



The vision of the Creston C.S.D. is to provide the foundation for students to become lifelong learners and positive, confident, and compassionate citizens.

December 2021

Panther Pitch

Dear Panther Partners:

Recently I was asked what is the greatest lesson I have learned in my role as a superintendent. My immediate response was: “People matter”! We need each other to grow and develop interpersonal and personal relationships that provide support, meaning, and care. As an educator, the most important responsibility is employing people who not only understand instructional strategies but most importantly relationships. When I conduct walk through observations, I am always amazed and proud of how supportive and engaged staff is with our students. They are always giving their very best to connect with children so they know they are known and cared for, our schools are safe, and they matter. While staff is very important, it is our parents who have the most significant factor in their child's life. With the added support from our community, we have the perfect trifecta to support and take care of each other.

Recently, the Department of Education released school report cards that serve as a guide to how well students are performing. Despite the many challenges our students, staff, and families have faced over the past two years, our students demonstrated commendable growth in nearly all areas. The report card is based on several data points such as student participation, academic achievement, student growth on State assessments, graduation rates, post secondary readiness measures, and a Conditions for Learning survey results. Our students performed well and above the State average and earned the title for commendable performance. Fewer than thirty districts performed higher than our students and this data supports the valuable role of relationships and the commitment to students. Throughout the challenges, staff has continuously risen up to support our students and families.

On another front, the education and facilities advisory committee has held five meetings over the course of six months to review data and identify options that support a long-term district-wide education and facility improvements plan. The advisory committee’s recommendation meets the needs of all our children, today, tomorrow, and into the future. The proposed plan includes renovations and new construction to learning spaces, safety, education, and activities for all children. The proposed plan is fiscally structured to maintain the current school tax levy for Creston residents. Meanwhile, Prescott residents may see an increase of \$2.40 (from \$14.15) in their school tax levy as a result of Prescott being fully incorporated into the Creston Community District and included in any new debt. Community members are circulating a petition to serve on the school board asking the board to hold a special election on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 that if passed would support a \$24.9 million bond to support renovated and new learning, performing arts, and activity spaces. If the board is presented with and approves the petition, district residents will be asked to vote on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 and the district will hold informational and listening sessions to engage with our partners. Please visit the district website and click on Our Students, Your Schools-Education and Facilities Planning for more information or contact me at dsstender@crestonschools.org or 641-782-7028. I am thankful our community supports our schools and makes them the pride of our community!

Creston Cares,

Deron Stender
Superintendent

Web: crestonschools.org

Twitter: @CCSD_Panthers

Facebook: Creston-Panthers

#CrestonCares