

THE STALLION WAY

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MEDIA 7 & 8

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VOLUME 20

Lady Stallions Soccer, a New Era



By Remy Macakanja

The Harding Middle School girls' soccer team is making history this season as the school's newest athletic program. With a talented group of players, strong team chemistry and big goals for the season, the team is ready to compete.

Coach Cate Foldi said she is excited to be part of the new program. "I think starting this is important for female athletes at this school and to give them an opportunity to grow in their skill before going to Big Red," Foldi said.

The team has high expectations for

its first season. Coach Cate hopes the team can finish the season undefeated and believes the players have the talent and competitive spirit to challenge any opponent. "Our goal is to go into every game with the mentality that we can and will win," Foldi said.

The players share that same confidence. Harper, a center back, said she looks forward to games against Beaver Local and hopes the team can remain undefeated. "I love doing drills and playing with my team," Harper said.

Lucy, a center midfielder, also

enjoys playing with her friends. She believes the team has what it takes to have a successful season. "Soccer is fun!" Lucy said.

Coach Cate said it is difficult to predict which opponents will be the toughest because many of the teams they will face are also new. For now, she believes the team's biggest challenge may be improving themselves. "Our biggest competition is ourselves," Cate said.

She also sees the new program as an opportunity for the players to develop important skills both on and off the field. "It's a good life lesson to be challenged and leaders of a new program," Cate said. "I think this group of girls have a lot of potential on and off the field."

With several games still ahead, the HMS girls' soccer team is hoping its first season will be one to remember.

Come support the girls' soccer team at their last home against Edison on Monday, October 10 at 8pm!

School Spirit

By Tessa Filtz

School spirit creates a fun environment at Harding Middle School. There are many ways to show school spirit. Whether someone plays sports or attends events to support friends, school spirit is the energy surrounding an activity and the vibe someone brings while they are there.

At Harding, many students demonstrate school spirit. Kate Filtz is an eighth-grade student who plays on the school's soccer team. She said that one way she shows school spirit is by going to the school's sports events to show support. "I like cheering on my

friends at their games," Kate said.

Another student who displays school spirit is Olivia Buffo. She plays for the Harding volleyball team. Olivia said her favorite school tradition at Harding is when the school has spirit weeks. She likes wearing different themed outfits every day.

The teachers at Harding also enjoy school spirit. Nina Lumpkin and Vivian Geary, two seventh grade students, both chose Mrs. Moray as the teacher with the most school spirit. They described her as an energetic, fun teacher, who always cheers enthusiastically for her students and enjoys attending school events.

Mr. Kernahan is a football coach at

Harding and SHS. He said his favorite song that the team and coaches run out onto the field to. He loves the hype and environment that the song creates.

Many teachers also have favorite accessories to wear on Friday nights or favorite accessory to wear is their "Bling Queen" T-shirts. They said they bring the "Friday night vibes."

School spirit comes in many different forms--from going to football games, and supporting friends, to doing a spirit week at your school. Whether you're a teacher or a student, wearing your crimson and black and cheering on Steubenville is a great way to show your pride!

New Staff at Harding Middle

By Emma Hunter

As the new school year begins, Harding Middle School welcomes several new teachers to its staff.

One of the new teachers is Ms. Dami, who teaches choir, fifth-grade general music, sixth- through eighth-grade jazz choir, and drama club. When asked why she wanted to teach at Harding, Ms. Dami said, "I wanted to teach at Harding because I love choir and drama and think middle school is awesome." Seventh-grade choir student Brooklyn Jones shared, "I like Ms. Dami because she is really nice and good at her job."

Another new teacher at Harding is Ms. Foldi, who teaches seventh-grade and eight-grade English. "So far, teaching here has been a great experience," Ms. Foldi said. "The students' work ethic has been impressive and has made my first

my first couple weeks an easier transition. The staff has also helped me adjust to the school and grow more comfortable."

Ms. Foldi's students have also shared positive opinions about having her as a teacher. Kenzie Fithen shared that Ms. Foldi is a great teacher and is both "nice and good at teaching."

Ms. Runco, a new face to Harding but long-time Steubenville educator, teaches math and pre-engineering. She says her experience at Harding has been "good and fun, also challenging." One of the reasons she enjoys teaching is because she has "always enjoyed teaching kids something new."

Ms. Blackburn is another new addition this year. She enjoys being part of Harding. Blackburn said, "I love it because of the co-workers, the students, and every day you don't

know what you're going to walk into." She co-teaches the subjects of social studies, science, ELA, and math. Ms. Blackburn graduated from Steubenville High School and said she wanted to give back to her community by teaching at Harding.

Also new this year is Ms. Gilham who teaches Greenhouse Adventures.

Harding Middle School is excited to welcome its new teachers and looks forward to seeing what they will contribute to the school in the future. From musicals to engineering—we're so happy to call you a Stallion!

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Weather



Monday
70°



Tuesday
66°



Wednesday
66°



By Eliana Kirkland

Activity classes are an important part of the Harding Middle School experience. Students have a variety of creative and hands-on classes to choose from, including Invention Land, Robotics, Criminal Justice, and Magic of Electrons. These classes give students opportunities to explore different interests, work

Activities at Harding

on projects, and learn new skills.

Mrs. Huff has taught Inventionland for six years. Her favorite part of teaching the class is getting to know students from different grades and providing them with hands-on activities. She also enjoys watching students make progress as they develop their creations and creative ideas.

Another activity teacher is Mrs. Demitras, who has taught Robotics for 10 years. She especially likes watching students work through challenges, solve problems, and push themselves to succeed before moving on to the next level.

Criminal Justice is another activity class available to seventh- and eighth-grade students. The class is taught by

Captain Walker, who was asked by the school to teach it because of his experience as a police officer. Mr. Walker enjoys interacting with students and watching them progress as they learn about different aspects of the law.

Harding's activity classes help make school more interesting by giving students opportunities to explore different careers, complete projects, and develop new skills. The teachers play an important role in helping students discover new interests.



Boys Soccer Makes History with Inaugural First Season



By Vance Shelton

Harding Middle School started up a new boys' soccer program to help improve middle school players for high school.

Mr. Hayes, a high school soccer coach, shared about his hopes for the new middle school program. He said, "As an Assistant Coach for the high school boys' soccer team, I love that I can coach the present group at the high school, while simultaneously start preparing the future generation for Big

Red Soccer."

Mr. Hayes also stated, "I love every opportunity for middle school students to get out and be part of a team or a group. This is a great experience for younger kids to wear the school's name on the front of their jersey and represent Harding, while participating in the best sport there is."

Gavin Pratt, Lucas Hoover, and Santiago Torres are all HMS soccer players. They were in agreement that the new program is a great

opportunity.

Additionally, they feel that New Philadelphia was the hardest opponent they have faced this season. They also said they get to rematch them later this season and as a team the next time they play them they want to leave with a win.

Gavin Pratt wants to get "more powerful accurate shots and passes, also wants to have better communication." Other goals for the season include having a winning record and to improve as a player and a team.

Overall, it has been a very exciting first season for the Harding Middle School soccer team. This is a historical year, and an exciting addition to Harding sports for future soccer players.

Sideline Cheer Squad

By Carmen Mills

Football season is here, and the Harding Middle School sideline cheerleaders are ready to bring energy, enthusiasm, and school spirit to the games. With another season underway, the cheerleaders are excited to perform, support the team, and create memories with their teammates.

New cheer coach, Mrs. Moray, is especially excited to see the girls take the next step in their cheerleading experience. Moray is stepping outside of the ELA classroom to coach a sport she loves. "I am excited for the girls to get to cheer at their first Big Red game and cheer at a high school game," Moray said.

Moray has several reasons why she enjoys being a cheer coach. "I enjoy being a cheer coach because I get

to see some of my former students outside of the classroom environment, and I love to cheer," Moray said.

For the cheerleaders, the season is not only about performing at games. It is also an opportunity to improve their skills and work together as a team.

Mila Pittera has participated in Harding Middle School sideline cheer for two years. "My skills have improved, and my communication with my teammates has increased. Every day I feel I get better," Pittera said.

Alexia Landy also enjoys being part of the cheer team. "It's a fun activity to participate in because it shows school pride," Landy said.

Both Pittera and Landy have advice for students who may want to become future cheerleaders.

"Don't take it for granted because time

flies and these moments will not last forever!" Pittera said.

Landy encourages future cheerleaders to be confident and not hold back. "Be sure not to be embarrassed to cheer out loud," Landy said.

HMS sideline cheer gives students an opportunity to build skills, make memories, work with teammates, and show their school pride. As the football season continues, the cheerleaders will be ready to support their team and bring their energy to the sidelines.

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Fifth Grade Transitions to HMS

By Ezekiel Norris

After spending year of elementary school, fifth grade students are now becoming the newest members of the Harding community. But how are they adjusting to their new school?

According to fifth-grade teacher Ms. Kalinowski, the transition has been going well so far. "I think they're doing good. The fifth graders are settling in," Kalinowski said.

While the transition has been positive, some students have noticed differences between elementary school and middle school. Fifth grader Jayden McShan said, "I like the new elective classes. For example, I have health class which is new for

me," McShan said.

Fellow fifth-grader Kwamaine Williams said, "I love math and being able to move to different classes." Williams added that he enjoys meeting new people.

Princeton Kaufman shared that he also loves math. "I have Mrs. Scherich, and it's my favorite class."

Ms. Ribar, fifth grade social studies teacher, shared that she is impressed with the fifth-grade. "They bring a different energy into the classroom—it's refreshing!"

Starting middle school is a big change for fifth graders, but it is also an opportunity to experience something new.

Candid Photos



Harding Humor

What is a ghost's favorite cheese?

Ghoul-da Cheese



Harding Choir Updates

By Julian Diaz

Harding Middle School Choir is a place where students come together to learn how to sing, build their musical abilities, and make memories with their friends. While choir is a class focused on music, both teachers and students believe it offers much more than that.

According to choir teacher, Ms. Dami, choir gives students the opportunity to create, learn, and grow together. "Choir allows students to create art through music with others. This creates a community that learns together, grows together, and challenges one another. These opportunities are beneficial not just to students' musical education, but to their overall personal growth," Dami said.

Dami has a special connection to Harding's choir program. About 15 years ago, she was a member of the

direction of Mr. Crano. Now, she has returned to Harding as a choir teacher and is helping a new generation of students discover the same experience.

Students also believe that choir provides benefits beyond learning how to sing. Luca Pietro said, "Choir has helped kids get time to cool off and help them relax and strengthen their musical ability."

For student Jas'sier Luke, choir has been an opportunity to improve a skill that she already enjoys. "I have always loved singing and the choir class has helped me improve a lot," Luke said.

Colton Davis said his favorite part of choir is the opportunity to make memories with his friends.

When asked how choir has impacted Harding Middle School, Dami said the program provides students with a challenging,

enriching, and enjoyable musical experience.

For many students, choir is not simply about learning music. It is a place where they can develop their musical abilities, relax, spend time with friends, and create lasting memories. Through the experiences of both teachers and students, Harding's choir program continues to be a meaningful part of the school community.

Stallion Football

By Olivia Buffo

The Harding Middle School boys football team is off to an exciting start with a 4-1 record. The players have been working hard throughout the season, supported by coaches who bring their own experience and passion for the game.

Coach Kernahan believes football is “the coolest game ever invented” and that middle school is where Harding’s strong football program begins. He said the five-station tackling drill is one of the hardest drills, especially when teaching players how to tackle.

Coach Zorne also enjoys helping players understand the game. He considers post-practice sprints one of the hardest parts of practice.

Coach Fluaharty said his love and passion for football help players excel and enjoy the sport. He believes the mental repetitions can be more difficult than the physical ones.

Coach Price enjoys sports and teaching kids how to play them. He considers staying conditioned and hitting some of the hardest parts of football.

The players have their own perspectives on the season and the challenges of football.

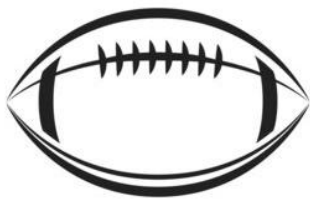
Declan Hritz’s favorite positions are fullback and middle linebacker. He said conditioning is the hardest part of football. His favorite coach is Coach Kernahan, while Coach Davis pushes him the most. Declan believes the team will beat Edison.

Dominic Casinelli plays wide receiver and said contact is the hardest part of football. Coach Kernahan is both his favorite coach and the coach who pushes him the most. Dominic believes the team can have an undefeated season.

Gavin Drazic’s favorite position is running back. He said catching and coverage are the most difficult parts of football. Coach Kernahan is his favorite coach, while Coach Price pushes him the most.

Montgomery Haynes plays nose guard and said conditioning is the hardest part of football. Coach Kern pushes him the most. Montgomery expects the season to go well because he believes the team will improve with every game.

With a strong start to the season, HMS football is looking forward to the rest of the season.



Jazz Choir

By Luca Pietro

With the eighth-grade students from last year’s Jazz Choir now at Big Red, Harding Middle School’s Jazz Choir has welcomed a new group of students this year. Mrs. Dami, the new choir and Jazz Choir teacher, recently selected and announced the members of this year’s group.

Jazz Choir is an advanced singing program for students who have strong singing abilities and have been in choir for at least one year. Students must also be in sixth grade or older to participate. Mrs. Dami is excited to work with the students and help them develop their musical abilities. “I’m very excited about teaching the kids about advanced music,” Dami said. As the new teacher, Dami will bring her



own experience and approach to the program.

Students are also looking forward to seeing what she will bring to Jazz Choir. Eighth-grade student Gavin Pratt said, “Yes, I feel she will add her own spark and talent to the program.”

Students have many different reasons for wanting to participate in Jazz Choir. For eighth-grader Makiah Hawkins, singing has been something she has enjoyed since she was young. “I always liked singing since I was little. My aunt sang to me,” Hawkins said.

The change in students has also

brought mixed emotions for some of the returning members. While they are excited to be eighth graders and take on a new role in the group, they also miss the students who graduated from the program.

Eighth-grade student Riley Kelly said, “I’m sad but also happy because I am now an 8th grader and leader.”

This year’s Jazz Choir brings together new students, returning students, and a new teacher. Although students have different reasons for joining, their positive attitudes and shared interest in singing bring the group together.

Lift Club

By Salvatore Pittera

At Harding Middle School, student athletes have the opportunity to get stronger during the school day through Lift Club. The class gives students a chance to work on their strength, speed, and athletic abilities while also preparing for their sports.

For students like Colton Davis, lifting during school is a valuable opportunity. Colton said one of his goals is to become stronger and faster at agility. He has already noticed changes in his body and said he feels like he is gaining more muscle.

Colton also believes having Lift Club during school gives HMS students an advantage. "I have an advantage to lift because most people can't come down and lift, and it's a privilege," Colton said.

His goal is to continue working hard and increase the amount of weight he can lift every day. He also believes Lift Club is a good fit for Harding because not every school gives students this opportunity.

Ellek Thomas has also seen improvements from lifting. One of his main goals is to become stronger for football and improve his maximum weight on different lifts.

His favorite part of the class is benching and being able to see his progress. "It's increased because I've gotten a lot better at blocking and have been feeling stronger," Ellek said.

Ellek believes Lift Club is "100%" a good fit for Harding because it helps students improve in sports while building their strength.

Gavin Basinger is also focused on getting stronger each day. His goal is to become stronger and stay fit for sports. One of his favorite parts of the class is being able to improve his strength every day.

Gavin has noticed improvements in

his athletic performance, especially from squatting.

"My squat increased my legs for jumping and flexibility," Gavin said. He believes Lift Club is a good addition to Harding because it helps student athletes become stronger and better at their sports.

For these students, Lift Club is about more than just lifting weights. It gives them an opportunity to work toward personal goals, track their progress, and become stronger athletes. With students continuing to push themselves each day, Lift Club is helping HMS athletes prepare for the sports they enjoy.



Learning More about Mr. Mills

By Mario Banks

Harding Middle School is led by Principal Mr. Mills, who works to guide the school and support its students and teachers. But what inspired him to become a principal, and what does he believe makes a good teacher?

Mr. Mills was born and raised in Steubenville, Ohio. One of his goals was to return to his community and give back. When asked why he wanted to become the principal of Harding Middle School, Mr. Mills explained that he wanted to give back to the community where he grew up.

His connection to the area has also

shaped his career in education. Mr. Mills began teaching when he was 21 years old. His first teaching position was at East, and in 2002, he moved to Harding Middle School.

Students are grateful for Mr. Mills' leadership. Seventh-grade student Brad Westlake said he appreciates the way Mr. Mills interacts with students. "Yes, he's really involved. He does assemblies, is always at lunch, and I think he's a good principal," Westlake said.

Gia Williams, seventh-grader, notes that, "Mr. Mills is always at our sports and events. He supports us at volleyball, and that makes him a good

principal."

Malachi Petteway, seventh-grader, shared that Mr. Mills has the best announcements; "they're funny," Malachi stated.

These comments highlight the connection Mr. Mills has built with students during his time as principal.

Mr. Mills believes that strong teaching begins with relationships and understanding students' needs. When asked what good teaching looks like, he said it involves teachers who focus on building relationships and paying attention to their students' needs.

Through his years in education and his connection to the Steubenville community, Mr. Mills has made a lasting impression at Harding.

HMS Trunk or Treat

By **Amiya Hayes**

Harding Middle School's Trunk or Treat is a chance for students and families to get out of the house, have fun with friends, dress up, and, of course, get candy. With Halloween approaching, students and teachers are getting excited to see the creative trunks and costumes.

Trunk or treat is an annual event held in Harding Middle School's parking lot. Alongside the many teacher, parent, and community trunks, the school provides other activities for students like face painting and corn hole.

One teacher who enjoys participating is Mrs. Barletta. She enjoys decorating her trunk with her daughter and spending time with her. Her favorite part of Trunk or Treat is dressing up and matching with her daughter.

Students at Harding are excited and looking forward to Trunk or Treat.

Kamyah Edwards, a fifth grader, is participating in Trunk or Treat for the first time and is excited to decorate a trunk with her parents.

Another fifth grader, Iyonna Hayes, is also looking forward to the event. She has also experienced a Trunk or Treat at her old school.

Seventh-grader Andee Walker attended last year. She notes that she enjoyed the *Just Dance* station. "I didn't dance, but it was fun to watch my friends try and play the game!"

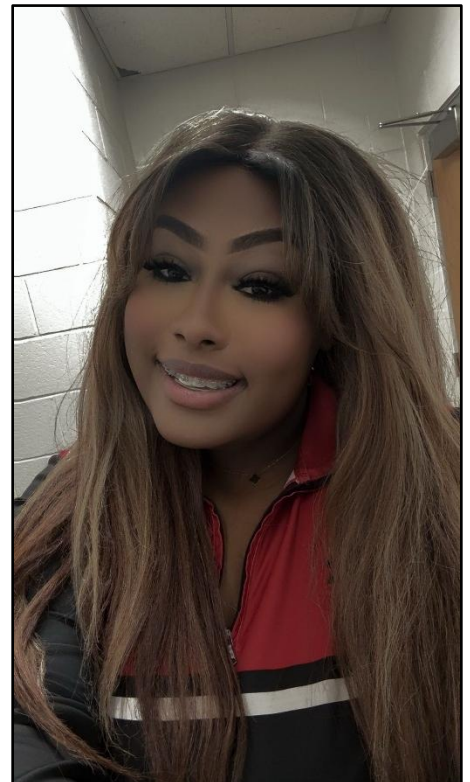
Natalya Albritton, seventh-grader, stated that she enjoyed walking around with her friends. "I came dressed as a Ninja Turtle." Natalya also encourages classmates to attend. "It's really fun," she added.

Beckett Utz also attended the event last year as a sixth-grader.

"I really enjoyed the corn hole. I won, beating my dad twice." Beckett notes that he came the classic Adam Sandler character—Happy Gilmore. "I think everyone should attend. It's fun, you get a lot of candy, and you get to see everyone's fun costumes," Beckett added.

With costumes, candy, decorated trunks, and plenty of Halloween spirit, Harding Middle School's Trunk or Treat is sure to be a fun event for students and families.

Trunk or Treat is October 29, 2026. Be there!



appreciate her kindness, personality, and willingness to help them succeed. Thank you, Miss Slappy!

Staff Spotlight: Miss Slappy

By **Ta'Nasia Smallwood**

At Harding Middle School, Miss Slappy is known by her students as a teacher who is kind, helpful, and always willing to make her students feel supported. Her students appreciate not only the way she teaches, but also the personality and positive attitude she brings to the classroom.

Several students shared what they enjoy most about having Miss Slappy as a teacher.

Robert said he enjoys hanging out with her and described her as "nice, fun, and helpful." He also said she is a great teacher.

Brayden Lyons said one thing he likes about Miss Slappy's class is that she incentivizes learning. "She always rewards our hard work." Lyons described her as nice, helpful, joyful, and a great teacher.

Chanel Scott said Miss Slappy's

personality and motivation stand out to her. She also appreciates the way Miss Slappy takes her time with students and makes them feel seen.

Kendall Daniels said Miss Slappy is a good teacher who teaches well. He also described her as nice, kind, and smart.

Miss Slappy also shared what she enjoys about teaching. One thing that made her want to become a teacher was her desire to help others.

For Miss Slappy, one of the best parts of teaching is helping students understand something they may not know yet. She said that when a student does not know the answer to a question, she enjoys helping them "turn on their light bulb."

From helping students understand difficult questions to making them feel seen and supported, Miss Slappy has made a positive impression on the students she teaches. Her students

Volleyball

By Jeorjah Gill

The Harding Middle School volleyball team is making an impact this season as its players work hard, compete, and develop their skills on the court. Both seventh and eighth-grade players are stepping up and showing their talent as the season wraps up.

Seventh-grade players Mila Clifton and Natalee Sustik have embraced their roles on the team this year.

Clifton said being a starter has helped her gain confidence. "It's nice to be out of my comfort zone and being able to express my talent," Clifton said.

She also said earning her starting position has made her feel confident. "It feels very nice. It feels like I earned my spot set after set and hit after hit. I feel unstoppable," Clifton said.

Sustik also worked hard to earn her place on the court. She said being a starter feels good because she knows she has worked hard for the opportunity. She has also learned an important lesson from playing volleyball: "One thing I did was realizing how much volleyball has

helped me be more of a leader on and off the court," Sustik said.

The coaches have also played an important role in helping the team improve. Coach Slappy said one of her proudest moments of the season came after the team's first win.

"After our first win, it brought me joy when I saw us succeed," Slappy said. She said one of the biggest challenges for the seventh and eighth-grade players has been communicating and calling for the ball.

Coach Colabella encourages her players to stay focused during games. "I tell them to focus and to keep their eye on the ball and to think there is no one in the crowd and to never listen to the negative things people have to say," Colabella said.

The eighth-grade players are also making the most of their season as they work toward the end of the year.

Hynnah Fleming said starting feels rewarding because she knows she has earned her position. She also enjoys helping her teammates by setting up plays. "Giving a good set means a lot because it feels good to see my set be the reason, we get a point and it has the front row feel accomplished when

they get a good kill," Fleming said.

Aubrey Barker said she is happy to contribute to the team whether she starts or not. "It feels good, like no matter if I start or not, as long as I am helping my team and being beneficial," Barker said.

For these players, volleyball is about more than individual performance. The team relies on communication, hard work, and support from one another as the season comes to a close.



October Events

- 10/16: Overcoming Obstacles
- 10/16: End of First Quarter
- 10/19: Start of Second Quarter
- 10/20: Harding Pep-Rally
- 10/21: National Jr. Honor Society Induction
- 10/28: Unity Day, Wear Orange!
- 10/29: Trunk or Treat



Fast Fact

Harding Middle School is named the 29th president Warren G. Harding, who was born in Blooming Grove, Ohio. Warren G. Harding was a newspaper owner—he bought and ran the Marion Star newspaper in Ohio before entering politics. He was the first U.S. president to have his voice broadcast on the radio. Additionally, his dog (Laddie Boy) was a white house celebrity, and had his own chair at cabinet meetings.



Candid Photos



Best Band in Buckeye Land

By Kenzie Fithen

Harding Middle School's 2026–27 band has been recognized as the “future best band in Buckeye land” because of the students’ improvement and their participation in concerts and performances.

Harding’s band includes students in grades five through eight, with fourth graders also able to join if they are interested. Much of the students’ improvement comes from their band teacher, Mr. Hicks, who makes learning music and notes fun and keeps his students motivated.

Andrew Grimm is one of the band’s most improved players. Andrew enjoys band because of “all the music I play and all the people in the class including Mr. Hicks.” He plans to continue band through high school and college and hopes

to earn a band scholarship. Although he plays flute, Andrew has considered switching to drums because he thinks they would be fun. He also enjoys marching because of the opportunities and scholarships it can provide. Andrew says band can be difficult at first, but “when you practice and play often, it’s easier.”

Mr. Hicks has also found a passion for teaching band. He was inspired to become a band teacher after watching the movie *A Young Man with a Horn*. He enjoys working with the different instruments and students in his classes. To stay positive, Mr. Hicks says he uses patience, stays calm, and handles the loud sounds that come with teaching band.

With dedicated students and a teacher who makes learning enjoyable, Harding’s band continues to improve and grow.



Cross Country

By Jeorjah Gill

The cross-country program at Harding Middle School continues to flex its strength—with several athletes collecting metals at events.

For many students, cross country is more than just running. It is a chance to challenge yourself, compete with others, and make new friends. Mary Nemeth, a member of the cross-country team, enjoys the sport because she likes running and meeting new people.

One of Mary’s favorite moments this season came during one of her most recent races. She said the race was important because she was able to

help her team earn points.

For students thinking about joining cross country, Mary has one important piece of advice: “Never give up because it is really difficult to run.” She believes staying determined is important, especially when the sport becomes challenging.

One of the hardest parts of cross country is running at Harrison, where there is a very steep hill. Mary said the area around the hill also has many other challenges for runners.

Even though cross country can be difficult, Mary’s love of running and her teammates make the sport worth the challenge.

Mary Nemeth is pictured on the right with her teammate George Ware.

