devices through the GoGuardian Parent Mobile App. This app allows parents to monitor the websites, apps, and extensions their child uses on district-managed devices. Additionally, parents can set internet controls for school-issued devices at home, including blocking specific websites or pausing internet access during non-school hours. ***Please note that this feature ONLY applies to district and school-managed devices and accounts, not personal devices.*** Also, students will receive a notification on their screen whenever a parent logs in to the app to monitor their usage.
To access the app, please follow the below instructions:

- Download the app
  - Download via Apple Store
  - Download via Google Play Store
- After the app is successfully downloaded and installed, open it up and enter the email address registered with the school. Note: Your registered email is what you have listed in Infinite Campus
- Login/Check Email: Check your email on your cell phone for a link to log in to the app. Tap the "Verify your email", and it will take you straight to the app. Note: If you don't have access to your email through the device you used to log in, tap on "Login with verification code", and copy and paste the verification code from the email into the app.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the IT Help Desk at 319-558-2900.

Homecoming Dates





Jefferson Homecoming

It's been a super busy week at Jefferson High School as their homecoming theme of Once Upon a Homecoming wraps up. From unique student dress-up day themes to the annual homecoming parade to the all-school pep rally, CRCSD would like to congratulate the J-Hawk homecoming court and crowned royalty Keon Lewis and Ryiah Nickell. Also, their football team earned the homecoming game victory over Des Moines East by a score of 24-8.

J-Hawk students will wrap up their Once Upon a Homecoming week with the annual homecoming dance this evening.



Other Homecoming Dates



Kennedy High School and Washington High Schools are coming up! Check out the dates and times below. Check with each school on the specific times and locations of each activity.

Kennedy

- Parade: September 25 - Check out the Parade Route
- 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
- Grant Wood Elementary - 10/15
- Johnson STEAM Academy - 10/10
- 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
- West Willow Elementary - 10/7
- Wilson Middle School - 10/17
- Wright Elementary - 10/3

Glance Around CRCSD



There will be happy birds in Hiawatha neighborhoods! Hiawatha Elementary 2nd graders in Mrs. Stolba's class created bird feeder prototypes to attract certain birds.



Kindergarten students at Hoover Community School participated in the Nursery Rhymes and Fable Olympics this week. As they wrapped up their unit of study. The tortoise and the hare in action.



How many cubes are you? These leaders were taking their lesson to great lengths. Leaders in Miss McCright's classroom at Harrison Elementary School were using habit 6 - synergize - to measure their classmates with cubes in math. It's a blast when learning is fun.

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:** Government Notes: Cedar Rapids schools implement new emergency protocols

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

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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.

September 20, 2024

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

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