



Cav Connection

Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

cw.noacsc.org June 2025

Families and Community Members,

Another incredible school year has come to a close! I continue to be inspired by the outstanding efforts of our Coldwater students, staff, and families. From academics and athletics to fine arts, clubs, activities, and community service, Coldwater continues to thrive because of the strong partnerships and values that define our school and town. I hope each of you finds time this summer to relax, recharge, and enjoy all that our community and the season have to offer.

This year ends on a hopeful note with the successful passage of our 0.5% income tax levy—on the third attempt. To every parent, grandparent, alumni, and community member who supported this initiative: thank you. Your trust and commitment to Coldwater Schools are humbling. The passage of the levy brings much-needed relief, but it is not a final solution—it marks the beginning of a focused and strategic path forward.



In the weeks ahead, the Coldwater leadership team will work closely with the Board of Education to chart our course. A special work session will take place in June to carefully prioritize how these new funds are used. Our goals: stabilize our aging infrastructure, modernize instructional materials, and ensure long-term financial security—all while keeping class sizes reasonable and student outcomes strong.

We must remain cautious and forward-thinking, especially given the uncertainty surrounding future state support. While some legislators claim schools are more funded than ever, the reality in Coldwater paints a different picture. We are currently receiving less than what was promised to us under the Fair School Funding Plan. In fact, **Coldwater is projected to lose over \$1,000,000 in state funding starting in two years.** This projected decline will once again strain our ability to maintain programs, staffing, and facilities.

Meanwhile, the state continues to shift more funding toward private schools—often awarding nearly **twice as much per student** as public school students receive. These private schools are not held to the same standards of accountability as public schools. They are **not required to administer state tests, not issued state report cards, not audited by the State Auditor's Office, and not required to accept all students.** Coldwater, like all public schools, proudly opens its doors to every child, regardless of background or ability, and operates under all of these accountability measures with full transparency.

As we plan ahead, I also want to address some recent criticisms posted on social media regarding our hiring and supplemental compensation practices. While community dialogue is welcome, it is important that it is rooted in fact.

Since 2022, our district has maintained a fiscally responsible approach to hiring. Each year, we target our **new teacher hiring cohort** to have an average of **five years or fewer on the salary schedule.** This strategy allows us to remain within budget while still attracting talented educators. In fact, the average experience level for all new hires from 2022 through 2026 is 4.35 years.

In alignment with **Ohio Revised Code Section 3317.14**, any teacher with **five or more years of prior experience must be credited with a minimum of five years on the salary schedule.** Our negotiated agreement further caps that initial placement at **no more than ten years.** When we do consider candidates with more experience, we **negotiate thoughtfully** to ensure that the overall average experience level of the cohort remains within our targeted five-year range.

As for coaching and supplemental contracts, any suggestion that raises are given arbitrarily is simply false. All supplemental positions—whether for coaching, advising, or directing—are governed by our **master agreement with the Coldwater Teachers' Organization**. Adjustments to these stipends occur only through negotiated agreements and **never as individual raises**. In reality, if we calculated compensation based on hours worked, many of our coaches and advisors would be earning **around 25 cents per hour**.

I stand fully behind the **character, integrity, and commitment** of every staff member who holds a supplemental position or any position within the district. These individuals give their heart and soul to our students—mentoring them, modeling what it means to lead with purpose, and always putting students first. We should all be incredibly thankful for the professionals who invest so deeply in the development of our kids.

To ensure long-term planning, I've asked our leadership team to develop a **5-, 10-, and 15-year operational roadmap** that will complement—rather than replace—our existing strategic plan. These plans will address:

- Staffing and future hiring needs
- Course offerings and student programming
- Technology and AI integration
- Daily and yearly schedules
- Facility and enrollment capacity—especially in areas like the kitchen
- Internal systems, protocols, and operational processes

We are also providing the **2025–2026** and **2026–2027** school calendars in this Cav Connection (see pages 46 –47) and online at: <https://coldwatercavs.org/about-us/district-calendars>

Each calendar includes a one-week “dead period” during the first week of July—a practice we’ve continued in partnership with the Memorial Park staff—to give families a dedicated time to rest, travel, or spend time together without the demands of school events or activities.

We are **intentionally holding off** on finalizing the 2027–2028 calendar until the Ohio General Assembly finalizes **House Bill 145**, which may alter the **minimum required instructional hours** for public schools. Once finalized, we will release that calendar and post it online with the others.

We remain fully committed to transparency, responsibility, and—most importantly—keeping students at the heart of every decision. Thank you again for your continued support and for believing in the work we do together. Coldwater Schools is more than a district—it’s a reflection of the people and pride that make this community special.

Wishing you and your family a restful and joyful summer,

Doug Mader

Superintendent

Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER, JENN MCCOY:

Financial Update



At the May 14th Board of Education meeting, I presented the updated Five-Year Forecast, which was subsequently approved by the Board. This financial projection is grounded in a comprehensive analysis of historical data and current economic conditions, which are then used to estimate revenue and expenditures in future years. It is important to note that variables influencing the forecast may shift throughout the fiscal year. While cash flow monitoring serves as an essential tool to detect unanticipated variances, no forecasting model can offer absolute certainty. The primary objective of the Five-Year Forecast is to illustrate the district's financial trajectory and serve as a strategic guide for making informed decisions that promote long-term fiscal responsibility and sustainability.

The forecast, along with supporting documentation and notes, is publicly available on the Ohio Department of Education website for those interested in reviewing it in greater detail.

In other fiscal developments, the Bond Maintenance Levy has officially expired, resulting in a savings of 0.5 mills for property taxpayers in the upcoming year. This levy previously generated approximately \$60,000 annually, with an additional \$46,000 provided through state matching funds. Originally mandated as a condition of the Bond Levy, these funds were strictly designated for infrastructure and equipment expenditures related to our renovation projects. Moving forward, such expenditures will need to be supported by the district's general fund.

Additionally, we are pleased to report the successful passage of the 0.5% income tax increase in May. This measure is projected to generate approximately \$1.4 million annually to support the district's operating expenses. We extend our sincere gratitude to the community for its continued support.

Legislative Developments Under Review

Several legislative proposals currently under consideration could significantly impact our financial outlook:

House Bill 96: Proposes the elimination of the Fair School Funding Plan.

Property Tax Reform: Could alter the structure and distribution of local funding for public education.

Continuation of the Fair School Funding Plan: Advocates are urging legislators to fulfill their commitment to fully implement the final two years of the six-year funding phase-in.

In total, there are currently 25 House Bills and 25 Senate Bills pending in the Ohio General Assembly that pertain directly to primary and secondary education. We continue to monitor these developments closely and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 419-678-2611 or email at mccoy.jenn@coldwatercavs.org.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! I hope everyone has a great summer and thank you for your continuing support of Coldwater EVSD!

Jenn McCoy, Treasurer/CFO

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS:

**The Coldwater EVSD Board of Education
will meet the following evenings at
6:00 PM in the High School CAV Room:**

June 24, 2025, July 15, 2025, August 12, 2025

Health Reminders for the Upcoming School Year From School Nurse

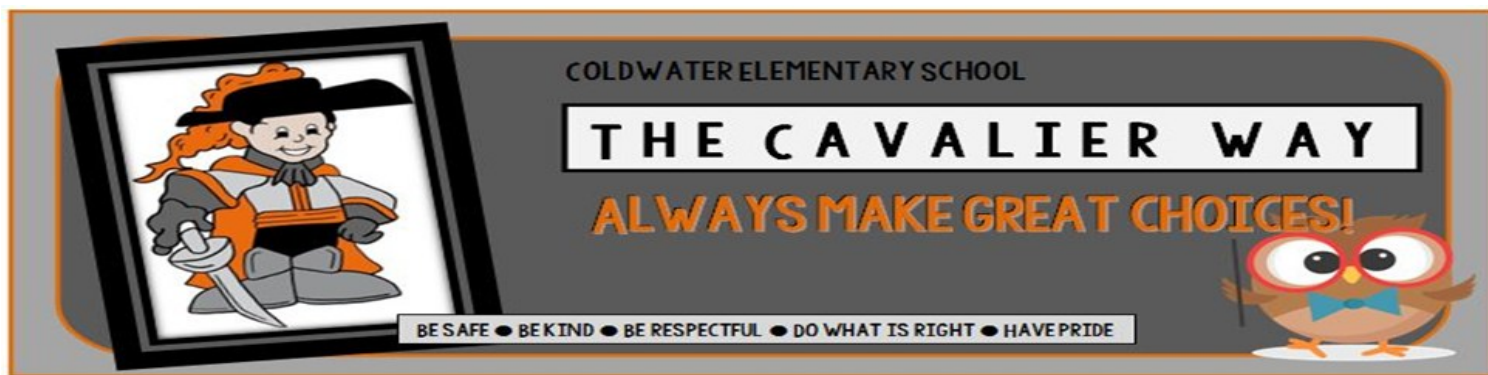
As you prepare for the upcoming school year don't forget to review the health information below. Please keep this article all year to help remind you of this important health information.

- If your child has ANY health concerns, please discuss this with your child's teacher(s) as well as the school nurse. It is important to do this every year. Please give updates on any of your child's health concerns as often as needed throughout the year.
- Be sure to send in your child's updated shot records if your child is in kindergarten, 7th or 12th grade OR you have been notified that your child's shot record is not up to date. This is a state law, and your child can be excluded from school if the proper paperwork is not submitted.
- The medication policy states ALL medication must come in its original container. Absolutely no baggies or any other containers will be accepted.
- **Prescription medication** MUST have a signed order from the doctor/nurse practitioner who prescribed the medication. No medication can be given without that order. Medication forms are in each building office as well as the nurse's clinic.
- **Over the counter medication** must have a form filled out by the parent. Those forms can also be found in each of the building offices or the nurse's clinic.
- ALL medication must be checked in with the nurse. Parents or responsible students can bring medication to the building office (high, middle or elementary offices) or directly to the nurse's office.
- Please keep your child home when they are sick. Particularly if they have a fever over 100.4 degrees, vomiting, frequent diarrhea, head lice, any undiagnosed rash, a bad cough, or is too sick to handle normal school activities. Please remember to call the office to report your child's illness. If your child sees a doctor and the doctor requests they be off school, you can bring in a doctor's excuse for those absences. This is not always required, but can be helpful with your child's attendance record.
- Vision and Hearing screenings will be conducted for students in grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 (vision only for grade 7). You can request a screening be done on your child any time throughout the year by contacting the nurse. Teachers may request this for your child as well.
- Please contact Jodi Weigel, School Nurse at 419-678-2611 extension 3315 with any health concerns any time throughout the year.

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

Celebrating an Amazing 2024-25 School Year!

What an incredible journey the 2024-25 school year has been! Coldwater Elementary has experienced such an outstanding and uplifting year filled with joy, learning, and remarkable achievements. As we reach the year's end, we're filled with tremendous pride and excitement about all that our students have accomplished.



Every single student at Coldwater Elementary has experienced meaningful success this year! Our Little Cavs have participated in an extraordinary array of activities while demonstrating exceptional growth in their learning journey. The goals our Cavalier students have achieved are truly inspiring, and they've shown outstanding character, perseverance, and dedication while proudly modeling "The Cavalier Way." We're thrilled to see these wonderful qualities shine through in everything they do, and we hope they'll continue to embrace "The Cavalier Way" throughout their summer adventures and beyond!

Congratulations to our amazing 4th grade graduates! What an incredible milestone as completing elementary school is a fantastic achievement! The entire Coldwater Elementary Team is cheering you on as you take this exciting next step into middle school. For families whose youngest child is graduating from Coldwater Elementary, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your wonderful support and the loving guidance you've provided. We're excited to hear about all the amazing things our graduates will accomplish, knowing they have built such a strong educational foundation here at Coldwater Exempted Village Schools.

Our hearts are overflowing with appreciation for everyone who made this year so special! To our students, dedicated staff, supportive parents, and caring families, thank you for creating such a positive, purposeful, and unforgettable school year. Your countless hours of reading, organizing, volunteering, and going above and beyond to support our students both at home and at school have made all the difference.

We're incredibly proud of how our students, families, staff, and community came together as one unified team, all focused on supporting our children's education. This incredible experience happens because of the boundless energy, exceptional skills, and heartfelt devotion of our remarkable Coldwater Elementary Team. Our amazing parents deserve special recognition for your wonderful cooperation and dedication to supporting your child's learning throughout the year. And a huge shoutout to our incredible PTO, who consistently exceeded expectations and added so much richness to our students' school experience!

To our Coldwater Elementary students; you are absolutely amazing! Thank you for bringing your best effort and enthusiasm to school every single day. Being your principal fills me with such joy and pride as you truly make me proud to be a Coldwater Cavalier! Your laughter keeps me young at heart, and I'm constantly amazed by your incredible insights and remarkable talents.

Remember, learning is a lifelong adventure, and knowledge is your superpower for achieving your dreams! Keep giving your maximum effort in everything you do, and approach each challenge with positivity and enthusiasm. Most importantly, always treat others with kindness and respect, remembering that everyone belongs and everyone matters.

Parents and guardians, we encourage you to keep the learning excitement going this summer! Continue reading together and practicing skills to set your child up for another fantastic school year. Help your child feel awesome, amazing, and proud

of who they are, because they truly are!

On behalf of our entire Coldwater Elementary Team, we wish you the most wonderful, safe, and joy-filled summer! Enjoy every precious moment with your family and friends, and get ready for another incredible year ahead.

As always... GO CAVS!

Happy Retirement

I as well as Coldwater Elementary and the CEVS would like to recognize our two retirees; Mrs. Shirley Mathewson and Mrs. Tracy Schmitz. They have a combined 60 years of service in education, with all but 2 of those years at Coldwater. Shirley has 31 and Tracy has 29 years of service. They have been such a special part of our elementary school and the positive impacts that they have made on our students, staff, school and district are countless!

First, I would like to honor and extend our deepest appreciation to our ICONIC elementary secretary Mrs. Shirley Mathewson. After 31 years of dedicated service to Coldwater Schools, elementary secretary Shirley is retiring, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, organization, and unwavering commitment to students and staff.

Shirley began her career in education as an aide before transitioning to her role as elementary secretary, where she became the heart of the school's daily operations. Prior to joining Coldwater Schools, she spent 10-15 years working at Mercer Savings Bank in Fort Recovery and providing childcare services.

Known as the smiling face that greeted every student and the calm, reassuring voice parents heard on the phone, Shirley became legendary for her ability to know exactly where everything was and what everyone needed. Her incredible organization skills, endless patience, and genuine kindness made her an indispensable part of the school community.

"She wore so many hats," noted many staff members. "From nurse to counselor, travel agent to detective, tech support to therapist, she did it all beautifully." Whether tracking down lost lunchboxes, coordinating schedule changes, or offering a kind word at just the right moment, Shirley handled every task with grace and humor.

Her exceptional service was recognized statewide when she was named the 2023 Ohio Elementary Secretary of the Year, a title that perfectly reflected the excellence she brought to Coldwater every day. Her quick wit, unwavering positivity, and legendary organizational skills made her not just important to the school, but to the entire community.

Colleagues describe Shirley as "the brains behind the operation" and "the master of multitasking" who could locate any file, form, or phone number faster than any computer system. She remembered every event, calmed panicked teachers, soothed upset students, and provided honest, heartfelt guidance to many.

As Shirley enters retirement, she looks forward to spending more time with her husband Tom, children, and grandchildren. The Coldwater community will deeply miss their "walking Coldwater encyclopedia" and the genuine, compassionate person who left a lasting mark on thousands of students over her three decades of service.

Shirley's retirement marks the end of an era at Coldwater Elementary, where she will always be remembered as truly "one of a kind."



Next, I would like to pay tribute to our remarkable 4th grade teacher Mrs. Tracy Schmitz. Coldwater Elementary is saying farewell to beloved educator Tracy, whose versatile career in the district has touched countless students and colleagues through her unwavering dedication and innovative teaching approach.

Tracy's journey in Coldwater began as an aide and substitute teacher before advancing to teach Title programs, then 3rd grade, and most recently 4th grade. Throughout her various roles, she consistently demonstrated grace, compassion, and a genuine love for education.

Colleagues describe Tracy as someone who brings warmth and kindness into every room she enters. Known for her sweet, caring nature and incredible generosity, she was never afraid to innovate in her classroom if it meant helping her students succeed.

Tracy is one of the most beautiful people inside and out that many have had the privilege to work alongside. Her positive attitude and team-player mentality made her a cornerstone of the school community, always ready with an encouraging word and solution-focused mindset during challenging times.

Tracy's dedication extended far beyond regular classroom duties and school hours. She was known for staying late to help struggling students, creating personalized learning materials on weekends, and stepping in to support colleagues during difficult times. Her commitment even included home visits to ensure students received the help they needed.

In addition to her teaching excellence, Tracy's amazing sense of humor brightened the halls of Coldwater Elementary and helped staff navigate the more chaotic days of elementary school life. Her ability to make people smile, even during stressful moments, became one of her trademark qualities.

As Tracy enters retirement, she looks forward to spending more time with her husband Rick, children, and grandchildren. Her plans include more travel, creating new memories, and pursuing activities that bring her joy.

Tracy's impact on this school, her students, and her colleagues is immeasurable. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, dedication, and heart that will be felt for years to come.

The Coldwater community will deeply miss this treasured educator who served as a role model, friend, and integral part of the school family throughout her distinguished career.

Thank you again to Mrs. Shirley Mathewson and Mrs. Tracy Schmitz for their unwavering dedication, boundless passion, and tireless commitment to shaping the minds and hearts of our students. May their retirement be filled with endless joy, well-deserved relaxation, and countless new adventures. They will always hold a special place in the heart of Coldwater Elementary School, and their presence will be deeply missed.

Successful State Achievement Testing

Our 3rd and 4th grade students have successfully completed the Ohio Achievement Tests for ELA and Math! We are proud of the great effort they put forth and the pride they showed in their work throughout the testing process.

Overall, testing at the elementary level went smoothly. A special thank you goes to our technology department and the effective use of technology tools that helped make the process efficient and purposeful.

We are grateful not only to our 3rd and 4th grade teachers, but also to our entire elementary team for their hard work in preparing students for these important assessments. A big thank you as well to our dedicated educational aides for proctoring small group sessions for students needing additional support.

We also want to recognize Amy Mescher and Sarah Doenges for their outstanding coordination of state testing efforts within our district. To help motivate students and encourage their best effort, we once again used "Testing Expectation Tickets." As a reward, students will enjoy a well-deserved ice cream treat at school for their hard work and dedication.

ELA Test - Part 1

The student used their time wisely during the test.

123

The student used their resources during the test.
(scrap paper, pre-writing, etc.)

123

The student was focused and gave good effort/attitude.

123

Total Points _____

Circle the score under each area of the Rubric
3 = Student did meet testing expectation and put forth their best effort, giving it their best shot!
2 = Student partially met testing expectation and put forth effort
1 = Student did not meet testing expectation and did not give their best effort.

Friends for Lunch

On Wednesday, April 30th, Coldwater Elementary proudly hosted its annual *Friends for Lunch* event, a cherished tradition where retired and former teachers are invited back to enjoy lunch with current staff and reconnect with familiar faces.

This year's luncheon was a full house, filled with warmth, laughter, and meaningful conversations. It was a special opportunity to honor the legacy of those who helped shape our school and to celebrate the strong bonds that continue to connect our Coldwater family across generations.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to **Angie Rolfes** and **Erica Albers** for their time and effort in organizing this memorable event. Their hard work ensured that *Friends for Lunch* remained the joyful, welcoming celebration it is known to be. We're already looking forward to next year!

Teacher Appreciation Week

During the week of May 5th–9th, Coldwater Elementary celebrated *Teacher Appreciation Week*, recognizing the hard work, dedication, and passion of our incredible staff. Throughout the week, teachers and staff were treated to a variety of surprises, including snacks, lunches, and a delicious breakfast.

On Friday, May 9th, our amazing PTO showed their support by providing Rooster Joe Coffees and a spread of breakfast items for all staff members. Later that day, the administration and leadership team hosted a district-wide cookout as a token of appreciation for the entire Coldwater team.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this week special. I am truly grateful for each person who contributes to making Coldwater Elementary an outstanding place for kids to learn and grow!



Right to Read Week

Coldwater Elementary celebrated its annual Right to Read Week from May 5th-9th with an exciting "Reading Through the Rainforest!" theme. The week was filled with creativity, enthusiasm, and a love for reading, thanks to the dedicated planning of an exceptional team.

A special thank you goes out to the Right to Read Week Planning Team, whose hard work made the week truly memorable. The team consisted of Jessica Scott, Becky Kunk, Julie Fortkamp, Molly Wendel, and Jen Giesige, who worked tirelessly to create an engaging experience for students.

The week featured daily dress-up themes that encouraged students to embrace the joy of reading:

- **Monday:** Wear your "BEAR" necessities! - That's right! Let's forget our worries and wear our pajamas all day at school!
- **Tuesday:** Tiger Tuesday! - Dress in your favorite stripes, animal print or camouflage!
- **Wednesday:** Get "Red" Ready to Read! - Cincinnati Reds Day - wear Cincinnati Reds gear or the color red to honor the author visiting.
- **Thursday:** Explorer Day! - wear green and tan colored clothes to dress like a rainforest explorer.
- **Friday:** Colorful Spirit! - show your CAV Pride by wearing orange and black.

The week was also packed with exciting activities that made reading an adventure for every student. The week was filled with creative challenges and fun opportunities to engage with books and learning.

Students tested their guessing skills with rainforest-themed candy jars strategically placed in four locations around the school. The mystery readers added an element of surprise and excitement, keeping students on the edge of their seats wondering who each mystery reader was.

A special highlight was the visit from author Joel Altman, who shared storybooks about the history of the Cincinnati Reds, bringing literature and local sports history to life. We also had a special visit from the Cincinnati Reds mascot himself, Mr. Redlegs. Classrooms were transformed into learning spaces with rainforest animal facts displayed outside their doors, allowing students to "read" their way through a virtual rainforest as they explored educational displays.

The reading challenge motivated students and even teachers to read at home, with participants earning tickets for every 15 minutes of reading. These tickets were entered into a drawing for fantastic prizes generously donated by local businesses and families, adding extra excitement to the reading initiative.

The week culminated in a memorable final assembly featuring an anticipated moment: Mr. Etzler getting dunked by "rainforest rain water" - a fun conclusion that surely brought smiles and laughter to the entire school.

This year's Right to Read Week successfully combined education, creativity, and fun! Here are some photos from the week:

Guessing Jars



Mystery Readers



Author Visit (Joel Altman & Mr. Redlegs)



Reading Through the School (Rainforest)



Assembly, Award Winners & Rainwater "Dunk"



The students and staff of Coldwater Elementary would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following community organizations, businesses, and families for their generous donations, which helped purchase the amazing prizes given away to our students. We are truly grateful for their continued support!

- * Coldwater PTO
- * Coldwater Legion
- * St Henry Dental
- * Blended Collective
- * Selhorst Concrete
- * Ray's Refrigeration
- * S&K Products -
- * Cole & Vanessa Cooper
- * Todd & Michelle Biersack
- * AST Transport – Andy Dues
- * The Peoples Bank – Amazon Fire Kids Pro

- * Cars Inc
- * Dale & Amy Knapke
- * Jon & Michelle Winner
- * Jordan & Garah Lefeld – Five Movie Passes
- * Kevin & Julia Eyink
- * Gels Home Bed & Breakfast
- * Coldwater Flowers
- * Suzanne & Peter Galyardt
- * John & Krista Evans
- * Kessen Design

Park Clean-Up

During Coldwater Elementary's annual Right to Read Week, students didn't just celebrate books, they took action! This year's theme, *"Reading Through the Rainforest!"*, inspired a school-wide effort to connect literacy with community involvement.

While we couldn't travel to the rainforest to help protect it, our students found a way to make a difference closer to home. Classes rolled up their sleeves and headed to Coldwater Memorial Park, where they spent the day picking up sticks and trash, and the 4th grade cleaned picnic tables. It was a meaningful opportunity for students to put their learning into action and take pride in caring for their community.

As a special reward for their hard work, each participating classroom received an animal-themed book—chosen to match our rainforest theme—thanks to the generosity of the Coldwater Kiwanis.



First Graders Celebrate Grandparents Day

A day filled with love, laughter, and lasting memories! On Friday, May 9th, Coldwater's 1st grade students proudly hosted their grandparents for a luncheon at Cavalier Stadium. The smiles, hugs, and joyful conversations made it clear just how special this event was for everyone involved.

Grandparents Day offered a meaningful opportunity for students and their loved ones to connect and build memories together. Beyond the fun, this event emphasized the important role family plays in a child's education. When schools and families work together, it creates a strong, supportive community that helps every child thrive.

A big thank you goes out to our incredible 1st grade teaching team for organizing and hosting such a memorable day for their students and families. Their hard work truly made this celebration one to remember!



Seatbelt Safety Presentation Educates 2nd and 3rd Graders

On Monday, May 12th, our 2nd and 3rd grade students had a special visit from Coldwater Police Chief Officer Wynk and Officer Garman from St. Henry. The officers gave an engaging and informative presentation on the importance of seatbelt safety.

Students learned why wearing a seatbelt is essential every time they ride in any type of vehicle. The officers shared real-life examples and helpful tips to help students understand how seatbelts keep them safe.

It was an awesome experience that gave our students valuable knowledge about staying safe on the road. We're thankful to Officer Wynk and Officer Garman for taking the time to speak with our students and help reinforce such an important safety message!



Elementary Field Trips

- Kindergarten: Brumbaugh Fruit Farm, Schmitmeyer Dairy Farm, Fire Station, Mercer County Community Hospital, Coldwater Park
- 1st Grade: Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, EMB, Pla Mor Lanes, CW Post Office, Ohio Recycling Center, Coldwater Park, Sudhoff Tree Farm
- 2nd Grade: Coldwater Library, Johnston Farms, Brukner Nature Center, Pla-Mor Lanes, Coldwater Park, Peoples Bank
- 3rd Grade: MVP Dairy, St. Marys Hatchery, Carillon Park, Pla Mor Lanes, Coldwater Park
- 4th Grade: Fort Recovery State Museum & Grounds, Coldwater Park, Ball St. University Glass Center

Thank you to the CWEL Team for their flexibility and finding ways to provide field trip opportunities as well as the PTO for funding our elementary field trips. Also, thank you to Mr. Goodwin and the bus drivers for taking the time to transport students safely to and from some of these locations.

Coldwater Elementary END of the YEAR AWARDS The Cavalier Way Award Winners - 4th Quarter

At the end of each quarter every classroom teacher honors students with "The Cavalier Way" Award. This award recognizes students who have done an outstanding job demonstrating and modeling "The Cavalier Way" each day at Coldwater Elementary. Listed below are the students who won this award in each classroom during this time. These students were announced at the end of the year 3-Screens Assembly. Each student received a Cavalier Way backpack tag, free Kona Ice certificate, and a Cavalier Way certificate. Congratulations to these students for being awesome role models for other students in our school.

Cavalier Character & Cavalier Rising Star Awards

At the end of the school year every classroom teacher honors students with the "Cavalier Character" Award and the "Cavalier Rising Star" Award. The "Cavalier Character" award recognizes a student who has modeled outstanding Cavalier Way character traits consistently throughout the school year and is a positive role model for others. The "Cavalier Rising Star" Award recognizes a student who has shown tremendous growth and improvement throughout the school year and has given great effort to do so. Congratulations to these students for earning these outstanding awards!



The "Cavalier Character" award recognizes a student who has modeled outstanding Cavalier Way character traits consistently throughout the school year and is a positive role model for others. The "Cavalier Rising Star" Award recognizes a student who has shown tremendous growth and improvement throughout the school year and has given great effort to do so. Congratulations to these students for earning these outstanding awards!

Kindergarten Cavalier Way Award Winners: Liam Moeder, Eleanor Bruns, Gertie Bruns, Eloise Woeste, Steele Mast, James Woeste, Amelia Fennig, Creed Evers, Levi Wenning, Brynn Winner, Lane Hoyng, Leah Egan, Ezra Fritz, Charlee Schoenleben

KINDERGARTEN	Cavalier Character Award	Cavalier Rising Star Award
Mrs. Pohl	Addie Winner	Nolan Shreves
Miss Grieshop	Cameron Wenning	Damian Buehler
Mrs. Hoge	Louis Thomas	Mason Uhlenhake
Mrs. Klingshirn	Skylar Sudhoff	Brooks Elsass
Mrs. Osterfeld	Halyn Schmackers	Krue Dues
Mrs. Rutschilling	Baker Swartzel	Nora Graham
Mrs. Wendel	Mya Evers	Ava Guggenbiller



1st Grade Cavalier Way Award Winners: (to the right) Landon Rutschilling, Drew Geier, Emery Grieshop, Summer Wenning, Grayson Schmackers, Joey Gerlach, Winsleigh Harting, Keaton Bettinger, Ellie Sudhoff, Kylie Ross, Everett Kaup, Croix Niekamp, Jay Knapke

1st Grade	Cavalier Character Award	Cavalier Rising Star Award
Mrs. Giesige	Adalyn Schwieterman	Axel Bruns
Mrs. Klenke	Charlotte Dippold	Lyla Schlater
Mrs. Kunk	Graham & Beckham Siefring	Wesley Biersack
Mrs. Moor	Carly Kunk	Ryker Cooper
Mrs. Siefring	Savannah Rammel	Mason Pax & Max Bruns
Mrs. Tobe	Nora Uhlenhake	Corbyn Bruns & Grant Link
Mrs. Lefeld	Mabry Selhorst	Marshel Gross



2nd Grade Cavalier Way Award Winners: Cora Stromblad, Krue Grieshop, Allison Knapschaefer, Madelyn Berno, Evie Klingshirn, Drew Bruns, Elyse Fennig, Shaun Forsthoefel, Beckett Gansert, Brenna Platfoot, Jaycee Ahlers, Owen Winner

2nd Grade	Cavalier Character Award	Cavalier Rising Star Award
Mrs. Fortkamp	Lily Buening	Jemmalynn Reineke
Mrs. Hemmelgarn	Anna Beth Brosher	Brody Young
Mrs. Lefeld	Kai Dues	Roman Selhorst
Mrs. May	Sam Kaup	Joey Bruns
Mrs. Seitz	Reya Schmackers	Noah Siefring
Mrs. Wenning	Mallory Link & Justice Dennis	Harper Prosser



3rd Grade Cavalier Way Award Winners: Raelyn Niekamp, Gavin Uhlenhake, Briggs Winner, Nora Vujea, Rhya Sparks, Cora Evers, Wade Knapke, Rush Sudhoff, Paige Klenke, Darci May Hess, Eliza Bihn, Caroline Kanney, Hannah Kahlig, Adalyn Pohl, Zuri Gomez

3rd Grade	Cavalier Character Award	Cavalier Rising Star Award
Mrs. Garman	Scarlett Unrast	Olivia May
Mrs. Geier	Emily Rismiller	Aubrey Ebbing
Mr. Pohlman	Brooke Muhlenkamp	Brayden Stachler
Mrs. Pohlman	Gianna Grieshop	Ryker Berger
Mrs. Welling	Raya Walls	Brody Schlater
Mrs. Rowen	Kooper Mauer	Ben Freeman
Mrs. Wenning	Maddi Borer	Peyton Kincaid





4th Grade: Hailey Buehler, Aiyanna Jimerson, Violet Oplinger, Alivia Stump, Addilynn Schneider, Kali Uhlenhake, Jaelyn Ahlers, Kimberly Romero, Lincoln Homan, Clara Knapke, Dylan Voskuhl, Emily Geier, Ava Stammen, Barrett Burkner

4th Grade	Cavalier Character Award	Cavalier Rising Star Award
Mrs. S. Siefring	Bennett Geier	Alex Schwieterman
Mr. Muhlenkamp	Zoe Guggenbiller	Parker Heitkamp
Mrs. Niekamp	Blake Powell	Kaylee Pohl
Mrs. Schmitz	Hayden Miller	Hattie Hoying
Mrs. T. Siefring	Taylor Lennartz	Avery Geier
Mr. Schwieterman	Troy Geier	Morgan Schwieterman



Perfect Attendance Awards

Congratulations to these students as they had perfect attendance this school year. They did not miss one minute of school this year...AMAZING!!!



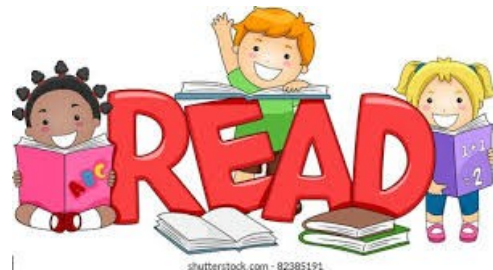
Perfect Attendance:

Kindergarten: Beckham Baucher, Bailey Bruggeman, Justin Diller, Ava Guggenbiller, Storm Long, Khloe Miller, Mila Schlarman, Owen Uhlenhake

First Grade: Drew Geier, Elisha Kremer, Kylie Ross, Charlotte Will

Third Grade: Grace Dues, Adam Geier, Shawn Ross, Lucy Will

Fourth Grade: Alex Schwieterman



Coldwater Elementary Summer Reading/Math Incentive 2025

This summer the team at Coldwater Elementary will again have a summer reading/math incentive program for our Little Cavaliers to encourage and motivate students to read, study math facts, and work on other skills throughout the summer. Each student was given a packet of information by their homeroom teacher to take home at the end of the year about this program that explains the goal, various ways of accomplishing the goal, and the incentive/reward. This information was also emailed to all CWEL families. If you cannot locate this packet, you can pick one up in the elementary office, check the Coldwater Elementary website for the links, or the Coldwater Elementary Facebook page. Incentive requirements are explained below as well. Students who complete the incentive will get to have either a play day at the park for 2025-26 first and second grade students or a swimming day at the pool for 2025-26 third and fourth grade students with the date TBD. You will also have the opportunity to purchase Kona Ice on this day! Please encourage your children to read and practice other skills this summer to be prepared for the 2025-26 school year.

Students who are going into 1st and 2nd grades:

You will need to read a minimum of 400 minutes (1st Grade) or 500 minutes (2nd Grade) throughout the summer. You will also need to practice your addition and subtraction facts a minimum of 40 times for five minutes each time. Here are some ways that you can achieve this. ****Parents, you may read to your child if necessary and count those minutes toward the goal.***

- 1) Go to the Public Library and participate in their summer reading program. You do not have to have all 400 or 500 minutes by the end of the library reading program. You can use the library reading program to help you towards the goal of reading minutes.
- 2) If you ordered the *Summer Bridge* book offered from the PTO you can count that time towards your minutes **AND** you would need to return it to your teacher the first day of school. If you work on math related skills count that as part of your math time, and if you are doing reading related skills count that towards your reading time. (If you did not order one and want to, you can do so on Amazon.com)
- 3) If your teacher sends home a summer work packet, you may also count that time towards your goal. If you are working on math skills for ten minutes then that can count as well. Also if you are working on some reading skills then those minutes can count towards that also.
- 4) You can log onto [xtramath.org](https://www.xtramath.org) and practice math facts. You can also just use your addition and subtraction flashcards. Whichever you choose to do, practice them for five minutes at a time and this must be done 40 times throughout the summer.

Students who are going into 3rd or 4th grades:

You will need to read a minimum of 700 minutes throughout the summer. You will also need to practice your addition/subtraction facts (if needed) and your multiplication/division facts a minimum of 40 times for five minutes each time. Here are some ways that you can achieve this.

1. Go to the Public Library and participate in their summer reading program. You do not have to have all 700 minutes by the end of the library reading program. You can use the library reading program to help you towards the goal of 700 reading minutes.

2. If you ordered the *Summer Bridge* book offered from the PTO you can count that time towards your minutes **AND** you would need to return it to your teacher the first day of school. If you work on math related skills count that as part of your math time, and if you are doing reading related skills count that towards your reading time. (If you did not order one and want to, you can do so on Amazon.com)
3. If your teacher sends home a summer work packet, you may also count that time towards your goal. If you are working on math skills for ten minutes then that can count as well. Also if you are working on some reading skills then those minutes can count towards that also.
4. You can log onto xtramath.org and practice math facts. You can also just use your addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division flashcards. Whichever method you choose to do, practice them for five minutes at a time and this must be done 40 times throughout the summer

*****If you have a child who is being tutored this summer, please feel free to use that time also. Whatever time they are spending on reading, count those minutes for the reading time and whatever time spent on Math, count that as math time.***

In order for your child to earn the reward, he/she must return the attached recording form on either the first or second day of the 2025-26 school year. The turn in due dates are as follows: Tuesday, August 19th or Wednesday, August 20th, 2025. All forms must be signed by a parent and turned in on one of these two days.

OR

You may go to the links on our Coldwater Elementary Website or Coldwater Elementary Facebook Page and record your child's minutes read (using the Reading Incentive link):

<https://forms.gle/JnXaxYZqFNy2xAoz6>

and track the amount of times they have practiced math facts (using the Math Incentive link

<https://forms.gle/DFZWD5ns6BaqN9KAA>

If you do this, you do not have to turn in the recording form at the beginning of the year. Each time you click on the link you can enter information for your child and the system will record it. You may enter information at one time for the entire summer or enter information throughout the summer.

Coldwater Facebook Page

If you are a Facebook user, please join the Coldwater Elementary Facebook page. This page gives you updates on elementary events, announcements, special features and other important information about what is going on at Coldwater Elementary. This is an awesome way to stay connected to us!

Summer Social/Emotional Needs

If you need support for any social/emotional needs for your child(dren) this summer, please feel free to email our school counselor, Mrs. Froning at: froning.stacee@coldwatercavs.org.

Summer Tips for "Little Cav" READING Success

Efforts should be made during the summer to help children sustain reading skills, practice reading and read for enjoyment. Parents should remember that children need free time in the summer to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. Following are a few tips to make reading enjoyable for your children this summer:

1. Read aloud together with your child every day.

Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, point out the relationship between words and sounds.

2. Set a good example!

Parents must be willing to model behavior for their children. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad.

3. Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.

This is the way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.

4. Let kids choose what they want to read, and don't turn your nose up at popular fiction.

It will only discourage the reading habit.

5. Buy books on tape, especially for a child with a learning disability.

Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.

6. Take your children to the library regularly.

Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for preschool and school-age children. Check the library calendar for special summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.

7. Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Highlights for Children*, or *National Geographic World*.

Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.

8. Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals.

Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, email is another option.

9. Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, notices.

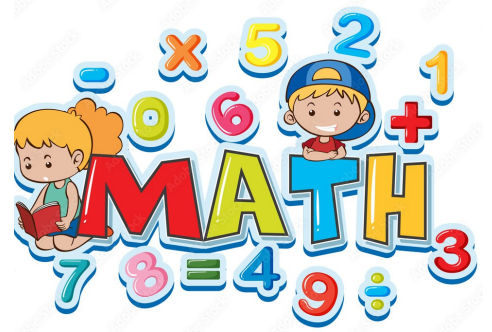
Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.

10. Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.

Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

Creative Summer Learning Ideas (from scholastic.com)

There's no getting around it: Over the summer months, our students can lose up to 60% of the math and reading skills that they learned during the year. Here are dozens of ideas to keep them learning and dozens of fun activities to share with parents.



For Grades K–3:

Shopaholic: What can you buy for \$5 at the corner store? From the ice cream truck? In a hardware store? At the beach?

Change it up: Start collecting change in a jar on the first day of summer. On the last day, estimate your change, count it, and plan a special purchase.

Summer patterns: Create patterns using summer items (popsicle sticks, shells, flowers). Or, draw patterns in the sand or dirt using a stick or your hands. See how long you can carry out your pattern — along the length of the sandbox, or across the grass.

Napkin fractions: Fold paper towels or napkins into large and small fractions, from one-half to 1/16. Use markers to label and decorate the different fractions.

Design hunt: Keep an eye out for shapes, patterns, and designs when you're out and about. You never know what you'll find in the architecture at the airport, the shopping mall, or even the grocery store.

100% delicious: Use ice cream to make fraction sundaes. Can you make an ice cream sundae that is one-half vanilla and one-half chocolate? What about one-third chocolate, one-third vanilla, and one-third strawberry? Can you cover a scoop of ice cream with one-quarter each of nuts, sprinkles, cookie crumbs, and gummy bears? Or can you eat a bite of ice cream that is one-half chocolate, one-half vanilla? For older children, calculate the percentage of each ice cream flavor in the sundae.

For Grades 4–8:

Record-breakers: Use a stopwatch to time yourself running, roller blading, swimming, or biking. Then try to beat your time. Be sure to keep the distance you're moving the same for each trial. Graph the results. (You may need a partner for this.)

Where will you be? Using a map, calculate where you will be if you travel 20, 50, 100, or 1,000 miles from home.

How many ways? As you're exploring your neighborhood during the summer, how many routes can you take to the school, the grocery store, the mall, or your friend's house? The catch: No backtracking, and you must take a new route each time.

Let's eat: Prepare a meal or dish for the family. Before you go to the supermarket, find a recipe, write what you need and how much. At the supermarket, choose the best-priced option.

Summer Reading Activities

These ideas will keep kids engaged in reading, writing, and thinking creatively even on the hottest days.

Water writer: Using a pail of water and a brush, have kids write words on the blacktop or sidewalk.

Sell summer: Tell kids: Try a new product or activity and write about it. How would you describe it? Would you recommend it? Create an advertisement to sell it to others.

Plan a trip: Have kids use the Internet, travel guidebooks, brochures, and maps to plan a dream day, weekend, week, or month-long trip.

Summer sleuth: Have kids follow a story in a newspaper during the summer, or investigate a local story (e.g., an upcoming fair). Tell kids: Write about the event as it unfolds so that you have it documented from start to finish.

Play it: Take an adventure book with a clear plot ([The Phantom Tollbooth](#), [Charlie and the Chocolate Factory](#), etc.) and invent a board game based on it.

Comic strip: Write a comic strip about a fictional character or yourself. See how long you can keep the strip going. Read classic comics for inspiration.

Summer Science Fun

Summer is the perfect time for children to explore their extracurricular interests, like science. Here are some activities that will have children hypothesizing all the way to September.

Map the weather: Keep a running log of the weather. Include temperature, humidity, clouds, precipitation, wind, air pressure. Can you predict what the weather will be tomorrow?

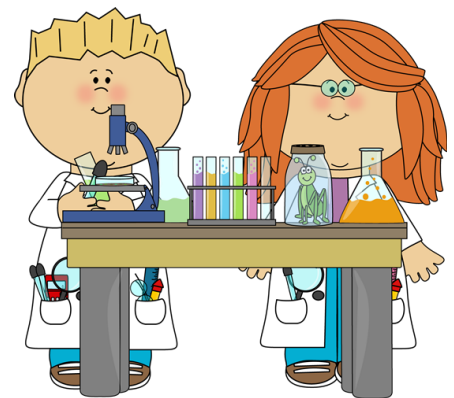
Invent a recipe for a summer drink and share it with your friends. For example, the Citrus Sizzler: 1/2 cup Sprite, 1/2 cup pineapple juice, 1 spritz lime juice.

Museum gallery: Collect pinecones, rocks, shells, or other natural objects to organize, categorize, and label. Present your own natural history museum.

Hot-weather inventor: Design an invention that you can use during summer. Some ideas: sunglasses that change color from red to yellow to blue, or a new beach toy.

Answer a question: How long does it take an ice cube to melt outside in the summer heat? In the refrigerator? In an air conditioned room?

Float or sink: In a pool or the bathtub, hypothesize which items (soap, dry sock, bottle of shampoo, rock, etc.) will float or sink. Test your hypotheses.



Keeping Kids Motivated

Parent involvement during the summer months is crucial to student success. According to the National Education Association, "Parents who are actively involved in their children's learning at home help their children become more successful learners in and out of school." Encourage parents with a final newsletter full of activities that will stave off forgetfulness and even build skills over the summer.

Set aside time each day to read. Track the books your child reads and reward him or her with a special activity or treat when he or she reaches certain milestones (for example, every 10th book). Do art projects based on favorite titles, such as drawing a favorite scene, or making paper bag puppets.

Visit your local library. Many libraries have wonderful summer reading programs that reward children for the number of books they read.

Make every day educational. Children learn problem-solving, math, science, and vocabulary as they help with groceries, laundry, and cooking.

Create a summer scrapbook. Save postcards and movie tickets, record family stories or interesting events from each day, whether you're going on vacation or just going to your neighborhood park.

Roadworthy Car Games

For kids on the bus or families on vacation, put those long rides to good use with activities that keep the kids busy and build reading and math skills.

For grades K–3:

Car bingo: Create a car bingo card with words, shapes, colors, and items that children will likely see during a trip (stop signs, billboards, railroad signs, etc.) to reinforce reading skills, math, and sight words.

The number game: Look out the window and call out when you see one, two, three, or four of something, and so on.

The alphabet game: One person chooses the right side of the road, and the other chooses the left. Call out objects that you see in alphabetical order (you can use a sign only for one letter). The first person to get to the letter "z" wins.

For grades 4–8:

Capital game: Take note of each license plate you see, not by state, but by state capital. The first to correctly identify 10 state capitals wins.

Cow game: One person takes the right side of the road, the other takes the left. Keep count of all the cows you see. You earn one point for each cow. When you see a cemetery out of your side of the car, you lose all your points.

Animals galore: Decide on a number of points for each animal that you see (cow = 1 point, horse = 1 point, pig = 2 points, etc.). As you drive, add up the points. Play until one person gets 10 points, or for a set time.

Math with license plates: Use the numbers on license plates to practice addition, subtraction, multiplication, and number patterns and see just how creative kids can get!



3RD GRADE CAVS

What's happening in 3rd Grade

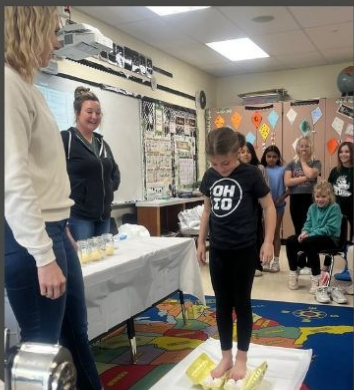
What a FUN and busy end to the school year our third graders have had! April and May were full of reading challenges, Right to Read week fun, field trips, and special visitors. Our students visited MVP Dairy, the Fish Hatchery in St. Marys, wrote their own poetry books, and read their hearts out this quarter!



Lisa Kahlig and Lorraine Lennartz visiting from Cooper Farms



Seatbelt Safety with Officer Wynk



Seatbelt Safety



3RD GRADE CAVS

MVP Dairy Field Trip



MVP Dairy



St. Marys Fish Hatchery



End of the Year Fun!



Fourth Graders Explore Art and Nature at Ball State University

Coldwater Elementary fourth-grade students recently enjoyed an inspiring field trip to Ball State University, planned through the collaboration of our elementary and middle school art teachers. Accompanied by their classroom teachers, a dozen parent chaperones, and our wonderful bus drivers, the students spent a full day immersed in the arts and the beauty of nature.

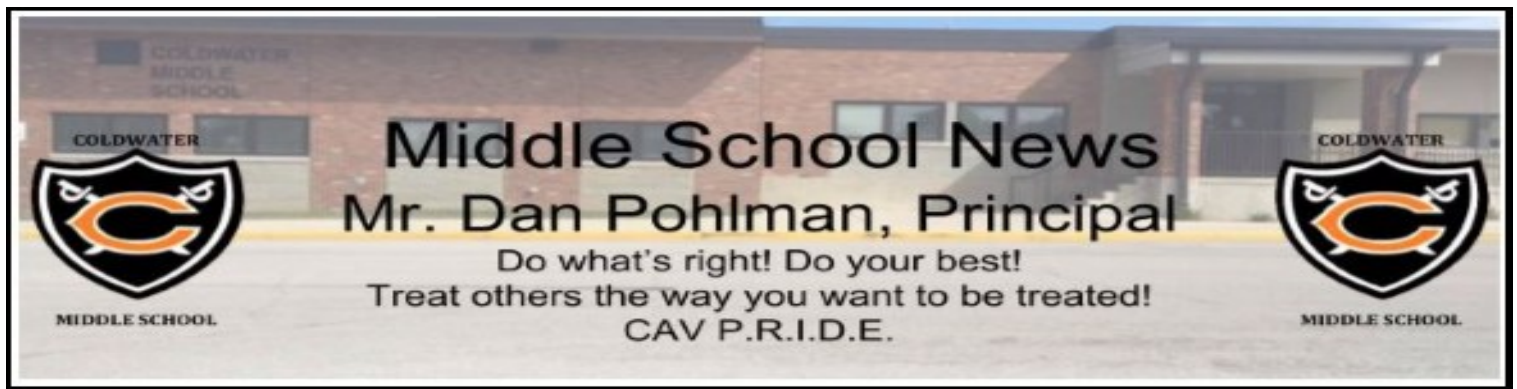
The trip began with a campus tour highlighting the many forms of art at Ball State including the **David Owsley Museum of Art** and a variety of sculptures across campus. Students learned about different styles, techniques, and the artists behind these creations.

Another highlight was a visit to the **Glick Center for Glass** where students watched a live glass art demonstration. Seeing the glowing molten glass being shaped into beautiful forms such as eggs and birds, was a fascinating experience for all. This opportunity expanded upon students' current knowledge of glass art as the 4th grade students had created glass fused wreath ornaments this past Winter thanks to **Brazee Street Glass Studio** in Cincinnati and the generous funds from **Coldwater Christmas at Memorial Park**.

The day continued with a blend of art and science as students explored nature both in and outdoors. At the **Dr. Joe and Alice Rinard Orchid Greenhouse** students marveled at exotic plants and colorful orchids. Outside, they participated in a color-matching scavenger hunt in the natural setting of **Christy Woods**, using their observation skills to find plants and flowers that matched different colors swatches.

This unique field trip gave students an unforgettable opportunity to connect with the arts, explore a college campus, and appreciate the beauty of the natural world. We are so grateful to our teachers for organizing this enriching experience and to our chaperones and drivers for making the day possible.





Dear Middle School Families and Community Members,

The 24/25 school year is in the history books, and what a great year it has been! School is, in fact, out for summer! The 8th grade class, the class of 2029, will be moving on to high school, and they are ready. Many thanks to these students for their great leadership and the positive way they carried themselves this school year. What a great class of leaders the high school is getting! Parents, you should be very proud of the kids you have raised! Congratulations on a great year and best of luck in high school, 8th grade class!



As we look forward to the much-needed summer break, I want to take a moment to reflect on two outstanding staff members who will be leaving us as they embark on the exciting journey of retirement. It will certainly feel different not seeing Nick Fisher and Beth Thomas in our middle school hallways next school year. Their wealth of experience—and so much more—will be deeply missed.

Here is a tribute to Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Thomas and the remarkable legacy they leave behind.

Mrs. Beth Thomas:

After 29 incredible years at Coldwater Middle School, Mrs. Beth Thomas will be retiring at the end of this school year. Over nearly three decades, Beth has worn many hats—teacher, coach, committee member, and friend—and she's worn them all with enthusiasm, energy, and heart. Beth has taught both 5th and 6th grade, primarily in science, but also tackled social studies and math when needed. For seven years, she also coached junior high volleyball.

Outside the classroom, Beth was one of the driving forces behind the Get REAL program. If something needed to get done, decorating, planning, setting up before dawn on 5K day—you could bet Beth was already on it with a cup of coffee in hand. She's a magnet for fun and laughter. If Beth was involved, you knew it was going to be a good time, and it always was. Beth's students will remember her as the "crazy fun science teacher" who brought



learning to life with experiments, songs, and dancing. Who else could get kids to sing about the states of matter to the Ad-dams Family theme song and make it a hit at the Get REAL Talent Show? And yes, Beth was right there on stage with them, singing and dancing right along.

Around the school, Beth is known for her unmatched energy and quick wit. Her one-liners kept us all laughing. But beyond the humor and energy, what we'll miss most is Beth's heart. She didn't just teach, she nurtured, supported, and lifted those around her. After the sudden loss of Brian Harlamert 2 years ago, we weren't sure how we would move forward. Who could we get to step into this position and this situation? Beth came to mind immediately. When I asked her to come back and help us, there was no hesitation. Just an immediate "Yes." Because that's who Beth is, someone who shows up for others when it matters most.

When you mix unstoppable energy, laughter, compassion, and dedication into one person, you get Beth Thomas. A colleague, mentor, and friend who we're going to miss dearly in our middle school halls. As Beth heads into retirement, we wish her nothing but joy as she spends more time with her kids and grandkids, who are lucky to have even more of her time, energy, and love. Thank you, Beth, for everything. You've left a mark on Coldwater that won't be forgotten. Enjoy the next chapter—you've more than earned it.

Mrs. Thomas's replacement

On March 11th, the Coldwater Board of Education approved the hiring of Mrs. Leah Nietfeld (formerly Homan) as our new 5th-grade science teacher for the 25/26 school year. Leah will be replacing Mrs. Beth Thomas, who will be retiring after the 24/25 school year. Leah has been teaching 5th-grade science at Van Wert Elementary for the past four years. She is a 2015 graduate of Coldwater High School and a 2021 graduate of Wright State University. She resides in Coldwater with her husband, Ethan, and her 2 daughters, Eden and Vienna. Please give Leah and her family a warm Cavalier welcome to Coldwater Schools!



Mr. Nick Fisher: Next school year is going to look a little different and a lot quieter when those middle school doors open. Because for the first time in 26 years, the 8th

grade hallway won't have a certain deep voice echoing down it with a friendly, slightly exasperated: "Come on, Chief!" Yes, after 30 years in education and 26 of those right here in Coldwater, our very own Nick Fisher is retiring. Or as most of us know him, Big Fish and Big Fish isn't just a nickname, it's a reflection of the size of his character.

Nick started in Coldwater in 1999 after teaching in St. Marys for four years. In his time here, he's taught mostly 8th grade science, but also 7th and 9th grade. He's been the middle school science department head for 11 years, the varsity girls basketball coach for 11 years, junior high track for 4 years, junior high football for 11 years, and varsity boys basketball for 9 years. As you can see, Nick has given a lot of time to Coldwater Schools, and for that we are appreciative.

Nick has always been a student favorite. Whether he was leading unforgettable science labs, teasing kids with the legendary "four-foot yardstick" scavenger hunt, or convincing entire classes that an early dismissal was coming with the first snowflake... kids loved him. And more than that, they respected him. His style was calm, thoughtful, and rooted

in common sense. During conferences, you'd hear him say something like, "We're here to help you—but you also have to help yourself." And kids listened. Because it wasn't just what he said, it was how he said it, with a steady, caring presence.

Nick modeled for all of us what it means to be calm under pressure, consistent with kids, and quietly ornery. He treated people with dignity. He held students accountable without ever raising his voice. As Nick steps into retirement, we know he won't be sitting still. He now gets to enjoy more time with his wife, kids, and grandkids. And if you know Nick, you know family is everything to him. He's earned every bit of the peace and joy coming his way.

Nick, thank you for being a mentor to many, a great teammate to those you worked with, an awesome teacher to the many students you taught, and a friend to so many. Coldwater won't be the same without you, but we are *better* because of you. You're one of the good ones. One of the real ones. And even in retirement, I'm pretty sure we'll still hear an occasional "Come on, Chief!" from down the hallway in our memories. Congratulations, Big Fish. You will be missed more than you know.



Mr. Fisher's replacement

On April 15th, the Coldwater Board of Education approved the hiring of Mrs. Josie Brunet (formerly Luthman) as our new 7th & 8th grade science teacher for the 25/26 school year. Josie will be replacing Mr. Nick Fisher, who retired. Leah has been teaching 7th-grade science at Van Wert Middle School for the past five years. She is a 2016 graduate of Coldwater High School and a 2020 graduate of Bowling Green State University. She resides in Coldwater with her husband, Andy, and their one-year-old daughter, Sydney. Please give Josie and her family a warm Cavalier welcome to Coldwater Schools!



Coldwater Middle School Honors Student Achievement at 2025 Awards Assembly

On Tuesday, May 20th, Coldwater Middle School proudly held its 2024–2025 Awards Assembly, recognizing student achievement and personal growth across all grade levels. The morning began with students gathering in the Auditoria, where Principal Mr. Pohlman welcomed everyone and set the tone for a celebration of hard work, dedication, and excellence. Teachers from each grade level presented academic awards in various subject areas, acknowledging students who demonstrated exceptional performance throughout the school year. From core academic subjects to the arts and physical education, students were celebrated for their accomplishments and commitment to learning.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the **Jud Lehman Gold Award**, named in honor of the late Mr. Jud Lehman, a beloved former ELA teacher at Coldwater Middle School. This prestigious award is given to students who have shown significant positive growth and resilience. It recognizes those who continue to strive for their personal best with a positive attitude, embodying the spirit of Mr. Lehman's philosophy to always "Stay Gold." Students across all grade levels were nominated by their teachers for this meaningful award, making it one of the most touching moments of the assembly. The ceremony concluded with a video montage highlighting memorable moments from the school year, offering students and staff a chance to reflect on shared experiences and celebrate the journey together.

Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients for their achievements and efforts. The Coldwater Middle School community is proud of your accomplishments!

State Power of the Pen

Two Coldwater seventh graders spent the last day of school at Ashland University taking part in the state Power of the Pen competition. Allie Evans (left) qualified to compete in the state tournament, writing against other seventh graders from all over the state. Audrey Miller (right) assisted with the smooth operation of the tournament as a runner, helping to transfer writings and ballots from judges in the writing rooms to the tab room. At the tournament the girls were able to hear from and meet Justin A. Reynolds, a former Power of the Pen writer and now published author, as he offered encouragement and advice to the junior high writers in attendance.



Coldwater Tree Commission Sponsors Contest

The Coldwater Tree Commission sponsored a flyer contest for Coldwater sixth graders. For the contest, students worked with a partner to research a specific tree of their choice. They had to learn about the tree's qualities and characteristics, growing needs and considerations, and benefits and drawbacks to planting on your property. After completing their research, students had to make a recommendation about whether or not people should choose to plant this tree on their properties. Then, they designed a flyer to present the information they learned.

Five flyers were selected as winners. The creators are pictured here: (front, left to right) Adele Bettinger, Justin Kahlig, Daxton Highley, Landon Bruggeman, (back, left to right) Rileigh Dobmeyer, Naomi Fennig, Reagan Wenning, Dana Knapke, and Paige Moorman.

Thanks to the Coldwater Tree Commission for giving our students an opportunity to learn practical and valuable information about their environment!

5th Grade Academic Awards



Coldwater Middle School's 5th graders shone across the curriculum. Mathematics honors went to **Ross Winner, Scarlet Schoenherr, and Isaiah Wycuff**, while outstanding achievement in English language arts was shared by **Ross Winner and Rylee Knapke**. Scarlet Schoenherr added top awards in **science, social studies, and health**. Additional recognitions went to **Cohen Kanney** (physical education), **Wyatt Walker** (music), **Katy Qiu** (art), **John Evers** (STEM), and **Lauren Elander** (band).

6th Grade Academic Awards



Sixth-grade achievements were led by **Daxton Highley** in mathematics and **Emma Sieftring** in English language arts. Science honors went to **Annalise Knap-schaefer** and **Garrett Barlage**, while **Landon Bruggeman** distinguished himself in social studies. Further awards recognized **Tate Garrison** (physical education), **Lani Pohlman** (music), **Isaac Schmitmeyer** (art), **Nick Broering** (STEM), **Avery Heyne** (health), and **Zac Dobmeyer** (band).

5th Grade "Gold" Award



The **Jud Lehman Gold Award**—celebrating remarkable personal growth—was presented to **Lily Hibner, Bryce Young, Katy Qiu, Kayden Broerman, Emma Kaup, Ebony Uribe, Nolan Link, and Levi Korneagor**.

6th Grade "Gold" Award



Gold Award recipients—celebrated for resilience and positive growth—were **Alyssa Cruz, Derrick Beckman, Rheeana Matauto, Jack Link, Lacey Link, and Ella Stammen**.

7th Grade Academic Awards



Seventh-grade accolades included mathematics honors for **Loretta Suhdoff** and **Nathan Wills**, with **Zane Keller** earning dual awards in pre-algebra and social studies. **Reid Dingledine** was recognized in English language arts, and **Quinn Kanney** in science. Other recipients were **Will Huwer** (enrichment), **Reagan Liette** (choir), **Mallory Braun** and **Randy Micheal** (life skills), **Abby Bollenbacher** (band), **Brooke Schwieterman** (STEM), **Weston Heyne** (art), and **Grant Winner**, honored in both social studies and physical education.

8th Grade Academic Awards



Among 8th graders, mathematics honors went to **Kirsten Heuing**, with **Haley Qiu** earning the algebra award. English language arts recognition was shared by **Audrey Franck** and **Kevin Romero**, while **Josh Harrison** secured awards in both science and robotics. **Brielle Dingledine** excelled in social studies and life skills; **Evelyn Woeste** was honored in architecture; and maker-skills awards were shared by **Blake Wenning**, **Owen Heitkamp**, and **Dillan Wenning**. Additional accolades went to **Jonah Gruss** (physical education), **Kyrie Reineke** (art), **Luke Winner** (health), **Breckin Scott** (band), and **Daven Fletcher** (choir).

7th Grade "Gold" Award



Gold Awards went to **Chelsey Black**, **Brooke Schwieterman**, **Blake Muhlenkamp**, **Bryce Rolfes**, **Shane Perreira**, and **Reid Dingledine**.

8th Grade "Gold" Award



Gold Awards, acknowledging sustained positive growth, were presented to **Becca Wendel**, **Evyn Dillhoff**, **Willow Holubik**, and **Daly Gomez**.

Ending the Year with Purpose: Celebrating the “Power of ONE” During Get REAL Week 2025

Our final week of the 2024–2025 school year was nothing short of extraordinary as we celebrated **Get REAL Week 2025** under the inspiring theme, *“The Power of One.”* This annual tradition has grown into one of the most anticipated and impactful experiences of the year, bringing students, staff, and community members together in celebration, reflection, and growth.

Throughout the week, our school buzzed with energy, gratitude, and a shared sense of purpose. Students engaged in a variety of dynamic activities that encouraged leadership, teamwork, empathy, and resilience. From meaningful keynote messages to interactive sessions, team challenges, and the culminating 5K and talent show, every event was intentionally designed to remind students that **each individual has the power to make a difference.**

Highlights included hands-on workshops, inspiring speakers, collaborative problem-solving challenges, and our always-popular Student-Faculty Challenge. These experiences weren't just fun, they offered valuable lessons students will carry into the summer and beyond. Whether learning about perseverance through a trust walk, hearing personal stories of overcoming adversity, or simply cheering on a peer during the talent show, the messages were clear: **You matter. You belong. You can be the one who makes a difference.**

As we look back on this meaningful week, we are incredibly grateful to the **Get REAL Committee** for their hard work and dedication in planning and organizing such a powerful experience for our students. Their thoughtful vision and commitment made this week not only possible but unforgettable. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to our entire **staff**, who embraced the spirit of the week by stepping in to lead sessions, participate in events, and support students in every way. Get REAL Week serves as the perfect closing chapter to our school year—reminding us all of the strength we find in community, the joy of shared purpose, and the importance of carrying positive messages into the next chapter. As our students head into summer, we hope they remember the core lesson of this special week: the power of one person to impact others is real, and that person can be *you*.

GET R.E.A.L. WEEK MEMORIES



Coldwater Middle School Fourth Nine Weeks Honor Roll

Grade 7

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Ian Ahrens, Mallory Braun, Reid Dingleline, Elisabeth Ebbing, Hallory Kahlig, Quinn Kanney, Reagan Liette, Audrey Miller

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Brynn Ahrens, Cameron Bergstrom, Archer Bihn, Abigail Bollenbacher, Jacob Bollenbacher, Sophie Borger, Miles Bruns, Vanessa Cron, Ava Dobmeyer, Allie Evans, Max Galyardt, Kennedy Giesige, Mya Grieshop, Weston Heyne, Shianea Hoffman, Will Huwer, Zane Keller, Emersyn Knapke, Graham Knapke, Elliot Kuhn, Natalie Link, Ryan Mathewson, Maddox Moorman, Blake Muhlenkamp, Makayla Myers, Bryce Rolfes, Ethan Rutschilling, Liam Schmackers, Brooke Schwieterman, Avery Smith, Stella Stammen, Loretta Sudhoff, Max Sudhoff, Ben Voskuhl, Adrian Walker, Jackson Werling, Hailey Williams, Grant Winner

Grade 8

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Abby Alig, Kynlee Botkin, Lucas Broering, Layla Dawson, Audrey Diller, Brielle Dingleline, Audrey Franck, Alyssa Froning, Jonah Gruss, Paige Guggenbiller, Josh Harrison, Owen Heitkamp, Briggs Hileman, Kratyn Homan, Cami Lisi, Emmitt May, Will Moorman, Haley Qiu, John Roberts, Ethan Schmitmeyer, Breckin Scott, Leah Serr, Natalie Timmerman, Courtney Uhlenhake, Kate Uhlenhake, Bennet Unrast, Rebecca Wendel,

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Hayden Berger, Jack Bettinger, Brooklyn Coats, TJ Eales, Clifford Fisher, Daven Fletcher, Kiya Frysinger, Kirsten Heuing, Grace Heyne, Ben Houts, Charlotte Hoying, Evelyn Kahlig, Chris Kremer, Griffin Lefeld, Bentley Mohler, Kaiden Moorman, Kyrie Reincke, Mara Riethman, Breah Roessner, Julianna Sager, Cami Saunders, Hayden Schwieterman, Isabelle Schwieterman, Bryson Spriggs, Owen Stough, Savannah Sutherin, Jacob Uhlenhake, Praline Unrast, Josie Welling, Blake Wenning, Emmett Wermert, Lucas Winner, Evelyn Woeste



Keep up the good work!



Congratulations goes out to the graduating class of 2025 and the rest of the student body for their many successes throughout the 2024-2025 school year. Best wishes are extended to the district's 91 graduating seniors as they continue the tradition of Coldwater Excellence in whatever endeavors they should pursue.

It has been a very successful year at CHS not only in the classroom but in all areas. Thanks to All who made it possible. Have an awesome summer, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact the High School Office - Monday through Thursday, 6:30 am to 4:00 pm; and Friday 6:30-10:30.

J Hemmelgarn, HS Principal



Kiwanis Achievement Banquet

Very proud to announce the 48th Kiwanis Achievement Banquet that was recently held on May 5 went very well. Many positive comments were received. In all, 35 students received 112 scholarships totaling over \$136,000 (all new records by a significant amount).

Thanks to the Kiwanis for their continued sponsorship and to all the donors for their generosity. Also, Congratulations go out to all the students recognized for all their hard work and high performance. The Kiwanis have also sponsored their yearly Class Awards again this year. Those awards were given out to deserving students on May 16th.

Student Participation numbers 24-25 School Year

In tracking our student body participation in sports, band, FFA, Drama, ScoBo team, Ethics Bowl team, and any other outside of school day activities, the following information was compiled for 2025:

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Seniors	88/108 (7) 87.1%	78/102 (8) 82.9%	82/108 (5) 79.6%	77/91 (4) 84.6%
Juniors	79/99 (2) 81.4%	88/109 (3) 83.0%	80/92 (3) 89.0%	79/86 (4) 91.9%
Sophomores	103/112 (4) 95.3%	88/94 (1) 94.6%	78/86 (3) 94.0%	82/86 (2) 95.3%
Freshman	88/95 (1) 93.6%	86/92 (5) 98.9%	80/87 (1) 93.1%	103/114 (2) 90.4%
Total for the year	358/414 (14) 89.5%	340/397 (17) 89.5%	320/373 (12) 88.6%	341/377 (12) 90.5%

****Legend:** total # participating / total in the grade (# of non-attending students to CHS)



DARE GRADUATION

Congratulations to all the DARE participants across Mercer County for completing their pledge as middle schoolers to stay drug and alcohol free.

L-R: Spencer Etzler, Rudi Gross (scholarship winner), Joshua Schoen, Russell Moorman (scholarship winner), Andrew Moorman (scholarship winner), and Lucy Langenkamp.

Tri Star Student Accomplishments

Congratulations to the following students on receiving their Tri Star awards recently:

David Dippold - student of the Year – Senior Animal Health
Brooke Schmitmeyer - student of the Year – Senior Animal Health
Drew Muhlenkamp - student of the Year – Senior Career Pathways



Congratulations!

Buckeye Girls State 2025

The Coldwater High School Social Studies Department would like to congratulate five of our talented Junior girls on their advancement to this year's Buckeye Girls State Program. Buckeye Girls State was first charted in 1946 with the goal of teaching duties, privileges, rights, citizenship and responsibilities of good citizenship. We would like to thank the Coldwater American Legion Auxiliary Post 470 for sponsoring our students. Buckeye Girls State runs from June 8th to June 14th at Bowling Green State University.



Amanda Clune, Eve Lisi, Grace Huwer, Ella Kaiser, Madison Bruns

STEM Showcase

Coldwater High School students recently showcased their innovative projects at the Air Force-sponsored STEM Showcase held at Eldora Speedway. Officials expressed particular appreciation for our students' diverse technological demonstrations, which expanded perspectives beyond conventional applications like drones and RC cars. The Air Force representatives specifically noted how our projects provided a more authentic representation of practical, everyday technology applications. Our students' work highlighted the broader spectrum of workforce skills that technical education develops, presenting a comprehensive view of modern engineering capabilities. The showcase successfully demonstrated the real-world relevance of our STEM curriculum, reinforcing the connection between classroom learning and professional engineering competencies valued by organizations like the Air Force.

The students involved included: Cody Depweg, Troy Schoen, Brady Matthewson, Parker Doenges, Alex Rutschilling, Caleb Bertke, Karsyn Homan, and Landon Unrast.

In Memory of Cale Wenning

As the seniors say their goodbyes to Coldwater Schools, they stopped to remember a classmate who will forever be remembered. The high school joined together to celebrate and remember Cale Wenning. In his remembrance a tree was donated and planted by Benazer Nursery. Along with the tree a plaque from Grand Lake Florists was donated as well. Special thanks to the senior football players for designing the plaque and Mason Welsch for saying a prayer.



Coldwater High School Prom Court

From Left to Right:

Liam Davis (King), Monica Hemmelgarn, Mandi Hart, Tyler Jones, Trent Ebbing, Haley Tobin, Brady Lefeld, Shanna Schmitmeyer, Kiersten Keller (Queen), and Aaron Kaup



NEWSIES!

On April 3-6, the Coldwater High School Drama presented “NEWSIES” the Broadway Musical with 4 extremely awesome shows. The current Seniors have wanted to do this show since they were in 6th grade, and Mrs. Petersen and Rhianna wanted to make it happen for them! What an AMAZING ride it was!

The cast had the opportunity to come in and audition for the part(s) they wanted and the show was formed! We had 28 HS auditions this year which made the decisions for parts very difficult. We also invited in several 8th grade students with 14 accepting the invite, plus we had one 4th grade student to play the younger brother of one of the Newsies. This was such a fun show to put together! We had full crowds for each show with the biggest turn out being on Sunday the 6th. We were very pleased with how everything came together and how hard the cast worked!

A special shout out to Roger Knapke for building all the sets including the printing press, Frank Petersen for designing the set and just being a huge support along with recording the shows and finally, to Rhianna Petersen for stepping up and being a great assistant director and choreographer!

Mrs. Petersen and Rhianna were so proud of the cast and all their hard work. They really made this show their own! Needless to say the performances were a huge success.



Coldwater FFA Presents Blue and Gold Award to Mrs. Tina Schmitmeyer

The Blue and Gold award represents our sincere thanks to those who go above and beyond in supporting the Coldwater FFA. Receiving this award is a true accomplishment, and this year's recipient has more than earned it. We were proud to present this award to Tina. Whether it's preparing meals for meetings or feeding an entire banquet crowd, she does it all with a smile and a spirit of service. Since 2013, Tina has proudly worn the title of "FFA Mom." With four kids going through the program. For the Schmitmeyers, FFA has truly been a family affair for the past 12 years. The Schmitmeyer farm has been a home base for our dairy judging team for years. We've been out there countless times to practice with their cows, and their support has played a big role in our members' success. We know where the good cows are! Tina's generosity, kindness, and unwavering support of the Coldwater FFA have not gone unnoticed. On behalf of the entire Coldwater FFA Chapter - thank you, Tina!

2025-2026 FFA Officer Team

At the FFA Banquet in April, the FFA officers for the 2025-2026 school year were announced. Congratulations and good luck to all of them as they lead the FFA chapter to do great things throughout the next year!

- President - Madelyn Lange
- Vice President - Tori Timmerman
- Secretary - Derek Dues
- Treasurer - Brent Hueing
- Reporter - Carter Heitkamp
- Historian - Kennley Siegrist
- Sentinel - Madison Zwiebel
- Student Advisor - Paige Ontrop

Coldwater FFA Star Awards

Throughout the banquet, several Star Awards were handed out to members of the various Agricultural classes. These awards are reserved for those who work hard and go the extra mile to succeed while helping others on the way. These recipients were selected for their demonstration of leadership, scholarship, and participation in chapter activities.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving these awards!



- ◇ **Star Greenhand:** Heidi Klenke & Emily Wendel
- ◇ **Star Chapter:** Derek Dues
- ◇ **Star Junior:** Madison Zwiebel
- ◇ **Star Senior:** Shanna Schmitmeyer
- ◇ **Star Leader:** Mandi Hart
- ◇ **Star Placement:** Jonathan Lange
- ◇ **Star Agribusiness:** Owen Fennig
- ◇ **Star Farmer:** Brennen Sudhoff



4th Annual Coldwater FFA Pie Auction

The Coldwater FFA Chapter held its 4th Annual Pie Auction during the FFA banquet in April. Each of the FFA Officers baked a pie that was auctioned off, helping us to raise more money to put towards members' trip expenses. We would like to thank Rick Uhlenhake and Dusty Uhlenhake for being our auctioneers for this event, for we could not have done it without them! We would also like to thank all of our pie buyers for making this year's auction a success!

- 1) David Dippold - Coconut Cream Pie - **Coldwater Young Farmers - \$450**
- 2) Haley Tobin - Apple Pie - **Channel Seeds - \$350**
- 3) Paige Ontrop - Peach Pie - **Linmore LED - \$400**
- 4) Tori Timmerman - Rhubarb Pie - **Stachler Concrete - \$550**
- 5) Madelyn Lange - Sugar Cream Pie - **Fennig Equipment & Fennig-Homan Agribusiness - \$1100**

- 6) Derek Dues - White Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake - **Coldwater Young Farmers - \$500**
- 7) Shanna Schmitmeyer - Peanut Butter Pie - **Mercer County Electric - \$650**
- 8) Mandi Hart - Cherry Pie - **Mercer County Dairy Association - \$650**

Thank You to the 2025 FFA Banquet Sponsors

Cooper Farms	Koester Electric	Pax Machine Works
Seitz Electric	Wenning Concrete Pumping	PBS Animal Health
K&L Tractor Sales	Kleinhenz Bros. Livestock	Crafted By Hart
Florence Livestock	Terry & Theresa Linn	Denny & Rita Riethman
Buschur's Custom Farm Service	Wabash Mutual Telephone	Pla Mor Lanes
Fort Electric, LLC.	Farm Credit	Lefeld Industrial & Welding Supplies

We would like to thank all of the 2025 banquet sponsors for their donations. Without their generosity and support we would not have been able to have such an amazing event, so thank you!

2024 Ohio FFA Convention



Thirty-one Coldwater FFA members attended the 96th annual State FFA Convention in Columbus, Ohio on May 1st and 2nd. They began their trip with a stop in St. Marys to tour American Rheinmetall, where they make large rubber tracks for tractors and military vehicles and hay rollers for discbines. The members also stopped at Tim and Martha Manchester's Farm to tour their historic round barn. The barn was built in 1908 and is 102 feet in diameter. It was built to raise multiple animal species and hold hay and grain.

Later that day at the convention, students went to a session where they listened to John Beede talk about picking your summit and acknowledging your goals. They ended their day by enjoying dinner and jumping at a trampoline park. The next morning, Coldwater FFA Officers Derek Dues, Paige Ontrop, and



Madelyn Lange were recognized on stage for their Gold-Rated Officer Books. The chapter enjoyed a meal at Texas Roadhouse and entertainment at TopGolf before returning to the convention



to spend a little more time at the Career Show. The day continued with another convention session where they listened to Ohio FFA President, Anna Moeller, give her retiring address and watched their peers receive their state degrees before making their way back home.

Members Receive State FFA Degrees

Six members of the Coldwater FFA recently received their State FFA Degree, which is the highest degree awarded by the Ohio FFA Association.

Savannah Diller, David Dippold, Jonathan Lange, Madison Zwiebel, Jenna Heuing and Shelby Larkin (absent) were acknowledged at the Ohio FFA Convention on May 2nd. To be considered for this degree, a member is required to complete a lengthy application, which includes a complete description of their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program. The member has to include FFA leadership, school and community activities, their high school scholastic record, along with 25 hours of community service. Congratulations to all of you for this major accomplishment!



Graduates to be Awarded American FFA Degree

Thirteen Coldwater graduates will be awarded the American FFA Degree this fall at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Kenzie Adams, Lydia Borger, Emma May, Gena Vagedes, Peyton Seitz, Luke Schmitmeyer, Garrett Bruns, Garrett Fiely, Derick Findley, Brayden Quinn, Brandon Penno, Alex Knapke, and Tony Koch will earn the highest award any FFA member can receive. Less than 2% of members ever meet the requirements to achieve this honor. The extensive application can only be completed after graduation. Congratulations on earning this outstanding recognition!



Ohio FFA Dairy Cattle Judging Team

Kennley Siegrist, Shanna Schmitmeyer, Mandi Hart, Paige Ontrop, Brooke Schmitmeyer and Derek Dues competed on this year's Dairy Cattle judging team. On March 26, they judged three classes of heifers, three classes of dairy cows, answered questions about those animals, analyzed dairy pedigrees for genetics, placed a sire selection, and took a written exam over the cattle industry. Overall they finished 21st in the state.



Ohio FFA General Livestock Judging

Trent Ebbing, Owen Fenning, Marcus Sieftring, Brady Meyer, Gage Emmins, Jacob Kahlig, Kennley Siegrist and Heidi Klenke, were on this year's livestock team. They judged classes of cattle, pigs, goats, and sheep, and a keep/cull class. They also examined a market grid for one species and took a written exam over the four animal species. They put up a great fight against their competition.



Ohio FFA Equine Judging

This year Coldwater FFA participants for the Equine Career Development Event (CDE) were Renae Huser, Gena Fisher and Alexis Coats. These girls had to rank horses based on breed characteristics and performance. These girls did a great job!



Ohio FFA Agronomy Judging

This year's Coldwater FFA members who participated in the Agronomy judging were Madison Zwiebel, Madelyn Lange, Haley Tobin, David Dippold and Jonathan Lange. Our team tackled the challenge of identifying a variety of plants, seeds, insects, and even pesky plant diseases. They put their knowledge to the test with a written exam and participated in an engaging team event that required them to create an agronomy plan for a farmer's field.



Ohio FFA Wildlife Judging

This year's Coldwater FFA members who participated in the Wildlife Judging CDE were Emily Wendel, Lauren Beckman, Kameron Bird, Alex Penno and Will Wehrkamp. This team was tested over their knowledge of the fish and wildlife industries, including identifying specimens of different mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, plants, and equipment. They also answered questions about pond management, habitat management, and game laws and safety.



District Outdoor Power

This year's Coldwater FFA members who participated in the Outdoor Power CDE were Gage Emmins, Leo Fella, and Isaac Homan. The Outdoor Power CDE tests the participants knowledge and technical skills in the field of small engine mechanics and outdoor power equipment. Through hands-on problem solving and technical assessments, our members demonstrated their abilities in engine troubleshooting, parts identification, tool selection, and the fundamentals of equipment operation.



Sophomore Agriculture & Industrial Tech

Classes Tour Local Businesses

Recently Mrs. Wenning's sophomore Agriculture classes & Mr. Horstman's Industrial Tech classes went on a field trip to four local manufacturing businesses. They started their day by going to 49 Degrees in Coldwater, where they learned how the company creates and installs custom designs for college athletic locker rooms and lobbies. They continued on to the St. Mary's Foundry, where they learned how cast iron products are made for natural gas pipelines and other custom jobs. Tru Edge Grinding in St. Henry gave a tour of their



facility where they fabricate different types of CNC

and Medical grade bits. The students finished off the day at Rindler Truss in St. Henry. The tour showed each step of the process of making custom trusses for houses, shops, and agricultural buildings. Students from these classes appreciate all of these businesses taking the time to teach them about their products.



FFA Presents to 5th Graders During Get REAL Week



The FFA officers had the opportunity to work with 5th grade students as part of the Middle School's Get REAL Week. Centered around the theme of The Power of One, we embraced the motto: "Know the way, go the way, show the way." Through a series of fun and meaningful activities, students learned the importance of communication, trust, and teamwork. The activities included: a collaborative word search focused on leadership qualities, an obstacle course where one student was blindfolded and guided by a partner, and a box march, where one student had to stay inside a square while being directed by a partner.



Cavalier Athletic Report



We are wrapping up another great Cavalier Year with so many individual and team accomplishments we should all be proud of. Although the spring season is not quite completed yet at the time of this going to press, it has once again been a great year. I truly want to Thank all of the parents, athletes, coaches, fans, businesses, workers, etc. that have helped make Cavalier sports what it is. Cav Pride!

Don't forget to get your athletes physicals set for this upcoming school year with your Doctors. I would suggest trying to have them completed prior to July so that you are not trying to get it scheduled at the last minute. Fall season officially begins August 1st this year. We will continue to use Final Forms school wide which has been a huge plus. You should have information emailed to your household. Be sure to complete all forms online and then bring in your completed Doctor signed physical to the High School Office. Do Not try to upload your physical, we will do that for you. If you have questions, please call.

Coldwater season tickets will once again be sold online at www.coldwaterathletics.org. Simply click the "Tickets" button on the top of the front home page. You can then order here. If you are like me and want a hard copy, no problem. You can print the ticket/pass off yourself from your email or just stop in the High School Office. We can print it off for you and laminate it. Some people are happy with the digital on their phone, others want a hard pass. We will help you with either one. If you are having issues buying a season pass, just stop up to the High School Office. We will do it for you. We will once again be using the Hometown Ticketing company for season tickets as that is what the OHSAA requires for tournament tickets.

There will be very few ticket price changes for this upcoming year. Other than a season ticket price going up or down based on the number of events, all else will be the same as last year. Costs continue to rise with inflation as they do in our everyday lives, but we also want people to attend athletic events. I would strongly suggest looking at season passes, especially for our students and senior citizens (age 65 and older). It is a great opportunity to saving money from gate sale costs. I also strongly suggest getting your child a student pass for the year. You will be done with it for the entire year and save a lot of money. We truly appreciate our businesses and sponsors for helping as well as their contributions help to keep our ticket prices down while the expenses continue to rise.

We will soon have the new Palace Video/Scoreboards installed. Installation date is set to begin June 22nd and will include 2 new Video/Scoreboards, backboard lights, and individual game clocks in each locker room. We cannot wait to see these as they should be outstanding! Thank you to the business sponsors for 100% paying for the new Video/Scoreboards.

I would also like to recognize the 2025 OHSAA Scholar Athlete Recipients. This award goes to the top Male and Female academic student from the senior class that earned at least 4 varsity letters during their High School career. This year we were able to recognize Lucy Langenkamp and Aaron Kaup. Great job both in the classroom and on the field of play!

Once again, I want to Thank You for all you have done for our Coldwater Student/Athletes. It is much appreciated by our coaches, staff members, and most importantly by our athletes. We look forward to a great 2025-2026 athletic year!

Lastly, I would like to wrap up with some individual accomplishments including The Lefeld Industrial & Welding Supplies Athlete of the Weeks.

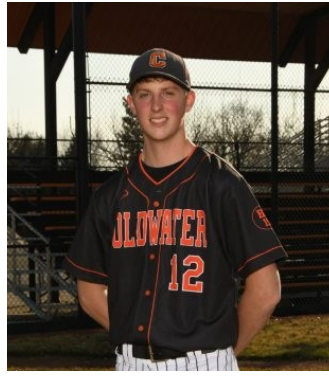
Go Cavs!

Eric Goodwin
Athletic Director/Assistant Principal

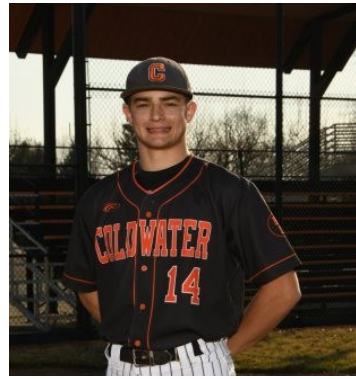
Athletes of the Week



Dana Zahn



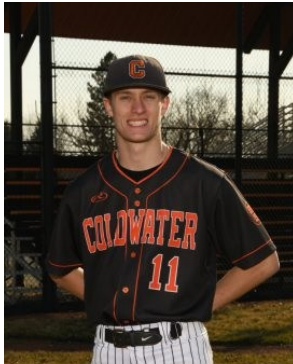
Mason Smith



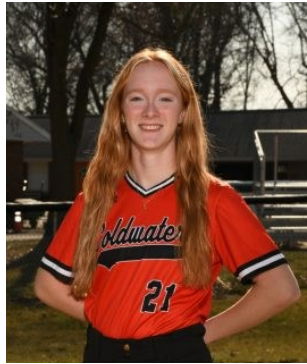
Mason Welsch



Kiersten Keller



Brady Lefeld



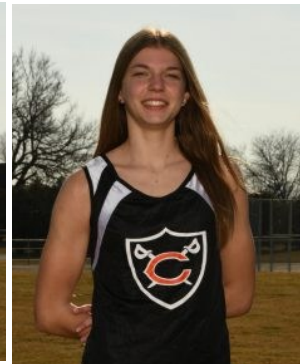
Ava Doll



Johnny Pohlman



Izzy Zahn



Claire Bertke

Special Recognition



Lucy Langenkamp
We Build Award



Girls Track – MAC Champions



Boys Baseball
MAC Champions

COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL 4th Nine Weeks Honor Roll

HIGH HONORS (11.0-12.0)

Grade 9

Collin Bergstrom, Claire Bertke, Avery Bruns, Wendy Buening, Kirra Burtch, Alessandra Cervantes, Isaac Delzeith, Campbell Etzler, Andrew Garrison, Brent Heuing, Harlow Heyne, Ashlynn Homan, Averil Kahlig, Jacob Kaiser, Alivia Klingshirn, Leah Kunk, Emily Larkin, Ava Lefeld, Owen May, Andrew Myers, Carson Pax, Tate Rismiller, Mariah Ross, Jackson Serr, Ava Smith, Lila Sudhoff, Austin Uhlenhake, Ella Werling, Lanna Zahn

Grade 10

Audrey Alig, Parker Doenges, Emma Eyink, Alaina Froning, Karsyn Homan, Chase Linn, Breann Mathewson, Noah Obringer, Fiona Qiu, Lydia Rainey, Aidan Rose, Ava Schmitmeyer, Cara Schwieterman, Kelsey Seitz, Joshua Sheets, Abigail Will

Grade 11

Mariah Bonifas, Madison Bruns, Aiden Burtch, Amanda Clune, Alayna Dawson, Ava Doll, Ashley Hicks, Grace Huwer, Keira Knapke, Maxwell Koch, Madelyn Lange, Makenzie Miller, Edward Obringer, Kaylie Rutschilling, Rebecca Simper, Sarah Stewart, Elle Weber, Emma Wehnes, Nora Wehrkamp, Dana Zahn

Grade 12

Baylen Blockberger, Izaak Botkin, Olivia Broering, Mason Brogaard, Liam Davis, Cody Depweg, David Dippold, Ethan Elander, Spencer Etzler, Owen Hamberg, Mandi Hart, Monica Hemmelgarn, Jenna Heuing, Zachary Homan, Kristopher Hughes, Aaron Kaup, Kiersten Keller, Jonathan Lange, Lucy Langenkamp, Brady Lefeld, Sidney Linn, Brady Mathewson, Andrew Moorman, Tyler Overman, Miles Pottkotter, Isabelle Ruckman, Shanna Schmitmeyer, Joshua Schoen, Sarah Seitz, Tanner Stammen, Hailey Tobin, Mason Welsch, Isabella Zahn

HONOR ROLL (9.0-10.9)

Grade 9

Lauren Beckman, Bryce Bonifas, Claire Broering, Braylon Brown, Jack Bruns, Shaelynn Chastain, William Cowan, Victoria Cron, Bryant Evans, Weston Fisher, Chloe Frysinger, Trenten Gross, Nolan Gruss, Carter Heitkamp, Hugh Hemmelgarn, Madison Hobbs, Palin Homan, Haley Huwer, Lana Kaiser, Heidi Klenke, Brylee Knapke, Channing Lefeld, Benjamin Liette, Carter Miller, Alex Penno, Bryleigh Quinn, Brayla Rasaweher, Andrew Schulze, Nolan Simper, Myra Stammen, Shea Sudhoff, Andrea Vargas, Lance Vian, William Wehrkamp, Emily Wendel, Collin Westgerdes, Kenna Wolfe

Grade 10

Tegan Berkenstock, Alex Borger, Alexis Coats, Landon Cruz, Aubrie Davis, Derek Dues, Gena Fisher, Ava Fortkamp, Karter Freed, Alexis Gerlach, Benjamin Hannewald, Kaleb Hibner, Charlotte Lefeld, James Liette, Shelby Link, Rachel Moeller, Paige Ontrop, Lauren Overman, Zachary Pohlman, Ross Riethman, Alex Rutschilling, Joshua Schroer, Zachary Schwieterman, Kennley Siegrist, Hailey Stough, Brookelyn Sudhoff, Braxton Taylor, Braylon Thobe, Tori Timmerman, Conner Tobin, Keaton Tobin, Kiersten Weigel, Bradley Wendel, Evan Winner

Grade 11

Kaia Behm, Kaylee Buening, Mia Byer, Bryce Couchot, Carson Dues, Gage Emmins, Dillan Evers, Aidan Fiely, Lyla Fridley, Carter Glassford, Ella Kahlig, Ella Kaiser, Landon Knapke, Mia Knapke, Aiden Laux, Gavin Lefeld, Eve Lisi, Kelly May, Nolan Mescher, Makenzie Norris, Myles Quinter, Maximus Ross, Caden Sager, Caleb Schroer, Sebastian Valdez, Emma Weber, Ty Wenning, Madison Zwiebel

Grade 12

Mason Ayers, William Barry, Dailyn Bubb, Austin Burden, Braylon Dawson, McKenna Dirksen, Owen Fennig, Drew Franck, Lia Frank, Rudi Gross, James Hoelscher, Jordan Houser, Avery Knapke, Owen Kunk, Shelby Larkin, Shelby Linn, Nicholas Moeller, Russell Moorman, Drew Muhlenkamp, Jadyn Nye, Abigail Pax, Kaelin Rutschilling, Brooke Schmitmeyer, Troy Schoen, Jake Seitz, Mason Smith, Alec Stammen, Oliver Vickery, Natalie Vogel, Noah Welsch, Caleb Wendel, Gavin Wenning, Andrew Wermert, Olivia Will, Allison Wills, Nicholas Zahn

THANKS FOR A GREAT YEAR!



Free and Reduced
Forms can not be
filled out until after
July 1 2025.

hello

As we wrap up another fantastic school year, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our students, families, and the entire Coldwater community. Your support and generosity have made this year truly special in our cafeteria. Thanks to multiple generous donations, we are able to clear all student lunch debt for the 2024-2025 school year. Every student in debt will begin the 2025-2026 school year with a \$0 cafeteria balance! We are incredibly grateful for this community spirit and the positive impact it has on our students.

reminders

As we look ahead to August, we want to remind families to please add funds to your student's lunch accounts to start the new year. While we are so thankful for the donations that made this possible, this may not happen every year. Reminders will still be sent out weekly with lunch balances. Parents please watch for emails.

Main Lunch prices will stay the same for 2025-2026 besides the following:

Extra main items: \$1.50 each

Breakfast: \$1.75 -

Adult meals: \$3.00 (plus \$0.55 for a drink)

**Contact me:
Ashley Ahrens**



ahrens.ashley@coldwater
cavs.org



419-678-2480

COLDWATER EVSD

2025 - 2026 CALENDAR

T	Teacher In-Service (No Students)
F/L	First/Last Day For Students
D	2 Hour Delay
No School / Holiday	
End of Nine Weeks	
C	Parent-Teacher Conferences
W	Waiver Day (No Students)

August				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

September				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Labor Day

October				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

November				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28

December				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

Thanksgiving Break

One-day credit for evening conferences.

Christmas Break

January				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

February				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

March				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

Martin Luther King Jr Day

Presidents' Day

April				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

May				
M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

June				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

Easter Break

Memorial Day

JUNETEENTH

Graduation: Sunday, May 24, 2026

SHUTDOWN: Saturday, June 27, 2026 - Sunday, July 5, 2026

COLDWATER EVSD 2026 - 2027 CALENDAR

T	Teacher In-Service (No Students)
F/L	First/Last Day For Students
D	2 Hour Delay
	No School / Holiday
	End of Nine Weeks
C	Parent-Teacher Conferences
W	Waiver Day (No Students)

August					
M	T	W	T	F	
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

September					
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

Labor Day

October					
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	2
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

November					
M	T	W	T	F	
	2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13	
16	17	18	19	20	
23	24	25	26	27	
30					

Thanksgiving Break
One-day credit for evening conferences.

December					
M	T	W	T	F	
		1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30	31		

Christmas Break

January					
M	T	W	T	F	
				1	
4	5	6	7	8	
11	12	13	14	15	
18	19	20	21	22	
25	26	27	28	29	

February					
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	

March					
M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	
8	9	10	11	12	
15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	
29	30	31			

Martin Luther King Jr Day

Presidents' Day

Easter Break

April					
M	T	W	T	F	
			1	2	
5	6	7	8	9	
12	13	14	15	16	
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

May					
M	T	W	T	F	
3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14	
17	18	19	20	21	
24	25	26	27	28	
31					

Memorial Day

June					
M	T	W	T	F	
	1	2	3	4	
7	8	9	10	11	
14	15	16	17	18	
21	22	23	24	25	
28	29	30			

JUNETEENTH

Graduation: Sunday, May 30, 2027

SHUTDOWN: Saturday, July 3, 2027 - Sunday, July 11, 2027



Our Home

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

2025 Mercer County Back-to-School Program

Preparing for school can be a challenge. Our Home can help Mercer County families obtain the school supplies needed to begin the year.

If you need assistance with school supplies, you can apply at www.ourhomefrc.com from July 1st through July 24th. Text "supplies" to "55498" now for a reminder when registration opens. After applying, supplies will be available to pick up on August 7th.

Amazon Wish List



Every child deserves a new quality backpack filled with essential supplies from their class list to begin the school year. If you're in a position to help, scan the QR code to shop our wishlist. Choose to ship your donation directly to Our Home. Your contribution will make a difference for a Mercer County student.



Mercer County
Back-to-School Program



Our Home
FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Thank you to the following businesses and individuals who went above and beyond to sponsor the Coldwater Drama Department for the 2024-2025 school year!! We appreciate you so very much! THANK YOU!!!!

Rooster Joe Coffee

Jack and Teresa Waite

Joe and Michelle McClurg

People's Bank Company

Buzzards Glory Community Club

Brunet Dental

Performance Therapy and Wellness

Dynamic Federal Credit Union

Wabash Mutual Telephone Company

Schwieterman Construction

Lefeld Industrial & Welding Supplies

Financial Concepts

Bud's Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Inc

K-9 Clubhouse

Preferred Insurance

Family Veterinary Services

Pla Mor Lanes

Coldwater Kiwanis

Roger and Lynda Knapke

Matt and Theresa Gilmore

Gary and Vickie Lefeld

John and Patricia Naveau

Pax Machine Works

Superior Credit Union

Jay and Pam Wehrkamp

Lefeld Industrial Welding and Supplies

Coldwater Eagles

Mercer Co. Awards & Design

Walker Wood & Craft

Fanning/Howey Associates

American Legion Post 470

Seitz Electric

Imperial Tent Company

Mary Lehman

Signature 4

Nadine Kunk

PennyJane Art Co.

Mark and Deb Gross

Fort Electric LLC

Cheryl Naumann



COLDWATER DRAMA



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.

Mail your donation to :

Coldwater Drama

c/o Denise Petersen

310 N 2nd Street

Coldwater Ohio 45828



COLDWATER DRAMA



I would like to donate to the following group(s):

_____ 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 _____

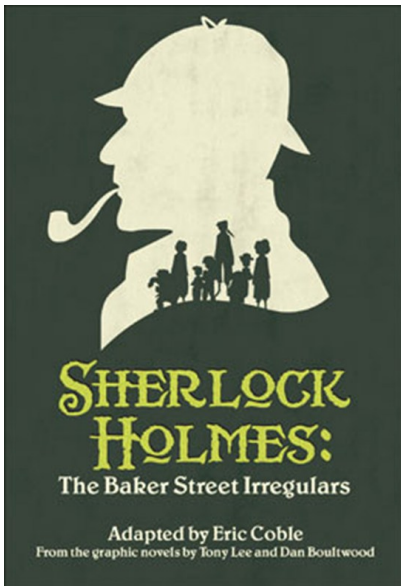
Please provide name and/or company as it should appear in the program and other recognition.

Please mail to:

Coldwater Drama
c/o Denise Petersen
310 N 2nd Street
Coldwater Ohio 45828

Or drop off at any of the School offices.

Any questions can be directed to petersen.denise@coldwatercavs.org



Coming OCTOBER 23-26

HS DRAMA Presents...

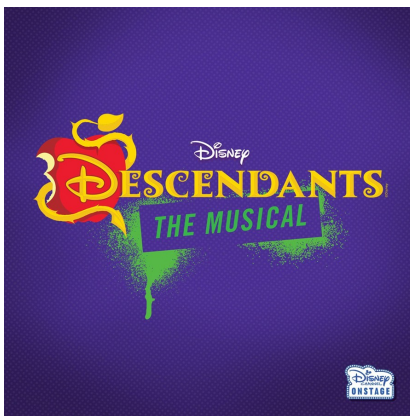
Sherlock Holmes

COMING November 20-23 2025!!

The Coldwater 4th and 5th Graders

Presents:

"FROZEN" JR



COMING MARCH 5-8 2026!!

The Coldwater Middle School

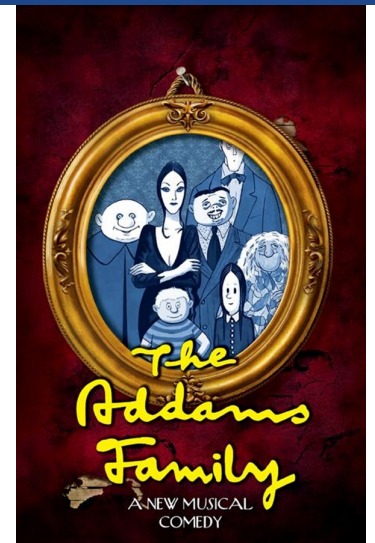
Presents:

"THE DESCENDANTS" The Musical

COMING APRIL 16-19, 2026

HS DRAMA Presents...

The Adams Family



Coldwater Academic Promoters Membership

2025-2026



Coldwater Academic Promoters

CAP promotes and recognizes the outstanding academic achievements of the students in Coldwater Schools. Funds provide support for numerous student scholarships, academic awards, projects, and supplies for students K-12. Through your help and membership support, CAP has accomplished many goals. For more information, contact:

Robyn Everman, President
robynlaird@yahoo.com



venmo

Venmo @ColdwaterAcademicPromoters or

Checks may be made out to: Coldwater Academic Promoters
Send checks to P.O. Box 139 Coldwater, OH 45828 or return to school

☐ \$20 Family Membership

☐ \$100 Salutatorian Membership

☐ \$50 Honor Roll Membership

☐ \$200+ Valedictorian Membership

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

CAP sponsors the following activities.

We are always looking for people to help. Please circle the ones you would like to help with:

Santa Shop Scholarship Program Cookies & Canvas Chicken Dinners

Thank you for your continued support!