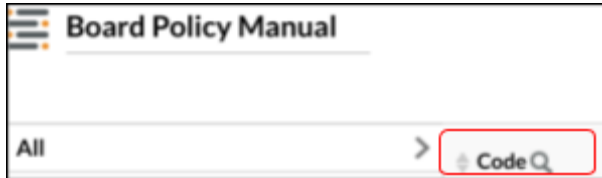


CRCSD ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

Updated: 07/2026

NOTE: All references to Board Policies, Regulations, and Procedures can be found on the following website: <https://tinyurl.com/CRCSD-BoardPolicyManual>



You can search for a specific policy number by clicking the magnifying glass on the Board Policy Manual home page and typing in the policy number.

Introduction

For the 2026-2027 school year, the handbook can be found online through the CRCSD school websites. Students and parents are encouraged to review the handbook and its contents.

Definitions

References: School Board Policy 0604 & Regulation 0604.01-R(1)

In this handbook, the word "parent" also means "guardian" unless otherwise stated. An administrator's title, such as superintendent or principal, also means that individual's designee unless otherwise stated. The term "school grounds" includes the school district facilities, school district property (including school provided electronic devices), property within the jurisdiction of the school district or school district premises, school-owned or school-operated buses or vehicles and chartered buses. This would also include when learning is provided in a virtual environment. The term "school facilities" includes school district buildings. The term "school activities" means all school activities in which students are involved whether they are school-sponsored or school-approved, whether they are an event or an activity, or whether they are held on or off school grounds.

Jurisdictional Statement

This handbook is an extension of board policy and is a reflection of the goals and objectives of the board. Every effort has been made to summarize school policies and regulations to provide a basic understanding of the district's expectations for students attending school. More detailed regulations can be found in the School Board Policy manuals located online through the CRCSD website. Effective July 2026, new legislation was adopted by the State Legislature. Guidance and administrative procedures will be provided over the course of the 2026-27 school year.

The Board believes inappropriate student conduct causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, and/or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school premises. Appropriate classroom behavior allows teachers to communicate more effectively with students.

Students will conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age & maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others while on District property or on property within the jurisdiction of the District; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the District.

Students who fail to abide by the District's policies, regulations, and procedures and the applicable student handbook will be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with the education program; conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the District or school activity; conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to participate in or obtain their education; conduct that is violent or destructive; or conduct which interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere.

The District may impose a range of disciplinary measures for acts of misconduct. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, suspension from school, suspension from participation in extracurricular activities, and expulsion. The discipline imposed will be based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident and the student's record. Consequences for the misconduct will be fair and developmentally appropriate in light of the circumstances. The imposition of discipline will be within the discretion of the individual responsible for imposing the discipline. In instances where there has been a violation of the law, as well as school rules, appropriate law enforcement officials will be contacted and may become involved in the District's administration of discipline. The District reserves the right to seek restitution from the parents/guardians of a student or the student for damage caused by the student.

Teachers and/or others who are in charge of a classroom must be the administrators of classroom discipline. Therefore, minor disciplinary offenses are the responsibility and obligation of the classroom teacher. When a situation arises wherein the educational process is substantially interfered with, it then becomes the responsibility of the administration to assist in the disposition of the discipline problem.

Removal from the classroom means a student is sent to the designated area. It is within the discretion of the person in charge of the classroom to remove the student.

Detention means the student's presence is required during non-school hours for disciplinary purposes. The student can be required to appear prior to the beginning of the school day, after school has been dismissed for the day, or on a non-school day. Whether a student will serve detention, and the length of the detention, is within the discretion of the licensed employee or the building principal, disciplining the student.

Suspension means either an in-school suspension, an out-of-school suspension, a restriction from activities or loss of eligibility. As in-school suspension means the student will attend school but will be temporarily isolated from one or more classes while under supervision. An out-of-school suspension means the student is removed from the school environment, which includes school classes and activities. A restriction from school activities means a student will attend school and classes and practice but will not participate in school activities.

Expulsion means an action by the Board to remove a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, for a period of time set by the Board.

Following the suspension of a special education student, an informal evaluation of the student's placement will take place. The individual Education Program (IEP) is evaluated to determine whether it needs to be changed or modified in response to the behavior that led to the suspension. If a special education student's suspension, either in or out of school, equals ten days on a cumulative basis, a staffing team will meet to determine whether the IEP is appropriate.

Dear Nixon Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope you and your family had a wonderful summer filled with opportunities to relax, make memories, and enjoy time together. Whether you are a returning Bobcat family or joining Nixon for the first time, I am so glad you're here! It is truly an honor to be part of your child's educational journey, and I can't wait to see all that this school year brings.

This year will be especially meaningful for our Nixon community, as it will be the final year Nixon Elementary serves students before our school closes at the end of the school year. While change often brings mixed emotions, one thing remains unchanged—our commitment to your children. Our staff is dedicated to making this a year filled with learning, growth, friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime. We look forward to celebrating the incredible legacy of Nixon while making every day count for our students.

At Nixon, we believe every child deserves to feel safe, supported, challenged, and valued. Our Bobcat expectations continue to guide everything we do. We encourage all students to be:

- **Safe**
- **Responsible**
- **Respectful**
- **Part of a Team**

These expectations help us create a school where every student feels a sense of belonging and is empowered to do their best.

This summer also brought an exciting personal milestone for me as I was married and am now going by Mrs. Johnson. While my last name has changed, my commitment to Nixon and to your children remains exactly the same. I feel incredibly grateful to continue serving this amazing community during such a special year.

Strong schools are built through strong partnerships. I encourage you to stay connected by reading our newsletters, communicating with your child's teacher, attending school events, and reaching out whenever you have questions or concerns. Working together, we can help every child have a successful and memorable school year. Thank you for trusting us with your children each day. It is a privilege to serve as your principal, and I look forward to making this final year of Nixon one to remember. Here's to an incredible school year! Go Bobcats!

Warmly,

Kayla Johnson, Principal
Nixon Elementary
knelson@crschools.us

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ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE

References: School Board Policy 0602 & Procedure 0602-Pr(1)

Katherine Pratchett, Engagement Specialist (319) 558- kpratchett@crschools.us to discuss excessive absences and attendance plans.

Regular attendance, as well as being on time to school and class, is essential for students to obtain the maximum benefit from school and take full advantage of educational opportunities provided by the district. Students and guardians are required to follow District and school rules and procedures regarding attendance as outlined in Board policy 602 and to align with the State of Iowa's Compulsory Education Law Chapter 299.

The Cedar Rapids Community School District believes that excessive student absenteeism and tardiness is an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and puts students at risk of dropping out of school. An absence is any time a student does not access instruction (physically or remotely as designated). Absences will be recorded as part of a student's attendance record and tracked through Infinite Campus.

Absences:

It is the responsibility of the guardian to notify the student's attendance center as soon as the guardian knows the student will not be attending school. This can be done via phone call or email listed above 24 hours a day. If the school is not notified of the absence, it will be counted as unexcused. The guardian may rectify this by giving verbal or email notice within two days of the reason for the absence or provide necessary documentation. The administrator reserves the right to verify an absence as excused or unexcused and may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence. Student absences approved by the administrator are excused absences. Excused absences may include, but are not limited to:

- Illness - as long as an absenteeism prevention plan is not in place
- Medically documented chronic or extended illness, hospitalization, or doctor's care, or school nurse's approval
- Medical or dental care
- Death or serious illness in the family
- Religious holidays requiring absences from school
- Court appearances or other legal proceedings beyond the control of the family
- Class time missed because of attendance at a school-sponsored trip or activity
- Other verified emergency as approved by the building administrator
- Other reasons which can be justified from an educational standpoint and which are approved by the building administrator

Arriving Late and Leaving Early:

Arriving at school or class after the official start time constitutes tardy. If a student is consistently arriving late or leaving early and it is documented, the information will be considered at the District and County Attorney levels. Time missed from instruction due to tardiness or leaving early will count towards the cumulative hours a student is absent. A student is considered tardy if:

Elementary School - Enters the school any time between 8:50 and 9:00.

If a student enters the building for the day after these tardy time frames, the school designee will record their entry time into Infinite Campus using the Check In/Check Out feature in which this time will count towards unexcused absences.

Students who are absent from school for any reason are expected to make arrangements with appropriate school staff to recover the missed learning. Students can earn full or partial credit for the missed school work, as agreed upon by the student and school.

Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school at least one-half day on the day of the activity unless permission has been given by the administrator for the student to be absent.

Responding to Excessive Absenteeism:

Reference: School Board Procedure 0602-Pr(1)

School staff will follow District procedures to address attendance concerns. Guardians and students are expected to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Truancy is the act of being absent without an excuse as defined by Board policy 602 which occurs through the failure to regularly attend school hours as established by the Board in the school calendar.

When a student's non-attendance or tardiness interferes with learning, the building MTSS team may intervene to identify barriers and offer additional support to improve student attendance. The team may communicate with the student and the student's guardians to determine the reason(s) for the excessive absences, ensure the student and guardians are aware of the adverse consequences of poor attendance, and jointly develop a plan for improving the student's school attendance. The team may recommend community resources and/or collaborate with community agencies and organizations to address the needs of the student and family if applicable.

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

Reference: School Board Policy 0904

Permission from the principal must be given before any person may bring an animal to school. When permission is given, pets and other animals must be on a leash or in a cage and must be accompanied by an adult who can leave with the animal as soon as the "sharing" time ends.

For safety and courtesy reasons, everyone is respectfully asked not to bring animals to school when escorting their students to and from school or when attending outdoor school events.

BUILDING ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

Students may begin arriving at school and let into the building at 8:30 am. Any children arriving prior to this time will not be supervised. If learners arrive consistently prior to this time, families will be notified via a phone call or email from the principal.

At 8:30, students will enter the building and go directly to the cafeteria or the gym. Every child is offered

a breakfast at no cost as part of our CEP status. If a child has already eaten or does not want breakfast, they can go to the gym.

At 8:40, students will be dismissed to their classrooms. Children will take care of their personal items, be greeted by their teacher, make their lunch choice, and begin their day.

At 8:50 our day officially begins. Any student coming to school after 8:50 will need a late pass from the office. We begin each morning with our building announcements and the Pledge of Allegiance.

BIKE SAFETY

Parents are asked to assume responsibility for their student's bike safety readiness and bike maintenance. All bike riders should wear a helmet. Riders are expected to follow the bike safety and courtesy rules listed below:

- Walk bikes at all times anywhere on school grounds.
 - Walking means both feet on the ground, not straddling a bike, not coasting scooter-style.
- Bicyclists must obey all traffic signs and yield to pedestrians.
- Bike riders should park, lock, and leave their bike at the rack in front of the main building.

Students must follow the bike safety rules listed above. Consequences for not following these may include loss of bike riding privileges, having the bicycle held at school for a parent to pick up, meeting with the principal and parents to review bike safety expectations, or meeting after school for one or more days to review bike safety lessons with staff or the principal.

Skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, heelies are not permitted on school grounds.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Reference: School Board Regulation 0610.01-R(1)

- As a part of our District Wellness Policy, students will celebrate their birthdays in a variety of ways. Students are not allowed to bring individual birthday snacks.
- We ask that you do not send balloons or flowers to the school for your child's birthday. If they are received, they will remain in the main office for students or families to pick up after school.

BUILDING USE

References: School Board Policy 0805 & Regulations 0805.01-R(1) to 0806.01-R(1)

Youth organizations and clubs must make a request for school usage. [This can be requested through the district use form and this is located on the district website here.](#) The requests must be completed and approved prior to the first usage.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

References: School Board Policy 0901 & Regulations 0901.01-R(1) to 0901.04-R(1)

Some students are transported by school bus. You will receive information about routes, pick up, drop off times and student conduct. **It is the responsibility of the family to provide supervision at bus stops before and after school.**

All transportation questions or concerns should be directed to the transportation office at 319-558-2318.

CALENDAR

Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.01-R(1)

Building Calendar

You can view our building calendar on our website and district app. It is located on the website under “Our School” and then “Calendar”. This calendar will be updated with building wide events that will keep families updated with events such as school concerts, school photos and more.

District Calendars

The CRCSD [District Calendar for K-12 and Preschool](#) can be found on our district website.

Make Up Days/ Home Based Learning Days

When school days are canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, school days may need to be made up. Potential make-up days are indicated on our school calendar. Parents are encouraged to take these potential days into consideration when planning early summer vacations to eliminate any conflict in schedules.

What is a Home-Based Learning Day?

On days when hazardous winter weather makes it unsafe to hold school in person, the district may announce a Home-Based Learning Day. On these days, students will complete schoolwork and learning activities from home. These days count as official school days and do not need to be made up at the end of the school year. This helps the district meet the state-required 1,080 instructional hours without extending the school year.

When Will Home-Based Learning Days Be Used?

A Home-Based Learning day will ONLY be used if the district cancels in-person classes **by 12:00 PM (Noon) the day before**, allowing staff, students, and families time to prepare. If advanced notice and preparations are not possible, the district will announce that classes are cancelled, and it will be treated as a regular snow day, which will be made up at the end of the year. The district will NOT use two(2) Home-Based Learning Days in a row. If the weather remains bad for a second day, it will result in a traditional school cancellation. Should we use both allowable Home-based Learning Days, any additional weather cancellations will follow normal [inclement weather-related school cancellation procedures](#).

CEDAR RAPIDS SCHOOL BOARD

Reference: School Board Regulation 0202.06-R(1)

Regular meetings of the Board of Education are generally held on Mondays during each month in the BoardRoom at the Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd. NW. The public is welcome to attend. Meetings are live streamed on YouTube at Engage CRSchools and archived to watch at a later day. [More information can be found on this page on the district website here.](#)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Reference: School Board Procedure 0602.04-Pr(2)

Please complete the annual verification each year and update your address. If you move during the school year, please notify the office of your new address so it can be updated in Infinite Campus. If you move out of your resident school attendance area and wish to remain at your current school, [please complete a permit form found on the district website here.](#)

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Factors such as achievement level, gender, and social maturity are taken into consideration when assigning students to classrooms for the coming year. Every effort is made to form heterogeneous groups that will enable students to work together with the teacher in academics as well as in social pursuits. Students with special needs (learning, behavior, etc.) will be given as much special consideration as possible. The staff, counselor, and principal should be aware of these specific needs due to their contact with the student. Parental input regarding circumstances of which the staff is not aware is appropriate. The principal needs to be an advocate for all children and should assure all an equal opportunity during their elementary years.

Parents **may not select their children's teachers**, but are free to give input into how their child learns best. Assignments for each school year will be available in August.

ACCELERATION AND RETENTION PROCESS

Please contact the building administrator regarding further information on the processes used for acceleration and/or retention.

CLOTHING/APPEARANCE

Reference: School Board Regulation 0603.01-R(1)

The District believes inappropriate student appearance causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and

visitors. Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirements of a good learning environment. The standards will be those generally acceptable to the community as appropriate in a school setting. The District expects students to be clean and well-groomed and wear clothes in good repair and appropriate for the time, place, and occasion. Clothing or other apparel promoting products illegal for use by minors and clothing displaying content inappropriate for school-aged children, profanity, weapons, or reference to prohibited conduct are not allowed. While the primary responsibility for appearance lies with students and their parents/guardians, appearance disruptive to the education program will not be tolerated. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or choice of clothing disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications or be subject to disciplinary action. The wearing of gang-related attire or insignia by students is prohibited.

Gym Shoes

Children are to wear rubber soled shoes, like tennis shoes, to PE class. Proper footwear will ensure safety and enhance performance. We discourage flip-flop type shoes for PE as well as recess.

COMMUNICATING DURING THE DAY

Teachers will contact parents at home or work during the school day if there is an immediate need to discuss a problem involving their child. Teachers may communicate in writing or electronically at other times. Parent calls to teachers should be made from 8:10-8:35 AM, during specials, or after school.

Remember that teachers are teaching and if it is an emergency or a change in dismissal plans for your child(ren) please contact the main office by 3:00pm at 319-558-2188.

All communication between families and students during the school day should be done through school personnel. Texting, emailing, messaging or phone calls during the school day to student devices or personal devices causes a disruption to the learning environment. These communications should be handled through the main office.

CRISIS RESPONSE

Reference: School Board Policy 0613

Comprehensive plans have been developed and implemented for emergency situations if and when there is a need to move students from our building or if a crisis occurs while students are away from our building. In the event that Nixon is declared unsafe to re-enter, we will be busing students to a designated reunification center . Parents will be directed to go to that center's location through local media where staff will assist in reuniting students with their parents. No student(s) will be released to an adult other than their parent(s)/guardian without permission. Bus routes will be used to return students to school or to their home whichever is deemed appropriate. Parents and Guardians will receive information Fall 2026 on how to sign up for school emergency notifications through CrisisGo. Signing up for these notifications will allow you to stay informed in the event of school emergencies.

DAYCARE/BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

All CRCSD elementary schools and middle schools will have before and after-school programming through Champions. If you have any questions, please contact Champions at 800-246-2154 or at discoverchampions.com

DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

Dismissal During The Day

It is necessary for parents to send a note, send an email, or make a telephone call to the main office requesting for students to be dismissed during the school day.

Remember that teachers are teaching and if it is an emergency or a change in dismissal plans for your child(ren) please contact **the main office** by 3:00pm at 319-558-2188.

When a student is to leave school early, he/she is to **check out through the office. Caretakers are asked to come to the office to check-out their student.** Leaving early to attend outside classes or lessons is strongly discouraged.

Students who become ill at school will be dismissed through the office after parents, guardians, or emergency contacts have been contacted and appropriate arrangements are made.

School Delay/Closure/Home Based Learning

When a decision is made to close schools for the day, delay school, or dismiss early because of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations, district websites and social media platforms. In addition, district parents and staff are notified of delays and cancellations by school phone messenger. It is important that contact information is up-to-date in Infinite Campus and the household member has selected to receive notifications via email, phone, or text message.

Building Specific End of Day Dismissal

Students at Nixon are dismissed from school in a variety of ways.

Bus Riders: Bus riders will be dismissed from the classroom directly to their bus at the end of the day. Our district will communicate approximate arrival times for children at their neighborhood bus stop.

Daycare: Children enrolled in the onsite Champions daycare will be dismissed from their classroom directly to the school cafeteria where they will meet their daycare teachers. All other daycare riders will be dismissed to the front of the building and escorted to their daycare vans.

Walkers: Children walking from school to their homes will be dismissed separately from the other groups of children. They will be monitored until they leave school property. Any family who parks their car and walks up to the school is considered a “walker” and should be dismissed when walkers are called.

Car Riders: All remaining children who ride home in vehicles that do not park are considered car

riders. These students will remain in their classroom until their name is called. Families will enter the car rider line that begins on Nixon Drive. No cars will enter the Nixon Circle until directed to do so, and children entering their cars will climb in from the passenger side. Cars will not double park or park in the circle, and all adults must stay in their vehicle while picking up car riders. This ensures our line moves at a consistent pace. **Please have your card tag visible in your windshield or front dashboard and keep moving with traffic even if you see your child coming out of the building. You can get these at Open House (or from the school secretary). Each family is given 2 name cards. For security reasons, if your student will NOT be picked up by someone who has a name card, you MUST inform the front office. If there are any changes to dismissal plans, please inform the office ASAP.** Nixon staff will ensure each child is met by their care safely at the end of the day.

DISTRICT VISION & MISSION

Reference: School Board Policy 0101

Vision

Every Learner, Future Ready

Mission

Our mission is to ensure all learners experience a rigorous and personalized learning experience so they have a plan, a pathway, and a passion for their future.

BUILDING MISSION

"At Nixon Elementary, we inspire every child to learn, lead, and belong by creating a safe, supportive community where every student is known, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential."

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Personal Devices

CELL PHONE USAGE & OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES (iPads, Ear Buds, Smart Watches, etc.)

To minimize distractions and help everyone focus on learning, students may not use personal electronic devices during the school day (8:50 AM and 3:50 PM) or while in the area where breakfast is served.

This rule applies to cell phones, smart watches, and smart glasses (when connected to the internet or a phone), earbuds, headphones, gaming devices, portable media players, and similar technology.

All devices must be silenced or turned off AND put away out of sight, such as in a locker or backpack. Students may not use their devices or any device features until school is dismissed for the day.

Some students may be allowed to use devices if:

- They have permission from the principal for medical, safety, or legal reasons.
- Device access is included in their IEP, 504 Plan, or Health Plan.

- A teacher has gotten permission from the principal for a specific learning activity.

If a parent needs to reach a student during the day, they should call the school office. In an emergency, the school will contact parents as soon as it is safe to do so.

If a student breaks the rules:

- First Time— The device will be taken and held in the school office for the student to collect at the end of the school day.
- Second Time—The device will be taken and kept in the school office until the end of the day. The student's parent/guardian must give permission before it is returned.
- Third Time—The device will be taken and kept in the school office until the end of the day. The student's parent/guardian will be required to pick it up.
- Fourth Time—Additional consequences based on the District's Discipline Matrix.

Important Reminder: Recording and photography by students will not be permitted. All student-owned devices are considered "personal belongings," and the students are responsible for them. The school is not responsible for loss or damage.

School Issued Devices

Student Devices

Each student at the elementary school level will have access to a device for the school year. Devices will be kept at school, except in the event of a school shutdown in which all students are required to participate in virtual learning. In that case, devices would be sent home.

[The full, detailed Elementary Student Device Agreement can be found here.](#)

A summary can be found in this handbook.

Student Device Expectations:

- Student devices will be kept at school except in the event of a school shutdown where virtual learning is required or with the appropriate permission from school staff.
- Students will follow classroom expectations around care of devices, storage, and charging.
- Students will treat the device as if it is their own property, avoiding use that is conducive to damage or loss.
- Students will leave their device in its protective case unless given permission.
- Students will not allow anyone else to use their username / password.
- Adhere to CRCSD School's Student Device Use Policy at all times and in all locations. When in doubt about acceptable use, school staff, a teacher-librarian, building technical contact, or building administrator.

How to Handle Problems

- Promptly report any problems to the building's help desk representative or by contacting the district technology office by email (HelpDesk@crschools.us) or by phone, 319 558 2900
- Do not force anything (e.g., connections, popped-off keys, etc.) Seek help instead.

- When in doubt, ask for help

Screentime Limitations (District policy in development)

- Digital Instruction for students in grades K-5, shall not exceed 60 minutes per school day. The following device uses do not count toward the daily limit:
 - Support and services outlined in a students' IEP or 504 plan.
 - Assistive or adaptive technology used to provide access to instruction or to accommodate differing student abilities.
 - Teacher-directed demonstrations using a projector, smartboard, etc. when students are not individually operating a digital device.
 - State assessments, screening, progress monitoring, and local diagnostic assessments that require a one-to-one device.
 - Dedicated computer science and technology curriculum.

STUDENT DEVICE USE AND CONDUCT POLICY

References: School Board Regulations 0900.01-R(1) & 0900.02-R(1)

The District requires students to learn to use computing devices, data networks, enterprise software systems, electronic mail, the Internet, and telecommunications tools and apply them in the appropriate ways to the performance of tasks associated with their positions and assignments.

Students shall only engage in appropriate, ethical, and legal utilization of the District's technology, network systems, and internet access. Student instruction on digital citizenship standards which includes safe, ethical, and responsible use of the Internet will be defined and taught within core curriculum. Student use of the District's technology, network systems, and internet access shall also comply with all District policies and regulations.

Discipline

Any student who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the building's student code of conduct. Serious or repeated violations will result in the students' use of technology restricted and or revoked in addition to other possible disciplinary action.

Disclaimer

CRCSD does not have control of the information on the Internet or incoming email. CRCSD will provide Internet content filtering both onsite and off. However, no filter is perfect. All filters have vulnerabilities that may be exploited by individuals who are actively and intently dedicated to breaching them.

If student devices are at home, It is strongly recommended that student use of all devices be monitored closely by parents to protect students from accessing inappropriate sites.

EMERGENCY DRILLS

All schools conduct official emergency safety drills for fire and tornadoes a minimum of four times per school year. In addition, we practice a security school emergency drill twice a school year and two bus

evacuation drills each year. These drills are registered with the Cedar Rapids Community School District and the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. If volunteers or visitors are in the building when emergency signals sound, they should respond to the warning by following the group they are with or by responding to special directions from the principal or a staff member. In the event of a building evacuation, staff and students will move to a relocation center identified by the District and local law enforcement. Local radio and television stations will announce when and where parents/guardians may be reunited with their children.

FIELD TRIPS

Reference: School Board Policy 0404

Field trips are arranged to supplement and enhance the learning experiences of children. The online registration system includes permissions for students to attend all field trips. Families must complete this permission online in Infinite Campus before any student can go on a trip away from school premises. Based on school board policy, the school will not seek written permission for each field trip. Teachers will still notify parents about details each time a field trip is to occur. Volunteers are often needed on field trips. Volunteers must complete and be approved through the volunteer process. This may take more than one business day, so this should be completed in advance. Transportation on field trips will be by school bus, private vehicle, or city bus.

FOOD SERVICES

Reference: School Board Policy 0902

We encourage all students to participate in school meals. A nutritious lunch and breakfast is available to all students. School meals offered reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and provide the energy and nutrients necessary to optimize learning.

Breakfast and lunch options are available in all of our schools. Menus are posted on the District website and available on the Health-e Pro App and website. . The Cedar Rapids community school district has 15 Elementary schools under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) that allows us to serve breakfast and lunch at no charge daily for the 26-27 school year. The schools are as follows:

Elementary schools: Cleveland, CRA (Cedar River Academy), Erskine, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison at Madison, Hiawatha, Hoover, Johnson Steam Academy, Kenwood Leadership Academy, Nixon, Trailside, Van Buren, West Willow, and Wright.

For the 26-27 school year, the remaining elementary schools will require payment of meals. If you believe your student/students will qualify for a free/reduced meal benefit [please fill out an application here](#). For the 26-27 school year the elementary meal prices will be as follows: breakfast \$2.55, lunch \$3.50, extra milks \$.60 and adult lunch \$5.15.

USDA requires families to complete the free/reduced application to receive additional benefits in the school district such as fee waivers, transportation, etc.

School meals include the following components; milk and/or water, fruit, vegetable, grain, and protein. If students choose to bring a meal from home, families are asked to send nutritious food items. Milk is available for purchase. Bringing food from outside restaurants to the school cafeteria is discouraged.

Students are not allowed to have soda with any lunch eaten at school. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another, given concerns about sanitation, allergies and health related issues. We view the cafeteria as an extension of the classroom, and expect students to follow common courtesies in the lunchroom.

Menus may change due to emergencies, late starts, snow days, and manufacturing shortages.

Dietary Restrictions: If your student requires special dietary considerations, we need a note from the doctor on file. We ask that you obtain a diet prescription form from Health Services or the Food and Nutrition Department to be completed by your doctor. Completed forms can be returned to the school office as soon as possible to determine if accommodations should be made.

Parents are welcome to join their student(s) for lunch. If a parent plans to eat school lunch, they are asked to notify the office by 9:00 a.m. on the day they will need the meal. Parent meals may be charged to the student account if sufficient funds are in the account. All adults, including parents, are charged the full adult fee.

HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION

References: School Board Policy 605.3 & Regulation 0605.03-R(1)

All schools have a health office staffed by a health secretary and access to a school nurse to provide health related services to students throughout the school day. Health office staff provide first aid for injuries, administer medication and assess complaints of illness. School nurses manage chronic health conditions, including potentially life threatening health conditions. [To contact the school nurse or health secretary at your child's school refer to this page.](#)

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Student Illness or Injury During the School Day

Students are sent to the health office if they are injured or appear ill. Health office staff will attend to the student's complaint. This may include providing first aid, asking the student questions about how he/she feels, taking a temperature, making observations, talking to the teacher, and contacting the school nurse. Students will be sent home for:

- A temperature of 100.4° F. or higher
- Active, illness related vomiting or diarrhea,

The parent/guardian will be called and the student will be sent home. Other symptoms that influence the decision to send the student home include general appearance and functioning in the classroom. After a period of observation a decision will be made to do one of the following:

- Notify the parent/guardian for symptoms of illness or injury of a serious nature as determined by the school nurse and/or health secretary. Not all student visits to the health office will result in parents/guardians being contacted.
- Allow the student to rest in the health office for a brief period then return to class.

Students are to be fever-free without fever reducing medication before returning to school. During times of high rates of illness, such as during influenza season, the length of time a student must remain home after fever/symptoms of illness may change as recommended by Linn County Public Health.

[For more information regarding other health services policies/procedures visit](#)

INTRAMURALS/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/ENRICHMENTS

During the school year we sponsor a number of extracurricular activities. Schedules for these activities will appear in the newsletter or a special letter.

LEGAL NOTICES

[All notices are available on the district website here](#)

[View Parent Notifications on our website here](#)

Here are the items you can find there

- Chapter 102-Child Abuse reporting
- Compulsory Education
- Truancy
- Conduct on School Premises
- Anti-Bullying/Harassment
- Sex offender Registry
- Search and Seizure
- Illegal items found in school or in Student possession
- Tobacco Free school environment
- Weapons
- Chapter 103 Seclusion & Restraint
- Building level Due process
- Suspension
- Cost of evaluation and treatment
- Official school publications
- Student publications
- Safe and responsible student use of networked tech resources
- Student fee waiver
- Gifts to school personnel
- Reserved time for non-school student activities
- Video cameras on district properties & transportation
- Annual notice regarding student records
- Release of student directory information
- Rights under the protection of pupil rights amendment (PPRA)

- Open enrollment
- In district permits
- Home school Assistance program
- Asbestos notification

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.

For inquiries or grievances, including employment matters, affirmative action, and discrimination, contact the Chief Compliance Officer, Elizabeth Jacobi (ejacobi@crschools.us), or designee. For educational programming, contact the Director of Student Services, currently Jennifer Van Fleet (jvanfleet@crschools.us), or designee, who also serves as the District's Title IX Coordinator. Offices are located at the Educational Leadership & Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

Complaints regarding equal educational opportunity and employment laws may also be filed with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (Region VII), 230 S. Dearborn St., 37th Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, (312) 730-1560, fax (312) 730-1576, OCR.Chicago@ed.gov; the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50321-1270, <https://icrc.iowa.gov>, (515) 281-4121; or the Iowa Department of Education, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319, (515) 281-5294. Complaints may be filed with these agencies instead of, or in addition to, the local process.

LIBRARY

Reference: School Board Policy 0402

The library supports the curriculum and enriches the children's learning experiences. The Teacher Librarian and Media Secretary assist students and teachers in locating and using the resources of the Library.

Materials are available to students, staff, and parents to be checked out or renewed. There are no fines for overdue materials; however, each child is expected to assume responsibility for returning materials on time.

Concerns with any materials, or any specific book must be made in writing. There is a form available from the librarian to be filled out by the concerned party. A District committee will then reconsider the questioned material.

LOCKERS/COAT ROOMS FOR PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students generally share lockers with another student. Items stored in lockers such as clothing, lunch boxes, school bags, etc. should be permanently marked with the student's first and last name. All personal belongings brought to school are the responsibility of the student.

The school is not responsible for stolen items. Students are discouraged from leaving valuables or personal items in their lockers. We request that students leave toys, balls, electronic devices, and other personal items at home. If it is necessary to bring valuables to school, they should be given to the teacher or office for safekeeping. Lockers cannot be monitored constantly and if items are missing or damaged, the school district will not be responsible for their replacement.

LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found articles are hung on the rack in the main downstairs hallway (downstairs). Parents and children are urged to check these spaces for lost articles. Every effort will be made to return lost items to their owner. Proper marking of clothing and other articles is important to returning these items to their owners. Items left both after Christmas break and after school is out in June are donated to The Salvation Army on Council.

MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support)

References: School Board Regulation 0604.02-R(1) & Procedure 0604.02-Pr(1)

MTSS is a framework of best practices for schools to meet the needs of all students through opportunities to learn and experience success in academics and social-emotional-learning (SEL) skills. This system matches instruction to the needs of students while ensuring access and attainment of student growth and proficiency.

CRCSd aligns school improvement efforts with Iowa's MTSS framework. The following critical components guide the work at our school:

1. High quality and engaging curriculum and instruction for all students.
2. Screening for potential challenges three times per year.
3. Intervention provided for any students who need extra support in academics and/or SEL.
4. Monitor learning to ensure students make progress toward end-of-year expectations.
5. Carefully track what we do and how our efforts impact students.

A multi-tiered system of supports has three layers of support. Tier I, II, and III. Tier I supports are offered to ALL students and include our core curricula for academic and social-emotional learning. Every student receives Tier I support. Tier II supports are offered to students who need more than the core. Those supports come in the form of Check-in/Check-out with a mentor, small group skill building, explicit math and literacy intervention groups. These interventions typically last 4-6 weeks, meet 3-5x/week for 15-20 minutes per day.

Staff will collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Tier II interventions. If data indicates an intervention has been ineffective then the intervention will be adjusted or the student may be referred for Tier III support. Tier III supports are individualized for the student and typically last 6-8 weeks and

occur 5x/week for 20-30 minutes each day. As with Tier II supports, staff will collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Tier III interventions. If a student continues to struggle either academically or behaviorally with Tier III supports, they may be referred for a Full and Individual Evaluation (FIE) by our Grant Wood Area Education consultants.

Parents are a vital part of the MTSS support plan. Student progress data will be shared with parents throughout the process. If your student is struggling academically, emotionally, or behaviorally parents can request additional tiered support. Please communicate your concerns with your child's teacher or contact our school counselor, Denise Kinsella, at dkinsella@crschools.us or school instructional coach Kari Whitlow at kwhitlow@crschools.us.

ACADEMICS

Reference: School Board Policy 0605.06-R(2)

Title I Funding

Title I funding is provided for a number of our elementary schools. Title I is the largest federally funded supplemental education program. It does not replace what the school does; instead it gives students additional instruction for students that are not meeting grade level expectations in the areas of reading and/or math. School wide assessments are administered to all students and the data is used to determine students that qualify for extra help beyond Core instruction.

Title I funding allows us to have specialized reading teachers as a part of the staff. The teachers instruct students individually and in small groups during the school day to work on specific skills to assist in remediating reading and math deficits.

Each school year we sponsor an academic family night. It is a wonderful opportunity to interact with the Nixon staff and learn some excellent ways to assist your children at home. Communication with details are shared via email and flyers from the school. You will want to make sure you reserve the date on your calendar. Any questions regarding Title I at Nixon can be directed to the building principal.

Our Title I Parent Policy can be found on our website by clicking on the "Curriculum" page of our school website. Any questions regarding Title I at Nixon can be directed to the building principal.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUPPORTS

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

The goal of PBIS is to create a positive school climate, in which students learn and grow. However, school climate can vary widely from school to school. A number of factors affect school climate, including school location, neighborhood culture, instructional methods, student diversity, and school administration.

Changing the school climate may seem like a daunting task. Employing the PBIS framework can make the task more manageable. The key to an effective PBIS implementation is an "all-in" mentality among teachers and administrators in a school. For PBIS to produce positive change in a school's climate, it needs to be employed schoolwide and with consistency.

School climate has bearing on attendance rates, academic achievement, and graduation rates. Regardless of socioeconomic status, students in a positive school climate are more likely to have

higher test scores and greater academic success. In addition, a positive school climate helps students to develop the social and emotional skills they will need to become productive members of society.

In short, a positive school climate includes:

- A feeling of safety
- Respect
- Engagement in learning
- Involvement in school life
- Shared vision
- Involvement of teachers, students, and families

We have developed Common Area Expectations for Playground, Hallway, Bathroom, Lunchroom, Library and Assemblies. Posters with these expectations are posted around the building. All of these are aligned to our 4 essential expectations of being “**Respectful, Responsible, Safe & Part of a Team.**”

Voice Levels: 0- No Talking, 1 Whisper voice, 2 Inside voice and 3 Outside voice

BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

We believe achieving social, emotional, and behavioral health for all is dependent upon collaboration across school, home, and community. It is important to clearly communicate and teach behavioral expectations to students with a focus on preventing unexpected behavior before it occurs. Positive behavior is taught, acknowledged, and modeled by school staff. This promotes a safe and predictable learning environment and fosters healthy relationships in the school community.

The Board believes that each student deserves the right to a fair and appropriate education. District students are expected to respect the rights of others, to contribute to a positive learning environment, and to comply with school and District rules and policies.

To the maximum extent appropriate, staff will use proactive and restorative practices to keep students in class, while addressing misconduct that is detrimental to the learning environment and the rights of others. Practices that are restorative in nature, repairing harm to the victim and/or school community caused by misconduct, will be given first consideration over exclusionary discipline such as removal from class, suspension, or expulsion. School administration and staff will work to identify and correct practices that result in inequities in student achievement, discipline, and access to education.

Students are subject to this regulation while on school premises; while using school-provided transportation; while attending or engaging in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficiency, management and welfare of the school.

Behavioral Definitions

References: School Board Policy 0604 & Regulation 0604.01-R(1)

Students may be disciplined for conduct including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Abusive Language (major): Swearing, nonverbal gesturing or other abusive language
2. Abusive Language (serious): Language and gesturing, including sexual that is directed at another person; intended to or could cause harm or alienation. Includes hate speech
3. Controlled Substance (major): Student has possession or a controlled substance at school. This includes tobacco products, vaping
4. Arson: related to incidents to arson (major): Lighting matches at school or possession of combustible material. False pull of a fire alarm
5. Arson: Reckless use of fire (serious): Repeated major arson behavior. Student is playing with fire in the school or school property. Sets off fireworks, repeated pull of fire alarm or threatening to pull and then pulling
6. Weapon: Possession (major): Possession of a knife, possession of gun paraphernalia but not a gun, possession of mace, possession of a gun that could not be mistaken for a real gun, indirect threats involving a dangerous weapon
7. Weapon: (serious): Repeated weapon possession violations, possession of a look alike weapon or dangerous object, threat to use a dangerous weapon, written documents or drawings of weapons with direct threat, threatening to bring a dangerous weapon to school. Use of a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm, assaults that involve a weapon or object capable of doing bodily harm, bomb threat
8. Property damage: (serious) Vandalism resulting in property damage. Repeated property damage
9. Theft (major): Continued minor theft, burglary of school property, refusal to return stolen property or make restitution
10. Aggression: Verbal (major): A significant verbal confrontation, loud, aggressive behavior in a public area causing major disruption
11. Aggression: Without injury causing medical attention: (major): Mutual combat causing incidental injury, no injury or pain, simple assault, physical contact, play fighting, violent behaviors with no victims (throwing chairs, etc)
12. Aggression: With injury requiring medical attention (serious): contact requiring on-site medical attention (nurse), repeated fighting, disruptive fighting (premeditated, significant), assaults with more than very minor injury (bleeding, cuts), intent to cause harm, kicking, hitting, punching, hair pulling.
13. Aggression: With serious injury (serious): Contact causing serious injury (requires off-site medical attention) Assaults with a weapon or object capable of inflicting serious injury, group assault against a single person
14. Harassment/Bullying: repeated after founded case, threats (serious): Harassment with the threat to kill or commit forcible felony, incident occurs after a founded case, unwanted or aggressive repeated or has the potential to be repeated over time, motivated by racial, gender or ethnic bias, sexual harassment which may include unwanted touching
15. Defiance: Prolonged duration (major): prolonged refusal, refusal to follow directives/prompts

16. Disruption: Sustained (major) Horseplay or rough-housing, prolonged classroom disruption
17. Disruption: Disorderly conduct (serious) Interferes with the operation or the school or school events
18. Inappropriate location: Unassigned area (major) Failure to report to class or designated area, leaving area without permission, elopement
19. Inappropriate location: Off Campus (serious); Leaving building without permission, elopement off campus
20. Lying, Cheating, Forgery, Plagiarism (major): Providing inaccurate information to staff about a peer or staff member, forging parent signature
21. Technology Violation: (major): Use of technology that disrupts the learning of self or others, use of cell phones, headphones, watches, earbuds
22. Technology Violation: Privacy; (serious): Communication that includes sending or viewing pornographic images, including sexting, violent images or material that violate the rights of a protected class, unauthorized recording without consent, hacking or damage of the technology infrastructure

An incident may involve multiple types of conduct listed above.

Consistent with this Regulation, the school's principal/designee may impose disciplinary consequences based on reasonable professional judgment and the facts and circumstances of each situation. Consideration will be given to the age and maturity of the student(s) involved, the impact of the conduct on other students and staff, the severity of the misconduct, and whether the student has engaged in similar or related conduct in the past.

Consideration will also be given to relevant information about a student's disability, including relevant information from any IEP, FBA, BIP, and/or 504 Plan, when determining appropriate disciplinary consequences. Students with disabilities will not be removed from their current educational placement for behaviors related to their disability, except as permitted by law. Where suspension or disciplinary removal of a student with an IEP or 504 Plan results in removal from the student's educational placement for a total of ten (10) cumulative or consecutive school days in one school year, Manifestation Determination must be held no later than the tenth school day of removal.

Progressive discipline should be used to the extent appropriate to ensure severe consequences, such as exclusion from the learning environment, are reserved for serious behaviors disrupting the learning environment or violating the rights of others.

Prior to issuing disciplinary consequences, the building administrator or designee shall conduct an informal investigation of the charges, which shall provide the student with:

1. Oral or written notice of the allegations against the student.
2. The basis in fact for the charges, and
3. The opportunity to respond to those charges.

District Elementary Behavioral Definitions are used to guide decision making as the result of a behavioral infraction. Our goal is always to teach, restore any harm that may have been done, recognize what students are doing well, and provide opportunities for students to learn and grow.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Families can expect to receive weekly communication via email and/or SeeSaw from both their child's classroom teacher and the school. Weekly newsletters update families on events happening at the school, academic learning occurring, and pertinent information for families throughout the year. Nixon also has a Facebook and Instagram page where we post important updates and information. Please ensure your contact information is updated in Infinite Campus to ensure you receive our weekly communication in a timely manner.

PTA/PTO

Families can expect to receive weekly communication via email and/or SeeSaw from both their child's classroom teacher and the school. Weekly newsletters update families on events happening at the school, academic learning occurring, and pertinent information for families throughout the year. Please ensure your contact information is updated in Infinite Campus to ensure you receive our weekly communication in a timely manner. The Nixon Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) works to support the learning needs of Nixon students and promote positive and productive home/school partnerships by fostering active involvement in school programs and practices. In addition to the teaching responsibilities for their own children, parents can support learning at Nixon by serving on PTA committees, participating in PTA meetings and educational programs, and by volunteering in the classrooms or other areas of school where extra adult support is needed. PTA meetings are listed below of easy reference. Looking for more information about the Nixon PTA? Reach out via email: NixonBobcatPTA@gmail.com.

PTA Meetings 2026-2027 (All Meetings held at 6pm in the Nixon Library)

- September
- October
- November
- December
- January
- February
- March
- April
- May

*Meetings subject to change

PARTIES

Non-School Parties/Celebrations

Invitations to non-school sponsored parties or celebrations are to be handled by families outside of the school day. This will help avoid hurt feelings of students not receiving invitations.

School Sponsored Parties/Celebration

Three school celebrations will be planned during the school year; a **fall party in October, a winter party in December, and a friendship party in February**. Teachers will communicate ways you can support the classroom(s) for these events via newsletters and/or Seesaw. If you want to excuse your child from participation in school celebrations, please send a note to the classroom teacher or school office.

PLAYGROUND AND RECESS

Reference: School Board Regulation 0610.01-R(1)

Playground

We have established procedures to help provide an environment that is safe to both students and school property. Boundaries have been established and students need permission of a supervising adult to leave the area. Students are encouraged to wear clothing appropriate to the weather. The school provides playground equipment so bringing equipment from home is not allowed. Playground expectations are taught and reviewed by staff throughout the year.

Recess

Recess is an important part of all elementary students' day. All students are expected to participate in recess activities each day, year round. Appropriate weather attire is expected daily so that students can participate safely in recess. Weather conditions may determine appropriate clothing attire. According to research by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), active kids have:

- stronger muscles and bones
- less risk of becoming overweight
- a lower chance of getting type 2 diabetes
- lower blood pressure and blood cholesterol level
- a better outlook on life
- better sleep

Physical activity also benefits students by:

- increasing their level of physical activity
- improving their memory, attention, and concentration
- helping them stay on-task in the classroom
- reducing disruptive behavior in the classroom
- improving their social and emotional development (e.g., learning how to share and negotiate)

Recess excuses:

Doctor/health care provider notes for school accommodations, including staying in from recess.

- Doctor's notes are considered recommendations and are one source of information when determining school accommodations for students. Doctor's requests need not be implemented automatically.
- The school nurse, in collaboration with the school team and parent/guardian, will review the health care provider recommendation and determine whether the student's health needs can be accommodated in other ways so they may continue to participate in recess activities.

One Day:

- Written or verbal request from a parent/guardian for acute illness or injury will be honored. The School Nurse may extend based on legitimate medical needs, such as an asthma flare up, sprained ankle etc.

Two or More Days:

- If the student has an acute medical need, like surgery or a broken bone, school nurses will contact the health care provider, or review discharge paperwork, for activity restrictions and length of time for the activity restriction.
- For long term chronic health needs, school nurses will do an individual health assessment, including obtaining additional information from parents and health care providers, to determine the need for accommodations.

WEATHER GUIDELINES

Adapted from the Iowa Department of Public Health and The National Weather Service guidelines/recommendations.

Winter Recess:

- When snow is on the ground students are expected to wear snow pants and snow boots to be off the blacktop.
- Students should stay inside if the temperature, including wind chill (or "feels like temp"), is 10 degrees or below. Example, if the actual temp is 20, but with windchill/feels like it is 8 degrees, students stay inside.
- Schools should use the same source for determining temperature to make it consistent and understandable for parents/guardians with children in different buildings. The recommended source is Weather Underground [On this site you are able to change the location of where the temperature is being measured](#) (at KCRG downtown) to a location closer to your school site.

Warm Weather Recess:

- If the **heat index** (air temperature and humidity) is 100 degrees F or more, students will stay inside.

PACT (Program for Academic & Creative Talent)

Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.09-R(1)

Mission Statement: The program for academic and creative talent (PACT) enhances and supports the educational program and experiences of high ability students to prepare them to become world class learners and responsible citizens.

PACT resource specialists serve as a primary advocate and resource in the area of gifted education for students and families as well as a liaison among CRCSD, building staff, students, and parents on matters pertaining to the academic and affective needs of gifted learners.

Elementary

Kindergarten and First Grade

The kindergarten and first grade program (K-1) is designed to identify and recognize student potential, gather and share data, and collaborate with CRCSD and building staff. The program aims to identify students who possess characteristics and behaviors that indicate a student may be talented in a particular academic area. The program also analyzes student data in order to support learning opportunities for high achieving students, and collaborate and support kindergarten and first grade classroom staff and students to challenge and enrich CRCSD's core curriculum.

Second through Fifth Grade

PACT provides curriculum enrichment experiences for academically gifted students. Teachers trained in gifted education conduct classroom screenings at the beginning of each semester. Topics are offered on a rotating schedule, allowing students the opportunity to participate in a variety of challenging activities such as science, humanities, mathematics, and language arts.

Elementary students who excel in one or more of the basic curriculum areas, or who demonstrate the potential to do so, will benefit from PACT services. These students need ongoing opportunities to develop their abilities in complex learning environments.

Several subjective and objective criteria are used to identify academically gifted students for PACT. Staff observations of student task commitment, achievement, and creativity are considered. In addition, achievement, and intelligence test scores are reviewed prior to placing students in appropriate activities.

There are no limits on PACT participation. Screenings are conducted each semester. Some students have exceptional talents in all areas; others are talented in specific areas. PACT seeks to address different areas of intellectual strength and to provide children with initial exploratory experiences in gifted education. However, a placement in PACT does not guarantee further placements. Children develop their intellectual strengths in varying stages and at varying speeds during their school careers; the purpose of PACT is to serve students demonstrating the greatest need for extended programming each semester.

To learn more about PACT, contact the PACT teacher at your school or the PACT office at 319-558-2000. As a parent, you can provide valuable insights and information about your child's exceptional abilities.

REPORTING TO FAMILIES

Assessments will be provided to parents through conferences and report cards. Two formal student conferences will be scheduled in Fall and Winter. Report cards are available using the Infinite Campus. During these conferences families and students will discuss with the teacher the progress made by the student by reviewing daily work, test scores, teacher observations and comments, as well as sharing the student data and samples of student work. Families are encouraged to request a conference in addition to the regularly scheduled conferences if they have concerns about their child.

Communications With Non-Custodial Parents

In the case of parents being separated or divorced, communications are sent to the parent that has physical custody of the child. It is expected that the parents will share information between themselves for the good of the child. To receive mailings the non-custodial parent needs to request this in Infinite Campus. It is our hope that divorced or separated parents can meet together at conference time. Therefore the child can share their progress with both parents at the same time and it doesn't place the time burden on the teacher.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.10-R(1)

The elementary school counselor works with all children in the school. Prevention of problems is a key part of the philosophy in implementing a counseling and guidance program. The counselor works in classrooms on developmental activities and is available to help individual students with concerns in small group or individual settings. Parents of students who work with the counselor on a long-term basis are contacted by the counselor. Parents of drop-in contacts do not necessarily receive this contact from the counselor.

In addition to counseling and skill-building support, the school counselor collaborates with various community agencies. Should families need assistance with basic needs, they can contact Katherine Pratchett, kpratchett@crschools.us who will put them in contact with the appropriate community agencies for support and help.

The counselor is available through email or phone contact. Our counselor is Denise Kinsella and can be reached at dkinsella@crschools.us.

SCHOOL HOURS

Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.01-R(1)

K-5th Grade

Our school day runs from 8:50 AM to 3:50 PM. Students will observe the following schedule:

Our school day runs from 8:50 AM to 3:50 PM. Students will observe the following schedule:

- 8:30 Students eating breakfast may enter the building and go to either the gym or cafeteria (if eating breakfast)

- 8:40 All students may enter classrooms
- 8:50 School begins
- 3:50 Students dismissed

Students may not play on the school grounds before or after school without parental supervision, since staff supervision is not provided. In the morning, students should wait calmly at the front entrance until a staff member is on supervisory duty and admits them to a building.

Students are expected to go home after school. Only students directly supervised by an adult guardian are allowed to play on the playground immediately following dismissal. We would like students to go home and check in after school. They may come back to the school playground at 4:15 PM if they would like.

SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATIONS

[In our efforts to go “green”, flyers and hand-outs will be posted in a link found on our district Website.](#) Once here you will select the link for your child’s building.

SCHOOL PICTURES

Each fall all students will have their pictures taken for the cumulative records. The date is published on the school calendar. Families may purchase individual pictures from the company if desired. Spring pictures will also be taken, and as always the purchase of these photos is left up to individual families.

SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest CRCSD news and Information visit our website and follow us on the following social:

[Visit our Facebook page Here](#)

[Visit our Instagram page Here](#)

STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (Infinite Campus)

- According to Board Regulation 0606.01-R(1): Student Records parents have access to student cum files and records during school hours.
- Families are asked to complete an annual update to the student management system. This system, Infinite Campus, allows the school to have current contact information in the event of an emergency. As changes occur in either phone numbers or emergency contact information, parents should update the system. Parents should alert the person(s) listed as emergency contacts for their student.

- An important part of the annual verification is providing student permissions for field trips, sharing information, and internet usage.
- We will communicate with you when you can go in and verify the information in your child's profile and update incorrect information. This can be accessed all year long to update your child's emergency contact information.

SUPPLIES AND FEES

Reference: School Board Regulation 0701.03-R(1)

Supplies

A suggested annual school supply list can be found on the district website.

Some supply items may need to be replenished as the year progresses. Individual teachers may request additional items as needed. [You can find the school supply list here.](#)

Fees

A book fee of \$40.00 is assessed annually to cover the cost of certain curriculum materials. If you qualify for reduced lunches your material fee will be \$24.00. If you qualify for free lunches, your fee will be waived. To qualify for fee forgiveness/reduction you must have been approved for a free/reduced benefit AND complete Parent Permissions to share that status in Infinite Campus. This fee can be paid in Infinite Campus or can also be given to the school secretary. If writing a check, there is a service fee on return checks of \$30.00. If your check is returned which you authorized us to electronically re-deposit your check for the face amount and service fee. You also authorize us to collect the service fee by paper check or demand draft. You may be sued for damages of three times the amount of the check, up to a maximum of \$500.00 pursuant to Iowa codes 554.3512 & 554.3513 CBI Oskaloosa IA.

VISITING AND VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Reference: School Board Policy 1002

Visitation Policy

- For security purposes, anyone visiting school between 8:50 am -3:50 pm must use the front entrance door. A doorbell will alert the office staff of your arrival and upon recognition and validation they will “buzz” you in. Visitors must report to the office and will be asked to provide a form of identification that will be run through our Raptor Visitor Management System. A name tag will be provided to you. The name tag must be returned upon your departure.
- You are always welcome to see first hand the teaching and learning taking place at school. As a professional courtesy, all parents and visitors must make prior arrangements with teachers and the building principal before a planned visit. Please let the office staff know when you leave the building also. Visiting children must be accompanied by an adult. . We appreciate your understanding and support of these security measures to ensure the welfare of all students and staff.

- Parents often visit to have lunch with their children. We welcome such visits, but ask parents to notify the teacher and office in advance. We encourage parents to eat school lunch or to bring a lunch of their choice. Parents may not bring lunch for any child other than their own. For safety and security parents and visitors are prohibited from taking photos of other children while on school premises.

Raptor System

- The Cedar Rapids Community School District utilizes the Raptor Visitor and Volunteer Management System in our schools to strengthen the district's program of campus safety for students and staff. Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID, which may be scanned or manually entered into the system. We understand that a parent or guardian, for a number of reasons, may not have a US government-issued ID. In this case, the school staff member can ask to see another form of identification and manually enter the person's name into the Raptor system. The system is designed to check this information against the sex offender registry.
- To learn more about the Raptor visitor and volunteer management system, please visit the Raptor Technologies website (www.raptortech.com). If you have any questions regarding the secure system, I, please contact your building principal.
- The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor system provides a consistent way to aid in protecting our students and staff from potential harm. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and support of enhancing school safety protocols in our district.

Volunteering

- We encourage ongoing and active volunteer involvement by individuals and groups when it will enhance the educational experience of our students. Examples of volunteers include, but are not limited to: classroom volunteers, field trip volunteers, bus chaperones, mentors, reading buddies, etc. Volunteers will be under the supervision and direction of a school employee. Contact the Volunteer Coordinator if you are interested in volunteering. You can contact the front office or reach out to Jessica Gabriel at jgabriel@crschools.us
- The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) recognizes the need to maintain a District Volunteer Services Program to support classroom instruction and co-curricular activities. CRCSD appreciates the involvement of volunteers in supporting instructional programs and enriching the learning environment. The district shall make every reasonable effort to provide a safe learning environment for students working with volunteers.
- **A Volunteer Application is required annually of all volunteers whose primary role is that of working directly with students or assisting staff on a regular basis; supervising/chaperoning students; or acting as an authority figure.** All Volunteer Applications will be checked against the national sex offender database and are subject to a background check. [Follow this link to volunteer.](#)
- All applications must be approved prior to volunteering.

WELLNESS

Reference: School Board Policy 0610

Schools play an important role in promoting and maintaining their students' health.

Healthy students are better learners. But schools can't do it alone. Parents are the other crucial half of the equation to provide the healthy start that kids need to thrive in the classroom and in life.

All school districts are required to have a wellness policy. [Cedar Rapids Community Schools Wellness Policy can be found on our district website.](#)

Here's what our commitment to wellness looks like:

Our school will:

- Provide health education, including nutrition, in the curriculum
- Provide multiple opportunities for physical activity to meet or exceed the Healthy Kids Act requirements (30 min/day for Elementary Schools, 120 min/week for Middle & High Schools)
- Serve school meals that reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, model appropriate portion sizes and provide a well-balanced meal
- Discontinue using unhealthy foods for fundraisers
- Ensure all food and beverages made available during the school day (including snacks) meet District Nutritional Guidelines
- Require that students are physically active during the majority of time in physical education class
- Discontinue using food/food coupons as rewards or incentives
- Ensure physical activity is not used for or withheld as a punishment

To support wellness in our schools, families will:

- Send food items for classroom celebrations only when requested by school staff
- Follow the District Nutritional Guidelines when providing meals/snacks (unhealthy treats will not be distributed)
- Help plan and support fundraising events that do not involve food

[For more information, visit the wellness link here.](#) The District Wellness Policy can be found in the District Notifications section of the handbook.

Want to get involved? Join your School Wellness Council or the District Wellness Council.