



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School
District

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

February 2022 Issue

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School Boards in Iowa

Nearly 1,900 individuals serve on local boards in Iowa, guiding the education of more than 487,000 students in 327 school districts. Nearly 80 people serve on nine area education agency (AEA) boards, helping guide the future of these same students.

K-12 school boards may have five or seven members. Here at North Cedar we have a five member board. They may be elected at-large, from director districts, or in several combinations of at-large and director districts, depending on the system locally adopted. North Cedar has four director districts and one at-large seat.

K-12 school board members serve four-year terms, and elections are held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd numbered years. School board members in Iowa receive no pay. Their reward is the satisfaction they receive from public service.

Knight Contact Information

Mark Dohmen
Superintendent
mdohmen@north-
cedarstu.org
(563) 942-3358

Mary Bendixen
Jr/Sr High Principal
mbendixen@north-
cedarstu.org
(563) 452-3179

Jennifer Horman
Elementary Principal
jhorman@north-
cedarstu.org (563)
432-6933 or (563)941-5383



Iowa board members come from all walks of life. They are business owners, working professionals, farmers, retirees, young parents, and community members. They are Iowans. The common thread among them is their desire to serve the students, families, and taxpayers of their communities.

North Cedar would like to welcome Mr. Keith Lehrman to the North Cedar CSD Board of Education. He will be representing the whole district and serving in the district two seat.

Message from Principal Horman

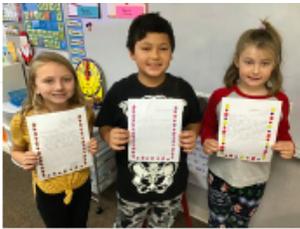
Ms. Winkel's fourth grade class

Fourth grade has been working on descriptive writing. We are using rubber ducks that represent different characters. The students write stories, describe characters, use adjectives, and more based on the ducks they choose. They have been loving it! Throughout the year we have also worked hard on fact fluency. Students work on a set of facts at their level until they are ready to move on. After break, we now have 100% of students who have completed their addition facts. We also have several students who are already working on division. In fourth grade, we are also very excited about an upcoming project in math where students will get to design their own restaurant while showing off their 2-digit times 2-digit multiplication skills.

Third grade news with Mrs. Jackson

We have been busy writing thank yous. Our first thank you letter went to the cooks. We then thanked a lady from our community named Sherry for the yummy granola bars. And finally, we thanked our town librarian with letters, we love Meredith's story walks. Once again, we decorated coloring pages for the nursing home, we hoped it helped to brighten their holidays.

We wrapped up a read-aloud called Little House on the Prairie, finished Topic 6 in math, and have been learning open/closed syllable patterns in unit 14 of word study. We are becoming really good at multiplying! We also welcomed a new student, welcome to North Cedar, Charlotte! We ended December with a winter concert, a holiday party, and another book from our book sponsors.



Preschool in Mechanicsville

The preschoolers worked together using story cards and felt pieces to retell the story of, "There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow." They also played a version of the game, "Pick Up Sticks." The preschoolers tried to pull out a numbered stick without making the snowman fall. This was quite an exciting way to practice number recognition!



Preschoolers in Lowden have been busy!



Mrs. Rolwes's fifth grade students worked through a math talk together.



Message from Principal Bendixen

Academics

Our first semester ended on January 14th, with students spending that week finishing projects and reassessing on standards. The late starts, due to cold weather, did not interfere with the completion of those tasks, so we were able to start the second semester on January 18th as planned. Our building goal continues to be “Nobody Fails”, and we were once again very close to reaching that goal. For the few students that did fail one or more classes, we have put plans in place to help them be more successful during the second semester.

Behavior

Typically when we return from a break, it takes a couple of days for students to settle back into the routines. I'm happy to report that we had no major behavior issues during the month of January. The PBIS team has created two student groups - one for high school students and one for junior high students. The purpose of these teams is to help us create realistic building wide expectations, plan our celebrations, inform us of what they would like in the PBIS store, and help us improve the overall PBIS experience for our students.

Activities

Winter sports continue and we've had many home events recently, which has kept us very busy. The annual alumni visit and awards ceremony is back on the calendar after missing that event last year due to COVID. On February 4th between varsity basketball games, these alumni will be recognized for their achievements:

Linda (Gutwiler) Coppess

Lincoln High School Class of 1980 - Community Impact Award

Jon Geadelmann, awarded posthumously

Clarence High School Class of 1962 - Alumni Achievement Award

William Hensch

Lowden High School Class of 1962 - Alumni Service Award

Jennifer (Wendt) Neubauer

Clarence-Lowden High School Class of 1989 - Alumni Achievement Award

Stephen Thien

Clarence High School Class of 1962 - Alumni Achievement Award

Professional Development

We are fortunate to have Joe Beckman scheduled to visit North Cedar on April 12-13. Joe is a motivational speaker that I listened to at the School Administrators of Iowa Conference last August. He delivers a great message and is able to capture the attention of everyone in attendance at his sessions. He will spend the afternoon of April 12 with our elementary students, the morning of April 13 with our secondary students, and the afternoon of April 13 with the district staff. We will be conducting a book study on Joe's book, *Just Look Up*, during the weeks immediately preceding his visit. Staff will meet in small groups with a designated teacher leader for each group.

Here's a little more about Joe:

Combining humor, authenticity, heart, and soul, international speaker Joe Beckman shares five specific phrases he believes all humans need to hear...especially today. The result is a refreshing, authentic, and down-to-earth approach to finding self-worth (Love YOU), resilience (Push Through), confidence (Fail On), joy (Yeah Toast!), and maybe most importantly, human connection (Just Look Up).

Personnel

Our new Ag teacher, Alex Zumbach, joined the staff in January. He is fresh out of Iowa State University and has tons of energy and great ideas for building the program. He's a great addition to our team. I'm happy to announce that I have hired a Spanish teacher for next year! Esther Uhlenhopp, our current Spanish proctor of the LOGRA Learning online program, has accepted the position. In addition, I will be finalizing the hire of a Business teacher this spring. During the first semester, Cal-Wheat's Business teacher, Stacey Luepker, offered classes to our students and this semester students are enrolled in online Edgenuity courses.

Introducing Keith Lehrman

I graduated from North Cedar High School in 1996, the first graduating class of North Cedar. I attended Kirkwood Community College and earned an Associate of Applied Science in Mechanical Engineering Design. I have been working in engineering design for major appliance manufacturers for nearly 23 years. Most recently working for BlueStar Cooking as the Design Services Manager the past 8 years.

I live in rural Mechanicsville on the family farm. Mary Ann and I have been married almost 20 years. We have 3 children. Mayson, Addyson and Karson, all who are active in the community and the school. Mayson is a junior, Addy an 8th grader and Karson in 5th grade. Their sports keep us busy cheering on the teams of North Cedar.

I coordinate the North Cedar Kid League which includes the sports of volleyball, basketball, and baseball/softball. I have worked hard to improve the programs of our youth in the grades of PK-6. I enjoy watching the success of our kids in sports as they grow older.

I assist my father on the family farm. We grow corn and soybeans. Small operation, but I enjoy helping to carry on the family farm that my grandfather and father worked so hard to grow. Karson enjoys helping when he can as well.

I officiate women's basketball during the winter. I have most recently worked basketball at all levels, (D1, D2, D3, NAIA and JUCO). I have always loved the game of basketball, and this is a way to keep me involved in the game. I have worked several state High School girl's tournament games including 2 state finals. I have also been selected to work in the NCAA Division 3 national tournament and the NJCAA Division 3 national tournament.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with the family. Most of the time, it is coaching, watching, and cheering on our children at sporting events. But if we have time, we enjoy getting away and enjoying the outdoors.

January Board Meeting Highlights

Each month the North Cedar School Board shares two or three highlights 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 Jan. 17, 2022, meeting:

Resources for Students and Families. A partnership with Covenant Family Solutions provides a dedicated licensed therapist with services to support student mental health needs. A second partnership with Cedar County Public Health enlists a full-time resource navigator to connect students and families with funding and services that enhance their personal health and social well being. While both programs are in their infancy, participation continues to increase.

Competitive Wages. A study comparing North Cedar's support staff wages to surrounding school districts was reviewed. The report found that the wages of paraeducators and maintenance staff were slightly below the mean but when additional benefits are factored in the total compensation packages were above the mean. In order to make North Cedar an attractive employer and retain staff, the board felt it's important to set wages at or slightly above the mean. Future wages and other retention strategies will be discussed at an upcoming board meeting.

With Thanks. The board accepted the retirement of Jr./Sr. High School Principal, Mary Bendixen, with thanks for her six years of service to the district.

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. Meeting minutes are also posted online following each meeting.

North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

February 2022

Calendar is subject to change.

Tues., Feb. 1:

Lunch: Elem.: Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Fajitas
4:15pm JV Girls Basketball @ Anamosa
5:30pm JV Boys Basketball @ Anamosa
6pm Varsity Girls Basketball @ Anamosa
7:30pm Varsity Boys Basketball @ Anamosa

Wed., Feb. 2:

Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Dismissal

Thurs., Feb. 3:

Lunch: Homemade Lasagna

Fri., Feb. 4:

Lunch: Breaded Chicken Patty
2:30pm Alumni Presentations @ Jr/Sr High
4pm JV Girls Basketball vs Calamus Wheatland @ Jr/Sr High
5:15pm JV Boys Basketball vs Calamus Wheatland @ Jr/Sr High
6:30pm Varsity Girls Basketball vs Calamus Wheatland @ Jr/Sr High
Alumni Awards will be presented between varsity games.
8pm Varsity Boys Basketball vs Calamus Wheatland @ Jr/Sr High

Sat., Feb. 5:

Meistersinger Honor Band @ Wartburg College

Sun., Feb. 6:

Meistersinger Honor Band @ Wartburg College

Mon., Feb. 7:

Lunch: Sloppy Joes
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball vs Cascade @ Stanwood

Tues., Feb. 8:

Lunch: Elem.: BBQ Rib; Jr/Sr High: Salisbury Steak
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball @ Bellevue
6pm JV Boys Basketball @ Bellevue
7:30pm Varsity Boys Basketball @ Bellevue

Wed., Feb. 9:

Lunch: Chicken Alfredo
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day

Thurs., Feb. 10:

Lunch: Chicken Drumstick
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball vs Anamosa @ Stanwood

Fri., Feb. 11:

Lunch: Corn Dog or Cheddarwurst

Mon., Feb. 14:

Lunch: Walking Tacos

Tues., Feb. 15:

Lunch: Elem.: Salisbury Steak; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Nuggets
4:15pm Jr High Boys vs Maquoketa @ Stanwood

Wed., Feb. 16:

Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Nuggets; Jr/Sr High: BBQ Rib
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day

Thurs., Feb. 17:

Lunch: Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup or Chili
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball @ Northeast HS

Fri., Feb. 18:

Lunch: Pizza
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball @ Camanche HS

Sat., Feb. 19:

Clear Creek Amana JH Honor Band

Mon., Feb. 21:

No School
6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

Tues., Feb. 22:

Lunch: Elem.: Homemade Mac & Cheese; Jr/Sr High: Hot Beef Sandwich
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball @ Monticello

Wed., Feb. 23:

Lunch: Chicken Tenders
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day

Thurs., Feb. 24:

Lunch: French Toast Sticks
7pm Coe Jazz Festival

Fri., Feb. 25:

Lunch: Chicken Bacon Club or BBQ Chicken
Coe Jazz Festival

Sat., Feb. 26:

Coe Jazz Festival

Mon., Feb. 28:

Lunch: Elem.: Corn Dog or Hot Dog; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken
4:15pm Jr High Boys Basketball vs Camanche @ Stanwood

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.

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

North Cedar Community School District
102 East North St.
P.O. Box 247
Stanwood, IA 52337