

September 20, 2021



Dear **Cardinal** Staff and Families,

Welcome to **Homecoming Week**! Homecoming invites reminiscing of the **past** and **tradition**, spending time with lifetime **friends** and **family**, making **new** memories, and taking **pride** in our school and community. One memorial tribute will be shared at this week's board meeting. The class of 1995 is requesting to gift a bench overlooking the football field in memory of **beloved classmate** Jeremy Ribbey. Likewise, the **students** and **staff** have planned many activities to make the week special, and I hope you are able to engage in the festivities.

Last week, our School **Improvement** Advisory Committee (SIAC) met to analyze district **data** prepared by our instructional coaching team. Students, staff, community members, and administrators collaborated to identify areas of **celebration** and future **focus** for the CCSD.

A few **celebrations** include:

FFA, community support, teachers who care, dedicated fans, kids know their classmates, parents can connect with teachers, students support each other, drive for excellence, sense of community, performing arts, Band, IJAG, coaches, students as leaders, and cheerleading and student body spirit.

The major **focus** area identified **was lack of early literacy proficiency** and **preschool**. The team contributed in an idea-share and a few preliminary and short- and long-term ideas include:

reading buddies, summer offerings, public library collaboration, science/social studies opportunities, collaboration with preschools, continued professional development for teachers, HS Volunteers, parent learning and engagement, reading mentoring program, interest-based/challenging learning environments, application of skills, after school programs, advocacy for preschool (full state funding), access to books and resources for kids and teachers, engagement on advisory boards, reading bedtime stories for students, and reading stamina support.

Please look for more information regarding **idea implementation** and ways to **engage**!

To support **student** and **staff health** and **learning**, the district is seeking board approval to send a team to the Iowa BEST Summit in November. A mixed team, including one individual from each of the following categories: principal, counselor, BLA, teacher from each building, instructional coach, student from REST, board member, nurse, and superintendent will bring back strategies for **social-emotional-behavioral health**, **family/student voice**, and **accelerated learning** to close achievement gaps.

Respectfully,

Chris Bergman
Superintendent, CCSD
cbergman@clarindacsd.org

#theCARDINALway