

November 6, 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

Continuing the Work, Together

"As I approached the podium last night, while there were adults in the room, all I could think about and all I could see were the faces of our children."

— Dr. Tawana Grover, in The Gazette, November 2025



Dear CRCSD Families,
Thank you for continuing to believe in our students and in our schools. While the recent bond measure did not pass, our commitment to providing high-quality learning environments remains unwavering. This work has always been about more than buildings—it's about creating opportunities for every learner to thrive, and that vision continues.

Over the next few weeks, our leadership team will meet with staff in the schools that were part of the bond proposal to listen, learn, and plan next steps. As I visit schools across the district, I'm gaining valuable insight into the daily experiences of our students and staff. These conversations will help shape our path forward—one that honors the voices of our community while advancing excellence in education.

We remain focused on our shared mission:

- Every learner future ready.
- Every family valued and heard.
- Every school a place of pride and excellence.

What You Can Do Now

1. Partner with Us – Continue to stay engaged through school events, committees, and community conversations that strengthen our collective voice.
2. Share the Good – Help us celebrate the great work happening across our classrooms each day.
3. Offer Feedback – When you see needs or opportunities, share them. Your perspective helps us grow and improve together.

Cedar Rapids Community School District remains dedicated to making our district the best place in Iowa for students to receive an education—and the leading choice for families. That future will be built through collaboration, shared purpose, and the unwavering belief that every child deserves the very best.

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

Superintendent's Serenity

Even when outcomes shift, purpose endures. May we find peace in knowing that progress often begins again—not from defeat, but from determination.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Please join us in celebrating the incredible achievements of our talented students across the district this season!

All-State and Honor Musicians

We congratulate our high school and middle school musicians for achieving top honors in the state and region.

High School All-State Musicians

- Jefferson High School All-State Chorus:
    - Connor Patty (Senior): Selected to the Iowa All-State Chorus for the third consecutive year!
    - Tamar Kalimbire (Senior): Named as an alternate for the All-State Chorus.
- Washington High School All-State Musicians:
    - Choir:
        - Matthew Buckaloo - Bass II
        - Molly Buresh - Soprano I
        - Rosemary Cervantes - Alto II
        - Hayden Reilly - Bass I
        - Grace Byrnes - Alto II
    - Orchestra:
        - Haddie LeVake - Violin 1
        - Sonja Ostmo - Bass
        - Henri Mitchell - Violin 2
        - Mira Gibbons - 1st Alternate Violin
    - Band:
        - Caden Messenger - 1st Alternate Saxophone

Middle School Honor Musicians

- NEIBA Middle School Honor Band (Performance Dec 6th):
    - Franklin Middle School: Hudson Molby (8th Grade Clarinet), Sofia Cunningham (7th Grade Flute)
    - Harding Middle School: Sam Gardner (8th Grade Alto Sax), Ellie Leslein (7th Grade Clarinet), Korver Sindelar (8th Grade Trombone), Rio Thapa (8th Grade Trumpet), Fortune Djagni (8th Grade Tuba)
    - McKinley STEAM Academy: Camille Ostmo (7th Grade Alto Sax), Zachary Lynxwiler (8th Grade Clarinet), Evelyn Williams (7th Grade Trumpet)
    - Wilson Middle School: Chloe Johnson (8th Grade Flute), Elliot Teply-Mead (8th Grade Trumpet)
    - Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy: Cooper Hrabak (8th Grade Trumpet)
    - Taft Middle School: Eli Lipford (8th Grade Bassoon), Ben Miller (8th Grade Trombone), Augustus Howard (8th Grade Trumpet)
- Iowa Junior Honors Orchestra Festival (Performance Nov 21st):
    - Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy: Emilia Favela (8th Grade Viola)
    - Harding Middle School: Yoel Rivera Andrade (Cello), Janset Celik (7th Grade Violin)

Cheer Squad Dominates State Championships

Congratulations to our outstanding Cheer Squad for their performance at the ICCA State Championships (Nov 1st), bringing home 3rd Place in the Coed Cheer Dance Division and 1st Place in the Coed Stunt Group Division!

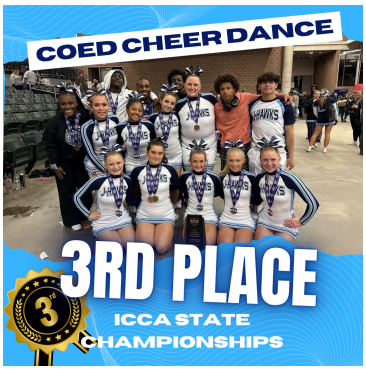
Individual Cheer Accolades

- Eli Tonkollie: Male member of the Coed Stunt Group Champion team, currently holding 17 college offers for cheerleading.
- Aubree Simmons: Named a member of the 2025-2026 All-State Cheer Squad, selected from over 175 athletes statewide. She will perform at the state championship boys' basketball games.

We are incredibly proud of all these students who represent our district with such distinction in music and activities. Their dedication, talent, and hard work are inspiring to us all. Please join us in congratulating these students, their families, and their dedicated teachers!







BOOKS & BADGES



This week, students at Hiawatha Elementary School enjoyed a special visit from their Police Pal Burke, from the Cedar Rapids Police Department, who stopped by with a very special delivery! The officer brought stacks of books for the students through the Cops ‘n’ Kids Reading Program.

The Cops ‘n’ Kids program shares books with children from preschool through 8th grade, especially in neighborhoods where access to books may be limited. The goal is to spark a love of reading, highlight the opportunities that strong literacy skills create, and build positive relationships between students and local law enforcement.

All of the donated books were provided by Quota of Cedar Rapids, a volunteer organization dedicated to promoting literacy, providing educational resources, and supporting positive youth development. Through this partnership with Cops ‘n’ Kids, they aim to distribute 5,000 books annually to children in Cedar Rapids and Marion.

We’re so grateful for community partners like the Cedar Rapids Police Department and Quota of Cedar Rapids for making a difference in our students’ lives—one book, one smile, and one connection at a time.

FRESHMAN CLASSES EXPLORE JA CAREER INSPIRE



All CRCSD Freshmen recently took part in JA Career Inspire, a two-day, hands-on career exploration event hosted by Junior Achievement. This interactive expo gave 9th graders the chance to step into the world of work, connecting classroom learning to real-life career possibilities.

Students from Jefferson, Kennedy, and Washington High Schools explored more than 70 exhibits featuring local employers, colleges, and training programs. They had the opportunity to try out tools, run simulations, program robots, and learn directly from professionals across industries, from healthcare and construction to technology, the arts, and beyond.

Events like JA Career Inspire are more than just fun field trips; they help students consider important next steps, such as the education or training they'll need, and the skills that will help them succeed. For many students, this event is their first chance to explore local industries firsthand and talk directly with professionals about what different careers are really like. As 9th graders choose courses for the rest of their high school experience, these conversations help them make informed decisions about their future pathways.

SECOND CHANCE: APPLY FOR A JOB SHADOW!

Kirkwood COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Good news! Workplace Learning Connection has opened a second round of job shadow opportunities. This is your chance to explore potential careers and get a real-world look at professional life. Don't miss out on this valuable experience!

Key Details:

- Who is Eligible? All students in grades 10-12.
- Application Window: The portal is only open from November 1 to November 12 at 3:00 PM. Act fast!
- Opportunities: Both in-person and virtual job shadows are available.
- Cost: There is no charge to participate.
- Limit: You may apply for one job shadow during this portal opening.
- Transportation: Any necessary transportation is the responsibility of the student.

Ready to take the next step toward your future? Job shadowing is a low-commitment, high-reward way to test out a career, whether you participate virtually or in person. Your dream job could be just one shadow away!

Apply Now

GO GAURDIAN FILTERING



The District's IT Department uses a system called GoGuardian to filter and block inappropriate online content on all district-managed devices and accounts. This system 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. Additionally, students will receive a notification on their screen whenever a parent logs in to the app, allowing them 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

GIVE BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

The Cedar Rapids Community School District is deeply committed to supporting students and their families who face food insecurity. We know that when students are hungry, it significantly affects their ability to learn, focus, and thrive.

Our school-based food pantries provide essential groceries and supplies right where families need them most. These pantries are a critical resource, ensuring our students have the nourishment they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

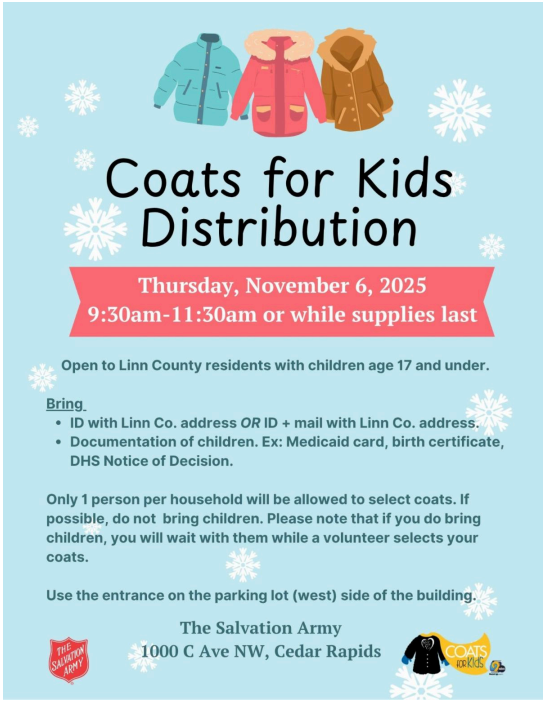
We encourage all families to utilize our school pantries and other community food access points if needed.

View The Full List of School Pantry Locations

As the weather turns cold and the holidays approach, there are additional resources available in partnership with organizations like The Salvation Army:

- Coats for Kids Distribution: This program helps ensure Linn County children stay warm through the winter. Details, including the date, time, location, and required documentation, are provided in the attached flyer.
- Toy & Ham Assistance: Linn County residents can register for a free Christmas Toy Shop (in partnership with Toys for Tots) and a ham. Registration deadlines and eligibility requirements are included in the attached flyer.





We Believe In Our Students



JSA 3rd-grade artists are so proud of their completed snow plow! What a great way to express creativity while connecting with the community.



At Trailside Elementary, oranges for snack mean one thing… “Orange,” you happy we are all smiling??



Hoover kindergarten students experimented with building different houses to see if the big bad wolf could blow them down today, while bringing their reading to life!



Grant was happy to be one of the hosts for Safe Zone Sports this fall. Thanks to the coaches for the time spent with our kids and the families for committing to the season.



This week, during CRA’s Kids on Course program, they had a couple of special Enrichment visitors! On Monday, our students played 4 Square with a few of our amazing CRPD Officers.



For Halloween, our food and nutrition staff always have a “Monster Mash” at our elementary schools. West Willow had a great time making their pizza monsters to celebrate.

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: Recount unlikely in C.R. schools’ narrowly failed bond referendum — Read Here

Gazette: 3 newcomers elected to C.R. school board, ousting pair of incumbents — Read Here

KWWL: Cedar Rapids schools face tough choices after bond vote falls short — 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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