



## CRAWFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Crawford Nebraska 69339  
[www.cpsrams.org](http://www.cpsrams.org)

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Superintendent  
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Ms. Barb Edwards  
Elementary Principal  
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I would like to welcome everyone back to the 2017-2018 school year. I'm Kirk Hughes and I'm the new Superintendent for Crawford Public Schools. I grew up south of Hay Springs on our family ranch along the Niobrara River and graduated from Hay Springs High School. My career in education began at Leyton Public Schools (towns of Gurley and Dalton) where I taught grades 7-10 science and was the K-8 principal. For the last 26 years I have been in Glenrock, Wyoming where I served as a middle school principal for seven years and Superintendent of Schools for nineteen years. My wife, Linda, and I have three adult children and two grandchildren. We are very excited about being in Crawford and returning to western Nebraska. Linda is originally from Chadron. Both of our mothers are still living in this area and we are looking forward to spending more time with them.

However, my interest in the Crawford schools goes beyond personal family reasons. I am excited for this opportunity to use my professional experience to assist a good school district to become better. One of my first goals this year is to get to know the individuals that we serve, the students. I am a firm believer that in order to provide excellent learning opportunities for students, you need to know their interests. Great things can be accomplished when you add a positive working relationship to this knowledge. The individuals who most impacted my learning as a student were those who knew my interests and had developed a positive connection with me.

I'm excited for the start of school and to experience all the educational systems that Crawford Schools have in place to help students be successful. Once I've had an opportunity to evaluate all the systems, we will then look for ways to improve the systems. It is very stimulating to see the commitment from the school district/community on improving the educational spaces for our students. The school district has spent a considerable amount of time and money to improve the teaching and learning spaces with the upgrades to the high school last year along with the remodel of the elementary school this summer. The elementary school, with the exception of the multi-purpose room and kitchen, has been updated. The school district will be hosting an open house for all community members to walk through and tour both the high school and elementary school on August 25, from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. After the open house, the school district will be providing a free barbeque for the community until 6:30 p.m. This is an effort on behalf of the school district to thank the community for supporting our schools and let you see the improvements that have been made.

I would encourage parents and community members to access our school district website [www.cpsrams.org](http://www.cpsrams.org) for all official school news. It contains school board agendas and minutes from previous meetings, lunch menus, activities schedules, etc. Along with other school personnel, I will be posting information throughout the school year that you will find informational and educational. I look forward to working with the students, staff, parents, and community members this school year. I hope you have a great rest of the summer and look forward to school starting August 28.