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Future Ready Today Newsletter

No School Reminder - October 21



This is a friendly reminder that students will not have school on Monday, October 21st. This day is set aside as a staff professional learning day. While students enjoy a break from classes, our district staff will attend various professional development classes and trainings to continue improving their educational practices. Check out the full 2024-2025 District Calendar for future staff learning days and other key dates when students will not have class.

We want to remind working parents that the District has partnered with Champions to provide all-day childcare on these professional learning days. 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 students do not have school. Care is 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. For more information and to register your child to attend, visit www.discoverchampions.com or contact your child's school office.

Learn more here

News and Updates

McKinley Students Explore Local Careers



McKinley Middle School 7th graders had an exciting opportunity this week to explore different careers during Kirkwood Community College's Career Discovery Tour. Students visited four local companies —Ledford Engineering Company, Modern Companies, McGrath Automotive, and FREUND Global—where they saw real-world operations, innovation, and career opportunities in our community. By hearing directly from employees, students learned about the education and skills needed for each career

and how to align their interests and skills with future job opportunities.

This field trip is an important step in helping students to start thinking about their futures. By identifying potential career interests, they can begin planning their high school coursework around those areas. Parents are encouraged to help their students continue these important conversations about career exploration and planning for the future. The tour is part of Cedar Rapids Community School District's commitment to equipping, empowering, and engaging every student to excel and ensuring all students are future-ready.







Celebrating National School Lunch Week



In celebration of National School Lunch Week, we want to recognize the 220 dedicated employees in Cedar Rapids School District's Food & Nutrition Department. Working across 32 locations, this incredible team prepares over 6,500 breakfasts and 11,000 lunches daily. Studies show that eating school meals helps improve academic performance, memory, and retention. Join us in thanking our Food and Nutrition staff for ensuring our students have the nutrition they need to learn and grow!

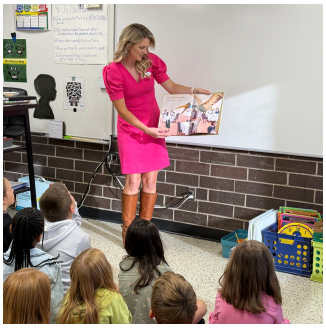
America Reads



Today, elementary schools across the district celebrated America Reads, an annual literacy event aimed at promoting the joy and lifelong benefits of reading. Community members, parents, and school leaders visited classrooms to share their favorite books with students. Superintendent Dr. Grover even got in on the fun and read a book to classes at Pierce and Wright Elementary Schools.

Research has shown that students who read regularly perform better academically across all subjects. Events like America Reads highlight the importance of making reading a daily habit at school and home. Parents are encouraged to nurture a love of reading, as it builds confidence and prepares students for success in school and beyond.





Student Hotspots



In an effort to ensure that all students have access to the internet for learning, the Cedar Rapids Community School District is changing how it provides free Wi-Fi hotspots to students who do not have internet access at home. The district is now partnering with T-Mobile's "Project 10 Million," a national initiative designed to deliver free internet connectivity to millions of underserved student households.

Through "Project 10 Million," eligible students can receive free mobile hotspots and internet access. This program is available to any student who is eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), ensuring that internet connectivity is extended to those who need it most. You do not need to be an existing T-Mobile customer to take advantage of this offer. To apply to receive a free hotspot for your student, click the button below to complete an application.

Learn more here

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!

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

Nominations are now open for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). This is an opportunity to recognize our outstanding K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) educators. Nominations can be made by parents, students, school leaders, or teachers. Winners receive a certificate signed by the President, $10,000 from the National Science Foundation, and an all-expenses-paid trip to the awards event. Applications are due by February 6, 2025. Don't miss this opportunity to recognize our exceptional STEM educators' passion, dedication, and impact!

Learn more here

Hazel Health

Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) now offers free virtual mental health services for all K-12 students through a new partnership with Hazel Health. Whether your student is dealing with anxiety, depression, self-esteem issues, grief and loss, anger management, bullying, or academic stress, licensed therapists are available to provide support at no cost to families.

Students can schedule virtual appointments from Monday to Friday, 7 AM to 7 PM, and receive care at school and home. A school staff member or their parent/legal guardian must refer students to the program. To make a referral and learn more, visit my.hazel.co/crschools.

Glance Around CRCSD



Third-grade students at Hiawatha Elementary got hands-on in science class, trying their hand at pollinating flowers! They've been learning all about pollination and the crucial role bees play.



Johnson STEAM Academy 5th graders worked in teams to solve math problems using blocks. Using concrete objects like blocks can help students build their understanding of abstract math concepts.



Check out these little learners at Maple Grove Elementary who are showing off their favorite teams and sports during their athletic apparel dress-up day.



The first graders at Erskine Elementary just finished their reading unit on The Human Body from our new CKLA curriculum, and to wrap up their learning, they had a mock "operating room!"



Third graders at Cleveland Elementary are practicing using agree/disagree cards to have respectful conversations with their peers. These cards are a part of the district's new Instructional Empowerment teaching methods.



Taft Middle School held its annual staff vs. students volleyball game this week. The students won A match, and everyone had a great time.

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:** Cedar Rapids Community School District gets $15 million for new program
  KCRG: Cedar Rapids Community School District changes language around threats in and around school buildings
- **KGAN:** CRCSD approves new elementary schools at Hoover and Van Buren again after public input
- **Gazette:** National Council on Youth Leadership awards scholarships
- **Gazette:** Project-based learning remains paramount at Iowa BIG

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.

October 18, 2024

Constant Contact

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