



Cav Connection

Coldwater Exempted Village Schools

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February 2024



Dear Parents, Families, and Coldwater Community,

With over 100 days under our belt this school year, our positive culture and Cavalier spirit continue thriving. The energy in our hallways, classrooms, and lunchrooms is palpable. Seeing students, teachers, and even community members embracing spirit days and wearing Cavalier gear brings out the best in all of us. This robust culture and pride drive student success.

As superintendent, I'm honored to lead this special district. However, my duty is also to provide transparent information, even when it's complicated. Partnering with our treasurer, Jenn McCoy, this article outlines our fiscal reality - current and future budget deficits now forcing tough decisions jeopardizing Coldwater's long-term quality.

The board passed an income tax adjustment measure to help curb perpetual deficits without gutting quality programming. This appears on the March 19th primary ballot. We've cut everywhere possible without harming academics. The state budget provides some relief but isn't enough alone. Without new revenue, class size increases and program cuts seem inevitable, drastically impacting the Coldwater experience.

I remain dedicated to transparency regarding district finances and other issues affecting families. We've held community forums and will begin hosting smaller neighborhood gatherings to discuss challenges while dispensing facts, not half-truths or scare tactics. My responsibility is to ensure everyone makes fully informed decisions for themselves and the district. Misinformation helps no one. Please be on the lookout for our neighborhood gatherings to have small group discussions about our school. Please reach out directly with any questions or concerns. I'm always available for honest, thoughtful conversations regarding Coldwater's future. Our community's support empowers the board and administration to make the best long-term decisions for students. The saying Great Communities = Great Schools and Great Schools = Great Communities is the hallmark of Coldwater.

Open enrollment is an issue that has raised questions for some community members. I have articulated the facts in the below message. After reading the below, I encourage you to attend a future neighborhood gathering or contact me directly if you still have questions.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, "Open enrollment allows a student to attend school tuition-free in a district other than the district where his or her parents reside." Sure, it sounds simple enough, but the way open enrollment plays out in Ohio school districts is more nuanced than that.

Out of 658 school districts in the state, 83.3 percent offer some level of open enrollment, including all of the school districts in Mercer and Auglaize Counties.

Coldwater Exempted Village Schools has participated in Ohio's widely used open enrollment program since the 2005-2006 school year. Our district enrollment is currently at 1423 students in grades K-12. We have 214 students who are open enrolled from various school districts. Conversely, we have 46 students who are open enrolled out of our district.

In our community forums and general conversations about the district's financial facts, I am sensing a little bit of skepticism about open enrollment, and I would like to address these concerns as I truly believe, in my professional opinion, that open enrollment comes with great benefits to participating school districts and to students.

Let me make it clear that there are limits to the number of students accepted into our district from outside of the school district. For example, we cap each grade level at a sustainable number of students, and if that cap is reached with students residing inside the school district, then we do not accept students from outside of the district in that grade level. That is generally how open enrollment works. In other words, open enrollment is only used to fill empty seats. That being said, all districts have bubble years in which more students are in certain grade levels due to high birth rates and several other factors. If that is the case, then we make accommodations to meet the needs of our district residents and will add classroom staff, if necessary, to accommodate larger grade levels. We also look at historical trends of students who move into the district or resident students who enroll after we set our staffing levels for the following school year. We ensure we have room for additional district students that may be added during the summer or the next school year.

Open enrollment has many benefits – more choices for families, more choices for students through expanded course and extracurricular offerings and a more diverse student population. Additionally, open enrollment helps combat our state's fragmented school funding model. Because all districts in Mercer County participate in the state's open enrollment program, if a Coldwater resident chooses to attend another school district, the state's funding for that student follows him or her, which means our school district loses critical state funding. The converse is also true – if a child from outside our district attends Coldwater, then the state funding for that child follows that child. Since 2005, the district has offset the expense of resident students attending school elsewhere and increased our state funding by accepting students from other districts. From a financial perspective, in fiscal year 2024, open enrollment will generate approximately \$1,311,951.88 for the school year – more than two times the emergency levy passed in 2012, generating \$550,000.00 annually. The 46 Coldwater residents the district lost to open enrollment accounts for \$226,906.50 in lost revenue.

Ultimately, the goal is to go beyond cost-neutral and balance the loss of revenue we have from our students attending school in other districts. Our district offers residents great value with excellent education quality and a mindset of carefully stretching our precious resources as far as possible. We are not considering renovating, replacing, or adding classrooms to our buildings because of open enrollment.

Doug Mader, Superintendent

The following one-pager showcases some facts regarding open enrollment in Coldwater

The past 12 years' data on open enrollment:
 With approximate revenue generated:

Year	Open Enrolled In	Revenue Generated
FY23	206	\$870,778.48
FY22	217	\$920,800.44
FY21	174	\$1,219,941.32
FY20	166	\$1,063,759.40
FY19	171	\$1,019,251.20
FY18	155	\$944,437.78
FY17	144	\$862,471.36
FY16	130	\$766,714.52
FY15	116	\$672,267.80
FY14	104	\$597,639.95
FY13	98	\$553,694.70
FY12	87	\$484,129.04

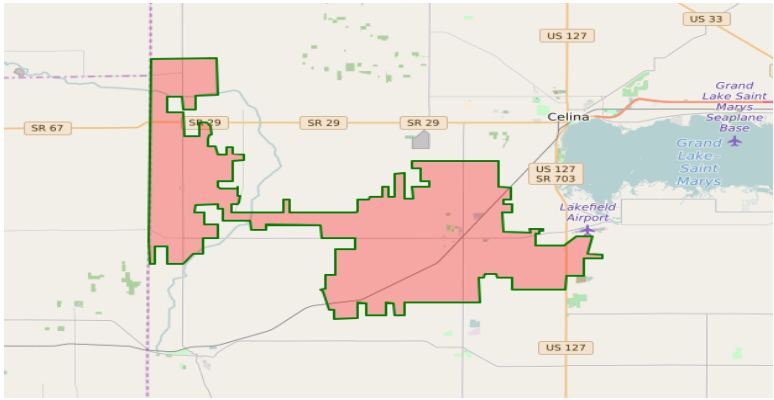
Open enrollment comparisons of area districts according to ODE SFPR:

Waynesfield Goshen	88
Celina	97
Parkway	127
New Knoxville	67
Versailles	22
Fort Recovery	54
Wapak	212
St Marys	106
Minster	25
Coldwater	212
New Bremen	102
St Henry	34
Marion Local	70

Bussing Data: We currently pick up 36 open-enrolled students who are on or close to our current routes:

Bus #	Listed # of stops	Open Enrolled Stops	Open Enrolled Not riding	Total Open Enrolled	
1	40	17	5	12	Many of these are 29 on the way back to town (5)
2	38	14	1	13	Kuhn Road opposite side (5)
3	38	5	1	4	Mostly Coldwater Creek on opposite side of road (3)
8	35	2	0	2	
10	42	7	2	5	Mostly Wabash Road on opposite side of road (5)
12	41	0	0	0	
Totals	234	45	9	36	

Our district map and why we may drive by an open enrolled student:



An analysis was done regarding open enrollment: If we no longer accepted open enrollment, the district would not receive the \$1,311,951.88. We looked at aggressively reducing staff without the open enrolled students since we would not have the 214 students. If we were aggressive and reduced 9 teachers, this would raise class sizes in the elementary to an average of 24, and at the middle school and high school, class sizes would rise to 22-23 with the elimination of many electives. The savings from the reduced staff, using the average teacher salary and all teachers using our benefits plan, would be \$819,000.00. Please note that the salaries of these teachers that would be eliminated would be much less than the average because the staff is reduced by seniority. Therefore, mathematically, it would hurt our budget by at least \$492,951.88 if we eliminated open enrollment and reduced staff. In the end, this methodology would hurt our Coldwater resident students.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER, JENN MCCOY:



On January 9, 2024, the Board conducted their annual organizational meeting. The organizational meeting is required by the Ohio Revised Code to be held within the first fifteen days of January of each year, and shall organize to elect a president and vice president for a one-year term. Therefore, the board elected Terry Schroyer as President and Jack Waite as Vice President. Additionally, the following regular board meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, with the exception of June and November, in the Cav Room, beginning at 6:00 p.m. for the 2024 year:

February 13	August 13
March 12	September 10
April 9	October 8
May 14	November 19
June 25	December 10
July 9	

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

Financial Update

We have received our tax year 2023 rates and amounts from the Mercer County Auditor. Below is a chart that shows the area schools effective property tax millage rates along with current income tax rates. We have the increase in valuations already forecasted in our financials.

District	Total Effective Millage TY2023	Income Tax	Earned vs Traditional	Enrollment as of Jan 2024
Celina	37.65	1.00%	Earned	2348
Marion Local	31.20	0.50%	Earned	937
Parkway	24.31	1.00%	Traditional	939
Coldwater	26.04	0.50%	Traditional	1438
St. Henry	25.31	0%		964
Fort Recovery	21.20	1.50%	Traditional	936

Our enrollment continues to grow while we have not replaced some positions the last few years to cut down on expenditures. On the following page is a chart which shows the staff to student ratio of the area schools.

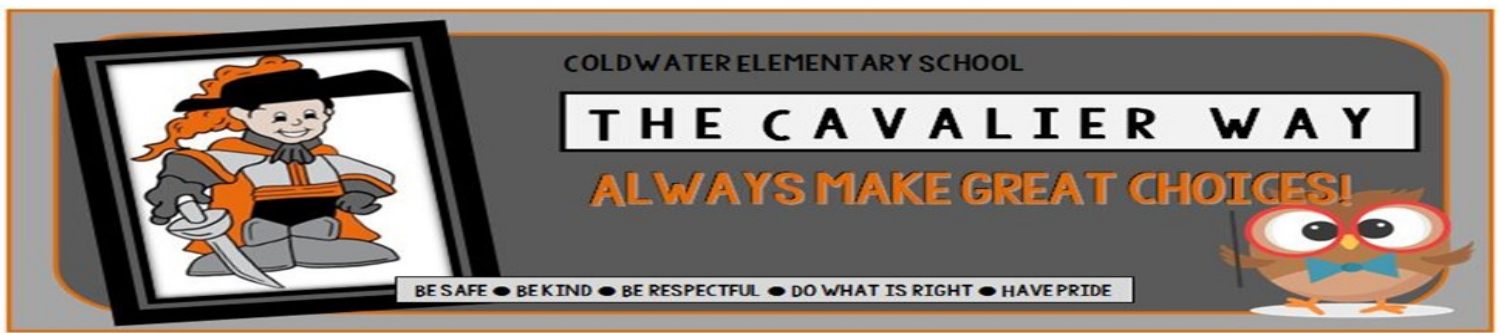
School	Staff	Students	Staff-to-student ratio
Celina	403	2378	1 to 5.9
Parkway	136	978	1 to 7.19
Versailles	169	1260	1 to 7.46
Ft. Recovery	107	922	1 to 8.62
St. Henry	108	958	1 to 8.87
Marion Local	101	933	1 to 9.24
Coldwater	148	1423	1 to 9.62

Our forecasted budget deficits continue to grow each year. I continue to look for grants and look for ways to cut expenditures without affecting the student experience. Without a steady increase in revenues, our deficits will continue to grow and our savings account will be depleted. For this reason, the board of education has approved to issue a replacement levy for an additional income tax of 1.25% which would make the school income tax a total of 1.75%. I hope the Ohio legislators can come together and approve the full funding of the Fair School Funding Formula to give public schools the true cost of what it costs to educate a student to help put us in a better financial position. Had they done so when the new formula was presented, the board of education would not have had to rely on more local funding.

Financial Statements

The Fiscal Year 2023 financial statements have been prepared by Julian & Grube. If you would like to view them, please contact me.

Thank You,
Jenn McCoy



Elementary News:

Mike Etzler - Elementary Principal

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the 2023-24 school year. I hope everyone had an awesome and safe holiday break with friends and family enjoying each moment! For the most part, the winter weather has allowed our students to start the new year off by getting back into a consistent school routine. Hopefully all students are ready to continue to do things "The Cavalier Way" heading into 2024. We want all students to continue to appreciate, respect, love, serve, and care for all others in our school building and district!



What a super year we have had so far! Our students are working hard every day to learn, progress and demonstrate amazing character. I am very proud of our students and staff for taking every opportunity to make the best of any situation that arises. Our teachers are putting forth purposeful time and effort to make sure all students have the best education possible not only academically, but socially and emotionally. I have really enjoyed seeing the great things happening in our classrooms. Our Cavalier Team of Teachers are doing incredible things with students by prioritizing and focusing on their needs. Of course our students are what make everything possible at Coldwater Elementary. Having the support from you as parents/guardians and the community to ensure all students are expected and held to the highest standard of doing things "The Cavalier Way", together makes Coldwater the best. I have enjoyed getting to know all our Little Cavalier students in many different environments and look forward to a very safe and outstanding 2024!

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher with a concern or advice on academic/behavioral strategies and interventions. The Coldwater Elementary Team together with parents want to do what is best for kids and for your child. It is very hard to achieve success alone, but when a team is involved, educators and parents, success can be achieved. Our team looks forward to a continued amazing school year doing things "The Cavalier Way" and being BETTER TOGETHER!



It's time for the annual Coldwater PTO Carnival! The carnival will be held Sunday, March 17, 2024 from 1:00–5:00 p.m. in the High School Palace and Commons area. Chairpersons this year are Brad & Liz Niekamp and Cole & Vanessa Cooper. Highlights for this year's carnival include hoop shoot, cake stand, face painting, football toss, golf, grocery stand, plunk, treasure chest, youth bowling, jumpy houses, prizes and much more!!! The carnival stands will require tickets, which

can be purchased the day of the carnival for \$0.25 per ticket. There will also be tours of the Life Squad ambulance as part of the carnival, weather permitting. The PTO raffle will also be held this year for students, K-4 grades, having the chance to win prizes. Winners will be announced the week before the carnival, with prizes being sent home at that time. Raffle information and chicken dinner ticket forms will be sent home with students soon.

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

A food stand will be open all day. K-Burgers and Kona Ice will be available and Romer's Catering will be providing BBQ chicken dinners. Presale ONLY tickets will be available in early February at Chief Supermarket in Coldwater or through the Elementary Students for \$9.00 per dinner. Tickets may also be purchased by calling Brad & Liz Niekamp (419-979-9778) before March 1, 2024. Dinners can be picked up from 3:00-4:30 p.m. the day of the carnival in the high school commons area. We hope you and your family come out for a fun-filled day and help support Coldwater school!!!

3rd Grade ELA Ohio State Test - Fall Results

All third grade students took the Ohio ELA Fall test on Oct. 24 and Oct. 25, 2023. This test is designed to assess knowledge gained by the end of the third grade year. It will also be administered again in the spring on April 16th and 17th. This test is given twice a year to allow us to monitor and measure each student's progress and growth. Any third grade student who scores a Third Grade Reading Promotion Score of at least 48 or an overall Scaled Score of at least 690 on either the fall or spring test is eligible to be promoted to the 4th Grade and passes the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Students who have been identified and placed on an IEP for ELA and EL students who have been enrolled in a U.S. school for less than three full school years are eligible to be promoted to 4th grade regardless of their scores. Students are also placed in a performance level based on their scaled score (1-limited, 2-basic, 3-proficient, 4-accelerated, 5-advanced). Our goal is for every student to at least score a 700 (proficient) or higher on the spring test or move up one performance level. Below is a summary of the fall results:



Performance Level	% of students	# of students
Limited	9%	11
Basic	20%	24
Proficient	26%	32
Accomplished	33%	40
Advanced	12%	15

- * 71% of our students scored proficient or better on the fall test.
- * 45% of our students scored within the accomplished or advanced performance level.
- * 82% of our students met the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and are already eligible to be promoted to 4th grade

Past 3rd Grade Fall ELA Test Results

2018-19 Results: 55% reached proficiency / 85% passed Reading Guarantee
2019-20 Results: 52% reached proficiency / 77% passed Reading Guarantee
2020-21 Results: 52% reached proficiency / 73% passed Reading Guarantee
2021-22 Results: 53% reached proficiency / 73% passed Reading Guarantee
2022-23 Results: 60% reached proficiency / 78% passed Reading Guarantee
2023-24 Results: 71% reached proficiency / 82% passed Reading Guarantee

Factors contributing to the positive increase in scores over the past two school years:

- ⇒ All teachers who work with students in grades K-3 received professional development in understanding best practices in the teaching of reading. ([Science of Reading](#))
- ⇒ Staff commitment to improving our instructional practices of explicit teaching Tier 2 & overall vocabulary words.
- ⇒ Implementation of the Wonders ELA program and 95 Core Phonics program with integrity and fidelity. Also the review and update of our RTI process with the alignment of intervention programs used to our core curriculum.
- ⇒ Grade level collaboration with a focus on curriculum mapping and effective instructional practices.
- ⇒ Engaging students in the use of the Ohio Readiness Assessments which includes benchmark and checkpoint assessments that mirror the content and characteristics of the Ohio State Tests.

***Thank you to our entire Coldwater Elementary Team and parents for working diligently to support our students so they can be successful within the English & Language Arts curriculum! Also thank you to our 3rd grade students for putting forth their best effort on this test!*

Elementary Santa Shop

The Coldwater Academic Promoters along with the Santa Shop Committee and help of other parent volunteers recently held the CWEL Santa Shop on Nov. 28 - Dec. 1. This project has been one that our students look forward to year after year. Santa Shop is a pop-up store stocked with items available to be purchased by our students as Christmas gifts for their family members, friends, and even pets. Students who are given permission to participate, have money sent in by their parents/guardians. Parents along with their children then fill out the envelope for their child marking whom the child is allowed to shop for and how much money they have to spend. Essentially they are creating a budget together. Students shop throughout the store and buy for all on their list without going over the amount they have to spend.

This is an awesome opportunity for students to think of others by buying gifts on their own. They are also using the real life skills of budgeting and using money. A special thank you to the Santa Shop Committee, especially Kathy Carnes who does all of the shopping, planning/organizing, setting up/tearing down, and preparation to make the Santa Shop a success. Finally, another thank you to all of the parent volunteers who helped work at the Santa Shop this year. Coldwater Elementary can't say thank you enough for all of the work that goes into this event.





Food Pantry Donation

Second grade students from Mrs. Lefeld's class decided to buy and donate items for the Coldwater Food Pantry instead of giving teacher gifts this year. This was such a generous idea/gesture from Mrs. Lefeld. What an amazing act of kindness, gratitude, and empathy! Thank you Mrs. Lefeld and students! Keep being awesome Cavaliers!!!



Mercer County Cancer Assoc. Donation

In lieu of teacher's gifts this year, Mr. Ahrens 2nd Grade classroom did a fundraiser for the Mercer County Cancer Association. They raised a total of \$526.75! Thank you students for loving, serving, and caring for others in our community! What an amazing Christmas gift!! Way to do things, "The Cavalier Way"!



Christmas at Coldwater Elementary

There is no better place to be than an elementary school on the days leading up to Christmas. There is so much energy and positive spirit that it is contagious! Coldwater Elementary had three dress up days, lots of fun activities for kids, and our annual Christmas Assembly. We even had visits from Mrs. Claus, Buddy the Elf, and The Grinch! I want to thank the high school Steel Drum bands and our 2nd grade students for performing at the assembly. I also want to thank the Coldwater Elementary Team for all of their time, effort, and energy for creating lessons and activities that make this time of year so special for our students. On the next page are some photos from the week.





Cavalier Way 2nd Quarter Assembly

On Friday, Jan. 12th we held our 2nd Quarter Cavalier Way Assembly. All elementary students and staff gathered to celebrate our school community and our students. This was yet another opportunity for our students to hear about “The Cavalier Way” Expectations and understand what it means to be a CAVALIER! The assembly consisted of school & self pride (including school song “You-nique”, Coldwater Fight Song, and Cavalier Way chants), reviewing The Cavalier Way expectations, positive rewards (Cavalier Way Awards & Outstanding Character Awards), and concluding with learning about perseverance and how to be a great teammate. The assembly was very successful and an awesome way to continue to celebrate and motivate students for the remaining year!



The Cavalier Way Award Winners - 2nd Quarter

At the end of each quarter every classroom teacher honors two 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 for the second quarter. These students were announced at the 2nd Quarter Cavalier Way Assembly. Each student received a Cavalier Way backpack tag, free Kona Ice certificate, a Cavalier Way certificate, and had their photo taken and placed on the Facebook page! Congratulations to these students for being awesome role models for other students in our school.

Kindergarten: Ainsley Blaster, Wyatt Miller, Zoe Knapke, Nolan Schoenherr, Bryce Klenke, Colette Bettinger, Graham Siefring, Everett Kaup, Carly Kunk, Caroline Klenke, Wesley Biersack, Quinn McKenzie, Rhett Menchhofer, Nora Uhlenhake



1st Grade: Morgan Geier, Lucas Vagedes, Anna Beth Brosher, Veronica Cron, Ivana Turtle, Kira Klenke, Kai Dues, Elijah Niekamp, Oaklyn Schwieterman, Paisley Welling, Blake Uhlenhake, Mallory Link, Louis Lennartz



2nd Grade: Xander Roessner, Scarlett Unrast, Sloan Siefing, Elizabeth Hibner, Greyson Mohler, Nora Vujea, Emma Selhorst, Alexa Koester, Mack Bruns, Raya Walls, Darci May Hess, Brooke Muhlenkamp, Maddi Borer, Ben Huwer



3rd Grade: Parker Heitkamp, Leah Garrison, Renee Knapke, Noah Dippold, Gavin Heitkamp, Bella Uhlenhake, Lily Braun, Gabe Feltz, Abby Wenning, Reed Boeckman, Will Silver, Olivia Schmackers



4th Grade: A.J. Alig, Nessa Link, Lucas Ross, Kason Weitzel, Grady Kremer, Zoey Wood, Carter Hoyng, Avery Wolf, Jayden Cron, Maci Bruns, Alan Vargas

2nd Quarter Kona Ice Day



On January 18th & 22nd our students were able to enjoy Kona Ice treats as part of our PBIS Cavalier Way program. Each student who won the Cavalier Way Award received a free Kona Ice coupon, and all other students were able to purchase Kona Ice if they wanted. The students really enjoyed the treats and spending time with their teachers and classmates! Kona Ice donates 20% of the sales back to Coldwater Elementary to support our PBIS efforts! Thank you to our volunteers Heather Siefing and Beth Wolf who helped us out!



School Safety/Winter Safety

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

Walking/Biking

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

Dropped Off/Picked Up

- Enter through the assigned door before 8:00 a.m. After 8:00 a.m. enter at the most convenient door from Circle Drive.
- Parents when dropping your child off at the beginning of the day, please use the drop off line, or park in the visitors lot and walk your child across the crosswalk.

- Parents also need to walk their children across Vine Street when they park in the visitor's parking lot. PLEASE USE THE TWO DESIGNATED CROSSWALKS.
- While waiting to get picked up at the end of the day, please listen for your car number or name and slowly walk to exit out of the building to Circle Drive.
- Stay beside Mr. Etzler until he or a staff member tells you what cone to stand by. Then WALK to your car after it has stopped.
- Always enter/exit the vehicle on the curbside.
- **Parents are asked not to use their cell phones as their children are in the drop off zone for safety purposes.**
- **Please be very careful pulling out of the pick up line. SLOW DOWN...everyone's safety is at risk!**
- * As a reminder, please talk with your children about winter safety when traveling to and from school and to wear proper clothing for those cold days. Please note the guidelines we will follow for inclement weather for recess.
 - ⇒ 20 degrees or lower: Students stay inside
 - ⇒ 21-32 degrees: Students can be inside, outside, or combined depending on wind chill and precipitation
 - ⇒ 33 degrees or higher: Students outside unless precipitation
- * PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRIVE SLOWLY THROUGH THE SCHOOL ZONE, DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE AND THROUGH THE ELEMENTARY PARKING LOT. PAY ATTENTION TO PEDESTRIANS AND CARS PULLING OUT OF SPACES. You as a driver have a big responsibility in keeping our students safe. Thank you!

Kindergarten Screening and Registration

There will be an informational parent meeting on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the elementary/JH gym (The Pit) for all parents who will be having a child attend Kindergarten during the 2024-25 school year. The child must be 5 years of age by August 1, 2024 to be eligible for kindergarten. This is an informative meeting about the screening and also an overview of what is covered throughout Kindergarten. Parent expectations to help their child prepare for entering kindergarten successfully will also be addressed. Also, at this time parents/guardians will be able to schedule an appointment for Kindergarten screening. If parents are unable to attend the meeting, please call the Elementary Office (419-678-2613) to schedule an appointment.



Coldwater's Kindergarten Screening will be held on Thursday, March 21 and Friday, March 22 in the elementary library center and kindergarten classrooms. At the time of the screening, parents will **NEED** to bring a birth certificate, immunization records, and custody papers (if applicable). We look forward to this time we get to spend with you and your child.

Mercer County Educational Service Center Early Identification Child Find

If you have concerns for your 3, 4, or 5 year old child about their speech or any potential developmental delay, the Mercer County ESC is here to help! The Child Find will be held at the Mercer County Educational Service Center on these dates: February 23, March 22, April 26, and May 24, 2024 from 8:30-12:00 p.m. This screening is not a requirement in order to enroll in preschool but can be used to help identify any potential learning needs. The free screening will cover:

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



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

Excellent Attendance

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

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

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

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

“5 Easy Ways to Encourage a Growth Mindset in Your Child”

from: EDUCATION, PARENTING on 04/10/15

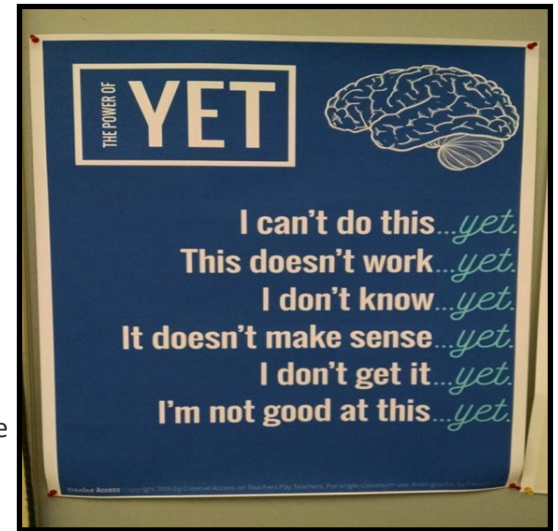
1. Lead by Example: Many of us have a fixed mindset about something in our life, and it is important for us as parents to challenge ourselves as much as we seek to challenge our kids. If they see us tackle our own problems as a challenge to be solved, they'll learn to do the same. Conversely if they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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Can your child...

- **Separate from primary caregiver without anxiety?**

- **Use self-control?**
 - ⇒ Keeping hands to self
 - ⇒ Sharing and taking turns
 - ⇒ Cooperating and playing with other children
 - ⇒ Using classroom supplies appropriately
- **Cooperate with adults and authority figures?**
 - ⇒ Following directions
 - ⇒ Communicating needs effectively
- **Demonstrate self-help skills?**
 - ⇒ Using the restroom independently
 - ⇒ Putting on and zipping your own coat
 - ⇒ Tying shoes
- **Use classroom tools and toys efficiently?**
 - ⇒ Cutting with scissors
 - ⇒ Holding and using a pencil, crayon or marker
 - ⇒ Building with blocks or Legos
- **Express self-awareness in a variety of ways?**
 - ⇒ Knowing first and last name
 - ⇒ Writing first name
 - ⇒ Naming the letters in the first name
 - ⇒ Knowing the name of the primary caregiver(s)



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

Early Literacy Tips for Preschoolers

At Home

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

On the Go

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

5 Parent Tips for "Little Cav" READING Success

1. Read Regularly

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

2. Take Turns Choosing Books

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

3. Let Them Participate

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

4. Be Playful

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

5. Boost Their Vocabulary

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

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

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

Little Cav Kinders!

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



All 139 Kindergarten students enjoy a *Thankful Feast* all the way down the hallway!

Our 8th Grade Buddies visit to help us prepare for Christmas and Santa's arrival!



Mrs. Bruggeman & Mrs. Klingshirn's class enjoying all the fun!



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

Upcoming Events

- 100th Day
- Valentines Day
- Kindergarten Screening (March 21-22)
- *Call the office to register!

Little Cav Kinders!



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



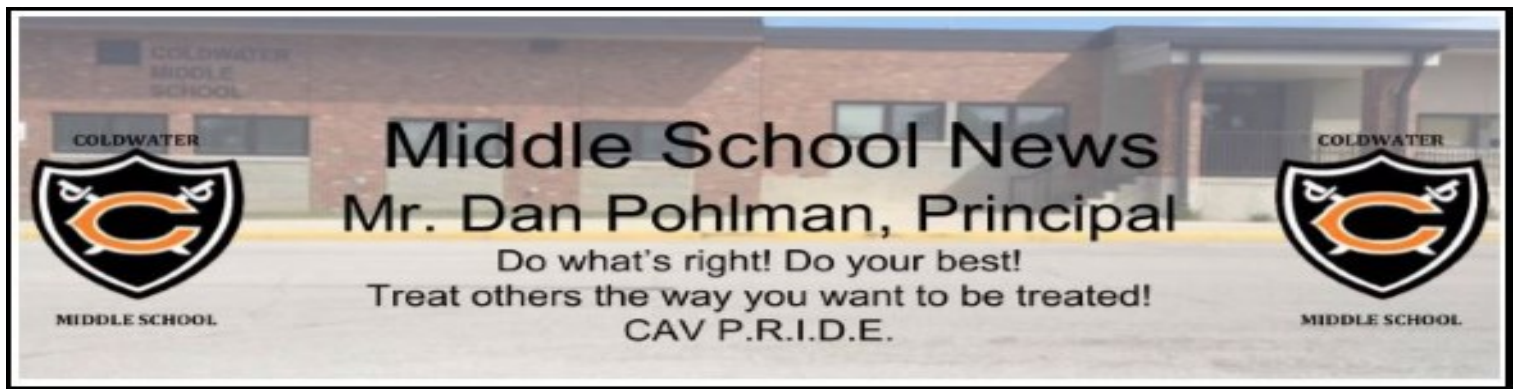
Above: Theo Lefeld, Adalyn Schwieterman and Brayden Homan from Mrs. Klingshirn's class working hard to create their snowman!



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

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





Dear Coldwater Middle School Families and Community Members,

As we dive into February, I am excited to bring you the latest updates and highlights from Coldwater Middle School since the last newsletter.

January marked Board Appreciation Month, and I want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated board members: Mike Hoying, Greg Bruns, Terry Schroyer, Jack Waite, and Jim Miller. Their leadership and commitment to our district are truly commendable. Being a board member is a challenging role, but their decisions always prioritize the best interests of our students. Let's join together in thanking them for their invaluable contributions.

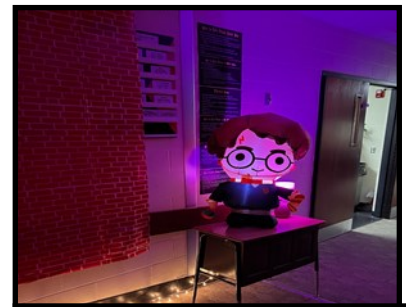
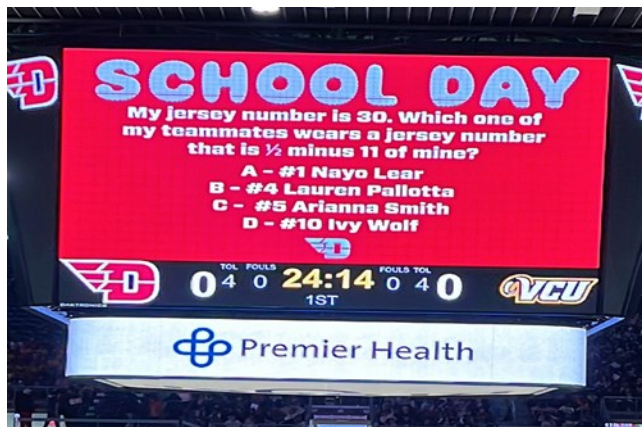


With the start of the third nine weeks on January 17th, we have reached the halfway point of the 23/24 school year. It's a great time to acknowledge the hard work and positive behavior displayed by our exceptional students. We appreciate the support of parents and community members in fostering an environment where academic success and positive behavior thrive.

The week of January 8th-12th marked the celebration of "Teen Read Week" in our 7th and 8th-grade hallway, and it was nothing short of magical. Embracing the enchanting theme of "Harry Potter," our school underwent a wondrous transformation into Hogwarts. Special recognition goes to our dedicated ELA teachers, Amer Dues, Lindsey Moellenkamp, and Carrie Kahlig, who wholeheartedly embraced the challenge of orchestrating this captivating week. In its 3rd year, Teen Read Week saw an impressive level of student engagement. Our students took the lead in crafting numerous props that played a pivotal role in transforming the 7th and 8th-grade hallway. The creativity flowed in our middle school Maker Space, providing students with a designated area to unleash their creative spirits beyond the confines of the traditional classroom. The overarching goal of the week was to cultivate a love for reading and excitement about literature among our students. It was heartening to witness the enthusiasm and energy radiating from every corner of the transformed Hogwarts-themed hallway. The dedication and initiative shown by our students truly made this Teen Read Week a resounding success. A big shout out to everyone involved – from the teachers who spearheaded the initiative to the students who contributed their creative talents. It's weeks like these that not only make learning fun but also leave a lasting impact on our students' appreciation for the magical world of books. What a truly great week it was! Here's to fostering a lifelong love for reading in our students and many more enchanting Teen Read Weeks to come!

On January 24th, our 5th and 6th-grade students enjoyed a PBIS Rewards Day field trip to the University of Dayton Arena, watching the UD women's basketball team play VCU. Educational activities and a warm welcome from Coldwater graduate Riley Rismiller made the day unforgettable. Although Riley did not play due to an injury, it was still great to see her on Blackburn Court!





The 7th and 8th graders enjoyed a thrilling snow tubing trip to Valley's Edge in New Paris, Ohio on Friday, January 26th for their 22nd 9 weeks PBIS Incentive. This trip is always a crowd pleaser and the students were very well behaved.



Tuesday, January 30th saw our middle school honor roll students celebrating their academic successes with a donut breakfast. These experiences are made possible due the Fall Cookie Dough Sale which funds our student activity account—thank you to all participants and supporters!



A big shoutout to ELA teacher Mrs. Karen Schwieterman for organizing our annual school spelling bee on January 23rd. We had 53 contestants ranging from 5th through 8th grade. The top 5 spellers were: 5th place Alex Smuts, 4th place Ben Hoots, 3rd place Jack Moreland, 2nd place Mya Grieshop, and our champion was Daven Fletcher. Daven's final word was platypus and he nailed it! Best wishes to the top three spellers who will compete at the county spelling bee on February 26th and our champion will represent Coldwater at the regional spelling bee in Lima. We are proud of our Coldwater spellers!

On Friday, January 26th, our school community embarked on an inspiring journey as we unveiled the 2024 Get REAL theme at our midyear PBIS Assembly. Building upon the impactful theme of the previous year, "I Care, You Care, We Care," we are taking it to the next level, just as Mr. Brian Harlamert would have wanted. This year, our theme is "With a Purpose." Life often sees us meandering without a clear direction, getting lost in the search for our path when, in reality, it might be right in front of our eyes. What's often missing during these wanderings is PURPOSE. The excitement for the second half of the school year stems from the abundance of purpose it holds. During our assembly, we had the privilege of hosting Pastor Rick Broacher from Abounding Grace Ministries as our speaker. His presence

helped drive home the significance of our theme, encouraging our students to see the school, each other, and their loved ones in a new light. His message emphasized the importance of not taking anything for granted because, at a moment's notice, it could all be gone. Pastor Broacher shared his experiences and work with Hand Up Village, laying the foundation for our students and staff to embrace purposeful actions as this will become our charity of choice for fundraising during our Get REAL week preparation season. The call to action is not just to repeat the "I Care, You Care, We Care" mantra from last year, but to truly infuse it with PURPOSE. It's an easy mantra to say, but behind it, there is a mission waiting to be fulfilled. Here's to a purpose-driven journey for the remainder of the school year as we work toward Get REAL Week 2024.



Get REAL Week - May 6th-10th

May 6th - 7th/8th grade Career Day

May 7th - 5th Grade DARE Graduation

May 8th - Keynote Speaker - Kevin Atlas

May 9th - 3 Screens Movie and Breakout Sessions

May 10th - Schoolwide 5K, CAP Trivia and Talent Show

All three of our middle school Lego Teams competed at district competition on January 27th and 28th. Although they did not advance to state competition, we are so proud of the hard work and dedication that they put in to represent Coldwater in a positive manner. Big thank you to the leadership of parent volunteers Beth Mathewson, Cindy Moorman, Steve Hileman, Nick and Sam Schmitmeyer and Annie Vickery for the time they gave up to coach these great kids. Congratulations on a great season!



Our middle school Power of the Pen Team, coached by ELA teachers Erica Oh and Amber Dues, showcased outstanding performances at the district competition placing 4th overall on January 27th. 7th grade student Grace Heyne individually placed 11th overall and Alyssa Froning placed 4th. Both of these girls qualified for the regional competition. Other team members may be notified at a later date if they qualified individually for the regional competition. Congratulations on a great writing day for our students!



On February 17th, our Math Counts Team, coached by math teachers Lindsey Moellenkamp and Tami Rable, will compete in the district competition at Wright State University in Dayton. We wish them the best of luck in their endeavors!

Lastly, for future planning purposes, the following are the dates for our Spring State Testing. Please make every effort to plan any appointments or vacations around these days. We truly do appreciate your efforts.

ELA Test (April 17th and 18th) - 5th - 8th grade

Science Test (April 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th) - 5th and 8th grade

Math Test (May 1st and 2nd) - 5th - 8th grade

As we continue to navigate this school year, I am grateful for the incredible support from our Coldwater community. Together, we are creating a positive and enriching environment for our students.

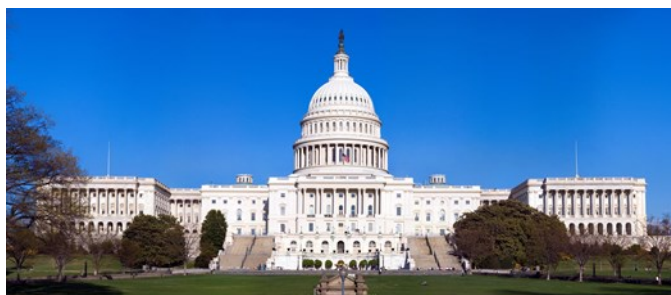
Warm regards,

Dan Pohlman, Principal

Coldwater Middle School

Attention Parents of 7th Graders

An informational meeting concerning your child's upcoming Washington DC trip will be on Monday, March 4th at 7:00 pm in the Auditoria. Items to be discussed include: proposed itinerary, cost, payment schedule, chaperone sign-up, fundraiser, etc... Please plan to attend this important meeting with your son/daughter



Coldwater Middle School Second Nine Weeks Honor Roll

Grade 7

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Jack Bettinger, Lucas Broering, Brielle Dingleline, Audrey Franck, Jonah Gruss, Kraytyn Homan, Cami Lisi, Emmitt May, Haley Qiu, Ethan Schmitmeyer, Leah Serr, Courtney Uhlenhake, Kate Uhlenhake

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Abby Alig, Hayden Berger, Melissa Binat, Kynlee Botkin, Layla Dawson, Audrey Diller, Alyssa Froning, Paige Guggenbiller, Josh Harrison, Owen Heitkamp, Kirsten Heuing, Briggs Hileman, Ben Houts, Charlotte Hoying, Evelyn Kahlig, Griffin Lefeld, Bentley Mohler, Will Moorman, Noah Moreland, Brayden Pohl, Kyrie Reineke, Mara Riethman, John Roberts, Breah Roessner, Julianna Sager, Cami Saunders, Isabelle Schwieterman, Breckin Scott, Bryson Spriggs, Kolton Tebbe, Natalie Timmerman, Jacob Uhlenhake, Rebecca Wendel, Blake Wenning, Emmett Wermert, Lucas Winner, Evelyn Woeste

Grade 8

High Honors (11.00 GPA or Better)

Claire Bertke, Avery Bruns, Wendy Buening, Kirra Burtch, Isaac Delzeith Campbell Etzler, Drew Garrison, Nolan Gruss, Harlow Heyne, Averi Kahlig, Lana Kaiser, Alivia Klingshirn, Leah Kunk, Emily Larkin, Ava Lefeld, Carter Miller, Tate Rismiller, Mariah Ross, Ava Smith, Austin Uhlenhake, Ella Werling

Honors (9.0 – 10.9)

Lauren Beckman, Collin Bergstrom, Braylon Brown, Alessandra Cervantes, Liam Cowan, Victoria Cron, , Bryant Evans, Weston Fisher, Carter Heitkamp, Brent Heuing, Ashlyn Homan, Palin Homan, Haley Huwer, Jacob Kaiser, Heidi Klenke, Ben Liette, Owen May, Emily McNeil, Andrew Myers, Carson Pax, Alex Penno, Mills Pottkotter, Brayla Rasaweher, Andrew Schulze, Jackson Serr, Myra Stammen, Lila Sudhoff, Shea Sudhoff, Emily Wendel, Collin Westergedes, Lanna Zahn

Teen Read Week

Hufflepuff. Slytherin. Gryffindor. Ravenclaw. Which Harry Potter House group do you associate most with? During the week of January 8-12, students in grades 7th and 8th were placed into one of the four Harry Potter Houses and competed during the school's Teen Read Week. The theme for the week was the Magical World of Reading. Hogwarts and Dagon Alley became the images of the 7th and 8th grade hallways as each was transformed into scenes from Harry Potter. The week also included many competitions, aiming to get the students excited about reading but also allowing for some friendly competition as students vied to earn points for their house. Some of the competitions included participating in dress up days, reading during study hall, having the most Accelerated Reader points, collecting teacher trading cards, competing in house competitions such as tug of war, dodgeball, and much more. The Ravenclaw House was this year's victorious team.

Aside from the house competitions, students also enjoyed reading themed activities during class that week. A few learning activities included a Harry Potter themed scavenger hunt around the school and reading some of their favorite children's books to preschool and kindergarten students. Students were encouraged to visit the school library and public library throughout the week to continue their reading activities. This was the third year for Teen Read Week, and once again, we celebrated our love of reading!



8th grade students reading to their kindergarten buddies.



7th graders doing learning activities with preschool buddies.



7th grade students reading during Teen Read



8th grade students giving tours to third graders, so they could see the transformed Harry Potter decor in the hallways.



Dodgeball Tournament- one of the fun competitions students participated in during recess of Teen Read Week.

ALADDIN JR TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!

The Coldwater Middle School Drama group will be presenting "ALADDIN" JR **February 29, March 1, 2 and 3** in the Coldwater Auditoria. Tickets are open to the public and are now on sale! It is going to be an awesome production! At this time, there are no audience restrictions, so all tickets are general admission and there is no limit! What is made each year is what we use to pay for licensing, set materials, props and other expenses involved in producing and presenting a show at this level.

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

Pre-Sale tickets Available:

\$7.00 Adults

\$6.00 Students

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

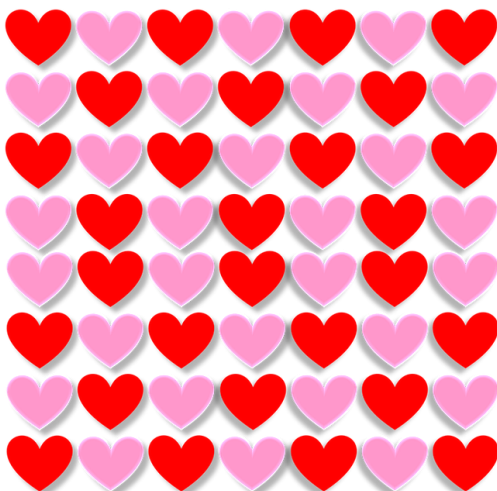
ALL TICKETS AT THE DOOR \$9 Regardless of age (Pre-School and up)

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

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

Thank you!

Denise Petersen



COLDWATER MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA
Proudly Presents...
In The Coldwater Auditoria...

Thursday, February 29 @ 7:00 pm
Saturday, March 2 @ 3:00 pm
Saturday, March 2 @ 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 3 @ 3:00 pm
Presale Tickets Available
Adult \$7 Student \$6
Presale ends 2-28-2024 ... Tickets can be purchased from the Elementary office or Mrs. Petersen
Admission at the door \$9 for all
All Sales final
*Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman, Tim Rice, Chad Beguelin, Book by Chad Beguelin. Based on the Disney film written by Ron Clements, Joan Minker, Ted Elliott & Terry Rosino and directed and produced by John Minker & Ron Clements. Disney's Aladdin JR is presented through special arrangement with all authorized materials are supplied by Disney Theatrical International, New York, NY (212) 541-4644 mtshows.com

ALADDIN JR
Pre-Sale Tickets
Order Form

NAME_____

Please mark what you would like to purchase:

	Quantity:	Total:
Single Show Adult Ticket (each show requires a ticket):	_____	X\$7=_____

Single Show Student Ticket (each show requires a ticket):	_____	X\$6=_____
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of tickets: _____

Grand Total: _____

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

PRE-SALE ENDS Wednesday, 02-28-2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets at the door: \$9 for all!

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

_____ **Please send my tickets home with a student.**

Student Name_____

Cafeteria News!

We have reached the halfway point of the school year. I wanted to provide some cafeteria reminders and updates:



1. First and second graders are doing a wonderful job eating their main course first before getting seconds. This is helping reduce food waste. Keep up the great work!
2. Free and reduced lunch applications can be submitted anytime during the school year. Please contact me or pick up an application from any school office or online if you have questions.
3. When sending in lunch money, please include your child's name and PIN number on the check/envelope or on a separate note. This ensures the funds are added to the correct account.
4. If you would like to receive lunch balance letters and currently do not, please email me your primary email address and I can add it to your child's account.
5. I encourage you to register at www.payschoolscentral.com to easily add money, check balances, and view your child's account activity. You just need your child's lunch PIN number to sign up.
6. Kindergarten parents - you should be so proud! Your children are doing well navigating the lunch line. They have made great progress since the beginning of the year with entering their PIN, grabbing napkins, and utensils. Keep practicing these skills at home.
7. If you are interested in volunteering to help serve lunch and see your child and get a free meal, please contact me. I can add you to the schedule for next school year. Watch for volunteer slips in March 2024 that are due back by May 1st so I can finalize schedules before the end of this school year.
8. We have introduced some new food items in both lunch lines this year which seem to be a hit based on participation. I hope everyone is enjoying the variety!
9. January, February and March bring us warm Soup days on Tuesday for Stage Line grades 7-12. Be on the lookout for either our awesome Cheese soup, Chili soup or Chicken noodle soup.
10. If your children don't care for the fruit or vegetables being served that day, please remind them that we typically have fresh apples, oranges or bananas available, as well as carrots and celery. Your kids are welcome to choose those alternate fruits or vegetables that are put out that day instead.
11. Reminder: We have a "sharing pail" at the end of the main service lines. Any unused fruit or drinks that students have not claimed or set aside will be cleaned off and placed in the "sharing pail." This helps reduce food waste and teaches students to share extra food with others who may want it, rather than throwing it away. Students are encouraged to take items from the "sharing pail" if they are still hungry, thirsty after their initial meal or don't have the money on their account to get that extra item.

As a reminder, lunch prices this year are:

K-8: \$2.15 per day: 9-12: \$2.25 per day

To receive these prices, students must take at least 3 of the 5 meal components offered, including a fruit or vegetable. If not, they are charged \$2.75 for an incomplete meal. The 5 components are: Meat/Meat Alternative, Grain, Milk, Fruit, and Vegetable.

Thank you for raising such wonderful students. We are already in the third quarter and the children continue to be great in the cafeteria.

Sincerely,
Ashley Ahrens
Food Service Director
Ahrens.ashley@coldwatercavs.org
419-678-2480



SCHOOL
MEALS
IMPROVE
LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT



Recognition Overdue



Coldwater High School would like to recognize and thank Director of Student Services (and supporter of All) Mrs. Amy Mescher. Amy is in her 4th year in the Director position, but is in her 8th at Coldwater Schools after working in the Middle School Building as an English Language Arts teacher. Mrs. Mescher brings a great deal of experience and knowledge to our district, but most importantly, a super supportive and passionate disposition to all those she interacts with on a daily basis.

Mrs. Mescher wears many different hats here at Coldwater and we are fortunate to have her services and commitment available to us. In addition, Amy is an extremely spirited person who knocks it out of the park with her Holiday decorations and festive treats she provides time and time again.

We are fortunate to recognize Mrs. Sarah Doenges as her assistant as well. Sarah also exemplifies and compliments those same characteristics working each day to serve our faculty and students in such a positive and effective way.

As referred to in the quote above, we could not be prouder or more blessed to have Amy and Sarah on our staff here at CHS, working hard every day to create a safe, inviting, and positive learning environment for our students!



CavPride is everywhere around us and it starts right when you walk in the doors here at CHS.....Thanks again to Mrs. Amy Mescher and Mrs. Sarah Doenges for all you do to make that happen!!

J Hemmelgarn, HS Principal

Ohio Dept. of Education End of Course (EOC) Exams for English/Language Arts, Algebra, Geometry, Biology, American History

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

English II: April 10th/11th (All Students at once – 8:13A start)

Algebra & Geometry: April 17th/18th (All Students together at once – 8:13A start)

Biology & American History: April 22nd – April 25th (during Block periods – double block week)

To the Parents of ALL Juniors:

This is now the fourth year for the State mandated requirement for Schools to offer a one-time (paid for by the State Department of Education) opportunity to take the ACT Test. CHS will be administering the **ACT test for ALL JUNIORS on March 12th at 8:15 am. Please be sure to mark your calendars and stay tuned for any additional information to follow.**

American Legion Government Test Winners

The winners of this year Americanism and Government Test



Front Row: Amanda Clune, Olivia Broering, Isaac Hannewald
Back Row: Maxwell Koch, Andrew Moorman
Absent: Audrey Lefeld

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

Blood Drive held December 20, 2023

26 CHS students generously donated 36 units during our annual Christmas Blood Drive of the year! A Special Thank you goes out again to All who gave and to Mr. Mark Bruns for all his efforts in organizing and promoting the event. The next blood drive will be Friday, May 3rd at Central Office.

PROM

Senior/Junior Prom is set for Saturday April 13th, with Promenade beginning at 6:00 pm.



High School Scheduling Night reminder

High Scheduling Night we will be **Monday, February 5th from 4:00-7:30 in the Commons.**

Mrs. Kanney has gone over scheduling information with all Juniors through 8th Graders in the past couple of weeks. Please take time to discuss this with your child. Parents are highly encouraged to attend Scheduling night with your child to meet and ask questions of our entire faculty while obtaining the necessary Teacher signatures for next year's classes.

There will also be a **CCP meeting** for anyone interested in the **Auditeria beginning at 7:00 pm** that evening as well.

Ethics Bowl!

"Congratulations to our Ethics Bowl team on a group showing at the University of Findlay this past weekend. Thank you to Mr. Forsthoefel for advising them again this year!"



Front Row: Mr. Forsthoefel, Caden Sager, Ben Hannewald, Fiona Qiu. Second Row: Brayden Bonifas, Andrew Moorman, Russell Moorman. Back Row: Isaac Hannewald, Kris Hughes, Lex Cowan



COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL
2nd Nine Weeks Honor Roll

HIGH HONORS (11.0-12.0)

Grade 9

Audrey Alig, Aubrie Davis, Parker Doenges, Emma Eyink, Alaina Froning, Benjamin Hannewald, Karsyn Homan, Charlotte Lefeld, Chase Linn, Breann Mathewson, Rachel Moeller, Noah Obringer, Paige Ontrop, Fiona Qiu, Lydia Rainey, Aidan Rose, Alex Rutschilling, Gavin Schmit, Ava Schmitmeyer, Cara Schwieterman, Kelsey Seitz, Joshua Sheets, Braylon Thobe, Kiersten Weigel, Abigail Will

Grade 10

Madison Bruns, Amanda Clune, Alayna Dawson, Grace Huwer, Ella Kaiser, Keira Knapke, Madelyn Lange, Eve Lisi, Edward Obringer, Kaylie Rutschilling, Rebecca Simper, Sarah Stewart, Dana Zahn

Grade 11

Olivia Broering, Cody Depweg, David Dippold, Trent Ebbing, Ethan Elander, Spencer Etzler, Zachary Homan, Aaron Kaup, Kiersten Keller, Lucy Langenkamp, Shelby Larkin, Brady Mathewson, Andrew Moorman, Russell Moorman, Tyler Overman, Miles Pottkotter, Shanna Schmitmeyer, Joshua Schoen, Jake Seitz, Haley Tobin, Cale Wenning, Isabella Zahn

Grade 12

Katelyn Abels, Grace Backs, Tabitha Berkenstock, Isabel Byer, Andrea Cervantes, Carson Doenges, Cole Etzler, Andrew Eyink, Garrett Fiely, Derick Findley, Julia Greber, Justin Gruss, Isaac Hannewald, Hope Hemmelgarn, Sarah Homan, Braxton Howell, Riley Kremer, Audrey Lefeld, Carter May, Emma May, Megan McNeil, Marina Muhlenkamp, Kahlan Rose, Abigail Schwieterman, Luke Schwieterman, Peyton Seitz, Gena Vagedes, Mya Wehrkamp, Nicholas Wehrman, Madison Wendel

HONOR ROLL (9.0-10.9)

Grade 9

Tegan Berkenstock, Alex Borger, Kinley Bruns, Joseph Buschur, Alexis Coats, Gena Fisher, Ava Fortkamp, Karter Freed, Alexis Gerlach, Libby Grieshop, Brigham Howell, James Liette, Shelby Link, Emma Luebke, Lauren Overman, Zachary Pohlman, Clayton Schoen, Zachary Schwieterman, Grace Siefiring, Kennley Siegrist, Bennett Spriggs, Charlie Stammen, Hailey Stough, Brookelyn Sudhoff, Braxton Taylor, Tori Timmerman, Conner Tobin, Keaton Tobin, Bradley Wendel, Evan Winner

Grade 10

Mariah Bonifas, Aiden Burtch, Ava Doll, Carson Dues, Aidan Fiely, Cole Guggenbiller, Ashley Hicks, Ella Kahlig, Landon Knapke, Maxwell Koch, Gavin Lefeld, Jayme Lorak, Kelly May, Makenzie Miller, Makenzie Norris, Maximus Ross, Caden Sager, Aquinnah Springfield, Elle Weber, Emma Weber, Emma Wehnes, Nora Wehrkamp, Trent Westgerdes

Grade 11

Mason Ayers, Hunter Barnard, William Barry, Ines Belasco Martin, Morgan Blasingame, Baylen Blockberger, Izaak Botkin, Liam Davis, Darren Diller, Owen Fennig, Drew Franck, Rudi Gross, Owen Hamberg, Mandi Hart, Monica Hemmelgarn, Jenna Heuing, Reagan Homan, Tyler Jones, Avery Knapke, Owen Kunk, Jonathan Lange, Brady Lefeld, Shelby Linn, Sidney Linn, Brady Meyer, Colten Miller, Nicholas Moeller, Drew Muhlenkamp, Jayden Nye, Isabelle Ruckman, Brooke Schmitmeyer, Troy Schoen, Sarah Seitz, Mason Smith, Alec Stammen, Carson Stammen, Brennan Sudhoff, Keaton Tebbe, Natalie Vogel, Mason Welsch, Gavin Wenning, Andrew Wermert, Emiko Yaskawa, Nicholas Zahn

Grade 12

Kenzie Adams, Carter Bertke, John Bertke, Brayden Bonifas, Lydia Borger, Garrett Bruns, Emily Brunswick, Hailey Burrows, Kate Buschur, Eduardo Cervantes, Alexander Cowan, Zachary Diller, Ethan Ebbing, Jack Ebbing, Lindsey Finke, Seth Finke, Abigail Fortkamp, Nevaeh Fridley, Elijah Gels, Brooke Gerlach, Benjamin Giere, Libby Gilmore, Aiden Harlamert, Braylen Harlamert, Ethan Heitkamp, Benjamin Hemmelgarn, Carter Hicks, Olivia Jutte, Leah Kaiser, Mason Link, Karley Nearon, Brandon Penno, Melissa Perez, Brayden Quinn, Jack Riethman, Cali Saunders, Josephine Schmidt, Luke Schmitmeyer, Ellie Schneider, Rachel Schroyer, Elise Schwieterman, Julia Siefiring, Haley Smith, Claire Steinke, Audrey Stoltz, Israel Sutherin, Olivia Tobe, Troy Weigel, Rebecca Wenning

Cavalier Athletic Report

Cavalier Athletic Report



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

It has been a busy winter already with more to come with tournament hosting. We are hosting some of our Annual tournaments and tossing in a few new ones as well. This winter we hosted the 2nd Annual Cavalier Wrestling Invite on Dec 16th followed by 3 more Wrestling Invites, including 2 new ones. We hosted the 22nd Annual Sielski Memorial on Jan. 13th along with our first ever Junior High Invitational on Dec. 28th and our first ever Coldwater Varsity Individual tournament on Feb. 3rd. To go along with Wrestling, we will also be hosting the 7th grade girls MAC Tournament along with higher seed tournaments for Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Sectionals. On Saturday, Jan. 20th, we also hosted the annual Cavalier/MAC Swim Invitational. These tournaments are great to host for the community as it helps to bring outside people into our town. It is also great to see the faces of new people when they see all of the banners hanging in our gym.

We have had some new updates to the Cavalier Athletic programs with some equipment purchases. If you attend any of our Wrestling Invitationals, you will notice a new 3-sided tournament scoreboard. This has been a great addition for our 3rd mat. We will now be looking at purchasing an additional one for our 4th mat at our tournaments we host. This scoreboard will also work with our volleyball and basketball events in which we use side courts. Also this spring, when you visit the new softball field in the park, you will notice the new fencing that was put up just a few weeks ago. A big Thank You to the Athletic Boosters for helping to improve our softball field. We have also completed our fleet of replacing the rest of our track hurdles with the new collegiate hurdles. We have been adding 8 per year for a few years now and this last purchase will complete what we need. Again, Thank You to the Athletic Boosters for helping with this as well.

We do have two special accomplishments to talk about as well. Becca Wenning scored 41 points in a victory over LCC in Varsity Girls Basketball which broke a single game scoring record set in 1980 by Joan (Wenning) Gilliland. Carter Bertke also had a great accomplishment as he bowled a Perfect Game (300) in a MAC League win over St. Henry. Congratulations to both Becca and Carter on these outstanding accomplishments!

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

Go Cavs!

Eric Goodwin
Athletic Director/Assistant Principal

Athletes of the Week



Luke Schwieterman



Troy Milligan



Becca Wenning

Athletes of the Week



Kelly May



Brittany Burden

Special Recognition



AJ Harlamert – Ring of Honor



Mason Welsch – Ring of Honor



Cody Depweg – Ring of Honor



Becca Wenning – New scoring record



Carter Bertke – Bowled a Perfect Game

FFA Members & Kindergarteners Make Snowmen

The FFA members had the pleasure of making wooden snowmen with all the kindergarten students. These snowmen are cut to the exact height of the kindergarteners, so that over the years they are able to look back and see how much they've grown. The FFA members helped measure the correct heights and cut the boards for the younger students, and also assisted them in sanding and painting the board before they were taken to the classrooms to add on the snowmen faces. The high school and kindergarten students alike had a blast working together to create these adorable Christmas gifts for the kindergarteners' parents!

The Coldwater FFA and the Kindergarten students would like to send a BIG THANK YOU to ITR in St. Henry for the generous donation of lumber for the students to use!



Seth Finke helping sand a Kindergartener's board.



Lydia Borger helps a kindergartener paint their board



Derick Findley writes the name of this kindergarten student on his board

Lighted Christmas Parade at Coldwater Memorial Park

As always, the FFA members had a blast decorating their tractors, trailers, and ATVs for the Christmas Parade. After spending the week before the parade working hard covering their various vehicles with Christmas lights and decorations, they found that the effort was well worth it when they saw all the cheerful faces lining the park for the event. It was the perfect kick-off to a fun filled holiday season!

Thank you to all the families who allowed our members to use tractors, lawnmowers, rangers, and gators in the parade.



FFA Apple Pie Bake Off

The annual Apple Pie Bake-off was held on December 20th and lasted the entire day of school. The day consisted of pie taste-testing by Ohio FFA Officers Katelyn Kinsella and Ava Evers who made the trip for the occasion, as well as various fun activities and holiday movies to celebrate the beginning of Christmas break. The winners of the Apple-Pie Bake Off Categories were as follows:

- *Martha Stewart "Best Looking" Award:* Faith Pohlman and Kate Hemmelgarn
- *Betty Crocker "Best Tasting" Award:* 1st: Bryce Marchal, 2nd Paige Ontrop
- *Iron Stomach "Worst Tasting" Award:* Brandon Penno
- *Pinterest "Most Creative" Award:* Brennan Sudhoff
- *Sweet Tooth "Other Dessert" Award:* Shanna Schmitmeyer
- *The Grinch "Most Nauseating" Award:* Isaac Homan, Gage Emmins, and Griffin Braun

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to our judges! Also a big thanks to Alan Post for engraving the cups for prizes. The Apple Pie Bake-off was a great way to show everyone's cooking talents and gave us a chance to get to know a few of our Ohio FFA Officers.



Ag Technology and Mechanical Systems CDE

Coldwater's Ag Technology and Mechanical Systems CDE team competed in the state competition on December 7th. During the competition, the team members were asked to solve a multi-system agricultural problem that combines skills from the areas of compact equipment, electricity, environment and natural resources, machinery and equipment and structures. The team, consisting of Darren Diller, Brandon Penno, Brennan Sudhoff and Garrett Bruns placed 9th overall, and Garrett Bruns placed 9th individually. Good job boys!



FFA Fresh Strawberry Sale

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

2024 FFA Strawberry Sale Prices

Full Flat (8 quarts) \$26

Half Flat (4 quarts) \$15



FFA members will be selling the strawberries through Monday, February 12.

Delivery will be the week of February 26 - March 1.

Contact any FFA member to place your order, or call the high school office at 419-678-4821. Orders can also be placed by emailing

wenning.deanna@coldwatercavs.org.



Coldwater Academic Promoters

WHO: CAP IS SELLING CHICKEN DINNER TICKETS!

WHAT: ROMER'S CHICKEN DINNER (\$9.00 PER DINNER)

WHEN: TICKETS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY FEB. 14TH

DINNERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP FEB 25TH

WHERE: PICK UP AT THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

HOW: ALL *6TH GRADE STUDENTS* HAVE TICKETS AVAILABLE AS WELL AS ANY *NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY* MEMBER! YOU CAN ALSO REACH OUT TO MR. GARY STELZER AT 419-305-7271 FOR TICKETS.





**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13,
2024**

BOOSTER FALL RAFFLE

**East end of Coldwater Memorial Park
Before, During and After the
Coldwater Football game vs. Anna**

Enjoy food, drinks and fun for the
whole family as we support our
Coldwater Student Athletes



**MORE DETAILS
TO FOLLOW ON
OUR SOCIAL
MEDIA PAGES**



**COLDWATER
ATHLETIC
BOOSTERS**



**2024 SPRING
FUNDRAISER
SALE**

**BACKPACK COOLER
(20 CAN CAPACITY)**



**SHOULDER STRAP
DRAWSTRING BAG**



**CAV PRIDE
PHONE WALLET**



SLING BACKPACK



**CAV PRIDE
KNIT BEANIE**



GOLF UMBRELLA



**ORANGE ALUMINUM
WATER BOTTLE**



**MICROFIBER
BEACH TOWEL**



**FLEECE & NYLON
OUTDOOR BLANKET**



PHONE W/ BLANKET



ITEMS
PROVIDED
BY: **totally**
promotional

MORE DETAILS + ORDER HERE:
Deadline to order is Friday, February 9, 2024



"THE LITTLE MERMAID" TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!

The Coldwater High School will be presenting "THE LITTLE MERMAID" **April 4th at 7:00, April 5th at 7:00, April 6th at 7:00 and April 7th at 2:00** in the Coldwater Auditoria. Tickets are open to the public and are now on sale! It is going to be an awesome production! We have over 30 cast members working hard to make this the best High School production yet! Be sure to come check out the show! This is going to be an amazing show which includes some of our very own Elementary students!

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

Pre-Sale tickets Available:

\$8.00 Adults

\$7.00 Students

This is **per show** so please be sure to order enough tickets for all the shows you want to attend. There are no show specific tickets and there are 4 chances to see the show!

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

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

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

Thank you!

Denise Petersen



COLDWATER HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA

**Proudly Presents...
In The Coldwater Auditoria...**

Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

**Thursday, April 4 @ 7:00 pm
Friday, April 5 @ 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 6 @ 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 7 @ 2:00 pm**

Presale Tickets Available

Adults \$8

Student \$7

**Presale ends April 3rd at 7:30 pm...Tickets can be purchased at the High School office or from Mrs. Petersen
Admission at the door \$10 for All
All Sales Final**

Music by Alan Menken, Lyrics by Howard Ashman & Glenn Slater, Book by Doug Wright. Based on the Hans Christian Andersen story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker and written & Directed by John Musker & Ron Clements. Originally produced by Disney Theatrical Productions. Disney's *The Little Mermaid* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Pre-Sale Tickets

Order Form

NAME _____

Please mark what you would like to purchase:

Quantity: Total:

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

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

of tickets: _____

Grand Total: _____

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

PRE-SALE ENDS Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:30 pm

Tickets at the door: \$10 for all!

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

_____ **Please send my tickets home with a student.**

Student Name _____