

# BEARCAT CHRONICLE

AUGUST 2022

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 2

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*

Keith Crisp..... *Assistant Principal*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Bearcats,

Each new school year offers an exciting new opportunity to grow and improve. We know that you want the best learning environment for your child and so do we. The start of the 2022-2023 school year is right around the corner. Our staff has reviewed feedback and data from our stakeholders. We are excelling in some areas but there are areas that need attention. This year we will continue to strive for a positive student culture that offers students many opportunities to fully develop their potential. Additionally, as we reach for student academic success, we are going to concentrate on improving student engagement in our classes.

At CRMS we use "The Big 3" to guide decision making for our Bearcat Community. "The Big 3" are, do what is right, do your best and treat others the way you want to be treated. Renown college football coach, Lou Holtz coin "The Big 3" and utilized them to guide his team in being better citizens. We want our Bearcats to be quality citizens and help make our culture strong.

Each successful year begins with Open House. Our Open House is scheduled for August 4 for the following times:

- 6th Grade Only Pre-Orientation **students only** 11:00-2:00
- 6th grade 2:00-4:00pm

*continued on page 2...*

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*continued from cover...*

- 7th grade 4:00-5:00pm
- 8th grade 5:00-6:00pm

**We must offer specific times by grade level due to limited parking.** We will be utilizing our front, rear, and bus parking lot to accommodate as many people at one time as we can. If you can't make your assigned time, we will do our best to accommodate you during one of the other blocks but please realize parking is an issue. The first official day for students is August 10. Please note that we have a pre-orientation event for 6th grade students only. Parents will come in at 2:00pm for the regular orientation. At open house we will collect a \$5 fee that covers gym lockers, supplements field trips, and student reward programs. We will also sell Bearcat t-shirts, socks and hats if you are interested.

As you prepare for the school year, please refer to the district code of conduct for dress code information for a guideline to purchase clothes. We don't want you to be frustrated during your first month at school due to dress code.

We truly want to provide a positive learning experience for all our students. To accomplish this, we ask for your support and constructive feedback. We have the highest expectations for all our students and our goal is for students to achieve their potential. Together we can make our school great. We look forward to meeting you and your child at Open House.

Sincerely  
David Roland

## ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Bearcat Families! I am Mr. Crisp, one of the Assistant Principals at CRMS. All students whose last name begins with letters A-L will be assigned to me. I am beyond excited for the 22-23 school year, and I cannot wait to welcome our new and existing Bearcats back to school!

Just like last year, our PBIS program will recognize and reward students displaying positive behavior on campus and at school events. Students will earn PBIS points to redeem in the school store or to enter into one of our AWESOME school raffles. We are looking forward to working with our local partners to add exciting rewards to our PBIS program. Students displaying consistent positive behavior will also earn the chance to attend live in-school PBIS assemblies.

Parents, please also be on the look out for the Student Handbook Agreement, which your child will bring home to be signed and returned in the first week of school. This document outlines the policies in the CRMS Student Handbook and is consistent with the Citrus County Schools Code of Student Conduct. In an effort to promote positivity across our campus, please take a moment to note and review the following your student prior to the start of school:

- From 7:30 to 2:20, personal electronic devices must be turned off and stowed in your child's backpack
- Dress code regulations will be enforced – students out of compliance will be required to change clothing

We know that a healthy, safe, and nurturing learning environment is built on the principles of respect, compassion, and commitment to high expectations for all members of our school family. I can't wait to see you back on campus and remember to follow the Big 3!

Mr. Crisp, Assistant Principal

## FUND RAISING

### General Fund Raising

Money raised will go to support the club or group sponsoring the fundraiser with Staff appreciation receiving 10%.

### American Fundraiser

Money raised will go to support the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program at CRMS.

## GUIDANCE



**Lanna Wentworth**  
Professional School Counselor

I am Ms. Wentworth, a former Bearcat and graduate of CRH, and I'm so happy another school year is beginning! I love the fresh start that each new school year brings, reuniting with our current students, and getting to know our new ones. This will be my 6th year as a School Counselor at CRM and I have loved every minute of it – well, almost every minute. In all honesty, serving our students has been one of my life's greatest joys. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to invest in our children and our community. Please know, our Guidance team is here to support our students and their families so please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Hope to see you soon!



**Christine Stewart**  
Professional School Counselor

Hello awesome Bearcats! I'm Mrs. Stewart and I'm one of your school counselors. I can't wait to catch up with our students from last year and meet our newest Bearcats. I'm excited to work with students and their families to build a safe and supportive environment that helps all students reach their fullest potential. I look forward to seeing our students and families throughout the year and during our school sponsored events. It's going to be a fantastic year!



**Dawn Balmert**  
School Social Worker

Welcome to a new school year, Bearcats! My name is Ms. Balmert and I'm your School Social Worker. I'm excited to start my 5th year at CRM getting to know the new faces and catching up with the ones from last year. As a former Bearcat and graduate from CRH, I love having the opportunity to help shape and support this current generation. Throughout the year, I look forward to meeting with your child to ensure they have a positive, healthy, and successful school year! I hope to see you around campus, at sporting events, or any other chance to support our Bearcats!

## SAEC SCHEDULE- SCHOOL ADVISORY ENHANCEMENT COUNCIL

Parents and guardians who are interested in becoming voting members of the 2022-2023 CRM Advisory Council can sign up at the Open House on August 4th or by contacting Assistant Principal Amanda Stringer.

### Meeting Dates

- September 15, 2022
- November 10, 2022
- February 9, 2023
- April 20, 2023



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## OUT OF FIELD

Crystal River Middle School is proud that all 63 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.

### Out-of-Field Teachers:

- Catherine Gillespie
- Karen Fox
- Lisa Kell
- Jessica Ingalls
- Anne Sigmon
- Tracey Potter
- James Collette

## NEW TEACHER ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT (TOSA)- BECKY HARRIS



As a former Bearcat, I can say that it is truly wonderful to be back at CRMS! I am Becky Harris and it is a privilege to start my 14th year as an educator in Citrus County back where I first started my education in Citrus County almost 25 years ago. As a graduate of Virginia Military Institute, a former high school ELA/Reading teacher, Literacy Coach, and Secondary Program Specialist, I bring with me a variety of experiences and expertise. I am thrilled for the opportunity to support students and teachers with some of my expertise in ELA, Reading, and curriculum writing. I also bring a depth of knowledge and understanding of the new B.E.S.T. Standards, and I am excited to support this transition and enhance instruction to enrich the lives of our students. When it comes to my educational philosophy Ria Pierson says it the best, "Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be." So, if you should ever need to reach out to me, please do not hesitate to do so. I look forward to our future partnership in achieving our shared vision of seeing every child succeed.

## BEST STANDARDS

- This year Citrus County will be implementing Florida's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics.
- These benchmarks will eliminate Common Core and increase the quality of curriculum and instruction. B.E.S.T. prioritizes civics and frames learning around classic literature and primary source material. Students will learn from every major literacy period and analyze rhetoric starting in 6th grade. B.E.S.T. Mathematics ends confusing Math that was a roadblock for parents to help students at home and gives flexibility to students to show their unique strategies for problem solving and real-world context. Which will make Math more valuable to education overall. B.E.S.T. will also eliminate Florida Student Assessment (FSA) Testing. Florida is becoming the first state in the nation to fully implement progress monitoring instead of end-of-year standardized testing. Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T) is a progress monitoring assessment that will take place three times a year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. Testing will take hours rather than days to administer and require 75% less testing time.

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## CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

<p><b>HEAD</b></p> <p>No caps, visors, hoods, bandanas or other head gear, except with administrative permission.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPTABLE</b></p> 	<p><b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b></p> 
<p><b>UPPER GARMENTS</b></p> <p>All garments must cover shoulder to shoulder. No rips/tears or skintight items.</p> <p>All garments must be long enough to clearly overlap the beltline or stay tucked.</p> <p><b>NO</b> halter tops, tanks tops, spaghetti straps or muscle shirts.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPTABLE</b></p> 	<p><b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">Straps must be 2 inches wide</div> 
<p><b>LOWER GARMENTS</b></p> <p>Undergarments and the buttocks <b>MUST</b> remain entirely covered even while seated.</p> <p>Dresses, skirts and shorts must be at least mid-thigh or below in length.</p> <p><b>No rips, holes or tears in clothing above the mid thigh on boys or girls</b></p>	<p><b>ACCEPTABLE</b></p> 	<p><b>NOT ACCEPTABLE</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin-bottom: 5px;">Shirt must come to mid thigh if wearing leggings</div> 

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## LIFE SKILLS

Over the past three years, assisting our students in developing essential life skills has been an important focus for our school family. This year we will continue to focus on self-management, resiliency, conflict resolution, self-awareness, relationship skills, and understanding and respecting others' viewpoints and backgrounds. With this in mind, our homeroom classes will continue to feature lessons on life skills every Monday and Wednesday, while Fridays will be reserved for students to share their input in a town hall so that we can continue to improve their experience at Crystal River Middle School.

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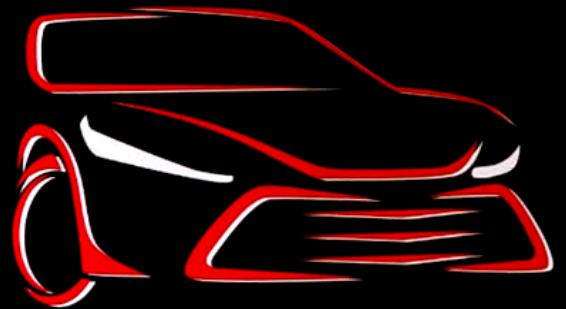
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## NEW TITLE I INTERVENTIONALIST FOR MATHEMATICS- MINDY MELITO

Hello Bearcats! My name is Mindy Melito, and I am thrilled to be at Crystal River Middle School this year as the Title I Interventionalist for mathematics. In my 21 years of education, I have I taught various levels of mathematics at my alma mater, Citrus High School, was a Middle School Counselor at Lecanto Middle and a Behavior Health Program Special for District Student Services. I have been married for 22 years to my husband, who is also an educator, and have three amazing sons. As Walt Disney said, "First, think. Second, believe. Third, dream. And finally, dare". Over the next year, we are going to do a lot of thinking, believing, and dreaming as we dare to become proficient mathematicians.

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## ATHLETICS


My name is David Goddard, the new Athletic Director for Crystal River Middle School. I am originally from Michigan (Go Blue!) and moved to Florida with my wife Kelly in 2001. I have a daughter (24) who is attending the University of St. Augustine to earn a doctorate in physical therapy. I love to play music and tennis, or anything with some form of competition. My greatest passion is teaching because I enjoy watching my students grow in their education as well as in their social skills. Currently, I teach American History and will also be working on delivering the morning show (BNN) digitally to the staff here at Crystal River Middle School by instructing a class of students to create it using their iPads. My experience as a coach includes tennis, football, golf, and volleyball as well as helping with basketball when needed. It is a privilege to be the Athletic Director on this campus and I hope to learn the position well and continue the proud traditions here at CRMS.

Regards, David Goddard, Athletic Director

## ATHLETIC SCHEDULE FALL

(All event dates and times are subject to change)

Sport	Date	Home	Opponent	Time
Football	<b>30- Aug</b>	CSMS	CRMS	6:00
	<b>6- Sept</b>	CRMS	West Hernando	6:00
	<b>20-Sep</b>	CRMS	IMS	6:00
	<b>27-Sep</b>	CRMS	SS	6:00
	<b>4-Oct</b>	BYE CRMS		
	<b>11-Oct</b>	CRHS	County Championships	4pm, 6pm
Volleyball	<b>29-Aug</b>	CRMS	Villages	3:00, 4:00
	<b>1-Sep</b>	SS	CRMS	4:14, 5:15
	<b>8-Sep</b>	CRMS	WW	3:00, 4:00
	<b>15-Sep</b>	LMS	CRMS	3:00, 4:00
	<b>19-Sep</b>	CRMS	IMS	3:00, 4:00
	<b>22-Sep</b>	CSMS	CRMS	3:00, 4:00
	<b>26-Sep</b>	IMS	CRMS	3:00, 4:00
	<b>29-Sep</b>	CRMS	LMS	3:00, 4:00
	<b>3-Oct</b>	CRMS	CSMS	3:00, 4:00
	<b>6-Oct</b>	CSMS	County Championships	3, 4, 5
Cross Country	<b>28-Sep</b>	LMS	IMS, CRMS	3:30
	<b>5-Oct</b>	IMS	CRMS, IMS	3:30
	<b>12-Oct</b>	CRMS (@CRHS)	LMS, IMS	3:30
	<b>19-Oct</b>	CSMS	County Champ	3:30
Golf	<b>22-Sep</b>	CRMS/Villages/IMS/SS	CRMS Plantation	3:00
	<b>29-Sep</b>	CRMS/IMS/SR	IMS Inverness Golf CC	3:00
	<b>6-Oct</b>	CSMS/Villages/CRMS	CSMS	3:00
	<b>13-Oct</b>	CRMS/LMS/SR	CRMS	3:00
	<b>20-Oct</b>	Championships	Nancy Lopez Villages	1:00



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