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August 21, 2025

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PODCAST VERSION

Listen To The Newletter

We know you all have busy schedules, we are sharing this important information through a short podcast-style recording. Click the button below to listen to an overview of the newsletter, and then you can dive deeper by reading below!

Listen Now

LETTER FROM DR. GROVER



Dear CRCSD Families,

Next Tuesday is the first day of school, and every first day is special. It's not just the start of a new year, it's the beginning of new friendships, fresh opportunities, and the belief that this year can be our best yet.

The greatest excitement of all is that *you* are part of the Cedar Rapids Community School District. Every student who walks through our doors matters. Every family is valued. And every year, we recommit ourselves to

reaching each student, believing in their potential, and walking alongside you as partners.

Here's what you can count on from us this year:

- Weekly newsletters from the district and your child's school.
- Regular updates on our website and social media.
- Celebrations of student and staff achievements, alongside honest conversations about where we must grow.

Our promise: open, clear, and consistent communication. And if we ever fall short, I invite you to let me know so we can do better, together.

Join Us – August 25 Board of Education Meeting

Our first Board of Education meeting of the school year will be held on Monday, August 25, and you're invited! We'll share our 2025 Communication Plan, highlighting how we're creating a culture of care, clarity, and communication. You can attend in person or stream it live.

Stream The Meeting

Superintendent Serenity

Welcome Back Poem
Welcome back to laughter in the halls,
to pencils ready and dreams taking flight.
Welcome back to teachers who inspire,
to friendships waiting,
to hope renewed each morning.
Welcome back to the promise we hold—
that our student success is why we rise,
why we work,
why we believe together.
Welcome back, CRCSD.
This year, the journey begins again.

With deep appreciation,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent
Cedar Rapids Community School District
tgrover@crschools.us | 319-558-2223

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AUGUST 26 EARLY RELEASE



The first day of school for the 2025-2026 school year is right around the corner, Tuesday, August 26th! We are excited to welcome our K-12 students back into our buildings, see their smiling faces, and kick off another great year of learning, growth, and connection. Preschool's first day of school is September 2nd.

Please note: August 26th will be an early release day for all schools. Dismissal times will follow our standard early release schedule. (Elementary: 2:20 PM, Middle School: 1:20 PM, High School: 1:20 PM)

We can't wait to see our students return and begin another fantastic school year together!

JEFFERSON WIND SYMPHONY TO PERFORM AT STATEWIDE CONVENTION



The Jefferson High School Wind Symphony has been selected as the featured opening performance for the Iowa Association of School Boards Annual Convention this November.

To honor this special occasion, our talented students will begin with a performance of the National Anthem, followed by a 12-minute featured concert to open the General Session.

This invitation is a remarkable opportunity to showcase the dedication, skill, and artistry of our student musicians on a statewide stage. Being chosen to perform at this prestigious event reflects not only the hard work of our Wind Symphony members but also the strong tradition of excellence within Jefferson's music program.

We are incredibly proud of our students and look forward to seeing them represent Jefferson High School at this distinguished event.

YOUR BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST



To ensure a smooth and successful start to the school year, please complete these important steps:

Annual Verification: Log in to the Infinite Campus parent portal to review and update your student's information.
Immunization: Ensure your child's immunizations are up to date, and records are on file with the school nurse.
Back-To-School Open House Schedule: Check for your school's schedule to meet teachers, drop off supplies, and tour the building before the first day of school.
Supply List: Review your school's supply list so your student has everything they need to be prepared for the year.

Completing these steps ahead of time will help your student start the year confident, prepared, and ready to learn!

SAVE THE DATE: SAFE & SECURE LEARNING NIGHT

On Tuesday, September 16th, CRCSD will be hosting a Safe and Secure Learning Night at the Educational Leadership and Support Center at 2500 Edgewood Rd. NW, from 5 PM to 6 PM.

Parents and community members are invited to attend to learn more about the district's agreement with the DOJ, the tiers of behavior support for students, and an overview of the district's Safe and Secure Learning Team. The event will also be live-streamed for those who cannot attend.

The district has worked diligently with our school buildings to ensure that we are implementing approaches to student behavior that are evidence-based, positive, and the least restrictive means of responding to each student. As a result, our efforts provide a heavy emphasis on prevention and de-escalation strategies such as truly knowing and understanding the reason for individual student behaviors, giving a student choices, listening to a student, and encouraging/collaborating with the student to find a solution.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Ryals Parker, Chief of Area 2, Special Services, and Behavior Supports.

CHAMPIONS LOCATIONS FOR 2025–2026

We're excited to share the list of Champions before- and after-school program locations for the 2025–2026 school year!

The Champions program continues to provide students with safe, supportive, and engaging before- and after-school care across the district. For more details about enrollment, please reach out directly to the area manager listed on the linked document.

Champions Locations

UPDATED CELL PHONE POLICY

To minimize distractions and comply with the new state law (HF782), we have updated our **Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy.**

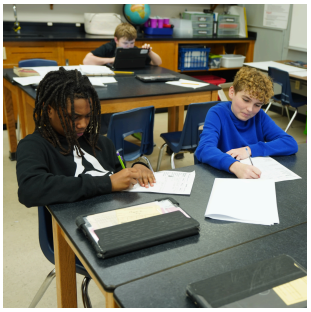


Students will NOT be allowed to use personal devices, such as cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, smart glasses, media players, and gaming devices, **during the school day (Middle & High: 7:50 AM–2:50 PM; Elementary: 8:50 AM–3:50 PM)**, including the time when breakfast is served. All devices must be silenced or turned off AND stored out of sight.

Click the button to review the full policy, exceptions, and enforcement procedures.

Full Policy

UPDATED ATTENDANCE POLICY



We have updated the Student Attendance Policy for the 2025-2026 school year to improve communication, reduce chronic absenteeism, and help students stay on track. These updates align with Iowa Code SF 2435.

Key Updates Include:
Medical/Illness-Related Absences - Students are allowed up to 5 exempt medical/illness-related absences per school year without a doctor's note. Starting with the 6th absence, a doctor's note must be provided within 48 hours for the absence to be exempt.

Notification process - Certified letters will no longer be sent to families when a student misses more than 12 days in a semester. Attendance notifications will now be sent digitally through Infinite Campus.

Truancy Notification - At 20% absenteeism, parents/guardians will be contacted via phone, text, and/or email, and a digital letter will be sent through Infinite Campus. The case will also be referred to the county attorney for review and potential legal action.

Please review the full policy details using the button below.

Full Policy

We Believe In Our Students





Teachers across the district spent this week working in their buildings, collaborating with their teams, and participating in professional learning opportunities to prepare for a new school year.







On Tuesday, August 19, Washington, Jefferson, and Kennedy welcomed the class of 2029!

Your School's Virtual Backpack

CRCSD Is Hiring! Apply Here

Breakfast & Lunch Menus

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: $117 million bond for Cedar Rapids schools gets enough signatures to make ballot — Read Here

KCRG: Families get a look inside new City View Community High School — Read Here

Gazette: Curious Iowa: What safety inspections do school buses go through? — Read Here

Gazette: 21 Cedar Rapids school principals to collect signatures to place $117 million bond referendum on ballot — Read Here

KGAN: Bond referendum petition hits signature milestone — Read Here

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, Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

Sign Up To Receive This Newsletter Weekly

Jefferson Activities Calendar

Kennedy Activities Calendar

Washington Activities Calendar

Cedar Rapids Community School District
Every Learner: Future Ready

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

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