Cloquet Schools, where caring for students is not just an idea, it’s tradition.

“...I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy; but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning.”

~ Plato

Rythym & Harmony at Cloquet Schools

What’s inside...
- Calendar
- Weather Alert Information
- Holiday Concerts
- Highlight of Music Programs
- Holiday Expo - Sat, Dec 2
- School Resource Officer
- AIE Pride in Lumberjacks
- Cloquet Educational Foundation
School Zone on Washington Avenue

All drivers in Cloquet should be aware that there is a school zone and 4-way stop in front of the new middle school on Washington Avenue. The speed limit in that school zone is 20 MPH during school hours. Please help control speed in that zone by slowing to 20 MPH. We are continuing to work with county and city officials to assure pedestrian and auto safety on Washington Avenue. Please also be aware that there are over 1500 students housed in the high school and middle school. During school hours, drivers should pay close attention to pedestrian traffic around those schools on Doddridge Avenue, 18th Street, 22nd Street, and Washington Ave.

Thank you for your help and attention to pedestrian and auto safety.

Ken Scarbrough,
Cloquet School Superintendent

Cloquet School Board Meetings

School Board meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Garfield board room, unless otherwise noted. Packet information can be found on our website at www.isd94.org. Meetings are open to the public.

Please note: December 11 will be the only meeting held in December.

Monday, December 11 Board Meeting:

- The Madrigals will perform at 5:45 pm
- The Public Truth ‘N Taxation Hearing will begin at 6 pm, with the regular meeting to follow.

Mark your calendars...
2018 Kindergarten Round-up
March 13 at Churchill and March 15 at Washington

Weather & Emergency Alert Information

Winter weather is inevitable in Minnesota. When making a decision on school closings, student safety is the first priority. School may be closed, delayed or canceled due to weather conditions. The decision for a late start/early dismissal, limited bus runs, or full day closing is reported to local radio and television stations listed. It is recommended to check more than one station.

Television Stations
WDIO (10), KBJR (6), CBS (3), FOX (21)

Radio Stations
WKLK AM (1230) or FM (96.5) KDAL AM (610) or FM (95.7)

Parents or guardians have the right to keep their children at home if they believe the weather conditions are too severe. If you are unsure, contact your school office.

Alerts are also sent to home phones, cell phones and emails from the contact information parents provide.

- Please make sure your information is up-to-date.
Open Enrollment Notice

Open Enrollment for grades K-12 is closed for the 2017-2018 school year. The exception would be for those families who have a change in residence.

If you wish to apply for Open Enrollment for the 2018-2019 school year you must do so by **January 15, 2018**. Open Enrollment forms are located on our website at www.isd94.org under the “Quick Links” header on the left-hand side and then under the Enrollment Information link.

Community Blood Drive

The anatomy students at CHS organized this year’s blood drive. Members of the community interested in donating should contact: Tim Anderson - 879.3393 x1004, tanders1@isd94.org

**Friday, Dec 8**
7:30 am - 2:30 pm
Cloquet Senior High
Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.

Start your holiday season with music at the Expo:

Start your holiday season with music at the Expo:

Churchill Holiday Expo
in conjunction with Cloquet’s Home for the Holidays
**Saturday, December 2**
9 am - 3 pm
Churchill Elementary School
Free to attend

Pancake Breakfast
8:30 - 10:30 am
Boy Scout Troop #171
more information at:

www.SantasHomeForTheHolidays.com

Alumni Hockey Game: Lumberjacks Alumni vs. Duluth East Alumni

**Saturday, Dec 2**
7 pm, NWCU Arena

Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce brings you the long-standing rivalry for the Alumni Cup. **Presale tickets at the Chamber or Frandsen Bank:** $8 adults/$4 students
And at the game: $10/$5

Save the date: **Lumberjack Laps** May 12, 2018
10 am, CHS track, presented by Washington PIE

www.lumberjacklaps.com

Want to Volunteer with a Cloquet Public Schools’ District Committee?

For more information regarding committees and how to become involved, view the links on the District Committees page under the Curriculum tab on Cloquet School’s website, www.isd94.org.

- Building and Grounds
- Comm Ed & Recreation Advisory Council
- Comprehensive Arts Planning (CAAP)
- Continuing Education/Vocational
- District Advisory Council (DAC)
- District Calendar
- District Health, Safety and Crisis
- District Marketing
- District Technology
- District Wellness
- Facility Use Policy
- Local Indian Education (LIEC)
- Mentors
- Shared Decision making Teams (SDM)
- Special Education/Comprehensive Improvement Monitoring Plan (MNCIMP)

218-879-6721
Music is alive and singing (and playing) within Cloquet Schools.

All students from K - 12th grade have opportunities to participate in music classes. And through music, students are learning lessons that go far beyond the melody.

**Elementary:**

**World history:** Students in second grade are learning a Chinese song that is sung during the Chinese Moon Festival.

**Vocabulary:** Students brainstormed expressive words to describe the moon, festival and stars, which were incorporated into poems that the students read in cadence with percussion instruments.

**Instruments:** Elementary students have the opportunity to test their accompaniment skills using glockenspiels, metalaphones and finger cymbals.

**Composition:** Second graders have been creating, composing, improvising and playing rhythm patterns.

**Teamwork:** Students have been honing their skills as independent members of small choral groups.

**Beat & rhythm:** Kindergartners learned about creating a steady beat and are now learning rhythm.

**Movement:** Students use hand drums and scarves to explore mirroring and shadowing techniques as they gracefully move to music.

**Performance:** Third grade students at Churchill presented a Veteran’s Day Program on November 10 that featured patriotic songs. Fourth graders at Washington held their music program on October 26.

**Middle School:**

Students have the opportunity to explore music in a brand new space.

**Science:** Six grade has been studying the science of sound and how sound works.

**History:** Students have studied composers and musical time periods.

**Vocabulary:** Fifth grade students studied musical terminology and theory.

**Music creation:** Students played the “Surprise Symphony” by Haydn on tuned percussion tubes called boomwhackers.
A round of applause
for our music teachers!

Tony Jirschele, CHS, Matthew Wade, CHS/CMS,
Jeff Cherne, CMS, Sarah Kulig, CMS/CAAEP,
Kate Buytaert, Washington, Regina Roemhildt, Churchill,
Rachel Holte, Washington

Come one come all...
Music events will all be held
at the High School auditorium

Monday, Dec 4, 7:00 pm:
High School & Middle School Choir

Monday, Dec 11, 7:30 pm:
High School Band Concert

Monday, Dec 18, 6:45 pm:
Middle School Band Concert

Thursday, Jan 18, 6:30 pm:
5th grade Choral Program

Monday, Feb 26, 7:30 pm:
High School Band Concert

Monday, Mar 5, 7:00 pm:
High School & Middle School Choir

Thursday, Mar 15, 6:45 pm:
Middle School Band Concert

Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 pm:
6th grade Band Concert

Monday, May 14, 7:00 pm:
High School Band Concert

Monday, May 10, 6:30 pm:
5th grade Choral Program

Thursday, May 17, 7:00 pm:
High School & Middle School Choir

Monday, May 21, 6:45 pm:
Middle School Band Concert

Tuesday, May 22, 7:00 pm:
6th grade Band Concert

The mission of the Cloquet American Indian Education Program is to address the unique educational and culturally-related academic needs of American Indian students, enabling them to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards as all students are expected to meet.

Teresa Angell serves as director of Indian education in Cloquet Schools and she’s proud of what the program and its students are accomplishing. “We work to support our students’ all-around well being,” she said. “They are leaders in the classroom and beyond.”

Angell said that November was Native American Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people, but the work continues throughout the year to highlight the culture and history of Native Americans.

She also talked about bridging community togetherness through resources and connections with one another. One example is the Spring Pow Wow. “The Pow Wow is a community event and open to the public,” she said.

American Indian Education – going places on and off the field

Elementary:
Washington:
Dec 14, 3rd grade
March 8, 1st grade
April 19, 2nd grade
Churchill:
Nov 10, 3rd grade
Dec 15, 1st grade
Feb 13, Kindergarten
Mar 9, 2nd grade
Mar 22, 4th grade

The Spring Pow Wow is April 28 in the Cloquet Middle School gym.

(L-R) Derik Rengo, Gabe Hink, Markus Pokornowski, Trevor Olson, Rico Lozoya, Michael Obeidzinski, Aahsan Maigag, Jordan Peil, Spencer Wehr, Tim Pokornowski, Tyler Moose

AIE is proud of our Lumberjacks!

218-879-6721
If you visit the high school, you might notice a police car parked out front. Don’t worry. It’s a good thing.

The vehicle belongs to school resource officer (SRO), Erik Blesener, who spends time working at each of the five Cloquet district schools.

The SRO position is new to Cloquet Schools this year, although the district did have an SRO from 1997 to 2001. There are an estimated 20,000 SROs across the U.S. and most Minnesota school districts the size of Cloquet have an SRO. “We were the largest district in the state that didn’t have an SRO,” Blesener said.

SROs are sworn law enforcement officers who work with school administrators and staff to create a safer environment for students and staff. They also serve as a liaison to the community and families.

Blesener said his job is based on safety, but providing support is an important element as well. “There may be an idea out there that the police officer’s sole purpose in the school is to react to emergency situations, to break up a threat or fights in the hallway,” he said. “But I’ve got to be a lot more than that to justify spending 40 hours a week at school.”

A typical day is anything but typical for Blesener. “I spend a lot of time every day working with principals, guidance counselors and social workers dealing with at-risk students and the various issues they have,” he said. “This can range from truancy, chemical abuse, problems at home or with a boyfriend or girlfriend. I never know what topic will come up, but I’m there to help if I can.”

He also puts out fires – in the figurative sense. His school presence allows him to avert potential problems before they occur. “Small fires can lead to big fires,” he said. “By getting on top of situations early we can talk to students and make sure problem situations never occur. We may prevent more than we even realize.”

The role of the SRO officer is defined by three levels. The first is that of law enforcement officer. The second is counselor and mentor. The third is that of teacher. “I wear three different hats,” said Blesener.

But as far as he’s concerned, each of the “hats” leads to providing support for students. “I am an advocate for students. I support them in any way that they might need me to. If I can’t help them myself I have dozens of resources at my fingertips that I can direct them to,” he said.

He explained that his role is more prevention than punitive. “I work to prevent kids from ending up in the justice system,” he said. “There’s more of a focus on conflict resolution and restorative practices.”

Blesener also spends time in the classroom. This ranges from education on alcohol and chemical abuse issues with older students to teaching first graders how and when to call 911. He also instructs all students on the importance of maintaining building security and safety.

He’s also found social media and Internet safety to be significant issues. “It’s a huge problem,” he said. “Even bigger than I thought it would be. Kids put everything out there without thinking and once it’s out there, it’s out there forever.”

He also tackles the issue of social media victimization. “It isn’t something that’s happening at school, but it affects students,” he said. “We focus on conflict resolution and may offer mediation counseling for the victim and offender.”

Not all his time is spent within school buildings. “There might be parking lot problems or kids driving four-wheelers to school,” he said. “I also attend sporting events after school hours. I work really hard at creating the illusion that I can be at three different places at once.”

Since the beginning of the school year Blesener has worked to get to know students and develop positive relationships. “My goal is to be a part of the school community,” he said. “I intermix with all the kids. It’s to the point now where I get a lot of high-fives. If I go to the gym, they’ll pass me the basketball to take a shot. It’s a trust-building process.”

He said school staff members have been welcoming and helpful. “I’ve gotten immense support from the district and school staff. They’ve shown great confidence and faith in me,” he said. “My goal is to be part of the school community and that’s definitely happening. I feel like I belong here.”
A safe school learning environment benefits students. This summer, entrances at the high school, Churchill and Washington were remodeled to enhance security and control access to the buildings. The new middle school was designed with secure entrances in mind. Security cameras were strategically placed in and around buildings. But new entrances and cameras are just the beginning of efforts to increase security.

**Safety within our schools is a team effort,** which involves school staff, the police department, fire department, restorative justice, the county attorney’s office, the truancy officer, social services, county engineering and probation.

Steve Battaglia, assistant principal at the high school, said the various partnerships are key to student success. “Our schools, city and county have great working relationships that allow us to do the best job possible to ensure that our kids are as safe as they possibly can be,” he said. “Not a day goes by that we don’t collaborate with the city or the county to do what’s best for our kids.”

Battaglia says the new entrances enhance security but even more is planned for the near future. “We’re close to implementing a background check system that will run a quick check on all visitors who are entering our schools,” he said. “You won’t need a check if you’re just picking up your kid, but if you were going to be a guest speaker in one of our classes we would run a quick check before we would let you go beyond our offices.”

In case of an emergency, all schools have crisis plans in place. “All of our schools have emergency plans for a variety of possibilities,” Battaglia said. “We’ve got codes for medical emergencies, threats outside the building, threats inside the building, fire and more. We also have evacuation plans in the event that we may have to evacuated and we have plans to deal with an imminent tornado.”

Ensuring school safety is an ever-evolving process. “School safety is a constantly changing landscape. We’re always looking for ways to improve,” said Battaglia. “It’s something that is at the top of our priority list.”

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**Cloquet Community Scholarship Fund**

Since 1968, the Cloquet Community Scholarship Fund has awarded graduating seniors with over $554,710 in scholarships. Each year, donations from individuals and businesses are used to provide the scholarships. To contribute, please send donations to Cloquet Community Scholarship, PO Box 425, Cloquet, MN 55720.

Seniors who will graduate this spring are invited to apply. Applications are available from the guidance office at the high school.

Deadline for contributions is February 23, 2018.
Online giving... It’s as easy as a click of your mouse. Go to [www.cloquetedfoundation.org](http://www.cloquetedfoundation.org) and give a gift that keeps on giving to kids in Cloquet.

Contact: Jeannie Kermeen, jkermeen@isd94.org
302 14th St, Cloquet MN 55720
218.879.3806 • fax 218.879.6724

Stuff the Bus

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Third Annual Stuff the Bus event held on August 19 was a huge success! Not only was the bus stuffed with school supplies, but some shoppers donated $300 in cash, which will be used to purchase additional supplies as the need arises. Cloquet Walmart graciously hosts the annual event and Cloquet Transit generously donates the big yellow school bus. The Stuff the Bus event wouldn’t be possible without the help of more than 50 volunteers including school district staff, students and Boy Scout Troop 168.

CEF supports the arts

Our Artist Story

U Can Ukulele

Little Opera of the North (Loon) Rusalka

Snow White by Prairie Fire Children’s Theater

CEF supports the arts
Welcome to the CEF Board of Directors: Laura Hansen

Laura Hansen grew up in Duluth and moved to Cloquet in 2000 with her husband, Travis. She attended Lake Superior College and is a Registered Dental Hygienist at Tomhave Dental in Cloquet. Her two sons, Caleb (grade 8) and Noah (grade 5) both really LOVE the new middle school.

Laura has volunteered in the classroom since her oldest son was in kindergarten. She was also involved in Churchill’s Partners in Education (PIE) from 2009-2015 and was president during her last two years. She enjoyed volunteering for PIE, which gave her the opportunity to get to know the staff and the school system.

“Parent involvement is key to the success of our children,” she said. “I have so much respect for the teachers and staff and know first-hand what a dedicated group of educators we have in Cloquet!” Laura understands the importance of working together to help students succeed and is looking forward to being an involved member of the Cloquet Educational Foundation board.

“Until I attended my first Blue Jean Ball, I didn’t realize how much the Cloquet Educational Foundation board does and how they give back to the schools,” she said. “I’m so excited and honored to be able to help give back to a community and school system my family calls home!”

Kim Lind

Kim Lind, CHS class of ’82, served on the CEF board from 2011 to 2017 and was the board president for two years.

The board would like to thank Kim for generously sharing her experience, insight, passion, and resources to further the mission of the foundation. Kim has done an outstanding job and will be dearly missed.

CEF Board: Jody Acers, president, Mike Owens, vice president, Gail Wangen, co-treasurer; Jennifer Collins, co-treasurer, Al Alm, Teresa Backus, Dick Brenner, Barb Brown, Laura Hansen, Rhonda Johnson, Steve Micke, David Minkkinen, Denny Modec, Rob Nelson, Jill Pertler, Del Prevost, Tom Proulx and Russ Smith

www.cloquetedfoundation.org
Make an online donation

CEF news

Call 218.879.3806 to purchase your tickets today.

Photography by Derive

Please support Invest In Kids Sponsors, as their support to the CEF is critical to our success!