

October 23, 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from Dr. Grover
- Student Spotlight
- No School Monday
- Trunk or Treat
- JA Career Inspire
- Fall Weather Reminders
- The Track Guy, A Decade of Speed
- Volunteers Needed
- Glance Around The District
- In The News

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 week, we held our first Superintendent Student Cabinet meeting of the year. This group is made up of multiple student representatives from each high school, some returning from last year, and many new voices joining us this year. Together with the Superintendent's teacher and community cabinets, these students give voice to important issues impacting our schools.

It was inspiring to hear students share what's on their minds. They reflected on why the bond is important to them, shared their perspectives on school improvements, and actively engaged in discussions about their experiences. A few key topics emerged:

- Construction updates at Washington and Jefferson High Schools.

- Kennedy High cafeteria concerns: Students shared that they don't always have enough time to eat or a place to sit comfortably. As a reminder, the Kennedy Cafeteria is one of four projects on the bond referendum on the ballot Nov. 4th.
- Food choices: Students expressed interest in having more options, including vegan, healthy, and culturally diverse meals. They were challenged to brainstorm ideas and invited the Food & Nutrition team to join the conversation in a fun, collaborative way.
- Safety and security remains a top priority for all students.

We also mixed up discussions between students from different high schools so they could compare experiences, advocate for one another, and learn from each other. Thank you to families for fostering confidence in our students and supporting their voices. We truly value student input, and the Student Cabinet is one of the many ways we ensure their perspectives help shape our district.

Sincerely,
Dr. Tawana Grover
Superintendent

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

City View Community High School students are diving into diverse, real-world work environments this year, gaining valuable career skills and making a positive impact right here in the community!

As a part of the City View curriculum, these hands-on internships provide students with practical knowledge, professional confidence, and connections that will benefit them long after graduation.

Paw-sitive Experiences at Downtown Dogs Social Club

Who says learning can't be fun *and* furry? A group of City View students is gaining valuable real-world experience at Downtown Dogs Social Club—a fun, safe place for pups to play and socialize!

These internships provide students with a hands-on education in the ins and outs of pet care, business operations, and customer service. They are learning about animal behavior, safety protocols, and the responsibilities that come with supporting a successful local business. These practical skills are instantly transferable and will undoubtedly serve them well in any future career path.

Building Skills with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance

Some of our City View gentlemen are rolling up their sleeves and putting in hard work with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance maintenance crew!

This unique opportunity involves a wide range of hands-on tasks. From keeping public spaces clean and welcoming to helping with various projects that support local businesses and community development, these students are learning essential maintenance and organizational skills. More importantly, they are directly contributing to the vitality of the Cedar Rapids community and seeing the tangible results of their efforts.

Hammering Home a Future with Habitat for Humanity

Three ambitious City View students have been selected to be part of the highly sought-after 2025-26 Students Building Community Internship with Cedar Valley Habitat for Humanity!

This program is more than just an internship; it's a foundation for a career. It provides high school students with unparalleled, hands-on experience in skilled

trades such as construction and carpentry. While working on live community projects, these students will build not only homes but also incredible confidence, technical skills, and stronger connections to their community. We can't wait to see the lasting impact our students will make this year as they help build stronger futures for local families.

We are incredibly proud of all the City View students who are dedicating their time and energy to these fantastic opportunities. Their commitment to learning and community service is a true reflection of the City View spirit!







REMINDER: NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY

As a reminder, there is no school for students on Monday, Oct 27, 2025. It is a Staff Professional Learning Day.

REMINDER: TRUNK OR TREAT THIS WEEKEND

The sixth annual collaborative CREA/CRCSD community outreach Trunk-or-Treat Event is this weekend! The event will take place on Sunday, October 26th, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Kingston Stadium. Come on out with your costumes and a smile to have some fun!



JA CAREER INSPIRE® Brings "Every Learning. Future Ready." to Life

On October 28-29, Junior Achievement of Eastern Iowa will host JA Career Inspire® at the Alliant Energy Power House in Cedar Rapids, and it's a perfect example of our "Every Learner. Future Ready." mission in action.

This hands-on career exploration event connects 9th-grade students from across the corridor with local employers and real-world career opportunities. Through interactive simulations and activities, students explore diverse industries and discover how their classroom learning connects to future possibilities.

Why does this matter? At this pivotal point in their education, students are making important decisions about high school courses, post-secondary plans, and career directions. JA Career Inspire® gives them the clarity and confidence to choose wisely—transforming abstract learning into concrete pathways forward.

When students see local employers invested in their future and understand the "why" behind their coursework, every learning moment becomes purposeful; that's what Future Ready looks like.

FALL WEATHER REMINDER



Fall is here, and with it comes chilly mornings, warm afternoons, and the occasional wind or rain! Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the changing weather each day. Layers are best, as they can be easily added or removed as temperatures shift.

At CRCSD schools, students spend time outdoors throughout the day, including during drop-off and pick-up, walking to and from school, and at recess. We hold outdoor recess whenever the air temperature or wind chill is above 10 degrees (F).

Thank you for helping your child stay comfortable, safe, and ready for any kind of Iowa fall day!

A DECADE OF SPEED

The legendary 2015 Jefferson women's 4x200 relay team is back in the spotlight, this time on the big screen! Their incredible story is featured in the new documentary "**The Track Guy,"** which is now being shown around the state and is slated for entry into a film festival.

This powerhouse team secured their place in history by holding the all-time best for the 4x200 relay for an impressive 10 years. They were also the first women's 4x200 relay to break the coveted 1:40 mark. Even veteran announcer Mike Jay, "The Track Guy" himself, calls it "one of the best races he has ever called."

The documentary features interviews with the relay team members and their coach, Coach Calloway, offering an inside look at their journey and the challenges they faced to achieve such a monumental feat. Track fans will be thrilled to know the entire 4x200 race is included in the film!

Don't miss your chance to see this inspiring piece of local sports history. The next showing will be on **November 2nd at 3:00 PM at Big Grove** in Cedar Rapids. Come out to celebrate this incredible team and the lasting legacy of their speed!

The Trailer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Join us for a day of inspiration, learning, and community impact! We're inviting families and community members to help bring learning to life and prepare students for success beyond school at the Junior Achievement BizTown Event. JA BizTown is an interactive, hands-on learning experience where students run a simulated town for the day!

The students will operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, vote for a mayor, and real businesses. Through this experience, students develop teamwork, leadership, and money management skills while gaining an understanding of how businesses and communities function together. Volunteers have the fun job of helping to mentor students as they manage businesses, balance budgets, and make real-world decisions for their town. No experience is needed—training is provided!

Dates & Schools:

- Nov. 4–5: Harding
- Nov. 11–12: Franklin
- Nov. 19–20: McKinley

Location: Classic Event Center, 3607 1st Ave SE, Suite A, Cedar Rapids
Time Commitment: 9:00 AM-1:45 PM
Lunch: Lunch will be provided

Click here to sign-up, or contact Katie Langrehr or Kimberly Abram to learn more about the event.



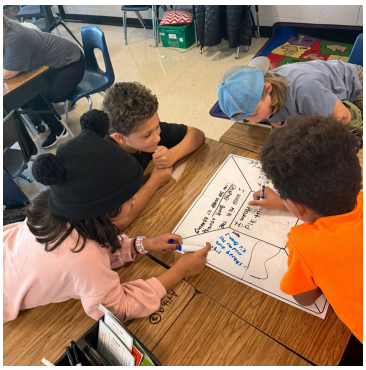
We Believe In Our Students



Jefferson's Mr. Galloway's Civil Engineering & Architecture class took a field trip to the CRCSD Student Built House today. It was inspiring to see the collaboration between programs and all the real-world skills our students are developing through this fantastic project!



McKinley 6th-grade Intro to PACT students had the opportunity to participate in a mini mock trial yesterday! Students read and analyzed evidence in their trial, wrote their own questions, answers, and speeches, and then acted as attorneys or witnesses in the trial.



Grant students in Miss Olson's fourth-grade class were working together to give Sophia ideas on how she can use a growth mindset. Mr. Mertens, our School Counselor, is helping our students learn how to tackle difficult tasks.



Erskine’s Ms. McDonald’s class practiced their writing skills using shaving cream! It was a fun, hands-on way to make learning letters and words extra engaging!

The Metro robotics joined other Pompeii League teams in a scrimmage tonight in the North Linn Middle School gym. The team did a great job and learned a lot about the game, their robot, and the game's rules.

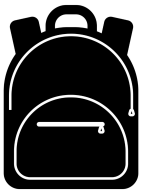
Hoover's second-grade students at Hoover made their own ten strips and measured the length of objects in their classroom using non-standard units.

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: Cedar Rapids school board candidates share their priorities, thoughts on transparency and the future of College & Career Pathways — Read Here

Gazette: Here’s how Cedar Rapids schools came to own Grant Wood, other known artists, work — 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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