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September 18, 2025

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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

NO SCHOOL MONDAY

There will be no school for students on Monday, September 22, as it is a Staff Professional Learning Day. Our teachers and staff will be engaged in valuable professional development to continue growing their skills and enhancing learning experiences for students. Classes will resume on Tuesday.

DR. GROVER'S MESSAGE

Dear CRCSD families,

What an incredible season this has been for our schools! We have so much to celebrate and so much to look forward to.



Earlier this week, we celebrated at McKinley STEAM Academy with the ribbon cutting of their new MedLab. This is more than a classroom. It is a place where our students put on white coats, practice real-world skills, and step into futures they can see and touch. This is exactly what it looks like when we prepare our students for life.

We also broke ground at Harrison Elementary for a new school. This project is about more than a building. It is about honoring Harrison's history while creating a safe, modern, and welcoming space for all students from Harrison and Madison to grow, learn, and thrive together.

And the excitement doesn't stop there. Soon, we will be breaking ground at Hoover and Van Buren Elementary Schools. These projects will bring more modern, equitable learning spaces to even more students across our district. Every project is a step toward our goal of creating excellent learning environments for all students by 2040.

To make more of these investments possible, we have a bond referendum on the ballot on November 4th. Combined with PPEL and SAVE funds, this bond will allow us to invest in even more schools, giving every child the safe, modern, and inspiring space they deserve to learn and grow.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us. These milestones remind us what is possible when we invest in our students and believe in their dreams. Our children are watching, learning, and growing in schools that reflect how much we value them.

With gratitude and excitement,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Kennedy High School students Ethan White, Malick Sogur, and David Hansel for being named National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists!
Out of over 1 million high school juniors who took the PSAT exam last fall, these three outstanding students placed among the top 16,000 students nationwide. This recognition is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence. They now move on to the next round of the national scholarship competition.

Well done, Ethan, Malick, and David, you make Kennedy and CRCSD proud!







Ethan White, Senior | Malick Sogur, Senior | David Hansel, Senior

HOMECOMING DATES



Homecoming is just around the corner for Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools! It's a time for students, staff, alumni and the community to come together to show their pride and support as they celebrate their school. Each school has its own beloved traditions that echo the unity and spirit of CRCSD. Below are the dates for each school's homecoming celebrations. Check with each school on specific times and locations.

Jefferson
- Parade - September 17
- Game - September 19
- Dance - September 20

Kennedy
- Parade - October 8
- Game - October 9
- Dance - October 10

Washington
- Parade & Bonfire - September 24
- Game - September 26
- Dance - September 27

AMERICA READS DAY



Cedar Rapids Community School District is excited to once again take part in America Reads Day on Thursday, October 9, and Friday, October 10! This annual tradition brings community members, families, and local leaders into our schools to share the joy of reading with our students.

Volunteers are invited to spend time in classrooms across the district, reading a favorite book and sparking excitement for literacy. It's a simple act that makes a big impact, helping to inspire a lifelong love of reading in our students.

Whether you're a parent, grandparent, neighbor, or community partner, we welcome you to join us in celebrating the power of books and storytelling.

Sign Up For A Time Slot

MCKINLEY MEDLAB RIBBON CUTTING



McKinley celebrated the official opening of the MedLab on Friday, September 12. The construction on the space kicked off back in May with a ceremonial Demo Day.

The updated space was designed to give students even more opportunities for hands-on, real-world learning in science, medicine, and beyond. We are proud to have invested in environments that spark curiosity and support future-ready learning.

Check out the new space in the video below.

MedLab Ribbon Cutting

HARRISON GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY



Harrison Elementary celebrated a groundbreaking for its renovations and addition on Monday, September 16th!

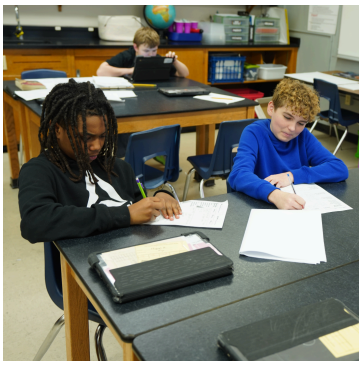
This milestone marks the start of creating a modern and safe learning environment designed to serve students and the community for generations to come. The new school will feature updated classrooms and facilities that encourage collaboration, creativity, and future-ready learning.

We are proud to invest in spaces that spark curiosity and support student success.

Check out the video from the groundbreaking below!

Harrison Groundbreaking

EVERY DAY COUNTS!



At Cedar Rapids Schools, we know that when students are in class, they learn more, build stronger friendships, and feel more connected to their school. We also understand that sometimes children need to be gone for illness, medical appointments, or family emergencies.

What matters most is avoiding absences that are not excused. Missing school without a clear reason—such as oversleeping, skipping class, or taking trips not connected to school—makes it harder for students to keep up. Even a few unexcused days can add up to missed learning opportunities.

Here is how you can help:

- Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.
- Call your school immediately if your child must miss school for illness, medical needs, or family emergencies.
- Send documentation (doctor's note, appointment card, etc.) within 48 hours so the absence is recorded correctly.
- Avoid unexcused reasons like oversleeping, vacations during school days, or staying home without notifying the school.

Every day matters. By working together, we can ensure that students have the best chance to learn, grow, and succeed. Thank you for helping us keep kids in school and on time every day.

WASHINGTON FALL PLAY



This weekend, Washington High School's theatre department takes the stage with their fall play, *A Beautiful Day in November on the Banks of the Greatest of the Great Lakes.* Performances will bring to life this unique and witty production, which uses the style of a live sports broadcast to tell the story of a family gathering for Thanksgiving dinner. The show runs September 18-20.

Get Tickets Today

We Believe In Our Students



Taft Middle School had a full house for their 7th-grade volleyball game vs. Wilson.



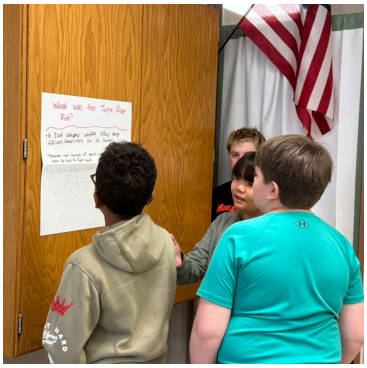
Hoover 1st-grade students were hard at work today with their collaborative learning groups in math.



Congrats to Maple Grove Elementary on earning their first school-wide celebration! They celebrated with a crazy hat and hair day.



Metro STEAM Academy welcomed local entrepreneur Nathan Marsceau to share about his hot sauce and rub business. METRO students will partner with him this year to help grow some peppers for his sauces in their greenhouse.



At Harding Middle School in Mrs. Campbell's 7th-grade social studies class, students discussed and responded to questions about the Great Migration.

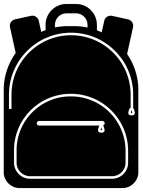


Erskine Elementary 2nd graders wrapped up their CKLA unit on fairytales and tall tales with a fun celebration! Students enjoyed Fairy Tale Bingo, flapjacks with a Babe the Blue Ox drink, and created their own Royal Directive drawings.

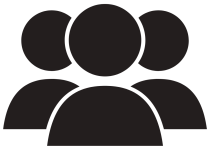
IN THE NEWS

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: Cedar Rapids students help break ground on Harrison Elementary renovations — Read Here
- KCRG: Iowa City and Cedar Rapids school districts adjust to new cell phone ban — Read Here
- Gazette: Cedar Rapids City Council shows support for school bond referendum — 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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