

SEPTEMBER 2026

CALEDONIA AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER



The Elementary gym floor has been sanded and resurfaced and is now ready for action.



November Referendum Information

As we look to the November election, we invite all community members to learn more about our local school district referendum. We are hosting two public informational sessions to share details, answer questions, and provide a firsthand look at our facilities:

- Monday, September 21: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, September 22: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Both sessions will take place in the Caledonia Elementary School Board Room. Following each session, attendees will have the opportunity to take a guided tour of the high school to see our current facilities and learning environments.

The District's website (or the QR code above) is also a great source of information about the proposed plan. www.cps.k12.mn.us



TAX CALCULATOR

Find the tax impact for your property by using the tax calculator. Scan the QR code with your phone or by visiting bit.ly/caltax2026.

How to contact us

Elementary Office:

511 West Main Street, Caledonia, MN 55921

Phone: (507) 725-5205

Fax: (507) 725-3558

Middle/High School Office:

**825 North Warrior Avenue, Caledonia, MN
55921**

Phone: (507) 725-3316

Fax: (507) 725-3319

District Office:

511 West Main Street, Caledonia, MN 55921

Phone: (507) 725-3389

Community Ed Office:

**825 North Warrior Avenue, Caledonia, MN
55921**

Phone: (507) 725-5139

Fax: (507) 725-3319

School Board Members

Mike Peterson, Chair

mike_peterson@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: (507) 250-1186

Julie Augedahl, Vice Chair

julie_augedahl@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: (507) 450-3660

Leigh King, Clerk

leigh_king@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: 507-459-8604

Melissa Marschall, Treasurer

melissa_marschall@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: (608) 797-0270

Derek Adamson, Legislative Liaison

derek_adamson@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: (507) 429-8800

Chad Harms, Director

chad_harms@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: (612) 743-4610

Whitney Steele, Director

whitney_steele@cps.k12.mn.us

Phone: (507) 458-1903

Celebrating Our Food Service Team

September 25 is National Food Service Worker Day!

We are fortunate to have such a wonderful food service team at Caledonia Area Public Schools. Each day, they work hard to prepare and serve nutritious meals, keep our kitchens running smoothly, and make sure our students are well cared for.

Their work makes a difference in the lives of our students every day.

Thank you to our food service workers for all you do! We appreciate you!

**Click the blue link to learn about the constitutional
amendment regarding the**

[Minnesota Permanent School Fund](#)

on the ballot in November.

SEPTEMBER 2026

www.cps.k12.mn.us

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



Welcome

Cassidy Trussoni

Middle School
Social Studies

Hometown: Genoa, WI

Alma Mater: Luther College

Hobbies: Traveling, board and
card games, and

watching or participating in sports

Fun Fact: She lived and taught in Toksook
Bay, Alaska for 6 years!

Homecoming ★

Save the Dates for Homecoming Activities!

Homecoming Week: Sept 21-26

Boys Soccer: Sept 22

Volleyball: Sept 24

Girls Soccer: Sept 24

Football: Sept 26

Homecoming Parade: Friday, Sept 25 at 2 pm

Cereal Drive to Support Local Food Shelf!

Students and community are encouraged to donate
unopened boxes of cereal for our local food shelf
between September 17-24.

Drop off with student's WIN teacher
or the MS/HS office.



SEPTEMBER 2026

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



BACK TO SCHOOL



Students and staff have jumped right into the start of another great school year. Classrooms made the most of the beautiful weather we had during our first week to take learning outside!

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Mason
Staggemeyer



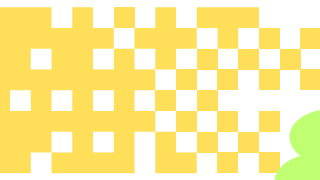
Now in his fifth year with the district, Mason is excited to begin a new chapter as a fourth-grade teacher after spending four years teaching Social Studies at the middle school.

Although he truly enjoyed his time at the middle school, Mason feels that teaching fourth grade is his calling. He was drawn to the elementary school by the energy, positivity, and excitement surrounding learning. He is especially looking forward to working alongside the elementary teachers, staff, and students—and getting to share the building with his wife, mom, and aunt!

Mason's passion for teaching began during his own school years in Caledonia. The many teachers and coaches who encouraged and inspired him made a lasting impact and sparked his desire to become a teacher himself. After attending Winona State University, Mason eventually found his way back home.

A proud Caledonia native, Mason was a three-sport athlete and even had the opportunity to play collegiate football. When he isn't teaching, he enjoys spending time outdoors and soaking up nature. Above all, Mason is grateful for the opportunity to continue giving back to the community that has given so much to him!

DANCE CLASS



NEW

Dates:

Tuesdays

Sept 22, 29

Oct 6, 13, 20, 27

Times:

4th, 5th grade = 3:15pm-4pm

K, 1st grade = 4:10pm-4:55pm

2nd, 3rd grade = 5pm-5:45pm

Maximum 20 students per session

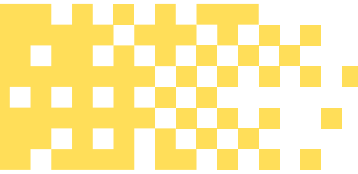
Cost: \$30/student

Location: Caledonia Elementary Cafeteria

Instructor: Addie Schroeder

Payment and registration due by Friday, September 18th

ROBOTICS



Junior Robotics

- **Dates:** Sept 12-Dec/Jan
- **Grades:** 7-12 (geared toward 7-8)
- **Cost:** \$50
- **Location:** Robotics Room

Description: Students will design, build, and program a small robot for the FIRST Technical Challenge (FTC). Students will learn robot construction, programming, project management, and community outreach while competing in autonomous and driver-controlled challenges. No experience is necessary. Students will have access to 3D printers, CNC routers, and other equipment for customization. Adult mentors also needed.

High School Robotics

Open to 7-12 Grade, the FIRST Robotics Challenge (FRC) Team will design and build a robot for this year's challenge. The FRC season officially runs from January to April, but the FTC team will meet periodically before the season start for training on CAD design, building techniques, programming, etc. Students will learn the fundamentals of robot construction, programming, project management, CNC manufacturing and more.

Questions? Please email jeff_babinski@cps.k12.mn.us

**TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES, CONTACT
COMMUNITY_ED@CPS.K12.MN.US
507-725-5139**

Beginners Spanish for Adult Learners

Focus on pronunciation, useful phrases and basic conversation to be able to understand, speak, read and write at a beginner level.

- **Dates:** September 17, 24, October 01, 22, 29, November 05, 12, 19, December 03, 10, 17
- **Time:** 5pm-6:30pm
- **Age:** 18+
- **Location:** MS/HS Spanish Room A110
- **Cost:** \$60

*Fee includes the learning materials - or cost is \$40 if learners have the materials already purchased

Instructor: Tessa Larson

Registration and fees due by September 4th at 3:30pm

Taxes and the Widow's Penalty

- **Date:** Sept 19
- **Time:** 10 AM
- **Cost:** \$5
- **Location:** Caledonia High School Media Center

Description: Learn what happens financially and from a tax perspective after a spouse passes away, including practical solutions and ways to plan ahead for potential tax implications.

Medicare 101

- **Date:** Sept 21
- **Time:** 5 PM
- **Cost:** \$5/person
- **Location:** Caledonia High School Media Center

Description: This easy-to-understand explanation of Medicare will provide the information you need to manage your health care costs in retirement with less stress.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

- **Dates:** 6 Thursdays: Aug 3, 13, 20, 27, Sept 3, 10
- **Time:** 1-3 PM
- **Cost:** Free
- **Location:** Houston County Justice Center

Description: A group workshop designed to help caregivers develop self-care tools and strategies to better manage the unique challenges of caregiving.

Yoga

- **Dates:** Every Mon/Wed starting Sept 21
 - Sept 21, 23, 28, 30
 - Oct 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
 - Nov 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 30
 - Dec 2, 7, 9, 14, 16
- **Time:** 5-6 PM
- **Cost:** \$90
- **Location:** Caledonia Elementary School Cafeteria
- **Ages:** All

Description: A low-impact movement class focusing on improved muscle tone and flexibility, strength of mind, and stress relief. Suitable for all fitness levels. Bring a yoga/fitness mat.

Falls Prevention

- **Date:** Sept 24
- **Time:** 2-3 PM
- **Cost:** Free
- **Location:** Houston County Justice Center
- **Ages:** 65+
- **To Register, Contact:** 507-725-5810 ext. 2216

Description: Learn how to assess your risk for falls, what research shows can help prevent falls, and practical steps you can take to reduce your risk.

OCTOBER

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES, CONTACT
COMMUNITY_ED@CPS.K12.MN.US
507-725-5139

55+ Resource Fair with Flu Vaccines

Date: Oct 8

Time: 9 AM-2 PM

Cost: Free

Location: Houston County Justice Center

Ages: 55+

Description: Meet representatives from community organizations and learn about resources available in Houston County. Flu vaccines will also be available.

Your Land is Your Legacy

Date: Oct 12

Time: 5 PM

Cost: \$5

Location: Caledonia High School Media Center

Description: Farming and family are intertwined.

Developing an effective transition plan can help you prepare for the future and ensure your agribusiness operation is handled the way you want. This class will explore the challenges of dividing farm assets such as land, livestock, and equipment, as well as considerations for retirement, taxes, and expenses. With a plan in place, you can gain confidence that the needs of your business, your family, and your future will be met.

55+ Driver Improvement

- **Date:** Oct 19
- **Time:** 5:30-9:30 PM
- **Cost:** \$30
- **Location:** Caledonia High School Auditorium
- **Ages:** 55+

Description: A state-approved accident prevention and insurance discount course covering current driver and traffic safety information, new laws, and vehicle technology. Completion of the 4-hour course qualifies eligible drivers for a 10% auto insurance discount for three years.

5 Keys to Retiring Fearlessly

Date: Oct 10

Time: 10 AM

Cost: \$5

Location: Caledonia High School Media Center

Description: Learn what goes into creating a retirement plan that provides confidence and peace of mind.

Chess Club

Dates: Mondays Oct 19-May 17

Time: 3-4 PM

Cost: \$20

Location: Room 203 (Mr. Hebeisen's Room)

Grades: 4-5

Max Participants: 14

Description: Participants will learn chess fundamentals, including piece movement, board setup, rules, openings, middle-game strategy, and end-game checkmating patterns. Meetings include chess puzzles/concept learning followed by games.



OCTOBER

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES, CONTACT
COMMUNITY_ED@CPS.K12.MN.US
507-725-5139

Creative Writing 101: A Beginner's Guide



- **Date:** Oct 20
- **Time:** 4pm-6pm
- **Cost:** \$30
- **Location:** Online via Zoom
- **Ages:** All ages

Description: You don't need a degree in creative writing to be an exceptional writer and get paid for it! Anyone with a passion for writing can learn and develop their fiction and non-fiction writing skills. Whether you're writing from your own life experience, creating new worlds, or informing readers about important information, this class will teach you about the different forms of creative writing, the top 10 creative writing tips for beginners, as well as how to brainstorm for new creative writing ideas, bring your words to life with engaging descriptions, develop your own writing style, and how to get paid for your creative writing.

Start Your Own Online Business: A Beginner's Guide

- **Date:** Oct 24
- **Time:** 1pm-3pm
- **Cost:** \$30
- **Location:** Online viz Zoom
- **Ages:** All ages

Description: Looking for ways to make money online? Turn your ideas or homemade products into income by starting an online business. You will learn how to: find a gap in a niche market and fill it; build your own website, and market your business effectively (including SEO) so potential customers will find you; take care of business forms and taxes; create multiple sources of income (including Affiliate commissions). You'll also get info about the 25 most popular online businesses to start. Informative handouts for future use are included in class fee.

TEENS: 50 Money Making Side Hustles for Teens

- **Date:** Oct 25
- **Time:** 1pm-2pm
- **Cost:** \$20/person
- **Location:** Online via Zoom
- **Ages:** 13 years and older

Description: What is the fastest way to make money as a teenager? The answer is a side hustle. Fortunately, you don't have to wait till you're over a certain age to earn money with side hustles that can easily fit into your teen life — between all the classes, chill sessions, and extracurricular activities. And, most of these side hustles don't require you to study more, won't interfere with your social life, and can help you hit any financial goal — maybe even get that car! You'll leave class loaded with information about how to fill out any legal forms to get the business started, and details about 50 profitable side hustle ideas to get you going fast. Informative handouts for future use are included in class fee.

Is your child ready for more
but preschool feels like a

BIG STEP?



Little Learners Preschool Readiness Program

(Proudly and formerly known as Surround Care)

Little Learners Preschool Readiness Program is designed to help your child transition into preschool with confidence and ease.



For children ages 33 months to preschool eligible.

WE HELP BUILD:



Social Skills

Making friends & learning to share



Confidence in the Classroom

Feeling safe and ready to try new things



Early Learning Routines

Stories, songs, play & hands-on learning



All in a no-pressure, nurturing, play-based environment.



Hours run from
7:30 AM – 3:00 PM.



Free breakfast and lunch.



We have limited spots available for the '26-'27 school year.



If you have any questions,
please contact:
Gretchen_juan@cps.k12.mn.us



Located in
Caledonia MN Area
Public elementary school



ENROLL NOW – LIMITED SPOTS!

Give your child a confident start
and a love for learning!

