



Cav Connection

Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

cw.noacsc.org February, 2026

A Year of Pride and Progress

As we move through February, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible work that took place across Coldwater Exempted Village Schools last year and, most importantly, to express how proud I am of our **staff, our students, and our entire Coldwater community**.



A Year Defined by Purposeful Progress

2025 was a year marked by thoughtful planning, instructional growth, and responsible stewardship of district resources. Guided by our strategic plan, we continued to make meaningful progress toward district goals while ensuring Coldwater remains positioned for long-term success. Districtwide curriculum mapping was completed and fully aligned to state standards, providing our teachers with clear, consistent instructional roadmaps.

Through targeted professional development, staff utilized AI tools alongside state assessment data to identify instructional strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement. Significant professional development time was dedicated to AI integration, focusing on improving instructional effectiveness and classroom productivity. We also began planning for the integration of executive functioning and social-emotional learning skills across grades K–12, aligned with our Portrait of a Graduate.

In addition, a comprehensive curriculum and software review is underway, along with the development of a districtwide curriculum adoption cycle to ensure our instructional resources remain modern, effective, and aligned with future needs. Ongoing enrollment and staffing analysis continues to help us proactively plan for growth while maintaining optimal class sizes.

As part of strengthening early learning opportunities, the district partnered with a **private preschool provider**. This partnership strengthens the continuum of learning in Coldwater and provides families with an additional preschool option that is closely connected to district expectations while remaining a private provider. **Please be on the lookout for enrollment information from our preschool provider.**

Investing in Technology, Communication, and Operations

Last year marked the first phase of our five-year technology vision. Investments included new classroom interactive displays, teacher laptops, student Chromebooks, instructional iPads, and significant wireless infrastructure upgrades. Instructional AI tools and staff training continues to expand, supporting innovation and efficiency in our classrooms.

Communication improvements were also a priority. A complete district website redesign is underway to improve accessibility and user experience, with completion projected later this spring. In addition, a new Athletic Department website was launched and is now active.

Operational improvements remained a strong focus. **The district ordered two new buses to improve transportation reliability, with one currently on the road and the second scheduled to arrive in March.** New maintenance equipment, including a zero-turn mower and pickup truck, was purchased to better support district facilities. The installation of new digital scoreboards in The Palace—100% funded through advertising—enhanced the student and community experience, created a new revenue stream, and eliminated the need for a previously approved projector purchase, saving the district \$28,000. Additional facility upgrades included improvements to the auditoria sound system, replacement of a 23-year-old projector, and stage repairs and painting.

Planning also began for expanded kitchen electrical capacity to support new ovens being installed this summer. These ovens will increase our ability to support enrollment growth and were purchased through food service funds—not the general district budget.

Infrastructure Planning for the Future

The district partnered with Prodigy Building Solutions to address major infrastructure needs and to guide long-term facilities planning. The chiller replacement project near The Palace includes **new pumps, valves, and electrical upgrades**. As part of this work, the district will **cannibalize usable components from the two chillers being replaced** to help extend the life of the remaining two chillers.

Additional infrastructure improvements include **repaving the elementary circle drive and paving the gravel lot across State Route 118**, improving safety, traffic flow, and long-term maintenance efficiency.

The **final phase of the HVAC controls project was planned and is now being installed**, completing a multi-phase effort to improve system efficiency, reliability, and overall building control across the district. Together, these projects support a proactive, responsible approach to maintaining Coldwater's facilities and avoiding future infrastructure challenges.

Supporting the Arts, Athletics, and Student Achievement

One of the highlights of last year was making our band program whole through a significant investment in school-owned instruments. This ensures access, equity, and long-term sustainability for our music program. Additional instruments remain on order and will continue to arrive throughout the year.

Our students also achieved outstanding success in music and the arts, including OMEA Honors Choir selections, Superior and Excellent ratings at adjudicated events, and invitations to perform at high-profile venues such as UD Arena and professional sporting events.

Athletically, Coldwater students continued a tradition of excellence. Highlights included a Division III Girls Track & Field State Championship, multiple state qualifiers and podium finishes, state semifinal appearances in baseball and football, an eighth consecutive bowling state appearance, and a state-record 29 consecutive football playoff appearances.

Pride in Our People and Community

While facilities, technology, and programs matter, the true strength of Coldwater Schools lies in its people. I am incredibly proud of our **dedicated staff**, whose commitment and professionalism support students every day. I am proud of our **students**, who continue to excel in academics, arts, and athletics. And I am deeply grateful for our **families and community members**, whose partnership, support, and trust make Coldwater Schools such a special

place.

Together, we continue to build a district that is academically strong, fiscally responsible, and grounded in a culture of care, tradition, and high expectations. Thank you for your continued support of Coldwater Exempted Village Schools and for all you do to support our Cavaliers.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER, JENN MCCOY:

On January 13, 2026, the Board conducted their annual organizational meeting. The organizational meeting is required by the Ohio Revised Code to be held within the first fifteen days of January of each year, and shall organize to elect a president and vice president for a one-year term. Steven Hileman is our new board member taking the place of Mike Hoying who did not rerun. We thank Mike for his many years of service on the Board of Education! The board elected Greg Bruns as President and Jack Waite as Vice President. Additionally, regular board meetings are scheduled for the following dates. All meetings will be held in the Cav Room, beginning at 6:00 PM for the 2026 year:



February 17, March 10, April 7, May 12, June 16, July 21, August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8

The Board would like to invite all parents, students and community members to attend the board meetings. If you have any questions regarding board meetings, please feel free to contact me, Jenn McCoy at 419-678-2611 Ext 2306 or mccoy.jenn@coldwatercavs.org.

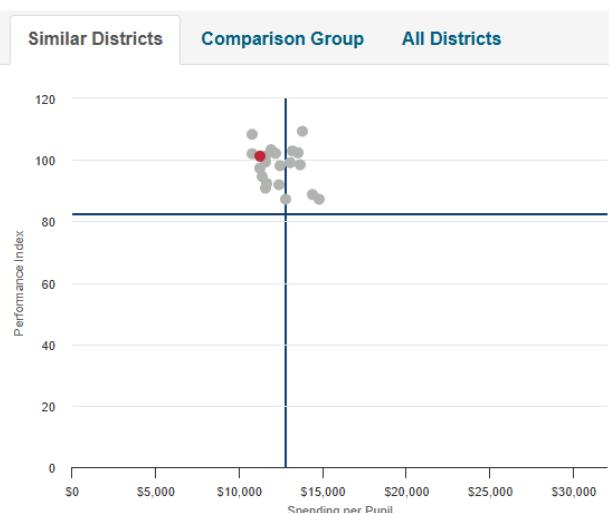
Financial Update

We have received the tax year 2025 rates and amounts from the Mercer County Auditor, showing a valuation increase of 1.3%. A triennial update is scheduled for tax year 2026, with collections beginning in 2027. With the new property tax legislation that has passed, we are no longer on the 20 mill floor and will not receive the anticipated revenue increase from the triennial update. This has been removed from the financial forecast and an updated forecast will be provided in February.

State report cards have been released and I'd like to share some of the financial data with you. You can also find this information on reportcard.education.ohio.gov. The following charts show where we rank in relation to public schools who have between 1,000-2,499 students.

Spending and Performance

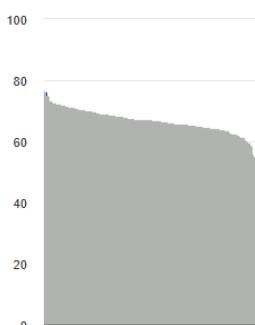
This measure answers the question – what is the relationship of average spending per student to performance, and how does that compare to similar districts and schools?



What percent of funds are spent on classroom instruction?
76.2%

How does this district rank in comparison to other districts of similar size?
3 out of 262

A rank of 1 indicates the highest percent spent on classroom instruction.



***Coldwater is 3rd best out of 262 at making sure funds are spent within the classroom

Is Coldwater Exempted Village among the 20% of public districts with the lowest operating expenses per pupil?	
Is Coldwater Exempted Village among the 20% of public districts with the highest academic performance index scores?	

***Coldwater operates among 20% of public schools with lowest operating expenses per student and highest academic performance.

The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce has released the FY25 Cupp Report. The chart below shows a comparison of property and income tax revenue among local school districts. Our district continues to have the lowest revenue per student in the region. While our new income tax levy will appear in the FY26 report, we are still projected to remain among the bottom two or three districts.

Revenue Key Data Points

	Per Pupil Revenue Raised by One Mill Prop Tax	Valuation Per Pupil	Property tax value Per Pupil	Income Tax Per Pupil	Income/Property Revenue per Pupil	Local Revenue Per Day Per Pupil
Celina	\$ 291.68	\$ 291,680.21	\$ 8,005.63	\$ 2,107.05	\$ 10,112.68	\$54.96
New Bremen	\$ 221.78	\$ 221,783.25	\$ 4,753.21	\$ 4,172.87	\$ 8,926.08	\$48.51
Minster	\$ 259.77	\$ 259,773.05	\$ 6,016.29	\$ 2,850.38	\$ 8,866.67	\$48.19
Fort Recovery	\$ 217.19	\$ 217,194.31	\$ 4,376.43	\$ 4,331.35	\$ 8,707.78	\$47.32
New Knoxville	\$ 226.74	\$ 226,739.07	\$ 4,704.94	\$ 3,123.67	\$ 7,828.61	\$42.55
Versailles	\$ 222.04	\$ 222,036.63	\$ 4,496.85	\$ 3,261.50	\$ 7,758.35	\$42.16
Parkway	\$ 273.88	\$ 273,883.61	\$ 5,580.03	\$ 1,794.53	\$ 7,374.56	\$40.08
St Marys	\$ 208.63	\$ 208,633.61	\$ 5,497.56	\$ 1,842.09	\$ 7,339.65	\$39.89
Waynesfield Goshen	\$ 235.56	\$ 235,560.00	\$ 4,765.55	\$ 2,514.31	\$ 7,279.86	\$39.56
Wapak	\$ 234.19	\$ 234,188.14	\$ 4,773.38	\$ 1,939.86	\$ 6,713.24	\$36.49
Marion Local	\$ 212.35	\$ 212,345.43	\$ 5,478.51	\$ 597.58	\$ 6,076.09	\$33.02
St Henry	\$ 226.47	\$ 226,465.21	\$ 5,576.85	\$ -	\$ 5,576.85	\$30.31
Coldwater	\$ 181.32	\$ 181,320.20	\$ 4,218.17	\$ 1,041.64	\$ 5,259.81	\$28.59

Coldwater Schools provide a high-quality education with fewer local dollars per student than any neighboring district, making careful stewardship and community partnership essential to sustaining our success.

Lowest Local Revenue-Raising Capacity

Coldwater generates \$181 per pupil for each mill of property tax, which is:

- 38% less than Celina
- 30% less than Minster
- 20% less than St Henry

This difference is driven by lower property valuation per pupil (\$181,320), not a lack of community support. One mill in Coldwater produces significantly less funding for students than it does in neighboring districts. For us to generate the *same* local dollars per student, our community would need to approve **more mills** than districts with higher property valuations.

Lowest Local Revenue per Student per Day

Coldwater generates \$28.59 per student per day in local revenue—the lowest in the comparison group. By comparison, many nearby districts generate \$40–\$55 per student per day. This difference equals \$2,000–\$4,500 less per student per year, meaning Coldwater must stretch each dollar further than any neighboring district. Example: If we have 1400 students, we generate \$40,026 but those same students in Celina generate \$76,944. We are delivering comparable educational services with fewer locally generated dollars.

Staffing Reflects Efficiency, Not Excess

Coldwater has the highest pupil-to-administrator ratio (211:1) among peer districts. This reflects fewer administrators per student, administrators covering multiple roles, and limited flexibility to add support staff without additional funding. Coldwater's staffing model is driven by necessity and efficiency, not administrative excess.

Implications for Future Decisions

Because Coldwater raises less per mill, generates less per student per day, and already operates at a lower cost per pupil, future decisions related to class sizes, programs and electives, student mental health supports, and facilities and safety will require intentional community support. Maintaining today's opportunities tomorrow is more challenging in Coldwater than in districts with higher tax bases.

Stewardship and Community Partnership

Coldwater schools use local dollars efficiently and responsibly, maximize instructional impact, and depend on community partnership more than most districts because each dollar carries more weight here. In Coldwater, community support directly translates into student opportunities.

	Administrative Expenditure Per Pupil	Building Operation Expenditure Per Pupil	Instructional Expenditure Per Pupil	Pupil Support Expenditure Per Pupil	Staff Support Expenditure Per Pupil	Total Operating Expenditure Per Pupil
Waynesfield	\$3,092.77	\$3,881.55	\$12,339.09	\$754.99	\$1,011.18	\$21,079.57
Celina	\$1,999.77	\$2,612.24	\$9,807.92	\$1,248.66	\$478.72	\$16,147.31
Parkway	\$2,100.70	\$3,055.76	\$10,285.81	\$326.77	\$0.76	\$15,769.79
New Knoxville	\$1,931.23	\$2,451.27	\$10,260.82	\$181.81	\$696.65	\$15,521.79
Versailles	\$1,665.80	\$2,784.11	\$9,708.56	\$619.87	\$386.86	\$15,165.21
Wapak	\$1,675.85	\$2,909.50	\$8,905.98	\$993.64	\$595.15	\$15,080.11
New Bremen	\$1,836.03	\$2,877.58	\$8,520.02	\$562.54	\$907.68	\$14,703.84
St Marys	\$1,428.05	\$3,415.08	\$8,104.57	\$1,067.28	\$431.73	\$14,446.72
Fort Recovery	\$1,599.17	\$2,119.17	\$9,212.19	\$299.11	\$525.01	\$13,754.65
Minster	\$1,415.16	\$2,223.03	\$8,378.29	\$557.05	\$623.84	\$13,197.37
Coldwater	\$1,299.42	\$1,603.08	\$8,605.17	\$471.96	\$223.07	\$12,202.69
St Henry	\$1,306.54	\$2,252.96	\$7,910.56	\$391.48	\$251.95	\$12,113.49
Marion Local	\$1,295.28	\$1,710.37	\$7,980.15	\$434.13	\$521.16	\$11,941.09

Expenditure Key Data Points

Coldwater Schools is among the lowest-spending districts in the region when comparing total operating expenditures per pupil. This reflects strong financial stewardship and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Total Operating Expenditure Per Pupil

Coldwater spends approximately \$12,203 per pupil, which is significantly lower than most surrounding districts. Neighboring districts typically spend between \$14,000 and \$21,000 per pupil. Only Marion Local and St. Henry report slightly lower totals, placing Coldwater in the most cost-efficient tier locally.

Administrative Spending

Coldwater's administrative expenditure per pupil is \$1,299. This is lower than nearly every neighboring district and far below districts such as Waynesfield Goshen, Parkway, and Celina. This demonstrates a lean administrative structure that prioritizes classroom instruction over overhead.

Building Operations

Coldwater spends \$1,603 per pupil on building operations, the lowest figures among all districts compared. Many nearby districts spend \$2,500 to \$3,800 per pupil in this category. Coldwater maintains facilities efficiently while controlling long-term operating costs.

Instructional Spending

Coldwater spends \$8,605 per pupil on instruction. This level is competitive with similar districts and reflects a clear commitment to student learning, while avoiding the significantly higher instructional costs seen in some neighboring systems.

Support Services

Spending on pupil support (\$472 per pupil) and staff support (\$223 per pupil) remains targeted and controlled. These figures suggest support services are provided where needed without unnecessary expansion.

Financial Statements

The Fiscal Year 2025 financial statements were prepared by Julian & Grube. If you would like to review them, please reach out to me.

Thank You,

Jenn McCoy
Treasurer/CFO

****You're invited to the Coldwater PTO Carnival****

When: Sunday, March 15, 2026, from 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Where: Coldwater High School Palace and Commons area

Fun activities: hoop shoot, cake stand, face painting, football toss, golf, grocery stand, plunko, treasure chest, youth bowling, jumpy houses, prizes and much more!!! The carnival stands will require tickets, which can be purchased on the day of the carnival for \$0.25 per ticket. There will also be tours of the Life Squad ambulance and Coldwater Police Department as part of the carnival, weather permitting.

Food: Romer's Catering BBQ chicken dinners* (pre-sale only), K-burgers, Kona Ice and a food stand will be open during the event.

Volunteers: *Carnival chairpersons would like to encourage everyone to donate baked items for the cake stand. Baked items can be dropped off from 10:00-12:00 in the commons area the day of the carnival.*

The cake stand was a very popular attraction last year and had to be shut down early due to running out of baked goods – please consider donating so we can keep the fun going all day!

Raffle: PTO raffle will be held for students grades K-4. Participating in the drawing will give students the opportunity to win many exciting new prizes! Winners will be announced the week before the carnival and prizes sent home at that time.

*Romer's Catering BBQ chicken dinners are presale ONLY tickets. Tickets will be available through the Elementary Students for \$10 per dinner. Tickets may also be purchased by calling Ben and Amber Young (419-305-2300) or Eric and Jessica Kramer (419-584-8866) before March 2, 2026. Dinners can be picked up from 3:00-4:30 p.m. the day of the carnival in the high school commons area.

Note: Raffle information and chicken dinner ticket forms will be sent home with students.



We hope you and your family come out for a fun-filled day and help support Coldwater school!!!

Note From The School Nurse: Jodi Weigel

As part of our ongoing efforts to support student health and wellness, we would like to share general information about head lice and how families can identify and treat them if needed.

Head lice are common among school-aged children and are **not related to cleanliness or personal hygiene**. They are spread primarily through direct head-to-head contact and can occur at any time.

Guidance from Health Authorities

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the National Association of School Nurses (NASN), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), whose guidance is followed by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), recommend **non-exclusionary practices** for head lice. This means:

- Head lice are considered a nuisance, not a disease.
- Students do not need to be sent home early from school due to head lice. However, once parents are notified that head lice have been identified, they may choose to pick their child up early. If a child is experiencing significant discomfort (such as frequent scratching) or is unable to avoid close head-to-head contact with others, school administration may recommend early dismissal so treatment can begin sooner than the end of the school day.
- “No-nit” policies (requiring all nits to be removed before returning to school) are **not recommended**, as they do not prevent spread and may cause unnecessary absences.
- Education and prompt treatment at home are the most effective ways to manage head lice.

What to Look For

We encourage families to periodically check their child’s hair and scalp, especially behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. Possible signs include:

- Itching of the scalp
- A tickling sensation in the hair
- Small white or yellowish eggs (nits) attached to hair strands close to the scalp
- Live lice, which are small, grayish-brown insects

If Head Lice Are Found

If you discover head lice:

1. Begin treatment promptly using an over-the-counter or prescription lice treatment, following directions carefully.
2. Use a fine-toothed lice comb to remove nits.
3. Wash bedding, hats, clothing, and towels used within the past 48 hours in hot water and dry on high heat.
4. Seal non-washable items in a plastic bag for two weeks.
5. Check other household members and treat if necessary.

Students may attend school once treatment has begun.

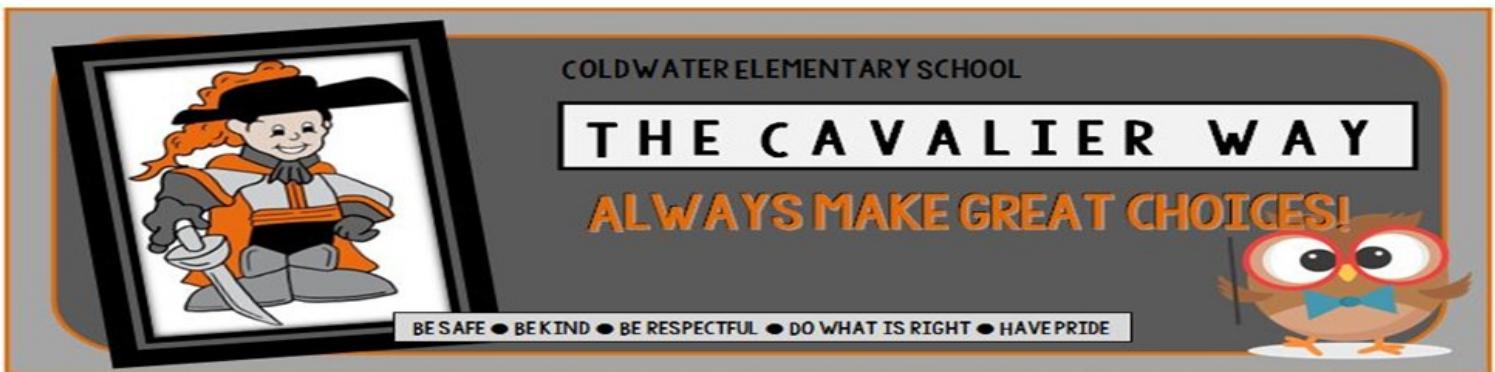
Helpful Prevention Tips

- Avoid sharing hats, hair accessories, brushes, or headphones.
- Keep long hair tied back when possible.
- Continue routine head checks at home.

Please contact the school nurse or your healthcare provider if you have questions or would like additional information.

Give Me a Smile

A fund has been established by an anonymous donor at the Mercer County Civic Foundation to provide orthodontic braces to deserving Coldwater youth. This opportunity is available to all Coldwater youth and is called “Give Me a Smile.” The program provides a free initial screening and then covers the cost of orthodontic braces with little cost to the family for the duration of the treatment. If you are interested in the program contact Jodi Weigel, School Nurse, for the application or for further information.



Elementary News:

Mike Etzler - Elementary Principal

It's hard to believe we are already halfway through the 2025-26 school year! I hope everyone had an awesome and safe holiday break surrounded by family and friends, cherishing every moment together. The winter weather, for the most part, has allowed our students to settle back into a consistent routine as we begin the new year. I trust that all our students are ready to carry on doing things "The Cavalier Way" as we head into 2026. Our students and staff will continue to work hard to improve each day as they know that in every way we want to grow better each day! This means also continuing to appreciate, respect, value, serve, and care for one another within our school and district.



What a fantastic year we've had so far! Every day, our students are working hard to learn, grow, and display exceptional character. I couldn't be prouder of the way our students and staff embrace challenges and opportunities to make the best of every situation. Our teachers are putting tremendous effort and intention into ensuring each child receives a valuable education, not only academically but also socially and emotionally. It's been awesome to witness the incredible learning taking place in our classrooms and the ways our Cavalier Team of Teachers prioritize the needs of their students.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the amazing students we have here at Coldwater Elementary. Their enthusiasm and commitment to doing things "The Cavalier Way" is a reflection of the support and encouragement they receive from you—our parents, guardians, and community. Together, we hold our students to the highest standard, and this shared commitment makes Coldwater the special place it is.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, I've enjoyed seeing our Little Cavaliers grow in so many different ways and can't wait to see what they will accomplish next. Our goal at Coldwater Elementary is to create a learning environment where every student feels valued and excited to come to school each day. We want to instill in them the belief that they can overcome challenges, even when things are tough or not their favorite. It's through these experiences that they learn resilience and develop the skills to be their very best.

Please remember that open communication is key to supporting our students' success. If you have concerns or ideas about academic or behavioral strategies, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher. Together, as a team of educators and parents, we can provide the best possible environment for your child to thrive.

We look forward to a continued amazing school year, living out the values of "The Cavalier Way" and being BETTER TOGETHER! Thank you for your ongoing support and trust in Coldwater Elementary.

Coldwater Elementary Spreads Holiday Cheer Through Angel/Giving Tree Program

The true spirit of the season came alive at Coldwater Elementary as our team joined together to support four of our very own families through the Angel/Giving Tree program. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of our staff, we were able to provide the children of these families with five thoughtful gifts each, helping to make their holidays a little brighter and more special.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our incredible school counselor, Stacee Froning, for her leadership in organizing and supporting this meaningful initiative. Her dedication, along with the contributions of our amazing Coldwater Elementary staff, made it possible to bring smiles and joy to these families during the holiday season.

This effort is a beautiful reminder of what makes our school community so special—coming together to care for one another and make a difference. Thank you to everyone who helped make this holiday season one to remember!

2nd Grade Christmas Musical/Senior Citizens Breakfast Spreads Holiday Magic

Our 2nd grade students delivered an outstanding Christmas Musical performance that truly captured the magic of the season! Their heartfelt songs and festive spirit reminded everyone of the joy and wonder that Christmas brings.



They performed at the Senior Citizens Breakfast on December 3rd then performed for the public on Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 7:00 p.m. and at our school Christmas Assembly on December 19th to spread Christmas cheer to all of our students before enjoying the Christmas Break! A huge thank-you to Mrs. Petersen for her incredible dedication and hard work in preparing our students for this special holiday tradition. Her passion and guidance helped create a memorable experience for both the performers and their audiences.



We are so proud of our 2nd grade students for sharing the true spirit of Christmas with our community. Bravo on a job well done!

CWEL Santa Shop Brings Holiday Cheer and Real-Life Lessons

The Coldwater Academic Promoters, along with the Santa Shop Committee and the help of many dedicated parent volunteers, held the CWEL Santa Shop during the week of December 15th–18th. This annual project was one that students eagerly anticipated year after year and continued to be a cherished holiday tradition at Coldwater Elementary.

The Santa Shop operated as a pop-up store stocked with a variety of items available for students to purchase as Christmas gifts for their family members, friends, and even pets. Students who received permission to participate had money sent in by their parents or guardians. Parents and children worked together to complete a shopping envelope, indicating whom the child was allowed to shop for and how much money they were able to spend. Through this process, families created a budget together, helping students prepare for a meaningful and educational shopping experience.

Students shopped throughout the store, selecting gifts for everyone on their list while staying within their designated budget. This experience provided an excellent opportunity for students to think of others by independently choosing gifts, while also practicing real-life skills such as budgeting and handling money.

In addition to spreading holiday cheer, the Santa Shop Committee chose to do something special this year to support Betsy Bertke and her family. Betsy had recently received a heart transplant after facing a very serious and urgent health journey. Thanks to the generosity of Coldwater Elementary's kindergarten through fourth-grade student families, donations raised through the Santa Shop totaled \$4,000 for the Bertke family.

A heartfelt thank you went out to the Santa Shop Committee and all of the parent volunteers who worked to make this event a success. Coldwater Elementary truly could not say thank you enough for the time, effort, and care that went into making the Santa Shop such a memorable experience for students and such a meaningful act of community support.



At Coldwater Elementary, our 4th grade K-Kids program is helping students become leaders and make a meaningful difference in their community! Sponsored by Kiwanis International, K-Kids provides opportunities for students to develop leadership skills, build strong character, and engage in impactful community service projects. The program teaches the importance of helping others, fostering a sense of responsibility, and showing students how their actions can create a positive impact on their school and community. Through team collaboration and service projects, K-Kids participants learn the value of making a difference and grow into caring, engaged citizens.

This year, our 4th Grade K-Kids have been incredibly active, with 45 students participating as proud members. A heartfelt thank-you goes to Joan Gilliland, Christine Hannewald and Stacee Froning for their dedication and hard work in organizing meaningful opportunities for our K-Kids to shine. Their leadership has been vital to the program's success and to creating an environment where students can thrive.

We are so proud of our K-Kids for their hard work and enthusiasm as they make our school and community a better place. Way to go, K-Kids! The following articles are a couple of holiday activities that the K-Kids participated in which includes Operation Christmas Child and Christmas caroling at Briarwood.

Operation Christmas Child



Our K-Kids recently embraced the true spirit of giving by helping fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, a program dedicated to spreading joy and hope to children in need around the world. These shoeboxes, packed with toys, school supplies, hygiene items, and other small gifts, are distributed to children in over 100 countries. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our K-Kids, an incredible 750 shoeboxes were filled, bringing smiles to countless children around the globe. This heartwarming project not only helps brighten the holidays for others but also teaches our students the importance of compassion and serving their community in meaningful ways. We are so proud of our K-Kids for making a positive impact and sharing the magic of the season with those who need it most.



Briarwood Christmas Caroling



On the last Friday of school before Christmas Break, our K-Kids stepped beyond the classroom to share the joy of the season with the residents of Briarwood. After lunch, the students traveled to Briarwood for an afternoon of festive caroling and connection. From 1:00–2:30 p.m., the children filled the halls with holiday songs, bringing warmth and cheer to residents who look forward to this visit each year. In addition to caroling, the K-Kids joined residents for a fun round of Bingo, offering smiles, companionship, and a little friendly competition.

This special trip was a wonderful opportunity for our students to give back, make meaningful memories, and embrace the true spirit of the season.



Cavalier Growth Award Winners - 2nd Quarter

Coldwater Elementary held its second Cavalier Way/Growth Assembly of the year on Friday, January 16th, to celebrate the end of the second quarter. All elementary students and staff gathered by grade level to celebrate our school community, recognize those students earning the Cavalier Growth Award for the second quarter and to revisit what "The Cavalier Way" truly means.

The Cavalier Growth Award honors students who have demonstrated positive growth throughout the quarter. These students have shown meaningful progress academically, behaviorally, or socially, and have learned the value of hard work and perseverance.

Whether through improved effort, positive choices, or a stronger commitment to learning, these Cavaliers exemplify what it means to have a growth mindset and to live "The Cavalier Way." Students who earned the Cavalier Growth Award received a certificate, a Cavalier Growth backpack tag and a McDonald's coupon in recognition of their achievement. Below are the Cavalier Growth Award Winners from each grade level for the 2nd Quarter:



4th Grade: Wesley Germann, Britta Dingledine, Gavin Uhlenhake, Aubrey Dues, Francelio Adde, Mason Bruggeman, Kenneth Forsthoefel, Kale Knapke, Ben Freeman, Brooke Muhlenkamp, Bennett Dobmeyer, Aubrey Schlarman, Ben Huwer



3rd Grade: Reya Schmackers, Harper Prosser, Elijah Niekamp, Shaun Forsthoefel, Sydney Selzer, Christian Boeckman, Annabeth Brosher, Lily Buening, Luke Fennig, Riley Simcoe, Emry Muhlenkamp, Briella Kunk



2nd Grade: Maggie Rindler, Zoe Knapke, Morgan Unrast, Brayden Homan, Quinn Fowler, Mason Pax, Delilah Kunk, Croix Niekamp, Daleyza Perez, Will Eyink, Mia Pohl, Kinsley Wood, Edith Sudhoff, Parker Glazier



1st Grade: Helen Bruns, Roux Dues, Marissa Muhlenkamp, Owen Uhlenhake, Krue Dues, Amelia Fennig, Jack Schlarman, Mila Schlarman, Charlee Schoenleben, James Woeste, Lucy Bruns, Colton Bruggeman, Chloe Wenning, Leah Egan, Daniel Brunswick



Kindergarten: Klaire Uhlenhake, Mason Forsthoefel, Remington Weaver, Brynlee Luttmer, Lucy Pease, Charli Hoening, Knox Gillis, Parker Kaup, Daphne Bettinger, Vincent Snyder, Macy Kaup, Sebastian Tobe, Gracie Spencer

Kindergarten Screening and Registration

If you have or know a child who will be five years old on or before August 1, 2026 and plans to enroll in kindergarten for the 2026–27 school year, please call the Coldwater Elementary Office at 419-678-2613 to preregister. There will not be an in-person informational parent meeting this year. Parents who contact our office will receive an email with all necessary information, including:

- Kindergarten readiness
- How to sign up for a screening time
- Items that need to be completed prior to screening



Coldwater's Kindergarten Screening will be held on Thursday, March 19 and Friday, March 20 in the elementary library center and kindergarten classrooms. At the time of the screening, parents will **NEED** to bring a birth certificate, immunization records, and custody papers (if applicable). We look forward to this time we get to spend with you and your child.

Mercer County Educational Service Center Early Identification Child Find

If you have concerns for your 3, 4, or 5 year old child about their speech or any potential developmental delay, the Mercer County ESC is here to help! The Child Find will be held at the Mercer County Educational Service Center on these dates: February 27, March 27 and April 4, 2026 from 8:00-12:00 p.m. This screening is not a requirement in order to enroll in preschool but can be used to help identify any potential learning needs. The free screening will cover:

- Articulation/Language
- Fine Motor/Gross Motor
- Hearing/Vision
- General Knowledge/Pre-Academics

**Please contact the Mercer County Educational Service Center at 419-586-6628 Ext. 221 to make an appointment.

Excellent Attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on many valuable learning opportunities. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours if possible. If your child asks to stay home "just because", remind them of what they will miss, such as reading group, math, science or gym class etc. Explain that school is a privilege, priority, and is very important.

It is vital to encourage your children to regularly attend school, as it will lead to better performance not only in school but throughout their lives. Encouraging consistent attendance helps your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, and create positive behaviors. Students who frequently attend school feel more connected to their community and develop strong social skills and friendships, which are important life skills.

Coldwater Elementary thanks you for all of your support and appreciates you communicating with your child about the value of school/education.

School Safety/Winter Safety

Here is another friendly reminder of some safety tips to reinforce with your child at home to help them stay safe when walking, riding a bike, or getting dropped off/ picked up at school.

Walking/Biking

- Walk/Ride with a friend when possible.
- Ask your parents to help you pick a safe route to school; one that avoids dangers.
- Stick to the route you picked with your parents. Don't let friends talk you into shortcuts, that are, more dangerous.
- When you are near the street, don't push, shove, or chase each other.
- Always use the crosswalk.
- Pay attention to cars and always be looking out for vehicles. Don't expect them to notice or stop for you as you always need to make sure there are no cars coming when crossing a street or intersection.

Dropped Off/Picked Up

- Enter through the assigned door before 8:00 a.m. After 8:00 a.m. enter at the most convenient door from Circle Drive.
- Parents when dropping your child off at the beginning of the day, please use the Circle Drive drop off line, or park in the visitors lot and walk your child across the crosswalk.
- DO NOT use the staff parking lot as a drop off/pick up area for your child. Please park in the visitors parking lot to drop off/pick up your child at the beginning and end of the day if you do not wish to use the Circle Drive drop off line.
- While waiting to get picked up at the end of the day, please listen for your car number or name and slowly walk to exit out of the building to Circle Drive.
- Stay beside Mr. Etzler until he or a staff member tells you what cone to stand by. Then WALK to your car after it has stopped.
- Always enter/exit the vehicle on the curbside.
- **Parents are asked not to use their cell phones as their children are in the drop off zone for safety purposes.**
- **Please be very careful pulling out of the pick up line. SLOW DOWN...everyone's safety is at risk!**
 - * *PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRIVE SLOWLY THROUGH THE SCHOOL ZONE, DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE AND THROUGH THE ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT. PAY ATTENTION TO PEDESTRIANS AND CARS PULLING OUT OF SPACES. You as a driver have a big responsibility in keeping our students safe. Thank you!*
 - * As a reminder, please talk with your children about winter safety when traveling to and from school and to wear proper clothing for those cold days. Please note the guidelines we will follow for inclement weather for recess.

⇒ 20 degrees or lower: Students stay inside

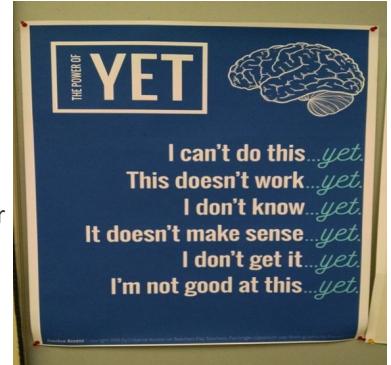
⇒ 21 degrees or higher: Students can be inside, outside, or combined depending on wind chill and precipitation

The power of "YET" ...Help your Cavalier have a GROWTH MINDSET

"5 Easy Ways to Encourage a Growth Mindset in Your Child"

from: EDUCATION, PARENTING on 04/10/15

1. Lead by Example: Many of us have a fixed mindset about something in our life, and it is important for us as parents to challenge ourselves as much as we seek to challenge our kids. If they see us tackle our own problems as a challenge to be solved, they'll learn to do the same. Conversely if they see us lash out and blame others for our own failures, they will learn to think that they are not in control of their destiny and that life is nothing more than the roll of the dice.



2. Call off the rescue mission!: As parents, all we want to do is protect our children from life's hurts and disappointments. Unfortunately, when we constantly bail them out of difficult situations caused by their own poor choices, they never gain the opportunity to develop their own coping strategies to manage setbacks.

3. Failure is a good thing!: Without a sense of failure, we would never be motivated to learn anything new. If everything came easy to us, life would be incredibly boring. We can all remember a time in our life where we worked really hard on something and it paid off. Few of us can recall the time we got an A on an assignment that came easy to us. This is because the reward is actually in the hard work (and the struggle). Children need to learn that it's okay to make a mistake. In fact, it's a necessary part of the learning process.

4. Change your vocabulary: Henry Ford once said, "Whether you think you can or you think you can't, either way you're right!" Instead of "I can't..." "I'm bored..." "I give up..." it's important to teach children to approach difficult tasks with "I can..." "What am I missing?" "What strategies have I learned before that could help me now?" The words we choose are a powerful indicator of the type of mindset we carry with us through life.

5. The Power of Yet: Instead of dwelling on their shortcomings, children need to learn to identify the next steps to greater achievement. It's not that they don't understand something...it's that they don't understand something yet! Next time your child comes home with a bad grade, instead of focusing on all the things that went wrong, focus your energy on the next steps they can take to improve their skills. Do they need to study more? Develop strategies to cope with test anxiety? Put in more effort? Whatever it is, teach them to learn from their mistakes and move on. The learning that comes as a result of the grade is much more valuable than the grade itself.

Kindergarten Readiness: What does it look like? - “Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?”

To prepare for kindergarten, our Little Cavaliers need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development. It is also important that your Little Cav is physically, socially and emotionally ready to participate in school. Our team of teachers are very well trained and prepared to help your child be their best academically. If your child is kindergarten ready, our team will make sure your child gets the academic instruction needed for them to be their best self. The following list can serve as a guide as you and your child prepare for the exciting transition to kindergarten at Coldwater Elementary!

Can your child...

- **Separate from primary caregiver without anxiety?**
 - ⇒ Keeping hands to self
 - ⇒ Sharing and taking turns
 - ⇒ Cooperating and playing with other children
 - ⇒ Using classroom supplies appropriately
- **Use self-control?**
 - ⇒ Following directions
 - ⇒ Communicating needs effectively
- **Cooperate with adults and authority figures?**
 - ⇒ Using the restroom independently.
 - ⇒ Putting on and zipping your own coat.
 - ⇒ Tying shoes.
- **Demonstrate self-help skills?**
 - ⇒ Using the restroom independently.
 - ⇒ Putting on and zipping your own coat.
 - ⇒ Tying shoes.
- **Use classroom tools and toys efficiently?**
 - ⇒ Cutting with scissors.
 - ⇒ Holding and using a pencil, crayon or marker.
 - ⇒ Building with blocks or Legos.
- **Express self-awareness in a variety of ways?**
 - ⇒ Knowing first and last name.
 - ⇒ Writing first name.
 - ⇒ Naming the letters in the first name.
 - ⇒ Knowing the name of the primary caregiver(s).

Please remember, young children develop and change constantly. Help your Little Cav make successful transitions from home to school. If he or she cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later. Providing opportunities to practice these skills through daily routine and experiences will help foster your child's independence and love of learning.

Early Literacy Tips for Preschoolers

At Home

- * **TALKING** - As you are preparing a meal, invite your child to help. Talk about what you are doing, how you are doing it or the food you are preparing (name, color, texture, taste, or where it comes from).
- * **SINGING** - Singing is a great way to learn new vocabulary and help children understand sentence structure by slowing language down. Try to sing songs about everyday routines such as getting dressed, washing hands, or making breakfast.
- * **READING** - Encourage your child to choose books he/she is interested in, even if you feel that the story is too long for their attention span or bedtime. Try going on a “picture walk” through the story where you discuss what you see going on in the illustrations; you can even make up your own story about what is happening in the pictures you see.
- * **WRITING** - When coloring or scribbling, encourage your child to write as much as he/she can about what they are drawing. This will help him understand that written words stand for spoken language.
- * **PLAYING** - Dress-up is a fun and inexpensive way to introduce your child to storytelling. Provide them with old clothes and other household props to help them act out favorite stories - or make up their own! Encourage them to think about how a story progresses through the beginning, middle, and end.

On the Go

- * TALKING - Engage your child in conversation while in the car. Talk about where you are headed, what you did last time you were there if it's a familiar place, or what new and exciting things you will do if it's somewhere your child has never been.
- * SINGING - Keep a CD or a playlist of your child's favorite songs in the car. Sing along with them (or sing made-up songs!) to help your child hear syllables, word sounds and new vocabulary.
- * READING - Words are all around us! Point out letters or simple words that your child may recognize, such as ones that start with the same letter as his name or easy rhyming words.
- * WRITING - While waiting in line or at the doctor's office, do a simple finger play or rhyme that gets their hands moving, like "Itsy, Bitsy Spider" or "Open Them, Shut Them". Moving and stretching their fingers will help them build the fine motor skills they'll need to write and draw.
- * PLAYING - Play a game of "I Spy" while in the car. Take this opportunity to work on building your child's vocabulary by picking things they may be unfamiliar with or by using very descriptive language to help them guess the item you see.

5 Parent Tips for "Little Cav" READING Success

1. Read Regularly

Try to read to your child every day. You might aim for 10-15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day. Bring along a book, and read to your child during a sibling's sports practice. Or curl up together with a book when you get home from work.

2. Take Turns Choosing Books

Your child may want to hear old favorites again and again. Use your turn for new titles and variety (nonfiction, poetry).

3. Let Them Participate

Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, they can finish sentences that rhyme or fill in the words they know. Go slowly so they have time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. They'll enjoy read-aloud time more if they play an active role.

4. Be Playful

You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep, booming voice for a horse). Or substitute your youngster's name for the main character's name, and use family members' names for other characters. Note: You don't have to be an expert reader - your child will love it when you read aloud because it's *you*.

5. Boost Their Vocabulary

A large vocabulary can turn your child into a better reader and writer. Try these everyday ways to help them learn new words:

Keep your ears open: When you and your youngster go places, point out words that people use. Maybe a waiter describes an *entree* or the dentist talks about *molars*. Encourage your child to figure out what they mean by the way they're used.

Go beyond nouns: Help your youngster add verbs and adjectives to their vocabulary. Sports and games offer opportunities to use action words. Let your child hear you comment on the softball that *soars* or the runner who *sprints*. When they write or send thank you notes or greeting cards, suggest descriptive words (a *polka-dot* shirt, a *fantastic* birthday).

Little Cav Kinders!



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! Gingerbread fun and Polar Express with tickets, stories and hot cocoa! Each class also makes their very own Gingerbread cookie as we read many different versions of the story!



All Kindergarten students enjoyed a *Thankful Feast* all the way down the hallway!



Left: Train conductors Mr. Mader and Mr. Etzler preparing to punch each students' ticket as they board the Polar Express!

Upcoming Events

- 100th Day
- Valentine's Day
- Kindergarten Screening

*Call the office to register!

Little Cav Kinders!



Thank you, ITR, for your wood/board donation!!!



Above: Mabel H., Kasyn J., and Madilyn D. from Mrs. Hoying's class working hard to create their snowmen!



We used the wood to cut into pieces just our size, and painted it white with the help of the High School FFA students...



...then, with a sock hat, ribbon, carrot nose, along with our fingerprints, our snowmen were complete and ready for Christmas!!



Dear Families,

We're excited to share a fun and healthy opportunity for our students this spring for **grades 3–8**!

Our school will be participating in the **Team Tressel Fitness Challenge**, a statewide program led by Ohio Lt. Governor Jim Tressel in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. This challenge helps students build healthy habits through physical activity, nutrition, and sleep—all by setting and working toward personal goals.



Here's what to expect:

- The Spring Fitness Challenge runs anytime between **March 1 and May 1**, making it easy to fit into busy schedules.
- Activities can be completed **both at school and at home**.
- Students who choose to participate will receive a **grade-level workbook** (3/4, 5/6, or 7/8) to help guide them through the challenge.
- Students will work toward **Bronze, Silver, and Gold** achievement levels as they practice healthy habits.
- Throughout the challenge, students will set and track goals in five areas: **cardio, strength, flexibility, nutrition, and sleep**.

In **April**, we'll also be offering a **weekly stretching and flexibility session**, along with short nutrition talks, on **Wednesdays from 7:40–8:00 a.m.** These sessions are open to students in **grades 5–8** who would like to attend. A **Google Form** will be sent out soon to sign up.

If a student can't attend the morning sessions, weekly forms will be available at the **school office** to take home.

Once the challenge is completed and all forms are turned in, each participating student will receive a **certificate signed by Governor DeWine and Lt. Governor Tressel**, along with a small incentive (details coming soon).

We encourage families to support their students at home by helping them stay active, choose healthy foods, and maintain good sleep routines. If you have any questions, please reach out to our challenge co-ordinators:

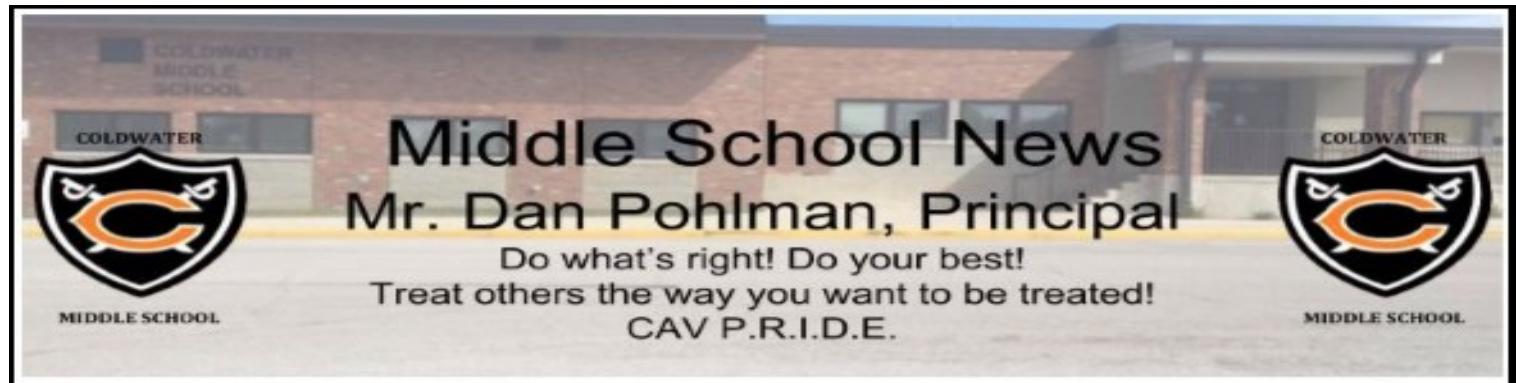
- **Grades 5–8:** Ashley Ahrens at Ahrens.ashley@coldwatercavs.org
- **Grades 3–4:** Kyle Ahrens at Ahrens.kyle@coldwatercavs.org

Students will receive their workbooks during the school day in **March**. Let's work together to help our students become healthier, stronger, and more confident!

Mike Etzler
Elementary Principal / Kyle Ahrens Elementary Physical Education

Dan Pohlman
Middle School Principal / Ashley Ahrens Food Service Director





Cavalier Community,

It was wonderful to welcome our students and staff back to Coldwater Middle School as we began 2026 following the holiday break. As we closed out the second nine weeks, we took time to reflect on the first semester, both as a staff and as a student body, celebrating our successes and identifying areas where continued growth is needed.

On Friday, January 30, we came together as a school community for our annual First Semester PBIS Assembly. During this assembly, we reflected on academic performance and student behavior from the first semester and unveiled our Get REAL 2026 theme. This assembly once again sets a positive tone for the remainder of the school year. This year's theme, *Your Story! Your Choice!*, encourages students to recognize that regardless of circumstances, they have control over how their story unfolds through their choices and responses to challenges. Students were asked to reflect on questions such as: Do you quit, or do you keep going? Do you seek sympathy, or do you work harder through adversity to achieve a sense of accomplishment? A strong lineup of speakers and engaging activities before and during Get REAL Week will reinforce the message that small moments can have a big impact when students choose to persevere.

January was a busy and exciting month at Coldwater Middle School. On Wednesday, January 8th, thirty 5th- and 6th-grade students traveled to Wright State Lake Campus to participate in the Team Ventures program. Sponsored by the Mercer County ESC, Team Ventures is a full day of problem-solving, collaboration, and fun. Throughout the day, students worked in teams made up of peers from schools across the county as they rotated through a variety of sessions. Each session presented engaging challenges that encouraged teamwork, higher-level thinking, and creative problem-solving skills as students collaborated to successfully complete each task.

From January 13–16, our 7th and 8th grade students participated in Teen Read Week. The Language Arts Department (Carrie Kahlig, Amber Dues, and Lindsey Moellenkamp), along with our Maker Space students, played a key role in making this event a success. This marked the fourth year of Teen Read Week, and this year's celebration featured a Harry Potter theme. The goal was to promote reading by showing students that it can be both enjoyable and educational. Throughout the week, students participated in Harry Potter-themed activities, including team competitions during lunch and Cav PRIDE time, making it another memorable experience for our students.



January 23 marked our quarterly Donut Breakfast, held in recognition of students who achieved Honor Roll status for the second nine weeks. We are proud to share that 273 of our 463 students



qualified for this achievement. Students enjoyed a bakery-fresh donut made by our very own Coldwater Home Bakery. Congratulations to all of our Honor Roll students for their hard work, dedication, and academic success. We are so proud of you! Students who qualified for PBIS rewards enjoyed special field trips. On February 11, the 5th and 6th grade students will attend an Education Day at UD Arena and watch a women's basketball game. We had to reschedule our Snow Tubing trp because of the snow days to a later date. These trips served as meaningful rewards and were well enjoyed by our students.

January also marked the beginning of the scheduling process for the 2026–2027 school year. Middle School Guidance Counselor Sue Lovell and High School Guidance Counselor Natalie Kanney met with 8th-grade students during their social studies classes to introduce the high school course of study. Mrs. Kanney explained graduation requirements, core classes, and elective options. Later in the month, 8th-grade students toured the high school and learned more about available electives. All of these activities took place prior to the February 2 High School Scheduling Night. In addition, Mrs. Lovell will meet with all 7th-grade students throughout the third nine weeks to discuss elective offerings for 8th grade.

Coldwater Middle School continues to focus on academic growth, positive student behavior, and meaningful experiences that support the development of the whole child. The activities and initiatives taking place throughout the school year reflect our ongoing commitment to maintaining a positive school culture and preparing our students for future success.

Mr. Dan Pohlman

Attention Parents of 7th Graders

An informational meeting concerning your child's upcoming Washington DC trip will be on Monday March 9th at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium. Items to be discussed include: proposed itinerary, cost, payment schedule, chaperone sign-up, fundraiser, etc... Please plan to attend this important meeting with your son/daughter.



Coldwater Middle School Second Nine Weeks Honor Roll

Grade 7

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Gwen Bertke, Adele Bettinger, Charley Bruns, Thaddeus Dippold, Tate Garrison, Daxton Highley, Lilly Homan, Annalise Knap-schaefer, Lacey Link, Emma Livingston, Paige Moorman, Chase Piper, Baylie Platfoot, Lani Pohlman, Isaac Schmitmeyer, Emma Siefring,

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Liam Berger, Allyson Birt, Jasmine Braun, Nicholas Broering, Landon Bruggeman, Alyssa Cruz, Rileigh Dobmeyer, Zachary Dobmeyer, Elayna Eyink, Harper Gabel, Megan Geier, Titus Gruss, Braxton Guggenbiller, Henry Hemmelgarn, Avery Heyne, Claralynn Jorlang, Justin Kahlig, Kendra Kahlig, Anna Klenke, Dana Knapke, Aubrey Koesters, Landry Lefeld, Jack Link, Rheeana Matauto, Jack Moreland, Brinley Pax, Aubrey Schwieterman, AJ Seitz, Brenna Stachler, Adam Timmerman, Paxton Thobe, Grace Vian, Calvin Vickery, Reagan Wenning, Benny Winner, Emilia Woeste, Gino Workman

Grade 8

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Ian Ahrens, Sophie Borger, Mallory Braun, Reid Dingledine, Elisabeth Ebbing, Mya Grieshop, Hallory Kahlig, Quinn Kanney, Zane Keller, Emersyn Knapke, Reagan Liette, Natalie Link, Audrey Miller, Maddox Moorman, Bryce Rolfs, Liam Schmackers, Brooke Schwieterman, Adrian Walker

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Brynn Ahrens, Cameron Bergstrom, Archer Bihn, Abigail Bollenbacher, Jacob Bollenbacher, Miles Bruns, Nester Coc Choc, Vanessa Cron, Ava Dobmeyer, Allie Evans, Mason Evers, Max Galyardt, Kennedy Giesige, Lillian Hemmelgarn, Weston Heyne, Shiane Hoffman, Allison Hoyng, Will Huwer, Graham Knapke, Elliot Kuhn, Samantha Link, Ryan Mathewson, Blake Muhlenkamp, Makayla Myers, Ethan Rutschilling, Lane Siefring, Stella Stammen, A.J. Steinbrunner, Whitney Steinecker, Loretta Sudhoff, Maxwel Sudhoff, Ben Voskuhl, Jackson Werling, Hailey Williams, Grant Winner

The TRADITION continues...PRIDE INSIDE!

Principal Jason Hemmelgarn



"Great things come from hard work and perseverance. NO excuses."
late professional basketball player Kobe Bryant

Recognition Long Overdue

Coldwater High School would like to recognize and thank long time Athletic Director/Asst Principal Eric Goodwin for all his dedication to Coldwater Schools. Eric is in his 28th year in this position at CHS. Mr. Goodwin does so many great things over the years for our student athletes, coaches and fans that it is almost too much to list. However, some of the biggest have been the CPAC complex at the stadium, the Ring of Honor, and the most recent, another large fund raiser project that brought in two of the largest and most state-of-the-art scoreboards to our Palace.

Mr. Goodwin is also one of the greatest promoters around. His initiation of Twitter before everyone else provided us all with up-to-date information on our beloved Cavs! There are not many ADs that also have also taken the time to bring in halftime entertainment the way he has from the Soundwaves to the Pop Rocks! Mr. Goodwin does it all to make it nice for everyone! His list of infrastructure projects, promotions and athletic sportswear/equipment for our teams, has given all of us so much to be proud of!!



As mentioned in the quote above, Mr. Goodwin is the equivalent to the Kobe Bryant of ADs – great things come from hard work and perseverance. He has made being apart of athletics at Coldwater a top priority and has worked tirelessly to do so when others have remained status quo. His efforts have awarded him State AD of the year (twice!) and a certain future spot in the OIAAA Hall of Fame, as Eric is widely recognized statewide for all his efforts!

I know that he would be the first to recognize many others along the way that have helped throughout the years, but one thing remains the same, he is the man at the top guiding the path. We could not be prouder or more blessed to have Mr. Goodwin lead and represent us at Coldwater High School. He has been an outstanding role model and leader for many years – thanks for all you have done and continue to do, Eric!

CavPride is everywhere around us and it starts right when you walk in the doors here at CHS.....Thanks again for to Everyone who makes that happen!!

J Hemmelgarn, HS Principal



Ohio Dept. of Education End of Course (EOC) Exams

for

English/Language Arts, Algebra, Geometry, Biology, American History

Each of the subject-based tests is comprised of two sections (taken on the different days) and will only be taken by students who are enrolled in those courses. The following information is provided to give the parents of all high school students an advanced notice of the schedule for **this school year**:

- **English II: April 15th/16th (All Students at once – 8:13A start)**
- **Algebra & Geometry: April 22nd/23rd (All Students together at once – 8:13A start)**
- **Biology & American History: April 27th – 30th (during Block periods – double block week)**

To the Parents of ALL Juniors:

This is now the fourth year for the State mandated requirement for Schools to offer a one-time (paid for by the State Department of Education) opportunity to take the ACT Test. CHS will be administering the **ACT test for ALL JUNIORS on March 10th at 8:15 am. Please be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for any additional information to follow.**

Blood Drive held December 19, 2025

36 CHS students generously donated 33 units during our annual Christmas Blood Drive of the year! A Special Thank you goes out again to All who gave and to Mr. Mark Bruns for all his efforts in organizing and promoting the event. We have two more blood drive scheduled on February 20th and May 8th. If anyone would like to donate please contact Mr. Mark Bruns.

American Legion Government Test Winners

The winners of this year Americanism and Government Test:

Sophomores:	Top Female – Chloe Frysinger
	Top Male – Carter Heitkamp
Juniors:	Top Female – Ava Schmitmeyer
	Top Male – Ben Hannewald
Seniors:	Top Female – Amanda Clune
	Top Male – *Eddie Obringer

*Indicates County level winners



Congratulations to them for their high level of performance.

Thank You to Mr. Michael Braun (A & G Test Chairman) and American Legion Post 470 for organizing and providing the opportunity for our students to take this test.

PROM

Senior/Junior Prom is set for Saturday April 11th, with Promenade beginning at 6:00 pm in the Palace.

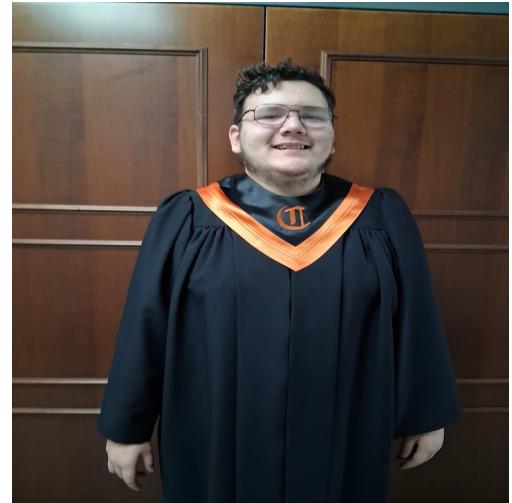
FTC Robotics team

Congratulations to Coldwater's FTC team for winning the Inspire Award at this last weekend's competition at Van Wert. It is the highest award that can be given to an FTC team and it automatically qualifies them for state in March. Great job on a team effort!!



Choral Notes

Congratulations to Daven Fletcher on his acceptance into the OMEA District 3 Festival Honors Choir. Daven, a Freshman, was selected by other choral directors through a blind audition process. He had the opportunity to sing with 100 other High Students from this area of the state under the direction of Dr. Jordan Saul from The Ohio State University. Their concert was presented for a full house Sunday, January 18th, in the Niswonger Performing Arts Center in Van Wert.



Mark your calendars:

Sunday, February 22nd - 7th and 8th grade Winter Choir and Band concert in the Palace at 3:00.

Sunday, March 8th - High School Band and Choir Winter Concert in the Palace at 4:00.

Key Club Donation to Food Pantry

The Key Club sponsored a canned food collection contest among all grade levels prior to Christmas break to support the local food pantry. The Key Club would like to thank all students who contributed donations. The senior class collected the most items and was rewarded with early dismissal for lunch on the final day of school.

Pictured are Key Club officers Ava Schmitmeyer, Grace Huwer, Amanda Clune, and Aubree Alig.



Coldwater High School 2nd Nine Weeks Honor Roll

HIGH HONORS (11.0-12.0)

Grade 9

Abby Alig, Jack Bettinger, Melissa Binat, Lucas Broering, Layla Dawson, Audrey Diller, Brielle Dingledine, Audrey Franck, Alyssa Froning, Jonah Gruss, Joshua Harrison, Brigham Hileman, Kratyn Homan, Charlotte Hoying, Cami Lisi, Emmitt May, William Moorman, Haley Qiu, John Roberts, Cami Saunders, Ethan Schmitmeyer, Breckin Scott, Savannah Sutherin, Natalie Timmerman, Courtney Uhlenhake, Jacob Uhlenhake, Kate Uhlenhake, Rebecca Wendel, Lucas Winner

Grade 10

Irene Baquero Valero, Collin Bergstrom, Claire Bertke, Avery Bruns, Wendy Buening, Kirra Burtch, Alessandra Cervantes, Isaac Delzeith, Andrew Garrison, Harlow Heyne, Ashlynn Homan, Averi Kahlig, Jacob Kaiser, Lana Kaiser, Alivia Klingshirn, Leah Kunk, Emily Larkin, Ava Lefeld, Carter Miller, Tate Rismiller, Mariah Ross, Ava Smith, Austin Uhlenhake, Ella Werling, Lanna Zahn

Grade 11

Audrey Alig, Brenna Baker, Tegan Berkenstock, Owen Boeckman, Alexis Coats, Landon Cruz, Aubrie Davis, Emma Eyink, Ava Fortkamp, Alaina Froning, Benjamin Hannewald, Karsyn Homan, Charlotte Lefeld, Shelby Link, Chase Linn, Emma Luebke, Breann Mathewson, Rachel Moeller, Noah Obringer, Fiona Qiu, Lydia Rainey, Aidan Rose, Alex Rutschilling, Ava Schmitmeyer, Joshua Schroer, Cara Schwieterman, Joshua Sheets, Kennley Siegrist, Bennett Spriggs, Brookelyn Sudhoff, Conner Tobin, Keaton Tobin, Kiersten Weigel, Bradley Wendel, Abigail Will

Grade 12

Mariah Bonifas, Madison Bruns, Aiden Burtch, Amanda Clune, Ava Doll, Carson Dues, Aidan Fiely, Ashley Hicks, Grace Huwer, Ella Kahlig, Ella Kaiser, Keira Knapke, Landon Knapke, Maxwell Koch, Madelyn Lange, Nolan Mescher, Makenzie Miller, Makenzie Norris, Edward Obringer, Kaylie Rutschilling, Rebecca Simper, Sarah Stewart, Elle Weber, Emma Weber, Nora Wehrkamp, Dana Zahn

HONOR ROLL (9.0-10.9)

Grade 9

Hayden Berger, Kynlee Botkin, Jennifer Burrows, Brooklyn Coats, Samuel Finke, Kiya Frysinger, Piper Ganser, Michelle Giere, Paige Guggenbiller, Owen Heitkamp, Peyton Hess, Kirsten Heuing, Grace Heyne, Aubree Hibner, Evelyn Kahlig, Christopher Kremer, Griffin Lefeld, Elena Miller, Bentley Mohler, Kaiden Moorman, Norah Moreland, Brayden Pohl, Gerardo Ramos, Kyrie Reineke, Mara Riethman, Breah Roessner, Julianna Sager, Hayden Schwieterman, Isabelle Schwieterman, Grace Siegrist, Jackson Springer, Owen Stough, Bennet Unrast, Praline Unrast, Ava VanDyke, Josie Welling, Madison Wendel, Emmett Wermert, Evelyn Woeste

Grade 10

Lauren Beckman, Bryce Bonifas, Claire Broering, Jack Bruns, William Cowan, Victoria Cron, Campbell Etzler, Weston Fisher, Chloe Frysinger, Haven Gross, Nolan Gruss, Carter Heitkamp, Brent Heuing, Haley Huwer, Heidi Klenke, Brylee Knapke, Channing Lefeld, Benjamin Liette, Owen May, Emily McNeil, Cecilia Mendoza, Andrew Myers, Carson Pax, Alex Penno, Bryleigh Quinn, Brayla Rasawehr, Marcus Siefring, Nolan Simper, Janessa Smuts, Myra Stammen, Lila Sudhoff, Shea Sudhoff, Ivanna Valdez, Emily Wendel, Collin Westgerdes

Grade 11

Parker Ahrens, Caleb Bertke, Alex Borger, Joseph Buschur, Parker Doenges, Derek Dues, Karter Freed, Alexis Gerlach, Kaleb Hibner, James Liette, Adelyn Niekamp, Paige Ontrop, Lauren Overman, Zachary Pohlman, Ross Riethman, Haley Schwieterman, Kelsey Seitz, Grace Siefring, Hailey Stough, Braxton Taylor, Braylon Thobe, Tori Timmerman, Heidi Wermert, Evan Winner

Grade 12

Kaia Behm, Quinn Brandon, Kaylee Buening, Brittany Burden, Mia Byer, Bryce Couchot, Alayna Dawson, Dillan Evers, Leo Fella, Whitney Godwin, Sydney Grieshop, Cole Guggenbiller, MacKenzie Hammons, Kaira Hilderbrand, Mia Knapke, Aiden Laux, Gavin Lefeld, Owen Lefeld, Eve Lisi, Kelly May, Kayelee Prosser, Myles Quinter, Samuel Rismiller, Maximus Ross, Caden Sager, Caleb Schroer, Ty Wenning, Trent Westgerdes, Aiden Zibruda, Madison Zwiebel

Cavalier Athletic Report

We are well past the halfway point. We are on the tail end of the winter sports season already, which is hard to believe. Teams continue to work hard and get better as the tournament season approaches. It has been a very exciting season already for the winter sports. Be sure to follow all of our scores and accomplishments at www.cwcavathletics.org. We try to keep adding new features, scores, updates, etc. every day to highlight all Coldwater Athletics.

It has been a busy winter already with more to come with tournament hosting. We are hosting some of our Annual tournaments and tossing in a few new ones as well. This winter we opened up our season as we hosted the 3rd Annual Cavalier Wrestling Invite on Dec 13th (24 teams) followed by 4 more Wrestling Invites. We hosted the 24th Annual Sielski Memorial on Jan 10th (12 teams) along with our 3rd Annual Junior High Invitational on Dec 23rd (36 teams) along with our 4th Coldwater Varsity Individual tournament on Feb 7th (34 teams). We wrapped up the wrestling season by hosting our 2nd annual Junior High Team Dual Tournament on Feb 14th (12 teams). To go along with Wrestling, we may also be hosting higher seed tournaments for Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Sectionals (Tournament drawing will take place Feb 8th/15th respectively. On Saturday, Jan 17th, we also hosted the annual Cavalier/MAC Swim Invitational. These tournaments are great to host for the community as it helps to bring outside people into our town. It is also great to see the faces of new people when they see all of the banners hanging in our gym and our new scoreboards.

The new Palace Scoreboards have been the talk of all of the schools that come to Coldwater for events in the gym. They are a big hit and are a great venue for businesses to advertise. We used them with new options for wrestling this year as well as we were able to put the "bout boards" on the video boards as you would see at a State Tournament. This is done as we are able to "Screen Share" to these. This is an option we never had with the previous boards. Again, Thank You to the businesses for their help in the purchasing of the new Video Boards.

I would like to Thank all of my workers that help me get through the year. People often don't understand that without ticket takers, ticket sellers, scoreboard workers, officials, custodial, timers, announcers, managers, bus drivers, etc. we wouldn't even have events for these students/athletes to participate in. This goes for all levels as well. It is a thankless job but without them, we don't have athletics. People don't put two and two together, but if you think of all of the events we have all year long at all levels, it takes hundreds of workers to get these events accomplished for our kids. If you get a chance sometime when attending a game, just take a quick second to Thank one of the workers for running that scoreboard, keeping time, selling those tickets, etc. Doesn't take much but they would truly appreciate it and deserve it.

I am a big project person and really like to work on improving our facilities for our school and community. One thing we will be doing is upgrading the Stadium Video board to the same software as we have in the Palace. If anyone has seen the Palace video board, you will know why we are making this change. We are also beginning to look at a possible Stadium Improvement project. One thing for sure, it will not be long until the track has to be completely replaced. The bandaids we put on it every year to keep it in operation are very expensive. The normal lifespan of a track is 15 years. We are 30+ years on our current track now. Maintenance and care have made it last this long. Other areas to look at in the stadium are the lighting for the field (switching to LED), fencing around the infield, black top wear, etc. This will be a total effort eventually of everyone in our community.

Lastly as a reminder, if anyone is wanting to join or just help out with the Coldwater Athletic Boosters, please let us know. They only meet one time per month but do a lot of tremendous things for the students/athletes at Coldwater Schools. It is a great group of people that are fun to work with but they also have a great vision in mind as well. If you cannot join, just volunteering for a couple nights a year doing concessions or 50/50 as that would be greatly appreciated. Believe it or not, it is usually a fun couple of hours also doing those activities. Please consider helping them in any way possible to keep doing things for our athletes.

We would like to remind everyone to keep following our website at www.cwcavathletics.org. We try to keep this site up to the minute with schedules, features, records, scores, etc. This has been a challenging year with keeping the schedules current however due to the many changes. If you notice something, please let us know.

Go Cavs!



Eric Goodwin
Athletic Director/Assistant Principal

"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

The Coldwater High School will be presenting "THE ADDAMS FAMILY" **April 16 & 17 at 7:00 pm, April 18 at 2:00 AND 7:00 pm and finally, April 19 at 2:00 pm** in the Coldwater Auditorium. Tickets are open to the public and are now on sale! It is going to be an awesome production! We have over 40 cast members working hard to make this the best High School production yet! Be sure to come check out the show! This is going to be an amazing show which includes some of our very own Elementary students!

As stated, tickets are not limited and all seats are general admission! We can do special pre-sale pricing as well. Tickets can be purchased as follows:

Pre-Sale tickets Available: \$8.00 for Adults and \$7.00 for Students

This is **per show** so please be sure to order enough tickets for all the shows you want to attend.

ALL TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$10 Regardless of age (Pre-School and up)

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please fill out the form below and send it back to school with your name along with cash or a check made out to **Coldwater Schools**. Forms are to be brought to Mrs. Petersen. You can also come to the **High School Office** and the ladies there will take care of your purchase. If you know a student at school, you can ask to have them bring your tickets to you or you can bring in your form and pick up tickets right away.

Remember, the money paid to see the show goes towards licensing, sets, supplies and costume pieces. We understand it does get costly to see the show with a family but it is supporting a great cause! If you have any questions, please email me at petersen.denise@coldwatercav.org or call 419-678-2613. **Also, check us out on Facebook: Coldwater High School Drama. Like our page and get any updates that are posted there as well.**

Thank you!

THE ADDAMS FAMILY Pre-Sale Tickets

Order Form

NAME _____

Please mark what you would like to purchase:

Quantity: _____ Total: _____

Single Show **Adult** Ticket (each show requires a ticket): _____ X\$8= _____

Single Show **Student** Ticket (each show requires a ticket): _____ X\$7= _____

of tickets: _____

Grand Total: _____

If writing a check, please make it out to **Coldwater Schools**!

PRE-SALE ENDS Wednesday, April 15 at 7:00 pm

Tickets at the door: \$10 for all!

I will pick tickets up at my earliest convenience from the High School office.

Please send my tickets home with a student.

Student Name _____



COLDWATER ATHLETIC BOOSTERS

BOOSTER WEBSITE

Check out our new website!! That's right, you can find the Boosters easily through the Coldwater Athletic site. Go to: www.cwcavsatheletics.org then click on the "Booster" tab at the top to view forms, events and other news from the Boosters!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS RAFFLE UPDATE

Thanks to the Coldwater community, we were able to raise over \$29,000 for our Coldwater Student athletes with the Friday Night Lights Fall Raffle. This could not have been accomplished without the generous donations of many local businesses and volunteers who helped work that evening. Thank you for your support of Coldwater Athletics.

We are already working on our next event...

...Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 25, 2026** for our 6th annual event!

CONGRATULATIONS ATHLETES

Congratulations to all of our fall athletes this past season on their many accomplishments. We have had so many great successes on and off the field of play. The Athletic Boosters and the Coldwater community are proud of your hard work and dedication to your sport. A special thank you to our fall senior athletes as they completed their final fall season at Coldwater. Good Luck to all of the winter athletes as they continue to work hard both on and off the court, the alley, the pool and the mat.

MEMBERSHIP INFO

BECOME A BOOSTER BOARD MEMBER!!

The Coldwater Athletic Boosters are looking for community members who would like to join our board. Many of our board members will be stepping down in the next year or two in order to watch their own children participate in Coldwater athletics. This organization can't run without community members stepping up to be a part of this great organization. The Boosters meet once a month for about an hour. You can then choose which events you would like to work at. Please consider joining us at our next meeting on **Monday, February 16 at 7:00 pm at McSobers back room.**

DESCENDANTS TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!

The Coldwater Middle School Drama group will be presenting "DESCENDANTS" **March 5, 6, 7 at 7:00 pm and March 8 at 1:30 pm (NOTE TIME)** in the Coldwater Auditorium. Tickets are open to the public and are now on sale! It is going to be an awesome production! At this time, there are no audience restrictions, so all tickets are general admission and there is no limit! What is made each year is what we use to pay for licensing, set materials, props and other expenses involved in producing and presenting a show at this level.

Because there are no restrictions, we do have more pre-sale options and tickets will be available at the door as well. Tickets sales are as follows:

Pre-Sale tickets Available: \$8.00 for Adults \$7.00 for Students

This is **per show** so please be sure to order enough tickets for all the shows you want to attend. Tickets are no show specific so they are good for any of the 4 performances.

ALL TICKETS AT THE DOOR will be \$10 Regardless of age (Pre-School and up)

If you are interested in purchasing tickets, please fill out the form below and send it back to school with your name along with cash or a check made out to **Coldwater Schools**. Forms are to be brought to Mrs. Petersen. You can also come to the **Elementary office** and Amanda Sutherlin will take care of your purchase. If you know a student at school, you can ask to have them bring your tickets to you or you can drop off your form and pick up your tickets right then.

Remember, the money paid to see the show goes towards licensing, sets, supplies and costume pieces. We understand it does get costly to see the show with a family but it is supporting a great cause! If you have any questions, please email me at petersen.denise@coldwatercav.org or call 419-678-2613. Also, check us out on Facebook: **Coldwater Middle School Drama**. Like our page and get any updates that are posted there as well.

Thank you!

DESCENDANTS Pre-Sale Tickets

Order Form

NAME _____

Please mark what you would like to purchase:

Quantity: _____ Total: _____

Single Show **Adult** Ticket (each show requires a ticket): _____ X\$8= _____

Single Show **Student** Ticket (each show requires a ticket): _____ X\$7= _____

of tickets: _____

Grand Total: _____

If writing a check, please make it out to **Coldwater Schools**!

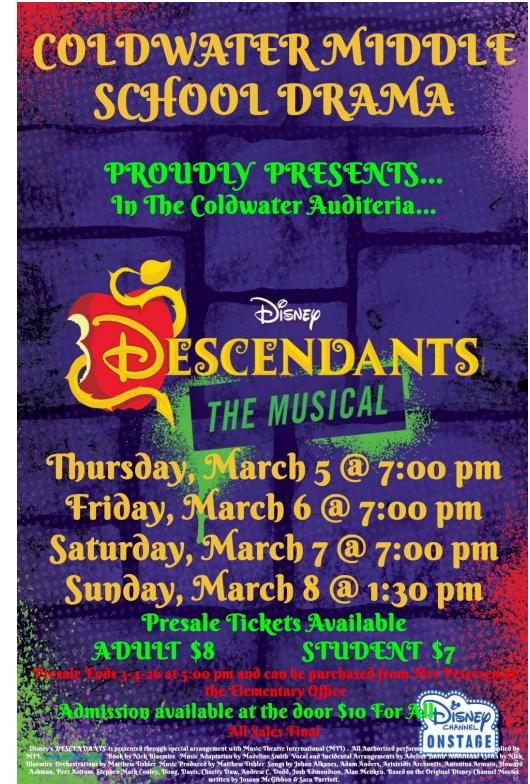
PRE-SALE ENDS Wednesday, March 4 at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets at the door: \$10 for all!

I will pick tickets up at my earliest convenience from the Elementary School office.

Please send my tickets home with a student.

Student Name _____





A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE SUPPORTING THE DRAMA PROGRAMS

COLDWATER SCHOOLS



The Coldwater Drama Department is made of three groups, Elementary Drama (4th and 5th Grade), Middle School Drama (Grades 6-8) and High School Drama (Grades 9-12). Each year we set out to present high quality entertaining productions and obtain performance rights for well known, popular shows. We are looking for sponsors who are willing to donate and help us build our Drama Programs so we can continue to put on spectacular shows.

For the 2025-2026 drama season, Elementary Drama will be presenting "FROZEN" JR, Middle School "Descendants" The Musical, and High School is doing a play "SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS" in the fall and "THE ADDAMS FAMILY" in the spring. We would like to invite you to be an honorary part of the Drama Program here in Coldwater. It is YOUR support that helps provide the opportunity for growth and sustainability. We were able to provide high quality shows during the 2024-2025 season thanks to all of our sponsors! We hope to continue growing this sponsorship program so we can contribute to some major equipment upgrades that are very much needed along with sustaining our high quality productions!

Why Donate?

Performance rights alone for many JR productions start at \$800, and the High School shows at \$3400. These rights allow us to perform 3-5 shows with limitations set by the licensing agreement. Performance rights however do not include costumes, musical scores, prompt books, or choreography. These items incur added cost based on the size of the production and cast. The Drama Department rents, purchases, or makes many of the costumes you see. We also build many unique sets, often with the inability for long term storage. Coldwater's 2025 production of "NEWSIES" cost \$10,000.

By donating to the Drama Program, you will get your name or business in the Playbill for each group in which you donate, with a note of thanks. You can choose to have your donation split between all 3 drama groups, or you can specify which group you would like your donation to support. In addition, you will receive a 2 ticket credit voucher (PRESALE ONLY) for each \$100 donated. Send this voucher in with any PRESALE order to receive two tickets for the show of your choice!

Please make your check payable to Coldwater Schools (c/o Coldwater Drama in the memo) and fill out the attached form. 100% of your donation will stay in the Coldwater Drama Department. We truly thank you for your donation.

I would like to donate to the following groups):

Coldwater Elementary School Drama(Grades 4-5) Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Coldwater Middle School Drama (Grades 6-8) Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Coldwater High School Drama (Grades 9-12) Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Split between all 3 groups as needed Amount of Contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Company/ Business _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please provide name and/or company as it should appear in the program and other recognition.

Please mail to: Coldwater Drama c/o Denise Petersen

310 N 2nd Street

Coldwater Ohio 45828

Coldwater Attends Ohio FFA Leadership Night

30 Coldwater FFA members traveled to Anna to attend the Ohio FFA Leadership Night. With about 150 other FFA members, they were challenged and encouraged to think about their own recipe for Leadership. Ohio FFA Officers Audrey Boeshart, Paris Anderson, and Abbey Garland led the evening of team team-building and leadership training.



Coldwater FFA Members Were Well Represented in Coldwater's Lighted Christmas Parade

In conjunction with Coldwater's Christmas at Memorial Park events, countless Coldwater FFA members decorated their vehicles of choice with Christmas lights and decorations. Everything from tractors, Rangers, go-karts, dirt bikes, cars, and trucks were decorated for the parade. Our members love participating in this event for the community!





FFA Apple Pie Bake Off

The annual Apple Pie Bake-off was held on December 19th, and it was a full day of laughter, games, and sweet treats. The day consisted of pie taste-testing by Ohio FFA Officer Paris Anderson. The members played some Christmas games during the day too. Our judges for the Bake Off were Paris Anderson and High School Principal, Jason Hemmelgarn. There were multiple categories for the pies to be classified, and the 2025 winners of each category were:

- *Martha Stewart "Best Looking" Award:* Blake Wenning
- *Betty Crocker "Best Tasting" Award:* Bailey Seibert
- *Iron Stomach "Worst Tasting" Award:* Alex Penno
- *Pinterest "Most Creative" Award:* Praline Unrast
- *Sweet Tooth "Other Dessert" Award:* Breelyn Stachler
- *Low Key Different: "Yet Delicious" Award:* Kennley Siegrist
- *Very Unique Tasting Award:* Brent Heuing
- *Honorable Mention:* Paige Ontrop & Marcus Stammen

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to our judges! The Apple Pie Bake-off was a great way to show everyone's cooking talents and gave us plenty of time to talk with the Ohio FFA Officers.



FFA Food Science Competition

A record 37 FFA members chose to compete in this year's District Food Science competition, which was hosted at Coldwater High School on December 16. The members had to go through stations to identify aromas, complete a triangle taste test, analyze customer inquiry letters, look at food safety pictures, and calculate food nutrition problems.

Among nearly 200 FFA members from 21 schools, the Coldwater FFA chapter was the 3rd place team. Pictured are the winning team members, Ava Schmitmeyer, Ethan Schmitmeyer, Kaleb Hibner, and Emily Larkin. Also a big congratulations to Ava for placing 2nd place overall! Congratulations!



the state. Among the 80 members at the state contest, Ethan Schmitmeyer placed 18th individually. Congratulations to this team!

Ag Biotechnology Team Competes at State

Several members took the preliminary test for the Ag Biotechnology contest. Overall, Coldwater placed 12th in the state, which qualified them to compete at the state contest on January 23. Qualifying team members included Ava Schmitmeyer, Heidi Klenke, Ethan Schmitmeyer, and Chase Linn. Alternates, also placing very well, were Keaton Tobin, and Emily Larkin. The four members traveled to the Ohio Department of Agriculture campus in Reynoldsburg, where they worked as a team to research a solution for a new soybean disease. They also rotated through stations that challenged their ability to perform different lab procedures and practice proper lab safety. Overall the team placed an impressive 13th place in

FFA Fresh Strawberry Sale

Everyone loves fresh, sweet Florida strawberries; especially when the strawberries are picked at the peak of the season and delivered to chilly Ohio at the end of February. The FFA strawberries come packed in one-quart clear plastic clamshell containers.

2026 FFA Strawberry Sale Prices

Full Flat (8 quarts) \$27

Half Flat (4 quarts) \$16



FFA members will be selling the strawberries through February 9. Delivery will be the week of February 23. Contact any FFA member to place your order, or call the high school office at 419-678-4821. Orders can also be placed by emailing wenning.deanna@coldwatercavs.org.