CRAIG ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

As we wrap up another busy school year, CEMS continues to be filled with learning, activities, celebrations, and opportunities for students to grow. The final weeks of school have been especially active, with students and staff participating in academic projects, special events, field trips, and community partnerships that showcase the many accomplishments of our school community. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the dedicated staff at CEMS for their hard work, flexibility, and commitment to our students throughout the year. Their efforts help create a positive and supportive learning environment where students can thrive. We are also pleased to report that there are no staffing updates at this time and look forward to beginning the next school year with a full staff in place.

The Craig Middle School construction project is nearing completion, and we are currently awaiting final approval to begin moving into the new building. The facility is a bright, welcoming, and beautifully designed space, and we are excited to soon begin utilizing it in support of student learning and school activities.

The following report highlights recent events, activities, and celebrations across CEMS as we conclude another successful school year.

CEMS Staffing Updates

There are no staffing updates to report at this time. As we move into the summer months, I am excited and appreciative to be entering the next school year with a full staff in place.

CEMS Enrollment (as of May 20, 2026)

- **CES:** 86 students
- **CMS:** 45 students

CEMS Events and Highlights -

CCSD Staff Appreciation Week May 4th - 8th – We extend our sincere appreciation to the PTSA for recognizing Staff Appreciation Week with a variety of thoughtful daily treats, including a coffee bar, charcuterie boards, lunch, donuts, and Italian sodas. These efforts helped create a warm and welcoming atmosphere and made staff feel genuinely valued throughout the week.

We also thank Mr. and Mrs. Rogan for their thoughtful gift of a notebook and pen for staff members. This simple yet meaningful gesture was warmly received and added a personal touch to the week's celebrations.

In addition, CCSD provided meat, cheese, and fruit trays in the staff room as a district-wide expression of appreciation for the work taking place across our schools. Thank you to Mrs. Hanson for coordinating this thoughtful support of our staff.

CES Spring Concert – Music students in grades K–4 presented their final production of the year with a fun Western theme. The performance featured a blend of familiar favorites, including *Old MacDonald* and *Home on the Range*, alongside new selections such as *Bunny Hop Hip Hop*. The students did an excellent job showcasing their enthusiasm, effort, and growth through music and performance.

CES Field Day/SUN Day, Fun Day! - On May 4th, CES students enjoyed a day at the baseball park, taking advantage of the sunshine and spending time together outdoors. Students engaged in a variety of activities, including baseball, rock painting, playground time, and socializing with friends. We were also pleased to see a strong turnout of parents who joined and participated alongside students, making the event even more meaningful. It was a joyful day filled with laughter, engagement, and community connection.

A special thank you goes to Ms. Kris and the kitchen staff for preparing and delivering sack lunches to the park for students and staff. We deeply appreciate the ongoing dedication of our kitchen team and their support in making events like this a success.

We also extend our appreciation to the Craig AC for their generous donation of bottled water and snacks, which helped ensure a well-supported and enjoyable day for all.

CES Sea Week May 18 - 22 - All elementary classes have been exploring our local Craig beaches as part of hands-on learning experiences focused on Southeast Alaska marine life. Students have discovered a wide variety of fascinating intertidal creatures, including starfish, sea slugs, crabs, anemones, and shrimp. These beach field experiences have provided meaningful opportunities for students to observe, ask questions, and connect classroom learning to the rich natural environment of our area.

Filipino Dance Group Performance - On May 4th, CEMS students walked across the street to the CTA to watch the Filipino dance group, Ketchikan Magsayawan. The lively music and energetic performance were phenomenal and held students' attention throughout the event. Students also had the opportunity to participate in the traditional stick dancing, which was a highlight of the experience. It was an engaging and memorable cultural event that students thoroughly enjoyed.

CMS Science Day – CMS Student Council recently hosted a Science Day with visiting middle school students from Hydaburg. During the event, students also had the opportunity to meet CMS's science teacher for next year, Mrs. Peele. Students were actively engaged and had a great time building catapults and rockets,

participating in the egg drop challenge, and experimenting with Mentos and soda demonstrations. It was wonderful to see so many smiles and excited students throughout the day.

A special thank you goes out to Mr. Zack and Mr. Brent for assisting with the lift used during the egg drop activity. Your help was greatly appreciated. We would also like to recognize our CMS teachers, Mr. Seibel, Ms. Hughes, and Ms. Browder, for leading activity sections and helping make the day engaging and successful for all students involved.

Additionally, a huge shout out to our Student Council Advisor, Ms. Stock, for all of her hard work and dedication in planning and organizing this outstanding event.

Kindergarten Open House - The kindergarten classroom was a lively and welcoming space as incoming students received a sneak peek of their future learning environment. Students had the opportunity to meet Ms. Edenshaw, our kindergarten teacher, participate in finger painting, complete a craft activity, and select a book to take home for reading practice. The kindergarten class is currently projected to have approximately 18 students.

Fifth Grade Highlights - The 5th grade class completed the *Voices on the Land* visual art project. It has been a joy working with *Voices on the Land*, and we appreciate the opportunity they provided for our students. On June 3, the 5th grade class will take a tour of the cave at El Capitan. This will be a great opportunity for students to learn about one of Southeast Alaska's unique natural landmarks.

CMS Journalism/Social Studies - Journalism students are currently working on community leader stories. Students interviewed a person they consider a leader and are writing articles based on those interviews. In 8th grade social studies, Earl Jeffrey visited as a guest speaker to share his knowledge of the Civil War. Students greatly enjoyed his presentation and the opportunity to learn from him.

Freshman Orientation at CHS - On May 19th, CMS 8th grade students attended Freshman Orientation at CHS. During their visit, students had the opportunity to meet CHS staff, eat lunch at the high school, and learn more about high school classes, expectations, and student life as they prepare for the transition to ninth grade.

End of Year Staff Gathering - On Friday, May 15th, staff were recognized and celebrated for their service to Craig Schools. We extend our sincere gratitude to several CEMS staff members who are leaving at the end of this year. A special thank you goes to Ms. Marsha Browder and Ms. Kathy Freeman for their dedicated service to CCSD. We also appreciate Ms. Jessica Hughes and Mr. Chuck Hanson for their support as long-term substitutes this year. Congratulations are in order for Mr. Bernie Grieve, who is retiring once again, and for Mr. Bill Seibel, who is also entering retirement. We wish all of them the very best in their future endeavors and thank them for their contributions to our schools.

CEMS Assessment Updates

CCSD has successfully completed all testing requirements for the 2026 school year. A sincere thank you is extended to all staff and proctors whose dedication and support helped ensure a smooth and successful testing process across our schools.

Upcoming Activities and Events

- May 18 - 22: CES Sea Week
- May 28: CHS Graduation
- May 29: CES Kindergarten Graduation
- May 29: CMS Dance
- June 2: CMS Luau/8th Grade Promotion
- June 4: Last Day of School
- June 5: Teacher Work Day