

# BEARCAT CHRONICLE

DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4

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



344 NE Crystal Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428

352-795-2116

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



## ADMINISTRATION

Brian Lancaster . . . . . Principal

Keith Crisp . . . . . Assistant Principal

Shannon Rossi . . . . . Assistant Principal

## TITLE I

### CRMS is a Title I School

Title I is the largest source of federal aid to elementary and secondary schools. The purpose of Title I is to assist schools in improving student achievement, staff development, and parental involvement. Schools utilize Title I funds to enhance the district instructional program.

All Citrus County public elementary and middle schools utilize Title I funds to support a school-wide program. The funds are utilized to add highly qualified staff, support parental and community involvement, improve staff development, purchase additional instructional materials, and technological needs.

Our Title I programs help our students do better in school and feel better about themselves.

If you would like any further information concerning Title 1, please contact Rene Johnson at (352) 726-1931 ext. 2412.

### Upcoming Title I Events:

#### Winter Showcase – December 12

CRMS families are invited to attend a fun-filled evening where we will celebrate Science, Technology, Art, and Math.

#### Spring Showcase – March 14

CRMS families are invited to attend an evening of enrichment where we will celebrate Literacy, Technology, and school Programs and Clubs.

Scan Below for the Following Information:



Parent and Family  
Engagement Plan, 23-24



Parents Right to Know  
Letter, 23-24

### Check out the CRMS Website

<http://crm.citrusschools.org>

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@CrmBearcats



## TESTING LETTER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) is a progress monitoring system that is administered three times per year to track your student's progress in learning the Benchmarks of Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) Standards throughout this school year. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that your student will participate in the second administration (PM2) of the Grade 6,7,8 Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) ELA Reading and Mathematics assessments from December 4th - 11th. Your student's results from PM2 are for informational purposes only, and you will be provided with information about how to access the results after testing is completed.

FAST assessments are computer-adaptive tests taken on a computer or tablet. The questions get easier or more difficult depending on how the student responds, and each student will see different questions from a common item bank. Each test attempt (PM1, PM2, and PM3) will present 35–40 items that will cover the entire test "blueprint," meaning students will encounter items representative of the standards within the subject or grade level. For more information on the test design, please visit <https://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/best/>. If you or your student would like to interact with the online testing platform or review FAST ELA Reading and Mathematics sample items at home, sample test materials are available at <https://flfast.org/families.html>.

Please review the following policies with your student before testing:

- **Electronic Devices**—Students are not permitted to access any electronic devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, smartphones, and smartwatches, at any time during testing or during breaks (e.g., restroom). If your student is found with an electronic device or is found using Bluetooth/wireless headphones/earbuds during testing, his or her test may be invalidated.
- **Calculator Policy**—For Grades 7–8 FAST Mathematics, approved handheld scientific calculators may be used. For Grade 6 FAST Mathematics, a handheld four-function calculator may be used.
- **Testing Rules Acknowledgment**— All tests include a Testing Rules Acknowledgment that reads: "I understand the testing rules that were just read to me. If I do not follow these

rules, my test score may be invalidated." Prior to testing, test administrators read the rules to students, and students acknowledge that they understand the testing rules by clicking the box in the secure browser indicating they understand the testing rules.

- **Discussing Test Content after Testing**— The last portion of the testing rules read to students before they click the box to accept the Testing Rules Acknowledgment states that because the content of all statewide assessments is secure, students may not discuss or reveal details about the test content (including test items and passages) after the test. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, or posting to social media sites. Please make sure your student understands this policy prior to testing and remind them that "discussing" test content includes any kind of electronic communication, such as texting, emailing, posting to social media, or sharing online. While students may not share information about secure test content after testing, this policy is not intended to prevent students from discussing their testing experiences with their parents/families.
- **Working Independently**—Students are responsible for doing their own work during the test and for protecting their answers from being seen by others. If students are caught cheating during testing, their tests will be invalidated.
- **Testing Accommodations**—If your student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Plan, or is an English Language Learner (ELL) or a recently exited ELL, please contact the school to discuss any testing accommodations that will be provided for your student.

**\*\*End of Term assessments for Business, Art, and Exp. Music will be Dec. 13th, 18th, and 19th.**

If you have any questions related to this test administration, you may contact Becky Harris ext. 5204.

For more information about the FAST program, please visit the portal at [FLFAST.org](http://FLFAST.org).

Thank you for supporting your student and encouraging him or her to do his or her best during this test administration.

Sincerely,  
Brian Lancaster  
Parent University

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## A NOTE FROM GUIDANCE

Just a few reminders as we start a new school year:

### ABSENCES

When a student has been absent from school, the parent/guardian is required to send a note with the student's legal name, date of absence(s), and reason for the absence(s) signed by the legal parent/guardian within two (2) days of the student's return to school. If the written statement is not provided by the parent, the absence(s) will be unexcused.

### SCHEDULE CHANGES

There will be no schedule changes after the first few weeks of school. Thank you.

### DELIVERIES

Delivery of non-school related items, i.e. balloons, flowers, fast-food deliveries, etc. will not be accepted by the front office. We will attempt to get assignments, school projects, change of clothes and other school related items, delivered by the parent/guardian, to their students.

### EARLY DISMISSALS

Please make sure your child knows about any scheduled appointments or has pertinent family information before he/she leaves for school in order to avoid miscommunication. Administration strongly encourages appointments be made outside of school hours to help us keep classroom interruptions to a minimum.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation,  
Lanna Wentworth and Christine Stewart

## STUDENT SERVICES LETTER

Hello Bearcat Families!

With the holidays fast approaching, much excitement is in the air. Please remind your child of the importance in continuing to make positive choices and finishing Semester 1 on a high note. To reward students for their hard work and positive behavior, we will have a dance on Dec 15th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM and a PBS Field Day during school on Dec 21st. Students who have had no Saturday School, no ISS, no OSS, and no more than 1 Detention will be eligible to participate. Additionally, our Annual Winter Showcase will be Dec 12 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. All students and families are invited to attend.

Happy Holidays!!

Mr. Crisp and Ms. Rossi

'Bearcat Chronicle'

December 2023

Published Four Times Per Year  
Crystal River Middle School  
344 NE Crystal Street  
Crystal River, FL 34428  
Issue #4

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# UPcoming EVENTS

- Winter Showcase and Title I Parent and Family Engagement Night – Dec 12th
- CRMS families are invited to attend a fun-filled evening where we will celebrate Science, Technology, Art, and Math.
- Spring Showcase and Title I Parent and Family Engagement Night – Mar 20th
- CRMS families are invited to attend a fun-filled evening where we will celebrate Literacy, Technology, and school Programs and Clubs.



## FOOD AND CLOTHING- LOCAL RESOURCES

- Annie W. Johnson Senior Center, Dunnellon (food and clothing) 352.489.8021
- Citrus County Family Resource Center, Hernando (food and clothing) 352.344.1001
- Citrus United Basket, Inverness (food and clothing) 352.344.2242
- Daystar Life Center, Crystal River (food and clothing) 352.795.8668
- We Care Food Pantry, Homosassa (food and clothing) 352.228.4921

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## THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION (NCHE)

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) operates the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program. NCHE is based at the SERVE Center at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

NCHE works with schools, service providers, parents, and other interested stakeholders to ensure that children and youth experiencing homelessness can enroll and succeed in school.

The NCHE website serves as a comprehensive source of homeless education information. Visit the NCHE website at <http://nche.ed.gov> to

- download or order NCHE products;
- learn more about the McKinney-Vento Act and other laws pertaining to the education of students experiencing homelessness;
- search for information on topics such as McKinney-Vento eligibility, enrollment, transportation, preschool, higher education, and more; and
- learn more about homeless education in your state.



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**BEARCATS**  
CRYSTAL RIVER, FL 34429



## Girls Basketball

Practice begins October 16th

Date	Home Opponent	Away Opponent	Time
Dec 7	CSMS		3:00
Dec 11		IMS	3:00
Dec 12		County Championships at LMS	3,4,5

## Boys Tennis

Practice begins Oct 16th

Date	Home Opponent	Away Opponent	Time
Dec 7		IMS	3:00
Dec 12		LMS	3:00
Dec 14		County Championships at LMS	10:00



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## CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL DRESS CODE

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

### We Need You

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Becky Harris • [harrisb4@citrusschools.org](mailto:harrisb4@citrusschools.org)



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**Local Law Enforcement**  
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**State-Level Officials**  
State-level officials also have access to your tips to make sure proper steps are taken.

FortifyFL is a suspicious activity reporting tool that allows you to instantly relay information to appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials. FortifyFL was created and funded by the 2018 Florida Legislature as part of the Henry Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

**#FORTIFYFL**  
**GETFORTIFYFL.COM**



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