

October 16, 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

DR. GROVER'S MESSAGE



Dear CRCSD Families,

Last Friday, I had the joy of celebrating Read Across America Day by visiting three of our schools: Grant Wood, Pierce, and Johnson STEAM Academy to share a story with our students. There's nothing quite like watching young faces light up during storytime. Their curiosity, imagination, and excitement remind me of the incredible power books hold to open minds and hearts.

Across our district, families, community members, and even our older students joined in the celebration. I was especially inspired to see Taft Middle School students reading to preschoolers at Truman Early Childhood Center, a beautiful partnership that shows how the love of reading connects us across ages and schools.

Sparking a lifelong love of reading is one of the most meaningful gifts we can give our children. As we continue to see steady growth in English Language Arts proficiency across Cedar Rapids schools, I encourage every family to keep the

momentum going. Read together, talk about stories, and help your children find books that capture their imagination.

Reading doesn't just build skills. It builds confidence, connection, and a love for learning that lasts a lifetime.

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

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



A huge congratulations to the Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington high school marching bands, who all received the coveted Division I rating at the recent state marching band competition!

The Division I rating is the highest honor a band can achieve at state and signifies a superior level of performance, musicianship, and marching execution. This outstanding achievement is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and countless hours of practice put in by every student performer, color guard, and drum major across all three schools.

For weeks, under the direction of their tireless band directors, these students have navigated early morning rehearsals, late-night practices, and weekend competitions, all while maintaining their academic commitments. Their success serves as a shining example of what focused effort and passion can achieve.

Bravo to all three bands on an unforgettable season and this remarkable achievement!

EARLY VOTING NOW OPEN: SATELLITE VOTING AVAILABLE FRIDAY AT KENNEDY



Election Day for the Cedar Rapids Schools Bond Referendum is Tuesday, November 4, 2025. We want to be sure you have the information you need to make your voice heard. Here's a guide to voting.

- Voter Pre-Registration Deadline: The deadline to pre-register is 5 p.m. on Monday, October 20. You can register online, by mail, or in person at the Linn County Auditor's Office.
- Absentee Ballot Request Deadline: If you wish to vote by mail, the Linn County Auditor's Office must receive your request for an absentee ballot by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21. Postmarks do not count!

Ways to Vote:
There are three ways to cast your ballot:

Vote by Mail:

- First, you must request an absentee ballot. You can download a request form from the Linn County Election Services website.
- Once you receive your ballot, return it to the Linn County Auditor's Office. Your voted ballot must be received by 5 p.m. on Election Day, October 20.

Vote Early in Person:

- Kennedy High School will be open for early voting on Friday, October 17th, from 12 PM - 6 PM
- Early in-person voting is available at the Linn County Auditor's Office and other satellite locations, beginning on or after October 15. Click Here for the schedule and locations.

Vote on Election Day, November 4:

- Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.
- You must vote at your assigned polling place. You can find your polling location using the "Linn County Polling Place Locator" tool on the Linn County Election Services website.
- You can also register and vote on Election Day at your polling place if you have the required identification and proof of residence.

Your participation is essential for our school district's future. For more details on voter registration, absentee ballots, and polling locations, please visit the Linn County Election Services website.



CEDAR RAPIDS SCHOOLS LAUNCH SAFE ZONE SPORTS PROGRAM



Thanks to the vision of CRCSD's Student Safety and Success Advocate Myles Monnahan and the support of community partners, students at three Cedar Rapids elementary schools now have a new way to connect beyond the classroom. The Safe Zone Sports Program brings together 4th and 5th-graders to stay active and develop essential life skills.

The program was launched this fall at Cedar River Academy, Johnson STEAM Academy, and Grant Elementary School. Through the program, students enjoy a structured and safe after-school activity, including flag football, basketball, and soccer. Each session goes beyond teaching sports fundamentals by helping students build social skills, teamwork, leadership, confidence, and a strong sense of belonging. Safe Zone Sports benefits not only students. It also provides staff and

volunteers with meaningful ways to engage with students beyond the school day, fostering stronger connections outside of the classroom.

Myles drew inspiration for the program from his own childhood experience at Cleveland Elementary. “When I was a kid, a teacher started an after-school flag football program, and it was something I looked forward to every week. I wanted our students to have that same experience—something fun outside of school hours that also keeps them connected to their school community,” he shared.
Thanks to generous support from the Iowa Giving Crew, Safe Zone Sports is entirely free and conveniently held at students’ own schools. This year, three sessions are planned, with hopes to expand the program as interest and support grow:

- Flag Football: Sept. 29 – Oct. 20 | 4:00–5:00 PM
- Basketball: Jan. 12 – Feb. 9 | 4:00–5:00 PM
- Soccer: Apr. 6 – 27 | 4:00–5:00 PM

CRCSD leaders say the program not only keeps students active and engaged but also strengthens the bonds between students, staff, and the broader school community. We know that when students feel more connected to their school, we see better outcomes both academically and socially,” adds Myles.

Students in grades 4 and 5 at Johnson, CRA, or Grant Elementary can still join one or all of the upcoming sessions. To register a student or to sign up to volunteer, email Myles Monnahan at mmonnahan@crschools.us.

We Believe In Our Students



Kenwood students are celebrating goals in style! One of their 3rd-grade classrooms rocked a Fort Day to honor their achievement using Habit 5: "Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood," by listening with our whole body!



Erskine’s Mrs. Cooper’s class had fun planting brassica seeds in second-grade science! We can’t wait to watch them grow!



City View students are really getting into Human Anatomy and Physiology! This Kirkwood College course gives City View students a hands-on start in understanding how the body works — just in time for spooky season!







Pierce Student Council members spread smiles and stories this week as they visited classrooms to read books about kindness and inclusion for Anti-Bullying Week.

Cleveland's 2nd graders had a martial arts guest this week, and some students even got to try a few moves.

Nixon students had a great time thanks to the Iowa Raptors players who came out to play and connect with the students during indoor recess.

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.

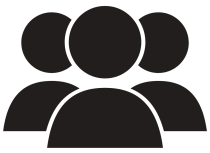
Gazette: Curious Iowa: How do school bonds impact property taxes? Read Here

IA News Now: CRCSD and CCSD partner with Planting Forward Program for tree distribution event **Read Here**

Gazette: Cedar Rapids schools $117 million school bond referendum would 'help students learn' **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

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