

CRAIG ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL



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Christy House, Principal
Kellie Ebbighausen, CES Admin. Assistant
Sandra Marker, CMS Admin. Assistant

Craig Elementary & Middle School: September Board Report Principal: Christy House

I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of our dedicated staff members who worked so diligently to launch this school year.

We began with a major transition—moving back into the building and adjusting to displacements from our usual spaces. Despite the disruption, it was approached with kindness, flexibility, and cooperation, which is a testament to the character of the individuals who work in our schools.

Whether you were organizing supplies, moving furniture, preparing meals, creating clean and safe environments, or supporting students and families through the transition—**your efforts have not gone unnoticed.**

Starting a new school year is always a heavy lift, and doing so amidst a move only adds to the challenge. Yet, our staff demonstrated remarkable professionalism, patience, and a willingness to step up wherever needed. Because of these efforts, CEMS has created a smooth and positive start not just for students, but for one another—and for that, I am truly grateful.

CEMS Staffing

Elementary Teachers

- Kindergarten/1st Grade – Grace Edenshaw
- 1st/2nd Grade – Vanessa James
- 3rd Grade – Dior Vaughan
- 4th Grade – Bernie Grieve
- 5th Grade – Mike Nelson
- Title I – Tricia Stock

Middle School Teachers

- English/Science – Bill Seibel
- Mathematics/Science – Marsha Browder
- Social Studies/Science – James Anderson

CCSD Shared Teachers

- K–12 Health/PE – Currently filled by sub – Troy Thain through Oct. 10th
- K–12 Music – Rachael Balcom
- K–12 Native Arts – Ronnie Fairbanks

CCSD Special Programs Teachers

- CES/CMS Special Education – Kathy Freeman
- CMS/CHS Special Education – Margaret Gore
- K–12 Counselor – Melissa Peavey

CEMS Support Staff

- Administrative Assistant CES – Kellie Ebbighausen
- Administrative Assistant CMS - Sandra Marker
- Technology – Karen Packer
- Librarian – Tamara Cross
- Paraprofessional - Anne Myre
- Paraprofessional - Linda Heidy
- Paraprofessional – Rachel Williams
- Paraprofessional – Allison Mills

Kitchen Staff

- Kris Cervera
- Alan Burk
- Tara Music
- Sarah Yates

CEMS Extra-Curricular Staff

- CEMS Activities Director – Mike Nelson
- K-2 Cross Country Coach – Dior Vaughan
- 3-5 Cross Country Coach – Emily Harding
- CMS Cross Country Head Coach – Melissa Smith
- CMS Cross Country Assistant Coach – Sandra Marker
- CMS Girls Basketball Head Coach – Vanessa James
- CMS Girls Basketball Assistant Coach – Liz Thomsen
- CMS Boys Basketball Coaching Positions (2) – **Posted/Not Filled**
- CMS Cheer Head Coach – Tricia Stock
- CMS Wrestling Head Coach – Chuck Hanson
- CMS Girls Volleyball Head Coach – Grace Edenshaw
- CMS Girls Volleyball Assistant Coach – Tina Nelson
- CEMS Student Council – Tricia Stock
- CEMS Battle of the Books Coach – Tamara Cross

A few dedicated substitutes, who we greatly appreciate.

CEMS Enrollment – as of September 18, 2025

CES – 85 Students

CMS – 42 Students

CEMS Construction

Superintendent Hanson has kept us well-informed with detailed updates on the construction progress. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the contractors, the completion of the elementary school remained on schedule, allowing us to move back into the building in time for the start of the year.

We're especially grateful for their timely completion and commitment to quality—the refreshed office spaces look fantastic and truly enhances the overall environment for staff, students, and families.

CEMS Activities

Cross country season is in full swing for both our elementary and middle school students. Recent meets in Klawock and Thorne Bay were well-attended and filled with strong competition. Our students represented the school proudly, with many earning top finishes across multiple categories. We host our Craig CEMS cross country event on September 27th. This season wraps up on the last event on October 4th, where the CMS team competes in Ketchikan and the CES competes in Hydaburg. We bounce right into the CMS basketball season on October 6th.

Student Council elections have just begun. Students are preparing to campaign for the different positions. We expect the voting process to take place within the next few weeks, with results announced shortly thereafter.

CEMS Classroom Happenings

In these first few weeks of school, classrooms have been focused on establishing routines, setting expectations, and building a strong sense of community. Teachers have been intentional about creating safe and supportive learning environments where students feel connected and ready to learn. As classroom routines and community are more firmly established, the focus is shifting toward academic instruction, with content-based learning now playing a central role in daily classroom activities.

Ms. Balcom - Middle school band is settling in on the stage in the MS gym - a great big thank you and shout out to Daniel and his maintenance team for making it usable up there for us!

CEMS Assessment Updates

Testing results from the **AK STAR**, **Alaska Science Assessment**, and **WIDA** (the assessment for English Language Learners) are now available and will be sent home soon.

The **mClass DIBELS** assessment, which measures reading skills, has been administered to all students in grades K–3, as well as select students in grades 4–5. The data collected from this assessment will be used to develop reading intervention plans in alignment with the **Alaska Reads Act** for students in grades K–3.

The **Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP)** is a screening tool administered to all incoming kindergarten students. The data has been collected and is currently being uploaded to the designated state reporting system.

MAP testing will be conducted in both the elementary and middle schools the week of September 22-26th.

CEMS Guest Presenters

***FBI Presentation** – The FBI will be visiting to present to students in grades 3–5 and 6–8 on a range of safety-related topics, helping to raise awareness and promote responsible decision-making.

***Fire Safety** – Our local fire department will join us to deliver a presentation on fire safety and emergency preparedness, helping students understand how to stay safe in case of a fire.

Upcoming Activities and Events

- *September 22-26: CEMS MAP Testing
- *September 23: School Picture Day
- *September 26: FBI Presentations at CEMS
- *September 27: CEMS Cross Country Meet @ Craig
- *October 4: CMS Cross Country @ Ketchikan
- *October 6: CMS Basketball Seasons Starts
- *October 8: CEMS Fire Safety Presentations
- *October 16: Early-out/Friday Schedule for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- *October 17: No School - Parent/Teacher Conferences
- *October 30: End of 1st Quarter
- *October 31: Inservice – No School