



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School District

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

March 2023 Issue

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"We Are the Knights"

In the month of March, legislators start proposing and passing bills at our State Capitol. I'd like to give an update of what is going on in our Capitol. This year it seems the nightly local news has kept us updated well and opinions seem to be as different as the many different stakeholders we have in Iowa. This is a good thing.

With many opinions comes many negatives and I even find myself unhappy at times with the direction a bill is going or the lack of speed in which a bill gets approved. The article mentioned below helps me remember we have more things in common than different, and the goals of all the stakeholders are much more alike than different too. This article helps us focus on communication with others - which in the end I strongly believe creates better outcomes and progress.

"Education conversations today are riddled with more landmines than ever before," issue-focused communications firm, RALLY, reports from recent conversations with superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and youth advocates.



While this isn't news to most of us, these tips on working through these conversations may be informative. In their current work, the authors of the article "In Times of Division, Strategic Communication Matters", Ashley Burns and Manny Rivera, attend focus groups, analyze quantitative messaging research, and engage with different audiences online to help look across the U.S. and communication channels to identify patterns and strategies for communications that work.

Message from Principal Horman

Professional Development

The changes we have made to our professional development for the second half of the school year have gone well. We have had Grant Wood staff and Melissa Scherkenbach going into teachers' classrooms during times they have requested to provide them individualized support in an area they have requested. The teachers are then provided feedback through email and given an opportunity to meet on our Wednesday afternoon professional development times to talk more specifically about the feedback. This cycle will continue unless we determine a need to bring staff back as a whole group to focus on a common topic that is noticed during observations.

We will also begin spending some professional development time looking at the changes to ISASP testing for this school year. Teachers and students will be spending time looking at rubrics and taking practice tests during the month of March to prepare to take the test the first week in April.

Testing

We finished our FAST testing and have been working on finishing all of our fast data meetings. The weather has made it very challenging to get these in, but we are almost done. These meetings are essential and allow multiple stakeholders to discuss our student data and determine the next steps for each class/student.

Upcoming Dates

March 14th - Elementary Boosters Meeting @ 6pm in the Clarence Cafeteria

Denim and Diamonds Father-Daughter Dance

Our Denim and Diamonds Father-Daughter Dance was a HUGE success. The night was filled with pictures, pizza, and lots of dancing. Thank you to everyone who attended the event. A big "thank you" also goes out to all the volunteers who helped make this event happen. Check out our "Denim and Diamonds" photo albums with more pictures from the dance on our Elementary Boosters' Facebook page.



Message from Principal Carlson

Academics

We have currently established the testing dates for the state ISASP tests. Those tests will be taken for 7-12th graders from April 3rd-7th. Our teachers are in the process of discussing next year's schedules with me and giving suggestions as to what courses they would like to offer/change for the next school year. It is my hope that we can have those offerings "finalized" in the next month or so. Our honor roll was released into the newspaper this past week as well, so you can see how many of our students are doing great in the classroom. NHS had their induction February 21st and that is obviously not all academic, but it was great to see how many of our students met the academic standards to be offered the opportunity to apply, and it was fun to acknowledge those students who were inducted into the ceremony.

Activities

Winter sports are now concluded. High school track and golf are the next sports to begin. Our initial look at spring sports numbers from sign up sheets looks very promising and hopefully a few more will go out once we get into the actual season. In talks with our spring sports coaches, they seem to have high hopes/expectations of the teams this spring.

We had elementary students come to the building February 28th to participate in an elementary concert during the day with some of our 7-12th grade music students. This is a fun way for the younger students to get involved and participate in music.

The play was held for March 3-5th in Clarence. The students worked hard towards the performance. We enjoyed the event.

Professional Development

Our groups have been working hard towards continued improvements in the building. Our PBIS team has now split into multiple tiered supports, and a couple employees went to a training at GWAEA that helped us build the model for our tier 2/tier 3 support system we have now created. This is a continued process, but the early feedback of this is that it is going well and great conversations are being had to fully develop this program. Our culture team has established some initial program goals, based on student feedback we received from a survey. Our initial focus will begin with some presentations to advisory's on bullying/harassment and the impact that it can have on other students, as well as themselves. Our third group, MTSS feels they have now done what they can do in regards to restructuring our academic support time during advisory and have shifted their focus to overall building academics. They had their first meeting with the new focus this past Wednesday. We are hopeful they can be the academic representatives of the building PD.

Culture Initiatives

We have been working towards continued improvements for overall school culture for students and staff at the building. We have decided to create a student of the month program, which highlights students who have gone above and beyond in a certain subject area each month. We are planning on beginning that at the end of this month. The plan is to spotlight these students in the building, as well as on social media for people to see. I have been calling a wide range of students to touch base with them regarding their current thoughts on culture and getting their input on what they feel needs to be a focus of improvement as well. Another thing we have done is send out a survey to all students 7-12 that asks a variety of questions about the current state of the building. We are using that information to assess the students views on the building and try to address their concerns with actions. In professional development with staff, we have started almost all of our meetings highlighting the positive things that are going on in our building and also highlighting successes of the teachers in our building each week. I believe this is a great reminder to our teachers of the good that they are doing each and every day.

As always,

GO KNIGHTS!

Superintendent Dohmen's Message

Continued from page 1

Burns and Rivera find that four communication principles consistently help education and equity advocates navigate challenging waters, whether trying to de-escalate a situation with a concerned parent or convince colleagues to hold fast to their equity commitments. They note, "These principles transcend regional and political differences as well as urban, rural, and suburban contexts."

The following four communication principles are emphasized:

1. Ask thoughtful questions;
2. Lead with your values;
Every student should feel welcome in the classroom
Every student should be prepared for success beyond high school
Every school should prepare students to help create a better future
3. Seek common ground; and
4. Consider the context and choose the right messenger.

Read the complete article elaborating on how to put the principles into practice: <http://bit.ly/3ZmTFAK>

One more note: My screen saver states "We are the Knights." The other night after a long day for myself, my daughter asked what does that mean? Having been a long day, I turned the question back to her and I asked her to tell me. Pause... "It means WE (yes-she said capital W E) all work hard together to make all the Knights succeed and be proud. Kids are so curious and smart. I wish all our Knights a wonderful Spring.

Respectfully Yours,

Mark Dohmen

February 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 February 20, 2023 regular meeting:

- **Diane Rink** – Diane Rink has submitted her resignation. She started with the district in December of 2000. We wish her the best in retirement.
- **School Security Updates** – The board approved security camera upgrades for both the Clarence and Stanwood buildings.
- **Calendar Approval** – The 2023-2024 school calendar has been approved. The first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year will be August 23. A spring break was included again.
- **Culture Initiatives** – At the Jr/Sr High, a student of the month program has been created, which highlights students who have gone above and beyond in a certain subject area each month. The plan is to spotlight these students in the building, as well as on social media for people to see. During professional development, the teachers have started almost all of their meetings highlighting the positive things that are going on in the building and also highlighting successes of the teachers in the building each week.

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.



North Cedar Elementary



Lowden Center
703 Park Avenue
Lowden, IA 52255
563-941-5383

Mechanicsville Center
609 125th Street
Mechanicsville, IA 52306
563-432-6933

Preschool and Kindergarten Round-up

If you have a child that will be four or five years of age by September 15, 2023, please register for this important event by filling out the form below or calling the elementary office with your information.

We will be holding a "Family Fun Night" for incoming preschoolers and their parents on Thursday, April 13th, from 6:00PM - 7:00PM in the preschool classroom. On Friday, April 14th, from 8:15AM - 11:00AM we will be holding a "Kindergarten Round-Up" for our current preschool students and any new students in the kindergarten classrooms.

Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors, so we can have all our future preschool and kindergarten students attend this special day.

Student Name _____

Birthdate _____

Parent's Names _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Circle One - Preschool Kindergarten

March 2023



Monthly Newlsetter

Navigate & Educate Monthly Newsletter



Available Food

- **1st or 2nd 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, Bennetts
- **2nd Saturday** of the Month - 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry @ Zion UCC, 402 Main St, Lowden
- **2nd & 4th Wednesdays** of the Month - 3:30-5:30 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 11/03/2022

Helping Families InterACT - Online



Wednesday, 03/22/2023 6:00 PM - Wednesday, 04/12/23 8:15 PM

InterACT is a four-week program from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Iowa families with children in grades 3 to 6 will be given resources, support, & practical tips for life skills needed to create and discover rewarding relationships. Youth program 6:00-7:00. Adult program 7:15-8:15. Foster parent credit available.

Contact Info: Jeongeun Lee: jel@iastate.edu (515) 294-1884

Primary Instructor: Malisa Rader: mrader@iastate.edu (515) 708-0622

Bowling Party

Enjoy 90 minutes of free games, shoe rental, drinks, photo booth, treats, and so much fun!

Registration opens March 6

Cedar Lanes
 Session 1: 11am-12:30
 Session 2: 12:45-2:15pm
 Session 3: 2:30-4:00pm
 Session 4: 4:15-5:45pm

Sat. March 25
Tipton

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Get FREE Tax Help!

The **Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers free tax help to families and individuals with incomes of \$60,000 or less, persons with disabilities, limited English speakers, and older adults.

Appointments February 6th—April 7th

Taxpayers must bring:

- Picture ID for taxpayer & spouse's if filing jointly
- Income tax documents for all jobs (W-2s, 1099s, 1098s etc.) for all years tax returns to be done
- Copy of last year's federal and state tax returns
- Social security cards or Individual Taxpayer ID Numbers (ITIN) for each family member named on the return



In Partnership with **iowacenter**
for economic success

Call 211 or 563-886-6157 to make your free tax prep appointment

Location: Cedar County Extension
107 Cedar Street
Tipton, Iowa 52772

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext. ADV 20 04 July 2020

www.extension.iastate.edu/

SPEND SMART. EAT SMART.®

[Get Help Buying Healthy Foods](#)

Whole Wheat Pizza Crust

Serves: 6 Cost/Serving: \$0.20 Serving Size: 1/6 pizza

INGREDIENTS

- 1 package (2 1/4 teaspoons) active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm water
- 2 teaspoons white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons oil (canola, olive, vegetable)
- 1 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 1/4 cups all purpose white flour (divided)

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Add yeast and water to a large bowl. Stir to dissolve yeast in water. Allow to rest for 5 minutes.
- 2 Stir in sugar, salt, and oil.
- 3 Stir in whole wheat flour and 1 cup white flour.
- 4 Sprinkle remaining flour onto a clean work surface. Place dough on top of the floured work surface. Knead until the flour is completely mixed in with the dough, about 5 minutes. Form the dough into a ball.
- 5 Spray the bowl with nonstick cooking spray. Set the ball of dough in the bowl. Cover with a towel. Let it rise in a warm, draft free place for 15 minutes.
- 6 Preheat oven to 425°F.
- 7 Spray a pizza pan or cookie sheet with nonstick cooking spray. Stretch the pizza dough to fit the pan. Using a fork, prick the dough 10-15 times.
- 8 Bake the crust for 6-8 minutes or until it begins to feel firm on top. Top as desired and bake 10-12 minutes more or until outer crust is lightly brown.

Nutrition Facts

6 servings per recipe
Serving Size: 1/6 pizza

Amount Per Serving
Calories 250

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 6g	8%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 200mg	9%
Total Carbohydrates 43g	16%
Dietary Fiber 4g	14%
Total Sugars 2g	
Includes 1g Added Sugars	2%
Protein 7g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 16mg	2%
Iron 2mg	10%
Potassium 151mg	4%

*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Contact School Resource Navigator Ms. Emily, Cell: 563.886.4711 or esmith@north-cedarstu.org

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North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

March 2023

Calendar is subject to change.

Wed., March 1:

Lunch: BBQ Rib or BBQ Chicken

1pm Early Dismissal

7pm Booster Meeting @ Jr/Sr High Cafe

Thurs., March 2:

Lunch: Cavatelli

Fri., March 3:

Lunch: Grilled Cheese

7pm Spring Play @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Sat., March 4:

7pm Spring Play @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Sun., March 5:

2pm Spring Play @ Debbie Harms Theater, Clarence

Mon., March 6:

Lunch: Elem.: Corn dog or Cheddarwurst; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken

Tues., March 7:

Lunch: Walking Tacos

Wed., March 8:

Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese

1pm Early Dismissal

Thurs., March 9:

Lunch: Drumstick

9-11am 9th Grade Mock Interviews

Fri., March 10:

Lunch: Hamburgers

All State Cheer @ Wells Fargo Arena

Sat., March 11:

State Individual Speech

Mon., March 13 - Fri., March 17:

No School – Spring Break

Mon., March 20:

Lunch: Sloppy Joes

6pm School Board Meeting

Tues., March 21:

Lunch: Chicken Alfredo

1pm Dismissal

1-8pm Parent Teacher Conferences

6pm ICAN Presentation: College & Career Preparation @ Jr/Sr High Cafe

Wed., March 22:

Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Nuggets; Jr/Sr High: Dill Chicken Bites

Thurs., March 23:

Lunch: Elem.: Mini Corn Dogs or Hot Dog; Jr/Sr High: Corn Dog or Cheddarwurst

1pm Dismissal

1-8pm Parent Teacher Conferences

Fri., March 24:

No School

4:30pm HS Girls & Boys Indoor Track @ University of Dubuque

Mon., March 27:

Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Strips; Jr/Sr High: Louisiana Breaded Chicken Breast

All-State Festival Individual Events @ Northern Iowa

Tues., March 28:

Lunch: Breaded Pork Chop

4:30pm HS Girls & Boys Track @ Tipton

Wed., March 29:

Lunch: Elem.: Crispito; Jr/Sr High: French Dip

1pm Early Dismissal

9am-1pm Student Council Blood Drive

Thurs., March 30:

Lunch: French Toast Sticks

4:30pm HS Boys Track @ Northeast HS, Goose Lake

Fri., March 31:

Lunch: Pizza

7am-7pm Music Trip

5-8:30pm JH Dance & Fun Night @ Jr/Sr High Cafe



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.

- Athletic 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