



*Core strengths of the Cedar Rapids Community School District are robust academic programs, an experienced and qualified faculty and staff, rich diversity in enrichment and extracurricular activities, and the sense of community our schools provide.*

*Founded in 1855, we are the second largest school district in the State of Iowa and home to 21 elementary schools, 6 middle schools, 4 high schools, and offsite programs. We celebrate a distinguished past and look forward to a vibrant future.*

## **POINTS OF PRIDE**

- ❖ District **students consistently score above** the state average on ACT College Readiness Indicators. Our five-year average composite score is 24.
- ❖ Our **high schools are the top** Iowa schools on the Washington Post listing of “America’s Most Challenging High Schools” and the Iowa Advanced Placement Index.
- ❖ We celebrate diversity! **Over 30 languages are spoken in our schools** and we provide English Language Learner programming for students at all levels.
- ❖ District staff continuously engage in **cultural development activities** to ensure equitable access to learning for all students.
- ❖ The **Expanded Opportunities Program** provides middle school students with high school credit.
- ❖ We are **home to 21 preschool classrooms**, offering morning and afternoon programming to both three- and four-year-old students through one of the largest preschool programs in the state.
- ❖ **Iowa BIG** provides students opportunities to engage in authentic business and community projects to earn core and elective academic credits. Iowa BIG is recognized as **one of the more transformative education innovations in the country**.
- ❖ Our committed faculty includes **58 National Board Certified teachers**, the most of any school district in Iowa.
- ❖ We **embrace Professional Learning Communities** to build a collaborative culture, assure high levels of learning for all students, and make data driven decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment.
- ❖ Over 166 athletic programs and diverse activities are offered in the middle or high schools. From archery to zumba, there is an **opportunity for every student to showcase their talents**.
- ❖ Students looking for the challenge of AP (Advanced Placement) courses, can choose from **more than 28 AP courses**.
- ❖ We **collaborate with the Kirkwood Community College Regional Center** to offer opportunities for high school students to earn college credit and to explore career options.

- ❖ The **Roosevelt Option** and **Franklin Kite programs** provide middle school students the opportunity to learn their core subjects in a project-and-community-based way.
- ❖ The **Jefferson blendEd** program provides 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders the opportunity to learn their core subjects in a project-and-community-based way.
- ❖ The District continues to expand its **Magnet school offerings**. The **Johnson STEAM Academy Magnet** is in its second year with the **Kenwood Leadership Academy Magnet School** opening in the Fall of 2016. **Roosevelt Middle School** will become a magnet school in 2017. Magnet school curriculum is project-based and integrates the subject areas through a theme allowing students to learn how the various disciplines interact in real contexts.
- ❖ The **Canvas Learning Management System expands the classroom** by allowing students to be engaged in learning independently and provides parents with real-time notifications.
- ❖ Over **350 of our teachers have taken teacher leader roles** through our Teacher Leader System.
- ❖ **Some 6,965 education volunteers contributed 137,165 hours** of instructional support - at a value of \$1.6 million – during the most recent school year.
- ❖ Student learning is enriched by **more than 100 school and community collaborations** with area businesses, non-profits, agencies, and local organizations.
- ❖ Innovative learning environments include one-to-one initiatives and other student-centered, **technology-enriched learning environments**. All classrooms include access to digital resources and whiteboard technology.
- ❖ Our outstanding fine arts programs are **nationally recognized and celebrated**.
- ❖ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) opportunities are available in middle and high school through **Project Lead the Way programming**.
- ❖ Student teams have brought home **some 20 state titles** in Academic Decathlon, a competition matching intellect in *Art, Economics, Essay, Interview, Language Arts, Mathematics, Music, Science, Social Science, and Speech*.
- ❖ The **Metro High School STEAM Program** provides students an instructional program designed around an entrepreneurial mindset.
- ❖ **People want to work here!** We have a long standing reputation for recruiting and retaining highly-qualified staff. Thirty-one percent of our certified teaching staff have been employees of the District for more than 15 years. Twenty-nine percent of our certified teaching staff have been employees of the District for more than 15 years.
- ❖ We have received the **Certificate of Excellence** in Financial Reporting for 21 consecutive years.
- ❖ Our athletes regularly receive **Division 1 scholarships**.
- ❖ The District recognizes nearly **1200 students annually for distinguished academic achievements**.
- ❖ When compared to all 11 public school districts in Linn County, the District has the **lowest tax levy**.

- ❖ All schools have a Wellness Council and **14 schools are official Blue Zones Schools**. The Educational Leadership and Support Center is also a designed Blue Zones worksite.
- ❖ **All District support services are available** to the community from the Educational Leadership and Support Center (ELSC).
- ❖ **We embrace world cultures**, welcoming numerous foreign exchange students to our high school communities each year.
- ❖ The Metro Care Connection provides **school-based, health care services to all students**.
- ❖ Our distinguished roll of **graduates includes Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sal Giunta and acclaimed international artist Grant Wood**.
- ❖ We are **proud to be part of a remarkable and resilient community**.
  - Cedar Rapids was named **#1 best city in the nation for kids!** Learn more at SmartAsset.com.
  - Cedar Rapids was named **All-American City 2014** by the National Civic League.
  - Cedar Rapids is **#8 on the list of top ten Best Affordable Places to Live 2016** by Livability.com.
  - Cedar Rapids is **#88 on Top 100 Best Places to Live 2016** by Livability.com.