

CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

"Make a Mark, Make a Difference"

2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year

February 2026



Cawley Culture Fair

On January 22, the second annual seventh grade Cawley Culture Fair was coordinated by the Unified Arts teachers. The event featured an airplane photo booth and passports for each student, international food tastings, and a variety of places and activities to explore. It highlighted cultures from Spanish and French speaking countries, the cultural history of sports, and the influence of Latin food on cuisine in the United States.

The fair also introduced the student body to the cultural aspects of French, Spanish, and other global communities to architecture, art, and music. The goal of the fair was to help students make meaningful connections to their own perspectives while fostering appreciation for ethnic diversity, historical significance, and the unique qualities each culture holds.

Robotic Kits

Mrs. Meyer's sixth grade Flex students had the opportunity to demonstrate their problem solving, perseverance and collaboration skills. Through a grant created by Governor Sununu and the NH Department of Education, Cawley received XRP (experiential robotics platform) Robotic kits, professional development, and curriculum all free to NH Middle and High Schools. The kits were developed by MIT students, the robot chassis 3D printed by Great Bay Community College and funding from a consortium of companies including FIRST Robotics. Students built a set of XRP robotic kits and then coded programs to complete various tasks. They coded using a block code with a Python script. Students successfully had their robots draw various shapes and pick up objects using a servo arm. There was a lot of great engineering creativity and perseverance.

Middle School Month

The coming of spring brings with it the celebration of adolescents. March is National Middle School Month. Eleven 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, March 2 - March 20 is kicked off with World Language Week. 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 be 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 during the school day and evening dance will conclude the month-long celebration on March 20.

DAR Writing Competition

Sixth and eighth grade ALPs students participated in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) writing competition. Sixth grade participants were: Lilly Connor, Anderson Hummel, Cora Zuege, Lilly Wurster, Caroline McLean, Calla Shea, Morgan O’Leary, Zoey Staples, Ritsha Gurung. Eighth grade participants were: Lucas Cox, Lily Fitzpatrick, Paige Reed, Samuel Turbe, Abby Chambers, Madison Huberty, Violet LaRossee, Dean Wayman, Matthew Dodd, Ben Fontaine, Rivka Sharma, Milla Creamer, Philip Lapierre, Maia Visuian.

Students involved in the DAR competition will have the opportunity to read their essays and will be recognized with certificates and books. Winners have not yet been announced; individual chapter grade-level winners, once selected, will receive a Bronze American History Medal, a certificate, and a monetary award. The DAR Molly Stark Chapter will honor participating students and educators at its annual Education Appreciation Night on Friday, February 13, 2026, at the Manchester Millyard Museum, with a reception, light dinner, and desserts.

Young Writers Competition

The majority of ALPs students submitted work to the Young Writers competition. All Cawley submissions were selected for publication. Students will advance to an additional round of judging, with potential opportunities to earn prizes in March.

Hawks Honoring History

The Social Studies Department proudly planned and implemented the Hawks Honoring History Project, a schoolwide initiative engaging all students in grades 6–8. Students explored historical topics connected to the theme “Turning Points in History” through in-depth research using both primary and secondary sources. Sixth graders connected their learning to aspects of the ancient worlds of China, India, Egypt, Greece, and Rome, while seventh and eighth graders focused on pivotal topics in American history.

Throughout the project, students strengthened their research and writing skills by using NoodleTools and academic databases to gather and organize information, drafting strong thesis statements, creating bibliographies, and producing a multi-paragraph research paper alongside a visual display explaining why their topic represented a significant turning point in history.

As confident topic experts, students proudly shared their learning with the Cawley community during their grade-level H3 Expos, engaging peers, parents, and community members in thoughtful conversations about history’s most influential moments.

Student Council

The Student Council utilized its February meetings to help prepare for Cawley's Middle School Month (MSM) which will be held in March. Members brainstormed dress-up days, created posters and PSA's and helped formulate the logistics for a fundraiser included as a part of Middle School Month. Roles were also distributed to members to facilitate assemblies held in conjunction with Middle School Month. Students are excited to support what should be a great month of celebration at Cawley.

National Junior Honor Society

The members of the NJHS have been busy interacting with the community and planning future events. On February 18, eighth grade members will be traveling to Underhill to spend the morning reading and connecting with the younger students in our school district. The theme this month is friendship and kindness and the members will be focusing our stories and activities on building friendship with an activity on pattern building. In the evening students will be offering babysitting services to parents who would like to attend the Facilities Project and Bond Information Night from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm at Memorial. On February 6 the NJHS students offered babysitting services during the School Deliberative Session to support the community and create opportunities for busy parents to attend the meeting at Cawley Middle School.

Builders Club

Builders Club did a great job volunteering to help with the indoor games at the Hooksett Winter Carnival in January. In February the members will start the annual Valentines for Veterans, and then move to planning a spring fundraising brunch.

Unified Sports

The Unified Sports team is back in action as they host Bow and Rundlett Middle Schools in basketball on February 11. On February 18 the team will travel to Rundlett Middle School to compete in basketball against Rundlett and Merrimack Valley. Each host school provides lunch for the players, mentors and coaches.

Athletics

Congratulations to the boys and girls basketball teams on great seasons. The boys team made the playoffs and lost in the first round. The girls team finished the regular season undefeated and lost in the semi-finals. At both home playoff games the Cawley students provided a lively and enthusiastic environment to support the team.

Congratulations to the cheerleading team as they participated in their first performance of the season in Hudson. The girls were united and worked hard as a team. Lilly Murray received an award for Top Team Motivator. Charlotte Casey received an award for Most Fun to Watch. Ava Marino received an award for best jumps. The team will be headed to Nashua North High School for the Tri-County Cheer Championship on February 15. The team's last competition is on February 21 at Pinkerton Academy.

Co-ed Volleyball is a non-cut sport that will begin on February 16. Spring sports which include, golf, softball, boys and girls lacrosse, baseball and track and field will begin on March 30. Sign ups will be emailed to parents in March.

Performing Arts

The music department had the second Coffee House performance of this school year on Wednesday February 11. Chorus and band students prepared music of their choice and performed for an audience of friends and family. The performances were impressive, highlighting the talents of Cawley's musicians. Band and chorus students have also been working hard towards preparing music for the upcoming field trip in March to perform at the New Hampshire State House.

The Unified Arts team has begun work on this year's 8th grade musical: *The Lion King, Jr.* Students and teachers are getting familiar with their roles and responsibilities for this collaborative effort, with the majority of the unified arts classes not only consisting of the performers, but also building and painting the set, creating the costumes, coordinating the marketing, and maintaining the technical elements of lights, microphones, and music. The performance dates are April 9 and 10.

Upcoming Dates to Note at Cawley:

February 20: Early Release Day, 11:30 am
February 22 - 27: February Vacation
March 2 - 20: Middle School Month
March 6: Quarter 3 Progress Checks
March 10: No School for Students
March 13: Drama Club Performance, 6:00 pm
March 18: Trimester 2 Ends
March 19: Trimester 3 Begins
March 20: Student Council Dance, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
March 23: 8th Grade Class Picture, 8:00 am
March 25: Trimester 2 Report Cards Emailed to Parents

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal