

# CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year  
"Make a Mark, Make a Difference"



## December 2024

## Key Dates

### U.S. News and World Report Recognizes Cawley Middle School

The U.S. News and World Report published the 2025 Best Middle Schools, and the news was great again as Cawley Middle School is now the #14 ranked middle school in New Hampshire. Last year, Cawley was ranked #23. In the press release it was reported that, "David R. Cawley Middle School is ranked #14 in [New Hampshire Middle Schools](#). Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation, and how well they prepare their students for high school."

I am extremely proud of our students, staff and families who all "Make a Mark and Make A Difference." This national recognition is another prestigious honor for our school community. It is a true reflection of the ongoing hard work and dedication of the Cawley staff in providing the students with a well-rounded middle school educational experience.

### Robotics

The Cawley Hawkbots, led by Red Squarington III, brought Return of the Red Square to the Manchester Qualifying tournament in Manchester. The overall tournament was extremely competitive, with the Hawkbots ranking in the top 5 at the end of the official scoring rounds. This earned the Hawkbots a spot in the afternoon playoff tourney.

December 23 – January 1: Winter Vacation

January 20: No School, Civil Rights Day

January 24: Brain Games Assembly, 8:00 am

January 24: Student Council Dance, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

January 27: Eighth Grade trip to Pinkerton Academy, CTE Program

January 29: Trimester 2 Progress Check

January 29: Quarter 2 Ends

January 29: Cawley Cultural Fair, 1:00 pm

January 29: Drama Club Performance, 6:00 pm

January 30 : Quarter 3 Begins



During the innovation project judging session the team earned praise for their creative presentation to outline their enhanced scuba mask design, which incorporated Heads Up Display (HUD), sonar, voice assistant, and novel "Where's my boat" navigational direction finding. Ultimately the team narrowly missed out on qualifying for the state tournament with the overall competition level being so high.

The school community is extremely proud of this group of students. They are talented and came together around a common goal. Congratulations to Avery Chasse-Larkin, Lucas Cox, Dylan DeVoid, Juliet Duval, Rachel Greenland, William Mackey and Andrew Mason.

# Cawley Middle School Principal's Report



## Light Up the Village Christmas Trees

Art teacher Ms. Haigh and Family and Consumer Science teacher Mrs. Olsen worked together with their Flex students to create ornaments for the Hooksett *Light Up the Village* event. This year's theme, "Holiday Delights," focuses on festive treats and seasonal decorations.

The students created gingerbread cookie ornaments, s'mores ornaments, and peppermint pom-poms. Each gingerbread figure was carefully crafted into a glazed ceramic character, the s'mores ornaments were crafted to look cute and inviting, and the peppermint pom-poms added a colorful and playful element to the ornaments.



## National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honors Society has been working hard planning and organizing holiday volunteer opportunities that include bell-ringing for the Salvation Army, and holiday card making throughout the month of December. The NJHS will be providing childcare services during the State of the Schools meeting at Memorial School on January 6 from 6:30-7:30, and then again during the School Deliberative Session at Cawley on February 7.

## Builders Club

The Builders Club remains busy in the community. In November the members assembled food baskets at the Hooksett Food Pantry, volunteered at the Veterans Day Breakfast, and made Christmas stockings for members of the military.

December started off with shopping for a family from Hooksett Family Services. The members shopped for three children with money earned from selling Spookygrams and candy cane reindeer. The members will make holiday food baskets, ring bells for the Salvation Army, and hold the annual Giving Tree event where food is collected for Hooksett Food Pantry. The members will also be collecting gently used clothing for the Kids Klotset, and used books for the Hooksett Public Library.

## Performing Arts

On Saturday December 7 the band and chorus members played and sang holiday music at Hooksett's "*Light Up the Village*" Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. The Cawley Chorus, Band and Jazz Band performed at Hooksett Memorial School on Tuesday December 10. On Thursday December 12, there was a performance for the Cawley staff and students body and then again at night for parents and the community.

## Cawley Wellness Update

During the month of November the Wellness Committee centered its efforts on fostering a spirit of gratitude among staff. One of the highlights of the month was the introduction of the "Make Your Mark Awards," where staff members took the opportunity to recognize and celebrate their colleagues for their positive contributions and meaningful impact.

To add a touch of warmth to the season the Cawley staff enjoyed a delicious treat of homemade apple crisp, which supported the appreciative atmosphere. Staff also participated in an exciting "Underground Spirit Day," which is a fun and creative event designed to foster connections and bring joy to the workplace. Together, these activities helped cultivate a sense of connection, appreciation, and community during the season of gratitude.

# Cawley Middle School Principal's Report



## Student Council

The Student Council had a busy month in November and the wow working in full force. The executive board spear-headed communication between the council and administrators to coordinate multiple whole-school events to celebrate the holiday season. The Student Council came up with Thanksgiving-Themed Trivia and other holiday activities for students to work together and complete in small groups. The Student Council also began planning for the Spirit Week December 16 -20.

## Hour of Code

National Computer Science Week December 9 through 15 and Cawley students joined the challenge by completing an Hour of Code. This year's celebration focused on creativity: Ignite, Inspire, & Code! Some of the Hour of Code activities include: Music Jam, Dance Party, Minecraft The Show Must Go On, NASA Space Jam, AI for Oceans, and more. Students could sort activities by grade level, topic and programming languages. The technology teacher Mrs. Meyer promoted the event with lesson plans for teachers to incorporate during FLEX and classes, daily Schoology announcements, an Hour of Code mural, and recognition for all students that completes an Hour of Code.



## Athletics

The cheer and basketball teams have been selected for the winter sports season. At press time the girls basketball team is 2 - 0 and the boys basketball team is 1-1. If you would like to follow along with the standings and scores click: <https://www.tricountyathletic.org>. The cheer team is working hard on their dance routines for competition and cheers for the basketball games.

The Co-ed volleyball season will begin February 10 and sign ups and detailed information will be posted in Schoology in the middle of January. Any questions please contact Coach Clark: [dclark@sau15.net](mailto:dclark@sau15.net)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Benson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Matthew Benson, Principal