



CRAIG ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Craig Elementary & Middle School September 2026 Board Report (FY27) Principal: Christy House

It's full steam ahead at CEMS as we approach the end of our first month of school! We are settling into our new routines and are excited about the year ahead. Our students and staff have made a great start, and there has been a lot of positive energy throughout both CES and CMS.

This school year has also brought a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes, particularly with our return to the newly renovated CMS building. There was a great deal expected of some of our new teachers as they unpacked, organized classrooms, prepared their spaces, learned new routines, and got to know their students. Zack and our maintenance team were integral in making sure the building was ready for students, working tirelessly to complete unfinished projects, move materials, address last-minute needs, and get the school ready to open its doors. So many people went above and beyond to make our return to CMS possible, and I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for everyone who put in the extra time and effort to make it happen. Their willingness to pitch in, solve problems, and do whatever was needed to get the job done is a reflection of the commitment and dedication of our CEMS team.

I am grateful for our staff and all they do each day for our students. There are many great things happening at CEMS, and I am excited about what we are accomplishing together as we begin this new school year.

One area where we continue to have a significant need is **substitute teachers**. Having a strong pool of substitutes is essential to supporting our staff and ensuring that classrooms can continue to run smoothly when teachers or other staff members are absent. If you have friends, family members, or neighbors who might be interested in working with our students, please encourage them to consider becoming a substitute at Craig Schools. We would be very grateful to add more dependable and caring members to our substitute pool!

CEMS Staffing Updates

We are pleased to welcome two new paraprofessionals to CES, Karen Fraley and Aaron Handley. Both have already proven to be wonderful additions to our staff, and we are grateful to have them supporting our students and contributing to the strong team we have at CES.

CEMS Enrollment (as of September 24, 2026)

- **CES:** 87 students
- **CMS:** 49 students

CEMS Classroom Happenings

Mr. Dinon's Classroom - In world history the students did presentations on the stone age by posing as cavemen delivering a time-share style presentation to convince their Paleolithic / Mesolithic brethren to adopt new inventions of stone tools, settling in river valleys, domesticating animals, and farming. (Describing the transition to the Neolithic Era.)

CEMS Extracurricular Activities

CEMS Cross Country – The cross country season is well underway, with strong participation from students in both elementary and middle school. Our runners have competed in meets in Klawock and Thorne Bay, with the Craig meet scheduled for Saturday, September 26. CMS runners will travel to Ketchikan on Saturday, October 3, for their final meet of the season. We are proud of our Panthers and appreciate the coaches, families, and community members who continue to support our student-athletes. Go Panthers!

CMS Basketball – CMS basketball will begin on October 5th, shortly after the conclusion of the cross country season. We are looking forward to another great season and to supporting our CMS athletes as they get started on the court.

CEMS Events and Happenings

James Knottingham Presentations and Professional Development - James Knottingham visited CEMS on September 17 and 18, providing classroom presentations and giving teachers an opportunity to learn from his expertise and experience. His visit concluded on Friday, September 18, with an all-staff professional development session where we reflected on the experience and discussed ways to apply his insights to our work. Mr. Knottingham shared many positive observations about the work taking place across CCSD and acknowledged the great things we are doing for our students. Our staff deserves recognition for the dedication and hard work they demonstrate in their classrooms every day. I am grateful for all they do to support our students and make CEMS a great place to learn and grow.

Vision and Hearing Screenings - CEMS recently hosted vision and hearing screenings for students in kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th grades, as well as new students and students identified by staff as having a potential concern. We appreciate the support of our local health professionals in helping us ensure students have the resources they need to be successful in the classroom.

Picture Day - CEMS held Picture Day on Monday, September 21. Students and staff had the opportunity to have their school pictures taken, creating another opportunity to capture memories from the 2026–27 school year.

On September 11, CES students in grades K–4 took a walking field trip across the street to the Craig Tribal Association (CTA) to see where the Craig after-school programs are being held. The visit also provided an opportunity to review important pedestrian safety practices, including how to safely cross the street and walk through the parking area.

CEMS Assessment Updates

mCLASS DIBELS Assessment – The mCLASS DIBELS assessment was recently administered at CES to assess students' early literacy skills, including phonemic awareness, phonics, word reading, and oral reading

fluency. The results provide teachers with valuable information to identify students who may benefit from additional reading support and to monitor their progress over time. We are using this data to ensure students who need early literacy intervention receive timely and targeted support.

MAP Assessment – Over the next couple of weeks, CEMS students in grades 3–8 will participate in MAP Growth assessments in reading and mathematics. These assessments provide teachers with information about student achievement and growth, helping us identify areas of strength and areas where additional instruction and support may be needed.

Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP) – Kindergarten students at CES are currently participating in the Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP), which provides information about students' development and learning as they begin their kindergarten experience. The assessment helps teachers understand each student's strengths and areas for growth and supports planning for appropriate instruction and support.

Upcoming Activities and Events

- **September 26:** CMS XC Meet @ Craig beginning @ 10:00
- **September 29:** Middle of Quarter 1
- **September 28 - October 9:** CEMS MAP Testing
- **October 3:** CMS XC Meet in Ketchikan
- **October 5:** CMS Basketball Begins
- **October 15:** Early Release/Parent Teacher Conferences
- **October 16:** No School/Parent Teacher Conferences
- **October 29:** End of First Quarter
- **October 30:** No School/Teacher Inservice