

# North Cedar Community School District

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From the Desk of Superintendent Dohmen

## North Cedar Celebrates Graduating Class of 2026 and Honors School Board During May Recognition Month

A sense of pride and celebration fills the air as the North Cedar Community School District prepares to welcome families, friends, and community members to the 2026 Commencement Ceremony. In a heartfelt message, district leaders extend their congratulations to the graduating Class of 2026, recognizing their resilience, achievements, and promise for the future.

To our graduates: This is a celebration of your hard work, your growth, and your accomplishments. You have made us proud. As you leave here today, know that tomorrow marks the beginning of a new journey – one filled with opportunity, possibility, and purpose. There is no limit to what you can achieve.

We'd like to also give special recognition to the families and loved ones who have supported our graduates throughout their academic journey. This moment belongs to you, too. Your pride this season is well earned, and we share in your joy.

While the ceremony celebrates student success, the month of May also marks another significant occasion: School Board Recognition Month in Iowa. This month-long observance honors the commitment and leadership of school board members who help guide educational outcomes for students across the state. The North Cedar Community School District joins districts across Iowa in applauding the efforts of its board members.

School board members make a profound impact on students' lives by setting the vision and direction for our district. They dedicate countless hours to meetings, policy development, community engagement, and advocacy, all with the goal of ensuring students have the resources and support they need to succeed.

Throughout the year, board members oversee the district's budget, set policies, foster a positive learning environment, and make decisions that shape the future of the community. Their leadership ensures every student has access to high-quality education and the opportunity to thrive.

To formally recognize their service, the district will honor school board members at the regular monthly board meeting in May.

As the Class of 2026 steps boldly into their futures, and the district honors the guiding hands that make such achievements possible, North Cedar remains committed to its mission: preparing every student for a bright and boundless future.

With appreciation,  
**Mark Dohmen**  
Superintendent



## The Knight Times

May 2026 Issue

### Inside this Issue

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

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# Message from Principal Carlson

## Wrapping Up Another Great School Year at North Cedar

We are quickly approaching the end of the school year! Time has definitely flown by. It has been a great year at the Jr./Sr. High School this year, and we will continue to finish the year strong.

Students recently completed their ISASP tests, and I was extremely proud of the effort that they put into these tests. Initial student data is beginning to come back to us, and it looks very positive so far. We will continue to monitor this data and ensure that we are using it to work towards identifying target areas for us to focus on with our instructional practices. Building wide data is not released until later, but we do look at individual data that we receive immediately.

North Cedar High School band and choir students performed at the IHSA Solo & Small Ensemble Festival recently. Many of our students earned Division I (Superior) ratings in both band and choir, and our Chamber Choir also received a Division I rating. Several students earned Division II (Excellent) ratings as well.

The spring sports and activities are in full swing. Unfortunately, weather has put a damper on some of our sporting events so far this spring. We hope for better weather conditions moving forward for our student-athletes.

Boys and Girls Golf is underway. We have been able to host and play in many meets. We host the TRC Girls Golf meet on Monday, May 11th at 10:00 AM. This will be an exciting event for us to get to host.

Boys and Girls Track are also underway. We host our first meet Monday, April 10th, due to our high school girls meet having to be postponed due to weather. We are hosting the JH TRC Boys Track Meet on Tuesday, May 12th. This will be a very large event, and there should be a good sized crowd at the event.

As seniors come to the finish line on their academic journeys, I would also like to thank the class of 2026 for all of their contributions to the North Cedar Community. We are proud of their efforts, and can't wait to see what comes next for them. Senior parents will receive information soon regarding what the last week entails. Important dates for seniors: Monday May 11th (6:30 PM) Senior Awards, Wednesday May 13th (computer/book/etc. turn in), Friday May 8th — graduation walk through, Sunday May 17th- Graduation 2:00

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



## Gilbert the Therapy Dog

April 11 was National Therapy Dog Day, and we're celebrating our amazing therapy dog, Gilbert! Students love seeing him around the building. Whether he's visiting classrooms, greeting students, or offering a calm presence, Gilbert helps kids feel comfortable and supported. He brings smiles, brightens tough moments, and makes a lasting impact on our school. Thank you, Gilbert!



## Mrs. Kash & Mrs. Walker Field Trip

Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Kash's classes visited We Rock the Spectrum in Cedar Rapids, where students enjoyed time on the zip line, trampoline, and a variety of swings. The gym also offered many other engaging activities that kept everyone laughing and playing together.

Afterward, they headed to Dan & Debbie's Creamery in Ely for lunch and a sweet treat before returning to school.



## Mrs. Petersen's Kindergarten

In April, Mrs. Petersen's Kindergarten class had a wonderful Earth Day adventure! Students went on a nature scavenger hunt, exploring the outdoors and finding signs of spring like leaves, rocks, and plants.

Along the way, they worked together to pick up trash. These young learners showed that even small actions can make a big difference in keeping our Earth clean and beautiful.



## Elementary Show Choir

North Cedar offers 5th and 6th grade students the chance to be part of show choir, where they build teamwork, develop music and choreography skills, and have fun with friends.

Now in its second year, the program is already making an impact thanks to the leadership of Ms. Shindelar.

Come see them perform on May 19 at the MS/HS gym in Clarence.



# Elementary News Continued

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

The first graders in Mechanicsville visited the Children's Museum at Coral Ridge Mall, where they had a great time exploring and working together.

In math, students are currently learning geometry and using foam shapes to compose and create new shapes.



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

In April, students celebrated meeting their March reading goal with a Reading Party featuring an exciting RC car race in the gym. Students brought cars from home and showed great sportsmanship while racing.

They also enjoyed a Purple Ticket Party with a craft activity where they "adopted" a Peep. Students practiced responsibility and self-control by caring for their Peep, documenting its adventures, and some even built creative homes for it.

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

Spring is here and the school year is winding down. Our third graders have been working hard, completing ISASP testing and meeting expectations. To celebrate, they enjoyed a trip to the DeWitt movie theater with popcorn and a drink.

The class also welcomed Ms. Sarah, a conservationist, who taught us about trees and gave each student a cedar or plum tree to plant. Marcy McBride and Teresa joined this presentation.



## Mrs. Rouse's Lowden Library

To celebrate Poetry Month, Mrs. Rouse shared mystery poetry books for staff read-alouds across classrooms. At Lowden Library, students explored mystery books by genre and shared short book talks to promote reading. Book It wrapped up with strong participation, thousands of minutes read, and end-of-year celebrations including root beer floats or ice cream sundaes. Kindergarten earned the highest participation and an extra library recess. Summer reading continues with the Cedar Rapids Kernels program and local public libraries.



Thank you to the parents who encouraged their students to read and participate in the Book It program and the school Book Fairs!

Here's how you can keep reading this Summer!  
Book It program – [tinyurl.com/8xn8u4cu](https://tinyurl.com/8xn8u4cu)

Also check out the Kernel's Summer Reading Program



# May 2026 Calendar

## Fri., May 1:

- Lunch: Elem.: Pulled BBQ Chicken Sandwich; Jr/Sr High: Cod Bites
- 4pm Girls & Boys Golf vs Springville
- 4pm JH Track @ Northeast



## Sat., May 2:

- 5:30pm Grand March @ Debbie Harms Theater
- 6:30pm Prom @ Highpoint Event Center

## Mon., May 4:

- Lunch: Elem.: Chicken Strips; Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas
- 10am V Boys Golf @ 3-30 Club

## Tues., May 5:

- Lunch: Lowden & Jr/Sr High: Pork Chop or Salisbury Steak; McVille: Pork Chop or Country Fried Steak
- 2pm Elementary Spring Concert Matinee @ Mechanicville
- 4pm JH Track @ Tipton
- 7pm HS Concert/Awards Night @ Jr/Sr High
- 7pm Elementary Spring Concert @ Mechanicsville

## Wed., May 6:

- Lunch: Elem.: Hot Dog or Cheddarwurst; Jr/Sr High: Orange Chicken

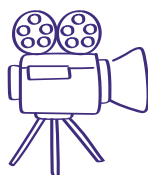
## Thurs., May 7:

- Lunch: Cavatelli
- 2pm Elementary Spring Concert Matinee @ Lowden
- 4pm V Boys & Girls Track @ Lisbon
- 7pm Elementary Spring Concert @ Lowden



## Fri., May 8:

- Lunch: Crispito
- 7pm Fine Arts Film Night @ Jr/Sr High



## Mon., May 11:

- No School
- 10am V Girls Golf @ 3-30 Club

## Tues., May 12:

- Lunch: Elem.: Beef Tacos; Jr/Sr High: Walking Taco
- 4pm JH Boys Track @ Stanwood
- 4pm JH Girls Track @ Maquoketa

## Wed., May 13:

- Lunch: Popcorn Chicken
- 4pm 6th Grade Graduation Ceremony @ Jr/Sr High

## Thurs., May 14:

- Lunch: Elem.: Ravioli; Jr/Sr High: Hamburger, Hot Dog or Cheddarwurst

## Fri., May 15:

- Lunch: Pizza

## Sun., May 17:

- 2pm HS Graduation @ Jr/Sr High



## Mon., May 18:

- Lunch: Chicken Patty
- 5pm V Baseball @ Bellevue
- 6pm School Board Meeting @ Stanwood

## Tues., May 19:

- Lunch: Elem: Chicken Alfredo; Jr/Sr High: Pasta Bar
- 7pm 5-8 Band/JH Choir Concert @ Jr/Sr High

## Wed., May 20:

- Lunch: Elem.: Orange Chicken; Jr/Sr High: Roast Beef or Meatball Sub

## Thurs., May 21:

- Lunch: Elem.: Hamburger; Jr/Sr High: TBD
- 5pm V Baseball @ Wapello



## Fri., May 22:

- Lunch: Sack Lunches
- Last Day of School-1:25 Dismissal

## Tues., May 26:

- 5pm V Softball vs Lisbon
- 6:30pm V Softball vs Lisbon
- 5pm V Baseball vs Lisbon
- 7pm V Baseball vs Lisbon

## Wed., May 27:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs Easton Valley
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs Easton Valley
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs Easton Valley

## Thurs., May 28:

- 5pm V Softball vs Central City
- 6:30pm V Softball vs Central City
- 5pm V Baseball vs Central City
- 7pm V Baseball vs Central City

## Fri., May 29:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball @ Bellevue
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball @ Bellevue
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball @ Bellevue



# Summer Calendar 2026

## Mon., June 1:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs Midland
- 10am 7th Grade Softball vs Midland
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs Midland
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs Midland
- 5pm V Baseball @ Easton Valley
- 7pm V Baseball @ Easton Valley



## Tues., June 2:

- 5pm V Softball vs Easton Valley

## Thurs., June 4:

- 5pm V Softball @ Springville
- 5pm V Baseball @ Springville
- 6:30pm V Softball @ Springville
- 7pm V Baseball @ Springville

## Mon., June 8:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs Cal-Wheat
- 10am 7th Grade Softball vs Cal-Wheat
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs Cal-Wheat
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs Cal-Wheat
- 5pm V Softball @ Starmont
- 5pm V Baseball @ Starmont
- 6:30pm V Softball @ Starmont
- 7pm V Baseball @ Starmont



## Tues., June 9:

- 5pm V Softball vs North Linn
- 5pm V Baseball vs North Linn
- 6:30pm V Softball vs North Linn
- 7pm V Baseball vs North Linn

## Wed., June 10:

- 5pm V Softball vs Starmont

## Thurs., June 11:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball @ Easton Valley
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball @ Easton Valley
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball @ Easton Valley
- 5pm V Baseball @ East Buchanan
- 5pm V Softball @ East Buchanan
- 6:30pm V Softball @ East Buchanan
- 7pm V Baseball @ East Buchanan

## Sat., June 13:

- Kannon Burrage Basketball Skills Camp

## Sun., June 14:

- Kannon Burrage Basketball Skills Camp

## Mon., June 15:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs Marquette Catholic
- 10am 7th Grade Softball vs Marquette Catholic
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs Marquette Catholic
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs Marquette Catholic
- 5pm V Softball vs Cal-Wheat
- 5pm V Baseball vs Cal-Wheat
- 6:30pm V Softball vs Cal-Wheat
- 7pm V Baseball vs Cal-Wheat

## Tues., June 16:

- 5pm V Softball @ Cal-Wheat

## Thurs., June 18:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball @ Midland
- 10am 7th Grade Softball @ Midland
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball @ Midland
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball @ Midland

## Mon., June 22:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs Lisbon
- 10am 7th Grade Softball vs Lisbon
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs Lisbon
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs Lisbon
- 5pm V Softball vs Prince of Peace
- 5pm V Baseball vs Prince of Peace
- 6:30pm V Softball vs Prince of Peace
- 7pm V Baseball vs Prince of Peace



## Tues., June 23:

- 4pm V Softball @ Prince of Peace

## Wed., June 24:

- 5pm V Softball @ Edgewood-Colesburg
- 5pm V Baseball @ Edgewood-Colesburg
- 6:30pm V Softball @ Edgewood-Colesburg
- 7pm V Baseball @ Edgewood-Colesburg

## Thurs., June 25:

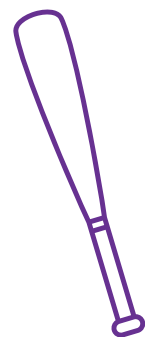
- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs Springville
- 10am 7th Grade Softball vs Springville
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs Springville
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs Springville

## Sat., June 26:

- 9am V Softball Tournament @ Dunkerton

## Mon., June 28:

- 10am 7th Grade Baseball vs North Linn
- 10am 7th Grade Softball vs North Linn
- 11:30am 8th Grade Baseball vs North Linn
- 11:30am 8th Grade Softball vs North Linn
- 5pm V Softball @ Midland
- 5pm V Baseball @ Midland
- 6:30pm V Softball @ Midland
- 7pm V Baseball @ Midland



## Wed., July 1:

- 5pm V Softball @ Marquette Catholic
- 6:30pm V Softball @ Marquette Catholic

## Summer Meal Program!



North Cedar will launch a free meal program this summer for families in our area. Learn more and sign up in advance at [north-cedar.org/SummerMealProgram](http://north-cedar.org/SummerMealProgram)

MAY 2026

# Navigate & Educate Newsletter



## 2026 Cedar County Extension SUMMER DAY CAMPS

Camp (grade completed)	#	Date & Time	Location
Sprout & Grow (preschool)	1	6/2 (9-11am)	FB Ag Center
Barnyard Buddies (preschool)	2	6/8 (9-11am)	FB Ag Center
Lego Ocean Explorers (K-3)	3	6/9 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Lego Ocean Explorers Engineering & Coding (4-6)	4	6/11 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Summer Discovery (K-6)	5	6/15-19 (9-11am)	FB Ag Center
Summer Discovery (K-6)	6	6/15-19 (1-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Sprout & Grow (K-3)	7	6/16 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Cache Me if You Can (4-6)	8	6/19 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Summer Discovery (K-6)	9	6/22-26 (9-11am)	FB Ag Center
Summer Discovery (K-6)	10	6/22-26 (1-3pm)	FB Ag Center
On Their Own & OK (4-6)	11	6/23 (9am-3pm)	Clarence Park
Barnyard Buddies (K-3)	12	6/26 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Outdoor Adventure (4-6)	13	7/15 (9am-3pm)	Coralville
Make & Create (K-3)	14	7/21 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center
Make & Create (4-6)	15	7/23 (9am-3pm)	FB Ag Center

**\$30 PER DAY CAMP, SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

Register & see full details online:  
<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/cedar/summer-camps>

Questions: [cedar4h@iastate.edu](mailto:cedar4h@iastate.edu)  
or 563.886.6157



THE FEES FOR SERVICE WILL BE USED TO OFFSET DIRECT EXPENSES AND TO SUPPORT THE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNTY EXTENSION PROGRAM.

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER. FOR THE FULL NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT OR ACCOMMODATION INQUIRIES, GO TO [WWW.EXTENSION.IASTATE.EDU/LEGAL](http://WWW.EXTENSION.IASTATE.EDU/LEGAL).

All families who register for camp are invited to our Wet & Wild Wednesday event 7/22 2-4pm at the fair grounds!

### Sleep in Heavenly Peace

### Free Twin Size Beds

To qualify as a bed recipient, you must be the legal guardian of the child or children ages 3-17 years old receiving the bed.

Please submit the online SHP Application Form  
<https://shpbeds.org/apply/>

### DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book-gifting program that mails free books to children from birth to age five. Specially selected, high-quality books are mailed each month to participating children at no cost to the family. Eligible children must reside in Cedar or Jones counties and be registered with the United States Postal System at the address where the books are mailed to.

Program managed by the Cedar/Jones ECI Director:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/>

Contact the Director at 319-551-3402 or [sherri.hunt@jonescountyiowa.gov](mailto:sherri.hunt@jonescountyiowa.gov)

**Questions?** Contact: [esmith@north-cedarstu.org](mailto: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**  
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