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Future Ready Today Newsletter

CRCSD Selected to Join League of Innovative Schools

The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) is proud to announce its acceptance into the 2024-2025 League of Innovative Schools, a national network of forward-thinking school districts organized by Digital Promise. CRCSD was selected from a competitive group of applicants based on its educational leadership, commitment to equity and excellence, innovative approach to learning, key achievements, and collaborative spirit. As one of only 150 districts nationwide—and one of just two in Iowa—CRCSD is honored to join this prestigious network.

Membership in the League provides CRCSD the chance to collaborate with leading districts, educators, and technology experts from across the country. It also enables the district to contribute to the national conversation on educational innovation while bringing back cutting-edge ideas, tools, and practices to benefit students, staff, and the community. It will equip teachers with advanced resources to better meet the diverse needs of their classrooms and remain at the forefront of educational innovation. This membership aligns with CRCSD's mission to equip, empower, and engage every student to excel.

Learn more here

News and Updates

Safety Update

At Cedar Rapids Community School District, safety is a top priority. This fall, Police Pals, School Resource Officers, and Safe and Secure Learning Administrator Janessa Carr have been teaching the new safety protocols – Hold, Secure, Lockdown, and Run, Hide, Fight – to students and staff. Safety protocol posters are being hung in every classroom and high-traffic areas throughout buildings. Building administrators will be conducting regular tornado and fire drills, and the Transportation Department will start bus evacuation drills next week.

CRCSD takes all safety threats seriously. If a credible threat is identified, emergency protocols will be activated immediately to protect students and staff. Clear communication is crucial in an emergency, and the District will provide information as soon as it is safe to do so. To prevent misinformation, families and the community are encouraged to rely

solely on official communication from CRCSD and CRPD to avoid misinformation, rumors, and undue concern.

If you or your child notice suspicious or concerning behavior outside of school hours, please contact the Cedar Rapids Police at 319-286-5491. CRPD will notify school administrators and immediately investigate the report. Anonymous reports can also be made through the Iowa Safe and Sound website or app. Providing evidence like screenshots or videos helps with a quicker response. Cooperation between staff, families, and CRPD is essential as we work together to create a safe and secure learning environment for our students.

CRCSD Facilities Task Force Committee Meeting



Our District's Future-Ready Facilities Task Force Committee held its third meeting of the year last week at Pierce Elementary School. This meeting focused on this topic: needs & challenges facing the District. This committee consists of around 80 community members, parents, and district staff. During this month's meeting, the committee had a chance to review data about our building capacities, community growth, operating costs, enrollment, and building concerns. This data provides a great foundation for the committee as they start working on a new Facility Master Plan and future bond ask. This group will continue to meet monthly, with the next meeting scheduled for November 12th.

Learn more here

Cedar Rapids Police Protective Charity Gives to Kennedy



The Cedar Rapids Police Protective Charity (CRPPC) presented a large check to the student government group at Kennedy High School.

The student government body applied for financial assistance to help fund their "Presents for Patriots" campaign, and the CRPPC delivered...with more than the student council applied for. The grant will benefit many groups of people! Congratulations!

World Mental Health Day



October 10th is World Mental Health Day. Mental health plays a vital role in emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It influences how individuals think, feel, and behave, shaping their ability to handle stress, form relationships, and make decisions. mental health challenges are common, and when problems arise, they can significantly impact mood, behavior, and overall functioning. But help is available.

To ensure our students receive the support they need, CRCSD has partnered with Hazel Health to offer virtual mental health services to all of our students. Hazel Health provides a convenient and accessible way for students to meet with licensed therapists and address concerns at

no cost to families. With virtual appointments available Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM, students can receive care both at school and at home.
Students must be referred to the program by a school staff member or their parent/legal guardian via the webpage my.hazel.co/crschools. Once referred, students will meet with a licensed therapist virtually, in a safe and confidential setting. For more information about Hazel Health and to get started with a referral, visit my.hazel.co/crschools.

5th Annual Trunk-or-Treat



Join district teachers, staff, and administrators for the fifth annual CREA/CRCSD Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, October 27th. The event will be held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Kingston Stadium parking lot. District staff will decorate trunks and hand out candy and/or trinkets to kids in attendance. Kids are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes. This is a rain-or-shine event and is open to all CRCSD families. We hope to see you there!



CRCSD's Participates in the Iowa Ideas Conference

Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) staff took part in the Iowa Ideas 2024 Virtual Conference, hosted by The Gazette on October 10th and 11th. This annual event gathers Iowans to explore, discuss, and collaborate on solutions to key issues affecting the state.

CRCSD's Director of Operations, Chad Schumacher, joined a panel discussion focused on school infrastructure, highlighting the challenges districts face with underfunding and maintaining aging facilities. The discussion also touched on the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) as a funding source. Dr. Tammy Wawro, Human Resources Recruitment and Retention Lead also participated in a panel on recruiting and attracting educators to Iowa, sharing strategies school districts are using to help attract and retain top talent in the education field. Videos of both panel discussions are available here: https://www.iowaideas.com/replays/2024

Glance Around CRCSD



These Trailside Trailblazers are learning the foundation of multiplication. Third-grade students in Mr. Beach's



Students in the City View Garden Club recently were awarded a $3,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation



The Cedar Rapids Opera stopped by Kenwood Leadership Academy and Erskine Elementary this

class used blocks to compute their way to understanding.

to keep engaging in the community, from the ground up!

week to perform The Littlest Mermaid! This show is an adaptation of Dvořák's Rusalka's original full-length Czech opera.



Students in Washington High School's Advanced Language Arts class create life-size "body biographies" of characters from short stories, honing their collaborative skills in thesis writing, quote formatting, and character analysis.



First graders at Hoover Elementary School were using dominoes this week to help them learn addition.



The 1st and 4th graders at Johnson STEAM Academy paired up to make friendship bracelets at recess. At JSA, older grade classrooms are paired with younger grade classes to increase a sense of belonging, leadership, and friendship.

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 district selected for national network of innovative schools
KGAN: Cedar Rapids CSD accepted into 2024-2025 League of Innovative Schools

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.

October 11, 2024

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

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