SHARE:

Join Our Email List



August 14, 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome Back from Dr. Grover
- First Day of School Aug 26th
- Back To School Checklist
- Cell Phone Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Behavior Policy
- CEP Schools 2025-26
- Glance Around The District
- In The News

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

WELCOME FROM DR. GROVER



Dear CRCSD Families,
Welcome back! Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning, the start of a new school year is a fresh chapter filled with promise for our students, families, and community.

Each week in this space, I will speak directly to you. We will share updates, celebrate milestones, and walk this journey together. My promise is to keep you engaged, informed, and inspired.

Last week, our principals and district leaders came together with a shared purpose: to create a culture where every student and every family feels belief and belonging. Next week, our teachers and staff will join this work. As we move through this work to build our culture, I am making these commitments to you:

- First, you will see us listening with kindness, acting with empathy, and supporting one another. You will feel your student's value in every interaction.
- Second, you will see us seeking to understand before we act, making the path forward simple and clear, and focusing on what matters most for your child's success.
- Finally, you will see us sharing openly, often, and honestly—celebrating the moments that shape who we are and who we're becoming.

This year, our theme is simple yet powerful: Believe. Believe in the power of partnerships, in the potential of every student, and in the difference we can make together.

Oh, and one more thing— we'll be out at the Farmer's Market this Saturday morning starting at 7:30 a.m., wearing our Believe in CR Schools t-shirts. Please stop by and see us! We'd love to meet you in person and kick off the school year together.

With excitement, gratitude, and hope,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT'S SERENITY

"When we choose to care, we plant seeds of understanding and hope. With each smile, each moment of patience, and each shared triumph, those seeds blossom—blessing everyone they touch."

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!

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!

UPDATED CELL PHONE POLICY



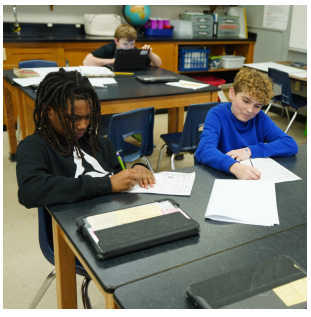
To minimize distractions and comply with the new state law (HF782), we have updated our **Student Use of Personal Electronic Devices Policy.**

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

UPDATED BEHAVIOR POLICY



For the 2025-2026 school year, CRCSD is taking a stronger stance on physical aggression in our secondary schools(grades 6-12). Physical aggression will result in clear, consistent consequences. Students will also be supported through individual student plans to help them learn how to navigate conflict better. We believe physical aggression has no place in our schools and remain committed to accountability and support.

We are also expanding our **Social, Emotional, and Behavioral Health (SEBH)** services to further strengthen student well-being. Every school will now have a dedicated SEBH Intervention Specialist, and we are launching therapeutic classrooms to provide short-term, intensive support for students facing significant emotional or behavioral challenges.

We are committed to educating the whole child academically, socially, and emotionally while maintaining high expectations and providing consistent, dignified, and caring support.

CEP SCHOOLS FOR 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR



For the 2025-26 school year, CRCSD is participating in the Community Eligibility Provisions (CEP) Program. This is a federal program that allows breakfast and lunch to be served at no cost to students in qualifying schools. This year, 26 of our buildings have qualified for this federal program and will provide free meals for all of their students.

The 26 schools are:

- Elementary: Cleveland, Cedar River Academy, Erskine, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison @ Madison, Hiawatha, Hoover, Johnson STEAM Academy,

Kenwood Leadership Academy, Nixon, Trailside, Van Buren, West Willow, Wright, and Truman Early Learning
- Middle Schools: Harding, Franklin, McKinley STEAM Academy, Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy, and Wilson
- High Schools: City View, Jefferson, Metro, Washington, and Polk Alternative

At CEP locations to qualify for additional school benefits you must complete the Educational Benefits Form and the release agreements through the Annual Verification process.

For the five schools that do not qualify for this federal program, parents/guardians can still apply for free and reduced student meals. The five schools are Maple Grove, Pierce, Viola Gibson, Taft, and Kennedy. To apply for free or reduced meal benefits at these schools you must complete the free and reduced application at https://cedarrapids.familyportal.cloud.

Meal Prices for NON-CEP schools:

Elementary Meals	Secondary Meals	Adult Meals
Breakfast - $2.45	Breakfast - $2.45	Breakfast - $2.75
Lunch - $3.40	Lunch - $3.50	Lunch - $5.00

Families can access the school breakfast and lunch menus online through Nutrislice on the Cedar Rapids website.

We Believe In Our Students

Preparations are underway across the district for the start of another year.



Executive Leadership Team members met to prepare for the upcoming school year.



New teachers to the district participated in a pre-service training at the ELSC.



A local business raised $2200 to purchase and donate school supplies to Trailside Elementary to prepare students for the new school year.



Community support from Hillside helped with the school grounds clean-up at Cleveland Elementary.



Kennedy Students completed the Academy for Scholastic and Personal Success over the summer.



Washington held their annual BIPOC Block Party.



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: Free Swim Lesson Program with CR Parks & Rec and CRCSD — Read Here

Gazette: Violence prevention approach results in 50 percent fewer students being charged with crimes in Cedar Rapids schools — Read Here

KGAN: Here's where plans stand for updates to three Cedar Rapids elementary schools — 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 | 2500 Edgewood Dr NW | Cedar Rapids, IA 52405 US

Unsubscribe | Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Try email & social marketing for free!