

RED HAWK MONTHLY



JANUARY 2023

A monthly update for parents with students at Cedar Springs Public Schools

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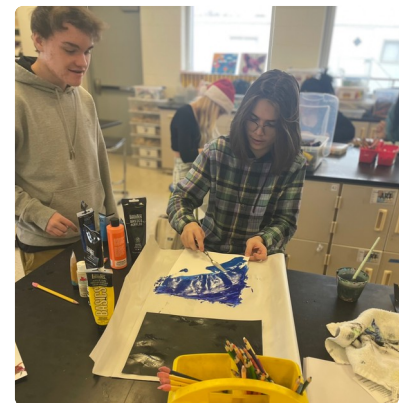
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A Message From Our Superintendent

Greetings!

The start of a new calendar year welcomes renewed opportunities for celebration, self-reflection and growth. Please join us throughout January as we recognize and celebrate the efforts of the Cedar Springs Public Schools Board of Education! We are grateful to have a collection of board members who are both diverse and unified at the same time.

The Cedar Springs community wisely elected members to the board who think for themselves. While they don't always share the same position on issues, they remain focused on doing everything possible to support the students they serve. They find a middle ground when necessary to progress the district's work forward. This is a unique dynamic not shared by all school boards.



Our board members are deeply committed to the Red Hawk way as parents of students (past, present or future), community members, business leaders, and in some cases, even graduates of Cedar Springs Public Schools! Their commitment is deeply rooted in a shared desire to invest in the community in which they live. They believe strong communities build strong schools and strong schools build stronger communities.

Members of our Board of Education routinely invest 10 to 15 hours per month supporting the district's work. Preparing for and attending 12 monthly meetings and four quarterly work sessions each year is only one part of the work our board members do. Members are also required to invest a significant amount of time tending to district-related correspondence, reading educational materials and attending classes related to their role as a member of a board of education.

Please join us in recognizing the efforts of our Board of Education members:

- Heidi Reed, President
- Matt Shoffner, Vice President
- Traci Slager, Secretary
- Trent Gilmore, Treasurer
- Shannon Vanderhyde, Trustee
- Mistie Bowers, Trustee
- April Patin, Trustee (newly elected)
- Jeff Rivard, Trustee (recently retired)

A strong Board of Education makes it possible for us to put our B.E.S.T. foot forward for our students in 2023.

For Cedar Springs Public Schools, B.E.S.T. is an acronym for Belonging, Equity, Success and Togetherness. These four values are embedded in our daily efforts to foster 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 are creating inclusive learning communities in our schools. In doing so, each person is connected and contributes to enhancing our Red Hawk experience regardless of their role.

We look forward to being the B.E.S.T. we can be throughout 2023!

CALENDAR

Important Dates

Half Day for Students

Friday, Jan. 20, 2023

- Dismissal Times
 - Elementary Schools: 12:05 p.m.
 - Red Hawk Intermediate: 10:40 a.m.
 - Middle School: 10:35 a.m.
 - High School: 10:48 a.m.



Board of Education Meetings (3rd floor, Hilltop in the Board of Education Room)

Monday, Feb. 13, at 6:45 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 27, 6:15 p.m.

WE ARE RED HAWKS

Digital Art Shows

We are excited to showcase our Middle Level and High School students' works of art! These students have been developing their skills and showcasing their creative sides in art class the past semester. You can view the artwork in the virtual art shows by clicking on the links below.



The Fall 2023 High School art show also has a voting option. Please take a moment to [vote for your favorite online!](#)

6th Grade Art Show

Middle School Art Show

Fall 2022 High School Art Show

School Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month. We are grateful for our Board members who are dedicated to improving student achievement and providing an exceptional education for all our community's children.

Thank you to all our Board of Education members for your dedication to our students at Cedar Springs Public Schools.



ACADEMIC SERVICES

Annual Education Report

Each year, Cedar Springs Public Schools posts its Annual Education Report to the [MiSchoolData website](https://www.mischooldata.org/) and makes it available to parents and the public. If you'd like to see what we are up to and how we are doing as a district, please [visit our website](https://www.mischooldata.org/). You can also [visit MiSchoolData.org](https://www.mischooldata.org/) to generate reports about educator qualifications; student assessment; accountability related to assessment proficiency and participation, graduation and attendance rates; and civil rights information about school environment.



A paper copy of any of the reports can also be requested at our District Offices by contacting [Jen Haberling](#), assistant superintendent of academic services. The 2022-2023 AER for Cedar Springs Public Schools will be available in early February.

STUDENT SERVICES

Homeless Liaison

Every school district has a local homeless education liaison responsible for helping children and youth experiencing homelessness and connecting them with relevant local resources. If you are staying temporarily with someone, or in a motel, campground, shelter, or in outside or inadequate place, you have special rights at your school (elementary, middle and high school).

Those rights include:

- Staying in the same school even if you move, and receiving transportation to that school, as long as it is in your best interest.
- Enrolling in school immediately without the documents schools usually require, and without a parent or guardian.
- Receiving free school meals.
- Getting help with school supplies, including what is needed to participate in distance learning and other needs.

To find out if you qualify for help, please contact Tina Tiethoff at 616-696-0580 or tina.tiethoff@csredhawks.org.

Dez Says: Don't Let Homelessness Stop Your Education, Find Help



Meet Dez. She experienced homelessness as a high school student, and she knows the importance of school and how it can lead to a better life. She wants other students living without a permanent home to know: education is their right, whether they live with family or on their own.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Versiti High School Student and Community Blood Drive

The Versiti Blood Bank Blood Bus will be hosting a student and community blood drive at Cedar Springs High School on Thursday, Jan. 26, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Students ages 16 years of age or older can donate.



Please note the following:

- If 16 years of age, you must have the [parent/guardian consent form](#) filled out prior to donating
 - [16-year-old parent consent form](#) (new for 2023)
- Students 16-18 years old must meet the [height and weight requirements](#)
- You must bring a photo ID
- Contact [Ms. Schultz to schedule](#) your appointment or visit the [Versiti online scheduling system](#).

Student donors will be excused from class during their appointment time, approx. 45 minutes to check ID, donate, rest and eat a snack to ensure wellness post-donation.

All attempting donors will receive a Versiti branded beanie hat (while supplies last).



Cedar Springs Public Schools

csredhawks.org



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