



The Knight Times

North Cedar Community School
District

April 2024 Issue

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Superintendent's Message...1
- Message from Principal Horman...2
- Message from Principal Carlson...3
- School Board Highlights...4
- Principal Horman's Message Continued...5
- April Lunch & Activities...6
- Navigate & Educate News...7

Knight Contact Information

Mark Dohmen
Superintendent
mdohmen@north-cedarstu.org
(563)942-3358

Tanner Carlson
Jr/Sr High Principal
tcarlson@north-cedarstu.org
(563)452-3179

Jennifer Horman
Elementary Principal
jhorman@north-cedarstu.org
(563)432-6933 or
(563)941-5383

Legislative Update

Last Tuesday, with 30 senators in favor, 18 opposed, and 2 absent, the Senate concurred with the House Amendment on HF 2612 AEA Reform. Here are the key changes in the bill compared to its earlier versions:

- **Media and Educational Services:** The bill retains the \$68 million in media and education services property taxes, with 40% flowing through to AEAs and districts allowed to retain up to 60% in the initial year. Starting July 1, 2025, districts gain full control over these funds, with the option to collaborate with AEAs for their allocation, particularly for special education services.
- **Special Educational Services:** For the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024, all special education funding will continue to go to AEAs as opposed to the Governor's recommendation of granting districts control. However, from July 1, 2025, districts can retain up to 10% of the funding, with the remaining 90% requiring collaboration with AEAs. The bill emphasizes that this 10% must be spent on special education services.



- **Task Force:** The final version of HF 2612 introduces an AEA Task Force comprised of stakeholders and policymakers to assess AEA services, programs, and processes. The Task Force will convene over the interim period and deliver recommendations by December 31, 2024, possibly suggesting changes before certain provisions of the bill become effective on July 1, 2025.
- **DE Division of Special Education:** Contrary to the Governor's proposal for a larger Division of Special Education with 139 FTEs, the bill allocates 13 FTEs to the DE's Des Moines office and up to 40 staffed regionally, distributed to AEAs based on enrollment for compliance purposes.
- **Changes to AEA Staff:** While earlier versions contemplated mandatory removals of some AEA staff, the final iteration does not impose such measures. However, reduced funding may inevitably lead to a decrease in AEA staff numbers.
- **Minimum Teacher Pay Increase:** HF 2612 gradually implements the Governor's teacher pay increase over two years, reaching \$96 million for teacher pay by FY 2026. Per pupil amounts are expected to be released soon by the Department of Management.
- **School Funding:** The bill establishes a State Supplemental Aid (SSA) rate of per pupil increase of 2.5% for FY 2025, aligning with the Governor's budget recommendation.

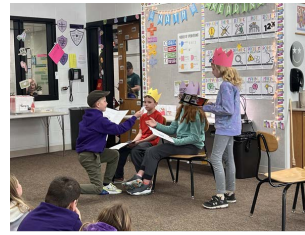
Message from Principal Horman

Miss Drevline's Fifth Grade

North Cedar's fifth grade class is participating for the FIRST time ever in this year's "Plant the Moon" contest sponsored by NASA and in collaboration with the Iowa Space Grant Consortium and ISU Integrated Pest Management. Support is being provided by Grant Wood AEA to incorporate college and career readiness skills into the curriculum. Participants in the Iowa Plant the Moon Challenge join in a global science experiment and research challenge to examine how vegetable crops can grow in lunar soil. Students learn about chemistry, geology, botany, and astronomy while they design experimental parameters, monitor and analyze their growth after a 10 week growing period. They submit their final report to a network of global researchers working to expand the space exploration capabilities. Students are then invited to a virtual symposium with NASA scientists, program executives, and other dignitaries where Best-In-Show awards will be presented to teams in a variety of categories. Good luck North Cedar Mechanicsville students in Miss Drevline's fifth grade class!



Our reader's theater this month was a fairy tale mystery called "Sleepless Beauty" which featured the infamous detective/knight, Sir Lock Homes. We are on our 11th week working with fractions for math. We took a nice little break in order to prepare for ISASPs and fifth grade is ready to rock it!



Mr. Behren's Fifth Grade



Mrs. Green's Second Grade

March was an exciting month in the second grade class in Mechanicsville. Our class celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by doing a "Read and Feed". We also had a lot of fun with math where we used snacks as manipulatives. With the help of Cheez-Its, pretzel sticks, and Gripz, we learned how to represent three-digit numbers. We also learned how to add and subtract three-digit numbers with regrouping. The use of snacks made this complicated skill more enjoyable for the kids. In addition, we learned how to graph and interpret data using marshmallows for St. Patrick's Day. The best part of all this was that we got to enjoy the yummy snacks when we finished our work. We are all excited about ending the school year with a bang!



Mrs. Weber's First Grade

First graders in Mrs. Weber's class played math games to build fact fluency. We are also learning how a shadow can move using flashlights.



...Continued on page 5

Message from Principal Carlson

The end of the school year is approaching fast, and this time of year brings a ton of excitement to the building. There are many things going on with spring activities being in full swing, while state assessments are throughout the month of April. There are many field trips/off-site learning opportunities scheduled during this time as well.

Academics

Students have finished ISASP Testing, we believe the students put forth a good effort this year. We do not get sent the results of these immediately, which can be kind of frustrating for students and staff. We do have another week of testing coming up, which is for our MAP Tests. Those results are given to students immediately, and it is nice to see each student respond to if they made the recommended growth for the year. Mrs. Barnes took her students recently to the Federal Judiciary Youth Summit in Davenport and students were able to meet with Senator Chuck Grassley during that experience.

Activities

North Cedar is hosting our first ever track meets using an automatic timing system in the month of April. A thank you goes out to the Athletic Boosters for helping make that a possibility by purchasing this timing system for us.

The North Cedar girls and boys golf teams have begun their seasons at this point as well. They had their first meet and got off to a great start. We are excited to continue to watch their development moving into the rest of the season.

Coming up for our JH Band students in April is the SEIBA middle school large group festival in Tiffin, on April 24th. This should be a great experience for our middle school Band students.

Professional Development

Professional Development has had a focus of revisiting our groups and visiting departments to ensure they have what is needed moving into the end of this school year and also looking into course requests/changes for next school year. We have hosted At-Risk meetings to come up with strategies to help students finish up the school year strong.

As always,

LET'S GO KNIGHTS!

Tanner Carlson

7-12 Principal



On Friday, April 5th, two juniors, Chloe Sulzner and Tyler Driver, attended the Judiciary Youth Summit hosted by Senator Chuck Grassley and Federal Judge Locher in Davenport to learn about federal law and the federal judicial system. At the summit they heard from Senator Grassley about the legislative branch's role in approving federal judicial nominations and Judge Locher's experience starting as an attorney and his path to becoming a federal judge. It was an honor to be invited to this summit and a great opportunity for these students to meet and talk to these influential and knowledgeable members of our government.



FBLA attended the State Leadership Conference in March. Congratulations to our two national qualifiers! Kiah Wendt placed 2nd in Job Interview and Bianca Johnston placed 3rd in Hospitality & Event Management.



Students in English I and English I Honors participated in mock interviews.

NORTH CEDAR ELEMENTARY BOOSTERS PRESENTS

MOTHER-SON
MOVIE DAY



SUNDAY APRIL 28TH
DOORS OPEN AT 1:15 PM
MOVIE BEGINS AT 2 :00 PM

KUNG FU PANDA 4

ENTRY \$20 PER MOTHER/SON | \$5 PER ADDITIONAL CHILD
SMALL POPCORN AND POP INCLUDED

OPERA HOUSE THEATRE – 716 SIXTH ST DEWITT

MOM NOT AVAILABLE? THAT'S OK,
STUDENTS CAN BRING ANY ADULT
AS THEIR GUEST!

MOTHER-SON MOVIE DAY REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name _____
Parent Name _____
Additional Students _____
Phone _____ Email _____

PLEASE RETURN FORMS AND PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL BY APRIL 12TH

NORTH CEDAR
ELEMENTARY BOOSTERS
PRESENTS

SPRING FLING

Daddy Daughter
Dance

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH

NORTH CEDAR HIGH SCHOOL
6:00-8:30PM

\$20 per child/adult pair
\$5 for each additional child
GIRLS ARE INVITED TO BRING ANY ADULT SPECIAL GUEST

featuring
MUSIC, DANCING, PHOTO
BACKDROP, SNACKS, PIZZA,
DRINKS, COOKIES AND MORE!

SPRING FLING DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE
REGISTRATION FORM

Student Name _____
Parent Name _____
Additional Students _____
Phone _____ Email _____

PLEASE RETURN FORMS AND PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL BY APRIL 12TH

March 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 March 18, 2024 regular meeting:

1. PPEL Special Election - We wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in the recent Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Special Election. By exercising your right to vote, you have played an integral role in shaping the future of our district and ensuring that our physical infrastructure meets the needs of our students, faculty, and staff.
2. Sharing Agreements – We have again entered into several sharing agreements with neighboring school districts to share teachers, directors, and administration. We have maxed out with 21 positions being shared. Existing agreements were extended for another year resulting in salary and benefit savings and state operational sharing incentives of over \$155,800. These cost savings allow North Cedar to reduce expenses, yet maintain valuable programs for our students.
3. SIAC Invitation - The School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) invites individuals to join future meetings and contribute to enhancing educational practices. Participation in SIAC offers opportunities to collaborate with educators, administrators, and community members to identify areas for improvement within schools. Members engage in discussions, provide feedback, and offer insights on strategies to enhance student learning, school culture, and overall effectiveness. Joining SIAC allows stakeholders to play a vital role in shaping the future of education by fostering innovation and promoting continuous improvement within our school.

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. Rouse's First Grade

We have been using PBIS tickets to eat lunch with staff and bringing in stuffed animals. Also, we celebrated Dr. Seuss and Read Across America with Cedar Co. Extension Office reading "From Grapes to Jelly," and learned how to make grapes dance! We also had dress up days and wore our PJ's for Dr. Seuss' "Sleep" book!



Miss Eichinger's Fourth Grade

In fourth grade, we have been working hard on fractions, decimals, and measurement. Our students have earned a Purple Ticket Party; stuffed animals, pajamas, and a movie for following district expectations (Respect self, Respect others, Respect property). Music class has been fun. Students are earning their recorder karate belts. Their hard work will be showcased at the Spring Concert. Students are also working on a state project, pictures to come next month!



Mrs. Brissette's PreK

Students are learning about the life cycle of a chicken in class this month. Here they are playing a guessing game where they have to guess which number egg the tiny peep is hiding under. It's such a fun way to work on number recognition too!



Mrs. Jackson's Third Grade

We made some pretty neat drawings and shared them with our local library in town. Thank you, Meredith, for this fun activity. Our story walk was Rosie Revere, Engineer and Margaret's Unicorn.

Dr. Seuss had a birthday on March 2nd. We wrote lots of facts about him and had fun reading some of his books in class. We also created new characters of our own that maybe could be used in one of his books! Did you know that Green Eggs and Ham was written as a challenge? This book contains only 50 words.

Teresa with Ag in the Class was back again and we really enjoy her. She read a book to us about grapes during Read Across America week. She then had an activity ready for us. We ate crackers and jam.

Spring break has come and gone. Spring conferences have come and gone, thank you to families that came to visit us. We are ready to finish out the school year strong!

Mrs. Elloren's Artists

In Lowden, the talented fifth grade students are using their imaginative skills to bring their wooden sculptures to life in art class. They are turning simple blocks of wood into works of art, which will soon be displayed in the hallway.



North Cedar Lunch & Activities Calendar

April 2024

Calendar is subject to change.

Mon., April 1:
Lunch: Crisпитos

Tues., April 2:
Lunch: Pork Chop or Salisbury Steak
4pm HS Girls Track @ West Liberty HS
4:30pm HS Boys Track @ Durant HS

Wed., April 3:
Lunch: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce

Thurs., April 4:
Lunch: Dill Chicken Bites
3:30pm HS Boys & Girls @ Case Field

Fri., April 5:
Lunch: Burgers
3:30pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ Little Bear Country Club

Sat., April 6:
10am HS Girls Golf @ Edgewood Colesburg Elementary
6pm-11pm Prom @ Camp Courageous

Mon., April 8:
No School-PD Day
4pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ Wapsi Oaks Country Club
4pm JH Track @ Tipton City Park

Tues., April 9:
Lunch: Pizza
3rd-6th Grade ISASP Testing
4pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4pm HS Boys Track @ Central DeWitt
4:30pm HS Girls Track @ Stanwood
6pm Elementary Booster Meeting @ Jr/Sr High Library

Wed., April 10:
Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese
3rd-6th Grade ISASP Testing

Thurs., April 11:
Lunch: Chicken Fajitas
3rd-6th Grade ISASP Testing
12pm HS Golf @ Tipton Golf & Country Club
4:30pm HS Boys & Girls Track @ Lisbon HS

Fri., April 12:
Lunch: Breaded Chicken Patty
3rd-6th Grade ISASP Testing
3:30pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ Lisbon

Sat., April 13:
Solo/Ensemble Contest @ Jr/Sr HS

Mon., April 15:
Lunch: Orange Chicken
4pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4pm JH Track @ Stanwood

Tues., April 16:
Lunch: Sloppy Joes
12pm HS Golf @ Wankonsa Golf Course
4:15pm HS Boys & Girls Track @ Solon HS

Wed., April 17:
Lunch: Totally Tacos
12pm HS Golf @ Maquoketa Country Club

Thurs., April 18:
Lunch: French Toast Sticks
4:30pm HS Track @ Monticello

Fri., April 19:
Lunch: Hot Dog or Cheddarwurst
9am HS Golf @ Valley Oaks Golf Club
4pm HS Golf @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4pm JH Girls Track @ Central DeWitt

Mon., April 22:
No School-PD Day
4:15pm JH Track @ Wilton HS
4:30pm HS Boys & Girls Track @ Northeast HS

Tues., April 23:
Lunch: Chicken Nuggets
4pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ Starmont HS
4:30pm HS Boys Track @ Stanwood

Wed., April 24:
Lunch: Walking Tacos
SEIBA JH Band Festival
10am HS Golf @ Monticello Golf Course

Thurs., April 25:
Lunch: Chicken Alfredo
SEIBA Large Group MS Festival @ Clear Creek Amana HS
4:30pm HS Track Meet @ Waco HS
6-7pm Preschool Round-up @ Lowden & Mechanicsville

Fri., April 26:
Lunch: BBQ Rib or BBQ Chicken
8am-11am Kindergarten Round-up @ Lowden & Mechanicsville
4pm HS Boys & Girls Golf @ 3-30 Golf & Country Club
4pm JH Track @ Northeast HS

Sat., April 27:
Spring Fling--Daddy/Daughter Dance

Sun., April 28:
Mother/Son Movie Day

Mon., April 29:
Lunch: Chicken Strips
10am HS Boys Golf @ Bellevue Golf Club

Tues., April 30:
Lunch: French Dip Sandwich
4pm JH Track @ Tipton City Park



NAVIGATE & EDUCATE

Contact School Resource Navigator for more info: Emily Smith 563.886.4711; esmith@north-cedarstu.org

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH.



Pinwheels are a symbol of happy, healthy kids. During April, you can often see pinwheel gardens outside of agencies that work to protect children as they participate in Child Abuse Prevention Month activities by "planting" pinwheels in their garden or yard area. Pinwheel gardens serve as a great visual that our community and our schools are committed to child abuse awareness and prevention.

Available Food

- 1st Friday of the Month** - 3:30-4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry Drive Thru at First United Methodist Church, 607 Lynn St, Tipton
- Tuesdays** - 3:45-5:15pm @ 300 Cedar St. Bennet
- & 2nd & 4th Saturday of the Month** - 10:00a-12:00p Food Pantry @ Zion UCC, 402 Main St, Lowden
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the Month** - 3:30-5:30pm Food Pantry @ First UCC, 600 Mulberry St, Tipton
- 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the Month** - 11:00am-11:45am Shared Blessings Free Meal @ First United Methodist Church, 607 Lynn St, Tipton
- 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the Month** - 6:00-7:00pm Bring Photo ID, UMC, 307 E First St, Mechanicsville
- 3rd Tuesday of the Month** - 3:30-4:30pm Mobile Food Pantry @ West Branch Fire Dept, 105 S 2nd St, West Branch
- 3rd Saturday of the Month** - 9:00-10:00am Food Pantry Drive Thru at Foursquare Church, 1100 N Hwy 38, Tipton
- Every Wednesday** - 5:30-6:30pm Food Pantry @ St. John's UCC, 320 9th Ave, Clarence
- 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the Month** - 10:00am-1:00pm
- 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month** - 3:00-7:00pm, Hein Manor bottom level 807 3rd St, Durant
- Every Monday -5pm-6pm** - Food Pantry @ St. Paul's UCC, 315 North Main St. Wheatland
- 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the Month** - 9:30-10:50am @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 102 W. Church St. Oxford Jet.
- Every Friday** - 8:30-10am @ United Presbyterian Church 401 Main St. Lost Nation

RED CROSS

Disaster Services (24-Hour Help Line: (855) 891-7325) Around the clock, every day of the year, the Iowa Region stands ready to respond to emergencies like fires, floods and severe storms. At every disaster, we assess the victims' needs and ensure that they have food, clothing, shelter and other services to help families take the first steps to recovery.



Lee County's 1st Five Healthy Mental Development Initiative

1st Five collaborates with local medical practices to enhance patient care by: Promoting primary care provider use of validated screening tools to assess social and emotional development and family risk factors, helping providers integrate these tools into their practices, and linking children and families to community resources to improve access to appropriate follow-up care.

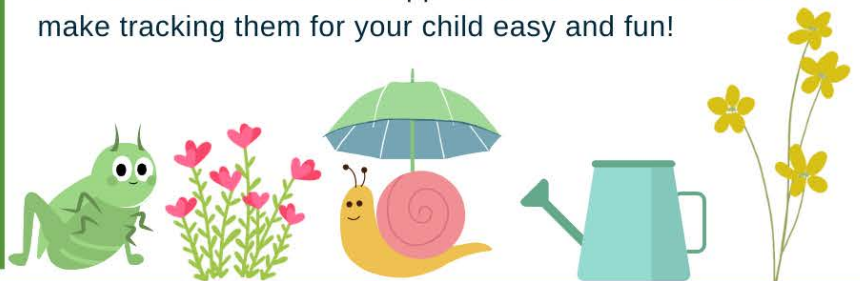
Questions? Ask your Primary Healthcare Provider for More Information.

CDC'S MILESTONE TRACKER APP

[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/NCBDDD/ACTEARLY/MILESTONES-APP.HTML](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html)

Milestones matter! Track your child's milestones from age 2 months to 5 years with CDC's easy-to-use illustrated checklists; get tips from CDC for encouraging your child's development; and find out what to do if you are ever concerned about how your child is developing.

From birth to age 5, your child should reach milestones in how he or she plays, learns, speaks, acts, and moves. Photos and videos in this app illustrate each milestone and make tracking them for your child easy and fun!



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