

**CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**
"Make a Mark, Make a Difference"
2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year

April 2026



8th Grade Recognition Evening

This year the 8th Grade Recognition Ceremony and dinner and dance will be at Cawley Middle School on Wednesday, June 17. The ceremony will begin in the gymnasium at 6:00 pm and conclude at 7:00 pm. There will be a dinner and dance for the Cawley Class of 2026 students after the ceremony from 7:15 pm - 8:45 pm. June 17 will be the last day of school for eighth grade students.

Sam Demma Visits Cawley

On March 30, motivational speaker and author Sam Demma visited Cawley to share messages that align closely with "The Portrait of a Cawley Learner". Sam arrived wearing a large red backpack, introducing the idea of the "backpack" as an invisible weight of self-doubt, social pressure, and negative opinions from others that can hold us back from reaching our full potential. Through personal stories from his experiences as a Division I soccer player, his commitment to community service, and his world travels, he guided students in learning how to "empty" their own backpacks by replacing limiting beliefs with thoughts that promote growth, purpose, and self-confidence. He also emphasized the importance of consistent action, taking small, intentional steps toward goals rather than remaining stuck in doubt. Sam encouraged students to make small, positive contributions to their community, reinforcing that even simple acts of kindness and service can create meaningful impact over time.

Eighth Grade Trip to Washington D.C.

One hundred eighth grade students and eleven staff members will be going to Washington D.C. April 21, 22, 23 and 24. The students and staff will cruise the Potomac River, visit the National Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, World War II and Korean War Memorials in addition to spending time at the Smithsonian Museums.

Project Safeguard

Cawley seventh grade students will once again participate in Project Safeguard, which is designed by the school counselors and administration to address current issues impacting teenagers. This year, Project Safeguard for students and parents will be on Wednesday, April 22 during the school day at Cawley Middle School. (Project Safeguard does not use or have any connection to Teen Institute)

Parents of seventh grade students are invited to attend two morning presentations at Cawley Middle School. The first is Marko the Magician who has spoken annually to seventh grade students and their parents about making good decisions and goal setting while weaving magic into the interactive presentation.

The second presentation for both parents and students will be by Deputy Matthew Fleming who works for the New Hampshire Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Deputy Fleming will explain what ICAC is and how reporting works when others are in trouble. He will explain why internet safety is important and the most common issues of enticement, blackmail, sexting and the rise of AI.

Class sessions for students will address peer pressure, self-esteem, making healthy choices, developing positive relationships, internet safety, college and careers, and solving problems collaboratively.

April 24 Early Release Day

There is an early release day for students on April 24. Cawley students will be dismissed at 11:30 am. In the afternoon teachers will be actively engaged in a variety of professional development.

The unified arts teachers will be reviewing their reported competencies and making changes if needed. In addition, the UA teachers will refine their scoring rubrics for each competency.

The language arts teachers will be working with the StudySync representatives to review strategies and implementation from the prior winter professional development. In addition, they will begin to examine the scope and sequence of grammar instruction within StudySync.

Seventh and eighth grade math teachers will continue to ensure complete alignment of all grade 7 and grade 8 Common Core State Standards across advanced courses. The goal is to eliminate gaps, prevent unnecessary overlap, and guarantee that students enrolled in advanced pathways receive instruction on all required standards before entering high school mathematics.

Sixth grade math teachers will continue to refine common assessments aligned to the Grade 6 Common Core Stated State Standards and NH SAS vocabulary, emphasizing precise academic language to support student readiness and performance.

All the math teachers will meet with representatives from Zearn for a question and answer session regarding maximizing Zearn's resources.

The social studies teachers will use the Discovery Ed resources to plan their upcoming units for the remainder of the school year.

Finally the science teachers will review the Open Sci program and resources to document the scope and sequence for each grade level of units taught and note any changes from the current science program IQWST.

Title I at Cawley

The Title I program at Cawley has been providing targeted academic support to sixth graders through a 12-week session running from February to the end of May. Eligibility for services was

determined using NH SAS results and teacher recommendations. Christina Boisvert is delivering focused ELA instruction before and after school, while Meghan McLain and Emily Breton are providing additional math support during the same times. A total of 20 students are currently receiving these services to strengthen their skills and build confidence in both reading and math.

Advanced Learning Program Update

6th Grade ALPs

Students completed their Character in the Wrong World presentations, where they researched historical settings and imagined how a familiar character might adapt to a completely different time or place. Students are now shifting their focus toward sustainability and are beginning to develop ideas for ways Cawley Middle School could become more environmentally sustainable.

7th Grade ALPs

Students recently completed an investigation connected to Chasing Lincoln's Killer. Students examined evidence, analyzed primary sources, and evaluated suspects involved in the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Working as historical investigators, students debated whether John Wilkes Booth acted alone or if Lincoln's death was part of a larger conspiracy. Through this experience, students practiced critical thinking, evidence analysis, and historical reasoning while constructing one of the most dramatic events in American history.

8th Grade Alps

Students recently completed their "If History Was the Super Bowl" project, where they analyzed major historical figures, strategies, and outcomes through creative presentations. Students have also begun the early development stages of a proposed "Cawley Coldplay Concert" project, where they are exploring how Ozobots, coding, geometry, and design could be used to create large scale constellation displays inspired by the song "A Sky Full of Stars."

Student Council

The members of the Student Council completed surveys in their April meeting to provide feedback on Middle School Month to the Middle School Month Committee. In addition, students created a video using the donated boxes of cereal from Middle School Month spelling out the letters "CMS". This video will be used to share with the student body to celebrate the cereal drive for the Hooksett Community. In total, 117 boxes of cereal were donated by students, and were given to the Hooksett Food Pantry. With just a few meetings left, students are working on one or two more activities for the student body at Cawley.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society members have been out in the community volunteering at various events such as the Sweetheart Dance, Hooksett Public Library Egg Hunt, and the PTA Mother/Son event. The eighth grade members visited Fred C. Underhill School, read a book and completed a mapping activity with their first grade buddies. This month some of the members will be working with students in Pinkerton Academy's National Honor Society to clean up the

grounds around Cawley. All members are beginning the planning process for the annual talent show that will be held on May 22 at 6:30 pm in the gym.

Builders Club

Builders Club has had a very busy spring. The members are in the midst of planning a "Blossom and Bloom Brunch" which is scheduled to take place on May 16 at Underhill. The members have been very busy helping at the Father Daughter Dance, the Book Fair at Underhill, and the Easter Egg hunt at the library where one of our members was chosen to be the bunny. The members will be helping to scoop ice cream at the Memorial Ice Cream Socials, and will participate in the Beautify Hooksett annual spring clean up. Elections for next year's board will take place in May with the induction ceremony planned for May 20 at the Kiwanis Dinner.

Athletics

Lacrosse, baseball and softball teams have been selected and are practicing hard to prepare for their league games. Track and field athletes have been working hard to select their events and golfers are waiting patiently for the season to begin. There are over 115 students signed up to participate in spring sports.

Performing Arts

On Wednesday, March 25, the Cawley Music Department traveled to the New Hampshire State House to perform in the NH Music Educators Association's "Music in Our Schools Month" performance celebration. Ensembles from all over the state performed in front of the State House raising awareness to state officials about the importance of music education in schools. Cawley students also participated in a tour of the building learning about civic participation and the roles that lawmakers have in our state.

The 8th grade musical, The Lion King Jr., took place on April 9 and 10 in the Cawley gymnasium. The eighth grade students worked very hard since January to bring the classic story to life onstage. All the work, costumes, scenery, props, program and technical aids, and of course, the acting, singing, and dancing was student-generated under the creative direction of Mrs. Vanderhoek, Mr. Davini, Ms. Haigh, Mrs. Meyer, Mrs. Olsen, and Mr. Trimmer. The entire school community is so proud of the hard work and dedication of our students and congratulate them all on successful performances.

Upcoming Dates to Note at Cawley:

April 20: Club Photos, 8:00 am
April 21 - 24: 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C.
April 22: 7th Grade Project Safeguard
April 24: Early Release Day, 11:30 am
April 27 - May 1 April Vacation
May 4 - May 8: Teacher Appreciation Week
May 4: School Lunch Hero Day

May 6: School Nurses' Day
May 6: NH SAS Science Assessment 8th Grade Only
May 6: Trimester 3 Progress Checks
May 7: 8th Grade Camp Mi Te Na Student Meeting, 8:00 am
May 7: Camp Mi Te N Parent Meeting, 6:00 pm Media Center
May 12: Band and Chorus Field Trip to HMS 12:15 pm -2:15 pm
May 13: 7th Grade Field Trip to Pinkerton Academy
May 14: Spring Concert, 9:30 am
May 14: Spring Concert, 6:30 pm
May 15: 7th Grade Hands Only CPR
May 18: NH SAS Reading Assessment
May 19: NH SAS Writing Assessment
May 20: Quarter 4 Progress Checks
May 21: NH SAS Math Assessment
May 22: NJHS Talent Show, 6:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Matthew Benson, Principal