



DECEMBER 2022

# FROM THE TOP

CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS • CMS.MNTM.ORG

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Monday, September 19th kicked off **HOMECOMING WEEK** at Cedar Mountain. There were many fun events planned; the annual variety show/coronation, dress up days such as "Jake from State Farm" and pep fests 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!**



L - R: Payton Ball, Lauren Welter, Nathan Sandgren, Nadia Meyers, Jaxon Kerkohff, Theresa Larsen, Keegan Lorang, Mykenna Vollmer  
Kindergarten Attendants: Brecklyn Larsen & Kyren Koerner







**Mr. R. Brandl**  
Superintendent /  
MSHS Principal

# 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 may also be communicated on Facebook, 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 canceled for the day or we have an early dismissal for bad weather, all after school activities and practices are also canceled. 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 avoid 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.



**MSHS**

**November 15 and 17**

The 15th will be in-person conferences for families who would like to meet with a teacher.

*The 17th will be online only conferences.*

**Elementary**

**November 17 and 21**

Online and in person options both nights.

*More information will be coming soon.*

## FOREIGN STUDENT Spotlight

**Santiago Gomez Daiz** is 15 years old and from Madrid, Spain, his host parents are Brian and Sue Kazenbach from Morgan. His family in Spain consists of his mom (Sara), dad (Santiago) and also a brother and sister. His mom is the one who encouraged him to become a foreign exchange student.

Santiago enjoys playing soccer and just finished playing football for Cedar Mountain. Math is Santiago's favorite subject in school, he says the educational system is very different in Spain than here, for one thing, there are no school sports in Spain.

Along with Spanish, Santiago also speaks French and English. When he returns to Spain, Santiago will have 2 more years of school and then plans to attend university (college) with the possibility of becoming a firefighter.





*Mrs. T. Miller  
Elementary  
Principal*

# Highlights of CMS Elementary

It has been a busy but exciting fall at Cedar Mountain Elementary! We have continued to work on routines and expectations and our students are doing a great job. Here are some of our highlights!

This year we held our first Fall Festival. We decided to put together the traditional Farmer's Market with a festival theme to celebrate the start of the year. We had much success thanks to all of our families and community supporters. All the donations went to our students activity accounts for our students to enjoy classroom celebrations and field trips throughout the year.

Our fourth and fifth graders had the opportunity to go on their first field trip of the year to McGowen Farms in Mankato and attend History Fest. This was a great opportunity for students to live out the past through hands-on experiences.

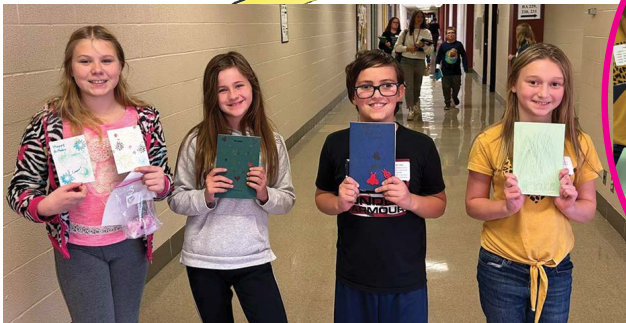
Our students were also already able to join in the fight against bullying with a visit from Kelvin Saline. He uses both humor and magic to share with the students the importance of standing up for themselves and not being bullied.

Homecoming festivities at the elementary school were also a huge success. We enjoyed the visit from our high school volleyball and football players during lunch and recess. We thank our CPAC for the generous donation of homecoming shirts for the second year. It was a time full of Cedar Mountain Pride.

Our Kindergarten Jump Start continues to be a great opportunity for our students who will be entering kindergarten in the fall. They are walking in the hallway quietly, going through the lunch line and eating in the lunchroom, packing up your backpack... are all skills that we take for granted but are usually taught in kindergarten. Some kids are able to do all these things – but can they do it within the time frame we need and with the distractions of 15 others? These kids are now able to practice all these school expectations this year and are doing great at it! Plus they are mastering pre-kindergarten skills and having fun with the kids in their grade.

All of our classrooms are continuing to use the app called See Saw to communicate with parents and send examples of their work! Be sure you are not missing out on this fun if you haven't connected yet to the class. This is the format we will be using for our E-Learning Days this winter.

We are really encouraging our kids to **READ – READ – READ!** Prizes are given out monthly to those students that read and pass a quiz to prove their comprehension. Students this year have been given the opportunity to take quizzes at home and continue their love of reading with family members. We started our prizes in October and look forward to seeing our readers grow. Be sure you are modeling the importance of reading at home and are making time to read with your children no matter what age they are!



Cedar Mountain recently took a group of 3rd-8th grade students to the Conference for Young Artists. They were able to do hands-on activities to gain a better understanding of creative art. They were also able to enjoy a comedy ventriloquist performance.



## JOIN US

*to help students reach  
their full potential*

*Middle / High School*  
**PARAPROFESSIONAL**

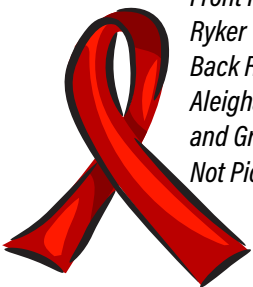
## Openings

Looking to join an amazing team and help students reach their full potential? Cedar Mountain Middle / High School is currently accepting applications for a paraprofessional to work at the middle/high school level. If this opportunity interests you please apply by filling out an application and submitting it to Rob Brandl at [rbrandl@cedarmt.org](mailto:rbrandl@cedarmt.org)





Front Row - James Tufts, Kylie Krenz, Grace Guetter, Ryker Vermillion, Ava Radermacher and Alana Rieke  
Back Row - Baxter Wanzek, Kaylynn Facile, Aleigha Bickhardt, Harley Atkins, Kayson Minkel, and Grady Kerkhoff  
Not Pictured - Alexis DeGre and Chase Steffl



# Red Ribbon Week



The winners of this year's Red Ribbon Week coloring contest.



The First Annual Fall Festival took place at Cedar Mountain Elementary on October 14. The festival replaced the long standing tradition of the Farmer's Market. The Fall Festival included a farmer's market and much more! Thank you to everyone who supported the festival in any way, came for the meal, bought from the market, worked a shift, donated, or enjoyed the games. It was all greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to next year!

## FALL FESTIVAL







4th graders in Mr. Babbitt's science class recently wrapped up an exciting unit. Students learned about one of Earth's most amazing marvels — volcanoes! Through an experiment, students learned that different lava types form different kinds of volcanoes, and then they got the chance to create their own cone volcanoes. The class formed their creations using paper-mache, painted them to look realistic, and then got ready for eruption time! Students then watched as a chemical reaction inside their volcanoes created some colorful, oozing "lava!" Safe to say — this project was an explosive hit!

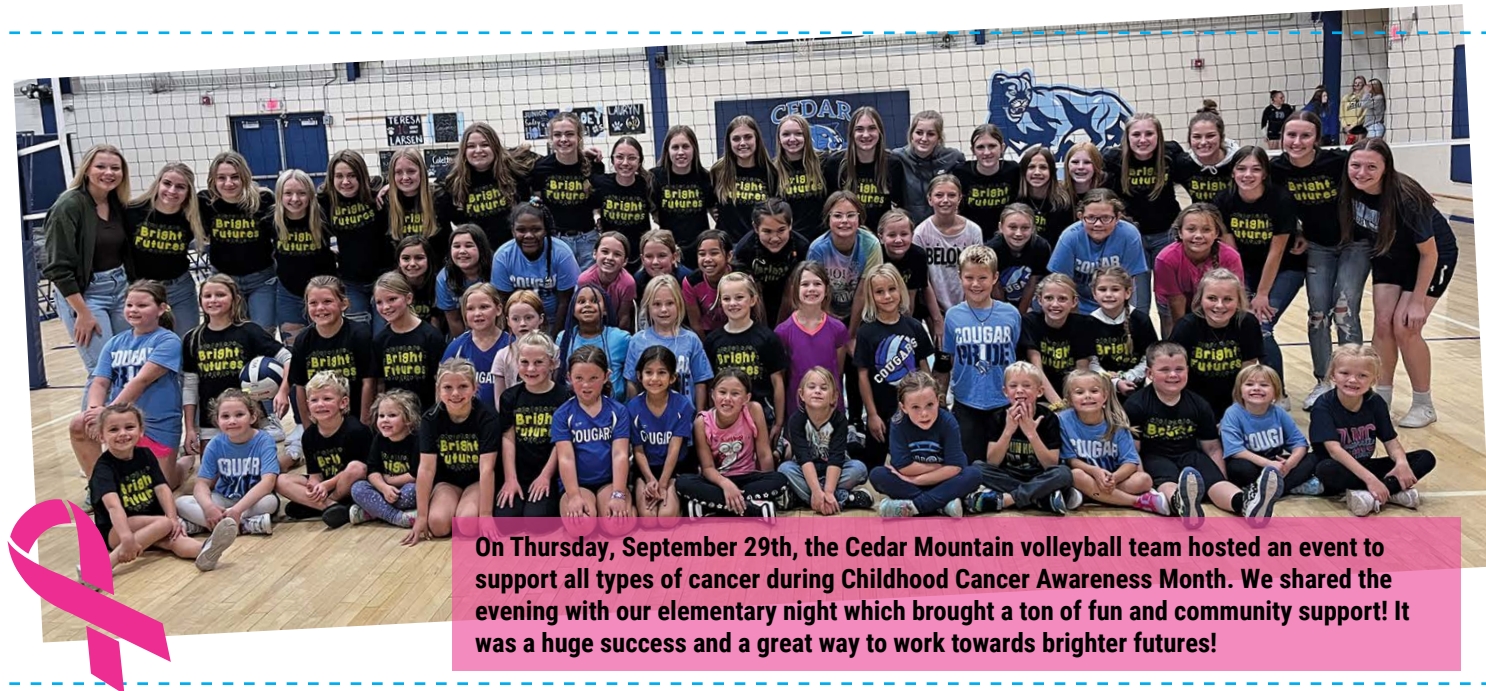


The Cedar Mountain Youth Football program wrapped their season up at the beginning of October. Pictured are players in grades 4, 5 and 6.

Cedar Mountain middle school students participated in a fall cleanup around Morgan. It was a chilly day but the joy we brought to others warmed our hearts.







On Thursday, September 29th, the Cedar Mountain volleyball team hosted an event to support all types of cancer during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. We shared the evening with our elementary night which brought a ton of fun and community support! It was a huge success and a great way to work towards brighter futures!

# Blue Crue Tue Team



Senior High Blue Crue members decorated and handed out Halloween cookies at lunch!



SADD members greeted students with treats at the high school on Halloween.



**Thank YOU**

**42 Units**  
were collected!

**Next Blood Drive**  
**February 7**  
at Cedar Mountain



Thank you for doing your part in saving lives. We are proud of and grateful to our donors and many volunteers.





# FFA Attends 95<sup>th</sup> National Convention

The last week of October, eight individuals attended the 95th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. On the trip there, we stopped in the Arthur Area, home to the largest and oldest Amish community in Illinois, which was founded in the 1860s. Their lifestyle and religious beliefs are an important aspect of the greater Arthur community and are also of much interest to many visitors. We were able to tour their business of making furniture, learning about schools and churches, visited a farm, and had a sit down family meal made by the Amish.

Once we arrived in Indianapolis, we attended the 1st general session, heard about other members' success and heard from the amazing Tamika Catchings. Tamika Catchings has called her moderate to severe hearing loss her "superpower." It certainly didn't hinder her career, which includes winning the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) Defensive Player of the Year Award five times in her 15 seasons with the Indiana Fever and four Olympic gold medals. She reminds us to be BOLD. We also went to the Lauren Alaina and Jimmie Allen concert! We spent a lot of time at the expo, there were more than 300 exhibitors representing agriculture, colleges, fundraising, the U.S. Armed Services and auto and truck manufacturers that we got to meet. There was definitely something for everyone. We discovered many agricultural careers and explored opportunities in postsecondary job training and education. It was a great week meeting other agriculturists across the country.

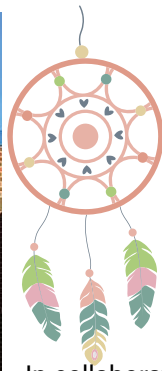


## Cedar Mountain TACKLE CANCER

Once again, Cedar Mountain's Tackle Cancer was a success. A tailgate was held October 7 before the football game and continued throughout the evening. Profits from the t-shirt sales, tailgate and concessions will go to Redwood County Kickin' Cancer and Renville County Walk in the Park. Both organizations keep much of their funds local to help those going through a cancer diagnosis. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this event!







## CMS Students celebrate Native American History Month

In collaboration with the Lower Sioux, Diego, and the upper elementary Native American students help set up a Tipi in honor of Native American history month. This celebration is one of many that is planned for the month of November. We are excited to learn, grow, and celebrate this month.



## Counselor's corner 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

CMS Sophomores went to the Career Expo in Marshall early October. Hundreds of business, agency and education volunteers work together to provide this opportunity. Each year the number and type of interactive exhibits has expanded to better meet the needs of schools and students from the region.

## Seniors



October was College Knowledge Month where many of the colleges waived their application fees. Seniors should now be thinking about financial aid, all students who are planning to attend a postsecondary school next fall need to complete the FAFSA form. The FAFSA is web based and students are encouraged to use the online application. Students can print off a FAFSA on the web worksheet, which is helpful to fill out prior to completing the FAFSA on the web. If parents would like a paper application, just let Mr. Palokangas know. In order for students to complete the FAFSA form, both the student and their parents will need tax figures from 2021. The FAFSA on the web can be found at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Don't forget to register for an FSA ID when going to the FAFSA web site. Scholarships are another way for students to obtain help with paying for college. There is a scholarship page on the school web site at [www.cms.mntm.org](http://www.cms.mntm.org). Click on high school and then on Counselor's Corner. Last, be aware of scams, never pay for someone to complete your FAFSA for you or for financial aid or scholarship information.



**Seniors don't forget  
to register for your  
FAFSA ID at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**

**Check out the  
school's website  
for scholarship  
information.**



Front Row (L to R) - Carter Schiller, Keagan Lueck, Payton Ball, Nathan Sandgren, Maverick Weber, Keegan Lorang, Jonah Krogstad, Kegan Tietz, Gabriel Preciado  
Back Row (L to R) - Jaiden Robinson, Kenadi Heiling, Madilynn Eichstadt, Paige Rose, Savannah Ball, Keira Hultquist, Keanna Hultquist, Mykenna Vollmer, Teresa Larsen, Lauren Welter, Abbie Hacker, Kenley Schiller, Kylie Koerner

## CMS Welcomes 8 New Members to it's National Honor Society



On Monday, October 3, eight new members were inducted into the Cedar Mountain National Honor Society. Being inducted into the NHS is a great achievement for students. In order to be considered for this honor, students must have at least a 3.5 GPA, be active in various organizations both in and outside of school, show excellent personal character, and demonstrate leadership skills.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



# A Scary, but FUN Painting Experience

Elementary students recently had the opportunity to participate in a painting class for Community Ed. Thank you to Mikayla Rudenick for hosting this event.



**SMART  
Room**

...has our students moving.



Our staff joined in with in the dress-up spirit of Halloween. Mr. Babbitt, Mrs. Polla, Mrs. Nelson and Mrs. Sandgren dressed as the four seasons for the occasion.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

## HALLOWEEN Night



CMS PreK class enjoying  
a little of fun for  
Halloween.





# Thrilling Thursdays

## Morgan

This Community Ed activity will be held in the preschool room in Morgan. The class is broken down into 4 themed based sessions and each session is 7 classes. If you want your child to attend one session you can, or you can register for the whole year! This activity will be very hands-on and will allow children to explore their environment in ways that include walking field trips, science lessons, music and much more! This is a Community Ed event and there are no scholarships available. This program is for children ages 3-5 years old. Your child may start Thrilling Thursday as soon as they turn 3 years old if space allows.

Days & Time: Thursdays from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35 per session (*sorry, no scholarships available*)

Location: Morgan



## Santa's Workshop

**Tuesday, December 6**

**6:00-7:15**

**Morgan Cafeteria**

**\$5 per family**

## WE ARE HIRING



### POSITION:

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION OFFICE ASSISTANT

Looking for flexibility and have strong clerical skills? Cedar mountain is looking for someone 16 hours a week with excellent communication skills to work with the special education team. The job will include clerical support with data entry, filing and copying. If this opportunity interests you please apply by filling out an application and submitting it to Tabatha Miller at [tmiller@cedarmt.Org](mailto:tmiller@cedarmt.Org).



## CEDAR MOUNTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS



# JOB POSTING

**POSITION:** CUSTODIAN/CLEANER

**STATUS:** FULL TIME, 12 MONTH POSITIONS

**LOCATION:** CEDAR MOUNTAIN MS/HS IN MORGAN

**SCHEDULE:** 5 DAYS / WEEK, 8 HOURS / DAY

**HOURS:** 7:30AM-3:30PM, (POTENTIAL FOR FLEXIBLE START AND END TIME)

**START DATE:** AS SOON AS APPLICABLE

**SALARY:** BASED ON NON-CERTIFIED SALARY SCHEDULE AND QUALIFICATIONS

**BENEFITS:** 12 MONTH EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PACKAGE



### TO APPLY:

PLEASE COMPLETE AN APPLICATION AND SUBMIT TO:

ROB BRANDL, SUPERINTENDENT  
CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS  
207 GALLAGER ST.  
MORGAN, MN 56266

Applications can be found at: <https://www.cms.mntm.org/Page/18> or contact the district office for an application to be mailed to you.

Contact Mr. Brandl with any questions related to the position at (507) 249-5990

Positions are open until filled

Cedar Mountain is an equal opportunity employer.



POSTAL PATRON

CALENDAR

November 15 & 17	MSHS Conferences
November 17 & 21	Elementary Conferences
November 23	12:10 Dismissal
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Break (No School)
December 5	MSHS Concert
December 8	Elementary Concert
December 22-31	Christmas Break (No School)
January 20	Teacher In-Service (No School)
February 17	12:10 Dismissal - All Staff In-Service
February 20	President's Day (No School)
February 27	12:10 Dismissal - Conferences
March 10	Teacher In-Service (No School)
March 24	12:10 Dismissal
April 5-10	Spring Break (No School)
April 28	12:10 Dismissal - All Staff In-Service
May 29	Memorial Day (No School)
June 1	Last Day of School
June 2	Graduation

Winter Sports  
Start Dates

**November 14**  
**Girls Basketball (grades 6-12)**  
**Boys Basketball (grades 6-8)**  
**Gymnastics**  
**Hockey**

**November 21**  
**Boys Basketball (grades 9-12)**  
**Dance (grades 6-12)**  
**Wrestling**



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