The Knight Times

Nov. 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

New renderings offer a look at North Cedar school concepts
North Cedar Community School District is sharing new architectural concepts from the Oct. 22 design review for school improvement projects approved by voters in November 2025. The renderings show a selection of possible interior treatments being developed for Lowden Elementary and the Jr./Sr. High School.

At Lowden, the plan includes a two-story addition to replace a section of the building that is about 75 years old, with classrooms, offices, a cafeteria, kitchen and student-support spaces. At the Jr./Sr. High School, the activities addition is being planned for athletics and school performances. The current plan includes a gymnasium with about 500 fixed spectator seats and room for approximately 300 additional chairs, plus a stage roughly 30 by 100 feet, fly space and a green room for performers and backstage preparation. The gym layout also includes a high school court, two middle school cross courts, locker rooms and restrooms.

Voters authorized up to $18.9 million in general obligation bonds for the projects. The district's financing plan pairs bond proceeds with the SAVE extension and is designed to complete the work without increasing the district's property-tax rate.

Please remember that these pictures are concepts, **not final construction documents.** Layouts, materials and other details are still being refined, and final plans and costs will depend on the completed design and bidding process. North Cedar will share additional updates as the projects advance.



High school gymnasium concept - Option 2



Lowden cafeteria concept - Option E

Thank you to our North Cedar community for supporting these school improvement projects and investing in the future of our students. Your support helps create learning spaces that will serve students, staff and families for years to come. We appreciate the trust you've placed in our district and look forward to sharing updates as this work moves forward!

More renderings can be found on the 6th page of this newsletter.

With appreciation,
Mark Dohmen
Superintendent

Message from Principal Carlson

Big Wins, Bright Talents and Knight Pride

Our 7-12 students have been busy wrapping up fall activities, preparing for concerts and performances, and completing fall MAP testing. There has been plenty to celebrate across our school!

Fall MAP Testing
During the week of October 12, students in grades 7-11 completed their fall MAP assessments. Teachers reviewed the results during professional development on October 19 to identify student strengths, areas for growth, and opportunities to adjust instruction to better support learning.

Celebrating Our Fall Athletes
As our fall sports seasons wrap up, we have much to be proud of. We thank our four senior football players for their years of hard work and dedication. Our cross-country team competed at its state qualifying meet on October 22, and our volleyball team earned a home victory in the first round of regional play before finishing its season in the regional finals.

Volleyball also finished the regular season as Tri-Rivers Conference East Division Champions! Sophomore Caylee Jensen was named East Division Player of the Year, sophomore Bella Hamilton earned First Team All-Conference, seniors Brook Stillwagon and Caylee Curley earned Second Team All-Conference, and sophomore Arianna Robinson received honorable mention. Congratulations to our athletes and coaches on an outstanding season!

Beyond the accomplishments on the court and field, the support our students show one another has been wonderful to see. Their energy and encouragement reflect the strong culture we continue to build at North Cedar.

Fine Arts Highlights
Our Fine Arts Department brought back its annual Haunted House, giving students the chance to perform in both kid-friendly and scarier versions. The North Cedar Choir Concert on October 20 showcased our talented singers, while 10 students participated in Junior High Honor Band and several students auditioned for All-State Band and Choir.

On October 29, students in grades 5-8 joined together for a combined choir and band performance, providing a great opportunity for elementary and junior high students to collaborate.

We also congratulate Ella Walshire on earning a Division I rating at the State Solo Dance Competition.

Finally, we look forward to the Drama Department's musical, Bright Star' happening November 6-8 at the Jr./Sr. High school. Students have worked hard and I know they will perform well.

Looking Forward
As we head into winter sports and the rest of the school year, I look forward to seeing what our students accomplish next. Thank you to our staff, families, and community for continuing to support our Knights!

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











Elementary News!

Field Trip to Bloomsbury Farms!

North Cedar kindergarten students enjoyed a fun-filled trip to Bloomsbury Farms! The trip was a great opportunity for students to explore, learn, and make memories together outside the classroom.













Ms. Lovell's 6th Grade Class

Sixth grade has been having lots of fun lately!

From singing their favorite songs at a karaoke Purple Ticket Party to creating a goose for the Decorate a Pumpkin Contest, there has been plenty of creativity and excitement. And the best part? They won the pumpkin contest!

Students also put their guessing skills to the test by trying to identify their teachers from their baby pictures. It's been a great time making memories and enjoying activities together.

Mrs. Jackson's 3rd Grade Class

October has been full of learning and excitement in Mrs. Jackson's third grade classroom!

Students explored division through hands-on activities, practiced reading fluency, and kicked off the Knight Reads A Lot reading challenge.

They also enjoyed Ag in the Classroom, roller skating in PE, the Walk-A-Thon, a pumpkin decorating contest, and their annual Halloween parade and party. It's been a busy month full of learning and memorable experiences!









Library News

Our first month of the Book It Reading Challenge is underway! Please help your child keep their reading log updated and return it at the end of each month. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your school librarians. Be sure to watch for pictures from our first celebration!





Literacy Learning in Mrs. Brissette's Preschool Class

Our preschoolers had a great time practicing letter recognition with a spooky spider-themed bingo game! Students matched uppercase and lowercase letters, added spider legs for each correct match and earned a prize when their spider had all eight legs. A fun way to build literacy skills!

Elementary News Continued

Mrs. Lahmon's 4th Grade Class

Mrs. Lahmon's 4th grade class has been enjoying their days with indoor and outdoor recess and fresh fruit and veggie snacks from the Nutrition Department! They also enjoyed a special visit from the NC volleyball team, who took time to answer students' questions and connect with the class.







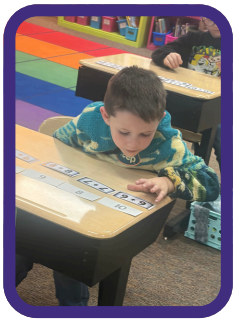

Kindergarteners Receive Class of 2039 Shirts

A big thank you to American Trust and Savings Bank for donating Class of 2039 shirts to our kindergarteners! We're excited to see this special group grow and look forward to all the memories and milestones ahead.

Mrs. Weber's 1st Grade Class

Mrs. Weber's first graders enjoyed a special class celebration, choosing to eat lunch together in their classroom! It was a great way to celebrate as a class and enjoy some time together.

In math, students are continuing to build their skills by practicing doubles facts and strengthening their number sense.




Preschoolers Practice Math Skills with "Number Hunt"

North Cedar preschoolers went on a "Number Hunt," searching the room for 10-frames, identifying numbers and tracing them on their recording sheets. We love seeing them build their math skills through hands-on learning!

Mrs. Elloren's Art Class

Preschool and kindergarten artists had fun exploring color mixing through balloon painting! They discovered how mixing colors creates new colors while expressing their creativity through hands-on art.

Photo Gallery







November 2026 Calendar

Mon., Nov. 2:
- Lunch: Chicken Patty

Tues., Nov. 3:
- Lunch: Beef Walking Taco

Wed., Nov. 4:
- Lunch: Jr/Sr High & Mcville: Breaded Cheese Ravioli; Lowden: Roasted Turkey



Thurs., Nov. 5:
- Lunch: Pizza
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball @ Midland
- 4:30pm Jr High Boys Wrestling @ Maquoketa Valley
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball @ Midland

Fri., Nov. 6:
- Lunch: Hamburger
- 7pm Fall Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater



Sat., Nov. 7:
- 7pm Fall Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater

Sun., Nov. 8:
- 1pm Fall Musical @ Debbie Harms Theater

Mon., Nov. 9:
- Lunch: Orange Chicken
- 4pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Drexler MS
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball vs Cal-Wheat
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball vs Cal-Wheat



Tues., Nov. 10:
- Lunch:Jr/Sr High: Homemade Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup; McVille: Roasted Turkey; Lowden: Sloppy Joe
- 4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Clarence

Wed., Nov. 11:
- Lunch: Chicken Alfredo



Thurs., Nov. 12:
- Lunch: Jr/Sr High: Roasted Turkey; McVille & Lowden: Homemade Chili & Chicken Noodle Soup
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball vs Prince of Peace
- 4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Springville HS
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball vs Prince of Peace
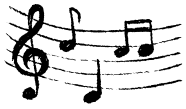
Fri., Nov. 13:
- Hot Dog, Corn Dog or Cheddarwurst



Mon., Nov. 16:
- No School–PD Day
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball @ Easton Valley
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball @ Easton Valley
- 6pm School Board Meeting

Tues., Nov. 17:
- Lunch: Chicken Nuggets
- 4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Maquoketa Valley

Wed., Nov. 18:
- Lunch: Hot Ham & Cheese

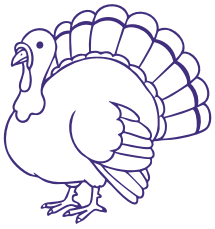


Thurs., Nov. 19:
- Lunch: Beef Walking Nachos
- 7am HS Band All-State Festival @ Ames HS
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball vs Marquette Catholic
- 4:30pm JH Boys Wrestling @ Midland HS
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball vs Marquette Catholic

Fri., Nov. 20:
- Lunch: BBQ Rib & BBQ Chicken
- Honor Squad Performances @ UNI

Mon., Nov. 23:
- Lunch: Jr/Sr High: Chicken Fajitas; Lowden & McVille: Mac & Cheese
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball vs Midland
- 4:30pm V Girls Wrestling @ Columbus HS
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball vs Midland

Tues., Nov. 24:
- Lunch: Chicken Strips
- 3:30pm V Girls Wrestling @ Midland



Wed., Nov. 25 - Fri., Nov. 27:
- No School–Thanksgiving Break

Mon., Nov. 30:
- Lunch: Crispito
- 4pm 7th Grade Girls Basketball @ Cal-Wheat
- 5pm 8th Grade Girls Basketball @ Cal-Wheat



STAY UP TO DATE WITH NORTH CEDAR EVENTS!

Follow us on Facebook - facebook.com/nccsd

North Cedar News

A Closer Look at Proposed Spaces

These additional views show concepts for student gathering, collaboration and hands-on learning areas at Lowden Elementary. They represent selected views from a larger set of options presented during design review.

North Cedar continues to move forward thanks to the support and commitment of its community. These improvements are an investment in our schools and the generations of students who will learn here. We are grateful to everyone who has helped make these projects possible and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have across the district!



Main stair and shared gathering area concept



Upper-level collaboration concept - Option D



Art room concept



Standard classroom concept

Board Highlight

Strong Schools, Strong Community

The North Cedar School Board will attend the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) Convention later this November. The convention gives board members an opportunity to learn from school leaders across the state, attend professional development sessions and bring new ideas back to North Cedar. Continued learning helps the Board make informed decisions and best serve students, staff and families.

The Board would also like to thank the North Cedar community for the tremendous support shown throughout the district. With so many recent successes in our classrooms, activities and athletic programs, there is plenty to celebrate!

"We have been so proud of what our students and staff have accomplished, and the community support has been incredible," said Superintendent Dohmen. "We were blown away by the number of North Cedar students and fans who filled the stands at Vinton-Shellsburg for the Regional Volleyball Final. It was great to see our community come together to support our student-athletes."

A special **thank you** goes to the North Cedar Athletic Boosters for helping purchase tickets for **83 students to attend the game and cheer on their classmates.** The Board appreciates everyone who continues to show up, get involved and take pride in North Cedar!



November

Navigate & Educate

Monthly Newsletter



Child Mind Institute

The Child Mind Institute is a global nonprofit working to transform children's mental health. Empowering children, families and educators everywhere.
We believe that knowledge empowers families and communities to promote kids' mental health. That means supporting children when and where they need it most. Whether we are sharing evidence-based information in our Family Resource Center or training educators and mental health professionals, we bring life-changing care within reach.
Visit: childmind.org



IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering

Do you drink private well water in Cedar County?

Iowa INSIGHT can test your well water for arsenic and other trace metal contaminants.

This testing program is part of a University of Iowa research initiative focused on understanding environmental risks and exposures, supporting prevention strategies, and sharing results with local county public health officials.

Apply for a Free Test Kit

Learn More About the Program

Questions?

Contact Breanna Shea, Program Manager, at (319) 384-1729.

Offered through Iowa INSIGHT, a University of Iowa research initiative.

LSI Parents as Teachers Program

Become the best teacher for your child. Receive personal home visits from an LSI Parent Educator, and learn about your child's development from other families in your community.
Eligibility. This program serves parents from pregnancy up until their child is 5 years old This program is for families experiencing barriers in raising a healthy family. Families must reside in Cedar County.
Contact Melissa Tucker at 563.288.4171

NAMI Family Support Groups

These groups are open to family members, caregivers, and loved ones supporting an adult living with a mental health condition
Quad Cities: 3rd Thursday evening of each month (60 minutes)
Muscatine: 1st Thursday evening of each month (60 minutes)
Other support groups available
Visit: namigmv.org/family-support

Questions? Contact MS. Emily 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
102 East North St.
P.O. Box 247
Stanwood, IA 52337