

Coldwater High School School Board Update – April 2022

With Spring Break and our state testing in April, the month has gone by very quickly but we have found a way to pack a lot of activities into our days and weekends.

The newly founded CHS Cultural Appreciation Club will be helping us celebrate the various cultural months throughout the year. April is National Arab Heritage Month as recognized in many states including Michigan and right before spring break the club used this as an opportunity to kick off their annual efforts. On the Friday before spring break, we asked our Arabic students to share some of their culture with us by asking them to wear some of their more traditional clothing to school. The Cultural Appreciation Club will continue to celebrate the various months throughout the year with announcements of facts and customs, hallway decorations, and perhaps featured foods for lunches to help celebrate the cultural diversity of our school and community. We were very excited to see so many of our Arabic students share a little bit of their culture with us.



Also before spring break, the staff and students of CHS, in a partnership between the National Honor Society, the Interact Club, and the Student Council raised as much money as we could to help support the local Ukraine Refugee Relief project that was being coordinated with the Coldwater and Coldwater Township Rotary Clubs. We had an amazing four days of raising funds to support the refugees in Ukraine and the Cardinals really went above and beyond any expectations we had. We set a goal to raise \$1,000 and collectively, we donated \$3,529.97 to the relief efforts occurring here in Coldwater. Way to go Cardinals!



In April our CHS musicians also had an opportunity to perform and compete in various events. We were very proud of our CHS band students who participated in State Solo and Ensemble! The students had to submit their performances virtually and all events earned either a Superior or Excellent rating! Congratulations to the follow students pictured left to right in the picture to the left: Lexi Galliers, Eric Rucker, Hunter Smith, and Lydia Kaniewski. These students, along with the Balladiers and the Symphonic Band also performed for the community in their annual Music Showcase Concert. You can view the concert here:

[CHS Showcase Concert](#)

Also musically, we are very proud to announce that CHS Director of Bands, Mrs. Katie Jewell, has been selected as the MSBOA District 11 Band Director of the Year! MSBOA stands for Michigan Schools Band and Orchestra Association. Band and Orchestra programs throughout the state are involved in this organization. The membership is divided into 16 districts, with Coldwater belonging to District 11, along with the other school programs in Branch County, St. Joe County, Calhoun County, Kalamazoo County, and Van Buren County. The directors from each district vote on one Band Director and one Orchestra Director of the year. Directors can nominate other directors for the award, and then all the directors vote on one winner. This year, Mrs. Jewell was nominated along with several other directors and she was selected for the award! That means she is one of 16 band directors in the state who have received this honor and puts her in the running for the State Wide Band Director of the Year award, which is voted on in January.



Many of our students have also been competing and performing in their state competitions based on their student programs organizations through the Branch Area Careers Center. Each of the programs is associated with a student organization that has state and national skills competitions. In the State Skills USA competitions, the following students were able to earn the listed awards: Weson Friend earned Gold/1st place in Welding, Kevin Lowder earned Gold/1st place in Electrical Tech, Makayla Clark earned 3rd place in Speech Preparation and Garrett Johns earned 3rd place in Electrical Tech.

We also took the month of April to honor our honor roll students from the 1st semester of the year. Students who earn at least a 3.0 overall semester GPA for their performance in their classes also earn an honor roll certificate. This year, 477 students in the 1st semester earned this recognition in comparison to 428 students who were able to earn the honor roll award in the 1st semester of last year. As we hope to continue in a more traditional face-to-face setting with our students, we are also hopeful that this daily contact with their learning and relationship with their teachers will continue to help support the improved academic success of our students.

April is also the month that we typically determine the new members of the chapter of the CHS National Honor Society. These students are selected for membership based on their leadership, character, service, and academic performance. Each year, many students apply for membership and the NHS faculty council then review all of the applications and qualifications of the students to make a decision on who will be inducted each year. We are very proud to announce the following students are being inducted into the CHS chapter of the National Honor Society on Sunday, May 1st at 4:00 p.m. in the CHS Cafeteria: Sharefa Aboali, Bushra Ahmed, Ayah Alsoofi, Ayat Alsoofi, Samuel Bernard, Gabriela Bookmeyer, Grady Brockway, Steven Covell, Morgan Dancer, Jillian Hawver, Brooke Hudson, Fathia Jabry, Bayan Kassas, Samuel Larr, Emma Madden, Rylee Rice, Eric Rucker, Hannah Stevens, Brian Torres, Maya Walinski, and Lucas Wischmeyer



Thanks to the efforts of Superintendent Mrs. Whelan and Tibbits director Christine Delaney, the community and our 5th – 12th grade band and choir students were treated to an amazing musical experience. Three Men and a Tenor added Coldwater to their list of stops as they continue to tour around the country. The pop ensemble gave a personal concert to our 5th – 12th grade band and choir students during the day on Friday, April 22nd and then took some extra time to work with the CHS Cardinal Choir in a performance workshop. Then that evening, the group performed at Tibbits for the

community. The students had an amazing time interacting with the group and the community enjoyed an amazing evening of musical entertainment.

We were also able to host our annual CHS Prom at the Potawatomi Inn in Angola on Saturday, April 23rd. The students and chaperones were able to create a lot of wonderful memories as the event was able to occur without the necessity of rapid testing or mandated mask wearing like last year. Thank you to the Junior Class as well as the junior class advisors, Mr. Fishell and Ms. Papineau who worked hard to coordinate the efforts of the students, staff, and parent volunteers to create the “Enchanted Forest” dance and afterglow activity at the Bronson Strike Zone where participating students were able to have free bowling, free food, and the opportunity to win over \$2,500 in donated prizes and gift cards. A simple search on Facebook will provide hours of enjoyment looking at the numerous pictures that were posted of the event.

In the last week of April, we will continue to have many events including our final Red Cross Blood Drive at CHS. Students who are at least 16 years old, in good health, and weigh a minimum of 110 lbs may donate but if they are 16 years old, they must also bring a signed parental consent form in order to donate. Each year we are very proud of the total number of units of blood our Cardinals donate so we will be excited to report this out in next month’s update. Anyone in the community is also invited to donate and may sign up for an appointment by using this link:

[CHS April 26th Blood Drive Sign-Up](#)

[Little Women Poster!](#)

Also in the last week of April, our long awaited CHS School Musical will be returning to the stage at Tibbits Opera House. Everyone is invited to enjoy an amazing night of entertainment on April 28, 29, or 30 at 7 pm at Tibbits Opera House for this year's musical based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott. Set during the years of the Civil War, Little Women tells the story of a family of four sisters growing up together, going to their first ball, falling in love, and dealing with heartbreak. It is full of extraordinary music and has an incredible cast, crew, and orchestra. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$10 for adults. You can get your ticket from a cast member or at the theater right before each show. You will see the cast members wearing their Show Shirts today in the halls so ask them about getting your tickets!

Next month will bring with it more events than can be listed here so please review our End of Year events Calendar to help make sure you don't miss the opportunity to join us for any of our events and celebrations.

[CHS Events Calendar for 2nd Semester 2021-2022](#)

In particular, we are very excited for our Advanced Placement students who will have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning on the AP tests in the first two weeks of May, our Staff and Student appreciation week that will conclude with our first all-school assembly in the last two years, our music concerts, the senior trip, scholarship night, senior fun night, and all of the other senior and year-end events culminating with our **Graduation Ceremony at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 22nd here on Cardinal Field.** With all of this going on, we are also busy with all of our spring athletic events and our continued planning for the 2022-2023 school year! With all of that, I am sure the month of May will scream past us as well as we all work together to have a wonderful finish to the school year with the last day of classes on Tuesday, June 2nd.

This is a very busy but great time to be a Cardinal – Go Cards!

Bill Milnes, Principal
Coldwater High School