

# BEARCAT CHRONICLE

MARCH 2024

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1

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

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers, and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the new school year commences, I wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the outstanding work being done at Crystal River Middle School.

I want to extend my appreciation to you, the dedicated staff, and the entire Crystal River Middle School community for the commitment to providing our students with an exceptional education. Your leadership and the collective efforts of the teachers, support staff, and parents have truly made this school a nurturing and stimulating environment for our children.

Furthermore, as we finish up Progress Monitoring Testing for PM1, I would like to encourage you to follow the directions to the Citrus Family Portal found under the Test section of this newsletter and discuss this information with your child. Assessments and testing are essential components of the educational process. They provide valuable insights into your child's academic progress, strengths, and areas where they may need additional support. Engaging in conversations about testing data can have a significant impact on your child's growth and development.

Throughout the year, we will keep you updated on school events, important dates, and academic initiatives. If you

*continued on page 2...*

### Check out the CRMS Website

<http://crm.citrusschools.org>

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continued from cover...*

have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us. As we embark on a new academic year, I look forward to the continued success and growth of Crystal River Middle School. I encourage open communication between the school, parents, and the community to ensure that our students receive the best possible education and support.

Should you require any assistance or support, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I eagerly anticipate another year of excellence at Crystal River Middle School.

Sincerely,  
Brian Lancaster

### SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS



### 4H SPEECH WINNERS



## END OF YEAR TESTING

To Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of the academic year, I wanted to reach out to you to provide some information about the upcoming testing period. We believe that testing is an important part of the educational process, as it allows us to measure students' progress and identify areas where additional support may be needed.

Throughout the month of April and May, our school will be administering a variety of exams, including End-of-Term Exams, End-of-Course Exams, and the Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T) ELA and Math State standardized tests. These tests are designed to measure students' proficiency in a variety of subject areas, including Math, English Language Arts, Civics, and Science. Finally, students who are enrolled in specific courses will be taking end-of-course exams. These exams are designed to measure students' proficiency in the specific subject matter covered in that course.

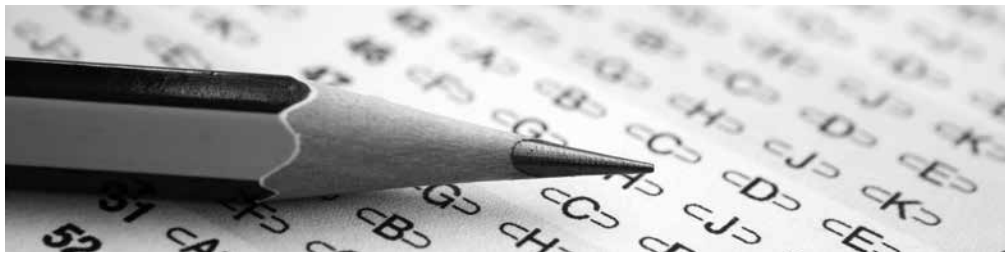
We understand that testing can be stressful for students, and we want to assure you that we are doing everything we can to support them through this process. We encourage you to talk with your child about the importance of doing their best on these exams.

If you have any questions about the testing process or would like to discuss your child's performance, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Becky Harris



'Bearcat Chronicle'

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Crystal River, FL 34428  
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## PARENT UNIVERSITY

### National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

#### *What are the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships?*

PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships set the bar for how schools and parent organizations should work together to support student success. We know that families are essential partners to providing a high-quality education for every student. Decades of research shows that family engagement matters for student success, students whose families are engaged are more likely to attend school, avoid discipline problems, achieve at higher levels and graduate. Family engagement also helps schools, research suggests it is equally as important as school leadership or a rigorous curriculum to predict school improvement.

Although there is consensus that family engagement matters, parents<sup>1</sup> and educators struggle to figure out how to engage with one another in ways that reach all families and have a positive impact on student success (Robinson & Harris, 2014). Since their initial creation over 20 years ago, the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships have contributed to greater awareness and capacity for improving family-school partnerships across the country and internationally.

The Standards are one of few recognizable and concrete guideposts for family engagement across the education system, complementing important work such as the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School-Community Partnerships. The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships have been used by PTAs, schools, districts, state education agencies, and the U.S.

Department of Education for accountability and support for strong family engagement, including as the foundation for PTA's own Schools of Excellence program which supports over 300 local PTAs and their schools annually.

Check out this link for more information:

<https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/runyourpta/2022/national-standards/standards-overview.pdf>

### More Resources

I wanted to share with you some information about a fantastic resource that is apart of our approved curriculum and can support your child's learning at home: Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)).

Khan Academy is a free online learning platform that offers instructional videos, practice exercises, and assessments on a wide range of subjects. From math and science to history and art, Khan Academy has something for every student.

What I love about Khan Academy is that it provides students with the opportunity to learn at their own pace and in their own way. These personalized learning pathways are tailored to your child's strengths and weaknesses. This means that your child can focus on the areas where they need the most support and work towards mastery in those subjects.

In addition to being a great learning tool, Khan Academy can also be a helpful resource for homework help and test preparation. Its vast library of content covers a range of subjects and can provide additional support to your child outside of the classroom.

## GUIDANCE

### Front Office Reminder

**Deliveries:** Delivery of non-school related items such as fast food, balloons, flowers, etc., will NOT be accepted by the front office. We WILL attempt to get assignments, school projects or other school related items, delivered by only the parent or guardian, to their students. Also, students may not use food delivery services (Door Dash, Uber Eats, etc...) to order food to the school.

**Absences:** When a student is absent, comes in late or gets picked up early, the parent or guardian is REQUIRED to send a note with the student's legal name, date of absence(s) and reason for the absence, signed by the parent/guardian within two (2) days of the student's return to school. If no written note is received, the absence(s) will be unexcused. Please refer to pages 7-11 in the Code of Student Conduct for more in-depth information on student absences.

**Early Dismissals:** Administration strongly encourages appointments to be made outside of school hours to help us keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. If you must pick up early, please make sure your child is aware of the scheduled appointment and only a parent/guardian or emergency contact for that child can sign them out after presenting a current state-issued picture ID.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

The Guidance Team

## We need spots filled...



## ...Can YOU help?

Support  
Crystal River  
Middle School  
by advertising in the  
***Bearcat Chronicle!***

This is a wonderful way for your business to get community recognition and exposure, and at the **SAME TIME** help support your local schools!

Contact the school today for more information.

Crystal River Middle School  
Becky Harris  
[harrisb4@citrusschools.org](mailto:harrisb4@citrusschools.org)



# ATHLETICS

## SPORTS SCHEDULES

### BOYS BASKETBALL

#### March

5th County Championships . . . . . 3,4,5 TBD



### TRACK

#### March

14th @ Middleton Hosts . . . . . 4:00

18th @ LMS Hosts . . . . . 3:00

#### April

4th @ CRHS County Championships . . . . . 3:00

9th @ South Sumter Conference Championships . . . 3:00



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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; margin-top: 10px;">         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; margin-top: 10px;">         Shirt must come to mid thigh if wearing leggings       </div>

### We Need You

**to bring this newsletter to press**

Your advertisement helps fund the newsletter and at the SAME TIME your business gets community recognition and exposure.

**Help Crystal River Middle School by advertising in the *Bearcat Chronicle!***



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



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**FORTIFYFL**  
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING APP

### QUICKLY AND EASILY SUBMIT A TIP

By accessing FortifyFL, students can provide a description of the threat, share pics and videos and optionally submit their contact information.

#### Anonymous or Non-Anonymous

You decide whether you want to include your name and contact information.

#### Convenient

Submitting a tip is quick and easy using our mobile app or website.

#### Include Photos and Video

You can also include photos or video with your tip report.

### QUICKLY SEND TO AUTHORITIES

FortifyFL automatically routes your tip report to the appropriate law enforcement agencies and school officials.



#### Your School Officials

The tip report goes to your local school officials when submitted.

#### Local Law Enforcement

Your local police department or sheriff's office receive copies of your tips automatically.

#### 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 Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act.

#FORTIFYFL  
GETFORTIFYFL.COM



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