

CEDAR RIDGE SCOOP: SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Volume 1 / Issue 2: February-March 2018



UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 26 – Hot Chocolate Social (Perfect Agenda Pass)
- February 2 – End of 1st Semester
- February 5 – No School (Grading Day)
- February 13 – PTC Meeting 6:00pm in CRMS Library
- February 19 – No School (Holiday)
- February 20 – Site Council Meeting
- February 23 – Progress Reports
- February 23 – PBIS Activity: Sports Extravaganza
- February 27 – Academic Excellence Award Ceremony 6:30pm
- March 20 – Site Council Meeting
- March 23 – Fuzzy Socks for Nash Dress-up Day
- March 26-30 – No School: Spring Break

UPDATE FROM PRINCIPAL JOHNSTON

While academics and helping your child realize their potential for learning are our top priorities, at Cedar Ridge we believe in educating the whole child. Throughout the first semester, one primary focus of our Advisory class has been to raise awareness, educate, and empower our kids in kindness, anti-bullying, and self-advocacy. We have covered tough topics such as how to stop a bully, how we can work together as a community, how to be an ally instead of a bystander, how to advocate and say something, and how kindness is key. To learn a little more about what your child has been discussing in class, check out our “What’s Up in Advisory” post on the website. We will continue to address and discuss these topics throughout the year. Please also ask your child to tell you about what they have learned.

One way to help your child combat negative peer experiences is to limit and carefully monitor their social media activity. Often the source of student conflict in school stems from online and social interactions outside of school. Talk with your kids and let us know so we can help.

In other news, students and staff have enjoyed settling into our new building. It is starting to feel like home. While the main construction areas are in the process of getting buttoned up, we are looking forward to continued improvements to a number of areas around the school. We will be getting bulletin boards, additional cafeteria tables, and more options on the playground.

“Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success.”

January was School Board Appreciation Month. This was a great time for us to stop and reflect on the crucial role each of our School Board members have in helping our communities and schools. The hard work and dedication each of them show every day and month to the Oregon Trail School District is much appreciated. In fact, their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of our children. Here is a huge thank you to School Board members of the Oregon Trail School District.

In addition to a fantastic school board, Cedar Ridge is thankful for our PTC. This year our PTC has started off with a bang. From providing each teacher with individual funds for their classroom to starting giant Jenga and Corn Hole tournaments during lunch, we are excited to partner with such a great group of volunteers. And another huge thank you to Paul Reed of Mt Hood Athletic Club for building and donating the Corn Hole sets.

Connect with me at: Nicole.johnston@ortrail.k12.or.us or 503.668.8067

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

At CRMS we are fortunate to have a variety of after school and co-curricular programs available.

- **Homework Club** – Weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30-3:30 in the Library
- **PTC Soccer Club** – Fall and Spring Sessions, on the soccer field, Advisor Mr. Enns
- **WE Day Club** – Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 in the Library, Advisor Mrs. Curry
- **Sewing Club**– Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 in Mrs. Emery and Goodrick's room, Advisor Mrs. Emery
- **FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)** – Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 in room 4, Advisor Mrs. Swenson
- **GSA (Gay Straight Alliance)** – Wednesdays during lunch in room 1, Advisor Ms. Scaife
- **OBOB (Oregon Battle of the Books)** – Dates may vary, after school in room 14, Advisor Ms. Von Tersch
- **Robotics Club** – Times/Dates TBD, Advisor Mr. Lane

Also check out Ant Farm and the Sandy Library. They have fantastic after school programs for OTSD students!

PBIS UPDATES

At Cedar Ridge we have high expectations for our students, both academically and behaviorally. We expect four basic rules to ensure success at school: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Kind. You can learn more about how these behaviors are demonstrated by perusing the student handbook. Our PBIS focus will continue throughout each month with focused Advisory lessons through a variety of engaging instructional strategies. Each month we reward students that are academically and behaviorally on track with a PBIS activity or treat.



CRMS Choir students perform on their new stage for a large audience during the holidays.

PBIS Activities – Our next activity of the year is a Sports Extravaganza on February 23rd from 1:24-2:25pm. In order to participate, students must be meeting their academic goals and receive no more than one behavior mark for the month of February. Students will be able to participate in the activity a number of ways. We will have athletes, coaches, cheerleaders, announcers, interactive spectators, a pep band, and choir singing the national anthem.

Virtue of the Month – February's virtue of the month is **Citizenship**. We will be examining what makes a good citizen both locally and globally. The virtue of the month for March is **School Spirit**. During this time, we will discuss ways for all students to become involved in the CRMS community and show pride for themselves, one another, and our school.

Weekly 100% Attendance Winners – Each Monday during Advisory teachers will draw from all of the student names that had 100% attendance the week before for a new CRMS Mountaineers Water Bottle filled with sweet treats.

Spirit Fridays – We are all about Mountaineer Spirit. As a way to promote and increase student pride and spirit, we encourage staff and students to wear school colors or Mountaineer gear to school on Fridays.

PARENT VUE – CHECK GRADES ANY TIME, ANYWHERE

The ParentVue program and easy-to-use app, gives parents the ability to view student grades is available for all parents. If you have previously signed up for ParentVue, your same password will work. You can request a new password on the site if you have forgotten yours.

If you have not signed up before, you can call the CRMS office and get the activation code that is specifically assigned to you.

The ParentVue web portal will give parents access to real-time information on assignments, attendance, grades, and more. Links to ParentVue can be found on the CRMS website or the district website.



WHAT'S NEW IN ATHLETICS

Welcome to another year of Cedar Ridge Storm sports! We are so pleased to be a part of a school district that supports middle school athletics. Middle school athletics have been a positive experience and influence on our students in the Oregon Trail School District, especially at CRMS. We have excellent coaches, many of them teachers, that work hard to make each student's athletic experience positive, memorable and educational. We are still offering volleyball, boys and girls basketball, wrestling, and track. **Seventh and eighth graders can participate in all sports, while sixth graders may participate in wrestling and track.** Girls Basketball and Wrestling season is under way. Check out our website for more information on game/match days. We would love to see you at the games!

All CRMS athletes must have the following things completed to participate:

- \$55 fee
- Sports physical (good for two years, must be completed on OTSD form)
- Code of Conduct
- Insurance form (all athletes must have proof of insurance to compete) All

forms are available online: <http://oregontrailschools.com/crms/athletics-forms/>

Thanks for helping make this another great year of middle school sports! Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Garet Luebbert

CRMS Dean of Students & Athletic Director

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503-668-8067 x6405

YEARLY STATE ASSESSMENTS COMING UP

Cedar Ridge Middle School will begin state assessments starting in March. The tests are not timed, so your child can take as long as he or she needs to fully demonstrate what he or she knows and can do.

We know that an end-of-the-year test cannot possibly tell us *everything* about your child's academic progress. However, the results do act as a snapshot of your child's strengths and areas for improvement and can be used as a way to ensure he or she is getting the supports he or she needs. Additionally, the tests help Oregon Trail School District's efforts to distribute resources and support student learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding questions about testing and our school's progress. I also want to encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher(s) with any questions you may have about your student's progress.

WAYS TO SUPPORT CRMS

Looking to donate: Call the office and offer to pay up student lunch accounts.

Fred Meyer Rewards: You can help the Parent Teacher Club earn donations by shopping and using your Fred Meyer Rewards Card! Just sign up for the Community Rewards Program online!

Amazon Smile: Give to Cedar Ridge just by shopping at Amazon.

STAY CONNECTED

We are working hard to make sure families know what is happening around CRMS. Here are some of the ways we communicate with our families:



Students and staff earned sweet rewards with Mt Hood Coffee Roasters fundraiser.

- Family Updates - Each month we will post updates on the website, through email, and on our social media sites.
- Ongoing Website Updates - Please regularly check the website and CRMS calendar to be up-to-date on what is happening around the school environment.
- ParentVue - This provides families with instant access to all of your child's grades. Check this often for missing assignments and academic progress.
- Emails through School Messenger - Please help us with this by providing a current email address.
- Facebook - Check out our Facebook page for pictures, videos, and posts at www.facebook.com/cedarridgemiddleschool
- Twitter - Go find us @CedarRidgeRocks.
- Parent Newsletters – Newsletters will be periodically sent out and posted on the website.

Please know that we try to post information online to minimize the impact on the environment. If you need hard copies of information sent home, simply stop by the office.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE OFFICE

Absences: If your student is absent or tardy, please either call the school office or send them with a note if you want them excused. If a student gets 3 unexcused absences or tardies, they will receive either a lunch or after school Wednesday recovery.

Medications at School: Students should not bring medications to school, over-the-counter or prescription. All medications must come with parent permission and be kept in the office.

Illness/Fever: Please remember that students MUST be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school after an illness.

Homework Policy: Homework may only be requested when a student is absent for two consecutive days. Teachers have 24 hours to prepare homework once they receive the request.

Library: The library is open on Monday and Tuesday Afternoons as well as all day on Friday this year. Students may pop into the library during lunch/recess or before and after school to check out books. See Miss Scaife for the latest arrivals and recommendations.

Dress Code: Please help minimize distractions at school by ensuring that your child is dressed appropriately. Please refer to the Student Handbook in your child's agenda for specifics about the dress code.

Progress Reports: Teachers will be emailing home progress reports approximately every three weeks. If you do not have email, a paper copy will be mailed home.



Our wonderful Secretary, Kris Scharfenberg, cut the ribbon at the official Grand Opening of the new CRMS.

Volunteer Opportunities: Middle schools need help too! We have a variety of volunteer opportunities and would love your help. All volunteer paperwork must be completed before you can participate.

Yearbook Purchases: Save money and order your child's yearbook soon. Purchases are now all online. Check our website for details.

School Immunization –Check out this year's district immunization rates at <http://oregontrailschools.com/parents/school-immunization-rates/>

Lost and Found: The stack of lost items is pretty giant. Even in middle school, it is a good idea to label your belongings. If you have misplaced an item, check the table in the Commons during lunch.