



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School District

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

April 2022 Issue

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Legislative Note

The second session of the 89th General Assembly is scheduled to end April 19. That means that the next two weeks will be busy! There really isn't any reason why they can't finish on time this year, but that really depends on how much they get done in the next couple weeks. Budget bills began working their way through the process in mid-March in the House, but had not yet emerged in the Senate as of last week.

The Revenue Estimating Committee met on March 10. The REC meets three times a year, typically in October, December and March. The March estimate was not substantially different from the December estimate, so it did not have an impact on the budget work of the legislature. The state may not adopt a budget that exceeds 99% of the panel's projected revenue for the year.

The committee projects that the state will take in less money in fiscal year 2023 and still less the following year. This is due to the recently passed income tax cuts. Iowa is expected to take in \$9.171 billion in revenue during the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. That's a 4.2% growth rate over the previous fiscal year, when Iowa collected \$8.801 billion. The law is expected to reduce state revenues by \$236 million next year (-0.2%) and \$561 million (-2.1%) the following year. When fully phased in, the law is expected to reduce state revenues by \$1.9 billion. The primary reduction in 2023 can be attributed to the bill eliminating all state income taxes on retirement income. In the following years the flat tax will be the main reason for reduced revenues.



Message from Principal Horman

Hello Knights!

March arrived with some warmer temperatures giving a glimpse of what is to come. This month was another busy one with Read Across America Week and other fun events. Soon, we will move into the month of April which will include ISASP testing for students in grades third - sixth, NWEA Map testing for students in grades second - sixth, our kindergarten/preschool round-up, and our final PBIS assembly of the school year.

Read Across America Week



Mr. Behrens' Fifth Grade

Students in Mr. Behrens' class met in a small group to read "Math to Munch On." When they finished the story, students were able to follow the recipe and make bread of their own.



Mrs. Petersen's Kindergarten

Students in Mrs. Petersen's class made green eggs and ham. Students even had the opportunity to crack an egg!



Mrs. Weber's First Grade

The first graders in Mechanicsville are investigating what it takes to make a stationary object's shadow move using flashlights.



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Message from Principal Bendixen

We're at that point of the year when some days feel like spring and some don't! In spite of that, spring is one of my favorite times of year in the school business....I can stop and reflect on what we've accomplished, work out final plans for wrapping up the year, and begin developing the vision for the next year. The difference this year is that I'll be supporting the incoming principal, Mr. Tanner Carlson, as he develops his vision for the 2022-2023 school. We've had some great conversations already, and I'm looking forward to helping him settle into this new role.

Academics

We've made an adjustment to our KnightTime routine. Instead of supervising the Will Room, I've been using that time to contact parents of students that have failing grades. I started with seniors because I don't want any surprises as we approach graduation. I am pleased with the prompt followup by parents. My plan is to contact parents of freshmen next, since we have some 9th graders still struggling with the academic demands of high school.

Behavior

Overall, behavior in our building continues to be good. Recently there has been some peer conflict in junior high. That age group typically needs a lot of support and guidance on communicating and resolving conflict. I've found that if we handle things properly in 7th grade, things improve a bit in 8th grade, and by 9th grade most students no longer need that support.

With the arrival of warm weather, I've reminded students of our dress code. I'm sure we'll have to continue reminding kids that it's not okay to show too much skin at school. Current fashion trends don't really help, as shorts and tops seem to just get shorter and shorter!

Activities

Our track teams are experiencing some success early in the season. The theater is coming to life as the Stagecraft class works on the set under the guidance of Mr. Hess. Tickets for Suessical are on sale already and can be purchased online at the North Cedar Drama Department Facebook page.

Professional Development

Last month, Covenant shared information regarding the Employee Assistance Program, which is a new service available to staff. This generated some immediate interest from a few people in need of support.

Tanner Carlson has been invited to join us during our end of the year professional development days. Since our main focus on those days will be planning for next year, it makes sense to include Mr. Carlson. He has accepted this invitation and is very excited to start getting to know the staff. We are planning for him to meet individually with each teacher, and I will also schedule time for him to meet with the Model Teachers, the Leadership Teams, and me.

Personnel

Macy Wunschel has accepted the JH English position. She is currently student teaching in Storm Lake and will graduate from UNI in May. In addition to teaching, she will be the small group and large group speech sponsor, and is interested in coaching. Unfortunately, the Business Ed candidate, I was communicating with, turned down the job offer. The good news is that I found another quality candidate and interviewed her by Zoom last week. She will be coming for an in-person visit soon.

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

Continued from page 1

The decrease will come after revenues exploded during the last two years — first by 11% and 4.2% this year. I try not to be pessimistic, but these reduced numbers certainly don't bode well for public educational funding over the next several years.

By the time the May newsletter comes out, the 89th General Assembly will be done. I'll put together a recap of the session for that edition and share this out once the session is over.

On that note, thank you for all you do in support and dedication to the students in our schools. I've been amazed as I've watched all of you handle these challenges around the state. We have great public schools in Iowa, and a large part of that starts with the great communities we have supporting us. Thank you all for the efforts in what has been a very challenging several years for Iowa's public schools.

March 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 March 21, 2022 and March 25, 2022 regular meetings:

Sharing Agreements. While faced with continuing enrollment and budget challenges over the last several years, we have again entered into several sharing agreements with neighboring school districts to share teachers, directors and administration. Existing agreements were extended for another year resulting in salary and benefit savings and state operational sharing incentives of approximately \$210,000. These cost savings allow North Cedar to reduce expenses, yet maintain valuable programs for our students.

Bond Prepayment and Interest Savings. The board authorized the redemption of General Obligation School Refunding Bonds through a \$200,000 additional payment for FY23. By paying off these bonds early, this measure will save district taxpayers interest expense and allow for additional bonding capacity for future facilities improvement projects.

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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Mrs. Ibrahimovic's First Grade

Students in Mrs. Ibrahimovic's class were able to spend some time reading and writing with the fourth-grade students.



Mrs. Walker's Second Grade

Mechanicsville second grade enjoyed walking into a campground in their classroom on Friday. They did math and reading activities in their personal tents and enjoyed a quiet, peaceful "campfire" as well as S'mores in a bag!



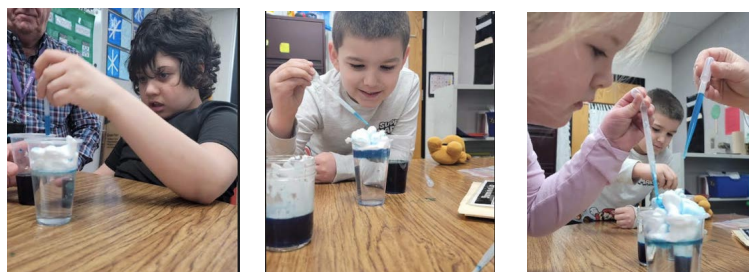
Mrs. Snyder's Third Grade

Third grade students shared some Dr. Seuss reader's theatre stories with other classes to celebrate Read Across America week.



Mrs. Hayes' Classroom

We have been learning about the different types of clouds in our March weather unit. Students made clouds out of shaving cream and then squirted blue water on the clouds to see what happened. They had a great time doing this.



Mrs. Jackson's Third Grade

During the month of March, third graders in Mrs. Jackson's room wrote Leprechaun stories, found facts about shamrocks, and facts about St. Patrick's Day. We viewed some beautiful pictures of Ireland and also viewed a video of the parade. Such a beautiful place we decided.

We welcomed a new student. We are super excited to be sharing our classroom with Brynn. We hope Brynn likes North Cedar as much as we enjoy having her here.

On Monday afternoons, we have an activity called LEAP with Mrs. Brady. During this time, we use our minds and creative thinking to explore. This month, we used tangrams, which goes hand in hand with our new math topic, Geometry. We know it's hard, but we don't give up. We enjoy problem solving while creating new patterns and images. Math is throwing us lots of new terminology. Polygons, concave, convex, quadrilateral, parallelogram, vertex, and we are loving it!

We are finishing March reading *Tall Tales* and a new book from our Book Sponsors. We are reading *I Survived the Children's Blizzard of 1888* as a class. Each of us has our own copy thanks to our fabulous book sponsors. We are really loving the book, it's hard to put down!



NAVIGATE & EDUCATE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2022



By Resource Navigator Emily Smith
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DECATEGORIZATION YOUTH SURVEY

Scott County Kids Decategorization is seeking to capture youth voices to help guide future program development and funding.

Scott County Kids oversees Decategorization in the following counties: Cedar, Clinton, Des Moines, Dubuque, Henry, Jackson, Lee, Louisa, Muscatine, Scott



HACAP FOOD RESERVOIR SURVEY

The HACAP Food Reservoir needs your input. Do you currently attend any of their mobile food pantries? or would you like to be able to attend a mobile pantry in your community? Please take this brief survey to help us better meet your needs! Thank you.



SCHOOL RESOURCE CLOSET

Free Clothing and Hygiene Products Available!
Currently Taking Donations: Contact School Resource Navigator Emily Smith

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
- 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
April 1st: Tipton UMC 607 Lynn St 3:30-4:30 pm
April 11th: Olin Elementary School 212 Trilby St 3:30-4:30 pm
April 12th: Bennett Ambulance Service Bldg, 145 Main St. 3:30-4:30 pm
April 19th: West Branch Fire Department 105 S. 2nd St. 3:30-4:30 pm
April 21st: Anamosa St Paul's Lutheran Church 201 N. Ford St 3-4 pm

VIRTUAL CALMING ROOM

"Intended for helping you learn self-soothing techniques and coping skills through several videos and websites"

Music and Sounds
Visual Relaxation
Breathing Exercises
Yoga and Meditation
Creative Activities
Useful Apps



Learn skills for Psychological First Aid (PFA) a 3-hour online course designed to help people gain skills to manage distress and cope with post-disaster stress and adversity. This training will assist people who want to learn new skills for dealing with crisis and support others in the aftermath of a disaster or traumatic event.

April 26 and 28, 2022 • 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
or
May 24 and 26, 2022 • 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
Online Training

Please RSVP and specify the month you are interested in to Karen Hyatt at khyatt@dhs.state.ia.us and training link will be sent.



North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

April 2022

Calendar is subject to change.

Fri., Apr. 1: Lunch: Elem.: Mac & Cheese & Cocktail Smokies; Jr/Sr High: Cocktail Smokies & Scalloped Potatoes

Sat., April 2: IHSMA State Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Jr/Sr High

Mon., April 4: Lunch: Elem.: Corn Dogs or Hot Dogs; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken
ISASP Testing
8am-10am Senior CPR class @ Debbie Harms Theater

Tues., April 5: Lunch: Salisbury Steak
ISASP Testing
4:30pm Varsity Girls Track @ West Branch HS

Wed., April 6: Lunch: Pizza
ISASP Testing
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day

Thurs., April 7: Lunch: Elem.: Popcorn Chicken; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Nuggets
ISASP Testing
8am-10am Senior CPR class @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence
3:30pm Varsity Girls Track Meet @ Case Field
4:30pm Varsity Boys Track Meet @ Tipton

Fri., April 8: Lunch: Hamburger
ISASP Testing
Washington DC Trip
7pm Spring Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Sat., April 9: Washington DC Trip
7pm Spring Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Sun., April 10: Washington DC Trip
2pm Spring Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Mon., April 11: Lunch: Elem.: Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas
4pm Varsity Girls Golf Meet vs Northeast @ Plum River Golf Course
4pm Varsity Boys Golf Meet vs Northeast @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4pm Jr High Track Meet @ Tipton

Tues., April 12: Lunch: Spaghetti
12:30pm Varsity Boys Golf @ Kalona Country Club
4pm Varsity Boys Track @ Central DeWitt HS
4:30pm Varsity Girls Track @ Stanwood

Wed., April 13: Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day

Thurs., April 14: Lunch: Chicken Patty
12pm Varsity Boys Golf Meet @ Tipton Golf & Country Club
4:30pm Varsity Girls & Boys Track @ Lisbon

Fri., April 15: No School

Mon., April 18: No School
4pm Varsity Girls Golf @ Valley Oaks Golf Club
4pm Varsity Boys Golf vs Camanche @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4:15pm Jr. High Track Meet @ Stanwood
6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

Tues., April 19: Lunch: Elem: BBQ Rib; Jr/Sr High: Sloppy Joes
12pm Varsity Boys Golf Tournament @ Wahkonsa Golf Course
4:15pm Varsity Girls & Boys Track Meet @ Solon HS

Wed., April 20: Lunch: Elem: Sloppy Joes; Jr/Sr High: BBQ Rib
12pm Varsity Girls Golf @ Maquoketa Country Club
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day

Thurs., April 21: Lunch: Chicken Drumstick
6-7pm Preschool Round-Up
4:30pm Varsity Girls & Boys Track @ Dean Nelson Field

Fri., April 22: Lunch: Pizza
8:15-11am Kindergarten Round-up
4pm Jr. High Track Meet @ Central DeWitt HS

Sat., April 23:
5pm-6pm Grand March @ Jr/Sr High Gym
8pm-11pm Prom @ Jr/Sr High (Dinner will be served from 6pm-8pm)
Post Prom

Mon., April 25: No School--PD Day
4pm Varsity Girls Golf Meet vs Anamosa @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4pm Varsity Boys Golf Meet @ Fawn Creek Golf Course
4:30pm Varsity Boys Track @ Northeast HS

Tues., April 26: Lunch: Breaded Pork Chop
12pm Varsity Boys Golf Tournament @ West Liberty
4:30pm Varsity Boys Track Meet @ Stanwood

Wed., April 27: Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Nuggets; Jr/Sr High: Savory Breaded Chicken Breast
10am Varsity Boys Golf Tournament @ Monticello Golf Course
1pm Early Dismissal--PD Day
Large Group Contest @ Clear Creek Amana HS, Tiffin

Thurs., April 28: Lunch: Homemade Lasagna
3:45pm-6pm Dance Kids Clinic @ Jr/Sr High Gym
4:15pm Varsity Girls & Boys Track @ Cascade HS
4:30pm Jr High Track @ Wilton HS

Fri., April 29: Lunch: Corn Dog or Hot Dog
12pm Varsity Girls Golf @ Wahkonsa Golf Course

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

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Stanwood, IA 52337