MARCH 2026

District COUGAR NEWS

OUR VISION:
Crest Ridge R-VII is determined to be a dynamic and innovative school district in an evolving world

OUR MISSION:
We cultivate and empower every student for success

UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL

3-6 NO SCHOOL EASTER BREAK
13 NO SCHOOL PD DAY
13 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6PM
20 SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
27 NO SCHOOL

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

CSIP

WE ARE REVISING OUR CSIP THIS YEAR!!

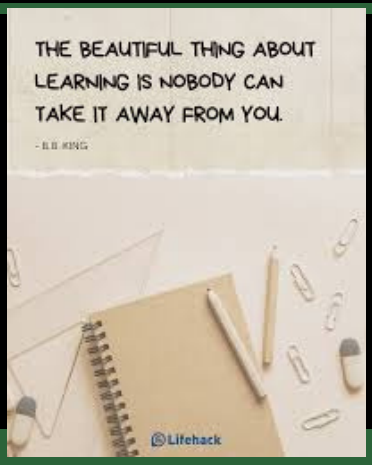
Crest Ridge will engage in the CSIP revision process on April 15 and April 22.

We have enlisted Dr. Kevin Daniel with FiredUP Consulting to lead us in this effort.

We are looking forward to developing our new strategic plan!

SCHOOL IS IN SESSION: MONDAY APRIL 20TH!!!

NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY APRIL 3 ON MONDAY APRIL 6,13,27



COUGAR CHAMPIONS!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR STAFF AND LOOK FORWARD TO HONORING THEM. WE HONORED TWO STAFF MEMBERS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH!

COUGAR ACHIEVERS
CRE
HABIT #5: SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN BE UNDERSTOOD



CREST RIDGE CHAMPION



Mr. Werges
HS Social Sciences

Mr. Werges is an absolute professional. He is prepared, thoughtful, and dedicated to engaging students in meaningful subject matter in a course area that isn't always well-received or understood. His dedication and high expectations have resulted in consistently high student achievement and an unknown number of students who will become informed and responsible citizens. Our students are well served by his knowledge and passion for teaching.

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

CREST RIDGE CHAMPION



Mrs. Palmer
Title Reading

Mrs. Palmer serves as our Title Reading teacher as well as our data coordinator. Over the years, the scope of her responsibilities has continued to grow. She equips students, teachers, and parents with a wide variety of effective reading strategies while also ensuring our school remains in compliance with the ever-changing requirements of DESE. Her strong ability to organize, analyze, and disseminate data plays a critical role in monitoring student progress and ensuring learning goals are met. We are very fortunate to have her on the CRE Team.

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

CREST RIDGE SECONDARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH!

CREST RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Natalie Heckadon
6th Grade

We are excited to recognize Natalie as our Middle School Student of the Month for February! This remarkable student consistently puts forth her best effort, showcasing a strong work ethic. She is genuinely invested in her grades and makes certain that her assignments are submitted punctually, never missing a deadline. Her commitment is clear as she frequently collaborates with her teachers after school to deepen her understanding. Keep it up the great work!!!

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

CREST RIDGE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Ethan Gamblin
9th Grade

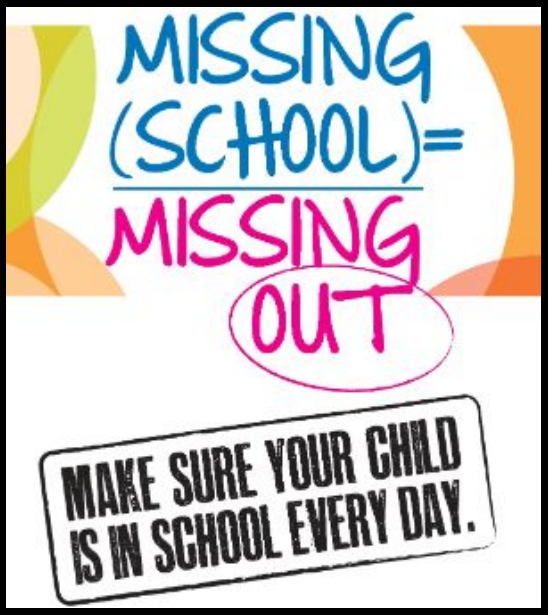
Congratulations to Ethan for being recognized as our February High School Student of the Month. Ethan consistently demonstrates diligence in the classroom, exhibiting kindness towards his peers and respect for his teachers. His positive attitude and strong work ethic establish him as an exemplary role model for his classmates. We are proud to honor Ethan as an outstanding representative of the Crest Ridge High School community. Keep up the great work, Ethan!

CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE

Board Recap: March

- THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED THE CAREER PLANNING GUIDE AND THE DISTRICT WELLNESS PLAN.
- THE BOARD ALSO APPROVED THE SURPLUS OF THE OLD PLAYCLOCKS WHICH HAVE BEEN REPLACED ON THE NEW FOOTBALL FIELD
- THE BOARD DENIED THE RECOMMENDATION FOR JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL TO PARTICIPATE AS AN 8 MAN FOOTBALL PROGRAM IN THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR.

NEXT MEETING:
APRIL 13, 2026
6:00PM



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

CSIP SMART GOAL #7: BY 2026, DISTRICT OVERALL ATTENDANCE WILL BE NO LOWER THAN 95%.

ATTENDANCE, MARCH:
CR ELEMENTARY: 95.47%
CR MIDDLE SCHOOL: 96.91%
CR HIGH SCHOOL: 87.91%

2026-2027 REGISTRATION

ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN JULY:

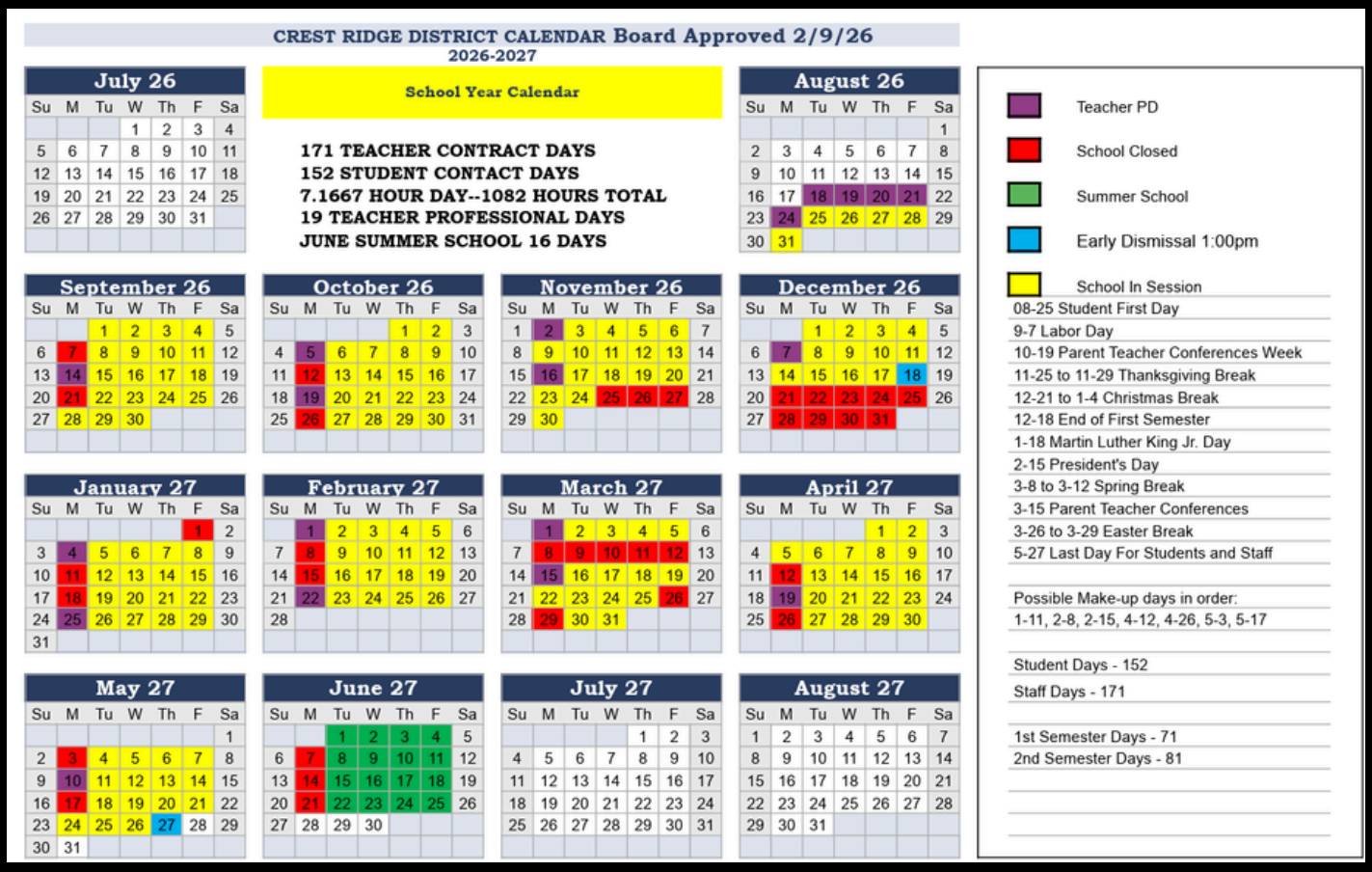
BIG CHANGE THIS YEAR:

EVERY STUDENT/PARENT WILL BE
REQUIRED TO PROVIDE
PROOF OF RESIDENCY!

PROOF OF RESIDENCY
WILL NEED TO BE UPLOADED IN THE FORM OF A UTILITY BILL, GAS BILL OR MORTGAGE CONTRACT.

MORE INFO TO COME!

2026-2027 DISTRICT ACADEMIC CALENDAR



SENATE BILL 3
ON THE JOHNSON COUNTY BALLOT APRIL 7!

Below is detailed information on this ballot measure and its predicted impact on Crest Ridge:
This SB3 ballot measure will cap local taxes on real property and revert school districts in the county, forever (unless future votes to raise taxes are passed), to tax year 2024, which is last tax year (school year 24-25), a non-assessment year. Below are the impact numbers regarding loss of revenue for Crest Ridge, given the assumption of average CPI (inflation rate) of 3%:

Annual Impact
Year 1: -$329,393.64
Year 2: -$381,976.27
Year 3: -$436,136.37
Year 4: -$490,921.28
Year 5: -$549,379.74

Cumulative Impact
First year: -$329,393.64

Three years: -$1,147,506.28

Five years: -$2,188,807.30

The decrease in revenue detailed above could mean adjustments to staffing, which would impact the programming and services that Crest Ridge is able to provide for students.

In the past three years, Crest Ridge has added two early childhood classrooms, a self-contained special education classroom, a special education resource room, coaches to support growing programs, and classified personnel to accommodate student needs. Crest Ridge has also increased the certificated salary schedule base to recruit and retain staff, as well as meet state requirements. Crest Ridge has increased the classified salary schedule to meet the state minimum wage requirements. All of these necessary changes will be very difficult to nearly impossible to sustain without local taxes meeting the appropriate increase with assessment each year. This is even more prevalent given that the majority of our funding is provided locally, rather than at the state or federal level. In fact, Missouri ranks 49th for level of state funding, so there will not be a reprieve there. That is nearly dead last in the country. Local funds are the lifeline for school districts.

School districts are not the only entities impacted.

In the FAQ the county has put out to patrons, they stated this question and answer:

Q: How will districts be impacted? If the Real Estate Tax Credit is implemented, taxing districts within Johnson County—such as cities, schools, ambulance districts, fire districts, libraries, and other entities funded by property taxes—will likely see reduced revenue, as eligible real property owners would receive a credit that offsets a portion of their tax bills. This could impact the districts' budgets and potentially require adjustments to maintain services.

ELEMENTARY ADDITION

WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING AND WHY?

BEFORE THE BOND ISSUE PASSED

- A long-range study was completed in 2024 to determine building usage, need, and capacity
- It was determined that Crest Elementary was at 98% capacity at that time
- Considerations regarding more support for students with disabilities and early intervention were discussed
- A portion of the bond issue was desginated to the growth in Early childhood and the need to account for early intervention which expands the programming at the Elementary

AFTER THE BOND ISSUE PASSED

- Surveying has been issued to determine the number of students (3 and 4 years old) as well as the scope of students, and the types of early intervention needed
- School personnel, including Student Services Director, Elementary Principal, and Parent Educator are in collaboration to determine families with children eligible for early intervention (early childhood special education and/or preschool)
- School personnel are working to determine classroom design to support eligible students which could result in varying possibilities
  - continued half-day classrooms at fuller capacity
  - a consideration for a full-day classroom
  - adding early childhood classrooms
  - pursuit of alternative funding and perhaps tuition-based classrooms

**All of the efforts toward our Elementary Addition are based on student need, building capacity, and funding capability. The District is committed to providing programming to support the diverse needs at our elementary building. We are excited to provide the space needed to adequately house the programs we have in the building!

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
JUNIOR NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY













CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BASKETBALL TEAMS AND COACHES

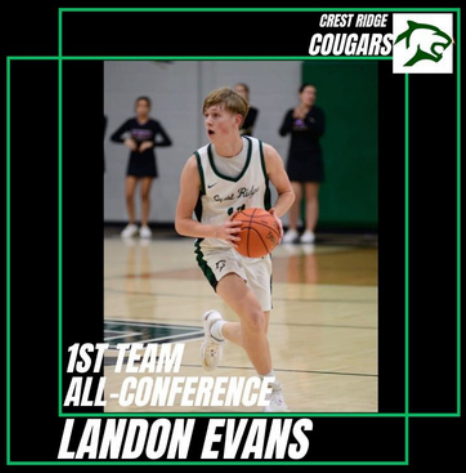
ON THEIR DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS!





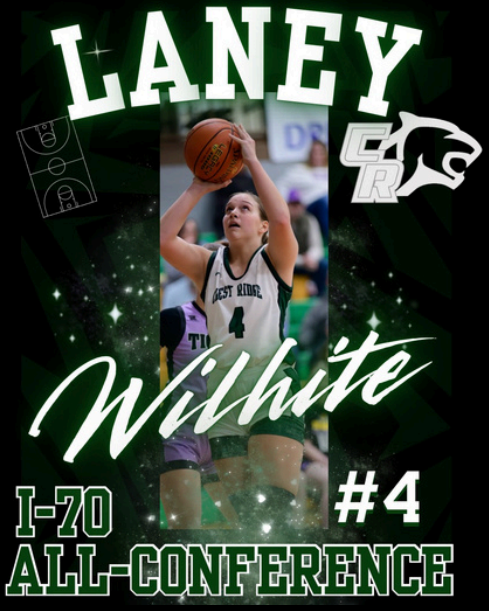
BASKEBTALL ALL-CONFERENCE HONORS









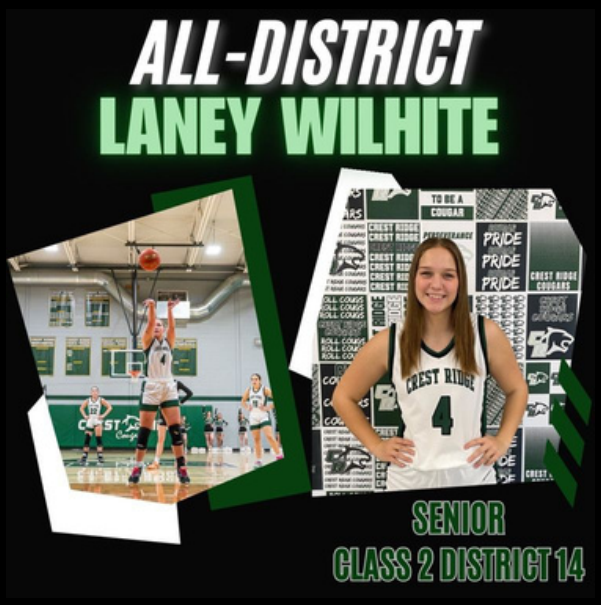


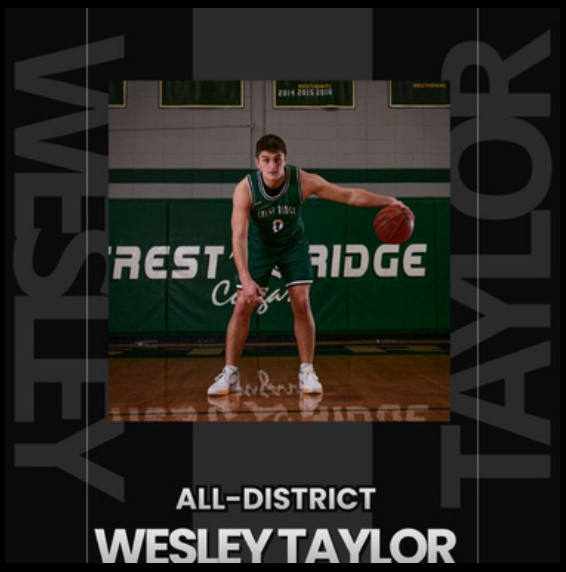




BASKETBALL ALL-DISTRICT HONORS

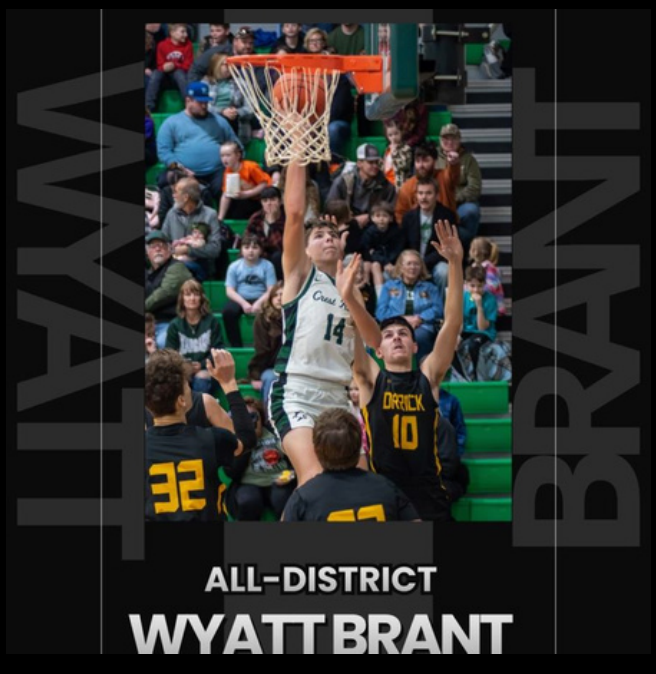












CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS 2 DISTRICT 14 COACHES OF THE YEAR!

CLASS 2 DISTRICT 14
COACH OF THE YEAR

BOYS:
COLE SCHMIDLI



GIRLS:
KATIE WOOLSEY

3RD QUARTER CHARACTER AND ATTENDANCE AWARDS AT CRE!!













3RD QUARTER RECOGNITION RALLY













REMINDERS!!

STANDARDS-BASED GRADING

CSIP SMART GOAL #4: PROVIDE INDIVIDUALIZED COMPETENCY-BASED INSTRUCTION IN 100% OF CLASSES/COURSES BY ADDING ONE SECONDARY GRADE LEVEL EACH YEAR, BEGINNING WITH GRADE 6 IN FALL 2024

- **WE ARE CONTINUING TO IMPLEMENT OUR BOARD APPROVED CSIP AND THIS INCLUDES WORK TOWARD STANDARDS-BASED GRADING**

- **A REMINDER THAT YOU CAN VIEW INFORMATION TO GROW CAPACITY IN STANDARDS BASED GRADING HERE!**

PROJECT KIDS

SMART GOAL #1: STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS WILL INCREASE BY 3- 4% IN "AGREE" CATEGORIES THAT OUR FACILITIES WILL HAVE A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE THAT GENERATES PRIDE IN STAKEHOLDERS.

We have many updates and upgrades happening in the district. Please adhere to signage and safety around the District during this exciting time!

Here is an update on our projects thus far:

- **SAFE AND SECURE ENTRYWAYS: COMPLETE**
- **TRACK AND FIELD: COMPLETE**
- **ELEMENTARY ROOF: HAPPENING NOW!**
- **FOOTBALL FIELD LIGHTING: HAPPENING NOW!**
- **ELEMENTARY ADDITION: IN PROGRESS, COMPLETION SUMMER 2026**
- **SECONDARY BUILDING WINDOWS: INSTALLATION, JUNE 2026**
- **TRACK AND FIELD EQUIPMENT: IN USE!!**

THANK YOU, CREST RIDGE COMMUNITY, FOR VOTING YES ON PROJECT KIDS!!