

# BEARCAT CHRONICLE

OCTOBER 2021

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

For the Parents, Staff, and Community of Crystal River Middle School



344 NE Crystal Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428

352-795-2116

<https://crm.citruschools.org/home>



## ADMINISTRATION

David Roland..... Principal  
Amanda Stringer..... Assistant Principal  
Christina Touchton..... Assistant Principal

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Bearcat Families,

Over the last two school years Crystal River Middle School has experienced considerable academic and behavioral growth. This growth is directly connected to the support and dedication from our Bearcat Community. Parents, staff, and students have worked very hard, held high expectations, and provided the necessary support to provide an excellent learning environment for all students and it is showing!

We have recently received notification of two important accomplishments since our last newsletter. One of the major accomplishments is that Crystal River Middle School was nominated for the Fred E Rozelle State of Florida Sportsmanship award for the second consecutive year. This award is presented to one out of thousands of middle schools in Florida. The award is given to the top school that demonstrates sportsmanship on the field, as well as having a well-defined system of addressing student behavior and achievement on campus. We have high expectations for all students but our student athletes that wear the Bearcat uniform are held to an even higher set of expectations. We use "The Big Three"- Do What's Right, Do Your Best, and Treat Others as You Want to be Treated-

*continued on page 2...*

### Check out the CRMS

#### Website

<http://crm.citruschools.org>

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*continued from cover...*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

as a is the foundation for all that we do. With the award comes a niche plaque and a \$2500 check that will be used to continue to grow our athletic programs.

Our second important accomplishment is moving from 4th to 2nd in FSA points of middle schools in Citrus County. This change in ranking was based largely on student acceleration and growth from the lowest 25% of students as measured by state testing. Student acceleration is based on the number of students taking and passing high school courses and receiving Industry Certification at the middle school level. All CRMS acceleration points came from students passing high school courses. We had the highest acceleration of middle and high schools in Citrus County. The lowest academic performing 25% of our English Language Arts students demonstrated the most growth of all four middle schools in Citrus County. Our bottom 25% in Math had the second most growth of all middle schools in Citrus County.

Adding these two accomplishments to last year's growth makes the Bearcat community very proud! Last school year CRMS was awarded the District Science Fair championship for middle schools. Our student, parent, and staff climate surveys demonstrated major growth and a majority of the categories were the top in the district.

Sincerely,  
David Roland  
Principal



## MOMENTS OF SILENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:

Effective at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year, each public school is to set aside a moment of silence during the first-period class each day. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, each school will have students observe a 1-minute moment of silence. Teachers are not to make a suggestion as to the nature of any reflections that a student may engage in during the moment of silence. Students are not to interfere with other students' participation in the moment of silence. Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to discuss the moment of silence with their children.



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Traditional Service 11:00am  
Bible Study 9:45am

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## B.E.S.T. STANDARDS

The BEST Standards stand for “Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking”. After adoption of the BEST Standards on Feb 12, 2020, a 3-year implementation timeline to transition from the FL Standards to the BEST Standards went into effect. The BEST Standards will impact the subject areas of ELA and Math. Implementation for the ELA BEST Standards in all Reading classes is underway for the 21-22 school year, and full implementation for all ELA and Math grade levels will take place in the 2022-2023 academic school year.

### What is different about the BEST Standards?

In Reading and ELA, the BEST Standards depart from the FL Standards in that they emphasize foundational literacy skills, prioritizing the basic reading and writing skills. Students behind in grade level proficiency receive direct support targeting key reading components as a foundation for comprehension. Similarly, in Math the BEST Standards prioritize foundational skills, such as fluency with basic arithmetic. Altogether, the BEST Standards for ELA and Math emphasize the acquisition of concrete skills as key components for learning.

We are excited and looking forward to the BEST Standards!

'Bearcat Chronicle'  
**October 2021**  
 Published Four Times Per Year  
 Crystal River Middle School  
 344 NE Crystal Street  
 Crystal River, FL 34428  
 Issue #3

**A few spots are left!**




**We need you!**

**Advertise in the Bearcat Chronicle!** This is a wonderful way for your company to get community recognition and exposure, and at the same time help support your local schools!

Alyssa Mayer • [mayera@citruschools.org](mailto:mayera@citruschools.org)  
 Crystal River Middle School




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## OUT-OF-FIELD TEACHERS

Crystal River Middle School is proud that all 66 teachers and administrators who work with our students are certified by the State of Florida or other governing board. We appreciate the following teachers who have volunteered to teach a subject outside of their primary certification and are currently taking classes to obtain certification in the area they are teaching out-of-field.

**Teacher ..... Course/Class**

- Anthony Branch ..... 7th Grade Science
- Tracey Potter..... Gifted
- Amy Antill..... 8th Grade Science
- Catherine Owens..... 7th Grade ELA
- Mindy London ..... ESOL
- Jennifer Hicks ..... Exceptional Student Education
- Naomi Steffer ..... Exceptional Student Education
- Kristin Fajardo ..... Media Specialist
- Michelle Hobbs ..... 8th Grade ELA
- Jordan Moyer ..... ESOL

All of these teachers have both experience and coursework in the area they are teaching. They are excellent teachers, and we appreciate the extra effort they are putting forth on behalf of our students.



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## AMERICAN FUNDRAISER

Money raised will go to support the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program at CRMS (80%), Grade Level Reward Field Trips (10%), and Staff Appreciation (10%).

A portion of our picture commission is used to support Staff Appreciation Activities.

## REPORT CARDS

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), requires every state and district to publish report cards that show how the state, district and schools are doing regarding student achievement and success. As a parent, you can access these reports online by visiting the following link: <https://edudata.fldoe.org>



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Hello Bearcat Families,

Winter sports are just around the corner! Girl's Basketball and Boy's Tennis will be having tryouts on October 18th, 19th, and 20th from 2:30 to 4:30. If your student would like to try out for either of these sports, they must have a completed and up-to-date physical packet on file in Student Services. Packets are available in Student Services.

Tickets for Girl's Basketball games can be found on the district website at [www.citrus.k12.fl.us](http://www.citrus.k12.fl.us). Home game tickets will be available a week prior to each home game. Home Season Tickets will be available from October 20th through October 27th.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Away	Time
4-Nov	CSMS	CRMS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
8-Nov	IMS	CRMS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
9-Nov	CRMS	Wildwood	3:00pm, 4:00pm
15-Nov	CRMS	LMS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
18-Nov	Open CRMS		
30-Nov	CRMS	SS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
2-Dec	LMS	CRMS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
6-Dec	CRMS	IMS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
9-Dec	CRMS	CSMS	3:00pm, 4:00pm
13-Dec	Villages	CRMS	4:00pm, 5:00pm
15-Dec	CSMS	County Championship	3:00pm, 4:00pm
16-Dec	CSMS	CC	3:00pm

## BOYS TENNIS SCHEDULE

Date	Home	Opponent	Time
8-Nov	LMS	CRMS	3:00pm
9-Nov	Villages	CRMS	3:00pm
10-Nov	Open CRMS		
16-Nov	CRMS	IMS	3:00pm
18-Nov	CRMS	LMS	3:00pm
30-Nov	CSMS	CRMS	3:00pm
2-Dec	CRMS	Villages	3:00pm
7-Dec	CRMS	CSMS	3:00pm
9-Dec	IMS	CRMS	3:00pm
14-Dec	County Championship	LHS	11:00am

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**OCTOBER COURSES**

# PARENT UNIVERSITY

**Service Navigation**  
 Department of Children and Families & The Anti-Drug Coalition  
 Behavioral Health Service Navigation & Tips  
 September 30, 2021  
 6:00pm – 7:00pm  
 Via Zoom

**Hidden In Plain Sight**  
 Anti-Drug Coalition – Renea Teaster  
 Substance Abuse Prevention  
 October 7, 2021  
 12:00pm – 1:00pm  
 via Zoom

**Understanding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)**  
 Jessie's Place  
 Explore the link between ACEs and the impact on development  
 October 21, 2021  
 6:00pm – 7:00pm  
 via Zoom



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Citrus County Schools, in partnership with community agencies, is proud to introduce PARENT UNIVERSITY. PARENT UNIVERSITY offers a variety of opportunities, including courses, training, and family centered workshops to help ensure their children's success. Our goal is to inform and empower caregivers while helping schools and our community form stronger bonds that lead to student success and happy, healthy families.

**Anti-Drug Coalition**

- Aspire
- CASA
- Citrus County Sheriff's Office
- Department of Children and Families
- Ecclesia Behavioral Health
- Hanley Foundation

**IMPACT Counseling**

- Jessie's Place
- Kids Central
- LifeStream
- National Alliance on Mental Illness
- SEDNET
- Youth and Family Alternatives

Scan the QR code to register for a PARENT UNIVERSITY course.

<https://forms.gle/2BseArZCSGc95uNM7>

For more information, please email Mindy Melito, Behavioral Health Program Specialist at [melitom@citruschools.org](mailto:melitom@citruschools.org).

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## Inside This Issue

Moments of Silence

B.E.S.T. Standards

Out-Of-Field Teachers

Report Cards

Sports Schedules

Updated Dress Code

and more!

