

NEWSLETTER

CRETE-MONEE SD 201-U



CM201U.ORG

APRIL 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 9

Committee of the Whole Meeting
6:30pm | District Office, Room 35

MAY 15

Early Dismissal (K-12)

MAY 16

Board of Education Meeting
6:30pm | District Office

Message from Dr. Kara Coglianese, Superintendent of Crete-Monee School District 201-U



Unity Starts With 'U'



We are delighted to share with you yet another newsletter, which is full of important updates about the work and progress happening in our district and schools for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year!

As you read this edition, you will note that the district has been busy making improvements, focusing on academic progress and striving to be the best we can be for our students and community. We encourage you to get engaged with the resources and programs we offer to the community.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I am so proud to serve with you!

Dr. Kara Coglianese
Superintendent



CALLING ALL ALUMNI & FRIENDS: JOIN OUR NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY!

We are excited to announce the launch of Crete-Monee Warriors Alumni & Friends, a free way for alumni and community members to stay connected and engaged in activities that strengthen our schools and celebrate alumni achievements and accomplishments.

The district had a soft launch of this new online community in February and will be rolling out email updates and social media communications. The benefits this online community gives you is access to connect and network with fellow alumni, search the directory to find fellow classmates, receive invites to activities and events, learn ways to volunteer and mentor, share photos, and much more!

The district will be emailing monthly newsletters that feature current events regarding alumni and alumni spotlights highlighting an individual alumnus or alumna and what they have been up to since attending the district! If you would like to nominate someone, please email alumni@cm201u.org.

Start engaging today and become a member of Crete-Monee Warriors Alumni & Friends by joining this online network, using the QR code to the right or visit www.cm201u.org/alumni! Also, don't forget to follow us on Facebook at *Crete-Monee Warriors Alumni & Friends*.



CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH & WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The CMSD 201-U Community Mentorship Committee celebrated Black History Month by hosting the MEN Empowerment Network Mentoring event on Monday, January 16th, as part of Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Day. Panel discussions on law enforcement, entrepreneurship, and the challenges that exist when people of color are viewed as "guilty by association" were held at the event.

Women's History Month was celebrated with the Real Women Read event at Coretta Scott King Magnet School on March 10th. The Inspired and Empowered Young Ladies Conference will be held on April 15th, with panel discussions on "Be Your Own Boss," "Empower Your Voice," and "I AM Enough."

DISTRICT CONTINUES FOCUS ON SAFETY

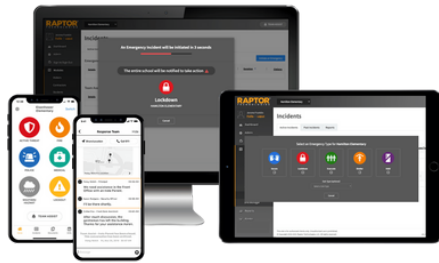
Enhancing measures and procedures of safety and security are the highest priorities of the daily operations of all our schools. We must ensure our students, staff, and welcomed visitors are not just treated with respect, but are also provided comfort in knowing our environments are monitored and have response protocols in place involving onsite and local first responders.

CMSD 201-U has partnered with the first responder teams within our local communities, county officials, and state-level support groups to provide clear systems of communication and build strong operational partnerships.

Twice a month, formal and informal meetings with CMSD 201-U staff and first responders takes place, allowing the exchange of ideas and the growth of our partnerships. Emergency response protocols are reviewed to make improvements to procedures and response times.

In addition, CMSD 201-U schools have initiated standard lockdown procedures to address internal or external emergencies. Lockdowns may fall into three categories: Hold and Teach (Green) (low-level, internal environmental or medical concern); Secure Building and Teach (Yellow) (mid-level, external situation or environment concern); ALICE (Red) (high-level, threat of harm onsite). The communications of these lockdowns come from the principal's office of the building, with indication of the event and a description of whether the building is accessible to outside visitors. A second communication will be sent to acknowledge that the event has concluded and the building's operations have returned to normal.

Clear communications should allow for first responders to properly be onsite, while also informing families of circumstances that could, at times, disrupt the normal operations of a school day.



Besides increasing awareness and communications, our schools are also implementing the use of the Raptor Visitor Management System for visitors and guests arriving at a school building. Raptor allows designated staff to track visitors, vendors, contractors, and volunteers in our buildings at all times.

Upon entering a building, visitors will be asked to present a valid state-issued ID, which will be scanned into the system. Each visitor is instantly screened against the registered sex offender databases in all 50 states. It's important to note that Raptor only scans the visitor's name, date of birth, and photo.

Once entry is approved, Raptor will issue a badge that identifies the visitor, the date, and the purpose of the visit. Additional visitor data from the driver's license is not gathered, nor is the system connected to any other system (such as the Department of Motor Vehicles). Raptor has been in use at our high school and middle schools, but will soon be operational across all our schools.

ADMINISTRATION & CENTRAL OFFICE MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

The administration office, also known as the central office, has relocated to an office building at 690 W. Exchange in Crete.

The district is currently in the process of possibly purchasing this building to make more room at the Early Learning Center and to permanently house the central office at this new location.



NEW ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE/MARQUEES

Have you noticed our new LED building signs? If not, take a drive by one of our schools to see the new and improved signage!



Our new LED marquee signs provide a visually brighter and cleaner way to communicate with our community. Messaging can be quickly added and removed, with multiple messages running at once to better keep you informed on school happenings.

ILLINOIS 5 ESSENTIALS SURVEY

Thank you to those who completed the Illinois 5 Essentials Survey that closed on March 31st, 2023! This survey assesses performance on five indicators or "Essentials" for school improvement: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment and ambitious instruction. Survey results are reported on the school report cards that are available to parents. The purpose of this survey is to give students, parents, and teachers the opportunity to provide input about the school environment to continue improving our schools!



MIDDLE SCHOOL

Crete-Monee Middle School is focused on supporting students as they work towards academic success. After students completed their fall NWEA/MAP Testing, all students and staff analyzed individual testing data and completed a goal-setting activity with each student in their Advisory class. Students reviewed their current NWEA/MAP assessment scores in reading and math, and set growth goals for their spring 2023 performance. Their growth goals included action plans, with students committing to practice their reading skills in Achieve 3000 and their math skills through ALEKS weekly.

Both of these online portals enable students to practice their skills independently. Tasks are also assigned by their teachers for additional support and practice. Additionally, our staff put together several online resources and activities for students to use as practice whenever they have completed assigned tasks and activities.

Finally, all our Advisory groups are in a friendly competition to see which class makes the most gains from Fall to Spring NWEA/MAP Testing. We look forward to seeing the results of their hard work!

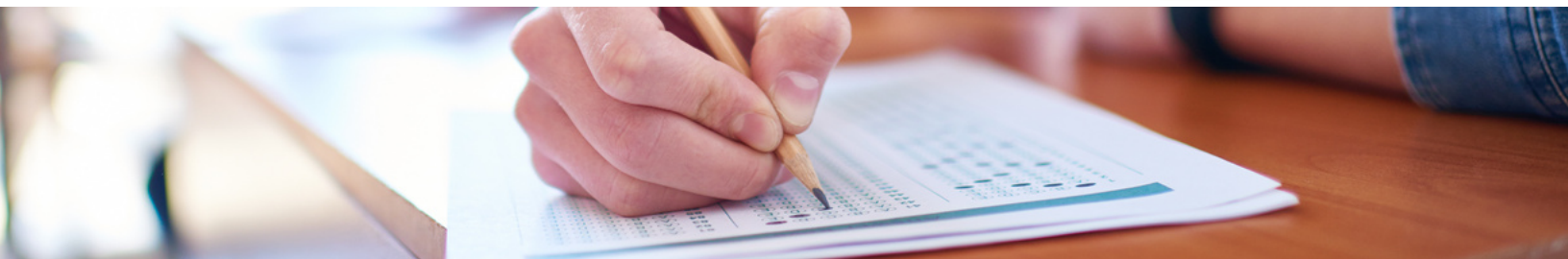
CRETE-MONEE 201-U EDUCATION FOUNDATION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Crete-Monee 201-U Education Foundation continues to provide outstanding opportunities for our students. So far this year, the foundation has raised about \$9,000 to support programs and services for our students and teachers—with another big fundraising effort on the horizon. This support has an enormous impact on students throughout the school year, and the foundation is starting to offer grants with applications currently available for teachers to access.

Reverend James Hunt is leading the foundation for the 2022-23 school year. For the past 26 years, he has served as a committed and engaged citizen of our communities, and he was influential in starting a mentoring program that extended from the elementary to the high school levels. Now, he has the opportunity to make an even greater impact on our students.

“This is my life's work,” said Rev. Hunt. “It’s not just about supporting students—it’s all about the community coming together to raise our children. It truly takes a village.” With this in mind, Rev. Hunt is seeking a united and collaborative effort from the community to grow the foundation’s impact on the Crete-Monee school community.

The foundation’s board of directors is seeking committed community members who have a strong desire to help students, staff and the community to join its fundraising efforts. Those interested in getting involved are encouraged to connect with us on Facebook at *201U Education Foundation*, send an email to 201uedfoundation@gmail.com or call Rev. Hunt at 708-334-1278.



HIGH SCHOOL: HIGHLIGHTING ACADEMIC PROGRESS

CMHS recognizes that it’s never too soon or too late to start preparing for the SATs. This year, freshmen students enrolled in Algebra Lab during HERO are getting a head start on their preparation for the suite of PSAT/SAT exams by completing the SAT Khan academy course during class time. Select juniors have been doing the same since winter break. Students enrolled in Junior Seminar will complete or have already completed the Khan SAT preparation course online.

Khan Academy has reported that students who study for the SAT for 20 hours are associated with a 115-point average score increase. The SAT and PSAT exams take place in April.

A variety of CMHS Career/Technology courses offer industry credentials. Approximately 100 students in Small Business Management took their credential exam for Communications Skills in Business (CSB). The exam validates that candidates entering the workforce understand key communication principles and skills necessary to be effective in a work environment. While the key skill being measured is communication, the nature of the exam also helps students with the other three of the 4 Cs: Critical Thinking, Collaboration, and Creativity. It is noteworthy that, in conversation with industry experts, their key “ask-for” is that students come equipped with these essential skills, which are not technical in nature.

As a commitment to our students to reduce barriers that would inhibit them from being able to fully participate in CMHS academic programming, our district has covered the cost of all AP exams for students this year. Students have already begun preparing for the exams by taking part in our new AP HERO support with our AP student ambassadors. Different subject areas on select days meet in the library to study or participate in tutoring led by their peers.

Our AP ambassadors have either scored a 3 or higher on the AP exam for which they provide support, or are currently enrolled in the same course they are providing support in, as they academically are excelling and represent the top of the class. Additionally, CMHS AP Teachers leverage AP Classroom, which provides daily exam questions, video lessons, progress checks, and practice exams.

AP Research students have chosen to grapple with the fact that education as a whole needs to be revamped. This has become such an emphasis that students have selected this as their year-long research. It shows they are interested in policy changes!

NEW HIGH SCHOOL WING - NEW PATHWAY PROGRAM

CMSD 201-U officially broke ground on the new high school wing, which will be the future home of the new pathway programs. This addition will give students access to more educational opportunities that will benefit them in the long term.

Programs included in this new addition will consist of participation in the classroom community model, individualized academic programming (IAP), social and emotional support, vocational training, transitioning back to home school, student transition educational placement services, students with an individualized education plan (IEP), credit recovery, and crisis intervention behavior stabilization (CIBS).

The current manufacturing program and MEC programs will move into this addition, as well as other programs the district sees as a good fit. Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations Ken Surma stated, “It just makes sense to move these programs and incorporate them within the structure of the high school.”



Crete-Monee School District 201-U

1500 Sangamon Street
Crete, IL 60417



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



For returning students (1st-12th grades), registration will begin on April 24th and close on May 7th. We are allowing two weeks this year to register for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. Early kindergarten registration will be different, registration will begin on April 17th and close on April 21st.

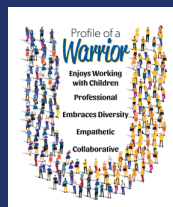
Once again, clear backpacks will be required for **ALL students (PreK-12th)**. This past school year, we only required students in grades 2nd-12th to use clear backpacks, but for 2023-24, we will be requiring **ALL students** to use a clear backpack. If backpacks are still in good shape from this past school year, students may continue to use their backpack. If students need a clear backpack, the district will provide one per student.

RECRUITING TEACHERS & STAFF

The district's Human Resources Department continues to optimize processes to enable improved recruitment decisions. We continually identify challenges and areas for improvement to reduce the time spent on processes for hiring managers. Additionally, we are working closely with agencies to boost the CMSD 201-U brand for recruitment events.

We announced the inception of the Warrior Profile during our introduction at the January Committee of the Whole meeting. It outlines the characteristics that we are working to retain and attract:

- Enjoys working with children
- Professional
- Collaborative
- Empathetic
- Embraces Diversity



Marjorie Triche, Administrative Recruiter, proudly represents the CMSD 201-U at job fairs to recruit top talent.

In recent months, the recruitment team has worked diligently to support hiring managers by addressing the immediate staffing needs by identifying strong candidates who align with the Warrior Profile to fill 22 of the 32 existing vacancies in the last quarter of 2022 and increase our guest teacher pool by 42 percent. Thanks to these collaborative efforts, we have successfully attracted talented professionals in both non-certified and certified positions throughout the district.

Our focus in the first and second quarters of 2023 is as follows:

1. **Recruit:** Gather and analyze data that will ultimately direct all our recruiting efforts and assist with developing the infrastructure needed to attract underrepresented minorities into our certified and non-certified positions district-wide.
2. **Retain:** Assist the personnel team with identifying and closing gaps in the onboarding and off-boarding process, as well as identifying opportunities for growth gathered through surveys, focus groups and exit interviews.
3. **Recognize:** Identify, highlight, and develop opportunities to celebrate diversity, acknowledge accomplishments and prepare our non-certified staff and our guests for growth opportunities.

As we prepare for the hiring season, we realize that referrals are our organization's number one recruitment source. We challenge the entire Crete-Monee School District community to spread the word about opportunities to join the team for the upcoming school year!