



# The Knight Times

Feb. 2026 Issue

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## Important Contacts

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  
(563) 941 5383

# North Cedar Community School District

## From the Desk of Superintendent Dohmen

### School Boards in Iowa & North Cedar Board of Education

Across Iowa, nearly 1,900 individuals serve on local school boards, guiding the education of more than 480,000 students in 327 school districts. Iowa school board members come from all walks of life—business owners, educators, farmers, retirees, parents, and community members—united by a shared commitment to serving students, families, and taxpayers.

Iowa K-12 school boards consist of five or seven members, elected either at-large, from director districts, or a combination of both. The North Cedar Community School District operates with a five-member board, including four director districts and one at-large seat. Board members serve four-year terms, with elections held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. School board members in Iowa receive no compensation; their service is motivated by dedication to public education and their communities.

The North Cedar Community School District is pleased to welcome Mrs. Molly Crock to the North Cedar CSD Board of Education. Mrs. Crock will serve as a member-at-large, representing the entire district.

Mrs. Crock has been a resident of the North Cedar district for 17 years and brings a strong educational background and extensive professional experience to the board. She earned an Associate of Arts from Kirkwood Community College, a Bachelor of Arts in Science Education from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Master of Science in Secondary Science from UNI. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Education from Drake University.

Professionally, Mrs. Crock served 18 years as a high school science teacher in the Monticello and Linn-Mar school districts. She also spent three years as a Career Education Consultant with Grant Wood Area Education Agency (AEA), supporting career and academic planning initiatives for students and educators.

Mrs. Crock is actively involved in the North Cedar community, serving as a board member of the North Cedar Education Foundation, participating on the North Cedar Student Improvement Advisory Committee, and volunteering with the Encore Club.

She and her family have four children currently enrolled in the North Cedar district, attending Mechanicsville Elementary, North Cedar Middle School, and North Cedar High School. Their children participate in a wide range of activities including National Honor Society, cheerleading, dance, speech and drama, chamber choir, marching band, student council, football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, and volleyball.

Outside of school, the Crock family is involved in 4-H and enjoys showing livestock throughout the Midwest. Mrs. Crock also enjoys traveling and outdoor adventures with family and friends and has been section hiking the Appalachian Trail for the past five years.

With appreciation,  
**Mark Dohmen**  
Superintendent

### Focus Statement:

"I am committed to supporting student learning and effective district operations that reflect the needs of our students and community."

# Message from Principal Carlson

## Strength of the North Cedar Knights Community

As we move through this busy season, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible teamwork, effort, and pride shown by our students and staff across North Cedar. Our winter athletic seasons continue with strong performances in both basketball and wrestling. These programs showcased not only hard work and determination, but also sportsmanship and teamwork. I am proud of how our student-athletes have represented themselves, their teammates, and our school community throughout the season.

Beyond athletics, our extracurricular programs continue to shine. Our band and choir students have been hard at work, and it has been exciting to see their dedication pay off. Several North Cedar choir students had the opportunity to participate in prestigious honor choirs, including the Dorian Honor Choir at Luther College in Decorah and the Meistersinger Honor Choir at Wartburg College in Waverly. In addition, 20 of our band students represented North Cedar in three different honor bands through the Tri-Rivers Conference, the University of Dubuque, and Marion. These experiences are a testament to their talent, preparation, and commitment.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to the North Cedar Post Prom team for leading a successful Trivia Night fundraiser. Their hard work and planning helped raise important funds for Post Prom, and we are grateful to the many community members who came out to participate and support this event. I also want to thank our broader community for its flexibility and continued support when weather caused schedule changes. Whether it was athletics or music performances being rescheduled, our community consistently showed up to support our Knights, and that means a great deal to our students.

Our FFA members also joined more than 500 students from across the state recently for Iowa FFA Day at the Capitol. There, they met with legislators and learned about agricultural advocacy. Way to represent North Cedar!

Recently, we also had a chance to recognize the North Cedar alumni honored during the Varsity Girls' Basketball game on January 23. Awards were presented to alumni for professional achievement, service to nonprofit organizations, community impact, fine arts accomplishments, and athletic excellence. Honorees are nominated by community members and selected through a review process led by a committee of school and community representatives. Congratulations to **Mark Brodersen**, (Clarence, 1967) **Colette Cook** (Lincoln, 1976), **Al Deerberg** (Clarence-Lowden, 1974), **Chris Mowry** (Clarence-Lowden, 1980), and **Kate Kedley** (North Cedar, 1996)

These alumni reflect the values of North Cedar and serve as strong role models for our current students.

Finally, I want to recognize what I see every day in our halls: students demonstrating kindness, respect, and strong academic effort. There is a genuine sense of care and support for one another at North Cedar, and it is something special. I feel a true sense of community here in Clarence and beyond, and I am grateful to be part of a school district where students, staff, families, and community members work together to make North Cedar a great place to learn and grow.

As always,  
**LET'S GO KNIGHTS!**  
Tanner Carlson 7-12  
Principal



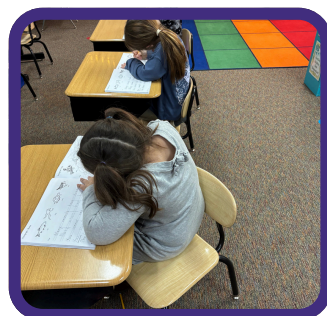
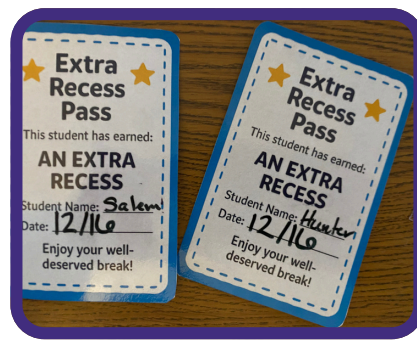


## Mrs. Eichinger's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Students have earned some great PBIS rewards! Teachers desk and extra recess were the most popular. They decided on a movie/fort day for their purple ticket/reading goal reward.

Students are also enjoying playing both indoors and outdoors for recess.

And in math, 4<sup>th</sup> graders are starting other fractions unit!



## Mrs. Rolwes' 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

The 5th grade class in Mechanicsville has been enjoying a wide variety of new books purchased through a foundation grant. This year, the class has read more than 150 books. Fifth graders recently wrapped up their study of the myth genre, exploring its features and reading many different myth stories. To showcase their learning, students presented a Reader's Theater performance of The Odyssey for the 3rd and 4th grade classrooms and did a fantastic job.

In math, students are wrapping up their unit on long division and will soon begin working on fractions.



## Mrs. Elloren's Art Class

Students are currently working on colorful heart paintings inspired by Brazilian artist Romero Britto. Using bold lines and playful patterns, they are choosing colors to represent their feelings and emotions. Once finished, these hearts will be joyful expressions of creativity and positivity.



## Mrs. Weber's 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

First grade came back to school after Winter Break reviewing school expectations. Students got right back into routines by making words and practicing handwriting. They learned about Martin Luther King Jr. and wrote their own "I Have a Dream" wish.

# Preparing for Winter Weather: Adjustments, Safety Measures & Communication

As we move into the winter season, it's important to revisit how our district responds to severe weather and the potential impact on school operations. Our top priority remains the safety of our students, families, and staff.

## Weather Event Updates

The National Weather Service has streamlined and renamed several winter weather advisories, which helps schools and families better understand potential hazards. Each winter event poses unique challenges and is evaluated carefully before any schedule changes are made.

Please know that any decision to delay, dismiss early, or cancel school is made only after gathering as much reliable information as possible with student safety foremost in mind.

## How Decisions Are Made

When winter storms are forecasted, I monitor conditions closely using multiple trusted sources such as:

- National Weather Service
- The Weather Channel
- Local television forecasting services

## The district also collaborates with:

- Tipton, Cal-Wheat, Midland, Olin, Bennett, West Branch, Lisbon, and Anamosa school districts
- Cedar and Jones County road departments and other local agencies
- Iowa Department of Transportation (via their road conditions website)

By consulting with surrounding districts and local authorities, we aim to have the most current data to assess road safety for buses, student drivers, and families.

## Timing & Decision Window

For storms expected overnight, the evaluation process begins early in the morning. We review snowfall, road conditions, wind chill, and forecasts with the goal of finalizing schedule decisions by 5:00–5:30 a.m. so families and staff have adequate time to plan.

## Late Starts & Early Releases

While we try to avoid them due to the disruption they cause for parents and guardians, these adjustments remain available when necessary:

- **Late Starts** — Used when a short delay is likely to improve travel conditions.
- **Early Releases** — Used when weather worsens during the day and sending students home early is the safest option. These measures are used sparingly, but they are valuable options when safety demands them.

## Extreme Cold Guidelines

When it comes to temperature-related closures, our district follows a clear framework:

- Extreme Cold Warning (sustained -30°F wind chill or lower) — School will be canceled.
- Extreme Cold Watch or Cold Weather Advisory — Typically will not result in cancellations or delays.

We will continue coordinating with neighboring districts to maintain reasonable consistency in cold-weather decisions.

## Dress for the Weather

As temperatures drop, please ensure students are prepared for outdoor conditions. Warm coats, hats, gloves, boots, and layers provide important protection, especially during arrival, dismissal, and outdoor transitions.

## Communication

Once a decision is made, families will be notified through:

- School Messenger system
- Local television stations

While we strive for well-informed, timely decisions, weather can be unpredictable and opinions may differ. Parents always retain the authority to keep their child home if they believe conditions are unsafe. Choosing to keep a student home during severe weather will not negatively affect their attendance standing.



# Elementary News Continued

## Mrs. Jackson's 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

January flew by with many indoor recess days due to the cold. Students spent that time working on puzzles, building with Legos, and making bracelets.

The class welcomed Teresa back for Ag in the Classroom and learned about honey bees. Students participated in a pollination activity, made flowers, and learned how bees collect and carry pollen.

Third graders continue logging reading minutes through Knights Read-A-Lot, led by Mrs. Schroeder in the library. Each student has a goal of 400 minutes this month. Last month, the class earned the chance to select a new book series for the library.

The class also welcomed back Willow, a student who attended last year.



## Ms. Kent's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

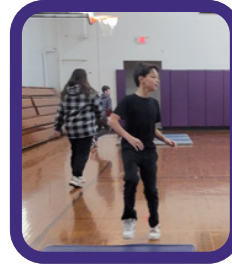
Ms. Kent's 4th grade class enjoyed a read-aloud of *Because of Winn-Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo. To celebrate the story, and their hard work filling the purple ticket chart and class reward jar, the class earned a special Winn-Dixie-themed party. While watching the movie, students enjoyed snacks, drinks, and decorations inspired by Opal's party from the book.

## Mrs. Rouse's Lowden Library

Sixth grade had 100% of their class meet the December Book It goal! We did a little more celebrating with some Matt Ball during an extra recess. Way to be great reading role models!

## Preschool Success!

Preschool earned an extra recess for surpassing their Book It goal. With the cold weather, they enjoyed extra playtime in the library with creative building activities.



## Preschool/Kindergarten Registration Coming Soon!

Parents, don't forget to get registered for the upcoming Preschool and Kindergarten Round-up events!

- Preschool - March 26, 2026 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at both Lowden and Mechanicsville Elementary Schools
- Kindergarten - March 27, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at both Lowden and Mechanicsville Elementary Schools

Learn more and get registered on our website:

[north-cedar.org/2026-roundup](http://north-cedar.org/2026-roundup)



# February 2026 Calendar

## Mon., Feb. 2:

- No School—PD Day
- 4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball @ Calamus-Wheatland
- 4:30pm JH Girls Wrestling @ Springville
- 5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Calamus-Wheatland
- 5:15pm JV Boys Basketball vs Maquoketa Valley
- 6pm V Girls Basketball vs Maquoketa Valley
- 7:30pm V Boys Basketball vs Maquoketa Valley

## Tues., Feb. 3:

- Lunch: Orange Chicken
- 4pm JV Girls Basketball @ Lisbon
- 5:15pm JV Boys Basketball @ Lisbon
- 6:30pm V Girls Basketball @ Lisbon
- 8pm V Boys Basketball @ Lisbon



## Wed., Feb. 4:

- Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese

## Thurs., Feb. 5:

- Lunch: Elem.: Roasted Turkey; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Drumstick
- 4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball @ Lisbon
- 5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Lisbon

## Fri. Feb. 6:

- Lunch: Corn Dog, Hot Dog or Cheddarwurst
- 5pm JV Boys Basketball vs Prince of Peace
- 6pm V Girls Basketball vs Prince of Peace
- 7:30pm V Boys Basketball vs Prince of Peace



## Sat., Feb. 7:

- Daddy-Daughter Dance

## Mon., Feb. 9:

- Lunch: BBQ Rib
- 4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball @ Prince of Peace
- 5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Prince of Peace

## Tues., Feb. 10:

- Lunch: Chicken Sticks

## Wed., Feb. 11:

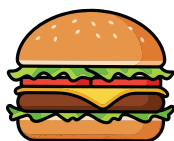
- Lunch: Chicken Alfredo

## Thurs., Feb. 12:

- Lunch: Beef Nachos
- 4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball vs Marquette Catholic
- 4:30pm JH Girls Wrestling @ Lisbon
- 5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball vs Marquette Catholic

## Fri., Feb. 13:

- Lunch: Burgers



## Mon., Feb. 16:

- No School
- 4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball @ Easton Valley
- 5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Easton Valley

## Tues., Feb. 17:

- Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Strips; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas
- 4:30pm JH Girls Wrestling @ Midland



## Wed., Feb. 18:

- Lunch: French Toast Sticks

## Thurs., Feb. 19:

- Lunch: Breaded Pork Chop or Salisbury Steak
- 4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball vs Calamus-Wheatland
- 5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball vs Calamus-Wheatland

## Fri., Feb. 20:

- Lunch: Homemade Pizza



## Mon., Feb. 23:

Lunch: Crispito

4pm 7th Grade Boys Basketball @ Midland

5pm 8th Grade Boys Basketball @ Midland

## Tues., Feb. 24:

- Lunch: Sloppy Joe

## Wed., Feb. 25:

- Lunch: Homemade Lasagna

## Thurs., Feb. 26:

- Lunch: KFC (Knights Fried Chicken) Bowl

## Fri., Feb. 27:

- Lunch: Elem.: Fish Sticks; Jr/Sr High: Breaded Cod Nuggets

**Want to stay up to date on news including weather closures and school events?**

If you haven't signed up yet, please make sure to join Remind, as all notifications are sent through this platform. For families with children in multiple buildings, be sure to subscribe to updates from each school. More information can be found at [north-cedar.org/remind-app](http://north-cedar.org/remind-app).



# NAVIGATE & EDUCATE NEWSLETTER FEB 2026

## CEDAR COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

The Cedar County Special Needs Registry is a no-cost, volunteer registry of information by those with a mental or physical disability that would be helpful for emergency personnel to know when responding to a disaster. Special needs are defined as a physical or mental impairment that limits one or more life activities. This confidential registry is only intended to provide information regarding anyone who would need extra assistance in times of emergency. The information contained in the Special Needs Registry will be used to better assist those challenged individuals in a disaster situation. Examples of special needs include, but are not limited to: Autism, Mobility issues (wheelchairs, power chairs, walkers), Oxygen Dependency, Hearing, vision, or speech deficits, Mental Health Issues, Dialysis Dependent, Paralysis/ Stroke Patients, Developmental/ Intellectual Disabilities.

Any Cedar County resident who may require additional assistance due to special needs during a disaster may submit information to the registry. In the event that the person with special needs is unable to submit the information on their own, a person who is authorized to act on their behalf may do so (guardian, power of attorney, etc.). Residents with any physical, mental, sensory or intellectual disability that would keep an individual from leaving the home quickly in the event of an emergency, those who may need evacuation assistance, or those that need additional care during a disaster event are encouraged to submit information.

The information provided through the registry will be shared with local and county agencies for the purposes of emergency planning or disaster emergency response. The County will make every effort to respect privacy and confidentiality while providing for the needs of the people involved. Participation in the Cedar County Special Needs Registry is completely voluntary and participation in the registry may be rescinded at any time.

To submit your information for the Cedar County Special Needs registry, visit <https://bit.ly/45ACtME> OR To receive a paper copy of the form, please call Cedar County Emergency Management Agency at 563-886-3355 or Cedar County Public Health at 563-886-2226.

## Make a Family Emergency Plan

Emergencies don't happen at a convenient time. When an emergency strikes, you and members of your household may not be together so knowing what to do, where you will go, and how to get in touch with family members is important.

Visit <https://ready.iowa.gov/> for more info.

## Alert Iowa



Sign up for Alert Iowa - Alerts include blizzard warnings, tornado warnings, flood warnings, winter storm warnings, and more. You choose which alerts you receive and for which local communities. If you know of someone that does not have access to the internet, please aid them in signing up. This is a free service provided by the State of Iowa, but text message rates may apply depending on your provider.

## QUESTIONS: CONTACT

[esmith@north-cedarstu.org](mailto:esmith@north-cedarstu.org)

For more info & resources Visit NC District Website.

Click "Departments" Then click "School Resource Navigation"

**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