



The Knight Times

Oct. 2026 Issue

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North Cedar Community School District

From the Desk of Superintendent Dohmen

North Cedar Shares Preliminary Interior Concepts for Elementary Project

North Cedar Community School District is sharing an early look at the interior concepts being developed for the upcoming elementary project. Work to date has concentrated on areas that serve the entire school community, including the lunchroom and cafeteria, main office and reception area, hallways, collaboration areas and other shared spaces, along with the art and music rooms.

These spaces shape much of a student's daily experience. The current concepts explore how natural light, color, acoustics, furniture, storage, and movement through the building can support learning while creating a welcoming environment for students, staff, families, and visitors.

"It is exciting to see the project move from plans on paper to spaces we can begin to picture," said Superintendent Mark Dohmen. "The renderings give our community a clearer sense of the possibilities and help us ask better questions as the design develops."

Preliminary Concepts and Next Steps

The images in this update are preliminary renderings intended to support discussion. No final interior decisions have been made. Colors, finishes, furnishings, casework, layouts, and other details may change as the district and design team continue their review and consider feedback.

Stakeholder meetings will begin soon. Those conversations will help the district understand how the proposed spaces should function, feel, and support teaching and learning before final decisions are made.



The bidding process is scheduled to begin this winter. Between now and then, the team will continue refining the plans and resolving key design details before the project is released for contractor bids.

"Community feedback remains an important part of this process," Dohmen said. "We look forward to sharing additional updates as the design is refined and the project moves toward construction."

With appreciation,
Mark Dohmen
Superintendent

Message from Principal Carlson

Knights Enjoy a Successful Start to the Year

It's hard to believe we are already a month into the school year. Systems are in place, students have adjusted well to new routines and policies, and teachers are working hard to make sure all students have the opportunity to learn and succeed in their classrooms. **Here are a few things happening within the Jr./Sr. High this school year.**

MAP testing will take place the week of October 12. More information will be shared with families as we get closer to testing.

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up this week on Tuesday, October 6, and Thursday, October 8. We look forward to connecting with families, sharing student progress, and working together to support our students throughout the school year.

Homecoming Week was a huge success! Students enjoyed the activities, dress-up days, contests, parade, pep rally, and football game. It was great to see our students, staff, families, and community come together to celebrate being Knights.

We also launched a new challenge for high school students across all grade levels called the Knight's Cup. Ms. Curley has put a lot of time and effort into getting this competition started. The Knight's Cup is a year-long class competition that will recognize students for things such as attendance, participation in school events and activities, pep rally contests, and more. Students are excited about the competition, and we look forward to seeing how it develops throughout the year.

Our fall athletic teams have been working hard and representing North Cedar well. Volleyball has gotten off to a strong start, including a great performance at our home tournament on September 26, where **the varsity team went undefeated.**

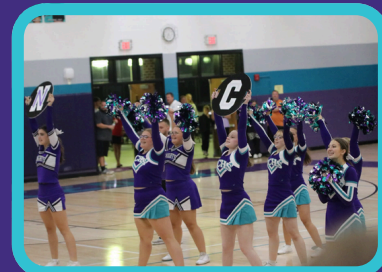
Cross country runners continue to work toward personal bests as the season progresses, while our football team continues to put in the work and improve each week. We are proud of the effort our student-athletes are showing and appreciate everyone who continues to support our Knights.

As always,

LET'S GO KNIGHTS!

Tanner Carlson 7-12

Principal



Can't make it to an upcoming game? Stream from home!

North Cedar games can be streamed from home on the schools hudl page. Go to **north-cedar.org/livestream** to watch live or catch replays.

Want the schedule or to buy tickets? That can be done on the school's Bound page.

gobound.com/ia/schools/northcedarstanwood



"9-25" Day! North Cedar Students Celebrate Dolly Parton

Recently, our elementary students celebrated Dolly Parton with a dance party and fun activities! Our awesome kitchen staff even made some fun Dolly Parton themed donuts for breakfast.

Why 9-25? September 25 (9/25) is a nod to Dolly's famous song 9 to 5. We're happy to celebrate her lifelong dedication to children and education.



Mrs. Jackson's 3rd Grade

Our year is off to a great start! In reading, we're learning about main idea, supporting details, and biographies, including Neil Armstrong and George Washington.

In math, we've started multiplication and are practicing equal groups, arrays, repeated addition, and skip counting through hands-on activities.

We also enjoyed Homecoming dress-up days and a visit from Teresa with Cedar County Extension's Ag in the Classroom program. We've celebrated three Purple Ticket parties and are looking forward to cooler fall weather!

Go Knights!

Recently, our high school football and volleyball teams visited our elementary students! These visits are a great way to start the day and give our younger Knights a chance to connect with and look up to our older Knights. We love seeing our students support one another and build those connections across our schools!



Library Update

Library Days

- Lowden Elementary: Wednesdays with Mrs. Sharon Rouse
- Mechanicsville Elementary: Thursdays with Mrs. Laura Schroeder

Coming This Fall

- A new monthly Elementary Reading Challenge
- Thank you to all who supported the Book Fair!

Watch for more details as these activities get closer. We're excited for another year of reading!



Elementary News Continued

Mrs. Weber's 1st Grade

Mrs. Weber's first graders are learning, playing, and growing together! Students have been reading with peers and having fun learning through math games. It's been a great start to the new year!



Mrs. Walker's Class

Peer to Peer has started at Mechanicsville Elementary! Students work to build friendships and find connections with others in their class. Peers spend about 30 minutes per week practicing friendship skills to help them succeed during social activities.

The Coffee Cart Celebrates its 4th Year!

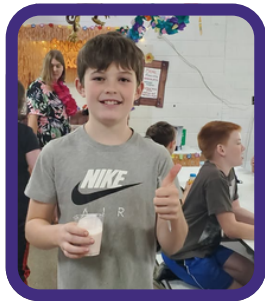
Mrs. Walker's classroom coffee shop is beginning its 4th year of service. This year, students added a new menu item, Lotus Drinks, for teachers.

For those who don't know, the Coffee Cart gives special education students a chance to build valuable life, social, money management and communication skills while serving tasty drinks to staff. Money raised helps fund field trips and supplies for the cart, making it a great learning experience for everyone!



Lowden's Snack Shack

Lowden's Snack Shack opened in September! Students had fun with some special shakes. It looks like the kids really liked them.



Boosters Walk-a-Thon

The annual Elementary Boosters Walk-a-Thon was pushed back for rain, but our elementary students are still excited to hit the track and walk for a good cause this week!

Want to Join the Boosters Fun?

The Boosters help organize events like the Walk-A-Thon, Daddy/Daughter Dance, and Mother/Son Events while supporting students and staff throughout the year.

Recent contributions include:

- Indoor recess toys for both elementary schools
- Staff meals and appreciation
- 6th-grade graduation
- Class field trips
- End-of-year celebrations

Interested in joining? Contact Principal Horman at jhorman@north-cedarstu.org. Help spread the word and get involved!



October 2026 Calendar

Thurs., Oct. 1:

- Lunch: Louisiana Chicken
- 4pm 7th Grade Volleyball @ Prince of Peace
- 4:30pm 7th Grade Football @ Maquoketa Valley
- 5pm 8th Grade Volleyball @ Prince of Peace
- 5:30pm JH Football @ Maquoketa Valley
- 6:15pm JV Volleyball @ Prince of Peace
- 7:30pm V Volleyball @ Prince of Peace



Fri., Oct. 2:

- Lunch: Pizza
- 7pm V Homecoming Football Game vs North Linn



Sat., Oct. 3:

- 7-10pm Homecoming Dance

Mon., Oct. 5:

- Lunch: Chicken Nuggets
- 4:15pm JH Girls Cross Country @ Bellevue
- 4:35pm JH Boys Cross Country @ Bellevue
- 5pm V Girls Cross Country @ Bellevue
- 5:30pm V Boys Cross Country @ Bellevue
- 6pm JV Football vs Edgewood-Colesburg



Tues., Oct. 6:

- Lunch: Sloppy Joes
- Early Dismissal-P/T Conferences
- 4pm 7th Grade Volleyball vs Marquette Catholic
- 5pm 8th Grade Volleyball vs Marquette Catholic
- 5:15pm Fresh/Soph Volleyball vs Marquette Catholic
- 6:15pm JV Volleyball vs Marquette Catholic
- 7:30pm V Volleyball vs Marquette Catholic

Wed., Oct. 7:

- Lunch: Chicken Drumstick

Thurs., Oct. 8:

- Lunch: Corn Dog or Cheddarwurst
- Early Dismissal-P/T Conferences

Fri., Oct. 9:

- No School
- 7pm V Football @ Maquoketa Valley HS



Mon., Oct. 12:

- Lunch: Orange Chicken
- 4:30pm JH Football @ Wyoming Fairgrounds
- 5pm V Volleyball @ Midland HS
- 5:30pm JV Football @ Wyoming Fairgrounds

Tues., Oct. 13:

- Lunch: Beef Nachos
- 4pm Cross Country @ Allison Field

Wed., Oct. 14:

- Lunch: Chicken Alfredo
- All-State Chorus Auditions @ Mt. Pleasant HS



Thurs., Oct. 15:

- Lunch: Popcorn Chicken
- 4pm V Volleyball @ Maquoketa Valley HS

Fri., Oct. 16:

- Lunch: Pizza
- 7pm V Football vs East Marshall

Mon., Oct. 19:

- No School-PD Day
- 6pm School Board Meeting

Tues., Oct. 20:

- Lunch: Chicken Strips
- Jr/Sr High Picture Retake Day
- 7pm HS Choir Concert



Wed., Oct. 21:

- Lunch: French Dip

Thurs., Oct. 22:

- Lunch: Chicken Fajitas

Fri., Oct. 23:

- Lunch: BBQ Rib or Fire Braised Chicken
- 6pm Haunted High School @ Stanwood



Sat., Oct. 24:

- 7am HS Band All-State Auditions

Mon., Oct. 26:

- Lunch: Crispito

Tues., Oct. 27:

- Lunch: Pork Chop or Salisbury Steak

Wed., Oct. 28:

- Lunch: Lasagna

Thurs., Oct. 29:

- Lunch: Chicken Sticks
- 7pm 5-8th Grade Band & Choir Concert

Fri., Oct. 30:

- Lunch: Mummy Dogs or Cheddarwurst



**STAY UP TO DATE
WITH NORTH
CEDAR EVENTS!**

Follow us on Facebook
- facebook.com/nccsd

North Cedar News

Coats for Kids

We're excited to share that the Tipton Rotary Club has generously offered to include North Cedar in their Coats for Kids Project again this year!



Their goal is simple: to make sure every child has a warm coat this winter. If your student is in need of a winter coat, please fill out the form (linked in the QR code) by Friday, October 9th.

Coats will be delivered to North Cedar in late October/early November and will be distributed to students at school. Thank you to the Tipton Rotary Club for helping keep our North Cedar students warm this winter.

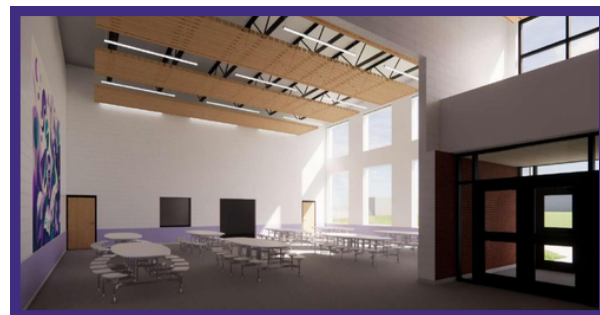
And a special thank you to Ms. Kait - NC Therapist and Ms. Emily - NC School Resource Navigator for organizing this event.

Board Highlight

The Board approved an engagement letter for sales tax revenue bonds, a financial services agreement for general obligation bonds, a dissemination agent agreement, and the services of general obligation bond counsel. These actions support the financing process and help secure funding for the new construction project at Lowden Elementary and the Jr. Sr. High School.

The North Cedar Board also received a brief update on the upcoming elementary project. Preliminary interior renderings currently focus on the lunchroom, main office, hallways, shared spaces, and the art and music rooms and are in this month's newsletter. Stakeholder feedback will continue before final decisions are made, with bidding expected to begin this winter.

The Board gratefully accepted donations to Mechanicsville Student Productions from Marissa Jackson in the amount of \$100 and the Presbyterian Woman's Organization in the amount of \$110.



Thank you for supporting our students and their creative opportunities!



The Encore Club is looking for volunteers to help staff the concession stand at North Cedar home events! Every shift helps support band, choir, drama, art, and speech programs.

High school students can also earn Silver Cord hours by volunteering!

Thank you for supporting the Fine Arts at
North Cedar!

See volunteer opportunities at

north-cedar.org/encore-club





NEWSLETTER

NAVIGATE &
EDUCATE

October 2026

LIHEAP

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program year begins October 1, 2026 for anyone 60 or older and/or disabled in the household. Everyone else may apply beginning November 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027

APPLICATIONS OPEN

October 1st: Limited Clients - Households with someone 60+, living with a disability, have received a disconnection notice, have had power turned off, or have a furnace not working properly may apply.

(Online Applications do not begin until November 1st)

November 1st: General Public - Applications open to the General Public, and are open through April 30th. Once an application is submitted with all required documents provided, our Community Services Department will process applications in 6 to 8 weeks. You will have protection from disconnection once your full application is submitted.

APPLY: caeiowa.org

Questions? Contact Ms. Emily esmith@north-cedarstu.org

Problem Gambling Services

Every year, about 14% of adult Iowans experience a problem related to their gambling.

Problem gambling has been described as one of the most deniable, most hidden addictions; there are often no obvious outward signs. Despite this cloud of secrecy, its devastation is far reaching.

These warning signs may signal that you or someone you love has developed a problem with gambling. If any of these signs sound familiar, reach out for free, confidential support.

- Constantly thinking about gambling (reliving past gambling experiences, planning the next venture, thinking of ways to get gambling money, etc.)
- Being secretive about gambling habits and defensive when confronted
- Lying to family and others about the extent of gambling
- Increasing bet amounts to achieve the desired excitement ("high")
- Trying unsuccessfully to control, cut back or stop gambling
- Feeling restless or irritable when not gambling
- Gambling to escape problems
- Chasing losses with more gambling
- Committing crimes to finance gambling
- Jeopardizing or losing relationships, jobs, education or career opportunities because of gambling
- Relying on others to relieve a desperate financial situation caused by gambling

If you or a loved one are having a problem with gambling, reach out to **1-800-BETS OFF** from Your Life Iowa for free, confidential support.

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

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