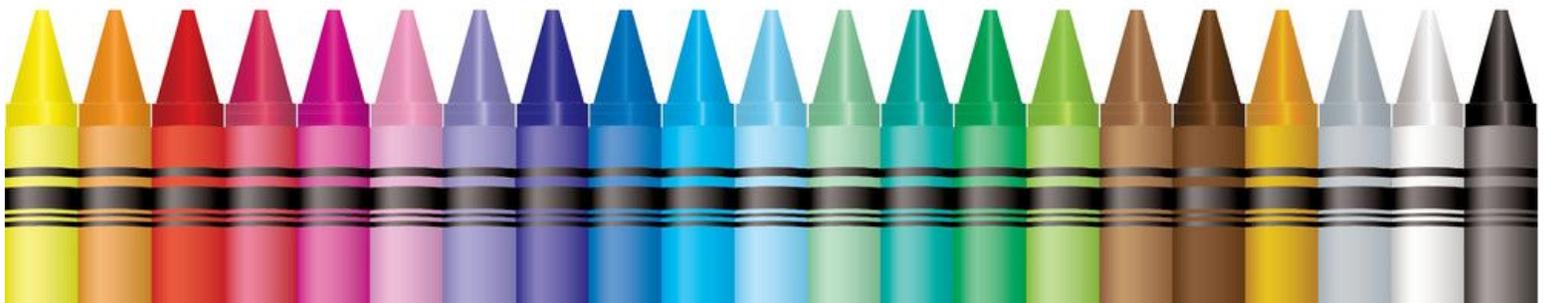




Welcome To  
**KINDERGARTEN**

**2024-2025**



# WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

Kindergarten is a special time when children are introduced to new learning experiences, friendships and environments. We are excited to have your child start his or her journey at Crete-Monee 201-U.

CM 201-U has always placed a high priority on neighborhood schools and the community-building opportunities it creates. Occasionally, however, we find Kindergarten enrollments exceed acceptable guidelines (25 students per Kindergarten class). When this occurs, we have to adjust enrollment of neighborhood schools to meet the needs of staff and students for manageable class sizes. As has been our historical past practice, Kindergarten students in the school/s with full kindergarten classes are transferred to another elementary school to “maximize the facility usage without undue overcrowding” (School Board Policy 6:30). Please be assured these transfers will be made as a last resort when enrollments exceed acceptable Kindergarten class size guidelines. Any Kindergarten student attending a different school due to class size limitations may return to their home school for first grade.

This handbook will answer questions regarding Kindergarten, enrollment requirements, transportation information and more. Please visit the Crete-Monee School District website for additional information, [cm201u.org](http://cm201u.org).

We look forward to getting to know your child and watching him or her learn and explore.

## CM 201-U ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

School Hours: 9:00 am to 3:35 pm  
Early Dismissal: 12:15 pm

➔ For individual school information including school supply lists please click on the school logo below or visit each schools web page located on the district website. Click “Select School” on the home page (upper left hand side) and pick a school from the drop down menu or visit the school website. See page 11 for district and school contact information.



BALMORAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	CORETTA SCOTT KING MAGNET SCHOOL	CRETE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	MONEE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	TALALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal Lisa Haley-Miller	Principal Bryon Mane	Principal Kathleen Prado	Principal Dr. Kiwana Sanders	Principal Dr. Kristin Elliott
1124 West New Monee Road Crete	1009 Blackhawk Drive University Park	435 North Street Crete	25425 Will Center Road Monee	430 Talala Street Park Forest
708.367.2500	708.367.4700	708.367.8430	708.367.2600	708.367.2560

# KINDERGARTEN - IMPORTANT DATES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

<p><b>Kindergarten Age Requirement</b></p>	<p>Children who are residents of the district and turn 5-years-old on or before September 1 the year of enrollment are eligible. (School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12)</p>
<p><b>Kindergarten Student Screening</b></p>	<p>Screenings will take place in April and August. Additional information will be shared with registered families, on the District website, and social media platforms.</p>
<p><b>Early Kindergarten Registration</b></p>	<p>Monday, April 15, 2024 through Friday, April 19, 2024</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>REGISTRATION IS ONLINE ONLY</b> <a href="#">CM 201-U Registration</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Questions? Contact Registration at 708.367.8390 or at <a href="mailto:registration@cm201u.org">registration@cm201u.org</a></li> <li>• Please be sure to have the parent/guardian's state ID and student's Birth Certificate readily available.</li> <li>• <b>If you already have a student enrolled in CM 201-U and are enrolling a new student, the primary guardian may use Family Access to register your new student.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Coretta Scott King Magnet School Kindergarten Lottery</b></p>	<p>June 14, 2024 To be part of the Coretta Scott King Magnet School Kindergarten Lottery students must be registered during early kindergarten registration and parents must submit a completed lottery application to the Office of Teaching and Learning by the end of the day Friday, April 19, 2024. Refer to page 4 for additional information regarding the Kindergarten waitlist.</p>
<p><b>Required Health Documents</b></p>	<p>Prior to the first day of school. If documents aren't submitted by October 15, the student may be excluded. Refer to page 5 for specific exam dates.</p>
<p><b>Classroom Assignments and Transportation Information</b></p>	<p>Classroom teachers, routes, bus stops, etc. will be available in Skyward Family Access in mid August.</p>
<p><b>Kindergarten First Day of School</b></p>	<p>August 23, 2024 The approved 2024-2025 calendar will be posted on the District website.</p>



# KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

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Children who are residents of the district and who turn 5-years-old on or before September 1 the year of enrollment will be screened. Kindergarten screenings will be conducted in April and August. The purpose of the screening evaluate a range of developmental tasks including self-care skills, language development, cognitive skills, gross motor skills, and fine motor skills.

## TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

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Transitional Kindergarten (TK) is a program designed to give children an extra year of development. This program focuses on a solid academic and social foundation, giving children a chance to be on level when starting Kindergarten the following year.

This is not considered a retention, but rather a gift of time, before entering elementary school. Like preschool, it's not required that kids attend, but kids who do enroll in TK are required to do a second year of Kindergarten the following year.

Curriculum of transitional kindergarten schedule closely resemble kindergarten.

Transitional Kindergarten option for children at different stages in their development and kindergarten preparedness.

## EARLY ENTRANCE - KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1ST FOR UPCOMING YEAR

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Age Requirement: Children who are residents of the district and turn 5-years-old on or before September 1 the year of enrollment are eligible. (School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12)

[BOE Policy 6:135 Accelerated Placement Program](#)

Crete-Monee School District 201-U has a process in place to determine student readiness for early admission into school. Parents who are interested in having their child considered for early entry for Kindergarten or First Grade shall follow the process listed below.

Contact: Office of Teaching and Learning at [OTL@cm201u.org](mailto:OTL@cm201u.org).

### STEP 1

#### Registration

- Formal Request and Document Submission via the Registration Office or the Office of Teaching and Learning
- All documents must be submitted by May 1st for the upcoming school year.
- Complete Request for [Request for Early Entrance Grades K and 1](#)
- Submit Original Birth Certificate
- Submit Proof of Residency
- Complete [Parent Questionnaire](#)
- Submit Academic Records for Pre-School (if applicable)
- Submit Completed [Teacher Questionnaire](#)(if applicable)

### STEP 2

#### Assessment Process - Office of Teaching and Learning

Once STEP 1 is completed, students will participate in a screening process conducted by Crete-Monee School District personnel. Screenings will be conducted in May and August of each year. The Office of Teaching and Learning will contact parents to schedule testing date(s).

### STEP 3

#### Data Review and Recommendation

The Office of Teaching and Learning will review parent and teacher questionnaires, previous academic records, and assessment results. Based on that review, a recommendation for or denial of early entry will be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. The Assistant Superintendent will contact parents to review the results and finalize the decision.

# CORETTA SCOTT KING MAGNET SCHOOL

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Coretta Scott King Magnet School has a by application only enrollment policy for students who reside in the district and are eligible to be in grades Kindergarten through 5.

- [CSK Key Information](#)
- [CSK Lottery and Waitlist FAQ](#)
- [2024-25 CSK Kindergarten LOTTERY Application](#)
- [CSK Kindergarten Application](#)
- *CURRENT CSK FAMILIES ONLY - [CSK SIBLING FAMILY ADMISSION FORM](#)*

Lottery applications **will only be accepted** during Early Kindergarten Registration. To be eligible for the lottery, the student must be registered during Early Kindergarten registration.

Admissions to the school are governed by [Crete-Monee Board of Education Policy 7:53](#).

For additional information, please visit:

[CM201U.org](#) > [Departments](#) > [Teaching and Learning](#) > [Coretta Scott King App and Admission](#)

## TECHNOLOGY

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- All CM 201-U students are issued a Chromebook at no cost.
- We support a 1:1 Student to Chromebook environment.
- [Crete-Monee Board of Education Policy 6:235 Access to Electronic Networks](#)

## FOOD SERVICE

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The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) offered through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program allows school districts to offer free meals to all enrolled students. This school year students can receive healthy breakfast and lunch at school.

[Menus](#) are posted on individual school webpages and on the district website.

On Early Dismissal days ONLY breakfast is served.

## COMMUNICATION - SKYWARD AND SCHOOL MESSENGER

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Skyward is a web-based program that can be used from any computer connected to the internet, 24 hours a day. Skyward Family Access enables parents and/or guardians to view information about their student(s) such as student Information, emergency contacts, and bus route information. Parents and/or guardians with students in Grades 3 through 12 can also view attendance, student schedules, and grades. Students' meal purchases may also be viewed by parents by selecting the "Food Service" tab within Family Access. Through this system you can have instant email access to your child's teacher. Also sign up to receive email notifications when your child has a missing assignment, class grade falls below a designated threshold, and when your child is marked absent or tardy for class.

Crete-Monee School District 201-U utilizes SchoolMessenger as its mass notification system. Through SchoolMessenger, parents and staff can be notified within minutes of important district announcements via phone, email, and text message.

# HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

[Health Requirements](#) Completed health forms can be emailed to [health@cm201u.org](mailto:health@cm201u.org).

## Kindergarten Physical Examination – Due Before October 15

We accept the examination documents at any time upon early registration or registration. Please submit early to assure your child has met the health requirements and any health issues are planned for in advance of school entry. We accept proof of appointment for those unable to complete health examination prior to the first day of school.

## Immunizations – Due Before October 15

We accept the vaccine documents at any time upon pre-registration or registration. Please submit early to assure your child has met the State of Illinois vaccine requirements. The month/day/year and correct number of doses at the correct intervals must be verified by a health care provider. Additional vaccine information is available on the CM 201-U website. Please keep a copy of your child's health examination and immunizations for your own records. The Will County Health Department (815.727.8670) can be contacted for the immunization clinics.

## Exclusion [Crete-Monee Board of Education School Board Policy 7:100](#)

**Unless an exemption or extension applies, the failure to comply with the above requirements by October 15 of the current school year will result in the student's exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the District.**

New students who register after October 15 of the current school year shall have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization regulations. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization by October 15, the student must present, by October 15, an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by the physician, advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or local health department responsible for administering the immunizations.

Parents or guardians who object to examination(s) or immunization(s) on religious grounds are not required to submit their child or wards to either, provided they present a completed Illinois Certificate of Religious Exemption form. This form must be completed in its entirety by the parent/guardian and signed by the physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant performing the examination. The statement must set forth the specific religious belief which conflicts with the examination(s) and/or immunization(s). Each vaccine that is objected, must be listed. The form is available on the Public Health website [Religious Exemption Form](#).

## Medical Requirements

- Immunization records and physical examination, dated on or before September 1, 2024.
- Eye exam, due on or before October 15, 2024.
- Dental exam, due on or before May 15, 2025.

## Health Form Links

- [Certificate of Child Health Exam Form \(English\)](#) [Certificate of Child Health Exam Form \(Spanish\)](#)

Check the following BEFORE submitting the Certificate of Child Health Examination:

- Health care provider has signed under the completed immunizations section AND on the bottom of the second page.
- Height, weight and blood pressure is recorded on the form.
- Lead Risk Questionnaire completed for children age six years or younger.
- [Dental Exam Form \(English\)](#) [Dental Exam Form \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Eye Examination Form \(English\)](#) [Eye Exam Form \(Spanish\)](#)

# FREQUENTLY ASKED HEALTH QUESTIONS

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## When do I keep my child home from school?

- Fever: Keep your child home for a period of 24 hours after the fever has passed, without fever reducing medications.
- Vomiting or diarrhea: Keep your child home for 24 hours after the symptoms have stopped.
- Communicable disease: Keep your child home for a period of 24 hours of antibiotic treatment or after the contagious period for the illness is over.
- This time frame may be longer for more serious communicable diseases.
- Report illness symptoms completely on the attendance line at school.

## When will my child be sent home from school?

- Fever of 100 degrees or greater.
- Vomiting or Diarrhea
- Unidentified skin rash.
- Communicable illness suspected: pink eye, strep throat, chicken pox, impetigo, whooping cough, or other.
- Injury and/or illness requiring medical attention.
- Other as decided upon by the nurse and parent/guardian.

## If my child takes medication, what do I do?

- CM 201-U believes that prescription and nonprescription medication should be administered in the home. However, if it is in the best educational and health interest of the child to take prescribed medication during the school day, then a Medication Authorization Form must be completed. This pertains to all medications (prescription, over the counter, and emergency).
- You may obtain the medication form at the district website, in the school nurse office or use the following link: [Medication Authorization](#)
- Medication must be brought to the school by the parent or guardian in the original container.

## How do I make changes for emergency contacts and health information?

- It is frightening for an ill or injured child when we are unable to reach a parent or guardian. Emergency contacts and parent phone numbers can be changed through Family Access of Skyward or by contacting the main office of the school that your child attends.
- Please notify the health office regarding changes in your child's health condition or medication, so that we can best meet his/her health needs at school.



# KINDERGARTEN CORE CURRICULUM

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Crete-Monee 201-U's kindergarten core curriculum is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. For more information about the standards or materials used for kindergarten instruction, please see the Office of Teaching and Learning page at [cm201u.org](http://cm201u.org).

## **Literacy** (Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening)

- Demonstrate phonemic awareness (rhyming, blending, and segmenting of initial sound, onset-rime, and individual sounds in a word)
- Recognize and name capital and lowercase letters
- Use knowledge of letter sounds to decode words
- Accurately read kindergarten sight words
- Demonstrate comprehension of stories and informational text: ask and answer questions about a text; identify characters, settings, and major events in a story
- Read and understand grade level text with independence
- Apply sound-letter knowledge in written work and begin to understand the writing process
- Write first and last name
- Write using illustrations, class books and written response, including writing text that accompanies a related picture and self-generated writing
- Participate in collaborative conversations with peers and adults

## **Mathematics**

- Use numbers 1-10, then 1-20, including written numerals, to represent quantities and to solve quantitative problems, such as counting objects in a set; counting out a given number of objects; comparing sets or numerals; and modeling simple joining and separating situations with sets of objects
- Investigate and orally count numbers 1-100
- Fluently adds/subtracts facts to 5
- Compare by position, size, length and weight within basic measurement concepts
- Generate addition and subtraction stories
- Identify, name, and describe basic two-dimensional shapes, such as squares, triangles, circles, rectangles and hexagons, presented in a variety of ways (e.g., with different sizes and orientations) as well as three-dimensional shapes such as cubes, cones, cylinders and spheres

## **Social Studies and Science**

- Study about American Heroes, communities and responsibilities of good citizens
- Investigate animals in a life science unit
- Learn about trees and weather in an earth science unit
- Explore materials and motion in a physical science unit



# TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR SCHOOL

- Speak positively about school so your child is excited about starting kindergarten and learning new things.
- Help your child be more independent with meals, using the bathroom, zipping jackets and putting on shoes.
- Practice with your child to learn basic numbers and letters and how to write his or her first name.
- Encourage your child to express wants or needs and to be a good listener and friend.
- Review transportation routines with your child so he or she is familiar with how they will get to and from school.
- Make home a place for learning. Designate a spot to do school activities with your child after school.

## ● Social Emotional

- Independence with Self Help [Ready or Not Kindergarten, Here We Come! | NAEYC](#)
- Interacts Positively with Peers [Ready for Kindergarten? | Scholastic | Parents](#)

## ● Literacy

- Onset-rime: Blending parts of words together to make the whole word (Ex: *m-om* makes *mom* or *dr-ess* makes *dress*)
- Recognize the letters in their name • Able to write their first name
- Recognizing 10–20 letters
- Begin to develop an awareness of letter sounds (10–20 letters)
- Concepts of print
  - Holds book correctly
  - Turns pages from the front of the book
  - Shows an appreciation for reading/books
  - Asks and answers questions about familiar text
- Sequence and retelling familiar stories with adult support
- Beginning to write to convey meaning using letter strings and/or illustrations



## ● Physical

- Hold a Drawing or Writing Tool [Uses a 3 Point Grip](#)
- Able to use scissors with a thumbs up grasp [Scissor Skills](#)

## ● Math

- Counts to 20
- Identifies some numbers between 1 and 10
- One-to-one correspondence to 10
- Identifies basic shapes
- Able to identify and extended simple patterns (aba)



## ● Cognitive

- Sustains attention to tasks
- Shows eagerness to learn
- Shows flexibility and inventiveness in thinking – problem solver
- Is able to group and classify in multiple ways

# TRANSPORTATION

The mission of the Crete-Monee School District's Department of Transportation is to provide clean, safe, and friendly services in an environment that fosters positive social interaction while providing efficient school transportation services.

Crete-Monee School District services six communities, totaling approximately eighty square miles. Throughout the course of the year the district will transport nearly 4,500 students. This service is contracted out through a local company – First Student Bus Company. They provide the district with over 100 bus routes throughout the course of any given school day. Illinois law requires transportation of students living over a mile and a half from the school they attend. State law also allows for students to walk up to one and a half miles to their designated stop; however, the district tries to be more accommodating.

All Kindergarten students that are eligible for bus service will be given a home stop.

- [Transportation Webpage](#)
- [School Bus Expectations](#)
- [Paid Ridership](#)
- [Crete-Monee Board of Education Policy 4:110 - Transportation](#)



# PRIVATE COMMUNITY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

Transportation to daycare is limited to child’s home school attendance area and requires completion of [Daycare Transportation Form](#).

Please review the [BOE Transportation Policy 4:110](#) and [Daycare Five Mile Policy](#).

CHILD CARE PROVIDER	SCHOOLS THAT TRANSPORTATION IS PROVIDED TO AND FROM
<p><b>A is for Apple</b> 879 Dorsetshire Drive, Crete, 708.672.5642</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary School</li> <li>Coretta Scott King Magnet School</li> <li>Crete Elementary School</li> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Crete United Methodist Church</b> 1321 Main Street, Crete, 708.672.8353</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary</li> <li>Coretta Scott King Magnet School</li> <li>Crete Elementary</li> </ul>
<p><b>Governors State University</b> 1 University Parkway, University Park, 708.235.7300</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary School</li> <li>Coretta Scott King Magnet School</li> <li>Crete Elementary School</li> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cherie’s Garden</b> 3425 Donovan Drive, Crete, 708.672.8100</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary</li> <li>Crete Elementary</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cozy Castle Learning Center</b> 1274 Main Street, Crete, 708.279.7655</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary School</li> <li>Coretta Scott King Magnet School</li> <li>Crete Elementary School</li> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Precious Lil Memories</b> 5005 West Margaret Street, Monee, 708.819.0965</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Happy Harvest Home Daycare</b> 1234 Harvest Lane, University Park, 708.534.7382</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary School</li> <li>Crete Elementary School</li> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>PK’s</b> 82 Town Center, University Park, 708.534.1200</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary School</li> <li>Coretta Scott King Magnet School</li> <li>Crete Elementary School</li> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Playhouse Daycare, Inc.</b> 2500 Federal Signal Drive, University Park, 708.534.3565</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coretta Scott King Magnet School</li> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tania’s Kiddie Karehouse</b> 25624 South Governors Highway, Monee, 773.717.0884</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monee Elementary School</li> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>A Mother’s Helping Hand</b> 1221 Birdie Drive, University Park, 773.220.9986</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Balmoral Elementary School</li> </ul>
<p><b>Barb’s Home Daycare</b> 487 Talala Street, Park Forest, 708.481.2159</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talala Elementary School</li> </ul>



# CONTACT INFORMATION

<p><b>District Office</b>  <a href="http://cm20lu.org">cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.8300
<p><b>Registration Hotline</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:registration@cm20lu.org">registration@cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.8390
<p><b>Office of Teaching and Learning</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:OTL@cm20lu.org">OTL@cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.8344
<p><b>Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) – Special Education</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:specialeducation@cm20lu.org">specialeducation@cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.8350
<p><b>Health Services</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:health@cm20lu.org">health@cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.8352
<p><b>Technology Help Desk</b>            Email: <a href="mailto:support@cm20lu.org">support@cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.2930
<p><b>First Student Bus Company</b></p>	708.755.5907
<p><b>Balmoral Elementary School</b>  <a href="http://balmoral.cm20lu.org">balmoral.cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.2500
<p><b>Coretta School King Magnet School</b>  <a href="http://csk.cm20lu.org">csk.cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.4700
<p><b>Crete Elementary School</b>  <a href="http://crete.cm20lu.org">crete.cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.3430
<p><b>Monee Elementary School</b>  <a href="http://monee.cm20lu.org">monee.cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.2600
<p><b>Talala Elementary School</b>  <a href="http://talala.cm20lu.org">talala.cm20lu.org</a></p>	708.367.2560





**SEE YOU  
SOON!**

