

January 11, 2022



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Greetings!

The start of a new calendar year welcomes renewed opportunities for self-reflection and growth. We see this as the perfect time to reveal a new effort coming to our district. Over the last 14 months, we have developed a plan to enhance our culture at Cedar Springs Public Schools. We are excited to put our B.E.S.T. foot forward in 2022 and beyond!

For us, B.E.S.T. is an acronym for Belonging, Equity, Success, and Togetherness. These four values will be at the forefront of our efforts in fostering conditions in which each one of our students and staff members can thrive:

- Belonging - Each individual is welcomed and included in our Red Hawk community
- Equity - Fair treatment, access, and opportunity
- Success - Flourishing by expanding one's potential
- Togetherness - Unified in our effort to foster conditions in which each Red Hawk can thrive

Staff and students will create an inclusive culture where each person is connected and contributes to enhancing our Red Hawk community, regardless of their role. We look forward to being the B.E.S.T. we can be in everything we do throughout our district.

With respect and appreciation,

Scott B. Smith
Superintendent of Schools



SCHOOL CALENDAR



[Full District Calendar](#)

Half-Day

- Wednesday, January 19
 - **Elementary (K-5th grade)** dismissed at 12:35 a.m.
 - **Red Hawk Elementary (6th grade)** dismissed at 10:40 a.m.!
 - **Middle School (7th-8th graders)** dismissed at 10:35 a.m.!
 - **High School, New Beginnings** dismissed at 10:48 a.m.

Board of Education Meetings

- Monday, January 24, 6:15 p.m. (Work Session)

WE ARE RED HAWKS

FFA Students Make a Difference



Over the winter break, our FFA students spent extra time in the classroom working together to build a bunk bed for a family in need.

Wood TV8 came out to cover the story of these amazing students giving their time and talents to a family in our community.

[Watch Full News Story from Wood TV8](#)

School Board Recognition Month



In another year full of challenges for public education, our school board members persevered through the adversity of 2021 to provide the best possible education for our students.

In January, we celebrate School Board Recognition Month as a small way to express appreciation for all they do.

Thank you to our board members for leading, guiding, and supporting Cedar Springs Public Schools!

STUDENT SERVICES

Supporting Your Student through a Crisis



Responding to students' questions after school violence can feel overwhelming. Oftentimes, we find ourselves at a loss for words to comfort them, hoping we are saying the "right" things. Ashlynn Howe, our counselor at Red Hawk Elementary put together information from the American School Counselor Association and the Child Mind Institute on how you can best support your student in a crisis.

[Tips to Support Your Student through a Crisis](#)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Report Card Changes for K-5 Students



There have been some changes to elementary school report cards in English Language Arts starting January 2022. If you have a K-5 grade-level school student, we encourage you to read the full letter to understand what these changes mean for your student.

[K-5 Caregiver Letter](#)