



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School District

March 2022 Issue

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Superintendent Dohmen's Message

North Cedar Announces New Principal

It is a pleasure and great honor for me to welcome our new principal, Principal Tanner Carlson. He has previously worked for 6 years at Central City. During my conversation with him, I have found him to be a very excited and energized leader with great energy, determinism, and vision. I, on behalf of the entire administration, faculty, and student body, wholeheartedly welcome Principal Carlson to North Cedar. We hope that with your energy, enthusiasm, focus on education and learning, our school achieves greater excellence. Under your leadership and guidance, may we reach the next levels of student achievements.

Tanner Carlson Bio:

My name is Tanner Carlson, and I am extremely excited to be the next principal at North Cedar JH/HS. Throughout the next few years, we will hopefully all get to know each other extremely well, but for now, here is a run down of who I am for you to read.

I was born and raised in the small town of Annawan, Illinois. I initially went to college at UW-Platteville, before transferring to Knox College for my sophomore through senior years of college. I finished my undergraduate degree with a double major in Social Science Education, and Secondary Education. I also played college basketball at UW-Platteville, and Knox, and ran track at Knox as well. I obtained a master's degree from Northwest Missouri State University in 2020 in Educational Leadership.



Right after college, I accepted a position of High School Social Science Teacher at Central City Community Schools. I have been a teacher at Central City for the past 10 years. I have also been the Activities Director at Central City for the past 5 years. Throughout my time at Central City, I have held many different titles as well. I have been a member of the building leadership team, been the homeschool supervisor for our homeschool program, worked as an instructional coach/at-risk coordinator for a short time, coached the high school and JH football teams, coached the high school boys basketball team, and also coached as an assistant and a head coach for the girls and boys track teams.

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Message from Principal Horman

News from Mrs. Jackson & Third Grade

We have spent some time in February celebrating our classroom growth in reading. We had the best time painting crafts. We painted wooden magnets, suncatchers, and painted on canvas. We finished a read aloud, that we really enjoyed, *A Dog Called Kitty*, that we are enjoying lots of different reading genres and are busy trying to finish our 25 book reading challenge. We started a new unit in math that involves fractions. We are loving learning about fractions and continue to strengthen our multiplication and division fact fluency. We enjoyed a small and simple classroom party for Valentine's Day. It is nice to receive kind messages and candy from each other. Cold, wet, and icy days left us inside for recess at times. We enjoyed some new, hands-on, toys purchased by the foundation. We thank the foundation! We need to get some more Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys, we love them. We are patiently waiting for Spring!



Mr. Greene's class has been busy learning how to bowl and keep score!



News from Mrs. Farrington's Fourth Grade Class

Fourth grade has been working on drawing conclusions in reading. They were very excited to read about Mount Everest and decided they wanted to take a deep dive into the famous mountain and come up with some fascinating facts to share with each other in class. We also took trips down to the third and fifth grade rooms to listen to their Reader's Theater, we enjoyed listening to both plays. In math, we have started the process of learning long division. The fourth graders realized that it's going to take lots of practice and patience, but they're getting there and working hard! We also wrote thank-you's and sent pictures to the foundation board for our fun, new seating options that we have in class.



Mrs. Jensen's Preschool

The preschoolers added heart counters to a plastic heart boat to see how many hearts it would take to sink it. We graphed the results and found out that most of the class used 10 hearts to sink their boat.



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Message from Principal Bendixen

If you follow the School Board agendas/minutes, you are already aware that I've decided to retire at the end of this school year. It was not an easy decision. I spent almost two years debating on when I would be ready to make that move. I have very much enjoyed my 36 years as teacher and administrator, but am definitely ready for a less busy and stressful schedule. It has been an honor to serve the North Cedar District during my final six years in public education.

Academics

Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled for March 8 & 10 from 1:30-8:00 each day. We are once again able to offer in-person conferences, but parents can still choose a virtual conference, if they prefer this method. Testing dates have been set with ISASP scheduled for the week of April 4 and MAP the week of May 2.

Behavior

Things continue to run smoothly in our building, and the PBIS team is once again gaining some momentum thanks to new team members that have brought fresh ideas to the table. A celebration was held on February 25, and we did things a little differently this time. The PBIS team and our Ag teacher/students combined efforts to create a PBIS/Ag Olympics event. Instead of running a special schedule which can disrupt the entire school day, we had the celebration during advisory, 5th period and lunch. Things ran smoothly and everyone had a great time.

Activities

Coaches and athletes enjoyed a short break between winter and spring sports. Track and golf practices got started last week. The music department is keeping busy preparing for a "Mega Concert" on March 3, hosting solo/ensemble contest on April 2, and performing the musical "Suessical" on April 8-10.

Professional Development

Our leadership teams have been meeting to finalize plans for the remainder of this year. In late April, we will start sketching out plans for next year and organizing information for the new principal. The "Just Look Up" book study starts on March 23, and we're looking forward to Joe Beckman's visit on April 12-13.

Personnel

Principal interviews were conducted on February 23-24 and staff and students appreciated being included in the process. The school board approved the hire of Tanner Carlson as the 2022-2023 secondary principal at a special board meeting on February 28. I will make myself available to Mr. Carlson as soon as he's ready to begin transitioning into this role. I will finalize plans with a Business Ed candidate this week and will request the board to approve his hire at the next meeting. The Junior High English position is posted and I'll begin interviewing candidates this week. This position is open due to Stacey Moorman accepting the Instructional Coach position.



NC STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTS:
2022 DANCE MARATHON
Friday, March 25th
Elementary 5-7pm
JH 7-9pm
High school 5pm-12am
Open to the public!
Games
Face Painting 5-7pm
\$3 Entry Fee
*Treats
*Pop
All profits are donated to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital
*- payment needed

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

Continued from page 1

I am someone who truly values family and spending time with my own. Even with a busy professional life, I feel it is essential for all of us to remember to spend quality time with our own families. I have a wife named Nichole who currently works as the operations manager and personal trainer for Elite Fitness. She currently coaches track at CPU. I also have two amazing daughters who plan to make the move to the North Cedar School District. My oldest daughter's name is Rose, and she is three and a half years old. My youngest daughter's name is Saige, and she is ten months old. My kids mean the world to me, and I am very excited to be moving them to a community in which I felt was a great fit for them as well. You will all be seeing them around with me at activities and in the community I am sure. I will also be bringing with me two dogs, Oscar and Eevee, who are both Miniature Australian Shepherds

I truly can't wait to get started at North Cedar. I look forward to meeting each of you, and working together to make North Cedar JH/HS the best it can be.

GO KNIGHTS!
Tanner Carlson

February 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 Feb. 21, 2022, meeting:

FAST Reading. In the monthly Focus of Education, the board learned of recent FAST (Formative Assessment System for Teachers) reading data for elementary students. FAST testing is a state-required universal screener that is delivered to all K-6 students to show individual reading fluency and accuracy. FAST allows teachers to plan differentiated instruction for each student. Growth was observed in nearly all classrooms from the fall to winter testing period and North Cedar ranked at or above the state and AEA averages.

Competitive Wages. A pay increase was approved for North Cedar's classroom and daycare associates. The increase creates a tier system and an incentive for associates who pursue additional paraeducator training. The new pay structure more closely aligns with neighboring school districts and was created out of a need to retain and attract staff.

Secondary Principal. In a special board meeting later in the month, the board approved a contract with Tanner Carlson to serve as secondary principal next school term. Carlson was among more than 30 candidates for the position and comes with 10 years of leadership and teaching experience.

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.

Principal Horman's Message

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News from Mrs. Green's Kindergarten Class

The Kindergarten class had a busy month. We learned about groundhogs during Groundhog Day, we enjoyed celebrating Valentine's Day, we made crafts, learned how to use our textbook, and counted to 100 on the one-hundredth day of school. We are definitely busy learning! Look! We are also blessed with so many learning materials from the NC Foundation Grant. Thank you!



3rd Grade Visits the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra

On February 3rd, the third grade students from Lowden and Mechanicsville traveled to Dubuque to see the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra at the Five Flags Center. They were all excited to see an orchestra in real life and hear them live! They even got to sit in the balcony!

Each year the DSO provides a free concert to local third grade classes as part of their Arts Trek Series. Students learn about each family of instruments: strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. They get to hear individual instruments as well as small group performances and there is also a guest soloist from their concerto competition. Concert etiquette is also a big part of the learning process. Students learn appropriate audience behavior and also when it is okay to yell "Bravo!" and "Encore!"

This year students heard music from the movies including the Star Wars Theme and the Pirates of the Caribbean. The soloist was a cello player, they were impressed that she had her solo memorized. The DSO, as well as myself, hope that these performances encourage and inspire students to get involved in music as they grow older!



Mrs. Haye's Classroom visits Dinosaur Adventure in Cedar Rapids

Mrs. Haye's class was able to go to Dinosaur Adventure in Cedar Rapids. We were given a private tour before the doors opened to the public Friday afternoon. Students and adults had a ball. Not only did we get to see dinosaurs but we also got to play miniature golf, jump in a bouncy house, be paleontologists and dig for bones! Before we left, each student was given a drawstring bag with a stuffed dinosaur, stickers, a dino egg, and something to break open like a paleontologist!



News from Mrs. Rolwes' Fifth Grade

We have been working extremely hard in fifth grade. In math, we are finishing up our unit on adding and subtracting mixed numbers. We will then move our focus to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers. In reading and language arts, we read and analyzed myths. The students loved reading many different myth stories and then wrote a myth on their own. We finished the myth unit by completing a reader's theater. The students did an incredible job performing The Odyssey, a Greek myth. We will focus on biographies next. Our class had a fun Valentine's party! We played games and wrote kind and supporting messages to our classmates on their Valentine bags.



Navigate & Educate



A Message from Your School Resource Navigator:

Hi Folks!

Happy March! A friendly reminder that in addition to providing clothing and hygiene items in the resource closet; I can also help connect youth and families with various academic, medical, dental, social/emotional and other support service needs. This includes: linking you to health services, such as medical or dental clinics, mental/behavioral health services, or other services designed to meet specific social/emotional, academic or health needs. Assistance arranging appointments and transportation to medical, dental and mental health appointments. Connecting you to community-based programs such as in-home family support programs, group support, public health programs, housing, household resources, employment, etc. Referring you to community resources including but not limited to: Food, housing, rental assistance, utility assistance, heat, electricity, clothing, school supplies. Please don't hesitate to reach out!



Local Events

- Clarence Public Library "Rainbows and Gold" creation station. Dig for leprechaun gold and make rainbow scratch art! All March Long
- Cedar Valley Park Snowshoe Scavenger Hunt Cedar County Conservation; Snowshoeing event in West Branch. 2/5/22 @ 10am
- Waspi River Environmental Education Center
 - Maple Syruping; March 5-19, call to register (563-328-3286)
 - Native Mushroom ID & Cultivation March 5 @ 10am call to register (563-328-3286)



Resource Closet FREE Clothing + Hygiene Products

Current items Available for Free: Clothing, (men's, women's, youth, teen, and 12 month old) sizes available, Shoes, coats, snow pants, snow boots.

Hygiene items: body wash, bar soap, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tampons, pads, liners.

Contact info Emily Smith: Resource Navigator
563.886.4711
esmith@north-cedarstu.org

Available Food

- **1st Friday** of the Month - 3:30-4:30 Mobile Food Pantry Drive Thru at First United Methodist Church, 607 Lynn Street, Tipton
- **2nd Tuesday** of the Month - 3:30-4:30 Mobile Food Pantry @ Bennett Ambulance Building, 145 Main St, Bennett
- **2nd Saturday** of the Month - 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry @ Zion UCC, 402 Main St, Lowden
- **2nd, 4th & 5th Saturdays** of the Month - 11:00-12:00 Shared Blessings Free Meal Drive Thru @ First United Methodist Church, 607 Lynn Street, Tipton
- **3rd Tuesday** of the Month - 3:30-4:30 Mobile Food Pantry @ West Branch Fire Dept, 105 S 2nd St, West Branch
- **3rd Saturday** of the Month - 9:00-10:00 Food Pantry Drive Thru at Foursquare Church, 1100 N Hwy 38, Tipton
- **Every Wednesday** - 5:30-6:30 Food Pantry @ St. John's UCC, 320 9th Ave, Clarence

4th Tipton UMC 607 Lynn St 3:30-4:30 pm (Cedar County)
8th Bennett Ambulance Service bldg. 145 Main St. 3:30-4:30 pm (Cedar County)
14th Olin Elementary School 212 Trilby St 3:30-4:30 pm (Jones County)
15th West Branch Fire Department 105 S. 2nd St. 3:30-4:30 pm (Cedar County)
17th Anamosa St Paul's Lutheran Church 201 N. Ford St 3-4 pm (Jones County)

Mechanicsville Community Cupboard

Location: 307 E First St, Mechanicsville

Date/ Time: 2nd & 4th Thursdays each month 6-7PM & 4th Saturday

Bring Photo ID - Available to North Cedar School District Residents

Currently Requesting Donations of:

Hygiene items; fragrance free period products; teen/youth/ young adult/ mens clothing; shoes; coats; water bottles, sensory toys; Heating pads /packs; Microwavable Rice heating bags

North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

March 2022

Calendar is subject to change.

Tues., March 1:
Lunch: Breaded Pork Chop

Wed., March 2:
Lunch: Pizza
1pm Early Dismissal–PD Day

Thurs., March 3:
Lunch: Popcorn Chicken
6:30pm 7-12 Band Concert @ Jr/Sr High Gym
7:15pm 7-12 Choir Concert @ Jr/Sr High Gym

Fri., March 4:
Lunch: Hamburger

Mon., March 7:
Lunch: Elem.: Cocktail Smokies w/ Mac & Cheese; Jr/Sr
High: Cocktail Smokies & Au Gratin Potatoes

Tues., March 8:
Lunch: Elem.; Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Pork Carnitas
1pm Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences
5:30pm ICAN Presentation “College/Career Planning”
6:30pm ICAN Presentation “Financial Aid”

Wed., March 9:
Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese
1pm Early Dismissal–PD Day

Thurs., March 10:
Lunch: Chicken Patty
1pm Early Dismissal – Parent/Teacher Conferences

Fri., March 11:
No School

Mon., March 14:
Lunch: Sloppy Joes

Tues., March 15:
Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Alfredo; Jr/Sr High: Salisbury
Steak

Wed., March 16:
Lunch: BBQ Rib
1pm Early Dismissal–PD Day

Thurs., March 17:
Lunch: Chicken Drumstick

Fri., March 18:
Lunch: Grilled Cheese

Mon., March 21:
Lunch: Walking Taco
6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

Tues., March 22:
Lunch: Chicken Nuggets
4:30pm Varsity Girls & Boys Track @ University of
Dubuque

Wed., March 23:
Lunch: Corn Dog or Cheddarwurst
1pm Early Dismissal–PD Day
9am-1pm Blood Drive @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Thurs., March 24:
Lunch: Elem.: Salisbury Steak; Jr/Sr High: Cavatelli

Fri., March 25:
Lunch: Pizza

Mon., March 28:
Lunch: Chicken Tenders
4pm Varsity Girls Golf vs Monticello @ 3-30 Golf &
Country Club
4pm Varsity Boys Golf @ Monticello

Tues., March 29:
Lunch: Elem.: Cavatelli; Jr/Sr High: Hot Beef

Wed., March 30:
Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Bacon Ranch; Jr/Sr High: Savory
Breaded Chicken
1pm Early Dismissal–PD Day

Thurs., March 31:
Lunch: French Toast Sticks
4:30pm Varsity Boys Track Meet @ Northeast HS, Goose
Lake

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
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P.O. Box 247
Stanwood, IA 52337