

December 11, 2025

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Classes will be DISMISSED 2 Hours EARLY today, Thursday, December 11th, due to the forecasted weather conditions.

This means:

- High Schools and Middle Schools will dismiss at 12:50 PM.
- Elementary Schools will dismiss at 1:50 PM.
- Truman Early Learning Center will dismiss at 2:00 PM
- There will be no half-day afternoon Preschool

In addition, all evening activities are canceled across the district.

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Listen To The Newsletter

We know you all have busy schedules, so 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

Message from School Board President Jennifer Neumann

Dear CRCSD Community,

I want to clearly communicate the Board of Education's direction and the critical role your voice plays in this process.



The Cedar Rapids Community School District is at a pivotal moment. Our need to adjust budgets for the future by $10-12 million annually is the focus of the Board of Education. We know that this work is weighing on the minds of more than 3,000 amazing individuals who come to work each day in support of our district's students. I want to start there - by recognizing that every message, news article, and even the rumors our district staff hears, hits with a heavy force.

Your School Board members are committed to a process that is transparent and visible to our staff, our families and our community.

The Board has directed district administration to gather a holistic range of options for consideration, specifically focusing on solutions to create a sustainable financial structure and optimize our facilities to support staff as they educate our students. No decisions have been made yet. While ultimately the Board will need to approve the plan, we are asking district staff, families and taxpayers to provide critical and knowledgeable input to help craft the plan.

At the request of the Board, the administration will be actively collecting input from internal and external stakeholders to create and refine the options that will ultimately form our plan. Your insights on perceptions of strategic priorities, desired programming, and opportunities for facility optimization are essential to shaping our success.

We urge you to participate to ensure your perspective is a driving force in our district's future. Upcoming engagement activities outlined in our roadmap include:

- A Community Coalition Meeting (December 11). Please note that this event is now moving to a virtual format due to today's weather forecast. Individuals who have already signed up to attend, will receive an email with a link to join the virtual meeting.
- Student Virtual Lunch and Learn will also be scheduled.

We are committed to a transparent process. Thank you for engaging in this important work to shape the successful, fiscally sound future of CRCSD.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Neumann
CRCSD School Board President

Students Invited to Participate in Poetry Out Loud Contest

Students in grades 9–12 across the district are invited to take part in the National Endowment for the Arts' Poetry Out Loud Contest. Our district competition will take place at Kennedy High School on January 8th from 9–11 a.m. in the Black Box Theater. The winner of our district competition will advance to the Iowa Poetry Out Loud Finals on Sunday, March 8th, held at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.



This year's Poetry Out Loud theme honors America 250, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The official anthology is available at poetryoutloud.org. Students must register for the district competition by December 17th: Poetry Out Loud Registration Link

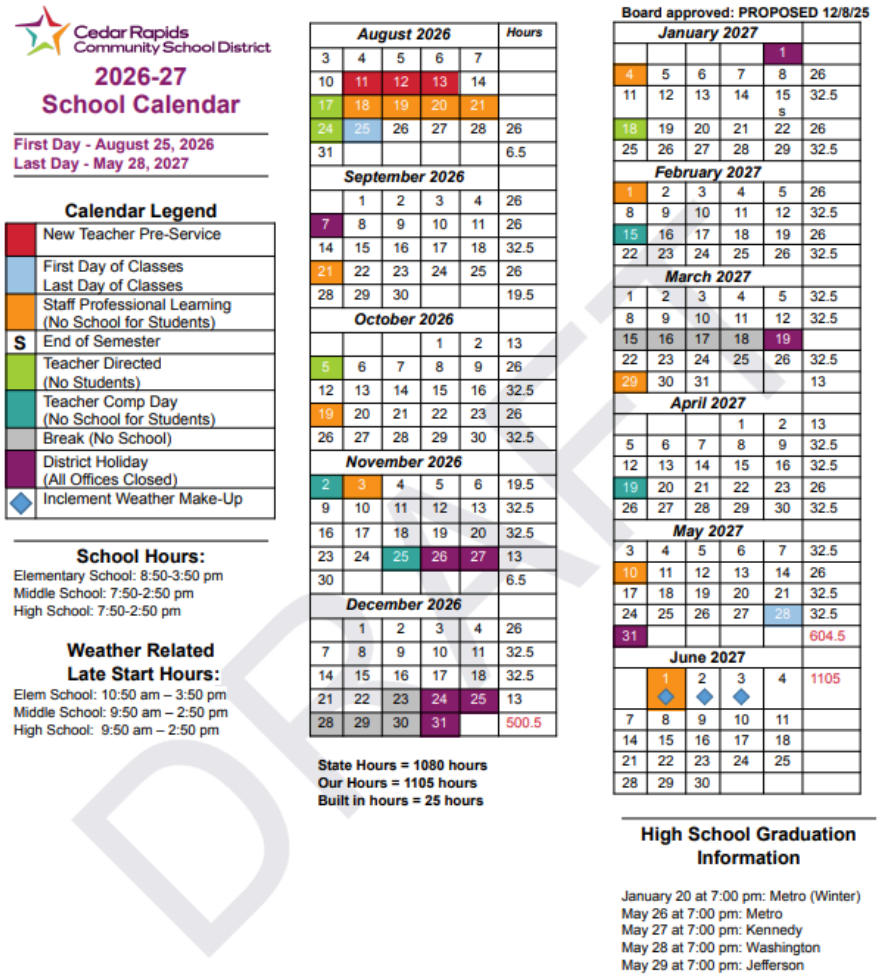
'26-'27 District Calendar - Feedback Needed

The proposed district calendar for the 2026-2027 school year was presented to the board last night. Highlights of this calendar include:

- Students will be out of school, providing there are no snow makeup days are needed, in May
- Professional Learning and Teacher Directed Days are consistently on Mondays
- The first and last day of school will be a full day

If you would like to learn about the calendar committee's reasoning behind their decisions on the proposed calendar, you can check out the Calendar FAQ.

If you would like to provide the committee with feedback on the proposed calendar, please fill out this survey.



New Courses Added to High School Program of Studies



As part of this year's Program of Studies review process, high school teachers were invited to submit proposals for new courses to offer next school year. Twenty-four course proposals were submitted. They were carefully evaluated for alignment with district priorities, feasibility, connection with College and Career Pathways, and student interest. In total, 12 were approved for introduction next school year, and nine will be revisited for possible addition during the 2027-2028 school year. These new course offerings will provide students with more options, supporting a rigorous, personalized, and future-focused learning experience.

NOTE: Approval of a new course does not guarantee it will be offered. Scheduling is contingent on factors such as building budget, teacher licensure/FTE, and meeting the minimum student interest threshold (fewer than 15 registrants may result in cancellation).

New Courses Added :

- Astronomy
- Automotive Technology 1
- Automotive Technology 2
- AP Business with Personal Finance
- AP Cybersecurity
- Career Education Exploration (Special Education course)
- Earth Systems
- Foundations of Music Theory
- Medical Terminology
- Intermediate Spanish 1 & 2
- Public Speaking
- Guitar 1

Washington's Cocoa & Carols



Mark your calendars! The most wonderful time of the year is almost here, and we can't wait to share the BEST holiday spirit in town with you on **Saturday, December 13th**! Join us for one or both of our spectacular holiday shows featuring talented students from our elementary, middle, and high schools. Plus, before, between, and after the shows, guests can enjoy delicious cookies and warm cocoa, and even have the chance to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and snap a photo. Come for the incredible performances, and stay for all the festive fun!

11:00 AM Matinee Show

- Trailside
- Wright
- Franklin
- WHS Madrigals
- Slice of Jazz
- Celebration
- Momentum

2:00 PM Afternoon Show

- Erskine
- Grant Wood
- Johnson
- McKinley
- WHS Madrigals
- Slice of Jazz
- Celebration
- Momentum

We genuinely hope you can all join us this Saturday to celebrate the season through music and community. It promises to be a memorable day filled with joy, talent, and holiday cheer!

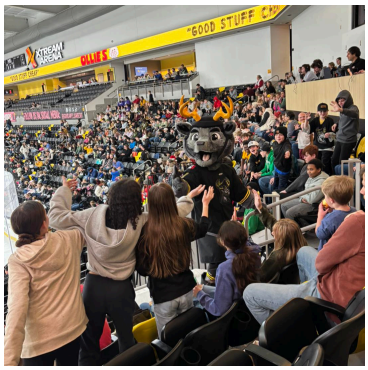
Join Us for Jefferson's Holiday Dinner!



This is your friendly reminder that Jefferson High School's 13th Annual Holiday Dinner is happening next **Wednesday, December 17, from 5:00–8:00 PM**—and everyone is invited! Enjoy a free, traditional holiday meal featuring turkey, gravy, potatoes, and a variety of delicious sides. The dinner is made possible through generous community donations and is prepared and served by our own Jefferson students and staff.

After your meal, be sure to stop by the West Gym to explore the many programs, activities, and renovation updates happening at Jefferson High School. Due to ongoing construction, please park in the gym parking lot located off 18th St. SW and enter through the gym doors. We hope to see you for an evening of food, festive cheer, and community connection.

Glance Around The District



McKinley 7th graders joined students from other schools across the region for a field trip to watch an Iowa Heartlanders game.

Trailside students read the book *Balloons Over Broadway and* then made their own balloons.

Wright celebrated the 67th day of school with a 6–7 themed Day, because why not make learning a little extra fun?

Thanks to the generous support of local companies, Kennedy's student government was able to adopt eight families for the holidays.

Grant Wood third graders enjoyed the magic of winter together as they played outside during recess.

Hiawatha students had fun learning about coding with BeeBots during library lessons.

CRCSD 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: Closing schools ‘necessary’ as Cedar Rapids district aims to reduce budget by more than $10 million — Read Here

Gazette: Government Notes: Cedar Rapids schools begins work to create next 7 year strategic plan — Read Here

KCRG: Cedar Rapids School District faces $11 million budget deficit, asks community to help navigate cuts — **Read Here**



Your School's Virtual Backpack



CRCSD Is Hiring! Apply Here



Breakfast & Lunch Menus

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.

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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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