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Future Ready Today Newsletter

No School Reminder



This is a friendly reminder that there will be no school for students on Monday, September 30th. This day is set aside as a staff professional learning day for all CRCSD employees. While students enjoy a break from classes, our district staff will be attending various professional development sessions 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.

All High School Athletic Events Now Cashless Ticketing



The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) is excited to announce the implementation of a cashless, digital ticketing system for ALL high school athletic events. This shift is designed to enhance safety and improve convenience for both attendees and volunteers while also aligning with environmentally sustainable practices. The cashless digital system also aims to streamline entry into events and reduce wait times at the ticket counter.

How It Works: Tickets for all CRCSD home, regular season high school athletic events can now be purchased online through each high school's Bound Sports website or the Bound mobile app (Google Play and Apple App Store), which offers both single event and season pass ticket options. Once purchased, tickets can be stored digitally on a smartphone or printed for convenience. On game day, attendees will simply present the ticket QR code on their smartphone or the printed copy to be scanned for entrance. For

those who prefer to purchase tickets on-site, the district will offer touchless payment options, such as Apple Pay, Google Pay, and credit or debit cards at the ticket counters. Click here to learn more about the Bound ticketing system.

We understand that transitioning to a new system and procedure can bring many questions and concerns. District staff are available to help families navigate the new system at each high school's activities office or at the CRCSD Educational Leadership and Support Center to ensure everyone can still attend events. Click here for more information about this decision and the Bound Sports partnership.







52nd Student Built House Underway

"When I first got here, it was just concrete and dirt, and now it is starting to become a house. It's crazy!" said Kennedy Junior, Rylan Sullivan. "*It's still kind of hard to believe that we are building a complete house."*

Work is underway on CRCSD's 52nd student-built house. Since 1972, the Student Built Program has provided students with hands-on experience in the construction trades through a year-long house-building project. This year's home, a ranch-style design, is located at 1740 Fitzroy Road in Hiawatha. Students from Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools all participate in the construction project by attending either a morning or afternoon class on the job site. Students get to experience working with local trade experts in various aspects of home building.

"I hope to join the trades after high school, taking this class helps me get a better feel for it," added Jefferson Senior, Lincoln Dukes. *"It's fun, and I have been learning a lot."*

The house is up for sale, and once complete, the students will hold an open house for the community to come see the finished project.

News and Updates

College and Career Readiness - 9th Grade Academies Coming 2025-26

You may have noticed signs going up at Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools as new construction projects begin. These are the early steps in transforming spaces in each high school to prepare for the launch of our new 9th Grade Academies, set to open in the 2025-26 school year. These academies are a key part of the District's larger College and Career Readiness Plans, which will fully roll out in the three high schools in 2026-2027.

So, what exactly are 9th Grade Academies? The academies will offer students a smaller, more supportive learning environment within the larger high school setting. A key component of the 9th Grade Academies will be the Freshman Seminar, a course designed to help students build essential skills for success in high school and beyond. The goal is to create a strong foundation by connecting students' interests and career exploration, while also fostering both academic achievement and personal growth in a more personalized learning environment.

CrisisGo Parent Signups

CRCSD is committed to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff. The District is currently working to roll out a new crisis communication tool called CrisisGo to all of our schools. CrisisGo will allow us to monitor safety threats in our schools, send timely alerts to our building and district safety teams, and notify local authorities if necessary. This platform will also help us communicate with staff, students, and families quickly and efficiently in case of an emergency situation.



We are currently implementing staff training on the platform and preparing for the rollout. Although the system isn't live yet, you will soon receive an email from the district with a link to register to receive CrisisGo notifications, ensuring you can stay informed about your child's specific school. The full rollout and use of the system will take place in the coming months. We will update you when the system goes live and send out a test notification to families to make sure everything is working. We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to keeping our schools safe.

Hazel Health

We are excited to share that the Hazel Health mental health teleservices will soon be available to K-12 students across the district starting September 30th! Hazel Health will help eliminate barriers to receiving quality mental health care for all CRCSD students, at no out-of-pocket cost to their families. We are excited to offer this additional support to our students' well-being.



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 to help address their concerns. Appointments are available at school and at home Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM. Services are 100% confidential and are free for students. Click here for an instructional video on how to create an account and refer your student. To learn more about Hazel Health, click here.

America Reads Sign-up

Online registration is now open for the 27th annual America Reads literacy celebration, which will take place on October 17th and 18th. This program is designed to highlight the importance of reading to our students. During the event, community members visit elementary classrooms to share their favorite children's books with the students. Click on the button below to register to read to a class. Registration closes on October 10th.

Sign up to read



Playtime Poppy Season Announced

Playtime Poppy Children's Theatre has announced its 2024-2025 season, featuring performances by students from Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools. Jefferson High School will kick off the season with *The Jungle Book* from October 17-19. Kennedy High School will bring holiday cheer with *Elf The Musical Jr.*, running December 5-7. Washington High School will close out the season with *The Swiss Family Robinson* on April 17-19. These family-friendly shows promise fun for all ages, so be sure to mark your calendars. For more information, click here. In addition to their community children's plays, Playtime Poppy also brings art-integrated programming to many of the CRCSD elementary schools throughout the school year.

Kennedy Fall Play



Kennedy High School students will take center stage next week for their first play of the school year. The young thespians will perform Steve Martin's comedic play Picasso at the Lapin Agile. The play follows young Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso, who meet at a Paris bar called the Lapin Agile in 1904. With egos as big as their intellects, the soon-to-be legends spar with the regulars and each other about art, science, inspiration, love, and the promise of the 20th century. You can catch the show on October 3rd, 4th, and 5th at 7:00 PM. Click here to purchase tickets.

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





Kennedy Homecoming Week

It's been an exciting and busy week at Kennedy High School as students and staff celebrated their homecoming with a series of exciting events. The week featured themed dress-up days where students showcased their school spirit in creative outfits. A spirited homecoming parade on Wednesday brought the community together, and the excitement continued into Thursday night's homecoming football game. A special congratulations goes to Kennedy's homecoming court, with Maggie Goldberg and Ella Moser crowned as this year's homecoming royalty. The festivities wrap up tonight with the highly anticipated homecoming dance.

At the football game, the Kennedy Cougars faced off against Iowa City High in a high-energy matchup. The Iowa National Guard added to the excitement by firing a cannon after every Cougar touchdown. Despite the strong performance by the Cougars, Iowa City High clinched a narrow 43-42 victory with a last-second two-point conversion. Kennedy High School extends its gratitude to everyone who participated in making this year's homecoming week memorable!







Washington Homecoming Dates

Looking ahead, Washington High School's homecoming week is next week! Festivities will include a parade and bonfire on October 2nd, followed by the football game on October 4th, and the dance on October 5th. We look forward to celebrating with the Warriors next week!

- 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
- Grant Wood Elementary - 10/15
- Johnson STEAM Academy - 10/10
- 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



Students from Metro High School had the opportunity to hear from Nick Winton, as he shared the story of his father, Sir Nicholas Winton, and the children he saved in Prague from the Nazis during World War 2.



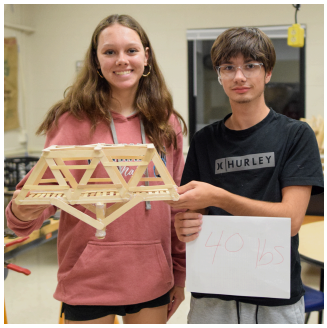
After learning about the skeletal system, 1st graders at Hiawatha Elementary showed what they learned by making their own skeletons.



4th graders at Johnson STEAM Academy are exploring the habitat of isopods in their environments science unit.



The 1st, 2nd, and 5th graders at Madison Elementary School had a surprise visitor during recess! Recess is always more fun with a UNICORN to play with, except they are not so great at playing 4-square.



Students at Kennedy High School designed and built bridges from popsicle sticks. Then they tested to see how much weight they could hold before breaking.



This week, third Graders at Hoover Community School worked hard counting the number of bones in the human body.

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:** Cash no longer accepted for tickets to Cedar Rapids schools' athletic events
- **KGAN:** CRSCD cuts renovation costs for Harrison Elementary; completion slated for August 2027

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 27, 2024

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

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