

# PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDAMENTALS MAY BE THE BEST MEDICINE IN HEALTH SCIENCE



**Above:** Cooking up a "humerus" meal... (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

## By Ron Barry

As a primary teacher in the area of Health Science, Crockett County's Gayla Mayfield most certainly has to focus on the fundamentals of the subject.

But anyone who knows Gayla Mayfield also knows she's going to try her best to find a way to highlight the 'fun' in fundamentals.

Her latest example of mixing learning the scientific fundamentals with some creative fun came on Halloween morning, when her Diagnostic Medicine class - which has been studying the skeletal system and diagnostic imaging - produced and decorated... wait for it... edible bones!

"When it's Halloween and you've been studying skeletons and radiology," Mayfield said, "you make edible bone models, naturally! We even demonstrated a couple of different fractures."

Mayfield - who also serves as an advisor to HOSA, Crockett's chapter of the Future Health Professionals organization - said her students used pretzel rods, marshmallows, and dipping chocolate to make the edible bones.

"We even added sprinkles to make them sparkle a bit," she laughed, once again leaning into her strategy of making learning fun while still getting the seriousness of her topics across.

It's far from the first time Mayfield has incorporated a unique approach to making her students think creatively. Earlier in the semester, in a block on positioning - learning the directional terms in Diagnostic Medicine - she divided the students into teams who were then assigned to make stick figures out of pipe cleaners to demonstrate the various terms. (Some of their submissions are pictured at the conclusion of this post.)

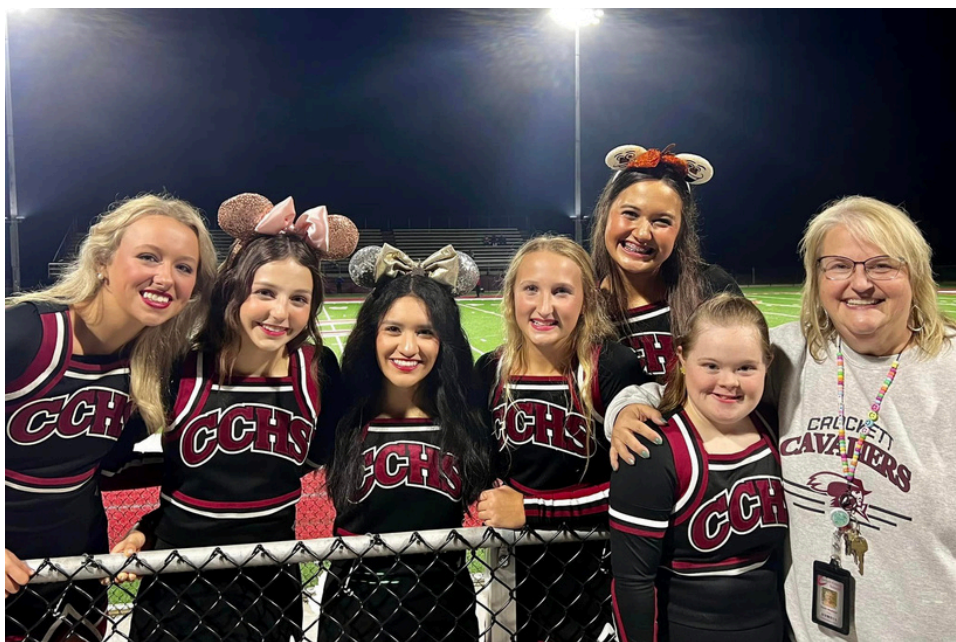
Another time, after discussing the use of robotics in medicine, her assignment to the class was to build a replica of a medical robot which had to be at least 10 inches tall. Submissions included everything from a "DaVinci Surgical Robot" to a nursing service robot to an automated chest compression robot.

"I gave them minimal guidance, but I was super proud of them," Mayfield said.

Mayfield is teaching the Diagnostic Medicine class for the first time at CCHS, and extends gratitude to her students for their perseverance.

"These kids have been so patient this semester since I've never taught this subject here," she said, "but we are making it."

They're even making it edible!



**Above:** Health Sciences teacher Gayla Mayfield (right) is pictured here with Crockett's senior cheerleaders: (from left) Maddie Moore, Zoey Burlison, Melanie Meza, Ella Emison, Kylee Garrett, and Alayna Scallion. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)





**Above:** Coating an "edible" bone. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Below:** Beginning the process... (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)



**Above:** Even a "fracture" can be healed! (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

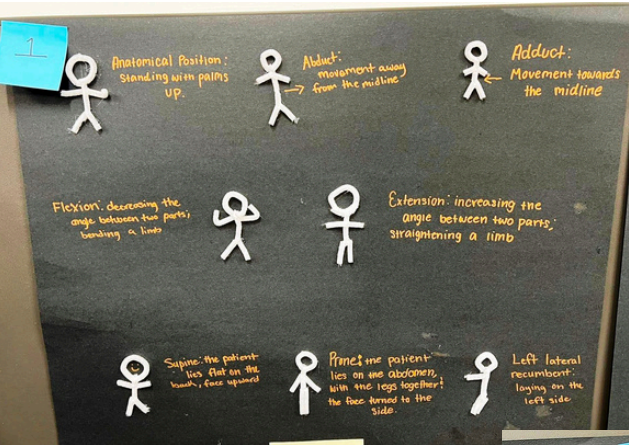


**Above:** TESA, the nursing service robot replica model. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Left:** The DaVinci Robotic Arm replica model. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Right:** LUCAS, the automatic chest compression robot replica model. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Below:** Doctors at work... (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)



**Above:** TESA, the nursing service robot replica model. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Left:** The DaVinci Robotic Arm replica model. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Right:** LUCAS, the automatic chest compression robot replica model. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)



**Above:** The Halloween medical lab. (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Left:** A creative lesson on positioning in Diagnostic Medicine... (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

**Below:** Another view of the directional message... (Photo courtesy of Gayla Mayfield)

