

CRAIG ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL



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Craig Elementary and Middle School March Board Report Principal: Christy House

CEMS continues to build strong momentum as we move through the semester, with meaningful progress across staffing, student opportunities, and school-wide initiatives. This report highlights ongoing efforts to strengthen our team, celebrate student learning and extracurricular involvement, and prepare for key assessments and upcoming events. We remain focused on providing high-quality experiences for our students while fostering a supportive and engaging school environment for our entire community.

CEMS Staffing Updates

Active recruitment efforts remain underway for our remaining open teaching positions, with a continued focus on identifying high-quality candidates who will be a strong fit for both our students and the CEMS community. At this time, our primary area of need is a K–12 Health/PE position, and we have begun the interview process as part of our ongoing search.

I am pleased to share positive progress in our staffing efforts. We have successfully filled our elementary special education position, and we are excited to welcome Nona Lindquist to the CEMS team. Additionally, we have received a Letter of Intent for our CMS math position from Luke Dinon, a former CCSD student. We are thrilled to welcome him to our district in this role.

These additions reflect meaningful momentum in building a strong team for the upcoming school year, and we look forward to the continued progress ahead.

CEMS Enrollment (as of March 19, 2026)

- *CES: 82 students
- *CMS: 46 students

CEMS Classroom Happenings

CMS Ms. Hughes - The sixth grade science class has nearly completed their scale model of the solar system.

CMS Ms. Balcom -Six CMS are traveling to Ketchikan March 25th - 27th to Middle School Music Day. The participants at this event will perform with middle school band and choir students from Ketchikan and Metlakatla at a concert Thursday evening, at 7:00. The kids are very excited to participate in this opportunity to showcase music programs in our region during March Music In Our Schools Month.

CEMS Extracurricular Activities

CEMS Student Council - Through a collaborative effort, the CES and CMS Student Councils have raised enough funds to provide a Panther spirit t-shirt for every student and staff member across both schools. Ronnie Fairbanks is currently working on a fantastic design, and we're excited to unveil the new shirts soon. A big "thank you" to the student council for the providing shirts for the students. And a big "thank you" to Mr. Fairbanks as well.

CMS Volleyball – Our volleyball season is underway, with 18 student-athletes participating this year. The team has already competed in several matches and continues to show growth in both individual skills and overall team cohesion. Throughout March, games between Craig, Klawock, and Thorne Bay were hosted at the Craig High School gym, as the Craig Middle School gym remains unavailable for events due to ongoing construction. We greatly appreciate the high school's support and flexibility in accommodating our team during this period of displacement.

CEMS Events/Highlights

End of the 3rd Quarter - The school year is quickly passing, and Friday, March 20 marked the end of the third quarter at CCSD. Grades will be finalized the week following Spring Break, with report cards sent home on or before April 3. Our students have demonstrated strong effort and dedication to their learning, and there is much to celebrate as we reflect on their progress this quarter.

Battle of the Books - February was "Battle" month, and our teams fought valiantly to triumph against their opponents during the event. As reported by Ms. Cross, the coach, *"The kids all did GREAT. They functioned as a team, followed directions, were helpful to each other and had great manners/sportsmanship."* The results for the year are as follows:

- *Middle School placed 17th out of 27
- *5th/6th placed 34th out of 39
- *3rd/4th placed 26th out of 37

Parade Celebrating the CHS Lady Panther Basketball Team - CEMS students proudly participated in a community parade to celebrate the CHS girls basketball team following their return from the state tournament. Our students were enthusiastic in showing their support, cheering on the team as regional champions and third-place finishers at state. It was a great opportunity to come together as a school community and recognize the team's hard work and outstanding achievement.

CMS Drama Night “Squad Goals” - Mr. Seibel’s class delivered the final performance of his career as he is retiring at the end of this school year. In true fashion, he is “bouncing” his way out of Craig and our schools, leaving behind a legacy of creativity, dedication, and a lasting impact on countless students. The performance itself was outstanding - students rose to the occasion with confidence, humor, and impressive stage presence, making the show genuinely funny and enjoyable from start to finish. It was a wonderful celebration of his work and a truly fitting final act for a remarkable career. Thank you, Mr. Seibel for your dedication to our students over the years. You are appreciated.

Spring Break - Spring Break is just around the excitement is building across our schools! Students and staff alike are looking forward to a well-deserved opportunity to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff, and we hope everyone takes full advantage of this time to reset and enjoy every moment. Spring Break - here we come!

CMS Tour of Remodeled School - Prior to Spring Break, middle school students, staff, and invited community members had the opportunity to tour the newly renovated building. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with many impressed by the updated and welcoming learning spaces. In fact, a few eighth-grade students jokingly asked to be retained just so they could spend an extra year in the new building. We are excited as the project nears completion and are hopeful that we will be able to transition into the space before the end of the school year.

CEMS Assessment Updates

WIDA Assessment - Test for English Language Learners - CCSD successfully completed WIDA assessments in March for the 2025 - 2026 school year. This is required by the district once yearly.

AK Star and Alaska Science Assessments - All CCSD schools are scheduled to complete the required state testing in the upcoming April. Teachers are currently preparing to be proctors, and the use of practice tests will begin in classrooms after we return from our spring break.

Upcoming Activities and Events

- *April 1: CCSD Reg
- *April 6 - 10: AK Star and Alaska Science Testing @ CEMS
- *April 13 - 17: AK Star and Alaska Science Testing @ CHS
- *April 20: Teacher Inservice - No School for Students
- *April 21: 5th - 12th Spring Concert @ 6:30 at CHS Auditorium
- *May 12: K-4th Spring Concert @ 6:30 at CHS Auditorium