

CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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



February 2025

Key Dates

Visit to the NH Supreme Court

On January 13 and 17, fifty seventh grade students traveled to the New Hampshire Supreme Court to take part in mock appellate arguments involving the 1st and 4th Amendments. Prior to the trip, students met with a former Massachusetts District Attorney who aided students in forming their arguments regarding the Supreme Court cases T.L.O v. New Jersey and Tinker v. Des Moines. While at the Supreme Court, students worked with law clerks to finalize their arguments that they would be presenting in front of the justices. All students had the opportunity to give their arguments as lawyers regarding the cases and received feedback and questions from the justices. The seventh graders have been focusing on the U.S. government and the Constitution since the beginning of the school year. This was a great way for students to apply the knowledge they learned, while also gaining a rare public speaking opportunity. Mrs. Benotti, Mrs. Gauvain, and the entire court staff were very impressed with how the Cawley students performed.



February 15: NJHS Pancake Breakfast, 8:00 am

February 17: Unified Sports at Concord During School Day

February 21: Early Release Day for Students, 11:30 am

February 24 – 28: February Vacation

March 5: Hawks Honoring History Presentations
Grade 7 – 8:45 am
Grade 8 – 12:30 pm

March 6: Hawks Honoring History Presentations, Grade 6,
8:45 am

March 7: Quarter 3 Progress Checks

March 11: No School for Students, Professional Development Day

March 20: Trimester 2 Ends

March 21: Trimester 3 Begins

March 21: Dance, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

March 27: Trimester 2 Report Cards Distributed to Students

Student Council

The Student Council hosted its first-ever "Glow Dance" which was a great success and wonderful way to brighten the long winter months. The students are also in the beginning stages of planning dress-up days and activities for Middle School Month and are taking insight from peers in each grade level to encourage as much school spirit as possible. In addition, the Student Council has organized a Warm Clothing Drive which runs from February 10 – 21. Students are asked to donate new or lightly used coats, hats, gloves, boots and blankets, to donate to a local organization that supplies those in need.

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Middle School Month

The coming of spring brings with it the celebration of adolescents. March is National Middle School Month. Ten to fifteen-year-old students make a difference in their families, schools and communities, so Cawley designates one special month to celebrate middle school students and who they are and what they have accomplished.

Middle School Month is kicked off with Foreign Language Week after February vacation. The annual school-wide dodgeball tournament where students contribute \$1.00 each to play for their team will be on March 10. The money collected will be donated to a local Hooksett charity.

Throughout the month there will dress up days, homeroom competitions such as, pop culture trivia and geography bingo. There will also be motivational quotes and daily trivia. The schoolwide pep rally and evening dance will conclude the month-long celebration on March 21 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.

Cawley Portrait of a Learner – Perseverance

To celebrate the new year, our school has been emphasizing the Portrait of the Cawley Learner trait, perseverance. Students engaged in thoughtful reflection on their challenges, achievements, and aspirations for 2024. Using these insights, they set goals for 2025 by identifying three new experiences they want to try, two ways they can support others, and one skill they aim to improve.

As part of this initiative, students participated in various school wide activities centered on perseverance. They examined the lessons from U.S. Navy Admiral William H. McRaven's 2014 commencement address, "*Make Your Bed*," at the University of Texas at Austin. In Social Studies classes, they analyzed the resilience demonstrated in the 2018 Tham Luang Cave Rescue of a junior association football team.

Additionally, students explored the role of music in fostering perseverance—whether as a source of motivation to energize and uplift or as a tool for mindfulness and focus. Students shared their top motivational and mindfulness songs through a schoolwide Google Form. Eighth graders Ella Liadis, Stew Gregory, and Violet Loyd then compiled these selections into "*What's On Your Playlist*" social media reels, featuring peers sharing their favorite songs.

Before taking the interim SAS assessments, students viewed these clips alongside a brief presentation on perseverance. This experience reinforced the idea that putting forth their best effort in school—whether in daily learning activities or assessments—is about more than just a test; it's about personal growth. Through these activities, students have developed a deeper understanding of perseverance and its role in both academic and personal growth. As they move forward in 2025, the students will continue to apply these lessons, using resilience to overcome challenges, support one another, and strive for success.

Builders Club

Builders Club represented Cawley Middle School very well at the January Kiwanis Dinner. The members updated the Kiwanis on our many activities, and also made Valentines bags for the local senior center. Many members volunteered at the Hooksett Winter Carnival. The members will be finishing up making pet toys, Valentines for Veterans, as well as making first aid kits for the veterans. March is Middle School Month and the members are planning to celebrate Cawley's teachers.

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Hawks Honoring History

This year, Cawley Middle School has adapted the National History Day Project into “Hawks Honoring History” (H3) to better meet the needs of all learners while expanding recognition for outstanding student work.

For the second consecutive year, every student has the opportunity to engage in a structured research process, beginning in the media center, where they explore topics, examine library sources, and receive instruction on using NoodleTools to document their research. Students have completed research on topics aligned with their grade-level social studies curriculum, focusing on key questions related to the theme of “Rights and Responsibilities.” Students have been developing thesis statements and organizing their findings to determine the most effective approach for their process papers and final projects. In March, each grade level will host a Hawks Honoring History Expo, where parents and community members can view student work and participate in selecting grade-level winners for each project category.

March 5 – Seventh Grade Presentation, 8:45 am – 10:15 am, Eighth Grade Presentation, 12:30 pm – 2:15 pm

March 6 – Sixth Grade Presentation, 8:45 am – 10:35 am

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Department has been quite busy with excitement. In the eighth grade unified arts classes the students have officially begun working to prepare for the musical, Beetlejuice, Jr. There are 75 students in this year's cast on stage. There are also many students who will work behind the scenes as part of the stage crew, designing costumes and the set.

The chorus and band will be holding their second Coffee House on Wednesday February 12 at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Students who choose to participate are preparing music of their own choice and will perform while audiences enjoy some music and snacks.

The next performance by the band and chorus will be the New Hampshire Music Educators Association Large Group Music Festival, to be held on March 15. The chorus and band will each perform prepared music for adjudicators, along with sight-reading new music. The highlight of the event is when the students receive a special workshop with one of our adjudicators to help recognize each performing group's strengths and challenges to improve. This is a very professional event and provides the students with an invaluable experience.

Congratulations to the following students who were accepted to play at the NHMEA South Central District Music Festival. Band: Abby Brown, Reid Hamilton and Theresa Story. Chorus: Abi Marcotte, Sierra Nicholls, Sophia Thapa, Alaina Spencer, Amelie Vigneau. This is a big honor for the students who will participate in the festival on March 10.

Mr. Fleury's 6th Grade Science

After learning about properties of light and the different wavelengths of electromagnetic radiation, Yale students were visited by Detective Tom Florenzo of the Manchester Police Department who brought night vision and thermal imaging cameras for the students to explore. Students practiced finding each other “hiding” in dark spots and behind objects in the classroom. We were very appreciative of Detective Florenzo for showing us how Infrared Light is used in police work.



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National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society is planning for the annual pancake breakfast which will take place on Saturday, February 15 from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. This year's breakfast will be a Valentine's Day theme. There will be six raffle baskets that the students are creating as well as a 50/50 raffle. Proceeds will be donated to local Hooksett organizations chosen by the NJHS members. In addition to the pancake breakfast, NJHS students provided babysitting services for the State of School meeting hosted by the School Board in January. The members also provided babysitting during the school Deliberative Session on February 7. At the time of this report, nearly forty children had been signed up to be watched by NJHS members and their advisors so families could attend the meeting. NJHS members have planned games, a movie, light arts and crafts, and other activities to do during the meeting.

Athletics

Girls Basketball: Thank you to Paige Bouthot, Captain Carter Casey, Milla Creamer, Riley Desruisseaux, Emma Kubat, Captain Ella Kubat, Finlay McAuliffe, Jasmine Odongo, Makayla Pelletier, Elora Porter, Hazel Rivers and Rivka Sharma for their hard work and dedication this season. The girls finished the D2 regular season 10-2 capturing the 4 seed and a bye in the first round of the playoffs. The girls played a tremendous defensive game in the quarterfinals vs. Windham, but couldn't find enough scoring and fell 27-23.

Boys Basketball: The boys basketball team had a strong year with an 8-4 regular season record, finishing in 5th place in the D2. The team won their first-round game at home vs Timberlane and advanced to the round of eight before losing in the quarterfinals. The eighth graders will be missed and have left behind important values for the younger group. The eighth graders on this year's team were: Xavier Vasquez, Noah Houston, Jake Santosuosso, Mason Fay, Travis Gallagher, Mason Valcourt, Ethan Lajewski and Blake Mellow.

Cheer: The cheer team provided great energy and some great half time performances at the basketball games. They have been working hard and the school community wishes the team the best of luck in their upcoming Tri-County finals competitions.

Co-ed Volleyball: Volleyball is a non-cut sport starting after school February 11. Sign ups are posted in Schoology and on the school website. Any questions see Mr. Clark.

Unified Sports

On February 3, the Cawley Unified Sports Team hosted a basketball competition with Rundlett Middle School. Over forty athletes participated and celebrated their success with pizza and ice cream. The Unified Sports team will travel to Rundlett Middle School on February 17.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Benson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is located below the "Respectfully submitted," text.

Matthew Benson,
Principal