



ADMINISTRATION REPORTS AUGUST 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & HUMAN RESOURCES

by: Shawn Kirkeide

Onboarding and Training

The HR team is very busy onboarding many new staff members. We are thrilled to welcome over 30 new teachers and are preparing for the new teacher workshop starting on August 20. In addition to the workshop, on Friday, August 22, we will once again offer a district bus tour for all new teachers. This tour, which was introduced last year, received exceptional feedback, as it allowed newcomers to familiarize themselves with the community and the various schools within our district. We are excited to continue this tradition. Mark Solberg, with his deep historical knowledge of the district, will lead the tour, providing insights into the area's rich history and the district's ongoing commitment to excellence.

The HR team is also making final preparations for the upcoming training presentations for many of the different staff members. New this year, in collaboration with the Director of Special Education and Student Services and Special Education Coordinators, we are hosting a New Instruction Assistant training on August 18th. This session will equip instructional assistants with the knowledge and skills needed to support our students effectively.

Additionally, we are also preparing our mandatory training modules that will be rolled out during back-to-school workshops.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

by: Christopher Kampa, CFA

Finance

This time of year always brings excitement as we prepare to welcome students back for the fall—but this year, that energy is heightened with the upcoming vote on the school district's \$123 million facility referendum. Guided by input from a 60-member community task force, the proposal includes deferred maintenance, safety and security enhancements, capacity expansions, modernization, classroom upgrades, and recreational improvements for athletics and activities. Early voting begins September 19 at the high school and district office. For more details, visit [C-I Schools Referendum Facts](#) or submit questions through the [FAQs page](#).

Transportation

We are finalizing bus routes in preparation for the upcoming route bid and refining our Back to School slide deck for the August 21–22 Orientation, which will feature this year's theme,

“Emphasize Positive Bus Driver Energy.” Fall activities will be launching soon, and as reported previously, we continue to focus on hiring and training drivers. We are also planning to take delivery of 10 new school buses by the end of the month.

Food Service

At CPIS, we are wrapping up major kitchen improvements that began in the last week of the school year, including replacing our walk-in cooler and freezer. This project involved removing the old units, eliminating ramps by taking out 10 inches of concrete, and installing new boxes, refrigeration equipment, and sprinklers; the final steps—tile flooring and electrical work—are now underway. In addition, we replaced one of the district’s busiest dishwashing machines with a new model that is faster, quieter, more water-efficient, and eliminates the need for a natural gas heater. These upgrades position us well to welcome back students and staff for a great new school year.

Building & Grounds

This summer, we have been addressing several maintenance projects across the district, including floor heaves in the high school competition gym, repairing roof leaks identified after the season’s heavy rainfall and working with Nexus to restore all remaining areas where grass did not establish following last summer’s parking lot project. In addition, summer cleaning is progressing very well, with crews doing an excellent job at each location to ensure buildings are ready for the start of the school year.

Technology

As we prepare for the new school year, the technology department is pleased to report that the network switch upgrade for half the district is nearly complete and our new cybersecurity awareness training platform, CyberNut, is ready to launch—adding a fun, gamified element to training along with a new Phishing Reporting icon. The “New in Tech 2025” document is also available, highlighting our migration from Windows 10 to Windows 11, updates in Google for 2025, and the addition of 24-inch monitors generously donated by Xcel Energy through former CIHS graduate Andrew Goodman, among other exciting updates.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

by: Christina Thayer Anderson

Here to Help & Every Meal: Meeting Student and Family Needs

We are grateful for the generosity of our community, which allows us to support learners and families in meaningful ways. Last year, thousands of our learners benefited from donations addressing a variety of needs—from school supplies and winter gear to personal hygiene items, vital medical supplies, and home essentials—and, through our partnership with Every Meal, families received food bags over weekends and school breaks.

This work is a key part of our Volunteer Coordinators’ efforts to meet family needs and improve outcomes, made possible only by community support and dedicated volunteers. These programs advance our strategic priorities of belonging and student wellbeing, ensuring all learners have the resources they need to succeed in and outside of the classroom. For more information, to request support, or to find ways to get involved and donate, please visit www.c-

schools.org/community/here-to-help.

Community Education Kickoff: Fall Brochure is Out

We are excited to welcome the start of the 2025-26 school year! Registration is now open for our fall courses, ECCE classes, 2025-26 Preschool, and Adventure Center. Our team has been busy preparing programs that serve learners of all ages—from early childhood and youth enrichment to adult education and recreation. As we move into the fall, we remain focused on building connections with families and participants, fostering welcoming and inclusive environments, and advancing our strategic plan priorities including mental health and wellbeing for all learners and staff, and strong partnerships with families and the community. We look forward to another year of learning, growth, and meaningful connections with our community!

Note: Our newly rebranded brochure was delivered to homes this week. If you did not receive a copy and would like one mailed to you, please call 763-689-6189.

TEACHING & LEARNING

by: Dr. Jason Bodey

Learning from Place: Bdote – Reflection

On August 11, 2025, 46 leaders and school board members participated in *Learning from Place: Bdote*, hosted by the Minnesota Humanities Center. We experienced a beautiful, reflective day of learning and connection through storytelling as a powerful path to our shared humanity and our historical ties to Dakota culture.

“Bdote,” Dakota for, “where two waters come together,” refers to the meeting of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, a site of spiritual and cultural significance. Storytelling there helped us honor the Dakota presence and deepen our sense of belonging. We reflected on the roots of “Isanti,” derived from the Dakota words isan (“knife”) and ati (“camp”), referring to the Santee Dakota (also known as Izatys)—the “knife camp” or “knife lake dwellers.”

What we learned will inform our curriculum, professional development, and how we engage with students and families. It reminds us that by centering history, honoring narratives, and forging authentic connections, we build a more inclusive and meaningful school community.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

by: Rachel Kasper

We want to extend our gratitude to all staff who supported Extended School Year (ESY) programming this summer. ESY serves students who qualify based on state criteria and show regression in skills, and your dedication ensured students continued making progress over the summer. As we shift our focus to staffing and hiring for the upcoming school year, we are working to ensure all students are fully supported from day one. On August 18, we hosted our first annual

New Instructional Assistant Onboarding, which had a strong turnout and provided new IAs with valuable training from HR and Special Education to prepare them for their work with students. Looking ahead, we are excited for Welcome Back Week, an opportunity to reconnect with teachers, build energy for the year, and prepare for the arrival of students.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

by: Dr. Nate Rudolph

As summer draws to a close, the energy and excitement across our schools are unmistakable. Custodial teams, office staff, and teachers have worked tirelessly to prepare classrooms, hallways, and facilities for the return of students. From deep cleaning and major maintenance projects to final touches in technology upgrades and food service improvements, our buildings are ready to welcome staff and families. Special thanks are due to our custodial and maintenance crews, whose dedication ensures safe, welcoming, and well-prepared learning environments for day one.

This month has also been marked by significant professional preparation. Leadership retreats and principal workshops allowed us to review progress on the Strategic Plan and align on priorities for the new school year. Our New Educator Workshop is launching this week, with over 30 new teachers joining our district. They will participate in professional learning, mentorship opportunities, and a district bus tour that introduces them to our schools and community. These events strengthen our shared culture, ensuring new staff feel supported and ready to contribute to the success of every student.

On August 25, we will gather as one district family for our annual District Opener. This all-staff kickoff event sets the tone for the year ahead, emphasizing connection, professional learning, and our shared mission. We are especially excited to welcome Dr. Bill Berg as keynote speaker, offering inspiration as we enter the second year of our Strategic Plan.

In addition to preparing for the school year, much of our administrative energy has been devoted to ensuring the community has access to clear, transparent, and accurate information regarding the referendum. Our [website](#) continues to be updated with FAQs, project details, tax impact calculators, and engagement opportunities. Questions raised at board meetings, community events, and in letters to the editor are being incorporated into the FAQ to ensure consistency and responsiveness.

Our community engagement efforts have been broad and intentional—ranging from participation in summer parades and Night to Unite, to upcoming building tours and informational sessions. Each interaction provides an opportunity to reinforce that this plan is the community's plan, created through the work of a nearly 60-member task force, facility studies, and professional assessments.

As we move into September, we do so with confidence that our students will be welcomed into well-prepared schools by dedicated staff and leaders. At the same time, we remain committed to

listening, engaging, and answering questions transparently as our community considers the important investment before them. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we launch another year of learning and growth.