

From the Top

CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS SCHOOLS CMS.mntm.org

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MORGAN, MN 56266
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The week of September 16th kicked off homecoming week at Cedar Mountain. There were many fun events planned such as the annual variety show/coronation, dress up days, pep fests, and color run just to name a few! Congratulations to our graduating seniors who put on an entertaining variety show Monday evening and to everyone who participated in events throughout the week! WE JUST CAN'T BEAT THAT CM PRIDE!

















Mr. R. Brandl Superintendent

WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION

As we enter the winter season, we know that the weather has a history of creating challenging conditions. Minnesota is known for the cold, snow, wind and ice and each year seems to be unique from the next. As much as we hope each year will result in a mild winter, we are always prepared to make decisions that we feel are in the best interests of our students for that given day.

When the weather turns bad or is forecasted to be bad, we consider several factors when deciding to keep school open, start the day a few hours late, close for the entire day or to send the students home early. As the superintendent, I work very closely with the bus company as we gather information on the most current forecasts, National Weather Service watches and warnings along with the road reports. A lot of careful thought is put into every decision as to what is the best plan of action for that day. Once a decision is made, we begin our communication action steps in order to notify families, staff and the community. Ideally we will make a decision as soon as possible as we know families need to make plans and adjustments as well.

Please know that when possible and safe, we always want to have school. If you as a parent or guardian feels it is unsafe to send your student to school, the school will respect that decision. Please notify the school if and when this situation arises.

Where to receive information in regards to school closings and delays: The best and fastest location to receive weather related school announcements is through the Infinite Campus alert system. Please make sure to log in and check that your phone numbers and email addresses are up to date. If you need assistance with Infinite Campus, make sure to contact the elementary or high school office. Weather related school announcements will also be communicated on KLGR radio, KNUJ radio, WCCO radio, KEYC TV, KSTP TV and KARE 11.

What happens on a late start: If the school day happens to start late as weather or road conditions improve, know that busing will adjust accordingly. Please note that breakfast will not be served on days where school starts late.

What happens if school closes early: Parents will be notified through our communication systems when school is going to let out early due to impending weather. Please call the school office if after school arrangements for your student needs to be changed.

E-Learning Days: Cedar Mountain will again be having E-Learning days occasionally when school is closed for the day. As a district we feel that E-Learning is an innovative way to provide students education when the weather is challenging. If it is an E-Learning day, we will communicate this along with the cancellation information. Please reference the Cedar Mountain E-Learning Plan found on the school website for more information.

After School Activities: If school is cancelled for the day or we have an early dismissal for bad weather, all after school activities and practices are also cancelled. No open gyms or weightlifting will be allowed on these days as well.

Winter Transportation Procedures: When transporting students to and from school, safety is our first priority. We will again be traveling on "plowed roads only" as a protocol to keep students safe and avoiding buses from getting stuck. If you live on a rural road, I ask that you think about an alternate pick up or drop off point for your child in the event we are not able to travel on your road. This point may be the nearest plowed road along the bus route. If you have questions regarding this, feel free to contact the Cedar Mountain Bus Company at (507) 249-3136.

As a district, we take great pride and responsibility in getting our students to and from school safely each day. As situations arise, we will always work to make the best decision possible. Thank you for your continued support of Cedar Mountain Schools.





Mrs. P. Machart Elementary Principal

Elementary News

Do you know all the great things that are happening at Cedar Mountain? Do you wonder sometimes what your child is working on that day at school? Do your relatives enjoy seeing pictures of your children? Here is how you can stay up to date and see our students in action!

Check out our school webpage at *www.cms.mntm.org*. Lots of information is shared here including the daily announcements and menus. To learn about our Behavior Program go to the Elementary section and the Cougar Pride link. From there you can watch videos created by Blue Crue Tue high lighting our behavior expectations. We even publish our weekly Cougar Pride winners on this same link. Camp Cougar and Community Education both have links where you can learn more about and sign up for their programs.

Follow us on Facebook. We post pictures regularly of school events and happenings. We also post reminders of upcoming events. Be sure to tell your family to "*like us*" and follow us too!

Follow Mr. Brandl on Twitter – he regularly posts highlights of the week.

Parents – have you signed up for the **See-Saw** app? It is a great tool to connect families to see student work and to celebrate progress. This is an app that families need to register for so they can see their individual child's and classes' work. It is not shared publically but you can allow up to 10 family members on your app. This week I heard about teachers showing off the children's art work, sharing pictures from Homecoming and recording student's reading. Parents will love that they can save their children's virtual portfolio from year to year.

Great things happen here --- be sure you are part of the action!

PALS ... Hands-On Ag

My name is Kate Lorang and I'm a senior at Cedar Mountain. I have been developing the Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) FFA program for Cedar Mountain Elementary School. I started the program last year and partnered with the kindergarten classroom four times throughout the school year to create and teach hands-on Ag lessons. Because of the program success, I will be expanding my time to create and teach monthly Ag lessons this year. September's lesson was about apples. The students listened to a story about how apples are grown and delivered to markets. They also participated in a taste test to see what color (red, yellow, or green) apples they liked the best. The kindergartners ended their apple lesson with making their very own apple art project.



Students in grades 3-5 received a dictionary compliments of the Franklin Legion. This was planned through the "Dictionary Project". The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. Students are encouraged to use them at school or at home for years to come.



Every day for 30 minutes in Mrs. Lueck's 3rd grade math class, time is set aside for math centers. One of the centers is focused on math games. In this picture, these 2 kids are working on their math multiplication facts by using dice and playing a multiplication game.





Mrs. T Yackley

Middle / High School

Happy Fall! It is always amazing how fast the start of the year goes. We have had many exciting and wonderful experiences happen here since the start of school. Our students are working hard and adjusting to the rigors of school life MS/HS Principal once again. Some new programming and changes are the new math

curriculum that is being implemented and intervention classes for both reading and math. Some of our 7th and 8th grade students had an opportunity to go to an author visit and to an artist conference this fall. The 9-12 grade were given lessons by Toward Zero Death on traffic safety issues including impaired driving. Our junior

class is participating in the MN River Watch program where once a month they visit the river and look at samples and ecosystems. Homecoming week went really well. There were many activities and opportunities to show our Cedar Mountain Pride including the variety show, the color run and the sporting events. Our staff is working on creating engaging and rigorous lessons to make school a rewarding and positive experience for all. We continue to work on our attendance goal and are addressing needs as we go. There are many great things happening at our school. I appreciate all of our students, parents, staff and community for the support given to our school and programs. Together we are BETTER! Go Cougars!

ittle Cougars Little Cougar volleyball is an awesome program that promotes a love for

volleyball!! Our high school volleyball players are phenomenal role

models for these young athletes to look up to. They came to three practices in September and joined in on our October 1st festivities while we played Sleepy Eye. The Little Cougars found a passion for volleyball, worked on developing skills, and learned about the importance of teamwork. The future of Cougar volleyball is very bright!!





Storytelling:



On Wednesday, October 16 Pam Halvorson, a Lower Sioux Community



elder came to discuss the importance of storytelling to juniors and seniors who are currently in World Literature. Pam explained how the stories of our ancestors can help guide our decisions today.



A few more memories from...





...HOCO

















By Reporter Lily Krogstad
The FFA has been very busy
over the past couple of months.
Over the summer, this amazing
group of students helped out
with a petting zoo at the Redwo

with a petting zoo at the Redwood County
Fair, participated in the Catfish Days parade,
and parked cars at Farmfest. We also had a
few students attend the leadership conference
Greenhands in the Spotlight (GITS) and
a Chapter Leaders Conference (CLC) on
September 26. Looking forward, we have six
members attending National FFA Convention in
Indianapolis. Collegiate member Broke Hoffbeck
will also be attending and representing the entire
state of Minnesota in the Employment Skills LDE
competition. We can't wait to show you what else
we have planned for this school year!

2019-20 FFA Officer Team



President – Rosalyn Madsen • Vice President – Kaitlyn Lorang Secretary – Madilyn Mages • Treasurer – Lydia Sullivan Reporter – Lily Krogstad • Historian – Keely Wendlandt (Not Pictured) Sentinel – Michael Tauer • Officer at Large – Luke Mages

Fall Play

Cedar Mountain Drama is preparing their Fall play, Haphazardly Ever After. This play tells the story of a nice king and queen (Madi Mages and Michael Tauer) who have four very spoiled children. Princess Cinnamon (Lily Krogstad) is so spoiled she will not marry any man unless he has at least four castles. Princess Peppermint (Lydia Sullivan) loves to yell at her brothers and sisters in her own made-up language. Prince Hairgel (Austin Schumacher) is obsessed with his perfect looks. Prince Slacker (Vincent Ochs) is addicted to his 'Royal' smartphone and isn't willing to do anything. These children are so spoiled the king and queen have no idea what to do. With the help of three magical fairies (Kelly Stelzer, Tommy Ochs, and Jonah Krogstad) the king and queen come across a fairy tale book. They decide to make their children part of these tales to teach them about love and kindness. Unfortunately, everything falls apart before all the characters find 'happily ever after'.

SHOWTIMES:

Friday, November 8 • Saturday, November 9 7PM in the Morgan Auditorium. Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.



National Honor Society is a national organization that recognizes students for leadership, scholarship, community service, and character. The Cedar Mountain National Honor Society inducted in 14 new members this year. These members are Hailey Bigger, Aidan Cavanaugh, Nicole Cook, Taylor Dahmes, Aunika Elberling, Carole Gruendemann, Isabella Harmoning, Cecelia Hartle, Brianna Heidemann, Madison Heiling, Macie Kodet, Lily Krogstad, Presley Schaefer, and Austin Schumacher.



Gym gets updated floor

A huge thank you to Dr. Jill Helget for donating the new weight room flooring and to all the adults who helped rip out the old floor and put in the new floor!

Dance Team Written by Tasha Zieske

As the fall 2019 dance season comes to a close, we would like to recognize a successful dance season. Dance may not make the newspaper highlights and you may not hear their scores on the radio, but the dancer's hard work and determination doesn't go unnoticed. This fall, dancers enjoyed practices with team bonding, fun work outs and learning new routines. It wouldn't be dance practice without a few giggles and chuckles along the way too. The dance team performed at home football games as well as a volleyball game during homecoming. Winter dance season is fast approaching and we are looking forward to adding even more teammates! Dance is open to students in grades 7-12 and we would love for you to come join the fun! If interested contact Tasha Zieske at tzieske@cedarmt.org or call the MS/HS office at 249-5990 for more information. We look forward to a fun and exciting winter season...GO COUGARS!



Front Row: Trista Madsen, Abbigail Gegner
Middle Row: *Rosalyn Madsen, *Madi Eichstadt,
Britney Gegner
Back Row: Amber Lough, *Lydia Sullivan,
Kelly Stelzer *Denotes Captain





The Farmer's Market was once again a huge success at Cedar Mountain Elementary. \$3,933 was the grand total raised this year. Pumpkins and apples were the hit produce this year! It is fun to see how creative parents have become with their baking, crafts, and packaging! We hope you all enjoyed the yummy supper prepared by our cooks! Thanks to the families for donating, purchasing and working at the Farmer's Market! All proceeds are used for class activities and field trips.

PINK Out!

Cedar Mountain volleyball hosted a PINK OUT on Tuesday, October 1st to raise awareness of cancer, recognize the immense impact it has on us all, and support those in our communities that have battled or are currently battling cancer. The outpouring of love and support was incredible and extremely touching to witness. Sarah Sullivan, aunt to senior right

witness. Sarah Sullivan, aunt to senior right side hitter Kate Lorang and CM employee, was a special guest we honored at our program. You are not alone in your fight! Thank you to everyone who participated!!



Are you looking for ways to financially support CM students?

Beyond High School

Cedar Mountain High School has a scholarship fund set up called the Cedar Mountain Community Scholarship. This is a scholarship that is used to enhance the future of our students who are pursing any type of education beyond high school. Each year, the Cedar Mountain Scholarship awards three scholarships to graduating seniors. This scholarship is available to graduating seniors through generous donations by community members and organizations.

Children's Fund

Cedar Mountain also has a Children's Fund that has been set up. It is a great program that provides resources to students who may be lacking basic things such as garments for winter, proper shoes, or needing some money in their account due to a negative lunch balance, or just for projects that are getting done in class which require materials and the student doesn't have the funds to get those materials.

If you are interested in supporting any of these funds or have more questions about them, please contact Preston Palokangas, the school counselor at Cedar Mountain. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Contact Information:

Preston Palokangas Phone: 249-5880

Email: ppalokangas@cedarmt.org

High School Address:

Cedar Mountain High School Preston Palokangas PO Box 188 • Morgan, MN 56266



COLLEGE READINESS FOR PARENTS: GETTING YOUR STUDENT READY FOR COLLEGE

READINESS

Academic Readiness	Financial Readiness	Admissions Readiness	Career Readiness	Personal and Social Readiness

Establish a growth mindset

Help your child understand that intelligence is not fixed and that with effort and support he or she can get smarter even in subjects that don't come easily.

Read, read, read

Point out words on signs to preschoolers. Spend 20 minutes a day reading to or with your child, or have older students to read silently.

Establish time for homework (without TV, cell phones and other distractions.)

Stay connected with school Attend parent-teacher

conferences. Keep informed about your child's progress.

Ask your school if your child's test scores indicate he or she will be college ready in math, writing and reading.

Choose challenging courses for your child.

Avoid the senior slump

Enroll your child in at least one class that offers college credit such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, College in the Schools, Project Lead the Way.

Start saving early.

See <u>www.mnsaves.org</u> for savings plan ideas.

Learn about the options available to your child beyond savings and budgeting for financing his or her postsecondary education

Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops with your child. Help your child research college scholarships.

Complete a sample FAFSA financial aid form to get an estimate of college costs. Most students receive some form of financial aid.

Help your child prepare a budget for college. Determine how much he or she plans to spend on housing, food, supplies, and entertainment during college.

Determine a plan to cover the cost of one term at a postsecondary institution.

Complete a FAFSA in January of your child's senior year.

For help, see 'Paying' at www.getreadyforcollege.org

Begin college planning early

Find out about different types of colleges in your area. For help, see 'Preparing' and 'Selecting' at www.getreadyforcollege.org

Explore the academic

requirements for the type of institution your child wants to attend. Typically four-year colleges require:

- 4 years of math (algebra II)
- 4 years of English
- 3 years of science (biology and chemistry/physics)
- 2 years of foreign language
- 4 years of social studies
- 1 year of art

http://admissions.tc.umn.edu/admissioninfo/fresh.html

www.mnscu.edu/students/admiss ions/index.html

www.mnprivatecolleges.org/audi ences/prospective.php

Have your child take the ACT or SAT test at the end of the junior year, or early senior year.

Visit college campuses and college fairs with your child

Submit applications in fall of your child's senior year.

Discuss with your child the benefits of postsecondary

education, including its connection with income and quality of life, and how it can help them achieve their career goals.

Find out your child's career

Ask your child: What will he/she be doing 5 years from now? Ten years from now?

Talk to a school counselor about career interest inventories that can help your child find careers that fit his or her interests.

Look at your child's hobbies and co-curricular activities – talk about related jobs.

Talk with a school counselor or teacher about the classes and college education needed to prepare for this career.

Establish a growth mindset – remember that effort produces intelligence.

Praise your child's effort and persistence, especially when facing challenges.

Help your child set goals

regarding his or her behavior, time management and academic work.

Tell your children how much you value education, and show your pride in their achievements.

Encourage your child to seek help when needed from peers and

when needed from peers and teachers, and form study groups.



University of Minnesota College Readiness Consortium 4/13

Early Childhood Development



Thursday, December 5th
6:00-7:00
Morgan



ALL AGES

6 weeks and up
Open 7am - 5:30pm M-F
Cougar Cub Child Care
Contact Jody Rose for more information
507-557-2254

Added a new member to your family?

New to Cedar Mountain?

Please be sure to call the school and put your child's name(s) on our school census.

Call CM Elementary at 507-557-2251

Please contact Emily Dahmes at 507-557-2251 or edahmes@cedarmt.org or Dawn Tietz at 507-249-5990 or dtietz@cedarmt.org for more information.



ECFE FAMILY CLASS

Morgan

January 21,28 & Feb 4 6:00PM-7:15PM

Franklin

January 23, 30th & February 6th 6:00PM-7:15PM



Minnesota Property Tax Refund "Circuit Breaker"

- Has existed since 1970s
- Available each year to owners of homestead property (applies to taxes paid on house, garage and one acre for homestead property)
- Annual income must be approximately \$110,650 or less (income limit is higher if you have dependents)
- Refund is on a sliding scale, based on income and total property taxes
- Maximum refund is \$2,710
- Those who already qualify may receive an additional refund of up to 80% of the increase due to referendum (e.g. if referendum increases taxes by \$200 per year, refund may cover \$160 of increase)
- Complete state tax form M1-PR (www.revenue.state.mn.us)



Why should kids leave their devices at home? It's important for kids to learn to...

- 1. Be bored
- 2. Socialize and interact in and with the public
- 3. Manage their emotions and behaviors appropriately in public

Children cannot adequately learn these LIFE SkILLS when their eyes are on devices. Furthermore, they need...

- To be exposed to environmental print (pre-reading skill)
- · To learn to order for themselves at restaurants
- To learn to navigate public facilities
- To learn to have manners and be polite
- To learn to pay attention to the needs of others
- To offer help (i.e. bagging groceries, unloading car)
- To learn to locate and compare prices
- · To civilly support siblings/friends/teams at competitive events
- To have conversations with others
- To make eye contact with service workers & the public
- To be present in the moment
- · To see the world around them
- To see how others handle public situations

...among MANY more!

There are so many learning opportunities that THE WORLD JUST BEING THE WORLD has to offer!

W. Abby Mullins | Babbling Abby, LLC © 2019 |

For more information about the use of electronic devices for children, check out the article following the link below. There is some great information about why it's important to limit device use and what skills are learned by doing so.

Nurse's Nook

8 Tips for Staying Healthy During the Winter Season

- Wash your hands frequently. Lucky for us, the most well-known method of staying healthy during the winter season is still one of the best ways: washing your hands with soap and water.
- Sanitize your surroundings
- Bundle up
- · Get a flu shot
- Stay active
- Make time for downtime
- Eat healthy
- See your doctor



Camp Cougar is a fun and engaging School Age Child Care program for children in grades K-5. It began in the summer of 2018 and is in its second school year. Currently approximately 12 students attend

CAMP COUGA

the program after school. Camp Cougar is open Monday- Friday on school days from 3:15-5:30 and is based out of the Elementary Library. The staff at Camp Cougar provides a wide variety of activities. They spend a lot of time outside playing on the playground, participating in large group games, and imaginative play with toys. When the children cannot be outside due to weather, they have lots of fun inside playing board games, doing STEM activities, making crafts or art projects, and playing with toys. Students that have homework may choose to

work on it during Camp so they do not have to do it at home. Each day students

are provided a free snack through the school food program. Snack time is also a time to relax and listen to the staff read aloud a good book. Throughout the school year Camp children participate in special events such as 4H activities or other special guests that love to work with kids.

If you are interested in your child registering for the Camp Cougar After School Program, you may contact Michelle Thooft at mthooft@cedarmt.org or call Cedar Mountain Elementary School at 507-557-2251 and leave a message for Michelle Thooft.



Community Education / Youth Activities

Photography

Are you interested in learning how to edit your own photographs? Are you also interested in photo manipulation and effects? Check out digital photography with Mrs. Paula Gareis. In this course, you will be able to learn photo editing and manipulation using your very

own photographs. Mrs. Gareis will



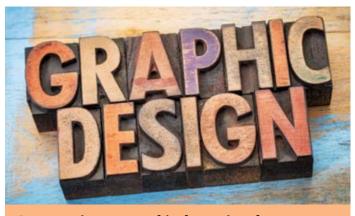
show you how to get the most from your photographs and even how fix some images you may need touched up. Bring a flash drive or disc containing the photographs you'd like to edit (or your phone with a USB cord). Among the skills taught will be: fixing exposure, sharpening and softening images, double exposures, removing unwanted elements from your photographs, fixing color, adding other photographic elements to existing photos, adding creative gradients to your photos, using brushes to enhance photographs, and more!

Date: Tuesday, December 10

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: CM MS/HS Computer Lab (near district office) What to bring: Flash drive or disc containing the photographs you'd like to edit (or your phone with a USB cord to download).

Cost: \$25 Max #: 18



Are you interested in learning how to create digital graphics?

With today's technology, creating graphics is fun and simple with the right tools. Check out graphic design with Mrs. Paula Gareis. In this course you can learn how to create your own custom graphics that can be used for all purposes such as t-shirts, greeting cards, advertisements, emojis, websites, and more!

Date: Thursday, December 5
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Location: CM MS/HS Computer Lab

(near district office)

Cost: \$25 Max #: 18

THRILLING THURSDays

Thrilling Thursdays is a new program for CM Community Ed. It is for preschool aged children held Thursday mornings in Morgan. Transportation is provided for a small fee from daycares, there is no charge for transportation between Franklin Elementary/Cougar Cub Childcare and the MS/ HS. The theme for the first session that is going on now is All About Me! One of the many fun activities the children have done was measuring how tall they were and then made flowers as



tall as them! They also used blocks to measure how long their feet are! Session 2 will be starting in December and we would love to add a few more kids to the program. If you have questions, please contact instructor, Mikayla Rudenick at 507-430-5731. If you would like to register, you can do so online at: www.cmcommunityed. coursestorm.com

THRILLING THURSDAY SESSION 2

Music & Movement

Please join us for another fun filled 7-week session learning about Music and Movement! Music and Movement have so many benefits for our kids! It helps develop their language, builds memory skills, encourages creative thinking, burns energy, and promotes social skills. During the 7 weeks we will have a guest speaker, make music and instruments, and learn about music and the different ways we can move to it. Sign up online at: www.cmcommunityed.coursestorm.com

Session 2 – Music & Movement



ISD 2754 Cedar Mountain Schools 207 Gallager Street PO Box 188 Morgan, MN 56266

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ECRWSS
Marshall, MN 56258
Permit No. 20

POSTAL PATRON

Nov. 12, 14 MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conf. (Evenings)
Nov. 15 Early Dismissal – 12:10
Nov. 21, 25 Elementary Parent/Teacher Conf. (Evenings)
Nov. 27 Early Dismissal – 12:10
Nov. 28, 29 Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec. 21 – Jan. 1
Jan. 2
Jan. 20 Teacher Workday (No School)
Feb. 17
Feb. 24 Early Dismissal – 12:10
Feb. 24
March 13
March 20 Early Dismissal – 12:10
April 8 Early Dismissal – 12:10
April 9-April 13Spring Break (No School)
May 25 Memorial Day (No School)
May 28Last day of school
May 29 Graduation
Calendar subject to change

Visit our website to see any updates to the calendar.

CMS.Mntm.org

WINTER SPORTS START DATES

November 11

- 7-12 Girls Basketball
- 7 / 8th Grade Boys Basketball
- 7-12 Gymnastics
- 7-12 Dance

November 18

- 9-12 Boys Basketball
- 7-12 Wrestling

CEDAR MOUNTAIN SALT (Student Athlete Leadership Team) meets every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month to develop their leadership skills and apply them toward programs and activities within the school. Be on the lookout for activities coordinated by this group throughout the year.

THE TOMAHAWK CONFERENCE has recently opened a brand new website with a number of convenient features:

- · links to the school websites of all member schools.
- links to the activity calendars of all member schools.
- history of the conference
- · championship teams
- all conference recipients
- social media posts from member schools

Take a look and bookmark for future reference: www.tomahawkconference.new.rschooltoday.com/