



The Knight Times

April 2026 Issue

Inside this Issue

1. Superintendent's Message
2. Message from Principal Carlson
3. Elementary News
4. Architectural Concepts
5. Elementary News Continued
6. April Calendar
7. Navigate + Educate News
8. Mission Statement

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North Cedar Community School District

From the Desk of Superintendent Dohmen

A Vision for the Future: North Cedar Explores High School Facility Enhancements

The North Cedar Community School District is taking important steps to plan for the future of our high school facilities. As part of this effort, the district recently completed a comprehensive concept review to explore potential improvements.

This work reflects our community's pride in its schools and commitment to meeting the needs of students, staff, and families for years to come. Thank you to our fine arts staff and secondary administration team for their leadership and input during our first vision planning meeting. We look forward to gathering additional feedback from staff and community members as this process continues.

Exploring Opportunities for Growth

Initial planning concepts focus on enhancing key areas that support both academics and extracurricular activities. One of the central ideas under review is the development of a modernized gymnasium and performance space designed to serve multiple purposes. Early concepts include seating for approximately 500 spectators, additional flexible seating for more than 300 chairs, and a large elevated stage area measuring roughly 30 by 100 feet.

These enhancements would provide expanded opportunities for school events such as concerts, performances, community gatherings, and athletic competitions. Supporting features under consideration include updated locker rooms, storage areas, and a designated green room to better accommodate student performers and visiting groups.

Thoughtful Design and Community Use

Architectural concept drawings also explore how new spaces could connect to the existing high school layout. Preliminary massing studies show how potential additions might integrate seamlessly with current facilities while improving accessibility and ease of movement for students and visitors.

Interior renderings and precedent images included in the review illustrate the goal of creating bright, functional environments that can adapt to multiple uses. Flexible seating arrangements, improved acoustics, and updated finishes are among the features being studied to ensure the space is welcoming and efficient.

Multiple Concepts Under Consideration

District leaders and design partners are evaluating several possible layout options for the new spaces. These concepts explore different placements of the gymnasium, stage, locker rooms, storage, and entry points in order to balance student needs, construction feasibility, and long-term value for taxpayers.

Each option represents a starting point for conversation and refinement. No final decisions have been made, and community input will play an essential role as the district continues to study these possibilities.

Architectural concepts of these projects can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

Looking Ahead Together

As superintendent, I am proud of the collaborative approach our district is taking in planning for the future. Facility improvements are not simply about buildings — they are about creating environments where students can learn, perform, compete, and connect with one another and with the broader community.

In the coming months, we will continue to share information, gather feedback, and evaluate next steps. We encourage residents, families, and stakeholders to stay engaged in this process as we work together to shape a strong and vibrant future for North Cedar schools.

Together, we can ensure that our facilities reflect the excellence, opportunity, and community spirit that define North Cedar.

With appreciation,
Mark Dohmen
Superintendent

Message from Principal Carlson

A Season of Success and a Busy Spring Ahead

Students have been busy at the Jr./Sr. High over the past month! The winter is coming to a close, and we are transitioning to another busy time of the year at the building as well. We are transitioning into 4th quarter classes at this time, which means we are in the final stretch of the school year.

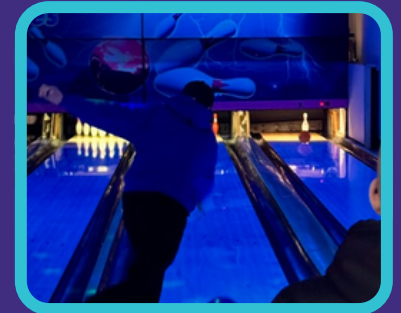
This past month our students hosted girls and boys postseason basketball games, we hosted the conference wrestling tournament, our students put on a fantastic performance at the 5-12 band/choir concert, JH winter dance, and much much more. Mr. Rouse and the FFA put on fun activities for National FFA week consisting of “Drive your tractor to school day”, and an amazing assembly that had the gym rocking with fun and excitement from our students and staff.

We ran a “Wellness Week” at the JH/HS which consisted of a ton of different opportunities for our students to be exposed to different levels of wellness support. We brought in groups like the I’m Glad you Stayed Project, Mindful Teen, Corey Greenwood (your story matters guest speaker/assembly), In their shoes, how social media affects youth and mental health, and more. These things were well received and it was taken seriously by students and staff. Thank you to Mr. Ohloff and Ms. Smith for their work on this.

The spring play was a success, and it was great to see so many people in attendance for this event. I would also like to give a shoutout to Saylor Moser and Braxton Lange for advancing to State individual Speech. Saylor qualified for Improv and After-Dinner Speaking and Braxton attended for Radio News Broadcasting.

We have a lot of exciting things coming up for students still this year including our attendance challenge bowling trip for our winning classes (9th and 10th grade won first semester and get to go bowling Friday March 27th), fishing club trip, district cleanup day, career fair, JH and HS Large Group Band Festival and much more. We are looking forward to finishing out the school year strong, and appreciate all of the support from the community in making education a priority for our students.

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



National Honor Society Welcomes New Members and Honors Graduates

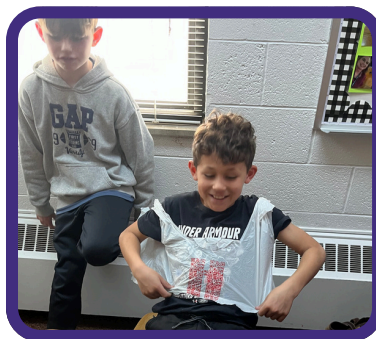
The National Honor Society induction ceremony was held Thursday, March 5, welcoming three new members: Isabella Dohmen, Cadence Horman, and Piper Rottman. Students were recognized for scholarship, leadership, service, and character.

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The event also honored seven graduating seniors for their contributions and leadership throughout high school.

Ms. Kent's 4th Grade

One day, while Ms. Kent's 4th grade class had a substitute, they listened to *One Plastic Bag* by Miranda Paul. The book shares the inspiring true story of Isatou Ceesay, a woman from Gambia who helped transform her community through creativity and perseverance. Students were then challenged to create something new and useful using only plastic bags, tape, and scissors. They came up with a variety of creations, from clothes to bracelets to purses.



Mrs. Petersen's Kindergarten

Mrs. Petersen's classroom went full Sam-I-Am for Read Across America! Students whipped up some "green eggs and ham" fun while discovering that trying something new can be egg-straordinary (and maybe even a little delicious!).

To top it all off, the class had some very special guest readers join. Students were all ears, soaking up every rhyme, rhythm, and silly surprise. It was a week filled with giggles, great books, and a whole lot of reading joy. We do so love reading here, there, and everywhere!

Ms. Eichinger's 4th Grade

The first week of March was Read Across America Week. Salem cashed in her PBIS tickets to wear a special hat during the school day, and we also enjoyed a performance by Sheltered Reality.

During conferences, it was great to see so many parents come in to review their students' progress. Iowa's spring weather has kept us on our toes with a mix of indoor and outdoor recess.

In math, students have been learning about units of measurement and had fun using a scale to see these concepts in action.



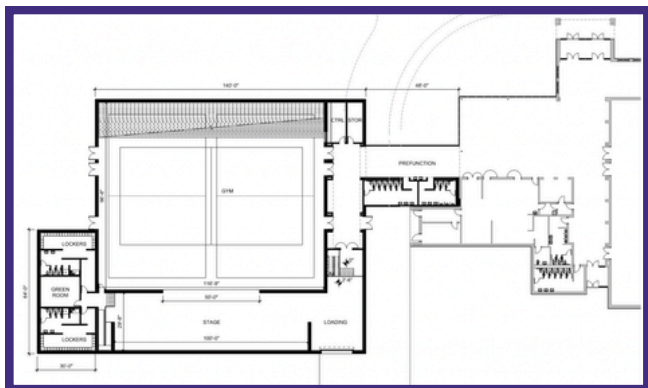
Ms Elloren's Art Class

First graders have been exploring oceans, reading *The Rainbow Fish*, discussing kindness, and creating colorful mixed-media and clay fish. Third graders are designing dream catchers, learning about the Ojibwe people, weaving with yarn, and tying knots in this hands-on cultural project. Sixth graders are studying masks from different cultures, presenting their ideas, and bringing them to life with paper mache, each mask reflecting creativity and personality.

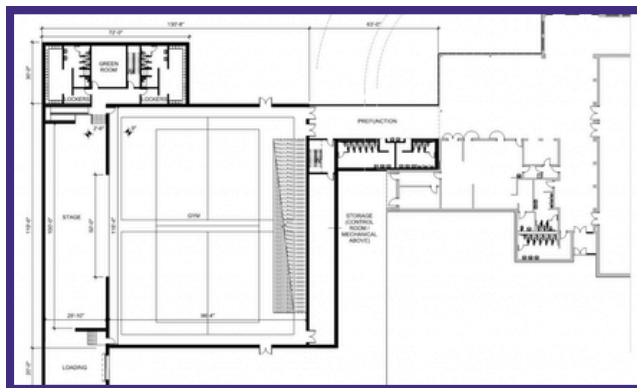


Exploring the Future: Facility Concepts Take Shape

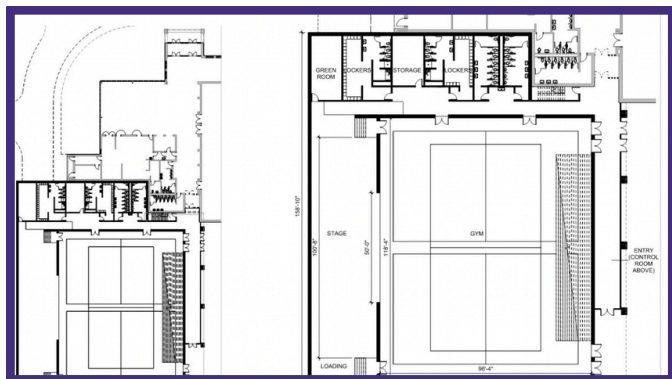
The North Cedar Community School District is excited to share a series of initial architectural concepts as part of our ongoing planning for the future of our high school facilities. These visuals represent early ideas explored during a recent comprehensive concept review, highlighting potential improvements designed to better support academics, activities, and community use. While no final decisions have been made, these concepts are intended to give our community a look at what's possible.



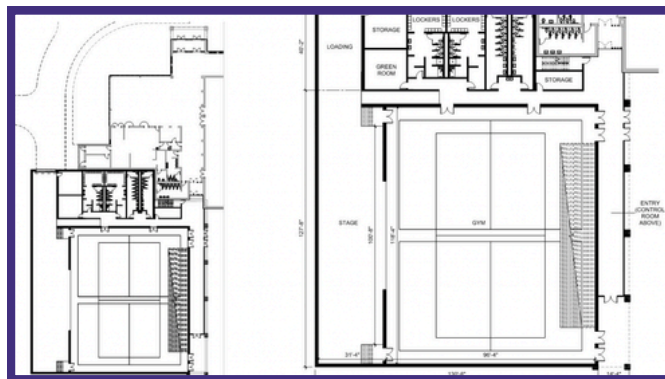
Concept 1



Concept 2



Concept 3



Concept 4

Designs by:



Board Meeting Highlights

1. Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their donations to our lunch program and Silver Cord program: Clarence, UnityPoint Health, Sutliff Bridge Authority, Midwest Auto Sales & Service, Scheer Insurance LLC, Schroeder & Associates LLC, Petersen Insurance Co. Inc., Mosier Seed Supply, and Bridge Community Bank.
2. Our secondary principal and counselor attended the CTE Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) Workshop. They received important information about our district's Career and Technical Education programs. The workshop highlighted that CTE courses at our school have a positive impact on our students.
3. Operational sharing in Iowa lets districts share key staff to reduce costs and use resources more efficiently, with state incentives helping direct more funding toward student programs.

North Cedar will continue sharing its superintendent, operations and maintenance, business manager, and therapist, and will add a shared special education director, supporting strong services while maximizing resources.

Operational Sharing not only allows smaller districts to share critical staff to better meet student needs, but it also provides our district with an incentive for 25 additional students, which increases our budget by approximately \$200,000

Elementary News Continued

Ms. Harvey's Kindergarten

Students have been busy participating in math rotations, exploring a variety of activities that support their learning. Students are building important skills while working both independently and in small groups. It's been a great way to keep students engaged and excited about math!



Mrs. Jackson's 3rd Grade

This month, students wrote persuasive letters to staff, asking for classroom visits, extra recess, and PBIS store drinks, practicing their writing and persuasion skills. They also enjoyed Guidance lessons with Junior Achievement volunteer Mr. Schroeder, learning about the community. For Dr. Seuss's birthday, students joined a Read Across America Zoom, learning about bees and sketching with crayons. They also loved a Sheltered Reality concert in the gym. Thank you to families who attended spring conferences!



Mrs. Rouse's Lowden Library

A huge thank you to our NC Elementary families for supporting the Book Fair in Lowden and Mechanicsville! Proceeds will add new books to our library and reward students who meet their reading goals. Thanks also to the community for Share the Fair, which helps students just short at checkout, and for providing bookmarks to those who couldn't attend. Congrats to all our Book-it Readers, and a special thanks to Mrs. Jen Smith for the delicious treats!



Mrs. Walker's Class

Mrs. Walker's class added a new item to their energy cart, protein coffee! This is the first menu item that requires more than 3 steps to create. They have done a great job! Through the energy cart, students are learning to follow multi-step directions, work together as a team, communicate with peers and adults, and handle money.



Congratulations, Mrs. Elloren!

North Cedar art teacher, Mrs. Elloren, was honored by the Mechanicsville Lions Club last week with the Warren Coleman Honorary Award.



Preschool/Kindergarten Round-Up

Our round up/registration night was a huge success! Thank you to all who could attend.



April 2026 Calendar

Wed., April 1:

- Lunch: French Dip

Thurs., April 2:

- Lunch: Chicken Patty
- 4:30pm V Girls and Boys Track @ Northeast

Fri., April 3:

- No School



Mon., April 6:

- Lunch: Crispito

Tues., April 7:

- Lunch: Pork Chop
- 4pm Girls & Boys Golf vs Lisbon
- 4pm V Girls Track @ West Liberty
- 4:30pm V Boys Track @ Durant



Wed., April 8:

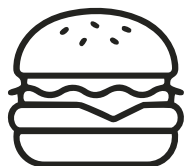
- Lunch: Spaghetti and Meat Sauce

Thurs., April 9:

- Lunch: Popcorn Chicken
- 3:30pm V Boys & Girls Track @ Case Field

Fri., April 10:

- Lunch: Burgers
- 4pm Boys & Girls Golf @ Bellevue



Mon., April 13:

- No School
- 4pm Boys & Girls Golf vs Midland
- 4pm JH Track @ Tipton

Tues., April 14:

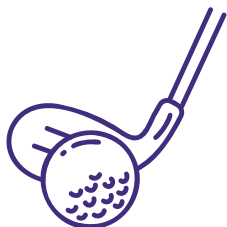
- Lunch: Walking Tacos
- 4pm Boys & Girls Golf vs Starmont
- 4pm V Boys Track @ DeWitt
- 4:30pm V Girls Track @ Stanwood

Wed., April 15:

- Lunch: Louisiana Chicken

Thurs., April 16:

- Lunch: Chicken Alfredo
- 11:30am V Boys Golf @ Tipton
- 4:30pm V Girls & Boys Track @ Lisbon



Fri., April 17:

- Lunch: Pizza

Mon., April 20:

- Lunch: Orange Chicken
- 4pm Boys & Girls Golf vs Calamus-Wheatland
- 4pm JH Track @ Stanwood
- 6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

Tues., April 21:

- Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese
- 4pm Boys & Girls Golf @ Valley Oaks
- 4:15pm V Girls & Boys Track @ Solon



Wed., April 22:

- Lunch: Chicken Drumsticks
- 11am Girls Golf @ Maquoketa

Thurs., April 23:

- Lunch: Sloppy Joe
- 4pm V Girls & Boys @ Monticello
- 7:30pm Wartburg College Wind Ensemble Midwest Tour @ North Cedar



Fri., April 24:

- Lunch: Corn Dog or Cheddarwurst
- 4pm 8th Grade Track @ DeWitt

Mon., April 27:

- No School
- 4pm Boys & Girls Golf vs Easton Valley @ TBD
- 4:15pm V Girls & Boys Track @ Northeast

Tues., April 28:

- Lunch: Chicken Nuggets
- 4pm Girls & Boys Golf @ East Buchanan
- 4:30pm V Boys Track @ Stanwood

Wed., April 29:

- Lunch: Homemade Lasagna

Thurs., April 30:

- Lunch: Elem.: Beef Totally Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Pork Carnitas/Chicken Fajitas



APRIL 2026

Navigate & Educate

newsletter



PACE PROGRAM



Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

This program helps participants live independently for as long as possible in their home and within the community. PACE has access to a variety of programs to help with your health care needs. Our team at PACE will work together with you and your family to keep you safe and comfortable in your home for as long as possible.

PACE Services

We want you to remain in your home, as active and healthy as possible, for as long as possible. To accomplish that goal, our PACE team will work with you and your family to determine your goals and the right combination of services to meet your needs. Some participants may only require one or two services, while others may require additional services. Our services include, but are not limited to: Primary care and specialty medical care (on-site medical clinic), Medications, Therapeutic recreation, Transportation to and from UnityPoint Health PACE Senior Care, Durable medical equipment, Rehabilitation and restorative therapies, Dietary services, In-home support and care, Social work services, Respite care, Hospitalization and emergency care.

Who is Eligible for PACE?

Individuals can join a PACE program if they meet the following conditions: Age 55 or older, Eligible for nursing facility level of care, Live in a PACE service area county, Able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment.

What is the Cost?

PACE charges no deductibles or copayments for any drug, service or care approved by the PACE interdisciplinary team. If you are eligible for Medicaid and Medicare, you pay no premium for services. If you are eligible for Medicaid only, you pay no premium for services. If you are eligible for Medicare only, you will be charged a monthly premium for the program, which includes Medicare Part D. If you are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid, our enrollment coordinator will discuss a private pay rate with you.

LOCATION: 1450 North Center Point Road Hiawatha, IA 52233

PHONE: (319) 451-5000

FOOD AVAILABLE



APRIL 2026

- 4/1 Tipton United Methodist Church 607 Lynn St 3:30-4:30 (Cedar)
- 4/3 Olin Corner of Wall Street & Locust St 11:00-12:00 (Jones)
- 4/16 Anamosa St Paul's Lutheran Church 9201 N Ford St 3:00-4:00 (Jones)
- 4/21 West Branch St Bernedette Church 507 E Orange St 3:30-4:30 (Cedar)
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Tuesdays of the Month- 4:00-6:00 Food Pantry@ Peace Church, 414 Maple St, Bennett
- Mon, Tues, Th, Fri -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 - 5:00-7:00 Food Pantry@ St. John's UCC, 320 9th Ave, Clarence
- Every Saturday of the month 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2nd and the 4th Wednesday 4-7 p.m., Hein Manor, bottom level 807 3rd St. Durant

QUESTIONS?

Contact Ms. Emily esmith@north-cedarstu.org

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