



FEBRUARY 2024

# FROM THE TOP

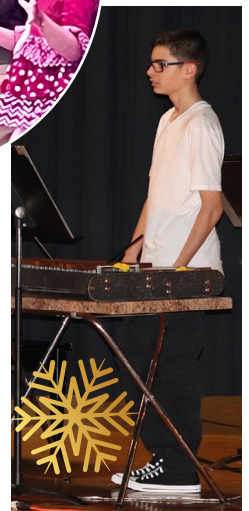
CEDAR MOUNTAIN SCHOOLS • CMS.MNTM.ORG

DISTRICT OFFICE  
PO Box 188 • 207 GALLAGER STREET  
MORGAN, MN 56266  
PH: 507.249.5990 • FAX: 507.249.3149

CEDAR MOUNTAIN ELEMENTARY  
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PH: 507.249.5880 • FAX: 507.249.5887

Cedar Mountain students helped everyone get in the holiday spirit by hosting their holiday concerts in early December. Concerts were held at both the MSHS and Elementary schools. Many hours go into preparing and planning for these special nights, great job to all involved!







*Kimberly DeWitte  
Superintendent*

## Exciting changes coming to our students

It is hard to believe that we are already entering the second semester of the 23-24 school year. The weather has treated us great compared to last year but we know as Minnesotans weather can change in a moment's notice. This school year we have had 2 late starts and 2 early outs (One early out was due to the boilers failing at the elementary school). I want to thank you for your support and flexibility when we make these decisions as a district. My first concern is and

will always be the safety of our students.

As we move into the second semester of school, we are starting to plan for the 24-25 school year. The school board approved adjusting the credits needed to graduate from 28-24. This will alleviate the need for students to take classes that they are not interested in and allow more elective opportunities for our MSHS students. We are going to be adding an additional AG teacher next school year and also reworking the schedule to incorporate classes that will use more technology. Stay tuned because registration for next school year will be starting soon.

At the elementary level we are continuing to follow the updates and requirements that are included in the READ act. We will be introducing a new benchmarking system as well as training staff in LTRS. This training is based on the science of reading.

Kindergarten Connection night is right around the corner. This will take place on March 14th from 5:30-7:00 at Cedar Mountain Elementary - Franklin. If you have a child that will be 5 by September 1, please call the school at 507-557-2251 to register your child. More information will be shared soon via a postcard and social media.

Preschool will also see some changes as we move into the 24-25 school year. All preschool students will be at the school in Franklin. We are increasing our offerings for 4 year old students to enroll in either a 2 full day or a 3 full day program and our 3 year olds will be able to enroll in a 3 half days class per week. We are finalizing details and a postcard will be mailed out very soon with additional details and information will also be shared via social media.

Thank you to all of our students, staff, and communities for a great first semester of school.

## Lady Cougars



The Cedar Mountain girl's varsity basketball team visited the elementary on Thursday, January 18 to demonstrate some basketball drills, eat lunch, and enjoy recess. It was a wonderful time for all, especially for the younger students to have these role models.

### School Census

*Are you new to the school district? Did you recently have a new baby or have a child move into your home?*

Cedar Mountain keeps a census of all children ages 0-18. Please contact us to be sure your child gets put on the census list. This helps us plan for the future. Contact Sarah Sullivan 249-5990 or [ssullivan@cedarmt.org](mailto:ssullivan@cedarmt.org) to add your child or to check to make sure your child is on our current list.

### ELEMENTARY SPRING CONCERTS

#### April 18 - Grades 3-5

They will be performing some of their favorite Disney songs.

#### May 2 - Grades K-2

They will be performing songs about rainforests.





*Julia Garms  
Elementary  
Dean of Students*

# CMS Elementary has been busy!

The elementary school has a lot to celebrate through the first half of the year. Academically, we have been working on skills in math, reading, and science. We have also created fun art projects and learned how to weave, paint, and cut. Finally, we have learned new athletic skills like roller skating and floor hockey. Through the second half of the year, we look forward to continuing to learn and grow. There will be many exciting events where we will be able to showcase our talents.

**Parent Teacher Conferences** – This will be held on February 29. We look forward to sharing all of the great things your child is doing in school. Look for more information coming soon.

**I Love to Read Month** – We are looking forward to celebrating reading the entire month of February. We are having a fundraising event that promotes reading and gets books into our students' hands in order to build their own libraries at home. Look for more information during the second week of February to see how you can support students here at Cedar Mountain.

**Special Person's Day/Grandparent's Day** – This special day will be on April 5. We look forward to having fun activities celebrating the special people in our students' lives.

**AR Prizes** – Students in grades K-5 have been working on AR reading quizzes throughout the year. Each month they continue to be recognized in their classrooms and awarded prizes at each different level. Students will also be recognized at the end of the year for the total number of points earned in one year.

**Spring Concert** – We are excited to announce that we will be having spring music concerts. Grades 3-5 will have a concert on April 18. They will be performing some of their favorite Disney songs. Grades K-2 will have a concert on May 2. They will be performing songs about rainforests.

**Cedar Mountain's Got Talent** – This will be held on April 26. Students will sign up to display their artistic projects in the lobby at school and share their talent performances with the entire school.



The 2nd graders were treated to a donut party from the Renville County Sheriff's Office for bringing in the most weight in food for the holiday food drive. They had fun playing a few games before enjoying their donuts.





# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Going  
Going  
GONE!



The 5th graders enjoyed their first auction this year with a real auctioneer! Doug Kerkhoff volunteers his time in the classroom at the end of each trimester. He does a great job giving the students a real-life auction experience. The prizes that were auctioned off were in part thanks to Joel Mathiowetz and the Redwood County Farm Bureau Association.



## COUGARETTES

The Cedar Mountain Cougarettes dance program wrapped up their season with a recital on January 14, over 60 dancers in preschool - grade 6 participated.



*THANK YOU to  
Tasha Zieske and her  
assistants;  
Sami Gruendemann,  
Trista Madsen,  
Lauryn Menk, and  
Lydia Sullivan*



## CMS Dance Team

Cedar Mountain dancers have joined Wabasso's Dance Team this year. There are seventeen dancers on the competitive team with ten on Varsity and seven on JV. The dancers compete in High Kick and Jazz at 7 different competitions held at area schools as well as an occasional ½ time show in Wabasso or CM. The dancers were super excited to perform at a Minnesota Timberwolves game in February! Cedar Mountain dancers include Lauryn Menk and Abby Nelson (grade 11), Sophia Erickson (grade 9) and Maycee Weber and Peyton Schmidt (grade 8).





# Mix it Up

## At Lunch Day

Mix It Up At Lunch Day gives students the opportunity to sit with students from different grades or others they don't normally sit with. The hope is they are able to make new connections and friends. This year's theme chosen by Student Council members was Paw Patrol.



## CMS PhyEd on Wheels

Students in Mr. Freitag's elementary phy ed classes are having a blast with their roller skating unit!







**Misty Riebel**  
**MSHS Principal**

# Good day to all Cougar Families, Alumni, and Community Members

We are already halfway through the 2023-2024 school year! This means Semester 1 has come to an end and Semester two is well underway. As we look at the season ahead, we are working on preparing for the final stretch of the year - this is crazy to me and our team at the MS/HS!

As we look at the year from where we started to where we are wanting our vision to go, we are working on continuing to build a community of RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY across

each and every one of our learners. These are the two traits that keep coming to the forefront of the conversations among the adults within our building and programs at the MS/HS.

These are critical components we are working on building in our learners. These are two critical pieces to help each and every one of our learners in the MS/HS building become better versions of ourselves. Respect for self, respect for others, and respect for the environments they are in. Responsibility for self, responsibility for actions, responsibility for each piece of accountability that is necessary to build success. These are all pieces that take the entire community of support to help teach, practice, and instill in our learners.

Our vision at the MS/HS is that 100% of students are ready for the opportunities that are presented to them. Striving for the vision of 100% means we are truly practicing to reach each and every learner in

the organization. If we are striving for 80% - that means we are ok to fail 20% of learners. This, in my opinion, is not acceptable. It is each of our jobs as the adults in their lives to bring out the skill set and guide, teach and help build the journeys of each and every learner in our building. Each learner brings a unique perspective, skillset, and set of character traits to the team.

We have taken a team approach in starting to build a 7-period day schedule for the 2024-2025 school year. Senior high students have gotten to have their voices heard in what they are wanting to see - the biggest pieces of input was more in-person elective courses in the area of Agricultural, Career and Technical Education, and life skills including cooking, baking, home economics (Family and consumer science, FACS) courses! We are working to build this into the schedule for next year by opening an additional 1.0 FTE in our Agriculture Department. The team is excited to have this opportunity to add electives and start looking and focusing on how to best serve the learners we have in our programs.

We are working on building consistency, continuity, and community within our programs at the MS/HS. This takes a vision, dedication, and team members having the drive to create the culture we are striving for. I am proud to be a part of this team and work with each of our team members to build this vision for our learners. I look forward to finishing this semester and 2023-2024 school year strong! We will be in touch soon with our next update!



## JOIN THE CEDAR MOUNTAIN TEAM

**the following positions are open**

**Elementary**  
Special Education Teacher

**Middle/High School**  
Agriculture Education Teacher

**Middle/High School**  
Special Education Teacher

**please contact: [mriebel@cedarmt.org](mailto:mriebel@cedarmt.org)**

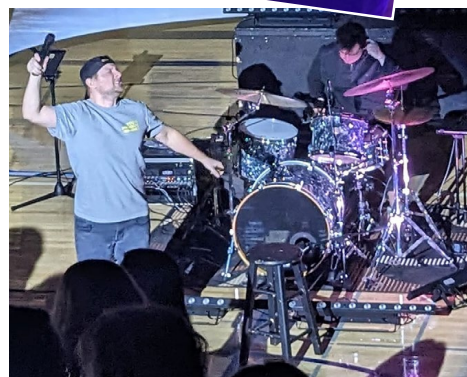
## CMS Welcomed Motivational Speaker **Cory Greenwood**

Cedar Mountain students in grades 6-12 enjoyed a performance and talk from Cory Greenwood on January 15. It was well received by both students and staff. The entire CM Community was then invited to hear Cory that evening. A big shout out and thank you to CPAC for helping with the cost to bring Cory to Cedar Mountain.

### **Who is Cory Greenwood?**

Cory is no stranger to the challenges that students face in today's world. He understands the mental health struggles, academic stress, and family problems that weigh heavily on the shoulders of our country's greatest resource. When students enter the auditorium and find their seats, Cory's contagious energy electrifies the room, making even the toughest challenges feel conquerable. His program begins with humor and laughter, setting the stage for a powerful and emotional journey. As a loving father, Cory knows that every student deserves to be loved and heard, and he delivers that message with authenticity and compassion.

Throughout the program, Cory shares his personal story of loss and resilience, inspiring students to connect with their own stories and find hope in their struggles. He reminds every person in the room that their story matters, and that their life has significant value. By the end of his program, students leave the room with a new found sense of purpose and a deep understanding that they can make it.





MSHS Spring Play  
presents

# Murder at the Malt Shop

By Cheri Maxson

**March 22 & 23**

*It's the fabulous 50s and the little town of Shingleville is rife with suspicion and speculation. Sprout's Malt Shop is filled with quirky characters, and one them is guilty of murder! After all, they all have a motive when the reprehensible and unreasonable Jerry Atrick falls over dead after an unexpected blackout.*

It's up to Sheriff Colin Allcars to find out who is responsible for the foul play. Was it the trouble-making greaser, Noah Count? Or the bubbly and annoying know-it-all cheerleader, Bobbie Pinz? Surely not her sidekick, Shirley Knott! Could it have been the waitress, Dee Lighted, who takes your order but brings you whatever she feels like? How about the sultry starlet or the dim-witted jock? Order up!

This zany mystery delivers exactly what you're craving: a juicy *whodunit* served with loads of puns and topped with a heap of nostalgic 50s references!

Save the Date



Prom 2024

**Saturday May 4th**

**Grand March at 6pm**

followed by dinner and dance until 10pm. Prom attendees board coach buses at 10:15 and go to Grand Slam for Post Prom.



**CONGRATS!**



The following 8 individuals who received their very own FFA jackets! *Back Row:* Grace Sullivan, Ryder Garrioch, Kaedee Okins, Kendal Atkins, Gabe Grunke  
*Front Row:* Sawyer Garrioch, Connor Sullivan, Brett Janke



There are  
945,988 FFA student  
members nationwide.

## Students attend MSU Honor Band

Lexi Prescott and Ali Rudenick were selected to attend the Minnesota State, Mankato Honor Band on Friday, January. 26. Honor band is a chance for dedicated band students from all over the region to come and play together for a day. For this they applied and were accepted and then learned 5 additional pieces in a little under a month. They had an 8 hour day working with college professors and students and put on a concert at the end of the afternoon. The group performed wonderfully and it was a great experience for everyone involved.





# Who's Mr G and Why does he want to Kiss a Catfish?

I began my time at Cedar Mountain at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year. I started out as a tutor through the Reading Corps program, working with students in grade K-3 to develop their reading skills. Near the end of that year, I was offered an open position as a special education teacher in the elementary school. I loved my year working as a tutor at Cedar Mountain, so I decided to try out this new position. Although I had no experience teaching special education before this, I soon grew to love my job and the students I worked with. I obtained a Master's degree in special education after a few years, and am now in my 7th year teaching at Cedar Mountain in this position.

In addition to teaching, I am also "the voice of the Cougars." I have been the announcer for Cedar Mountain football, volleyball, and basketball games since I began working at the school. I have been fortunate to announce some great teams and great athletes throughout the years!

I have also remained active through the Cedar Mountain Community Education Program. During the school year, I've helped run the flag football, Cager basketball, and baseball events for elementary students. In the summer, I've helped run the Cedar Mountain Summer Rec program, which includes

activities throughout the week as well as field trips throughout the summer. We've had a chance to bring students to Twins games, the Children's Museum, and so many other places in the summer. I'm very proud of the program that has been built and the people who have made it possible.

This summer, I am very excited to be a "Kiss the Catfish" candidate for Franklin Catfish Derby Days.

This is a competitive fundraiser to help raise money for a particular cause or organization in Franklin. All of the proceeds I raise will go towards the Cedar Mountain Community Education program. It's my hope that we use the money raised to help pay for special events like field trips, and other materials and resources for our community ed program. If you'd like to donate towards this cause, please reach out to me.

I'm so lucky to have been a part of the Cedar Mountain community for these past 7 years. I look forward to continuing to make it a great place for all students!



## THANK YOU

Thanks to the MSHS Student Council, students in grades 6-12 enjoyed some friendly Turkey Bingo before Thanksgiving break. A great big thank you to the members who helped organize this event, your leadership roles and skills are helping to build a strong sense of Cougar pride in our building!

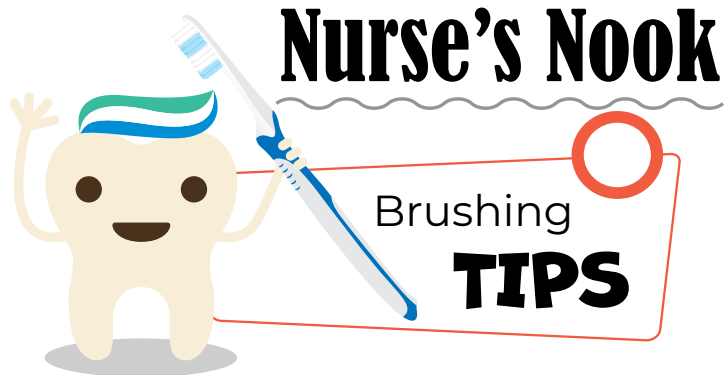


The MS/HS students had a little fry bread cooking lesson on November 28. Thank you Mr. Diego and Ms. Lisa, our Native American Liaisons for sharing your knowledge and creating this experience for students!



Cooper Freitag and Dante Otto were recognized for earning 9 Man Football All-State and All-State Honorable mention awards before the SESM home basketball game on January 29. Congratulations!





- 1 Tips to improve your dental health!
- 2 Switch to a Soft-bristled Brush.
- 3 Start by Brushing in the Back.
- 4 Add Mouthwash and Gum to Your Routine.
- 5 Don't Brush Too Often.
- 6 Don't Linger Over Sipping Sugary Drinks.
- 7 Eat Teeth-whitening Foods.
- 8 Wash your toothbrush holder.



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866-543-6009

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[www.childrensdentalservices.org](http://www.childrensdentalservices.org)

**Olivia Hospital and Clinic**

**March 12th**  
100 Healthy Way  
Olivia MN 56277  
Hours 9am - 4:30pm

**June 11th**  
420 North Main Street  
Renville MN 56284  
Hours 9am - 4pm

**September 17th**  
131 Birch Ave West  
Hector MN 55342  
Hours 9 am - 4:30 pm

**Our Services:**

Cleanings  
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Fillings

Sealants  
Fluoride

Crowns  
Extractions  
X-Rays

## COLLEGE READINESS FOR FAMILIES: GETTING YOUR STUDENT READY FOR COLLEGE

*This is the first part of a series that will be shared. Many of the suggestions noted are good for all graduating students, not only those planning for college.*

### 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 read silently.

### Establish time for homework

Keep TV, cell phones and other distractions away.

### Stay connected with school

Attend school conferences and stay in communication with your child's teachers to track progress. Ask if your child's test scores indicate he or she will be college ready in math, writing and reading.

### Choose rigorous classes

Choose challenging courses for your child. 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.

### Avoid the senior slump

Encourage your child to finish strong.



## Cedar Mountain Kindergarten Connection

**Thursday, March 14**  
**5:30 - 7:00**  
**Cedar Mountain Elementary School - Franklin**

If your child will be 5 by September 1st and you are planning on sending them to kindergarten next year, please contact Cedar Mountain for details regarding registration and our Kindergarten Connection event!

Parents will participate with their child in activities as they experience parts of a kindergarten day at the Cedar Mountain Elementary School. We ask that you bring only your kindergarten child so they can be the focus of your night!

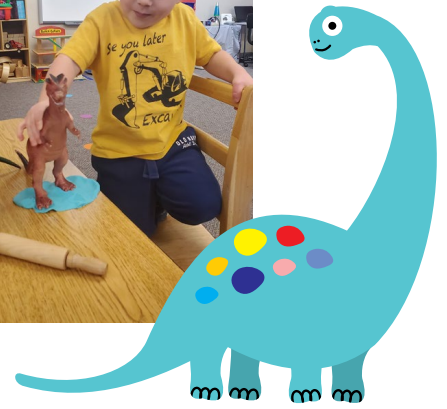
**REGISTER NOW!**



**Cedar Mountain Schools**  
**507-557-2251**  
[jgarms@cedarmt.org](mailto:jgarms@cedarmt.org)



The Thrilling Thursdays kids have been working hard! With a fan favorite theme of Dino's, our class has grown! Every Thursday they come with smiles and are eager to learn. The imagination these kids have is about as wild as the dinosaurs themselves!



## The Thrilling of Dinosaurs



## Preschool



## SANTA'S WORKSHOP

was a fun night with crafts to make, activities to do and a couple of special visitors also! Michelle with Totally Twisted came and twisted balloons into shapes for each child and Santa also came for pictures and brought a treat for each child.



Preschoolers in Morgan recently talked about hibernation and groundhogs. They made bear puppets to go with the fun book they read, "Don't Wake the Bear" by Marjorie Murray. They also made bear dens out of play-do.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**NEW**

**Full Day  
4 Year Old  
Pre-K**



Play-Based Learning



Developmentally appropriate curriculum



Outdoor Play



## 2024-25 Preschool Options

### 4 Year Old Options

(1 year out from kindergarten)

- 2 Full Days Per Week = \$150/month  
(T, TH follows school day)
- 3 Full Days Per Week = \$195/month  
(M, W, F follows school day)
- Registration Fee Non-Refundable = \$35  
(Due when form turned in)

### 3 Year Old Option

(2 years out from kindergarten)

- 3 Half Days Per Week = \$85/month  
(M, W, F 8:30 - 11am)
- Registration Fee Non-Refundable = \$25  
(Due when form turned in)

*All Preschool Classes will be held in Franklin*

*Registration forms can be found online at [cms.mntm.org](https://cms.mntm.org) under the Community Programs tab*

## Pizza & Preschool registration night

**Date: Tuesday, March 26**



You're invited to join us at Cedar Mountain Elementary to check out our preschool room and register for 2024-25 preschool classes if you have not done so. You will have an opportunity to see the preschool room, meet the preschool teachers and have supper. You are also invited to stay for the fun ECFE activity night, Hopping Into Spring! You and your family are welcome to join us for a fun evening!

**5:00 - 5:45 pm Pizza will be served in the cafeteria.**

**6:00 - 7:15 pm ECFE activity night begins**

*Pre-registration is not required but will help in planning food etc...*

*Please RSVP: Rachel at [rkrenz@cedarmt.org](mailto:rkrenz@cedarmt.org) or Dawn at [dtietz@cedarmt.org](mailto:dtietz@cedarmt.org).*

# Hopping into



# Spring

*Bring the family and  
celebrate spring  
with special crafts  
and activities*



**Date: Tuesday, March 26**

**Time: 6-7:15PM**

**Location: Franklin**

**Cost: \$5 per family**





## POSTAL PATRON

# CALENDAR

February 9	.....12:10 Dismissal - All Staff In-Service
February 19	.....No School - Presidents Day
February 26	.....12:10 Dismissal - Conferences
March 8	.....No School - Teacher In-Service
March 22	.....12:10 Dismissal
March 27 - April 1	.....No School - Spring Break
April 26	.....12:10 Dismissal - All Staff In-Service
May 27	.....No School - Memorial Day
May 30	.....12:10 Dismissal - Last Day of School
May 31	..... Graduation



*Thank you to everyone who donated  
at our February 5 blood drive!  
We had 52 donors and 5 first time  
donors!*

### Save the date

Cedar Mountain will host another  
blood drive on **APRIL 24**.

Blood products on the shelves  
today help save lives tomorrow. You  
can help by scheduling a donation  
appointment today.

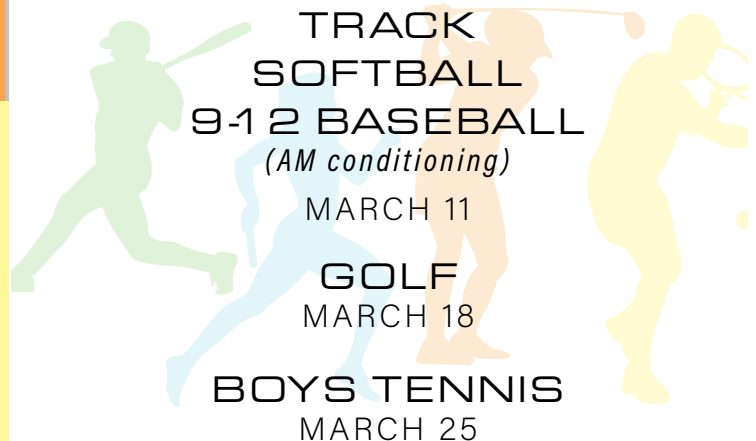
*To sign up go to  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)*



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## SPRING SPORTS



**WE ARE  
HIRING**  
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

### Duties:

- Oversee and lead 9-12th grade football program.
- Assist in guidance and development of lower level programs.

*To apply or for inquiries,  
contact:*

Jeremy Robinson  
[robinson@cedarmt.org](mailto:robinson@cedarmt.org)  
507-249-5880

