

CAWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

"Make a Mark, Make a Difference"

2017 New Hampshire Middle School of the Year

September 2026



Cawley's New Teachers

This year Cawley welcomes four new teachers: Luke Huard, sixth grade social studies, Jordan Pellerin, sixth grade language arts and social studies, Emily Berube, reading specialist and James Cobern, Family and Consumer Science. The teachers attended a new teacher orientation on August 17 and have already begun to "Make a Mark and Make a Difference."

Teacher Workshop Days

Teachers arrived back at school on August 26 and participated in planning for Open House, emergency management training, curriculum development, subject and team meetings and analyzed data to guide student grouping and targeted instruction. At the opening staff meeting teachers participated in several sessions that focused on actively engaging students with multiple instructional strategies. The Director of Technology Dan Roma, Director of Maintenance Dean Farmer and Captain Ian Tewksbury from the Hooksett Fire Department also presented to the staff. The entire Cawley staff did a fantastic job preparing for the students' first day of school on August 31.

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.

Summer Academy

Ten students attended Summer Academy and Intervention at Cawley for three weeks in July. The students received high quality instruction in small group settings. Students participated in learning opportunities that built and reinforced academic skills in reading, writing, math, science and social studies. All of the students were successful in meeting their individual learning goals.

Opening Assembly

Cawley Middle School kicked off the 2026–2027 school year by introducing our theme, "The Impact of One," through an engaging, student-centered back-to-school assembly. Rather than simply telling students about the theme, we invited them to experience it. Students began with "Words Have Power," a grade-level basketball relay that challenged students to consider the impact of the words we use. Positive words such as "optimistic" were sent toward the hoop, while words with a negative connotation, such as "dramatic," were sent to the trash and replaced with a more positive alternative, such as "expressive." The activity reinforced an important message: the words we choose have the power to build others up and shape the culture of our school.

Students then explored “One Word—What Do You Stand For?” through short video clips featuring well-known figures and worked together to identify the ONE WORD that best represented what each person stands for. For example, students considered how Tom Holland demonstrates HUMILITY by staying grounded, appreciating the people who support him, and recognizing that success does not happen alone. Grade-level runners then polled their peers and helped their teams determine the best answer, creating opportunities for movement, collaboration, and school spirit. The assembly culminated with Captain Hawkins revealing his own ONE WORD—IMPACT—and challenging every student to choose a word that represents who they are, what they value, and who they want to become. Students recorded their words to become part of a schoolwide display and, more importantly, to serve as a guide for the choices and actions they make throughout the year. Teachers also identified their own ONE WORD during our opening activities, creating a shared commitment among students and staff to live out the belief that one word, one action, one connection, and one impact can help our community soar.

Social Studies Department Celebrates “250”

To celebrate the U.S. Semiquintennial, the Cawley Social Studies team, led by Mrs. Piana, Mr. Gartland, Mrs. Depace, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Huard launched a series of creative instructional initiatives. A centerpiece main hallway display is the first of these, and showcases iconic landmarks and a historical timeline from 1776 to the present. This display allows students to map classroom concepts to broader historical events. The social studies teachers will continue this celebration of the United States, New Hampshire, and Hooksett with additional educational displays and school-wide activities and events as the year progresses.



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 also presented the emergency management drills with a focus on “See Something, Say Something.” Mrs. Rogers and I also reviewed the New Hampshire law on banning cell phones in schools, AI requirements, and guidelines for students riding their bicycles to school.

High School Information Night

This year’s annual High School Information Night was on September 14. 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 eight students attending Pinkerton Academy. Beginning September 15, parents can request a High School Petition Request Form by sending me an email at 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 and Manchester Memorial High School. The due date for a petition request to be reviewed is October 2.

Grade 8 Trip to Washington D.C.

On September 21 there will be 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 20 to Friday, April 23, 2027. The Washington D.C. Coordinator, Lori Adams and owner of Bennett Student Travel, Doug Bennett will provide a detailed overview of the trip and answer any questions.

Performing Arts

The Cawley Music Department has three performing groups, the band, jazz band and chorus. Currently there are seventy-six students enrolled in the chorus and fifty-seven students enrolled in the band. Each performing group has many performances scheduled for the year such as the Veteran's Day assembly, Hooksett Light Up the Village, the Winter and Spring Concerts and the New Hampshire State House performance. The jazz band will begin rehearsals in late September.

Athletics

Tryouts for boys soccer, girls soccer and field hockey were on September 1 while cross country practices began on September 8. Games and meets began the week of September 14. Soccer and field hockey standings are on the Tri-County's league website: <https://www.tricountyathletic.org/>.

Upcoming Dates to Note at Cawley:

September 18: Student Council Dance, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
September 21: 8th Grade Trip to Washington D.C. Informational Night, 6:00 pm
September 29: 6th Grade Adolescence Informational Night, 6:00 pm
October 2: No School for Students, Teacher Professional Development Day
October 2: 8th Grade High School Petition Forms Due
October 7: Quarter 1 Progress Checks
October 7: Parent Conference Links Emailed to Parents
October 12: No School, Columbus Day
October 15: Trimester 1 Progress Checks
October 16: 7th Grade Firefighters Challenge, 12:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Benson".

Matthew Benson, Principal