

Crestview hosts annual Relay for Life event

by Isabelle Buckley

Cancer is a struggle in today's society, and 24% of people who die of cancer do not receive a cancer diagnosis before their death. Thankfully, Crestview Local School District has an annual event to help raise money for a cure: Relay For Life. The Relay For Life raises money for the American Cancer Society and to (hopefully) find a cure for cancer. Part of the money also goes to the Crestview Student Council, who helps host the Relay For Life.

Rachel Lattanzio, the middle school student council adviser, stated the Relay For Life was awesome, and the only thing she wishes had gone better was the weather, which was chilly that particular day. The middle school raised about \$3,000. Next year, Lattanzio hopes to raise more money by doing root beer floats for the middle school, instead of just the high school selling them.

"I think, honestly, we should do that as a middle school because the high school can't keep up with the demand of the whole school wanting those root beer floats. I thought maybe we could do that as well," Lattanzio said.

Whitney Mihalik, the high school student council adviser, also states the Relay for Life went well, and the one thing she wishes had gone better is where the activities were. The high school raised \$1,650. She would like to keep the penny war next year, as it raised a lot of money. Mihalik wants to conduct a survey next year about what the students would want to do in the Relay For Life.

"I think next year what I would like to do is do a survey of events because this year we just had the same events that we normally have, plus the student council picked a few new ones, but because we moved it to October, we found out that a lot of athletes weren't allowed to take part in like athletic events because of games and things like that."

Timothy Pancake, the middle school principal, also said the Relay for Life went well. Pancake says Relay For Life teaches students the impact of cancer and its effect on life. One thing Pancake wishes had gone better were the transitions from event to event.

"I think there's some things that can make transitions a little bit easier. For example, when Mr. Beilhart finished speaking and everyone did a lap, for all the teachers' sake to make sure everyone was safe, I think there's a way like 'hey, when everyone is done finishing with their lap, you need to go to your fire drill yard line.' That way, every kid was accounted for; they were in their spot."

Relay For Life is an amazing fundraising event that teaches such a big message, while still making it enjoyable for students. All kids pay money to get concessions, do the bounce-houses, and for extra things like root beer floats. This year's Relay For Life was amazing; hopefully next year, it will be even better and raise even more money for those in need.



**Crestview and Springfield collaborate to
help students in need
by Nola Compton**

The Springfield Gift Exchange has gotten wonderful results this year. This December, the exchange has collected over 1200 gifts between Crestview and Springfield. Crestview students and staff brought in 640 gifts helping those in need.

We have met our goals for the gift exchange this Christmas season. Crestview has raised enough money and gifts for more kids this year than in past years. The Student Council and Mrs. Buzzard's Service Learning class has bigger plans for upcoming years, hoping to make the Springfield Gift Exchange more well-known around the high school and middle school.

The Springfield Gift Exchange is a big part of the community. This exchange helps students and families get gifts for Christmas and allows the two communities and schools to come together to help a greater good.

Matthew Evans is one of the adults who worked with the Springfield advisors.

"This collaboration between schools and to have it go on in this manner for thirty years is unique and wonderful," Evans said.

Overall, the Springfield Gift Exchange has given many opportunities for those in need over the years and this year in particular with both schools raising more money and presents for more students in both communities.

**Hill gives construction update
by Ayden Hess**

The timeline for completion of the new Crestview school building is October 2026, according to superintendent Dan Hill.

The construction workers are currently working on the layout of the building; they are also getting ready to resurrect the steel beams.

The new school will have every grade from Pre-K-12. There will be an elementary wing, a middle school wing, and a high school wing.

They are currently working on mapping out the elementary wing and the cafeteria.

The future plans are to finish the structuring by the end of the school year.

The school will go from the road to the football field. There will be four different wings going from the building to the right - Pre-K, elementary, middle school, and high school.

Hill said that the main challenge that they have encountered is the weather because it has been inconsistent.

Overall, Hill is excited about the construction and the future of Crestview.



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Exchange students excel at CHS by Emmalee Owens

Crestview High School has three different exchange students and each of them come from different countries. The girls' names are Mia Berndt, Victoria Jaudard, and Mia Papec. Berndt is from Germany and is in eleventh grade. Jaudard is from France and is in twelve grade. Papec is from Croatia and is in tenth grade. Coming from different countries and backgrounds, they all see things in a different light.

Although they see some things differently, they do see eye to eye as well. They agree that they prefer the kind and welcoming spirit of the staff at Crestview.

"I really like the community here. I feel like they're really, really open minded and just more friendly," said Berndt.

Moving to a different country and staying there for months at a time can be a very unusual experience. All three of these girls now know what it's like to not only visit a different country but also live everyday like a regular student here.

Jaudard describes the different difficulties that come with being an exchange student: "You have to be quite brave because you quit everything: your family, your school, everything, but you have to be an open minded person because you discover new things."

There are many things that set us apart from other countries' school systems. Jaudard explains what some of these things are that set us apart from France: "So the days are longer. We start at 8:00 am and we finish at 5:00 pm. We don't really choose the subjects. The relationship between the students and the teachers are more formal. We don't have any sports teams or musicals like you do here," said Jaudard.

The girls have been enjoying their time in America and at Crestview a lot. They are delighted with all the great opportunities that Crestview has to offer. They each said their favorite class is Textiles because of the interesting activities they get to accomplish.

Overall, the exchange students are happy with Crestview's options and hope to continue to do well in their classes and connect with other students.

CHS prepares for homecoming by Rylee Land

This year's Crestview High School's Winter Homecoming, is taking place January 25th in the high school gymnasium. Many high school students will be attending this year's winter homecoming.

"I would expect about 125 high school students to attend Winter Homecoming," according to Sarah Finch, one of the high school math teachers who is in charge of planning and hosting each homecoming. Finch and the homecoming court are in charge of picking the themes for the homecoming dances.

"New Years Celebration" is this year's theme.

Finch and the homecoming court are very hard at work and it looks like this homecoming is going to be great!

Many Crestview high school students are looking forward to homecoming, and it is most definitely going to go down in history.



Crestview exchange students: Mia Papec, Victoria Jaudard, Mia Berndt

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FCA grows at Crestview by Isabelle Buckley

FCA is a group with Christian students. Though FCA stands for “Fellowship of Christian Athletes,” it isn’t just for athletes. All Crestview students, 5th-8th grade, are welcome every Wednesday morning at 7:15 AM. This group is led by Corey Hill, who is also the 8th grade Science teacher. Hill decided to become involved with FCA because when he was a teacher at United Middle School, FCA was also offered there, and he was a part of it then. Knowing it had a good following, he brought it to Crestview.

Hill believes that FCA will have a positive impact on the students at CMS because he thinks it's good to have a following in Christ. About 20-30 kids show up to each session, and they normally read a bible verse, talk a bit about a lesson from the bible, and asks students if there are any prayer requests before going into a short prayer.

“This is a good way to kind of open our students up to that (the teaching of Christ) and maybe expose them to it and get them to follow Christ,” Hill stated.

FCA is a great activity to participate in and is a good way to get in a closer relationship with your friends, students in other grades, and Christ.



Concert band season kicks off by Isabelle Buckley, Emmalee Owens, and Nola Compton

Crestview High School Marching Band has officially transitioned to Concert Band. The band is working on some new songs for its winter concert. The winter concert was December 8th from 2:30 pm to 5pm. The songs that were performed are: “All is Calm,” “Christmas Festival,” and a small group from the High School Concert Band students played “Sleigh Ride.”

The students are interested to see how this concert season will go and hope to see some improvement. The Director of the High School Concert band, Eric Bable, says he found the music by getting pieces that can be put together rather quickly, ensuring that they are still challenging enough for the students to improve their musical talents.

Most people who were interviewed were excited to transition to their concert band instruments. Students say that switching from marching band instruments to new concert instruments is fun and couldn't wait to improve when playing the new Christmas songs.

Most of the section leaders agree that the highlight of their concert season is the competition. They are excited to see how this year's competition will go. The four section leaders that were interviewed had great opinions on the topic but most agree that this year will do much better than years past.

Evan Neff, a senior and section leader in the high school band, says, “Sometimes I help with warm-ups and sections to go over music but mostly it's just making sure everyone has their music.”

Gwendolyn Jones, a freshman trumpet player, enjoys the transition from marching to concert season. Jones prefers marching season, “Because you do more upbeat songs and you get to have so much more fun in marching band. You can also connect with people through practices and such.”

Annual Harvest Festival a major success by Rylee Land

Crestview Middle School, 2024 Harvest Festival was amazingly planned out and turned out perfect! This school year, Crestview's student council designed and organized Harvest Fest. We interviewed a few 8th grade student council members to ask some questions about this year's Festival.

This year's Festival was run differently, when it came to things such as the location and the prices. Cassidee Buckley states, "It was located in the hallway connecting the middle school from the high school."

Lillian Wilcox explained the prices per visit through the Haunted Hallway: "It was \$3 for one and \$5 for two."

This year's Harvest Fest raised a great amount of money - \$2,500, according to Lane Farmer. The student council had many important responsibilities.

"The student council did amazing this year; they were great helpers," states student council advisor Rachel Lattanzio.

The main events at this year's Harvest Fest were the Haunted Hallway and the amazing Baker's Milk and snacks! This year's Harvest Fest was a great success for Crestview Middle School.



Students having fun at the Harvest Festival

Middle school wrestling opens season by Karoline McGrath

After a power-driving wrestling season last year, the middle school wrestling team is back to the beginning of another successful season with multiple wrestlers going undefeated throughout the first tournaments. The Rebels are off to a strong start of the season and it is looking good for the future.

However, some wrestlers have mixed opinions. Dane Peel believes the upcoming season will go well, but Collin Gula still feels like the team has a long way to go. They both went undefeated in the first tournament and aim to remain undefeated for the rest of their season.

However, the mistakes they both agreed were made were that they needed to stay stiffer with their actions, and work harder, mentally and physically. Gula says, "being more confident and taking more shots" would better him as an athlete. Peel also said he could work harder to fix his mistakes, which would better the rest of the season.

They both have a determined mindset toward themselves in this season and hope the rest of it goes well, as they expect it to.



Members of the middle school wrestling team

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Varsity boys earn first league win by Nola Compton and Emmalee Owens

The varsity boys basketball team has started their season off with a challenge. So far they have won three of the first ten games they've played this season. The team has been getting used to a new coach Lou Mateo, but most agree it was not a very hard adjustment. The majority of the players say the new coach is outgoing and a great goal achiever, setting new goals for the future.

They have had some ups and downs with their season so far but are hopeful that they will thrive in future games. Sophomore Isaac Unkefer believes that the team will make a comeback this season, building and bonding as a team.

"We have some more chemistry going now and a lot more team bonding," said Unkefer.

Although they have been having some difficulty this season they are excited for upcoming games, particularly within the MVAC. Another basketball player, senior Evan Neff says, "We are looking forward to the conference games."

The Rebels recently earned their first conference win of the season, beating Champion 77-62.

All of the basketball players are looking forward to this new year of games and are excited to see how they go and are preparing for this eventful season.



Senior Jameson English drives to the basket. Photo credit: Joel Hively

Girls basketball continues successful season by Karoline McGrath

After Crestview's record-breaking season last year, the girls' high school basketball team is making another run this year with a 9-3 record and 4-0 in the MVAC. The team is excited about the return to the court of Ava Bucey and Lexi Blower, two key players who have missed parts of the last two seasons with injury. The team looks unstoppable, with only one varsity player graduating from last year.

Crestview's head coach Aaron Blatch says, "We have high expectations. We're coming off a season where we went 25-1, won our second straight championship, and finished second in the district for the second year in a row."

In addition, one of Crestview's returning varsity players, Myer Miller, says, "I'm just hoping to continue the success that we had last season and make it even further into tournaments." This mindset has led them to multiple wins.

They also both mention how well they think the season will go due to the effort they put into practice, their determination as individual players, and the way they have been practicing so far as a team.

However, Coach Blatch thinks the girls need more time to connect. You can only imagine how that will benefit the game play more to have the best experience possible. On the other hand, the girls' only genuine weakness is learning to be more physical against tougher opponents. Nonetheless, last season was such a success that the team had so many blowout games, that in the end, it hurt them significantly when they went against stronger schools.

The good news for this is scheduling this season's games against harder opponents such as Division 1-2 schools to help strengthen their strategies. The team hopes that these learning experiences will be valuable down the stretch, as they seek another league championship and a long tournament run.



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Middle school girls off to undefeated start by Isabelle Buckley

The 7th grade girls basketball team is off to a great start with a record 7-0. Abby MacKay and Madison Kyser are two girls on the 7th grade team and they believe the season has gone well so far, and will continue to do well. MacKay looks forward to working with her team and also believes that the team will continue to improve and win. Kyser also believes that the team will continue to stride towards victory. Kyser is excited to finish off the season with hopefully an ending win. Both Kyser and Mackay both plan to play 8th grade basketball next year, and they will continue to win the championship.

"I look forward to finishing the season with a win," Kyser says.

The 8th grade girls basketball team is also doing a phenomenal job with a record of 7-0. Karli Perry and Makenna Ray are very excited by the strong season. Ray believes the team will continue to win and get first in the tournament. Perry also believes that the team will also do well, and she looks forward to playing Champion Middle School, because she believes that they will be a tough team to beat and they will make their team better. Both 8th graders are planning on trying out for high school basketball.

"Good, I think we're going to win, like, the whole thing," Ray stated.

Coach Dave MacKay is in his first season coaching this group of 7th grade girls. All girls stated they liked their new coach and think he is an asset to the team.

"I think we've all kinda met him, he is my dad, and we've kind of met him through the year, so everyone kind of knows him already. But he's working really well, he's definitely taking Coach (Melvin) Miller's teachings from our previous years," MacKay states.

Both teams are doing a great job so far, and they all hope they win the season. The Middle School girls basketball team is going to grow into amazing athletes and people.

Middle school boys continue to improve by Olivia Lombardo

The 8th grade boys basketball team is improving after a rocky start. Their last game was against Liberty with it being a very close game with Liberty winning 24-19. They went into overtime and Liberty scored once and had two foul shots. The highlight of the season was a non-conference win over United. An accomplishment that the team wants to make this season is to build off of this win. The team is working on improving as a whole to better the rest of the season.

On the other hand, this year's 7th grade team is off to a solid start with them being 3-5. Their next game is against Garfield. Wyatt Wise says that the first 8 games have been good. His biggest accomplishment is his shooting and defense. He wants to practice to improve his shooting. Brody Pancake says that his biggest accomplishment is his shooting. Some things he thinks he and his team need are to communicate better and play together as a team.



7th and 8th grade girls basketball teams
are off to an undefeated start

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OH WOW! visits CES**by The Fourth Grade Rebel Writers**

All students from preschool through fourth grade had the opportunity to participate in hands-on science experiments led by OH WOW! instructors. Throughout October, OH WOW!, a world-class, STEM-based children's museum in Youngstown, Ohio, visited Crestview to inspire independent thinking and exploration. Each grade level engaged in a standards-based experiment, which they were able to take home and continue learning from.

- Preschool explored the five senses.
- Kindergarten designed airplanes to study how weight affects flight.
- First grade created their own terrariums.
- Second grade built catapults.
- Third grade worked on filtering dirty water
- Fourth grade designed their own circuit cards.

The students not only had fun, but also experienced authentic learning through interactive, hands-on activities!

**Costumes and red ribbons everywhere - All in one week!****by The Fourth Grade Rebel Writers**

At CES, students had a blast celebrating Halloween with fun costumes and also took part in Red Ribbon Week, which happens every October. Red Ribbon Week helps teach everyone about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

To get everyone excited, students dressed up each day from October 28th to November 1st to show support for a drug-free lifestyle.

Here's what each day was about:

- **Monday:** Wear red to *rally in red!*
- **Tuesday:** Wear pajamas to *follow your dreams!*
- **Wednesday:** Wear bright colors to *show how bright your future is!*
- **Thursday:** Wear your Halloween costume to *celebrate the holiday!*
- **Friday:** Wear Rebel gear to *support making great choices and encouraging each other!*

Also, red ribbons were hidden all around the school for students to find! If you found one and took it to the office, you got a small reward. It was awesome to see how excited everyone was to participate, especially when they found a ribbon!



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The 14 Days of Christmas at CES by The Fourth Grade Rebel Writers

During December, CES was buzzing with learning and fun! To make the holiday season extra special, students and staff dressed up in all sorts of festive themes. It all kicked off on December 3rd with everyone dressing in white like Frosty the Snowman! From there, we had days where we became reindeer, elves, wore silly socks, cozy pajamas, "ugly" sweaters, and even dressed up as the GRINCH!

The hallways were filled with joy and creativity! Every door was decked out with unique decorations, students were happily laughing and smiling while being creative, and to top it off, there was hot cocoa for everyone!

In STEM classes, students got hands-on by creating 3D pop-out cards to give to adults in the school. Kindergarten and first graders had a blast making snow, while first graders learned about force and motion through sled races. Music classes echoed with cheerful jingles, and second graders discovered the science of snowflakes with help from high school chemistry lessons. And guess what? Santa and Mrs. Claus paid us a special visit too!

In the Title Room, Santa arranged books so that every student from preschool to 4th grade could choose their very own book. Seeing students read to each other was truly heartwarming! This winter season at CES was definitely filled with joy and cheer!

Balloons over CES by Paisley Harvey and Mikaylah Haynie

Kindergarten, second grade, and even Mrs. Brungard's class decorated balloons at Crestview Elementary School to learn more about the tradition of *Balloons Over Broadway*. This activity took place during the week of Thanksgiving. According to Mrs. Adams, it was a fun way for the students to learn about the parade while being creative.

Using the engineering design process, Mrs. Adams' class designed and decorated model balloon floats. Some of the designs included a cat, Pokémon, and a dog. Among the students' favorites were unicorns and Pikachu!

As the teachers led the students through the halls, smiles were everywhere! The students not only learned about the parade but also had the opportunity to express their creativity.



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Awesome bat caves
by Stella Dickey and Jude Holmes

The first graders at CES transformed their classroom into a dark bat cave while learning about bats. The cave was decorated with various bat facts displayed around the room. How did Mrs. Heffinger create this experience? She flipped a table on its side, so the students had to crawl into the cave! The walls were covered with black paper, stuffed animal bats hung around, and fake cobwebs added to the atmosphere. To make it even more authentic, bat sounds played in the background. The students became true scientists, using magnifying glasses and flashlights to explore their bat cave!

The students learned that bats eat fruit and mosquitoes and that they use echolocation to find their way and hunt for prey.

In addition to reading bat facts, the students also completed math challenges and a STEM activity to learn how bats hang in a cave.

Not only were the students fully engaged, but they also gained a lot of knowledge about bats!



Space in a dome
by Ryker Jones and Allie Newton

Students in grades 2-4 visited CMS for an exciting trip to a planetarium! On Monday, December 16, Mobile ED, a company that makes learning fun, brought a blow-up planetarium to the CMS gym.

Inside the gym, the inflatable planetarium was set up for students to explore space. As students entered, they were surrounded by planets, stars, and even galaxies—everything felt like it came to life!

Students got to see the Big Dipper and the Little Dipper and learned how astronomers use these constellations to figure out directions in the sky.

Overall, it was an unforgettable experience for CES students, and many of them are even more excited to learn about space!



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**Pete the Penguin makes a fun experience for CES
by Madelyn Neff and Piper Wier**

Pete the Penguin, Youngstown State's mascot, visited CES to make a special announcement! He told the students that by reading, they could earn a free ticket to a Youngstown State basketball game!

Pete visited every classroom, where students had the chance to take a picture with him and receive a bookmark. If students attend a game, they'll also get a signature and autographs at the basketball game. Pete's visit was a fun way to encourage students to read, both inside and outside the classroom!

**Senior athlete breakfast
by Devon Bach and Carter Oates**

First graders at CES had a special treat on December 17th when they got to eat breakfast with some very important student athletes!

The Senior Winter Sports Athletes, including those from wrestling, boys and girls basketball, and bowling, joined the first graders for a fun breakfast the week before Christmas break. The breakfast menu included yogurt cups, fruit, donuts, and juice.

During breakfast, the athletes sat with the younger students, chatting and signing autographs. The first graders were excited to get as many autographs as they could! Many of the younger students look up to these athletes, so it was wonderful to see them laughing and smiling together.

A group of senior girls—Abbey Emch, Lydia Campbell, and Aubrey Unkefer—had an extra special surprise when they got to enjoy breakfast with none other than Santa himself!



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Principal for a day **by Tenley Menning and Cazlyn Spalding**

At CES, second grader Evorah Crook had the exciting opportunity to be Principal for the Day! This special event was part of a fundraiser where 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade students collected money to support the Principal's fund. Every student who donated was entered into a drawing, and Evorah's name was chosen as the lucky winner!

During the 14 Days of Christmas, one of the fun dress-up days was to come as your favorite teacher. Evorah dressed like Mrs. Lemaster and truly embraced her role as principal for the day!

Evorah even got to make her own rule for the day. Her rule was that all the second graders and teachers would get ice cream bars! She also helped Mrs. Lemaster choose the winner of the door decorating contest. It was a fun and memorable day for Evorah and everyone at CES!



3D printed bookmarks **by Brooklyn Birnesser and Jaxon Guy**

Why use a regular bookmark when you can 3D print your own? Students in Mrs. Beebout's STEM classes created their own personalized bookmarks using a computer program called Tinkercad. Tinkercad is a free, online tool that lets users design 3D objects, experiment with circuits, and even learn coding!

First, the 3rd and 4th graders started by learning about all the tools in Tinkercad. They practiced working with measurements and discovered that everything in Tinkercad is designed using millimeters. After that, they created the base of their bookmarks and added their names. Then, students had the freedom to design their bookmarks any way they wanted. Each bookmark took about two hours to complete, and once they were 3D printed, the bookmarks were given to the students.

Mrs. Beebout chose this activity because she believes it's important for students to learn how to use the tools around them to think critically. By going through the engineering design process, students are able to solve real-world problems and become better problem-solvers!



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Honoring our veterans with second grade by Jagger Bogerd and Claire Smith

To honor our veterans, second grade students at Crestview Elementary school did a Veteran's Day program located in the high school gym. On November 11th, students sang and signed a song to admire the bravery that our veterans have shown to fight for our country.

Mrs. Shaffer, a second grade teacher, was able to teach the entire second grade how to sign the song, "God Bless America!"

With the help of Mrs. Minamy, leading them in signing, and Mrs. Shaffer, teaching sign language, the students were all proud to support our veterans!

Rebel Journal Elementary Staff

- Devon Bach
- Brooklyn Birnesser
- Jagger Bogerd
- Stella Dickey
- Jaxon Guy
- Paisley Harvey
- Mikaylah Haynie
- Jude Holmes
- Ryker Jones
- Tenley Menning
- Madelyn Neff
- Allie Newton
- Carter Oates
- Claire Smith
- Cazlyn Spalding
- Piper Wiery



CES second graders recently performed at the school's Veteran's Day program.

Rebel Journal 8th Grade Staff

- Isabelle Buckley
- Nola Compton
- Ayden Hess
- Rylee Land
- Olivia Lombardo
- Karoline McGrath
- Emmalee Owens
- Isabella Vincent

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