

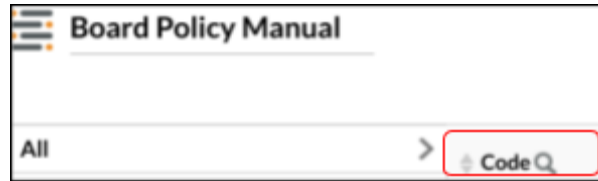
**Johnson STEAM Academy**  
STUDENT HANDBOOK  
2025-2026

Updated: 6/2025

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**NOTE: All references to Board Policies, Regulations, and Procedures can be found on the following website:**

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCSD-BoardPolicyManual>



**You can search for a specific policy number by clicking the magnifying glass on the Board Policy Manual home page and typing in the policy number.**

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## Introduction

For the 2025-2026 school year, the handbook can be found online through the CRCSD school websites. Students and parents are encouraged to review the handbook and its contents.

## Definitions

***References: School Board Policy 0604 & Regulation 0604.01-R(1)***

In this handbook, the word "parent" also means "guardian" unless otherwise stated. An administrator's title, such as superintendent or principal, also means that individual's designee unless otherwise stated. The term "school grounds" includes the school district facilities, school district property (including school provided electronic devices), property within the jurisdiction of the school district or school district premises, school-owned or school-operated buses or vehicles and chartered buses. This would also include when learning is provided in a virtual environment. The term "school facilities" includes school district buildings. The term "school activities" means all school activities in which students are involved whether they are school-sponsored or school-approved, whether they are an event or an activity, or whether they are held on or off school grounds.

## Jurisdictional Statement

This handbook is an extension of board policy and is a reflection of the goals and objectives of the board. Every effort has been made to summarize school policies and regulations to provide a basic understanding of the district's expectations for students attending school. More detailed regulations can be found in the School Board Policy manuals located online through the CRCSD website.

The Board believes inappropriate student conduct causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, and/or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school premises.

Appropriate classroom behavior allows teachers to communicate more effectively with students.

Students will conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age & maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others while on District property or on property within the jurisdiction of the District; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management, and welfare of the District.

Students who fail to abide by the District's policies, regulations, and procedures and the applicable student handbook will be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with the education program; conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the District or school activity; conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to participate in or obtain their education; conduct that is violent or destructive; or conduct which interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere.

The District may impose a range of disciplinary measures for acts of misconduct. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, suspension from school, suspension from participation in extracurricular activities, and expulsion. The discipline imposed will be based upon the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident and the student's record. Consequences for the misconduct will be fair and developmentally appropriate in light of the circumstances. The imposition of discipline will be within the discretion of the individual responsible for imposing the discipline. In instances where there has been a violation of the law, as well as school rules, appropriate law enforcement officials will be contacted and may become involved in the District's administration of discipline. The District reserves the right to seek restitution from the parents/guardians of a student or the student for damage caused by the student.

Teachers and/or others who are in charge of a classroom must be the administrators of classroom discipline. Therefore, minor disciplinary offenses are the responsibility and obligation of the classroom teacher. When a situation arises wherein the educational process is substantially interfered with, it then becomes the responsibility of the administration to assist in the disposition of the discipline problem.

Removal from the classroom means a student is sent to the building principal's office. It is within the discretion of the person in charge of the classroom to remove the student.

Detention means the student's presence is required during non-school hours for disciplinary purposes. The student can be required to appear prior to the beginning of the school day, after school has been dismissed for the day, or on a non-school day. Whether a student will serve detention, and the length of the detention, is within the discretion of the licensed employee or the building principal, disciplining the student.

Suspension means either an in-school suspension, an out-of-school suspension, a restriction from activities or loss of eligibility. As in-school suspension means the student will attend school but will be temporarily isolated from one or more classes while under supervision. An out-of-school suspension means the student is removed from the school environment, which includes school classes and activities. A restriction from school activities means a student will attend school and classes and practice but will not participate in school activities.

Expulsion means an action by the Board to remove a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, for a period of time set by the Board.

Following the suspension of a special education student, an informal evaluation of the student's placement will take place. The individual Education Program (IEP) is evaluated to determine whether it needs to be changed or modified in response to the behavior that led to the suspension. If a special education student's suspension, either in or out of school, equals ten days on a cumulative basis, a staffing team will meet to determine whether the IEP is appropriate.

### **Welcome to Johnson STEAM Academy (JSA)!**

We are so happy that you are a part of our learning community. At Johnson, we believe in nurturing *curious minds, compassionate hearts, and courageous learners*. Johnson is a special kind of school where learning comes to life. Here, children are valued as capable learners and celebrated for their unique gifts—no matter what they are. We empower students to take ownership of their learning by offering structured choices, providing innovative experiences, and ensuring they have a voice in their education.

Johnson STEAM Academy Magnet School opened its doors in the fall of 2015. As a Magnet School, our theme is **STEAM—Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics—with great emphasis on the Arts** as a vital part of our students' learning experience. While JSA remains a neighborhood school, we also welcome students from outside our attendance area through a lottery process, offering families the opportunity to choose a learning environment that fits their child's passions and needs.

At JSA, our mission is to guide all learners to discover their passions through innovative learning experiences. We teach STEAM content in an integrated, hands-on, project-based way to spark engagement, improve daily attendance, and increase academic growth. Together, we foster *curious minds, compassionate hearts, and courageous learners*—ensuring our students are ready to thrive in school and beyond.

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## ABSENCES AND ATTENDANCE

***References: School Board Policy 0602 & Procedure 0602-Pr(1)***

**Gianna Schwarten:** [gschwarten@crschools.us](mailto:gschwarten@crschools.us)

**Phone:** 319-558-2174 Option 1

Regular attendance, as well as being on time to school and class, is essential for students to obtain the maximum benefit from school and take full advantage of educational opportunities provided by the district. Students and guardians are required to follow District and school rules and procedures regarding attendance as outlined in Board policy 602 and to align with the State of Iowa's Compulsory Education Law Chapter 299.

The Cedar Rapids Community School District believes that excessive student absenteeism and tardiness is an early warning sign of poor academic achievement and puts students at risk of dropping out of school. An absence is any time a student does not access instruction (physically or remotely as designated). Absences will be recorded as part of a student's attendance record and tracked through Infinite Campus.

### **Absences:**

It is the responsibility of the guardian to notify the student's attendance center as soon as the guardian knows the student will not be attending school. This can be done via phone call or email listed above 24 hours a day. If the school is not notified of the absence, it will be counted as unexcused. The guardian may rectify this by giving verbal or email notice within two days of the reason for the absence or provide necessary documentation. The administrator reserves the right to verify an absence as excused or unexcused and may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence. Student absences approved by the administrator are excused absences. Excused absences may include, but are not limited to:

- Illness - as long as an attendance contract is not in place
- Medically documented chronic or extended illness, hospitalization, or doctor's care, or school nurse's approval
- Medical or dental care
- Death or serious illness in the family
- Religious holidays requiring absences from school
- Court appearances or other legal proceedings beyond the control of the family
- Class time missed because of attendance at a school-sponsored trip or activity
- Other verified emergency as approved by the building administrator
- Other reasons which can be justified from an educational standpoint and which are approved by the building administrator

### **Arriving Late and Leaving Early:**

Arriving at school or class after the official start time constitutes tardy. If a student is consistently arriving late or leaving early and it is documented, the information will be considered at the District and County Attorney levels. Time missed from instruction due to tardiness or leaving early will count towards the cumulative hours a student is absent. A student is considered tardy if:

Elementary School - Enters the school any time between 8:50 and 9:00. Afternoon Pre-K is tardy from entry between 12:50 and 1:00.

If a student enters the building for the day after these tardy time frames, the school designee will record their entry time into Infinite Campus using the Check In/Check Out feature in which this time will count towards unexcused absences.

Students who are absent from school for any reason are expected to make arrangements with appropriate school staff to recover the missed learning. Students can earn full or partial credit for the missed school work, as agreed upon by the student and school.

Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school at least one-half day on the day of the activity unless permission has been given by the administrator for the student to be absent.

### **Responding to Excessive Absenteeism:**

***Reference: School Board Procedure 0602-Pr(1)***

School staff will follow District procedures to address attendance concerns. Guardians and students are expected to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Truancy is the act of being absent without an excuse as defined by Board policy 602 which occurs through the failure to regularly attend school hours as established by the Board in the school calendar.

When a student's non-attendance or tardiness interferes with learning, the building MTSS team may intervene to identify barriers and offer additional support to improve student attendance. The team may communicate with the student and the student's guardians to determine the reason(s) for the excessive absences, ensure the student and guardians are aware of the adverse consequences of poor attendance, and jointly develop a plan for improving the student's school attendance. The team may recommend community resources and/or collaborate with community agencies and organizations to address the needs of the student and family if applicable.

### **ANIMALS AT SCHOOL**

***Reference: School Board Policy 0904***

Permission from the principal must be given before any person may bring an animal to school. When permission is given, pets and other animals must be on a leash or in a cage and must be accompanied by an adult who can leave with the animal as soon as the "sharing" time ends.

For safety and courtesy reasons, everyone is respectfully asked not to bring animals to school when escorting their students to and from school or when attending outdoor school events.

## BUILDING ARRIVAL PROCEDURE

All students will enter the building through the front entrance of the building. It is important that students who are eating breakfast at school will enter the building at 8:25 am and all other students at 8:40 am each morning.

When dropping car riders off please ensure students are dropped off on the school side of the street to help diminish the risk of students crossing traffic during a busy time. We have had several near misses that we would like to not happen any longer.

## BIKE SAFETY

Parents are asked to assume responsibility for their student's bike safety readiness and bike maintenance. All bike riders should wear a helmet. Riders are expected to follow the bike safety and courtesy rules listed below:

- Walk bikes at all times anywhere on school grounds.
  - Walking means both feet on the ground, not straddling a bike, not coasting scooter-style.
- Bicyclists must obey all traffic signs and yield to pedestrians.
- Bike riders should park, lock, and leave their bike at the rack in front of the main building.

Students must follow the bike safety rules listed above. Consequences for not following these may include loss of bike riding privileges, having the bicycle held at school for a parent to pick up, meeting with the principal and parents to review bike safety expectations, or meeting after school for one or more days to review bike safety lessons with staff or the principal.

Skateboards, rollerblades, scooters, heelies are not permitted on school grounds.

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0610.01-R(1)***

- As a part of our District Wellness Policy, students will celebrate their birthdays in a variety of ways. **Students are not allowed to bring individual birthday snacks.**
- We ask that you do not send balloons or flowers to the school for your child's birthday. If they are received, they will remain in the main office for students or families to pick up after school.

## BUILDING USE

***References: School Board Policy 0805 & Regulations 0805.01-R(1) to 0806.01-R(1)***

Youth organizations and clubs must make a request for school usage. This can be requested through the district use form and this is located on the district website <https://crschools.us/departments/quick-links/school-facilities-use/>. The requests must be completed and approved prior to the first usage.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

***References: School Board Policy 0901 & Regulations 0901.01-R(1) to 0901.04-R(1)***

Some students are transported by school bus. You will receive information about routes, pick up, drop off times and student conduct. **It is the responsibility of the family to provide supervision at bus stops before and after school.**

All transportation questions or concerns should be directed to the transportation office at [319-558-2318](tel:319-558-2318).

## CALENDAR

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.01-R(1)***

### DISTRICT CALENDARS

The CRCSD District Calendar for K-12 and Preschool can be found on our district website. <https://crschools.us/calendars/>

### MAKE UP DAYS

When school days are canceled due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, school days may need to be made up. Potential make-up days are indicated on our school calendar. Parents are encouraged to take these potential days into consideration when planning early summer vacations to eliminate any conflict in schedules.

## CEDAR RAPIDS SCHOOL BOARD

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0202.06-R(1)***

Regular meetings of the Board of Education are generally held on Mondays during each month in the BoardRoom at the Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd. NW. The public is welcome to attend. Meetings are live streamed on YouTube at EngageCR and are also videotaped and uploaded to the district website. More information can be found on the district website. [www.crschools.us](http://www.crschools.us)

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

***Reference: School Board Procedure 0602.04-Pr(2)***

Please complete the annual verification each year and update your address. If you move during the school year, please notify the office of your new address so it can be updated in Infinite Campus. If you move out of your resident school attendance area and wish to remain at your current school, please complete a permit form found on the district website, <https://crschools.us/students-and-families/enroll-register/in-district-permit/>

## CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Factors such as achievement level, gender, and social maturity are taken into consideration when assigning students to classrooms for the coming year. Every effort is made to form heterogeneous groups that will enable students to work together with the teacher in academics as well as in social pursuits. Students with special needs (learning, behavior, etc.) will be given as much special consideration as possible. The staff, counselor, and principal should be aware of these specific needs due to their contact with the student. Parental input regarding circumstances of which the staff is not aware is appropriate. **This input needs to be in writing and submitted to the Principal by the second Friday in May.** The principal needs to be an advocate for all children and should assure all an equal opportunity during their elementary years.

Parents may not select their children's teachers, but are free to give input into how their child learns best. Assignments for each school year will be available in August.

## ACCELERATION AND RETENTION PROCESS

Please contact the building administrator regarding further information on the processes used for acceleration and/or retention.

## CLOTHING/APPEARANCE

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0603.01-R(1)***

The District believes inappropriate student appearance causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors. Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirements of a good learning environment. The standards will be those generally acceptable to the community as appropriate in a school setting. The District expects students to be clean and well-groomed and wear clothes in good repair and appropriate for the time, place, and occasion. Clothing or other apparel promoting products illegal for use by minors and clothing displaying content inappropriate for school-aged children, profanity, weapons, or reference to prohibited

conduct are not allowed. While the primary responsibility for appearance lies with students and their parents/guardians, appearance disruptive to the education program will not be tolerated. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or choice of clothing disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications or be subject to disciplinary action. The wearing of gang-related attire or insignia by students is prohibited.

## **GYM SHOES**

Children are to wear rubber soled shoes, like tennis shoes, to PE class. Proper footwear will ensure safety and enhance performance. We discourage flip-flop type shoes for PE as well as recess.

## **COMMUNICATING DURING THE DAY**

Teachers will contact parents at home or work during the school day if there is an immediate need to discuss a problem involving their child. Teachers may communicate in writing or electronically at other times. Parent calls to teachers should be made from 8:10-8:35 AM, during specials, or after school.

Remember that teachers are teaching and if it is an emergency or a change in dismissal plans for your child(ren) please contact the main office by 3:00pm at 319-558-2174

All communication between families and students during the school day should be done through school personnel. Texting, emailing, messaging or phone calls during the school day to student devices or personal devices causes a disruption to the learning environment. These communications should be handled through the main office.

## **CRISIS RESPONSE**

***Reference: School Board Policy 0613***

Comprehensive plans have been developed and implemented for emergency situations if and when there is a need to move students from our building or if a crisis occurs while students are away from our building. In the event that **Johnson** is declared unsafe to re-enter, we will be busing students to a designated reunification center . Parents will be directed to go to that center's location through local media where staff will assist in reuniting students with their parents. No student(s) will be released to an adult other than their parent(s)/guardian without permission. Bus routes will be used to return students to school or to their home whichever is deemed appropriate. **Parents and Guardians will receive information Fall 2025 on how to sign up for school emergency notifications through CrisisGo. Signing up for these notifications will allow you to stay informed in the event of school emergencies.**

## CROSSING GUARD

The school is working to have a crossing guard stationed at 19th St between Park & Washington Ave. and Bever Ave. & 16th St., to help students safely cross that intersection. The hours the crossing guard is on duty are from 8:15-8:50 and 3:45-4:15. On Early Dismissal Days the guards are on duty from 2:20-2:45. If you would like to volunteer or apply for the crossing guard positions please look at the district website or reach out to the building at 319-558-2174.

## DAYCARE/BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

All CRCSD elementary schools and middle schools will have before and after-school programming through Champions. If you have any questions, please contact Champions at 800-246-2154 or at [discoverchampions.com](http://discoverchampions.com)

## DISMISSAL FROM SCHOOL

### DISMISSAL DURING THE DAY

It is necessary for parents to send a note, send an email, or make a telephone call to the main office requesting for students to be dismissed during the school day.

Remember that teachers are teaching and if it is an emergency or a change in dismissal plans for your child(ren) please contact the main office by 3:00pm at [319-558-2174](tel:319-558-2174).

When a student is to leave school early, he/she is to check out through the office. Caretakers are asked to come to the office to check-out their student. Leaving early to attend outside classes or lessons is strongly discouraged.

Students who become ill at school will be dismissed through the office after parents, guardians, or emergency contacts have been contacted and appropriate arrangements are made.

### SCHOOL DELAY OR CLOSURE

When a decision is made to close schools for the day, delay school, or dismiss early because of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances, announcements will be made on local radio and television stations, district websites and social media platforms. In addition, district parents and staff are notified of delays and cancellations by school phone messenger. It is important that contact information is up-to-date in Infinite Campus and the household member has selected to receive notifications via email, phone, or text message.

### **BUILDING SPECIFIC END OF DAY DISMISSAL**

All Car Riders will be dismissed from the front of the building starting at **3:50** pm. Students will be escorted by staff, who will supervise until pickups are done. All Walkers will be dismissed from the Park Ave. doors beginning at **3:50** pm.. Bus riders will be dismissed through the playground exit doors at **3:50** pm.

### **DISTRICT VISION & MISSION**

*Reference: School Board Policy 0101*

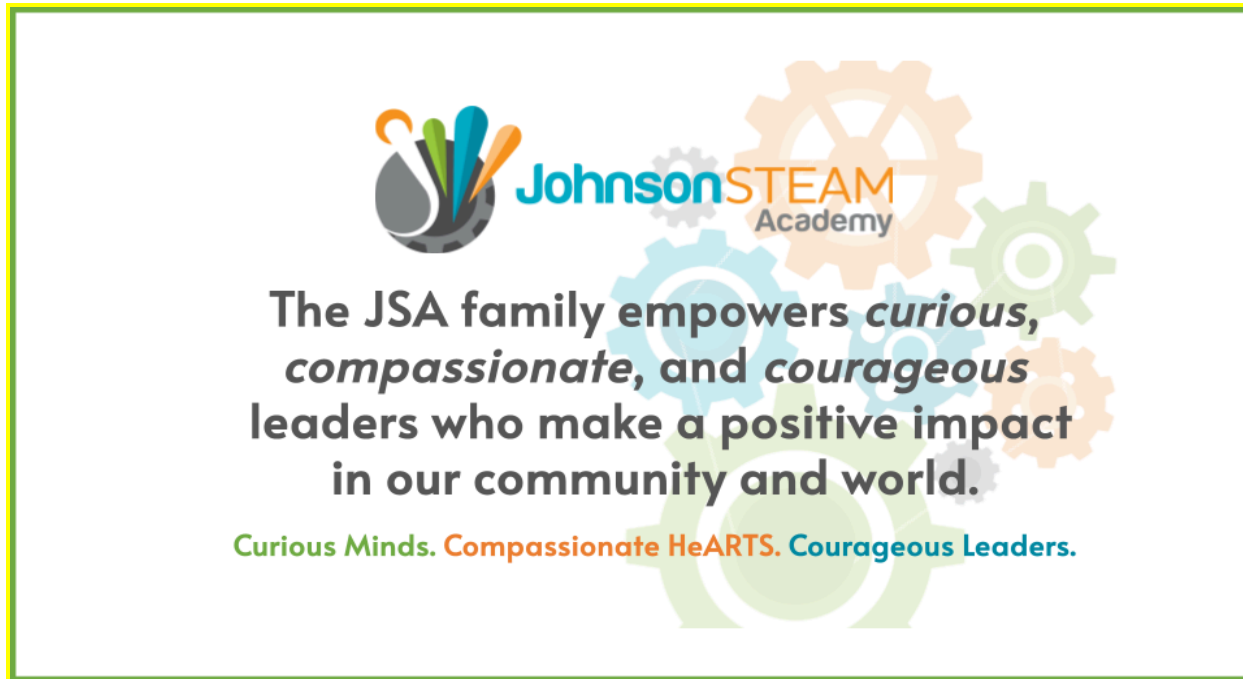
#### **VISION**

Every Learner, Future Ready

#### **MISSION**

Our mission is to ensure all learners experience a rigorous and personalized learning experience so they have a plan, a pathway, and a passion for their future.

#### **BUILDING MISSION**



## ELECTRONIC DEVICES

### PERSONAL DEVICES

#### CELL PHONE USAGE & OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES (iPads, iPods, Watches, etc.) - NEW POLICY

Families are expected to contact their child by calling the main office. Student cell phones and personal devices are to be turned off and kept in the student's bag during the school day. Should the cell phone or device ring/sound/alarm during the day and be a distraction, **it will be collected and kept in the office or teacher's desk for the student to collect before heading home. We will use progressive discipline if there are continued infractions with personal devices.** We ask that students keep their devices off and not use any of the features until they are off grounds. Recording and photography by students will not be permitted.

If a student wears a watch with texting/calling features, they will be expected to not use the device for communication between home and school during the school day.

Reminder, all of these devices are considered "personal belongings" and the students are responsible for the item. The school is not held responsible for loss or damage..

### SCHOOL ISSUED DEVICES

#### Student Devices

Each student at the elementary school level will have access to a device for the school year. Devices will be kept at school, except in the event of a school shutdown in which all students are required to participate in virtual learning. In that case, devices would be sent home.

The full, detailed Elementary Student Device Agreement can be found at this [link](https://crschools.b-cdn.net/app/uploads/2021/09/ES_Student_Device_Agreement_English.pdf).  
[https://crschools.b-cdn.net/app/uploads/2021/09/ES\\_Student\\_Device\\_Agreement\\_English.pdf](https://crschools.b-cdn.net/app/uploads/2021/09/ES_Student_Device_Agreement_English.pdf)

A summary can be found in this handbook.

#### Student Device Expectations:

- Student devices will be kept at school except in the event of a school shutdown where virtual learning is required or with the appropriate permission from school staff.
- Students will follow classroom expectations around care of devices, storage, and charging.
- Students will treat the device as if it is their own property, avoiding use that is conducive to damage or loss.
- Students will leave their device in its protective case unless given permission.
- Students will not allow anyone else to use their username / password.

- Adhere to CRCSD School's Student Device Use Policy at all times and in all locations. When in doubt about acceptable use, school staff, a teacher-librarian, building technical contact, or building administrator.

### How to Handle Problems

- Promptly report any problems to the building's help desk representative or by contacting the district technology office by email ([HelpDesk@crschools.us](mailto:HelpDesk@crschools.us)) or by phone, 319 558 2900
- Do not force anything (e.g., connections, popped-off keys, etc.) Seek help instead.
- When in doubt, ask for help

## **STUDENT DEVICE USE AND CONDUCT POLICY**

***References: School Board Regulations 0900.01-R(1) & 0900.02-R(1)***

The District requires students to learn to use computing devices, data networks, enterprise software systems, electronic mail, the Internet, and telecommunications tools and apply them in the appropriate ways to the performance of tasks associated with their positions and assignments.

Students shall only engage in appropriate, ethical, and legal utilization of the District's technology, network systems, and internet access. Student instruction on digital citizenship standards which includes safe, ethical, and responsible use of the Internet will be defined and taught within core curriculum. Student use of the District's technology, network systems, and internet access shall also comply with all District policies and regulations.

### **Discipline**

Any student who violates these rules will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the building's student code of conduct. Serious or repeated violations will result in the students' use of technology restricted and or revoked in addition to other possible disciplinary action.

### **Disclaimer**

CRCSD does not have control of the information on the Internet or incoming email. CRCSD will provide Internet content filtering both onsite and off. However, no filter is perfect. All filters have vulnerabilities that may be exploited by individuals who are actively and intently dedicated to breaching them.

If student devices are at home, It is strongly recommended that student use of all devices be monitored closely by parents to protect students from accessing inappropriate sites.

## EMERGENCY DRILLS

All schools conduct official emergency safety drills for fire and tornadoes a minimum of four times per school year. In addition, we practice a security school emergency drill twice a school year and two bus evacuation drills each year. These drills are registered with the Cedar Rapids Community School District and the Cedar Rapids Fire Department. If volunteers or visitors are in the building when emergency signals sound, they should respond to the warning by following the group they are with or by responding to special directions from the principal or a staff member. In the event of a building evacuation, staff and students will move to a relocation center identified by the District and local law enforcement. Local radio and television stations will announce when and where parents/guardians may be reunited with their children.

## FIELD TRIPS

***Reference: School Board Policy 0404***

Field trips are arranged to supplement and enhance the learning experiences of children. The online registration system includes permissions for students to attend all field trips. Families must complete this permission online in Infinite Campus before any student can go on a trip away from school premises. Based on school board policy, the school will not seek written permission for each field trip. Teachers will still notify parents about details each time a field trip is to occur. Volunteers are often needed on field trips. Volunteers must complete and be approved through the volunteer process. This may take more than one business day, so this should be completed in advance. Transportation on field trips will be by school bus, private vehicle, or city bus.

## FOOD SERVICES

***Reference: School Board Policy 0902***

We encourage all students to participate in school meals. A nutritious lunch and breakfast is available to all students. School meals offered reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and provide the energy and nutrients necessary to optimize learning.

Breakfast and lunch options are available in all of our schools. Menus are posted on the District website and available on the Nutrislice App. <https://cr.nutrislice.com/menu>. The Cedar Rapids community school district has 16 Elementary schools under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) that allows us to serve breakfast and lunch at no charge daily for the 25-26 school year. The schools are as follows:

Elementary schools: Cleveland, CRA (Cedar River Academy), Erskine, Grant, Grant Wood, Harrison at Madison, Hiawatha, Hoover, Johnson Steam Academy, Kenwood Leadership Academy, Nixon, Trailside, Van Buren, West Willow, and Wright.

For the 25-26 school year, the remaining elementary schools will require payment of meals. If you believe your student/students will qualify for a free/reduced meal benefit please fill out an application at [www.cedarrapids.familyportal.cloud](http://www.cedarrapids.familyportal.cloud). For the 25-26 school year the elementary meal prices will be as follows: breakfast \$2.45, lunch \$3.40, extra milks \$.60 and adult lunch \$4.85.

USDA requires families to complete the free/reduced application to receive additional benefits in the school district such as fee waivers, transportation, etc.

School meals include the following components; milk and/or water, fruit, vegetable, grain, and protein. If students choose to bring a meal from home, families are asked to send nutritious food items. Milk is available for purchase. Bringing food from outside restaurants to the school cafeteria is discouraged. Students are not allowed to have soda with any lunch eaten at school. Students are discouraged from sharing their foods or beverages with one another, given concerns about sanitation, allergies and health related issues. We view the cafeteria as an extension of the classroom, and expect students to follow common courtesies in the lunchroom.

Menus may change due to emergencies, late starts, snow days, and manufacturing shortages.

Dietary Restrictions: If your student requires special dietary considerations, we need a note from the doctor on file. We ask that you obtain a diet prescription form from Health Services or the Food and Nutrition Department to be completed by your doctor. Completed forms can be returned to the school office as soon as possible to determine if accommodations should be made.

Parents are welcome to join their student(s) for lunch. If a parent plans to eat school lunch, they are asked to notify the office by 9:00 a.m. on the day they will need the meal. Parent meals may be charged to the student account if sufficient funds are in the account. All adults, including parents, are charged the full adult fee.

## HEALTH SERVICES INFORMATION

***References: School Board Policy 605.3 & Regulation 0605.03-R(1)***

All schools have a health office staffed by a health secretary and access to a school nurse to provide health related services to students throughout the school day. Health office staff provide first aid for injuries, administer medication and assess complaints of illness. School nurses manage chronic health conditions, including potentially life threatening health conditions. To contact the school nurse or health secretary at your child's school refer to: <https://crschools.us/students-and-families/student-services/health-services/>

## STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Student Illness or Injury During the School Day

Students are sent to the health office if they are injured or appear ill. Health office staff will attend to the student's complaint. This may include providing first aid, asking the student questions about how he/she feels, taking a temperature, making observations, talking to the teacher, and contacting the school nurse. Students will be sent home for:

- A temperature of 100.4° F. or higher
- Active, illness related vomiting or diarrhea,

The parent/guardian will be called and the student will be sent home. Other symptoms that influence the decision to send the student home include general appearance and functioning in the classroom. After a period of observation a decision will be made to do one of the following:

- Notify the parent/guardian for symptoms of illness or injury of a serious nature as determined by the school nurse and/or health secretary. Not all student visits to the health office will result in parents/guardians being contacted.
- Allow the student to rest in the health office for a brief period then return to class.

Students are to be fever-free without fever reducing medication before returning to school. During times of high rates of illness, such as during influenza season, the length of time a student must remain home after fever/symptoms of illness may change as recommended by Linn County Public Health.

For more information regarding other health services policies/procedures visit:

<https://crschools.us/students-and-families/parent-notifications/>

## INTRAMURALS/AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES/ENRICHMENTS

During the school year we sponsor a number of extracurricular activities. Schedules for these activities will appear in the newsletter or a special letter.

## LEGAL NOTICES

All notices are available on the district website: <https://crschools.us/students-and-families/parent-notifications>

Parent Notifications

<https://crschools.us/students-and-families/parent-notifications/>

Here are the items you can find there

- Chapter 102-Child Abuse reporting
- Compulsory Education
- Truancy
- Conduct on School Premises
- Anti-Bullying/Harassment
- Sex offender Registry
- Search and Seizure
- Illegal items found in school or in Student possession
- Tobacco Free school environment
- Weapons
- Chapter 103 Seclusion & Restraint
- Building level Due process
- Suspension
- Cost of evaluation and treatment
- Official school publications
- Student publications
- Safe and responsible student use of networked tech resources
- Student fee waiver
- Gifts to school personnel
- Reserved time for non-school student activities
- Video cameras on district properties & transportation
- Annual notice regarding student records
- Release of student directory information
- Rights under the protection of pupil rights amendment (PPRA)
- Open enrollment
- In district permits
- Home school Assistance program
- Asbestos notification

## Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to discriminate in educational programs and/or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, gender identity, socioeconomic status, national origin, religion, disability, age (except for permitting/prohibiting students to engage in certain activities) or genetic information and in employment opportunities on the basis of age, race, creed, color, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, disability or genetic information. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact Darius Ballard, Educational Leadership and Support Center, 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA, (319) 558-2000.

## LIBRARY

***Reference: School Board Policy 0402***

The library supports the curriculum and enriches the children's learning experiences. The Teacher Librarian and Media Secretary assist students and teachers in locating and using the resources of the Library.

Materials are available to students, staff, and parents to be checked out or renewed. There are no fines for overdue materials; however, each child is expected to assume responsibility for returning materials on time.

Concerns with any materials, or any specific book must be made in writing. There is a form available from the librarian to be filled out by the concerned party. A District committee will then reconsider the questioned material.

## LOCKERS/COAT ROOMS FOR PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Students generally share lockers with another student. Items stored in lockers such as clothing, lunch boxes, school bags, etc. should be permanently marked with the student's first and last name. All personal belongings brought to school are the responsibility of the student.

The school is not responsible for stolen items. Students are discouraged from leaving valuables or personal items in their lockers. We request that students leave toys, balls, electronic devices, and other personal items at home. If it is necessary to bring valuables to school, they should be given to the teacher or office for safekeeping. Lockers cannot be monitored constantly and if items are missing or damaged, the school district will not be responsible for their replacement.

## LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found articles are placed in the wooden box on the main level across from the restrooms. Parents and children are urged to check the box for lost articles regularly. Please put your child's name on ALL personal items. Staff will make an effort to return lost items to their owner. Throughout the year messages will go out when the lost and found has outgrown the box for families to search the box and then items will be donated to Goodwill.

## MTSS (Multi-tiered Systems of Support)

**References: School Board Regulation 0604.02-R(1) & Procedure 0604.02-Pr(1)**

MTSS is a framework of best practices for schools to meet the needs of all students through opportunities to learn and experience success in academics and social-emotional-learning (SEL) skills. This system matches instruction to the needs of students while ensuring access and attainment of student growth and proficiency.

CRCSD aligns school improvement efforts with Iowa's MTSS framework. The following critical components guide the work at our school:

1. High quality and engaging curriculum and instruction for all students.
2. Screening for potential challenges three times per year.
3. Intervention provided for any students who need extra support in academics and/or SEL.
4. Monitor learning to ensure students make progress toward end-of-year expectations.
5. Carefully track what we do and how our efforts impact students.

A multi-tiered system of supports has three layers of support. Tier I, II, and III. Tier I supports are offered to ALL students and include our core curricula for academic and social-emotional learning. Every student receives Tier I support. Tier II supports are offered to students who need more than the core. Those supports come in the form of Check-in/Check-out with a mentor, small group skill building, explicit math and literacy intervention groups. These interventions typically last 4-6 weeks, meet 3-5x/week for 15-20 minutes per day.

Staff will collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Tier II interventions. If data indicates an intervention has been ineffective then the intervention will be adjusted or the student may be referred for Tier III support. Tier III supports are individualized for the student and typically last 6-8 weeks and occur 5x/week for 20-30 minutes each day. As with Tier II supports, staff will collect data to evaluate the effectiveness of the Tier III interventions. If a student continues to struggle either academically or behaviorally with Tier III supports, they may be referred for a Full and Individual Evaluation (FIE) by our Grant Wood Area Education consultants.

Parents are a vital part of the MTSS support plan. Student progress data will be shared with parents throughout the process. If your student is struggling academically, emotionally, or behaviorally parents can request additional tiered support. Please communicate your concerns with your child's teacher or contact our **school counselor, Whitney Dalecky at 319-558-2174 or our Instructional Coaches Kim Fuqua or Sarah Clymer at 319-558-2174.**

## ACADEMICS

*Reference: School Board Policy 0400*

### TITLE I FUNDING

Title I funding is provided for a number of our elementary schools. Title I is the largest federally funded supplemental education program. It does not replace what the school does; instead it gives students additional instruction for students that are not meeting grade level expectations in the areas of reading and/or math. School wide assessments are administered to all students and the data is used to determine students that qualify for extra help beyond Core instruction.

#### **Johnson STEAM Academy Title I Parent Involvement Policy 2025-2026**

*It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District that parents of participating children shall have the opportunity to be involved jointly in the development of the district plan and in the district's review process for the purpose of school improvement. Recognizing that parent involvement is the key to academic achievement, we seek to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students. The district provides coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to aid in the planning and implementation of parent involvement activities. The district encourages parent involvement and supports this partnership through providing information about standards and assessments; providing training and materials for parents to help their children; educating school personnel about involving parents and the value of parent contributions; and developing roles for community organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools.*

1. The jointly developed and agreed upon written policy is distributed to all parents through the Parent Handbook which is distributed to every family at the time of registration.
2. Johnson STEAM Academy will hold annual family events. Notification will be sent through fliers, newsletters, social media sites, and automated calls.
3. Parents are given assistance in understanding the Title I requirements, standards, and assessments through annual meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
4. Parents receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the expected proficiency levels in the Iowa School Report card information distributed annually, through individual reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.
5. Parent recommendations are encouraged and responded to in a timely manner. Verbal or written responses will be given for all recommendations.
6. Parents will be involved with the planning, review and improvement of the schoolwide programs. The vehicle used will be the Building Leadership Team (BLT). If the schoolwide program is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, they may submit comments to the BLT.
7. A jointly developed school/parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact also describes the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve our local high standards. It is distributed at fall conference time.

8. The Title I program provides opportunities for parents to become partners with the school in promoting the education of their children both at home and at school. Parents are given help monitoring their student's education. The school also provides other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents. Parents are encouraged to participate as volunteers in the school setting. Individual conferences will also be held *upon request*. A reading library, which contains reports on educational issues, books, and videos, are available for parents to check out.

9. The school continues to coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, the parent involvement policy and other programs and activities within the district. Transitional information for students moving from fifth grade to sixth is provided to parents via spring conference, notes home, and media sites.

10. An annual evaluation of this parent involvement policy shall be conducted to determine its effectiveness. Findings will be used to design strategies for school improvement and revision of policies. The annual spring meetings will serve as the site for the discussion of program adjustments.

Providing all Cedar Rapids Community School District's children with equal access to quality education is of primary purpose. It is crucial that all partners (students, parents, educators, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this purpose. As these partnerships are mutually beneficial, developing cooperative efforts will ensure improved academic achievement for all students.

## **SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUPPORTS**

### PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Support)

The goal of PBIS is to create a positive school climate, in which students learn and grow. However, school climate can vary widely from school to school. A number of factors affect school climate, including school location, neighborhood culture, instructional methods, student diversity, and school administration.

Changing the school climate may seem like a daunting task. Employing the PBIS framework can make the task more manageable. The key to an effective PBIS implementation is an "all-in" mentality among teachers and administrators in a school. For PBIS to produce positive change in a school's climate, it needs to be employed schoolwide and with consistency.

School climate has bearing on attendance rates, academic achievement, and graduation rates. Regardless of socioeconomic status, students in a positive school climate are more likely to have higher test scores and greater academic success. In addition, a positive school climate helps students to develop the social and emotional skills they will need to become productive members of society.

In short, a positive school climate includes:

- A feeling of safety
- Respect
- Engagement in learning
- Involvement in school life

- Shared vision
- Involvement of teachers, students, and families

We have developed Common Area Expectations for Playground, Hallway, Bathroom, Lunchroom, Library and Assembly. Posters with these expectations are posted around the building.

Voice Levels: 0-Silent Jaguar (voice off) 1 Whispering Jaguar (no vibration), 2 Talking Jaguar (team talk), 3 Growling Jaguar (presenting voice), 4 Roaring Jaguar (yelling voice).

## BEHAVIORAL SUPPORTS

We believe achieving social, emotional, and behavioral health for all is dependent upon collaboration across school, home, and community. It is important to clearly communicate and teach behavioral expectations to students with a focus on preventing unexpected behavior before it occurs. Positive behavior is taught, acknowledged, and modeled by school staff. This promotes a safe and predictable learning environment and fosters healthy relationships in the school community.

The Board believes that each student deserves the right to a fair and appropriate education. District students are expected to respect the rights of others, to contribute to a positive learning environment, and to comply with school and District rules and policies.

To the maximum extent appropriate, staff will use proactive and restorative practices to keep students in class, while addressing misconduct that is detrimental to the learning environment and the rights of others. Practices that are restorative in nature, repairing harm to the victim and/or school community caused by misconduct, will be given first consideration over exclusionary discipline such as removal from class, suspension, or expulsion. School administration and staff will work to identify and correct practices that result in inequities in student achievement, discipline, and access to education.

Students are subject to this regulation while on school premises; while using school-provided transportation; while attending or engaging in school-sponsored activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficiency, management and welfare of the school.

### Behavioral Definitions

**References: School Board Policy 0604 & Regulation 0604.01-R(1)**

Students may be disciplined for conduct including, but not limited to, the following:

1. *Abusive Language (major): Swearing, nonverbal gesturing or other abusive language*
2. *Abusive Language (serious): Language and gesturing, including sexual that is directed at another person; intended to or could cause harm or alienation. Includes hate speech*

3. *Controlled Substance (major): Student has possession or a controlled substance at school. This includes tobacco products, vaping*
4. *Arson: related to incidents to arson (major): Lighting matches at school or possession of combustible material. False pull of a fire alarm*
5. *Arson: Reckless use of fire (serious): Repeated major arson behavior. Student is playing with fire in the school or school property. Sets off fireworks, repeated pull of fire alarm or threatening to pull and then pulling*
6. *Weapon: Possession (major): Possession of a knife, possession of gun paraphernalia but not a gun, possession of mace, possession of a gun that could not be mistaken for a real gun, indirect threats involving a dangerous weapon*
7. *Weapon: (serious): Repeated weapon possession violations, possession of a look alike weapon or dangerous object, threat to use a dangerous weapon, written documents or drawings of weapons with direct threat, threatening to bring a dangerous weapon to school. Use of a dangerous weapon, possession of a firearm, assaults that involve a weapon or object capable of doing bodily harm, bomb threat*
8. *Property damage: (serious) Vandalism resulting in property damage. Repeated property damage*
9. *Theft (major): Continued minor theft, burglary of school property, refusal to return stolen property or make restitution*
10. *Aggression: Verbal (major): A significant verbal confrontation, loud, aggressive behavior in a public area causing major disruption*
11. *Aggression: Without injury causing medical attention: (major): Mutual combat causing incidental injury, no injury or pain, simple assault, physical contact, play fighting, violent behaviors with no victims (throwing chairs, etc)*
12. *Aggression: With injury requiring medical attention (serious): contact requiring on-site medical attention (nurse), repeated fighting, disruptive fighting (premeditated, significant), assaults with more than very minor injury (bleeding, cuts), intent to cause harm, kicking, hitting, punching, hair pulling.*
13. *Aggression: With serious injury (serious): Contact causing serious injury (requires off-site medical attention) Assaults with a weapon or object capable of inflicting serious injury, group assault against a single person*
14. *Harassment/Bullying: repeated after founded case, threats (serious): Harassment with the threat to kill or commit forcible felony, incident occurs after a founded case, unwanted or aggressive repeated or has the potential to be repeated over time, motivated by racial, gender or ethnic bias, sexual harassment which may include unwanted touching*
15. *Defiance: Prolonged duration (major): prolonged refusal, refusal to follow directives/prompts*

16. *Disruption: Sustained (major) Horseplay or rough-housing, prolonged classroom disruption*
17. *Disruption: Disorderly conduct (serious) Interferes with the operation or the school or school events*
18. *Inappropriate location: Unassigned area (major) Failure to report to class or designated area, leaving area without permission, elopement*
19. *Inappropriate location: Off Campus (serious); Leaving building without permission, elopement off campus*
20. *Lying, Cheating, Forgery, Plagiarism (major): Providing inaccurate information to staff about a peer or staff member, forging parent signature*
21. *Technology Violation: (major): Use of technology that disrupts the learning of self or others, use of cell phones, headphones, watches, earbuds*
22. *Technology Violation: Privacy; (serious): Communication that includes sending or viewing pornographic images, including sexting, violent images or material that violate the rights of a protected class, unauthorized recording without consent, hacking or damage of the technology infrastructure*

An incident may involve multiple types of conduct listed above.

Consistent with this Regulation, the school's principal/designee may impose disciplinary consequences based on reasonable professional judgment and the facts and circumstances of each situation. Consideration will be given to the age and maturity of the student(s) involved, the impact of the conduct on other students and staff, the severity of the misconduct, and whether the student has engaged in similar or related conduct in the past.

Consideration will also be given to relevant information about a student's disability, including relevant information from any IEP, FBA, BIP, and/or 504 Plan, when determining appropriate disciplinary consequences. Students with disabilities will not be removed from their current educational placement for behaviors related to their disability, except as permitted by law. Where suspension or disciplinary removal of a student with an IEP or 504 Plan results in removal from the student's educational placement for a total of ten (10) cumulative or consecutive school days in one school year, Manifestation Determination must be held no later than the tenth school day of removal.

Progressive discipline should be used to the extent appropriate to ensure severe consequences, such as exclusion from the learning environment, are reserved for serious behaviors disrupting the learning environment or violating the rights of others.

Prior to issuing disciplinary consequences, the building administrator or designee shall conduct an informal investigation of the charges, which shall provide the student with:

1. Oral or written notice of the allegations against the student.
2. The basis in fact for the charges, and
3. The opportunity to respond to those charges.

District Elementary Behavioral Definitions are used to guide decision making as the result of a behavioral infraction. Our goal is always to teach, restore any harm that may have been done, recognize what students are doing well, and provide opportunities for students to learn and grow.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION

A weekly newsletter will be sent out to families. We primarily use SeeSaw for communication as well as messages through Infinite Campus. Please be sure to follow us on social media where we share all the great things that happen at JSA!

### Family Partnership Team (FPT)

JSA's Family Partnership Team (FPT) is a parent-led organization open to all caregivers, staff, and community members who are interested in supporting JSA. This team will meet in September, November, January, March, and May. FPT is similar to a PTA, with an intentional focus on building relationships between families and the school. Meeting dates and times will be shared in JSA's newsletter and on social media. All are welcome at any meeting throughout the year!

#### FPT Contact:

[Jsafpt@gmail.com](mailto:Jsafpt@gmail.com)

#### FPT Steering Committee:

Kate Weber

Kelli Rozendaal

Lauren Karr

Megan Johnson

Sarah Cosgrove

## **FPT Mission**

To develop effective partnerships between families and the school that support student and school achievements, ensuring all JSA students reach their full potential.

## **PARTIES**

### **NON-SCHOOL PARTIES/CELEBRATIONS**

Invitations to non-school sponsored parties or celebrations are to be handled by families outside of the school day. This will help avoid hurt feelings of students not receiving invitations.

### **CELEBRATIONS AND SPECIAL OCCASIONS**

We realized that on special occasions you may wish to participate in your child's joy by sharing a form of recognition with them.

Please follow the District and Building guidelines when bringing items to share to recognize your child's special day.

JSA has been designated a Blue Zones School by meeting a series of wellness goals to achieve this designation. The Blue Zones Project is part of Iowa's Healthiest State Initiative. In addition the District Wellness Policy spells out the guidelines that must be followed in all Cedar Rapids Schools.

In accordance with District policy and due to the fact that some of our students have food allergies or dietary restrictions we need family support. At JSA, we ask that if you wish to help your child celebrate their special day and have them bring something to share with the class that you do NOT bring food items to share with other students. Cupcakes, cake candy, etc. should NOT be distributed to other students and may be sent back home. Instead, consider sharing items like pencils, bracelets, stickers, or purchase a book to add to the classroom library in your child's name

## **PLAYGROUND AND RECESS**

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0610.01-R(1)***

### **PLAYGROUND**

We have established procedures to help provide an environment that is safe to both students and school property. Boundaries have been established and students need permission of a supervising adult to leave the area. Students are encouraged to wear clothing appropriate to the weather. The school provides playground equipment so bringing equipment from home is not allowed. Playground expectations are taught and reviewed by staff throughout the year.

## RECESS

Recess is an important part of all elementary students' day. All students are expected to participate in recess activities each day, year round. Appropriate weather attire is expected daily so that students can participate safely in recess. Weather conditions may determine appropriate clothing attire. According to research by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), active kids have:

- stronger muscles and bones
- less risk of becoming overweight
- a lower chance of getting type 2 diabetes
- lower blood pressure and blood cholesterol level
- a better outlook on life
- better sleep

Physical activity also benefits students by:

- increasing their level of physical activity
- improving their memory, attention, and concentration
- helping them stay on-task in the classroom
- reducing disruptive behavior in the classroom
- improving their social and emotional development (e.g., learning how to share and negotiate)

### Recess excuses:

Doctor/health care provider notes for school accommodations, including staying in from recess.

- Doctor's notes are considered recommendations and are one source of information when determining school accommodations for students. Doctor's requests need not be implemented automatically.
- The school nurse, in collaboration with the school team and parent/guardian, will review the health care provider recommendation and determine whether the student's health needs can be accommodated in other ways so they may continue to participate in recess activities.

### One Day:

- Written or verbal requests from a parent/guardian for acute illness or injury will be honored. The School Nurse may extend based on legitimate medical needs, such as an asthma flare up, sprained ankle etc.

### Two or More Days:

- If the student has an acute medical need, like surgery or a broken bone, school nurses will contact the health care provider, or review discharge paperwork, for activity restrictions and length of time for the activity restriction.
- For long term chronic health needs, school nurses will do an individual health assessment, including obtaining additional information from parents and health care providers, to determine the need for accommodations.

### **WEATHER GUIDELINES**

Adapted from the Iowa Department of Public Health and The National Weather Service guidelines/recommendations.

#### Winter Recess:

- When snow is on the ground students are expected to wear snow pants and snow boots to be off the blacktop.
- Students should stay inside if the temperature, including wind chill (or "feels like temp"), is 10 degrees or below. Example, if the actual temp is 20, but with windchill/feels like it is 8 degrees, students stay inside.
- Schools should use the same source for determining temperature to make it consistent and understandable for parents/guardians with children in different buildings. The recommended source is Weather Underground. On this site you are able to change the location of where the temperature is being measured (at KCRG downtown) to a location closer to your school site. <https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ia/cedar-rapids>.

#### Warm Weather Recess:

- If the heat index (air temperature and humidity) is 100 degrees F or more, students will stay inside.

### **PACT (Program for Academic & Creative Talent)**

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.09-R(1)***

Mission Statement: The program for academic and creative talent (PACT) enhances and supports the educational program and experiences of high ability students to prepare them to become world class learners and responsible citizens.

PACT resource specialists serve as a primary advocate and resource in the area of gifted education for students and families as well as a liaison among CRCSD, building staff, students, and parents on matters pertaining to the academic and affective needs of gifted learners.

## Elementary

### Kindergarten and First Grade

The kindergarten and first grade program (K-1) is designed to identify and recognize student potential, gather and share data, and collaborate with CRCSD and building staff. The program aims to identify students who possess characteristics and behaviors that indicate a student may be talented in a particular academic area. The program also analyzes student data in order to support learning opportunities for high achieving students, and collaborate and support kindergarten and first grade classroom staff and students to challenge and enrich CRCSD's core curriculum.

### Second through Fifth Grade

PACT provides curriculum enrichment experiences for academically gifted students. Teachers trained in gifted education conduct classroom screenings at the beginning of each semester. Topics are offered on a rotating schedule, allowing students the opportunity to participate in a variety of challenging activities such as science, humanities, mathematics, and language arts.

Elementary students who excel in one or more of the basic curriculum areas, or who demonstrate the potential to do so, will benefit from PACT services. These students need ongoing opportunities to develop their abilities in complex learning environments.

Several subjective and objective criteria are used to identify academically gifted students for PACT. Staff observations of student task commitment, achievement, and creativity are considered. In addition, achievement, and intelligence test scores are reviewed prior to placing students in appropriate activities.

There are no limits on PACT participation. Screenings are conducted each semester. Some students have exceptional talents in all areas; others are talented in specific areas. PACT seeks to address different areas of intellectual strength and to provide children with initial exploratory experiences in gifted education. However, a placement in PACT does not guarantee further placements. Children develop their intellectual strengths in varying stages and at varying speeds during their school careers; the purpose of PACT is to serve students demonstrating the greatest need for extended programming each semester.

To learn more about PACT, contact the PACT teacher at your school or the PACT office at 319-558-2000. As a parent, you can provide valuable insights and information about your child's exceptional abilities.

## **REPORTING TO FAMILIES**

Assessments will be provided to parents through conferences and report cards. Two formal student conferences will be scheduled in **Fall and Winter**. During these conferences families and students will discuss with the teacher the progress made by the student by reviewing daily work, test scores, teacher observations and comments, as well as sharing the student data and samples of student work. Families are encouraged to request a conference in addition to the regularly scheduled conferences if they have concerns about their child.

## COMMUNICATING WITH NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

In the case of parents being separated or divorced, communications are sent to the parent that has physical custody of the child. It is expected that the parents will share information between themselves for the good of the child. To receive mailings the non-custodial parent needs to request this in Infinite Campus. It is our hope that divorced or separated parents can meet together at conference time. Therefore the child can share their progress with both parents at the same time and it doesn't place the time burden on the teacher.

## SCHOOL COUNSELOR

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.10-R(1)***

The elementary school counselor works with all children in the school. Prevention of problems is a key part of the philosophy in implementing a counseling and guidance program. The counselor works in classrooms on developmental activities and is available to help individual students with concerns in small group or individual settings. Parents of students who work with the counselor on a long-term basis are contacted by the counselor. Parents of drop-in contacts do not necessarily receive this contact from the counselor.

In addition to counseling and skill-building support, the school counselor collaborates with various community agencies. Should families need assistance with basic needs, they can contact **Gianna Schwarten at 319-558-2174** who will put them in contact with the appropriate community agencies for support and help.

The counselor is always available through email or phone contact. **Our counselor is Whitney Dalecky and can be contacted at 319-558-2174 option 4.**

## SCHOOL HOURS

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0400.01-R(1)***

### AK-5th Grade

Our school day runs from 8:50 AM to 3:50 PM. Students will observe the following schedule:

- 8:25 Students eating breakfast may enter the building
- 8:40 All students may enter the building
- 8:50 School begins
- 3:50 Students dismissed

## **PRESCHOOL HOURS Monday-Thursday**

- 8:50-11:50 AM Session
- 12:50-3:50 PM Session
- Dates: September 3 - June 2

Students may not play on the school grounds before or after school without parental supervision, since staff supervision is not provided. In the morning, students should wait calmly at the front entrance until a staff member is on supervisory duty and admits them to a building.

Students are expected to go home after school. Only students directly supervised by an adult guardian are allowed to play on the playground immediately following dismissal. We would like students to go home and check in after school. They may come back to the school playground at 4:15 PM if they would like.

## **SCHOOL TO HOME COMMUNICATIONS**

In our efforts to go “green”, flyers and hand-outs will be posted in a link found on our district Website <https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/virtual-backpack/> Once here you will select the link for your child’s building.

## **SCHOOL PICTURES**

Each fall all students will have their pictures taken for the cumulative records. The date is published on the school calendar. Families may purchase individual pictures from the company if desired. Spring pictures will also be taken, and as always the purchase of these photos is left up to individual families.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest CRCSD news and information:

**crschools.us**

And follow us on:



CRSchools



@CRSchools



@CRSchools



Cedar Rapids  
Community School District



Cedar Rapids  
Community School District  
*Every Learner. Future Ready.*



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## STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (Infinite Campus)

- According to Board Regulation 0606.01-R(1): Student Records parents have access to student cum files and records during school hours.
- Families are asked to complete an annual update to the student management system. This system, Infinite Campus, allows the school to have current contact information in the event of an emergency. As changes occur in either phone numbers or emergency contact information, parents should update the system. Parents should alert the person(s) listed as emergency contacts for their student.
- An important part of the annual verification is providing student permissions for field trips, sharing information, and internet usage.

- We will communicate with you when you can go in and verify the information in your child's profile and update incorrect information. This can be accessed all year long to update your child's emergency contact information.

## SUPPLIES AND FEES

***Reference: School Board Regulation 0701.03-R(1)***

### SUPPLIES

A suggested annual school supply list can be found on the district website.

Some supply items may need to be replenished as the year progresses. Individual teachers may request additional items as needed.

<https://crschools.us/students-and-families/quick-links/school-supplies/>

### FEES

A book fee of \$40.00 is assessed annually to cover the cost of certain curriculum materials. If you qualify for reduced lunches your material fee will be \$24.00. If you qualify for free lunches, your fee will be waived. To qualify for fee forgiveness/reduction you must have been approved for a free/reduced benefit AND complete Parent Permissions to share that status in Infinite Campus. This fee can be paid in Infinite Campus or can also be given to the school secretary.

#### **Service Fee on Return Checks**

# \$30.00

If your check is returned you authorize us to *electronically* re-deposit your check for the face amount and service fee. You also authorize us to collect the service fee by paper check or demand draft.

**You may be sued for damages of three times the amount of the check, up to a maximum of \$500.00 pursuant to Iowa codes 554.3512 & 554.3513**

**CBSI Oskaloosa IA.**

## VISITING AND VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

**Reference: School Board Policy 1002**

### VISITATION POLICY

- For security purposes, anyone visiting school between 8:50 am -3:50pm must use the front entrance door. A doorbell will alert the office staff of your arrival and upon recognition and validation they will “buzz” you in. Visitors must report to the office and will be asked to provide a form of identification that will be run through our Raptor Visitor Management System. A name tag will be provided to you. The name tag must be returned upon your departure.
- You are always welcome to see first hand the teaching and learning taking place at school. As a professional courtesy, all parents and visitors must make prior arrangements with teachers and the building principal before a planned visit. Please let the office staff know when you leave the building also. Visiting children must be accompanied by an adult. . We appreciate your understanding and support of these security measures to ensure the welfare of all students and staff.
- Parents often visit to have lunch with their children. We welcome such visits, but ask parents to notify the teacher and office in advance. We encourage parents to eat school lunch or to bring a lunch of their choice. Parents may not bring lunch for any child other than their own. For safety and security parents and visitors are prohibited from taking photos of other children while on school premises.

### RAPTOR SYSTEM

- The Cedar Rapids Community School District utilizes the Raptor Visitor and Volunteer Management System in our schools to strengthen the district’s program of campus safety for students and staff. Upon entering a district building, visitors will be asked to present an ID, which may be scanned or manually entered into the system. We understand that a parent or guardian, for a number of reasons, may not have a US government-issued ID. In this case, the school staff member can ask to see another form of identification and manually enter the person’s name into the Raptor system. The system is designed to check this information against the sex offender registry.
- To learn more about the Raptor visitor and volunteer management system, please visit the Raptor Technologies website ([www.raptortech.com](http://www.raptortech.com)). If you have any questions regarding the secure system, I, please contact your building principal.
- The safety of our students is our highest priority and the Raptor system provides a consistent way to aid in protecting our students and staff from potential harm. Thank you, in advance, for your understanding and support of enhancing school safety protocols in our district.

## VOLUNTEERING

- We encourage ongoing and active volunteer involvement by individuals and groups when it will enhance the educational experience of our students. Examples of volunteers include, but are not limited to: classroom volunteers, field trip volunteers, bus chaperones, mentors, reading buddies, etc. Volunteers will be under the supervision and direction of a school employee. **Contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Rebecca de Souza, if you are interested in volunteering. Please contact the school office at (319) 558-2174.**
- The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) recognizes the need to maintain a District Volunteer Services Program to support classroom instruction and co-curricular activities. CRCSD appreciates the involvement of volunteers in supporting instructional programs and enriching the learning environment. The district shall make every reasonable effort to provide a safe learning environment for students working with volunteers.
- A Volunteer Application is required annually of all volunteers whose primary role is that of working directly with students or assisting staff on a regular basis; supervising/chaperoning students; or acting as an authority figure. All Volunteer Applications will be checked against the national sex offender database and are subject to a background check. Follow this link to volunteer: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MTE5OTplbi1VUw==>
- All applications must be approved prior to volunteering.

## **WELLNESS**

**Reference: School Board Policy 0610**

Schools play an important role in promoting and maintaining their students' health.

Healthy students are better learners. But schools can't do it alone. Parents are the other crucial half of the healthy start that kids need to thrive in the classroom and in life.

Look for the LiveWellness logo throughout the district for examples of how we help your child stay healthy, strong and ready to learn.

All school districts are required to have a wellness policy. Cedar Rapids Community Schools Wellness Policy can be found on our district website. <https://crschools.us/students-and-families/school-meals/wellness/>.

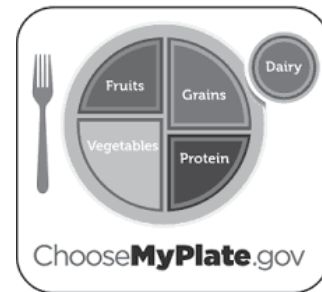
Here's what our commitment to wellness looks like:

Our school will:

- Provide health education, including nutrition, in the curriculum
- Provide multiple opportunities for physical activity to meet or exceed the Healthy Kids Act requirements (30 min/day for Elementary Schools, 120 min/week for Middle & High Schools)
- Serve school meals that reflect the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, model appropriate portion sizes and provide a well-balanced meal
- Discontinue using unhealthy foods for fundraisers
- Ensure all food and beverages made available during the school day (including snacks) meet District Nutritional Guidelines
- Require that students are physically active during the majority of time in physical education class
- Discontinue using food/food coupons as rewards or incentives
- Ensure physical activity is not used for or withheld as a punishment

To support wellness in our schools, families will:

- Send food items for classroom celebrations only when requested by school staff
- Follow the District Nutritional Guidelines when providing meals/snacks (unhealthy treats will not be distributed)
- Help plan and support fundraising events that do not involve food



For more information, visit the wellness link: <https://crschools.us/students-and-families/school-meals/wellness/>. The District Wellness Policy can be found in the District Notifications section of the handbook.

Want to get involved? Join your School Wellness Council or the District Wellness Council.








# HEALTHY SCHOOL SNACKS

Cedar Rapids Community School District



Snacks play a major role in a child's diet and provide a valuable opportunity for nutrition education. Healthy snacks are important to providing good nutrition and supporting lifelong healthy eating habits

<p><b>Fruits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fresh fruit-whole or sliced</li> <li>• Assorted fruit salads</li> <li>• Dried Fruits</li> <li>• Applesauce</li> <li>• Individual fruit cups (packaged in juice)</li> <li>• 100% Fruit Juice</li> <li>• 100% Frozen Fruit Bars</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Low Fat Dairy/Protein:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• String Cheese or Cheese Cubes</li> <li>• Yogurt</li> <li>• Cottage Cheese</li> <li>• Deli Meat</li> <li>• Sunflower Seeds</li> <li>• Pepita/Pumpkin seeds</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Vegetables:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raw Vegetables Simple kid-friendly examples: Baby Carrots, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Snap Peas, Sliced Peppers, Celery</li> <li>• Dehydrated Vegetables             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetable Chips, Chickpeas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Edamame (Soybeans)</li> </ul> 	<p><b>Whole Grains:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crackers</li> <li>• Low Sodium Pretzels</li> <li>• Pita Chips</li> <li>• Popcorn</li> <li>• Low Fat Granola Bars</li> <li>• Baked Corn Tortilla Chips</li> <li>• Animal Crackers</li> <li>• Graham Crackers</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Snack tips</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Snack on fruit and vegetables whenever possible.</li> <li>• Select appropriate portion sizes.</li> <li>• For food safety select sealed and prepackaged snack items.</li> <li>• Combine protein and fiber for a satisfying snack.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dip Ideas:</b> Hummus, Salsa, Bean dip, Honey Mustard, Yogurt based dips</p>	<p><b>Drinks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Low Fat or Fat Free Milk</li> <li>• 100% Fruit/Vegetable Juice</li> </ul> 



The provided list is not all inclusive. Reference *CRCSD Nutritional Standards* for specific guidance.