



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School
District

November 2022 Issue

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Superintendent Dohmen's Message

Rural School Advocates Set 2023 Legislative Agenda

FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Campus, Ankeny, Iowa October 25, 2022

Representatives from member school districts of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa convened their Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 25, at 4:30 PM at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny. RSAI advocates on behalf of the students, parents and communities in rural Iowa to ensure that all students have access to a great Iowa education, regardless of where they live. RSAI members include 179 Iowa school districts, several of which are among the largest geographic school districts in the state.

School funding, known as State Supplemental Assistance, or SSA, was a clear priority for RSAI members. Superintendent Janet Stutz, Grinnell-Newburg CSD, said this funding is not just a priority but supports the very survival of rural schools. "In September, our Governor issued a press release celebrating a state surplus ending the 2022 Fiscal Year with nearly \$3 Billion in the state coffers. That's Billion with a Capital B," she stated. "Despite the state's fiscal strength, the Legislature only set a modest increase of 2.5% last year. This anemic level of funding has been consistent over the last 13 years, with only one year during that time providing an increase of 4%. This funding is crucial to provide the staff, support and resources to educate our students." School funding primarily pays for people. The teachers, counselors, librarians, administrators, nurses, secretaries, coaches and custodians, many in critical short supply today in rural schools. According to Superintendent Mike Kruger, West Fork CSD, "Low funding inhibits our ability to attract and retain staff and to remain competitive with the private sector in Iowa's growing economy."

Staff shortages were also high on the list of priorities for rural schools. Superintendent Kimberly Lingenfelter, Cherokee CSD, advocated for flexibility and support for rural schools to recruit and retain great teachers, bus drivers and staff, but also said "all of us and our state officials need to change the culture of political speech; to restore education to a respected profession." Superintendent Sharon Dentlinger, Interstate 35 CSD expressed concerns about proposals to expand school choice. "Any expansion of school choice, sending funding to private schools for student tuition, will increase demand for more teachers in private schools. We are concerned that our good rural school teachers will be poached by private schools wanting to expand, taking their skills and their families with them."

School Choice: members of RSAI, for the first time, approved a legislative priority opposing the expansion of State support for private schools without first adequately funding public schools. Superintendent Michelle Havenstrite, PCM CSD, talked about the proposal, which did not advance in the Iowa House last session. "Our need for sustainable funding for public schools is threatened by diverting \$79 million for private school tuition. Especially for our smaller school districts, the loss of just 2-3 students can create budgeting and staffing challenges. Although many of our rural communities do not have private schools today, we are concerned about the expansion of private schools once this funding is in place."

Message from Principal Horman

MRS. KAEFRINGS'S PRESCHOOL

Thanks to some wonderful parent chaperones, the Mechanicsville Preschool class spent a beautiful fall day exploring the Bloomsbury Pumpkin Patch in Atkins, Iowa.



MRS. WEBER'S FIRST GRADE

The first graders in Mechanicsville took a field trip to the Indian Creek Nature Center in Cedar Rapids. We learned about insects, their characteristics, life cycles, and the important role they fulfill in our environment.



MRS. HAVILL'S SECOND GRADE

Students made posters for our volleyball team's tournament games. Go Knights! We have been working hard to learn the different ways long vowel sounds can be made. A game of Memory with our sorting words did the trick. The students are doing an AMAZING job with the Turn-and-Talk strategy while discussing the beginning, middle, and end of a story.



MRS. PETERSEN'S KINDERGARTEN

Fab-BOO-lous FUN in Mrs. P's Kindergarten.

Five Little Pumpkins STEM Activity

We read the story: The Five Little Pumpkins Sitting on a Fence. The Kinder Crew then needed to create a fence that their pumpkins would sit on.

Spooky Centers

Learning our letter sounds, playing dice games, and working on those beginning sounds are all skills being learned in K.



MRS. JACKSON'S THIRD GRADE

During the month of October, I was able to meet and talk with parents at Parent Teacher Conferences. It's always so nice to meet parents and discuss how students are doing. It truly is a team effort and I thank everyone that took the time to meet with me.

We are moving right along in math and have started the Multiplication Unit. We are also getting really good at regrouping when adding & subtracting two and three digits problems. Math rotations are moving right along also.

We continue to practice our reading fluency daily and performed another reader's theater to our peers. We even had a guest 5th grader come to read to us, always great to hear the older students read and ask how they became such great readers.

Some fun things that happened in our room were: an ice cream float party, another story walk, decorated cards for the nursing home, and finishing the end of October by saying NO to drugs during Red Ribbon Week.



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Message from Principal Carlson

As we head into November we are in the transition from 1st quarter to 2nd quarter in the building. This typically does not change much schedule wise for our high school students, but it does give them a heads up of where they are at grade wise halfway through the first semester. For 7th and 8th grade students, they have now made a transition into some different courses in their exploratory classes. The majority of students have made an easy transition into their 2nd quarter classes so far.

Academics

MAP Testing results are back. Overall our scores did increase from the previous spring, and we are hopeful that they will continue to trend up moving into the upcoming spring. We will continue to work towards progress and growth on those assessments. We are starting back up with Knight Time Overtime for the 7-12th graders at the building in an attempt to give students an opportunity to work in smaller groups with teachers for reteaching opportunities, and/or allow for some extra structured work time for students who just need some time to get caught up academically.

Activities

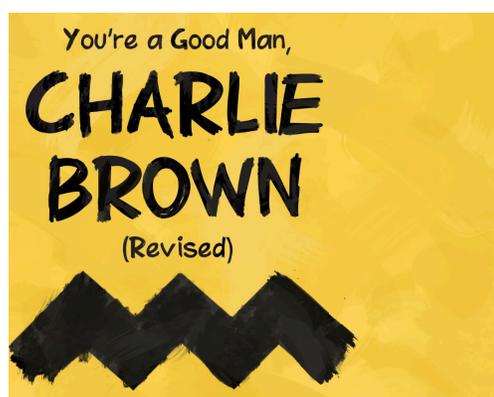
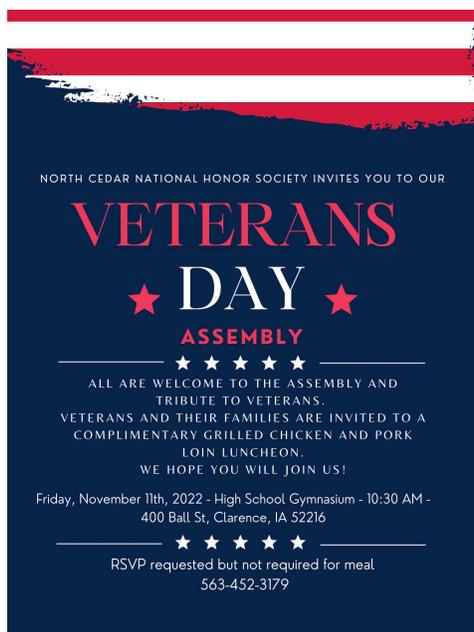
Fall activities have now finished up for the year. We had some success this fall. Our volleyball team finished the year in the final 16 teams (Regional Final) left in the state. The girls final state ranking was #10 in the state. The girls had the best record since 2016. Caitlin Jensen was named player of the year for the Tri-Rivers East Conference. Claire Dennis and Presley Studt were named to the 1st Team All-Conference. Val Pruess was named to the 2nd Team and Annika Stillwagon was named to the Honorable Mention. Hunter Jones finished 28th in the state in XC this year. She also set a new school record of 19:38 at a meet earlier in the year. In football, Conner Jensen was named 1st Team All District punter and Nate Wood was a 1st Team All District Defensive Back. On the 2nd Team All District Team, Luke Crock was named for Defensive Line. We had 3 Honorable Mention selections, Peyton Clark (running back), Teagan Weber (Quarterback), and Tyler Williams (Offensive Line). The Golden Award, which is awarded to a player who would have been selected if not for injury, was awarded to Ethan Thimmes. We had Haley Farrington selected as a member of the All State Cheerleading team this year as well. Nina Gonzales and Maggie VonMuenster were both selected for Honor Squad Cheer who will perform at halftime of the State Championship football game this year.

Professional Development

We have started Knight Time Overtime again for staff to continue to explore opportunities to work with students on getting grades up in the 7-12 building. We will continue our focus on Standards Based Grading and best practices of that in the upcoming professional development as well.

As always,

GO KNIGHTS!



NORTH CEDAR JR./SR. HIGH PRESENTS
YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN (REVISED)
Fri. Nov 11th 2022, 7:00 pm
Sat. Nov 12th 2022, 7:00 pm
Sun. Nov 13th 2022, 2:00 pm
Tickets are on sale at [our.show/eqfriwz2](https://www.show/eqfriwz2)

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

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Poverty: Rural Iowa communities have seen an increase in the number and concentration of students from low-income families. Iowa's funding formula, unlike the majority of other states, does not have a poverty factor to generate funding to help cover mandated fee waivers and provide additional support that lower-income students and families need for success.

Superintendent Joel Pedersen, Cardinal CSD, stated, "Rural poverty has real and profound impacts. Challenges associated with mental health, drug addiction, poor housing, lack of access to health care and job loss were all further complicated by the pandemic and most districts have seen increased student achievement gaps. Family stress can inhibit parents' abilities to connect with the school as partners for school success."

RSAI members also included the following issues as additional priorities for the 2023 Legislative Session:

- Local School Board flexibility and authority, including a commitment to implementing Home Rule and interpreting Iowa's laws (liberally construing the statute and court rulings) to effectuate the purposes of local control.
- Quality Preschool, including funding for 3- and 4-year-old preschool at a 1.0 weighting, to help provide full-day service and cover transportation costs in rural schools.
- Student mental health, including resources to assess and address students' social, emotional and behavioral needs, especially for Iowa's rural students living in communities without mental health providers.
- Formula and Transportation Equity: formula equity, closing the state and district per pupil gap within ten years and continued transportation equity support without burdensome reporting requirements.
- Sharing Incentives/Efficiencies: extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives. The 21-student cap should expand to allow access to any new flexibility.

Facilities Advisory Committee Update

If you are able to participate, you are invited to attend a FAC meeting from 6:30PM to 8:30PM on November 9, 2022, in the Lowden Elementary Media Center. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at: mdohmen@north-cedarstu.org or (563) 942-3358.

Sincerely,

Mark Dohmen
Superintendent

October Board Meeting Highlights

Each month the North Cedar School Board shares a few 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 October 17, 2022 regular meeting:

- **DCAP Plan (District Career and Academic Plan):** The district has established a plan for 8th-12th grade students to explore careers and create a path to acquire a desired career. The plan includes five main components: Self-Understanding, Career Information, Career Exploration Experiences, Postsecondary Exploration, and Career and Postsecondary Decision.
- **Used Vehicle:** The car was donated to the industry tech department for learning purposes.

To view the full agenda and attachments of North Cedar School Board meetings, click the Online Board App button at <https://www.north-cedar.org/board-of-education/>. Meeting minutes are also posted online following each meeting.

Principal Horman's Message

Continued from page 2

MRS. FARRINGTON'S FOURTH GRADE

The fourth graders have been busy celebrating Red Ribbon Week and getting ready for Halloween. We've been talking about the importance of staying drug free and making good choices. We had a visit from the North Cedar volleyball team and a visit from some local police officers who brought their K9 dog with them, which was very exciting! We are looking forward to a new month and new learning experiences.



MR. BEHREN'S FIFTH GRADE

Students in fifth grade completed some "pumpkin math" this month.



RED RIBBON WEEK



MRS. WALKER'S CLASS

Mrs. Walker's students visited Kroul Farms to learn about daily operations, animal needs, and pumpkin life cycles. After paying for their pumpkins with earned money from the Friday Coffee Cart, students brought them back to school and painted them using their own designs.



MRS. ELLOREN'S ART ROOM NEWS

Our school is participating in a creative fundraiser with Art to Remember that allows you to purchase keepsake products customized with your child's art. There are over 60 products and many are less than \$15. These make great gifts and a percentage of every purchase goes back to our school's art fund.

You should receive a personalized order form that your student has taken home. This order form provides you with examples of your child's completed artwork and an online order code.

Click on the link below and enter the code shown on your child's order form to search for your child's artwork. Then, have fun shopping!

<https://arttoremember.com/school/EAY5YM>



CONTACT SCHOOL RESOURCE NAVIGATOR: EMILY SMITH TO BE CONNECTED WITH COMMUNITY RESOURCES. EMAIL: ESMITH@NORTH-CEDARSTU.ORG CALL/TEXT: 563.886.4711

Tadan's Touch:

Brand new behavioral health program in Cedar County. Available to youth and adults. Contact Miss Emily for more information.

Resource Closet: Winter coats, snow pants, and children's snow boots available in the North Cedar Resource Closet.



Available Food

- **1st Friday** of the Month - 3:30-4:30 Mobile Food Pantry Drive Thru at First United Methodist Church, 607 Lynn St, Tipton
- **1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Tuesdays** of the Month - 4:00-6:00 Food Pantry @ Peace Church, 414 Maple St, Bennett
- **2nd Saturday** of the Month - 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry @ Zion UCC, 402 Main St, Lowden
- **2nd & 4th Wednesdays** of the Month - 3:30-6:00 Food Pantry @ First UCC, 600 Mulberry St, Tipton
- **2nd & 4th Saturdays** of the Month - 11:00-11:45 Shared Blessings Free Meal @ First United Methodist Church, 607 Lynn St, Tipton
- **2nd, 4th Thursdays** of the Month - 6:00-7:00 Bring Photo ID, UMC, 307 E First St, Mechanicsville
- **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

Updated 9/9/22

Making Strong Moms: A support group for all mothers. Created to bring women together from the surrounding communities to provide support, advice and connection. Meets the second Wednesday each month September through May. Child care will be provided during the meetings. Questions? Contact: Lori Heilig 563-212-3243 or Angi Kauffman 563-579-7285. Location: 315 N main St. Wheatland, IA

Parents as Teachers Program (LSI): Become the best teacher for your child. Receive personal home visits from an LSI Parent Educator, and learn about your child's development from other families in your community. Eligibility: This program serves parents from pregnancy up until their child is 5 years old This program is for families experiencing barriers in raising a healthy family Families must reside in Cedar County. Contact: Melissa Tucker at 563.288.4171

The Science of Parenting Podcast: Dealing with toddler meltdowns or an angsty teen who doesn't want to talk? Find real-life solutions based on the latest scientific research. <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/scienceofparenting>

Student Loan Debt Relief Application is LIVE

Application Link: <https://studentaid.gov/debt-relief/application>

What Is Federal Student Loan Debt Relief?

It's a program that provides eligible borrowers with full or partial discharge of loans up to \$20,000 to Federal Pell Grant recipients and up to \$10,000 to non-Pell Grant recipients.

Who Qualifies?

Individuals who made less than \$125,000 in 2021 or 2020
Families that made less than \$250,000 in 2021 or 2020

Subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans, parent PLUS loans, and graduate PLUS loans held by ED are eligible. Consolidation loans are also eligible for relief, as long as all of the underlying loans that were consolidated were ED-held loans and were disbursed on or before June 30, 2022. If you're a parent with eligible loans of your own, including parent PLUS loans, you can submit your own Student Loan Debt Relief Application. Your application will be processed separately

Community Action Eastern Iowa: LIHEAP Applications open on Nov 1st.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) You may get help to pay for part of your winter heating costs if you meet income guidelines (200% of the poverty level). Community Action of Eastern Iowa will help you apply for benefits through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Assistance levels depend on income level, family size, the type of fuel you use to heat your home, and other factors. If you are determined to be eligible for benefits through the LIHEAP program, you will receive protection from being disconnected from your heating and electrical service (but not your water or sewer service) through April 1st of each year.



North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

November 2022

Calendar is subject to change.

Tues., Nov. 1: Lunch: Breaded Pork Chop
7pm Jr. High Band & Choir Concert @ Jr/Sr High Gym

Wed., Nov. 2: Lunch: Spaghetti
1pm Early Dismissal—PD Day
7pm Booster Meeting @ Jr/Sr High Cafe

Thurs., Nov. 3: Lunch: Popcorn Chicken
7am Wartburg Trumpet Festival
4pm Jr. High Girls Basketball @ Prince of Peace HS
4:30pm Jr. High Wrestling @ Midland HS

Fri., Nov. 4: Lunch: Hamburger

Mon., Nov. 7: Lunch: Pizza
4pm JH Girls Basketball vs Easton Valley

Tues., Nov. 8: Lunch: Lowden: Turkey; McVil: Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ Jr/Sr High
6-8pm NC Elementary Boosters @ Jr/Sr High Library

Wed., Nov. 9: Lunch: BBQ Rib or Pulled BBQ Chicken Sandwich
1pm Early Dismissal—PD Day

Thurs., Nov. 10: Lunch: McVil: Turkey; Lowden & Jr/Sr High: Cavatelli
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ Starmont HS

Fri., Nov. 11: Lunch: Elem.: Breaded Chicken Patty
10:30am Veteran's Day Assembly @ Jr/Sr High Gym
7pm Fall Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Sat., Nov. 12:
7pm Fall Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Sun., Nov. 13:
7am FBLA Fall Leadership Conference
2pm Fall Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Mon., Nov. 14: Lunch: Elem.: Homemade Mac & Cheese; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken
12pm Tri-Rivers HS Honor Choir
4pm JH Girls Basketball @ Easton Valley

Tues., Nov. 15: Lunch: Sloppy Joes
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ Maquoketa Valley HS

Wed., Nov. 16: Lunch: Elem.: Hot Ham & Cheese; Jr/Sr High: Totally Tacos
1pm Early Dismissal—PD Day

Thurs., Nov. 17: Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Drumstick; Jr/Sr High: Turkey
7am IHSMA All-State Festival
4pm JH Girls Basketball vs Calamus Wheatland
4-7pm Jostens Order Night @ Jr/Sr High Cafe
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ Midland HS

Fri., Nov. 18: Lunch: Elem.: Mini Corn Dogs or Cheddarwurst; Jr/Sr High: Chili Cheese Dog or Cheddar Dogs
7am IHSMA All-State Festival
7:30am Honor Squad Performance @ Cedar Falls (Performance at the Dome following practice.)

Sat., Nov. 19: 7am IHSMA All-State Festival

Mon., Nov. 21: Lunch: Walking Tacos
4pm JH Girls Basketball @ Midland HS
5pm HS Wrestling Tournament @ West Liberty HS
6pm School Board Meeting

Tues., Nov. 22: Lunch: Chicken Nuggets
4pm JH Girls Basketball @ Calamus Wheatland
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ Stanwood
5:30pm HS Girls Basketball vs Prince of Peace HS
6pm HS Boys JV Basketball Scrimmage @ Wilton HS
7:30pm HS Boys V Basketball Scrimmage @ Wilton HS

Wed., Nov. 23: No School—Thanksgiving break

Thurs., Nov. 24: No School—Thanksgiving break

Fri., Nov. 25: No School—Thanksgiving break

Mon., Nov. 28: Lunch: Breaded Dill Chicken Bites
4pm JH Girls Basketball vs Lisbon HS

Tues., Nov. 29: Lunch: Salisbury Steak
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ North Linn HS
5:30pm JV Basketball vs Central City
5:30pm Pep Band @ Jr/Sr High
6:15pm V Basketball vs Central City

Wed., Nov. 30: Lunch: Elem.: Crisпитos; Jr/Sr High: French Dip Sandwich
1pm Early Dismissal—PD Day

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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