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September 11, 2025

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Listen To The Newsletter

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

REMEMBERING 9/11



Today, we pause to honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001, and to recognize the bravery of the first responders, service members, and countless others who showed courage and compassion in the face of tragedy. May we continue to carry forward their legacy of resilience, unity, and hope.

DR. GROVER'S MESSAGE



Dear CRCSD Families,

I am overflowing with gratitude and joy to share that last week, our Believe in CR Schools Campaign delivered a remarkable 6,199 verified bond petition signatures. This far surpasses the 5,350 required by law to get our bond referendum on the ballot to improve our schools! This milestone is a testament to our community's unwavering belief in our students' future.

I want to take a moment to highlight the exciting impacts this bond will bring to each of your schools:

- **McKinley:** A full renovation and modernization with security upgrades and full ADA compliance, while preserving the building's historic exterior.
- **Wilson:** Transformation into an elementary school to house students from Grant and CRA. A modern, safe, and fully ADA-compliant school designed for our youngest learners.
- **Roosevelt:** Renovations to create a modern learning environment for Roosevelt and Wilson students together, with upgraded security, ADA compliance, and thoughtful design.
- **Kennedy:** A new Freshman Academy and Commons expansion to ensure equity with other high schools, providing smaller learning communities and an enhanced student experience.

A heartfelt thank you to every volunteer, family, staff member, and community ally who made this possible. Your dedication, energy, and shared vision truly moved mountains and brought us one step closer to safer, modernized schools for all.

Celebrate with us!

Check out the highlight reel from the petition signature hand-off

And most importantly, mark your calendars for November 4, 2025, and remember to VOTE! Together, we can bring these exciting changes to life for our students and community.

With tremendous gratitude and excitement,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent, Cedar Rapids Community School District

STAFF SHOUT-OUT PROGRAM: FAMILIES, NOW YOU CAN CELEBRATE OUR STAFF!



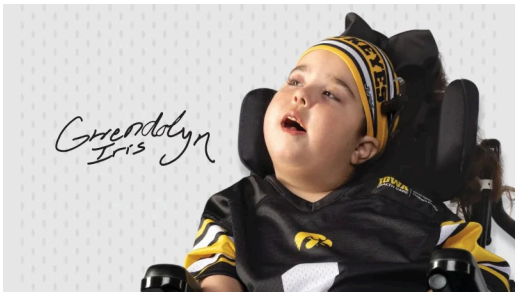
We're excited to announce that the Staff Shout-Out program is officially launching this week! This program gives families and staff the opportunity to recognize any Cedar Rapids Community School District team member, including bus drivers, teachers, paraeducators, custodians, principals, and more, who demonstrates our culture of Care, Clarity, or Communication throughout the school year.

If a staff member has gone above and beyond, taken the time to listen, clarify, or communicate thoughtfully, we encourage you to submit a shout-out. The staff member you recognize will receive a postcard at their school within two weeks, letting them know why they're being celebrated and by whom.

Help us celebrate the incredible people who make CRCSD a great place to learn and grow.

Submit a Staff Shout-Out Here

HIAWATHA FIRST GRADER SHINES AS IOWA FOOTBALL KID CAPTAIN



On Saturday, September 13, the Iowa Hawkeyes will take the field against UMass. After the first quarter, all eyes will be on one very special CRCSD first grader. Hiawatha Elementary's own Gwendolyn Clouse will lead the team as the Iowa Kid Captain!

The Kid Captain program, now in its 16th year, is a partnership between the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Stead Family Children's Hospital. It celebrates current or former patients' strength, resilience, courage, and extraordinary stories. This year, 12 children were chosen from nearly 200 nominations.

For Gwendolyn, the journey has been anything but ordinary. As an infant, she was diagnosed with a rare and fatal genetic disorder called Zellweger Spectrum Disorder, which affects every major organ system. Her parents were told she might not live past her first birthday. But Gwendolyn has defied every expectation with the help of her doctors and care team at Stead Family Children's Hospital. Now 7 years old and a first grader at Hiawatha Elementary, her unstoppable spirit, love of learning, and joyful smile brighten every room.

Before she takes the field at Kinnick, Hiawatha Elementary will celebrate Gwendolyn on Friday, September 12th. Students will line the halls with handmade signs as Herky and the Iowa spirit squad parade through the school, with Herky proudly pushing Gwendolyn in her wheelchair. And of course, Gwendolyn will be sporting her commemorative Hawkeye jersey. Her fellow first graders will also enjoy a special presentation with Gwedolyn and her family.

So, if you are at the game on Saturday, make sure to cheer extra loud for our hometown hero as she takes center stage at Kinnick Stadium.

Learn About Gwendolyn

A LEGACY OF LOVE FOR LEARNING: THE TWILA & LARRY WILEY ENDOWMENT FUND



The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) and the Cedar Rapids Community Schools are honored to announce the creation of the Twila & Larry Wiley Endowment Fund, made possible through a remarkable $100,000 gift from the Wiley family. In addition, the Wileys donated a large collection of children's books, which will be shared through Little Libraries at our schools, putting free books directly into the hands of children.

This extraordinary act of generosity will have a lasting impact on students across our district. The Twila & Larry Wiley Endowment is designed to strengthen education in two important ways:

- Supporting Teachers Who Inspire Students: The fund will provide classroom resources, innovative instructional materials, and professional development that equip teachers to engage and inspire every learner.
- Expanding Opportunities for Student Success: The fund will bolster career and technical education (CTE) programs, giving students access to state-of-the-art equipment, hands-on learning, and pathways to high-demand careers and post-secondary education.

By establishing an endowment, the Wiley family has ensured that Twila's love for students and passion for education will be felt for generations to come. The fund will provide sustainable, reliable support to enhance teaching and learning well into the future.

Larry Wiley shared this heartfelt reflection about his late wife's legacy:
"This endowment in Twila's memory honors her endless passion for teaching elementary students in the Cedar Rapids Community School System. She was very creative and loved her students. One of her heartfelt traditions was getting students excited to earn one of Mrs. Wiley's homemade beanies to celebrate their growth. Students also loved the opportunity to spend time reading in a large claw foot bathtub cushioned with pillows. I hope this endowment continues to celebrate her legacy by supporting the Cedar Rapids students and staff for years to come."

We extend our deepest gratitude to the Wiley family. Their generosity not only honors Twila's legacy but also creates new opportunities for CRCSD students to learn, grow, and thrive.

GOGUARDIAN 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 students' 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 instructions below:

- 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

HARRISON GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



CRCSD will host a public groundbreaking ceremony on Tuesday, September 16th, at 10:00 AM to mark the beginning of construction for the renovation and expansion of Harrison Elementary School. This milestone event celebrates the future of a modernized school building while honoring Harrison's long-standing legacy in the community. The groundbreaking will occur outside the original building and the annex section.

TURN YOUR GROCERY RECEIPTS INTO SUPPORT FOR CRCSD SCHOOLS!

Did you know your everyday grocery shopping can help support our schools? Through the Hy-Vee Cash 4 Students fundraiser, every Hy-Vee receipt collected earns money for CRCSD classrooms. Every $200 in receipts, $1 is donated back to schools for supplies, resources, and more!

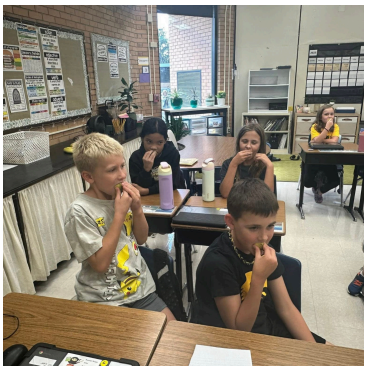
Receipts dated April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026 are eligible. Simply send them to school with your student or drop them off in the main office. Qualifying purchases include groceries, gas, car washes, pharmacy, floral, catering, in-house Starbucks & Caribou Coffee, and more.

Spread the word, neighbors, grandparents, churches, nonprofits, and community groups can all help collect receipts for your school. Every receipt adds up to make a difference!

We Believe In Our Students



Grant Elementary students were pretending to be Jack after reading “Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jump over the candlestick.



Hiawatha 4th grade students enjoyed trying guava after reading a personal narrative about a girl who went shopping for guavas in Puerto Rico.



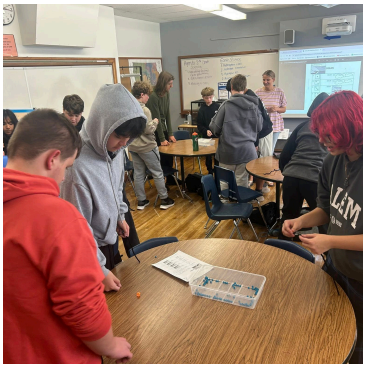
Hoover 4th graders were hard at work this week with their student led learning groups.



Metro High School students represented well at the college fair at Kirkwood this week.



Taft Middle School students enjoyed soccer in Adaptive PE this week.



Wilson 8th grade students in science class had some fun learning about the water cycle.

IN THE NEWS

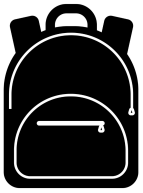
In case you missed it, here are recent news items about or of interest to Cedar Rapids Community School District students, teachers, and parents.

- KCRG: $117M Cedar Rapids school bond officially going to voters

Read Here

- Gazette: More Cedar Rapids school staff listing ‘personal reasons’ in exit survey

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.

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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