



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School
District

November 2023 Issue

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Rural School Advocates Set 2024 Legislative Agenda

FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Campus, Ankeny, Iowa October 17, 2023

Member school districts of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa convened their Annual Meeting on Tues., Oct. 17, 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 all students have access to a great Iowa education, regardless of where they live. RSAI members include 187 Iowa school districts, several of which are among the largest geographic school districts in the state. All nine area education agencies, Iowa's three Regents' Universities and Des Moines Area Community College are affiliate members of RSAI.

Adequate School Resources: State Supplemental Assistance, or SSA, was a top priority for RSAI members, since this funding supports the very survival of rural schools. Last month, Gov. Reynolds announced Iowa's Fiscal Year 2023 surplus of \$1.83 billion in the General Fund, plus \$902 million in reserve funds, and \$2.74 billion in the Taxpayer Relief Fund. Attendees discussed the impact on rural schools if additional tax cuts are made rather than directing a portion of the State's combined coffers totaling over \$4.6 billion to public schools. Despite the state's fiscal strength and high inflation, the Legislature set a modest increase of 3.0% per student last year. The state's increases in revenues per student have lagged rural school costs of educating students in 13 of the last 14 years.

Staff Shortages: Staff shortages are also high on the list of priorities for rural schools who are struggling to recruit and retain great teachers, paraeducators, bus drivers, and staff. Although adequate funding would help make school employees' pay competitive with other jobs, it would not alone be enough. Attendees discussed the need for school leaders and state officials to change the culture of political speech; to restore education to a respected profession. Low funding inhibits our ability to attract and retain staff and to remain competitive with the private sector in Iowa's growing economy.

Message from Principal Horman

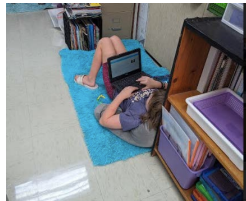
Mrs. Petersen's Kindergarten

We are BATTY about Kindergarten! The Kinder Crew had tons of SPOOK-tacular fun in October.

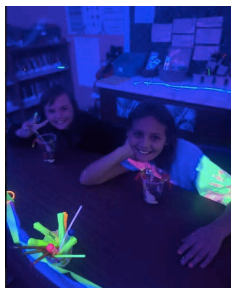
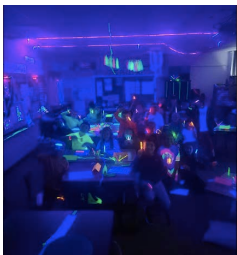


Miss Fuller's Sixth Grade

It's been busy in sixth grade! We started our second novel of the year, *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio, and are enjoying noticing and discussing literary elements as we read. We finished our first essay of the year, a biography, and will start writing mysteries next. In math, we're working with and dividing fractions. In addition to all that, band students put on an amazing concert Monday night. We celebrated Halloween by wearing our costumes on Tuesday.

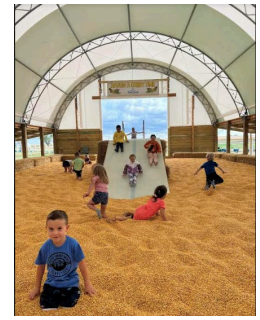


Mrs. Anderson's Fourth Grade



Miss Clark's Kindergarten

This month, we supplemented our learning with a fall theme. We even took a field trip to Bloomsbury Farm and each kiddo went home with a pumpkin at the end of the month!



Mrs. Havill's Second Grade

Whew! October flew by so quickly. In reading, we are working hard on fluency and accuracy. Our brains are amazing and getting better and better every day. In science, we are finishing up the question "Why do some plants have flowers?" to finish our unit on life cycles. In math, we are working on repeated addition and skip counting to help out with the process. This will be the foundation for multiplication. We were able to enjoy a reward day with Mr. Hergert, our Guidance Counselor. The students enjoyed a pajama/stuffed animal/hot chocolate day. Thank you, Mr. Hergert!!



Mrs. Rouse's First Grade

Here are a few pictures of our Halloween costumes and our purple ticket parties. We have had several kids read to us this month.



...Continued on page 5

Message from Principal Carlson

This report will highlight the current things going on in the building. The first quarter has ended, and reports have been sent home. These grades are parents' first official documentation of where their students are at. There is still another quarter for students to raise their grade before official semester grades lock in.

Academics

MAP Tests have finished up at the building. We will be looking into the data more in the coming months. This data will help us drive decisions regarding professional development and other initiatives at the building.

We have completed parent-teacher conferences. We had right around 40% of parents attend conferences for their students in grades 7-12. This number is about the same as it was last year for the fall conferences. We will continue to explore ways to increase attendance at Parent-Teacher Conferences in the future.

Activities

Fall sports have concluded at this time and winter sports practices have begun, or will begin soon, for all the winter sport participants. Student Council hosted a "Halloween Assembly" and costume contest this year on Halloween. Overall it seemed like students really enjoyed themselves at this event. We will continue to look for fun ways to build culture and excitement for students at the 7-12 grade level throughout the school year. The teaching staff also seemed to have quite a bit of fun dressing up on this day.

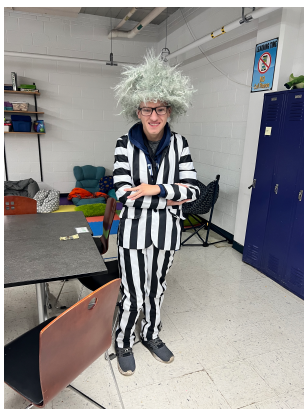
Professional Development

Professional Development at the end of October was focused on CPI Training for many teachers, administrators, and associates. Other teachers finalized quarter grades during the past professional development. Moving forward, we will continue the work we have done with building leadership groups, as well as, PLC groups and begin our child study initiatives.

As always,

LET'S GO KNIGHTS!

Tanner Carlson
7-12 Principal



RSAI members also affirmed the following issues as priorities for the 2024 Legislative Session:

- Oppose expansion of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) to homeschool and support: 1) a level playing field, 2) oversight of ESA, and 3) funding to follow students to public school who withdraw from private school.
- Opportunity Equity, Increased Student Needs and Mental Health resources.
- Quality Preschool including 1.0 weighting for full-day programs.
- Extension of Whole Grade Sharing, Reorganization and Operational Sharing Incentives.
- Local School Board Authority rather than state-directed mandates.
- School Foundation Formula Equity to close the per pupil funding gap within 10 years.
- Bond Issue Elections limited to November (Oppose) and Simple Majority vote (support).
- Supported Area Education Agencies (AEAs) and the services they provide to rural schools.



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 16, 2023 regular meeting:

- **Retirement Best Wishes.** The board would like to thank Bob Dohmen and Gail Marshall for their years of service to North Cedar. Bob has been with the district since August 2008. Gail started in November 2002. Their last day is Dec. 31. Good luck in retirement!
- **Thank you to the Cedar County Sheriff.** The Cedar County Sheriff shared an update on county-wide ambulance coverage and service. We appreciate him taking the time to give us this information.

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.

Mrs. Weber's First Grade



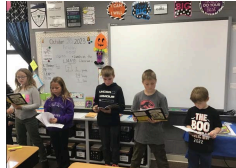
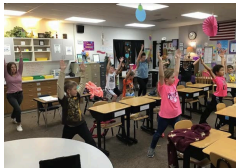
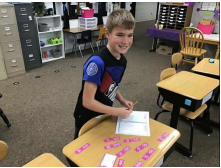
Mrs. Jackson's Third Grade

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 and subtracting two and three digit problems. Math rotations are moving right along also.

We continue to practice our reading fluency daily. We performed another reader's theater to our peers. We also preformed some Halloween reader's theater to our peers this year and had much fun with that!

Some fun things that happened in our room; a visit from Ms. Kait and Gilbert. More yoga with Mr. H, story walks with Ms. Meredith, our annual Halloween Boo parade and party, and lots of fall writing and reading.



Fifth & Sixth Grade Band

The fifth and sixth grade band students had their first band concert. We combined both schools to make a band of over 45 students. The students got to perform for their friends/family and were able to watch the junior high band and choir perform.

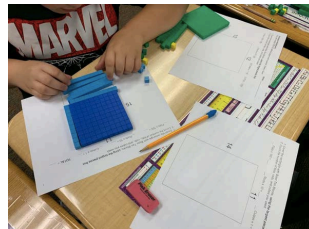


Mrs. Green's Second Grade



Miss Eichinger's Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, we have been working on multiplying 2 digit numbers. We have used base 10 pieces to better understand place value. When students finish with their work, I have a puzzle they can work on in the back of the room. This is the one we've completed this month. The boys were proud of some individual puzzles they completed during indoor recess as well. For our Halloween party, we painted pumpkins after the Boo Parade.

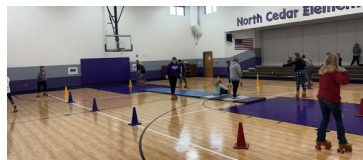


Miss Drevline's Fifth Grade

Fifth graders were so excited to get their Kindergarten buddies! During buddy time, students will read together, do a craft, or even do a Go Noodle!



Mr. O'Connor's PE Class



North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

November 2023

Calendar is subject to change.

Mon., Nov. 6:
Lunch: Nachos
4pm JH Girls Basketball @ Easton Valley HS

Tues., Nov. 7:
Lunch: Lowden: Thanksgiving Meal; McVile: Pizza; Jr/Sr High:
French Bread Pizza
4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Lisbon HS

Wed., Nov. 8:
Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese

Thurs., Nov. 9:
Lunch: Lowden: French Toast Sticks; McVile: Thanksgiving Meal; Jr/
Sr High: Hot Beef
4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling

Fri., Nov. 10:
Lunch: Breaded Chicken
10:30am Veterans Day Assembly
7pm Variety Show @ Debbie Harms Theatre, Clarence

Sat., Nov. 11:
7pm Variety Show @ Debbie Harms Theatre, Clarence

Mon., Nov. 13:
No School—PD Day
4pm JH Girls Basketball vs Easton Valley

Tues., Nov. 14:
Lunch: Orange Chicken
4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Springville
6pm Elementary Boosters Meeting @ Jr/Sr High Library

Wed., Nov. 15:
Lunch: Elem.: Totally Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Thanksgiving Meal
4-7pm Jostens Order Night @ Jr/Sr High Cafe

Thurs., Nov. 16:
Lunch: Elem.: Breaded Chicken Breast; Jr/Sr High: Totally Tacos
4pm JH Girls Basketball @ Calamus-Wheatland HS
4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ North Linn HS

Fri., Nov. 17:
Lunch: Corn Dog or Hot Dog
Honor Squad Performance @ Cedar Falls
6pm JV Basketball Scrimmage vs Louisa-Muscatine @ Jr/Sr High
7:30pm V Basketball Scrimmage vs Louisa-Muscatine @ Jr/Sr High

Mon., Nov. 20:
Lunch: Walking Tacos
4pm JH Girls Basketball vs Midland HS @ Clarence
6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

Tues., Nov. 21:
Lunch: BBQ Rib or BBQ Chicken
Picture Retakes @ Jr/Sr High
4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Clarence
5:30pm JV/V Girls Basketball @ Prince of Peace HS

Wed., Nov. 22:
No School—Thanksgiving Break

Thurs., Nov. 23:
No School—Thanksgiving Break

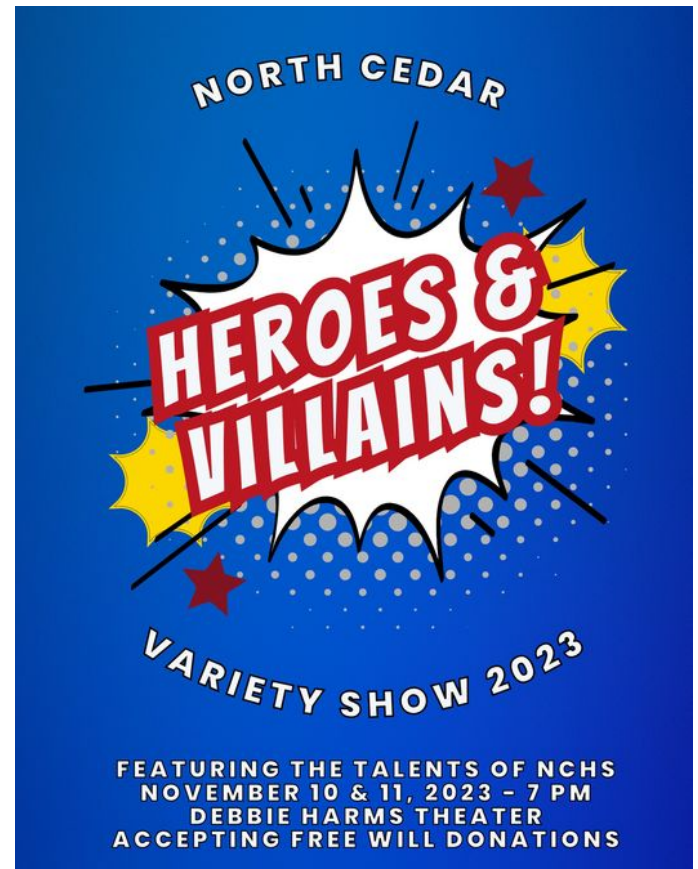
Fri., Nov. 24:
No School—Thanksgiving Break

Mon., Nov. 27:
No School—PD Day
4pm JH Girls Basketball @ Lisbon HS

Tues., Nov. 28:
Lunch: Breaded Chicken Strips
4:30pm JH Wrestling @ Lisbon HS
5:30pm JV/V Boys/Girls Basketball @ Central City HS
6pm HS Boys Wrestling @ Jr/Sr High

Wed., Nov. 29:
Lunch: French Dip Sandwich

Thurs., Nov. 30:
Lunch: Homemade Chili or Homemade Chicken Noodles
4pm JH Girls Basketball vs Central City
4pm JV Boys/Girls Basketball vs Columbus @ Jr/Sr High
6pm V Boys/Girls Basketball vs Columbus @ Jr/Sr High



NAVIGATE & EDUCATE

The Science of Parenting

Online Workshops

Understanding Research and Reality (Approved for foster parent credit)
How can parents use **research** to help **inform** the **realities** of parenting? Learn about how parenting realities are different and discover helpful parenting tools and techniques.

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Register online: <https://go.iastate.edu/ZPETWVG>

Understanding Temperament
Every child is unique, and their **individual temperament** is one of the biggest reasons why! This workshop will introduce you to the individual temperament traits and offer an opportunity to explore how your child's temperament can impact their feelings and behaviors.

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Register online: <https://go.iastate.edu/GOZDEV>

Children's Ages and Parenting Stages
Just like our kids grow through different ages, we go through **stages as parents, too!** Learn about those stages, your **child's development**, and tips for adapting your parenting to your child's age and abilities.

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Register online: <https://go.iastate.edu/I7Z6VP>

Positive Discipline (Approved for foster parent credit)
Parents often say **guidance and discipline** is their **number one concern**. This workshop will help you see positive discipline as an opportunity to build positive parent-child relationships. Learn about the difference between discipline and punishment and strategies for positive discipline, including Stop. Breathe. Talk.

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:00-1:00 p.m.
Register online: <https://go.iastate.edu/GTFUGH>

FREE for ALL PARTICIPANTS!

www.scienceofparenting.org

Questions? Contact Hailey Burgher:
hburgher@iastate.edu | 641-895-9037

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. Community Action of Eastern Iowa will help you apply for benefits through LIHEAP. Until you apply, they cannot tell you how much money you will receive, but the amount could range from \$200 to more than \$500. 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. If you heat your home with liquid propane (LP), you can qualify to receive delivery of propane through this program.

For more info and online application visit: <https://www.caeiowa.org/>

Questions? Contact: Ms. Emily

Family Size	100% of the poverty level: <u>Head Start</u> (up to 130% in some cases), <u>Early Head Start</u>	125% of the poverty level: <u>FaDSS</u>	200% of the poverty level: <u>Utility assistance, water, sewer, air conditioners, fans, furnace repair, food and diapers</u>
1	\$14,580	\$18,225	\$29,160
2	\$19,720	\$24,650	\$49,440
3	\$24,860	\$31,075	\$49,720
4	\$30,000	\$37,500	\$60,00
5	\$35,140	\$43,925	\$70,280
6	\$40,280	\$50,350	\$80,560
7	\$45,420	\$56,775	\$90,840
8	\$50,560	\$63,200	\$101,120

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 @ Bennett School
- **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
- **1st and 3rd Saturdays** of the month 10:00-1:00 and **2nd and 4th Wednesdays** 3:00-7:00, Hein Manor bottom level 807 3rd St. Durant

NC Resource Closet is in need of Gloves & or Mittens in youth, teen, & adult sizes.



Donations can be made at the NC Jr/Sr High School or by contacting School Resource Navigator Ms. Emily.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT - MS. EMILY: ESMITH@NORTH-CEDARSTU.ORG | 563 - 886 - 4711 |

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