



# The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School  
District

September 2020 Issue

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## Superintendent Dohmen's Message

Every year, I hope to inspire and lead by example a clear vision for our district and for our students. This is my address that was given to our staff at the beginning of this school year. Our 2020-2021 theme will be "What Can I Do?" Our theme will make more sense in a moment. At the SAI conference, the keynote speaker and author of The Hero Effect, Kevin Brown, shared ideas, strategies, and principles that inspire and equip us to show up every day and make a positive difference. Kevin Brown's main message in his book is that heroes help people ... "with no strings attached".

As I read his book and listened to him at SAI, I could replace the word "heroes" with "educators."

- Educators are extraordinary people who chose not to be ordinary.
- Educators do what is required to get us through difficult times.
- Educators always come together to get us through and overcome things that seemed unachievable.

I want to encourage you to put on the lens of optimism and see past what is happening during these times and ask these two questions:

- What do our students need from us?
- How can I get creative to get them what they need?

Heroes always move into uncertainty not knowing all the answers. We don't know all the answers or even what right always looks like, but educators always figure it out. We take whatever resources we have around us to solve the most pressing problems.

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## **Superintendent Dohmen's Message**

Continued from page 1

I understand the worry and anxiety of going into this school year. Worry and anxiety compound problems, reach out and get help. Surround yourself with people who feed your mind with positivity. We need you to stay healthy. If you get sick, you can't care for the students around you or each other.

It is not about knowing all the answers...it's a matter of knowing what the next step is and taking that step. Remember not to take that step alone. We will do this together. I know we have the resolve and resilience to get us through these times.

To end with, I want you to ask yourself these questions...

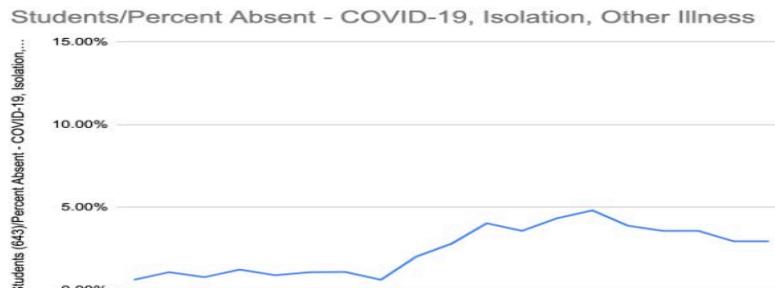
- What can I do? Not just today, but every day.
- What can I do to help others around me?
- What can I do to be a better person?
- What can I do to help our students?
- What can I do?

Best,  
Mark Dohmen

With COVID-19 impacting our district, I want to share some reassuring data that the administration collects daily for student and staff safety. Also, please understand that confidentiality for our students and staff is very important. The district will follow the IDPH and DE guidances:

- Release case counts only when there are 100 or more total students in the student population at a location
- Schools that have no cases can report zero cases
- Schools with counts of 6 or more cases can release specific case counts
- Schools with 5 or fewer cases should not provide a specific count, but can confirm there are cases within the school population
- No other demographic identifiers should be included in the school-level release

Right now we fall under bullet point 4 (Schools with 5 or fewer cases should not provide a specific count, but can confirm there are cases within the school population). With COVID-19 being a driving factor in everything we do this year, and not being able at this time to share exact numbers, I feel that sharing our district monthly illness rate is appropriate. At 10% absent rate due to illness, we need to report to the county. At 15% absent rate, a waiver to move to online learning is granted.



Quarantined students and staff do not get included in this percentage. If a quarantined student or staff begins having symptoms we move them to the appropriate column in our data tracking. Below is a screen shot to explain the difference between Quarantine and Isolation.

<p><b>QUARANTINE</b></p> <p>A person who has had <a href="#">close contact</a> with a person with COVID-19 must not return to school buildings or activities until the following criteria have been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay home until 14 days after last exposure</li><li>• Check temperature twice a day, monitor for symptoms of COVID every day, use the <a href="#">Self-symptom Tracker</a> to track symptoms</li><li>• If you become ill, contact your provider and/public health for guidance</li><li>• If tested, regardless of your test result, you have been exposed and still need to remain quarantined for 14 days. A negative result does not negate the need to quarantine.</li><li>• Wearing a face covering does not negate the need to quarantine.</li></ul>	<p><b>ISOLATION</b></p> <p>A person who has tested <a href="#">positive</a>, <a href="#">waiting for test results</a> or <a href="#">is symptomatic</a> of COVID-19, must not return to school buildings or activities until the following criteria have been met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>No fever</b> for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers</li><li>• <b>Other symptoms have improved</b> (i.e. when your cough or shortness of breath has improved)</li><li>• <b>At least 10 days</b> have passed since your symptoms first appeared.</li></ul> <p>Note: if you have symptoms of COVID-19, without known exposure, and your test is <b>NEGATIVE</b>, you may go back to daily activities 24 hours after your fever and other symptoms <a href="#">RESOLVE</a> according to the <a href="#">sick day guidelines</a>.</p>
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## **Message from Principal Bendixen**

**Greetings to the North Cedar community! As usual, I spent the summer months planning and preparing for the new school year. This summer was different in that I spent the majority of my time working with the District Leadership Team developing our Return to Learn Plan. After submitting the plan by the July 1st deadline, we received new directives from Governor Reynolds and new guidance from the Department of Education in mid-July. After revising our plan based on this new information, and postponing the start of the school year by a few days (due to the derecho storm), we were finally ready to open the doors to staff and students and to provide virtual learning to those who chose that option.**

**As we start the year, we welcome three new teachers to our staff. Ms. Alexandria Tenley has joined the high school science department, replacing Megan Kilburg. Ms. Tori King is our new Spanish teacher, replacing Brittany Potts. Mr. Ian Heetland has replaced Nicole Miller as our 7-12 Choir Director. All three are first year teachers and are very excited to settle into their new positions at North Cedar Jr/Sr High School.**

**Below are some highlights of the Return to Learn Plan for the Jr/Sr High School.**

### **General Health and Safety Protocols**

- Sneeze guards and plexi-glass have been added to public reception desks and are available in classrooms for working 1:1 or in small groups.**
- Visitors to campus are limited to those conducting essential school business.**
- Staff self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to reporting to work each day.**
- Parents/guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their student to school. Student passing time is staggered to limit the number of people in hallways during transitions.**
- Face coverings are required in the hallways and in any classroom that is over capacity for social distancing.**

### **Cafeteria Usage**

- Cafeteria is open to serve breakfast and lunch daily. Seating is staggered so students are not sitting directly across from each other. Maximum capacity has been set at 65, which is 50% capacity.**
- Additional lunch shifts have been added to the schedule so that maximum capacity is not exceeded.**
- Protocols for going through the lunch line have been adjusted to follow current guidelines (i.e. No self-serve items, all food placed on tray by kitchen staff).**

### **Social distancing before and after school, in cafeteria, gym, restrooms, and other commons areas**

- Beginning/end of day routines have been adjusted to decrease the number of students in any given area:  
Elementary students board buses in front of the Debbie Harms Theatre.  
JH and HS students that do not eat breakfast report immediately to 1st period class.  
JH and HS students remain in 8th period class at the end of the day and are dismissed in an established order.**

### **Online learning management system used to support secondary students**

- Google Classroom is being used for both on-site and virtual learners.**
- Resources have been made available to parents about using Google Classroom.**

### **Professional Development to prepare for Continuous Learning Plan**

- Training on Google Classroom was provided last spring during closure.**
- Additional training on Google Classroom is a priority focus during professional development this fall.**

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

- We are following guidance provided by Iowa High School Athletic Association, Iowa High School Music Association, and Cedar County Public Health.**

## Message from Principal Horman

The North Cedar school year is back in session! After being closed for five months and a delayed start, we are finally able to have students and staff back in the building. Our entire North Cedar community has worked together very well to allow us to start our year successfully. I appreciate the students following our expectations and the parents reinforcing these safety guidelines.

This month I wanted to share an overview of what our on-site learning plan looks like. In following months, I will share details for our hybrid and virtual learning plans. The purpose of the on-site plan is to provide students with learning and academic work that allows for all students to attend on-site to receive an educational experience similar to that of a traditional school year. In this plan, teachers and students attend on-site Monday-Friday with a 1:05 early dismissal on Wednesdays. This plan has been developed to support students in meeting their current grade level standards while addressing standards and gaps that exist due to the 2020 spring school closure.

Teaching and Learning On-Site Format	North Cedar Elementary
<b>Instructional Format</b>	Students that are able to attend physically on-site will be expected to participate in daily face-to-face synchronous instruction, reteaching, and an educational experience similar to a traditional school year to the greatest extent possible in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.
<b>Delivery Platform</b>	Teachers will provide face-to-face on-site instruction.
<b>Building Capacity</b>	100%
<b>Content and Assignments</b>	In addition to face-to-face instruction, teachers will use SeeSaw and Google classroom for assignments, projects, directions, and content.
<b>Student Attendance</b>	Attendance will be awarded based on attendance at on-site instructional learning following traditional procedures.
<b>Student Absences</b>	Parents are expected to report students absences to the building office as per normal procedures.
<b>Interventions</b>	We will follow our MTSS intervention system to provide both intervention and extension for students that attend on-site to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate related to mitigation of virus spread.
<b>Specials</b>	Elementary students will continue to have specials. All specials except physical education will be held in the classroom. Specials will be provided for students that attend on-site to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate related to mitigation of virus spread.
<b>Counseling</b>	Counseling services will be provided to the greatest extent feasible and appropriate related to mitigation of virus spread.

## September Board Meeting Highlights

Each month the North Cedar School Board shares a highlight or two of our monthly board meetings. These takeaways are messages that the board collectively feels are important for the public to know. Here are the highlights from the Sept. 21, 2020, meeting:

- Welcome New Knights.** The board sends a warm welcome to all of the new staff at North Cedar. We welcome the following teachers and administrative personnel: Ian Heetland, Jr./Sr. High Choir; Kerry Jackson, 3rd Grade – Mechanicsville; Tori King, High School Spanish; Mackenzie Reuscher, Kindergarten – Lowden; Brandon Sipe, Elementary Music and Band; Kelly Stillwagon, Human Resources Manager; and Alex Tenley, High School Science. We also have a number of new faces in other support positions. Welcome to North Cedar!
- High Fives to the North Cedar Community.** Kudos to our parents, students and staff for embracing the challenge of beginning the school year during a pandemic. The board recognizes the added stresses of schedule changes, e-learning and enhanced safety and illness protocols. We applaud everyone for their willingness to adapt and navigate all that is unconventional about the new school year. It is our hope that everyone will continue to rally around all North Cedar students and families as we work to maximize student learning and growth.

To view the full agenda and attachments of North Cedar School Board meetings, click the Online Board App button at [https://north-cedarstu.org/Board\\_of\\_Education](https://north-cedarstu.org/Board_of_Education). Meeting minutes are also posted online following each meeting.

## **Free Meals for ALL Students**

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will extend several flexibilities through December 31, 2020 OR until funding runs out. The flexibilities allow summer meal program operators to continue serving free meals to all children into the fall/winter months.

**The North Cedar School Nutrition Department started providing free meals to ALL students on Monday, September 14, at no cost to them regardless of meal benefit status until further notice. No sign up is required for students who are in person learning.**

This is a very fluid process and will notify families, as soon as possible, of any changes.

**We encourage all families to participate in breakfast and lunch. Meals will be provided at no cost to the family. This gives every family the chance to feel a sense of financial relief while also having the security of their student(s) being fed.**

- No application is necessary to receive a free breakfast and/or a free lunch.
- The required food items to make a complete breakfast and a complete lunch must be selected by each student in order for the meal to be free.
- Snack milk, a la carte, & extras will still be available to students, but will be charged through the family meal account.

**All children ages 0 - 18 will be eligible for free meals.**

- We will continue meal sign up and pick up for our Online Learners.
- Meals are available to any children ages 0-18. If you would like to sign up for meals, please visit our website, [www.north-cedar.org](http://www.north-cedar.org).
- Meals can be picked up by Parents/Guardians. Students do not need to be present for a meal to be distributed.

**How do I sign my child(ren) up who are participating in online learning or not enrolled in school?**

- Go to <https://www.north-cedar.org>
- Click on the COVID-19 updates link.
- Click on the survey link marked Free meals update Sept 11, 2020.

**Meals can be picked up at Mechanicsville Elementary, Lowden Elementary, or Clarence Jr/Sr High on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 9am-10am.**

Please see page 6 for answers to frequently asked questions.

## **Free Meals Questions and Answers:**

### **How are students receiving free meals?**

- The USDA extended a waiver that allows children to eat breakfast and lunch for free during the COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020. North Cedar participated in the COVID-19 feeding that started on March 19th, 2020 through June 30th, 2020.

### **What happens to the money that is already in student accounts?**

- The money will stay in the account. At this time, the waiver is extended until December 31, 2020 OR until funding runs out. All families will eventually go back to free/reduced/paid status.

### **Can my child still bring lunch to school?**

- Yes, students may still bring their own lunch to school. No child is required to eat breakfast or lunch at school, however, we welcome and encourage all students to participate.

### **Do I plan to still fill out my student's free and reduced application?**

- Yes, you should still plan to fill out the application. This way, when the extension expires, your meal eligibility will already be in place.

### **I have small children under school age at home. Can they receive free meals?**

- Yes, anyone ages 0-18 can receive free meals.

### **Will meals be delivered?**

- Meals will NOT be delivered. You must pick up meals at any of the 3 locations (Clarence, Lowden or Mechanicsville).

QUESTIONS: Contact Jen Smith at 563-452-3179 or email [jsmith@north-cedarstu.org](mailto:jsmith@north-cedarstu.org)

### **Homecoming Week: High School Dress Up Days**

#### **Monday/5th: Ultimate Fan Day**

- Wear your favorite team or athlete

#### **Tuesday/6th: America Day**

- Red, White, Blue or Camo



#### **Wednesday/7th: Pajama Day**

- Wear appropriate pajamas



#### **Thursday/8th: Color Wars**

- Wear your grade color

**7th-PINK**

**10th-ORANGE**

**8th-GREEN**

**11th-YELLOW**

**9th-BLACK**

**12th-RED**

**ALL Staff-BLUE**



#### **Friday/9th: KNIGHT PRIDE**

- Show your North Cedar Spirit!!!



# **North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar**

## **October 2020**

Calendar is subject to change.

Thurs., Oct. 1:

Lunch: French Toast Sticks

4:15pm Jr. High Football @ Northeast HS

4:15pm Jr. High Volleyball @ Monticello MS

5pm Fresh/Soph Volleyball @ Monticello HS

6pm JV Volleyball @ Monticello HS

7:15pm Varsity Volleyball @ Monticello HS

Fri., Oct. 2:

Lunch: Hot Dog or Cheddarwurst

Elementary Picture Days

7pm Varsity Football @ Wapello HS

Mon., Oct. 5:

Lunch: Elem.: Crispito; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken

6pm JV Football Game @ Wapello HS

6pm JV Volleyball vs Camanche @ Jr/Sr High

7:15pm Varsity Volleyball vs Camanche @ Jr/Sr High

Tues., Oct. 6:

Lunch: Elem.: Spaghetti; Jr/Sr High: Cavatelli

4:15pm Varsity Cross Country @ Hart Ridge Golf Course

4:15pm Jr. High Football @ Bellevue HS

Wed., Oct. 7:

Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Nuggets; Jr/Sr High: Popcorn Chicken

1pm Dismissal – Staff PD

Thurs., Oct. 8:

Lunch: Elem.: Beef Nachos; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas

4:15pm Jr. High Volleyball @ West Branch Hoover Elementary

5pm Fresh/Soph Volleyball @ West Branch HS

6pm JV Volleyball @ West Branch HS

7:15pm Varsity Volleyball @ West Branch HS

Fri., Oct. 9:

Lunch: Hamburger

7pm Varsity Football vs Columbus Junction @ Stanwood

Senior Night for Fall Activities

Sat., Oct. 10:

8:30am Fresh/Soph Volleyball Tournament @ Tipton MS

8:30am Varsity Volleyball @ Center Point – Urbana HS

Mon., Oct. 12:

Lunch: Elem.: Salisbury Steak or Breaded Pork Chop;

Jr/Sr High: Breaded Pork or Pulled BBQ Chicken

4:15pm Jr. High Football vs Cascade @ Stanwood

5pm Fresh/Soph Volleyball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High

6pm JV Volleyball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High

7:15pm Varsity Volleyball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High

Tues., Oct. 13:

Lunch: Pizza

1pm Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences

4:30pm Jr. High Cross Country Conference Meet @ Monticello

4:30pm Varsity Cross Country Conference Meet @ Monticello

5pm Fresh/Soph Volleyball vs Bellevue @ Jr/Sr High

6pm JV Volleyball vs Bellevue @ Jr/Sr High

7:15pm Varsity Volleyball vs Bellevue @ Jr/Sr High

Wed., Oct. 14:

Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Alfredo; Jr/Sr High: Salisbury Steak

Thurs., Oct. 15:

Lunch: Chicken Patty

1pm Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences

5pm Varsity Volleyball Conference Tournament @ TBA

Fri., Oct. 16:

No School

7pm Varsity Football Playoffs @ TBA

Mon., Oct. 19: Lunch:

BBQ Rib

6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

7pm Varsity Volleyball Regional @ TBA

Tues., Oct. 20:

Lunch: Walking Tacos

Jr/Sr High Picture Retakes

Wed., Oct. 21:

Lunch: Chicken Tenders

1pm Early Dismissal – Staff PD

7pm Varsity Volleyball Regional @ TBA

Thurs., Oct. 22:

Lunch: Elem.: French Toast Sticks; Jr/Sr High: Sloppy Joes

4pm Varsity Cross Country State Qualifier @ TBA

Fri., Oct. 23:

Lunch: Hot Dog or Corn Dogs

Sat., Oct. 24:

All-State Auditions Held Virtually

Mon., Oct. 26:

Lunch: Elem.: Grilled Chicken Breast; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken

7pm Varsity Volleyball Regional @ TBA

Tues., Oct. 27:

Lunch: Spaghetti

Wed., Oct. 28:

Lunch: Elem.: Sloppy Joes; Jr/Sr High: Crispito

1pm Early Dismissal – PD Day

7pm Varsity Volleyball Regional @ TBA

Thurs., Oct. 29:

Lunch: Chicken Nuggets

7pm HS Choir Concert @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Fri., Oct. 30:

Lunch: Hamburger

**The mission of North Cedar Community School District, in partnership with its community and staff, is to ensure a safe and caring environment for each student, providing the essential knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes to create lifelong learners who are responsible, contributing, and productive citizens in a changing and increasingly diverse world.**

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Everything we do at NCCSD is for our students, and we encourage them all to take part in the enrichment and extracurricular opportunities for which they are eligible.

- Athletics for junior high school and senior high school students
- Fine arts activities for 5th through 12th graders
- Extracurricular clubs and organizations for junior high and senior high school students
- Counseling services for all grades

An active, supportive community strengthens NCCSD. Parents and patrons who elect to get involved and support our students and their activities aid the district.

- Athletics Boosters bolster our student athletes and the athletics programs
- Encore Club supports our fine arts programs
- Knights Community Organization fosters the relationships between parent, student, staff, and community
- North Cedar Education Foundation provides financial support to help broaden the district's education opportunities

Postal Customer

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