

# CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

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



## September 2025

### Key Dates

#### Cawley's New Teachers

This year Cawley welcomes five new teachers: Breanna Adams, ELL; Christina Boisvert, special education; Baylor Anderson, seventh grade social studies; Matthew Govoni, eighth grade science; and Micaela Darmody, health. In addition, Meghan McLain and Emily Breton transferred to Cawley and are both teaching sixth grade math and social studies. Finally, we welcome back Sarah Rushia, who is teaching science and social studies in sixth grade. All of our new and returning teachers attended an SAU new teacher orientation and school orientation on August 18.

#### Teacher Workshop Days

Teachers arrived back at school on August 26 and participated in planning for Open House, curriculum development, subject and team meetings and analyzed data to guide student grouping and targeted instruction. The teachers did an amazing job preparing their classrooms for the first day of school for the students' first day on September 2.

#### Summer Academy

Over the course of three weeks, fourteen students attended Cawley Summer Academy and received support in either math, science, language arts and social studies. Students were actively engaged in an array of activities such as reading novels, vocabulary building, creating business plans, establishing countries with original systems of government, hands-on science activities and targeted based instruction.

#### Cawley Open House

The annual Open House for parents was on August 27. Teachers gave an overview of the curriculum, scheduling, events for the year and structure of the school. The event was well attended and positive feedback was received from parents. Members from the Cawley Builders Club volunteered to guide parents to the various locations in the school.

#### Athletics

Tryouts for boys soccer, girls soccer and field hockey started on September 3 while cross country practices began on September 4. Games and meets began the week of September 8. Soccer and field hockey standings are on the Tri-County's league website: <https://www.tricountyathletic.org/>.

September 19: Student Council Dance, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

September 26 : No School for Students (Teacher Professional Development Day)

October 1: High School Petition Forms Due

October 3: Quarter 1 Progress Checks

October 8: Parent Conference Sign Up Links Emailed

October 13: No School Columbus Day

October 17: 7th Grade Firefighters Challenge

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## Opening Assembly

On Friday, September 5, all students and staff were officially welcomed to the start of the school year at the annual Cawley Middle School Opening Assembly.

The event began with an exciting slideshow featuring before-and-after photos of the school that highlighted the hard work of our maintenance and custodial staff over the summer. The presentation continued with a showcase of the many learning opportunities and achievements from the previous school year, including the school musical, sports team victories, H3 presentations, the Firefighters' Challenge, Culture Fair, Sea Monkey Day, and much more. Captain Hawkins led the school in a spirited cheer before students participated in fun relay challenges.

This year's assembly theme focused on the Portrait of a Cawley Learner Trait: Responsibility and introduced students to the ideas in Sam Demma's book "*Empty Your Backpack.*"

## Student Presentations

As a part of the NH Bullying Law, the Cawley Administration gave in-depth presentations to all students. Students were provided strategies to identify bullying, stop bullying, and treat others with respect and kindness. The administration presented the emergency management drills to all students with a focus on "See Something, Say Something," and explained the requirements for the new law banning cell phones in schools from bell to bell.

## Grade 8 Trip to Washington D.C.

On September 8 there was an informational meeting for parents and students regarding this year's eighth grade trip to Washington D.C.. This year's trip is scheduled from Tuesday, April 21 to Friday, April 24, 2026. At the meeting Assistant Principal, Karin Rogers, Washington D.C. Coordinator, Lori Adams and owner of Bennett Student Travel, Doug Bennett provided a detailed overview of the trip and answered any questions.

## High School Information Night

This year's annual High School Information Night was on September 15. During the informational night I outlined the process for parents that detailed the process for students transitioning to high school. After the informational presentation, representatives from Pinkerton Academy spoke about the school's academic co-curricular and athletic programs and also provided valuable information about the transition to high school.

Students may petition to attend one of the schools that the Hooksett School District has a Memorandum of Understanding with, if the percentage of students petitioning does not go below 63.26% of grade 8 students attending Pinkerton Academy. Beginning September 16, parents can request a High School Petition Request Form by sending me an email at [mbenson@sau15.net](mailto:mbenson@sau15.net).

Petition forms are needed for the following schools: Londonderry High School, Goffstown High School, Bow High School, Pembroke Academy, Manchester Central High School, Manchester West High School or Manchester Memorial High School. The due date for a petition request to be reviewed is October 1. Petition requests will not be accepted after October 1.

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## Builders Club

The Builders Club first meeting will be September 17 at 7:00 am in the Media Center. The members are looking forward to many exciting events this year including helping NJHS with the Fall Festival. The Builders Club motto encourages building community leaders through volunteerism. The members are excited to “Make a Mark and Make a Difference” again this year.

## Student Council

The Student Council will have their introductory meeting on September 29 at 8:00 am in the Media Center. The first school dance is on Friday, September 19 from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Tickets will be on sale during lunch on September 17, 18 and 19 for \$5.00. The Student Council is looking forward to another exciting year of school spirit, leadership, and commitment to building our Cawley community.

## National Junior Honor Society

The NJHS members have already begun preparations for this year's Fall Festival. Students are excited to continue to support the Hooksett Community and beyond through community service. Invitations were mailed the second week of September to all students in seventh and eighth grade who qualify based on academic achievement to apply to be a member of the NJHS. Applications will be reviewed by the Faculty Council at the end of the month with induction taking place on October 29.

## Performing Arts

The music department has three performing groups, the band, jazz band and chorus. Currently there are over seventy students enrolled in the chorus and sixty-two students enrolled in the band. Each performing group has many performances scheduled for the year with large ensembles ready to work hard and have fun. Highlights this year will include performing at the Veteran's Day assembly, Hooksett Light Up the Village, the Winter and Spring Concerts and at the New Hampshire State House.

## September 26 Professional Development Day

On September 26, unified arts, math, science, and social studies teachers will attend a full day session on using Building Thinking Classrooms. The teachers will explore practical strategies to foster student engagement, collaboration, and problem-solving to support deep thinking and learning across disciplines.

Language Arts, special education and the ELL teacher will attend a full day training provided by Keys to Literacy. The training will focus on utilizing StudySync resources as a vehicle for instruction while employing the Science of Reading to guide effective practice at the middle school level.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Benson".

Matthew Benson, Principal