

Jefferson High School to Celebrate Freshman Academy with October 6 Ribbon Cutting

New addition supports students' transition to high school and provides space for learning, connection and school activities

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA - Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) will celebrate the opening of Jefferson High School's Freshman Academy addition with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, October 6, from 1:45 to 2:15 p.m. Doors will open at 1:30 p.m.

The ceremony will take place at the Jefferson High School Freshman Academy, 1243 20th Street SW, Cedar Rapids. Guests should enter through the Freshman Academy doors.

The celebration will bring together students, staff, district leaders, school board members and construction representatives to recognize a new chapter for Jefferson and its students.

The Freshman Academy provides a dedicated setting to help ninth graders build relationships, establish strong academic habits and develop a sense of belonging as they begin high school. The addition is already serving its first freshman class, while also providing space for upperclassmen and after-school clubs and activities.

Superintendent Dr. Tawana Lannin recently toured the academy and saw firsthand how students and staff are using the new space.

"During my visit, I was encouraged by the learning, energy and connections already taking place in the Freshman Academy," said Lannin. "This investment is about helping students feel supported from the beginning of their high school experience and creating opportunities that will serve the Jefferson community for years to come."

The program will include remarks from district and school leaders, a school board representative and two current freshmen. Students will join school and district leaders and staff for the ceremonial ribbon cutting and photo.

"Seeing this space come to life with students in it has been incredible. The energy, the collaboration and the sense of belonging are exactly what we hoped for," said Sam Hostetler, Jefferson principal. "We're excited to officially cut the ribbon on the Freshman Academy and invite our community in to see what our students already call home."

The event celebrates both the new addition and the educators, students and community partners who are bringing the Freshman Academy experience to life.

Jefferson High School Freshman Academy Ribbon Cutting (invite attached)

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, 1:45–2:15 p.m.; doors open at 1:30 p.m.

1243 20th Street SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Entrance: Freshman Academy doors

Media opportunities: Speaker remarks, student participation & ceremonial ribbon-cutting

Parking and entrance: Guests are encouraged to park in the activity lots near the gyms and walk around the building to the Freshman Academy entrance. Parking in the visitor spaces may result in delays when leaving due to school dismissal traffic. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.

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