



# The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School  
District

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November 2020 Issue

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## Superintendent Dohmen's Message

### The Drive to Bright Futures

As I was looking over my past articles to sit down and write this month's superintendent message, I came across a message from about two years ago that really applies to the world we are living in as parents and teachers today. Two years ago if you would have said we would have come this far with remote online learning, I would have been amazed. It is amazing how resilient, hardworking, and innovative educators have been this last 9 months. Our future is bright.

Author, speaker, and teacher, Kevin Honeycutt, says, "Educators need to be in the digital space to know what our kids are doing, so we can navigate their world." Kevin Honeycutt, technology integrationist and Apple distinguished educator, believes that leaders who learn can have a powerful impact on students. Three members of our school board, along with myself, recently were inspired by Kevin Honeycutt at the annual IASB Convention.

Technology is changing the world we live in. Today's digital world is very different from when most teachers began their teaching careers or their parents' school days. The way our children interact with others and learn new things has changed since we grew up. Online behavior is no longer just in education or the classroom. Most older students now carry around a smart phone in their pocket.

Our teachers and parents must help students navigate this new world of technology. Social media, YouTube, Snapchat, and texting are here and live outside our school buildings' walls. Whether we like it or not, or even agree, the majority of Americans (77% - 96% in 2020) are now smartphone users. Mobile computing is here to stay in our daily lives, including education, family life, and work. We use our phones to shop, bank, play, get breaking news, find information, get directions, talk or text, and interact on social media and email.

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## Message from Principal Horman

### MAP Testing

- Students in grades 2nd - 6th will take the NWEA MAP assessments this week. Students will be taking the reading and math test.
- The instructional coaches gave the MAP assessment to students who are attending virtually last week. All of those students have completed their test.

### Virtual Learning

- We have met as a staff to discuss virtual learning at the elementary. Below is the document the elementary staff and I used to discuss what virtual learning will look like, the schedule, and expectations for staff.
- Elementary teachers are preparing a video to link to their SeeSaw or Google Classroom page that explains the structure and routines of their classroom during virtual learning. Each teacher will discuss the components highlighted in yellow on the document linked below for consistency of videos. These videos will be shared with families on November 19th.

#### Elementary Teaching and Learning: Instructional Format

Teaching and Learning Remote Learning Instructional Format	Lowden and Mechanicsville Elementary
<b>Instructional Format</b>	Students will participate in a synchronous (live) and asynchronous (not live) instructional program in math and reading. Activities for additional content areas will be offered on a grade to grade basis. Opportunities for remote synchronous (live) instruction, reteaching, and student support will be provided.
<b>Synchronous (live) and Asynchronous (recorded/independent) Instruction Schedule</b>	Core math and reading videos will be delivered asynchronous (recorded). Small group instructions will be offered synchronous (live).
<b>Delivery Platform</b>	Students will access content through Seesaw (Prek-4) or Google Classroom (5-6). Daily zoom meetings for small group reading will be scheduled as well.
<b>Rigor</b>	Remote learning is NOT intended to require students to engage in the same number of total hours that students would experience in a fully on-site instructional environment. Instruction will focus primarily on core reading and math.
<b>Building Capacity</b>	No students will attend in the building.

## Message from Principal Bendixen

On November 23-24 and November 30-December 1, we are implementing virtual learning for all students on a trial basis. The purpose of the four day test run is to identify if adjustments are needed and to alleviate concerns teachers/students/parents have about going virtual. As I write this newsletter, we are in the final stages of preparing for the switch. Here are some details about our plan...

Students are required to attend class by joining Zoom sessions as scheduled by their teachers. We will run a 4-period block schedule rather than our normal 8-period day. We have created this schedule for the following reasons:

- To provide a structured routine for staff and students
- To hold students accountable for attending and completing work
- To limit screen time by running fewer periods per day

Teachers expectations during remote learning:

- Keep things as normal as possible. Our goal is to keep on site and virtual experiences the same, or as similar as possible.
- Connect with students through live Zoom sessions to provide instruction, directions, and support on assignments.
- Record and post Zoom sessions/instructional videos on Google Classroom.
- Set deadlines for all work assigned and document work completion in Powerschool, both graded and ungraded.
- Respond to emails from students/parents during office hours.

Students expectations during remote learning:

- Join the Zoom session at the start of each class period. Attendance will be taken.
- Complete all assignments, as instructed by the teacher. This work is required, not voluntary.
- Make up missed classes by viewing the recorded sessions AND completing all work.
- Report absences due to illness or other reasons to the school office.

November 23 & November 30 Periods 1,3,5,7		November 24 & December 1 Periods 2,4,6,8	
8:15 - 8:45 (30)	Office Hours	8:15 - 8:45 (30)	Office Hours
9:00 - 10:15 (75)	Period 1	9:00 - 10:15 (75)	Period 2
10:30 - 11:45 (75)	Period 3	10:30 - 11:45 (75)	Period 4
11:45 - 12:30 (45)	Lunch	11:45 - 12:30 (45)	Lunch
12:30 - 1:45 (75)	Period 5	12:30 - 1:45 (75)	Period 6
2:00 - 3:15 (75)	Period 7	2:00 - 3:15 (75)	Period 8
3:15 - 3:45 (30)	Office Hours	3:15 - 3:45 (30)	Office Hours

### Academics

Students in grades 7-11 took MAP tests in mid-November and we are now working on makeup tests with students that were absent or doing virtual learning during testing. Once all students have tested, we will be able to share summary data regarding our students' scores.

### Behavior

Our PBIS Tier 2 team continues to meet every other week. At this time, 7 of the 10 students on CICO plans are responding to this intervention. We are making adjustments to the other 3 plans that we believe will help those students move closer to their daily goals. The team participated in the first Tier 3 training on Wednesday, November 11, via Zoom. Additional training sessions are scheduled for one Wednesday per month, December through April.

### Activities

We continue to host events with adjustments made as needed for safety. During choir concerts in November, students wore masks and were spread out on the bleachers as they performed. Each student was allowed to invite two guests to the performance (this went into effect for the first time on Thursday, November 12) and tickets were required for admission. All attendees were required to wear a face covering. We will continue to stay up to date on the Governor's proclamations and will implement additional safety measures, as required.

### Professional Development

Our top priority on Wednesday afternoons has been on Google Classroom and other resources to support virtual teaching. Our focus in recent weeks has been on preparing for the virtual learning trial run.

## Superintendent Dohmen's Message

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Our students will be expected to be a part of this digital world where tweeting, posting, and texting are common. They will have to work, play, and learn in a digital world. Our schools with the help of our parents need to address digital citizenship to prepare our students for life.

There will be hiccups along the way with remote and online learning. I still feel in-person learning is best for the majority of our learners. However, our educators and learners are now ready for whatever technology brings us and our future is bright.



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### November Board Meeting Highlights

Each month the North Cedar School Board shares two or three key highlights of our monthly board meetings. These takeaways are messages that the board collectively feels are important for the public to know.

At the Nov. 16, 2020 meeting, it was the overwhelming consensus of the board that we place emphasis on the district's Remote Learning Plan. Instead of two or three highlights this month, the focus will be on the tremendous effort by district personnel to develop the processes and systems to safely educate our students in a virtual environment amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **Remote Learning and COVID-19 Trends**

North Cedar students, families and teachers will have an opportunity to experience virtual learning the two days before and after Thanksgiving break. This trial of remote learning will test the systems and methods that are in place to support online learning should it become necessary as a long-term COVID-19 mitigation strategy. In addition to testing remote instruction, the break from in-person learning will allow custodial staff to thoroughly sanitize all buildings and reduce potential spread due to a predicted increase in virus activity over Thanksgiving break.

The board commends the North Cedar administration and staff for actively tracking all student and staff illnesses and closely analyzing trends to ensure a safe learning and work environment. Despite a significant uptick in state and county cases, the number of active COVID-19 cases among staff and students at North Cedar remains relatively low (less than five or fewer cases at any one time). Maintaining sufficient healthy staff to sustain in-person learning is a challenge faced by many districts, including North Cedar. We encourage you to do your part to mitigate the spread of the virus with the hope that we can continue to offer in-person instruction. The board agrees that students learn best in a traditional in-person classroom environment.

We realize remote learning presents many challenges for families and we thank the entire North Cedar community for their cooperation and willingness to adapt and support our students and families.

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.

# North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

## December 2020

Calendar is subject to change.

Tues., Dec. 1: Lunch: Chicken Noodle Soup  
4:30pm JV Girls Basketball @ Northeast  
4:30pm JV Boys Basketball @ Northeast  
6:30pm Varsity Girls Basketball @ Northeast  
8pm Varsity Boys Basketball @ Northeast

Wed., Dec. 2: Lunch: Popcorn Chicken 1pm Early Dismissal

Thurs., Dec. 3: Lunch: Elem.: French Toast Sticks; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas  
5:30pm Varsity Wrestling @ Wilton HS

Fri., Dec. 4: Lunch: Corn Dog or Hot Dog  
4:15pm JV Girls Basketball @ Monticello  
5:15pm JV Boys Basketball @ Monticello  
6pm Varsity Girls Basketball @ Monticello  
7:30pm Varsity Boys Basketball @ Monticello

Sat., Dec. 5: 10am Varsity Boys Wrestling @ Tipton MS

Mon., Dec. 7: Lunch: Elem. Crispito; Jr/Sr High: Personal Pan Pizza

Tues., Dec. 8: Lunch: Lowden: Pit Ham; McVilleville: Spaghetti; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Nuggets  
4pm JV Girls Basketball vs Camanche @ Jr/Sr High Gym  
5:15pm JV Boys Basketball vs Camanche @ Jr/Sr High Gym  
6:30pm Varsity Girls Basketball vs Camanche @ Jr/Sr High Gym  
8pm Varsity Boys Basketball vs Camanche @ Jr/Sr High Gym

Wed., Dec. 9: Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Nuggets; Jr/Sr High: Cavatelli 1pm Early Dismissal

Thurs., Dec. 10: Lunch: McVilleville: Pit Ham; Lowden & Jr/Sr High: Beef Nachos or Soft Shell Taco  
4:15pm Jr. High Girls Basketball vs Monticello @ Stanwood  
5:30pm Varsity Wrestling @ Bellevue

Fri., Dec. 11: Lunch: Hamburger  
4:30pm JV Girls Basketball @ Mid-Prairie HS  
4:30pm JV Boys Basketball @ Mid-Prairie HS  
6pm Fresh/Soph Boys Basketball @ Wellman Recreation Center, Mid-Prairie  
6:30pm Varsity Girls Basketball @ Mid-Prairie HS  
7:30pm Varsity Boys Basketball @ Mid-Prairie HS

Sat., Dec. 12: 10am Varsity Wrestling Tournament @ Jr/Sr High  
7pm HS Choir Concert @ Jr/Sr High Gym

Mon., Dec. 14: Lunch: Elem.: Pizza Slice; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken  
4:15pm Jr. High Girls Basketball @ Camanche MS  
5pm JV Wrestling @ Mid-Prairie HS

Tues., Dec. 15: Lunch: Elem.: Breaded Pork Chop; Jr/Sr High: Pit Ham  
4pm JV Girls Basketball vs Cascade @ Jr/Sr High  
4pm Fresh/Soph Boys Basketball vs Cascade @ Stanwood  
5:15pm JV Boys Basketball vs Cascade @ Jr/Sr High  
6:30pm Varsity Girls Basketball vs Cascade @ Jr/Sr High  
8pm Varsity Boys Basketball vs Cascade @ Jr/Sr High

Wed., Dec. 16: Lunch: Elem.: Tater Tot Casserole; Jr/Sr High: Crispito 1pm Early Dismissal

Thurs., Dec. 17: Lunch: Lasagna  
7pm HS Band & Choir Winter Concert @ Jr/Sr High Gym

Fri., Dec. 18: Lunch: Chicken Patty  
4:30pm JV Girls Basketball @ Wilton HS  
4:30pm Fresh/Soph Girls Basketball @ Wilton HS (Junior High Gym)  
6pm Varsity Girls Basketball @ Wilton HS  
6pm JV Boys Basketball @ Wilton HS (Junior High Gym)  
7:30pm Varsity Boys Basketball @ Wilton HS

Sat., Dec. 19: 9am Varsity Boys Wrestling @ Regina HS  
2:30pm Fresh/Soph Boys Basketball vs Regina @ Jr/Sr High  
4:30pm JV Girls Basketball vs Regina @ Jr/Sr High  
4:30pm JV Boys Basketball vs Regina @ Jr/Sr High  
6pm Varsity Girls Basketball vs Regina @ Jr/Sr High  
8pm Varsity Boys Basketball vs Regina @ Jr/Sr High

Mon., Dec. 21: No School--Winter Break  
6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

Tues., Dec. 22: No School--Winter Break  
4pm JV Girls Basketball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High  
4pm Fresh/Soph Boys Basketball vs Tipton @ Stanwood  
5:15pm JV Boys Basketball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High  
6:30pm Varsity Girls Basketball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High  
8pm Varsity Boys Basketball vs Tipton @ Jr/Sr High

Wed., Dec. 23 through Fri., Jan1: No School--Winter Break



Cheerleaders placed 1st for Time Out, 2nd for Spirit and 5th for Band Chant.

**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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