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Future Ready Today Newsletter

Election Day



With Election Day on Tuesday, November 5th, we are proud to open several of our schools as polling locations for the community. This day provides an extraordinary chance for our students to observe and learn about the democratic process in action—a foundational element of our society. It is also an opportunity to empower our students to understand their roles in shaping the future of our community, state, and nation.

As we open our doors to voters, please know that our first priority is to keep students and staff safe and secure throughout the day. We've prepared enhanced safety measures and designated specific areas for voter access to ensure that the school day runs smoothly. A Linn County sheriff's deputy will also be on-site at each polling location, providing an added layer of security for everyone's peace of mind. Voting will take place at Wright Elementary, Washington High, Maple Grove Elementary, Erskine Elementary, West Willow Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, and the ELSC.

Thank you for standing alongside us in making this day both a learning experience and a celebration of our shared values. Together, we can make this a safe and memorable day, filled with insights about democracy, community, and cooperation, where everyone is engaged, empowered, equipped, and ready to excel.

Clocks and Weather

Get Ready to "Fall Back"

This is a friendly reminder that Daylight Saving Time ends this weekend, on Sunday, November 3rd. Make sure to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night. This will give us an extra hour of sleep and a little more daylight in the morning. This is also a great time to check the batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms to ensure they work properly.



Weather is Changing

As the temperatures continue to cool and winter approaches, please be sure you are sending appropriate gear to school for your student. Students will be outside before school, after school, and during recess times unless it's raining or the air temperature or windchill is 10 degrees or below. We also ask that you put your child's name on all of their items (coat, hat, mittens, etc.) so lost and misplaced items can be returned to the appropriate student.



News and Updates

5th Annual Trunk-or-Treat

We had an excellent turnout on Sunday for our 5th annual CREA/CRCSD Trunk-or-Treat, with over 1,000 students and families attending the event. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, decorated a trunk, and supplied candy to make this event a success. This event would not have been possible without you.

And now for the results of our trunk voting. Here are the top five fan-favorite trunks:

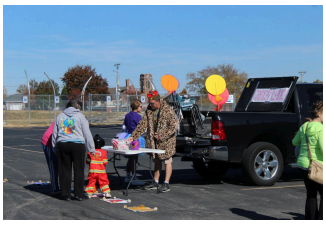
- 1st - Alice in Wonderland from Franklin Middle School
- 2nd - Jurassic Park from Erskine Elementary School
- 3rd - Jurassic Park Grant Wood Elementary School
- 4th - Harry Potter from West Willow Elementary School
- 5th - Candyland from Pierce Elementary











Washington Thespians Back in Action



Next week, join us for the Washington High School production of Hello, Dolly!. This beloved production is full of humor, romance, lively dances, and classic songs that will captivate audiences of all ages. Join us as Dolly Gallagher Levi, the spirited matchmaker and “woman who arranges things,” embarks on a journey filled with romantic twists and comedic moments. Performances are November 7, 8, and 9 at 7:30 PM in the Washington High School Auditorium. Don’t miss this unforgettable show! Tickets and more information are available at crwashdrama.ticketleap.com

All-State Music Honors



The annual All-State Music Festival is one of the most prestigious music events in the state, featuring the top high school musicians and vocalists from around Iowa. Students must audition to be selected to perform in the 276-piece All-State Band, 214-piece All-State Orchestra, and 601-member All-State Chorus. The selection process is very competitive, with only about 17% of auditionees being selected, making it one of the highest individual honors a high school performer can receive.

We would like to congratulate all the CRCSD students who have been selected for the Iowa All-State Band, Orchestra, and Choir. Click the button below to see the full list of names. This year’s All-State Festival Concert will be presented to the public at 7:30 PM on November 23rd at the Hilton Coliseum on the Iowa State University Campus. The performance will be broadcast on Iowa PBS on November 28th and December 1st. Please check the Iowa PBS website (www.iowapbs.org) for the exact times.

More information on the selected students

Harding Staff Wins Big at Iowa Music Awards!



Congratulations to Harding Middle School special education staff member Eric Gibson, also known as "EJ Swavv," for being named the Christian Artist of the Year at the 2024 Iowa Music Awards. This honor, awarded at the dazzling event on October 27th in Cedar Falls, is a testament to Eric’s talent and passion. The Annual Iowa Music Awards recognizes Iowa's rising stars and industry leaders who are working to grow the live music scene and put the state on the map

as a music hub. Congratulations to Eric for this well-deserved recognition, and thank you for inspiring our students and community alike!

Jefferson Show Choir Receives $1,000 Donation



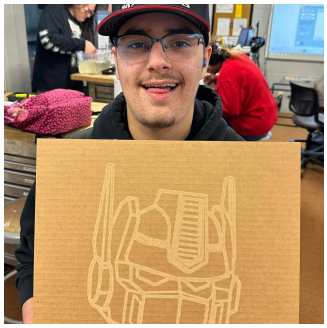
Abbi Smith, a Jefferson High School valedictorian who passed away in October 2022 after a two-year battle with a brain tumor, continues to make a positive impact on the school through a foundation her family founded in her memory. Abbi's Anchored in Hope Foundation continues her passion for show choir and her commitment to "paying it forward." Recently, the foundation generously donated $1,000 to Jefferson's show choir program, with funds raised through its annual golf fundraiser.

Jefferson Choral Director Jonathan Neswick expressed gratitude for the support, noting that Abbi's joy for show choir was a highlight in her day, as it is for many students. The donation will go into the Jefferson Vocal Endowment Fund, which helps cover essential costs for show choir students, including competition fees, costumes, and music. Abbi's Anchored in Hope Foundation will also donate $1,000 to the Taft Middle School show choir in November, spreading Abbi's legacy of giving to younger students as they join the show choir community she loved so much.

Glance Around CRCSD



Our elementary cafeteria staff got in on the Halloween fun this week. They provided students with a side of pizza toppings that students then used to create "monsters" on their pizza.



Metro STEAM Academy students are learning to use the Universal Laser Systems, creating amazing designs and cutting their unique creations as they gear up for their holiday market.



Students in Kennedy's Forensic Science class had a unique lab this week as they learned about blood splatter and the clues it leaves behind. It was a lot of messy learning fun.



It's Bus Evacuation Drill Time! Great job to the Maple



Art in nature is all around! This week, students at



Kindergartners in Ms. Orr's class at Trailside Elementary

Grove Grizzlies on learning how to be safe on the school bus.

Johnson STEAM Academy explored the vibrant fall leaves on the playground, letting their imaginations soar during recess.

had a blast shelling field corn! Not only is it a fun activity, but it's also a great way to build hand strength for writing and fine motor skills. Just another kernel of learnin'!

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.

- **KCRG:** Schools increase security for election polling, some choose to cancel classes
- **KCRG:** Abbi's Anchored in Hope Foundation donates $1,000 to show choir program at Jefferson High School
- **Gazette:** State grant helped Cedar Rapids schools train 22 new bus drivers
- **Gazette:** Cedar Rapids schools announces the career pathways it will offer at each high school
- **KGAN:** Cedar Rapids schools invests in future with hands-on career training for high schoolers
- **KWWL:** Cedar Rapids School District to give College and Career Pathways grant

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.

November 1, 2024

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

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