

# NEWS



Fall 2020

## Election simulation

Students at Centerville-Abington Elementary School are getting a timely lesson as they participate in a mock election. One student will secure the school presidency on Election Day by winning the majority of electoral votes. Classrooms simulate states and their electoral votes. According to Betsey Moore, a sixth-grade teacher, electoral votes were determined by homeroom teachers' years of teaching experience.

"For example, Mrs. Moore has more years of classroom teaching than Mrs. Shadle, so Mrs. Moore's classroom's electoral vote number will be higher than Mrs. Shadle's," explained Mrs. Moore in written information provided to the other teachers about the simulation. "There are 538 total electoral votes, so whichever candidate hits 270 electoral votes first (the majority) wins!"

The two presidential candidates, **Eli Walther** and **Chanel Coffey**, representing the East Political Party and the West Political Party, were selected by the sixth-graders. They based their votes on anonymous presidential speeches written by the candidates. Popular vote determined the winner of this primary election.

"Without motivation and honor, it is easy to let ANTS crawl back into our school," said Eli during a recording of his speech, referring to automatic negative thoughts. Some of the things Eli wants for his school are vending machines, plexiglass between desks instead of masks, and learning materials for all learning styles.

In her opening remarks, Chanel said her favorite colors are pink and yellow, and her favorite food is her mother's taco soup.

"I would like to have an after-school crafting program where we paint, color and draw and put positive things on the walls and put positive things in the bathroom so people can see them," she said. She would like students to help the elderly in the community with yardwork and small jobs.



## Character Strong

"Please" and "thank you" were the magic words for Mike Day's seventh-grade geography class during one week this year. He encouraged his students to show respect to others in this way as part of the Character Strong initiative being implemented at the junior high.

The first few lessons were icebreakers to help the students learn the names of their classmates and personal things about them. The initiative centers around Eight Essentials: patience, kindness, humility, respect, selflessness, forgiveness, honesty and commitment. In addition, self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, responsible decision-making and relationship skills are the social-emotional skills in the program.

"One other thing that I have included in our Character Strong social-emotional learning program is a book by Jon Gordon called *One Word*. It is about choosing the word meant for you," said Mr. Day, noting an explanation at [jongordon.com](http://jongordon.com) about the book: "There is a word meant for you and when you find it, live it, and share it, your life will become more rewarding and exciting than ever."

After he read the book, Mr. Day asked students to choose a word that will serve as inspiration for them this school year.



## New staff



**Jenny Fralick**, a 2002 graduate of Centerville Senior High School, teaches physical education at Rose Hamilton Elementary School. She has a Bachelor of Exercise Science from Ball State University.

Ms. Fralick is currently in the Transition to Teaching program at Indiana University East. She worked with Jessica Anderson as an EISS aide for two years and will complete her student teaching in the fall of 2021. During the half day Ms. Fralick is not teaching P.E. at the school, she is completing her field experience hours there.

**Emily Clarke** teaches fourth grade. She graduated in May after completing her student teaching with Betsey Moore at Centerville-Abington Elementary School. Ms. Clarke was a paraprofessional who did intervention in third and fourth grade at Starr Elementary in Richmond for six years prior to assuming her new position in fourth grade.



“We have a classroom guinea pig named Petunia and an as yet unnamed lizard,” noted Ms. Clarke.



**Britney Brandt** is a special education teacher at Centerville Senior High School. She started her career in education as a teacher’s aide, then special education teacher, in Kentucky. She spent the last 17 years in the Western Wayne Schools as a special education teacher at the middle and high school level.

Mrs. Brandt graduated from Richmond High School and later from Western Kentucky University.

“I was born and raised in Richmond, and after spending ten years in Bowling Green, Kentucky, returned home with my husband to start a family and help with the family farm,” she said, adding that she is a Wayne County 4-H horse and pony volunteer and works with children and adults at a local horse barn.

Mrs. Brandt appreciates the welcome she has received and looks forward to being part of the staff for a long time.



**Maggie Spear** teaches Algebra 1 and Algebra 1 Lab Intervention. She received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Human Development from Ball State University. She then attended the University of Colorado’s teaching certification program.

She began her teaching career as a special education teacher in Colorado, and she taught at Hagerstown High School before coming to Centerville. At Hagerstown, she taught algebra, geometry and three levels of integrated math.

“My main connection to Centerville is my fiancé, Max Smith, who is also a teacher at the high school,” explained Miss Spear, adding that her employment with Huffer Child Care Resource and Referral immediately after college included work in Wayne County.

**Shane Osting**, the new high school athletic director, said things are off to a great start.

“We have developed a website to report results and post news to the community,” he said. “Also, we can provide photos for the school and community.”



Here is the website: [www.centervillebulldogsathletics.com](http://www.centervillebulldogsathletics.com). Mr. Osting’s goal is to develop a greater connection with the community and find ways to improve the coaches and athletes.

“I am hopeful to create a positive environment that has athletes and coaches supporting all programs and being involved with more than just one sport,” he said.

Mr. Osting’s previous positions included athletic director, P.E. teacher, special education teacher, health teacher, and boys and girls varsity basketball coach at Randolph Southern. He was also the assistant principal and athletic director at Blue River Valley and athletic director at New Castle High School.

Mr. Osting is a graduate of Winchester Community High School. He attended Huntington College and Ball State University and received his master’s degree from Western Governor’s University.

Centerville Junior High School has three new teachers; however, they are not new to the school district. **Katie Hollendonner**, formerly a preschool instructor, is now the physical education teacher. **Tara Kinder** has moved from high school math to junior high math, and **Kenny Marshall** now teaches junior high English instead of sixth grade.

## Fourth-graders attempt classic egg drop experiment



Using half a dozen items and their knowledge of the scientific method, design process, force and motion, fourth-graders recently attempted to design a container that would keep a raw egg intact when dropped from a height of ten feet.

One group of students in Tasha Turner's class was successful by using a cup and two paper

plates to keep the contraption balanced as it fell. **Luke Mull, Axel Sullivan, Grace Curts, Kyah Pieper, and Jasey Kilgus** made up this group. Another group used this same principle but added cotton balls for insulation.

"**Jaxon Morales, Maleah Montgomery, Raiden Engle, Brooktyn Culbertson, and Annabelle Anderson** found that the insulation plus using the plates to create drag helped slow down their contraption when it dropped so that the landing had less of an impact," explained Ms. Turner.

One egg survived the fall in Emily Clarke's classroom, thanks to the work of **Hannah Hemmerling, Caden James, Elijah Marsh, and Reese Marshall**. Reese and Hannah described their protective container as an upside down parachute, and Caden explained that it created air resistance. Cotton balls added cushioning.



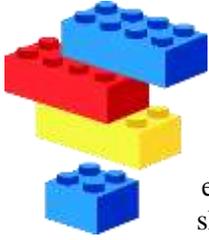
## New Chromebooks



*At left, kindergartners use the new Chromebooks they received in September. First- and second-graders received theirs in August. Students use the devices to demonstrate academic knowledge, do interactive lessons, read online books, access a new math series and more.*

*"Looking forward, students will be using their Chromebooks to participate in research and critical thinking activities and collaborative learning," said Linda Duke, the Integrated Media Specialist who, along with her media team, provided the care and usage training. "I created color coded login cards for the kindergarten students. These cards have been a great help to students in learning their login credentials and getting logged on to the Chromebook and into various online programs."*

## Preschool recognition



Congratulations to the Leap Year Preschool and instructor **Debbie Cox**. The preschool was recently recognized by the Indiana Department of Education for its quality inclusive practices and is now included in the Indiana Directory of Preschool Inclusion Models. The Leap Year Preschool provides inclusive services with a blend of special education students and typically developing peers.

Jill Miller, school psychologist, said, "During the 2018-2019 school year, 100% of special education preschool students in this classroom demonstrated substantial improvement in social-emotional skills, positive behaviors, and academic knowledge and skills." She said the preschool team of her, Mrs. Cox, Ashley Strait, Valerie Hood, and Meagan Gillman participated in interviews and surveys with the Early Childhood Center at Indiana University on quality inclusion preschool practices to promote continued growth of the preschool program.



**You are welcome to attend meetings of the Board of School Trustees.  
Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month  
at 7 p.m. at the Spencer Administration Building.**

**You are encouraged to contact our schools if you have questions or comments.  
Office hours for corporation buildings are from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.**

Superintendent: Dr. Mike McCoy / Assistant Superintendent: Mark Campbell 855-3475

High School Principal: Tim Hollendonner / Assistant Principal: Brian Bellew 855-3481

Junior High School Principal: Sean Stevenson 855-5113

Centerville-Abington Elem. Principal: Kelly VanWinkle / Assistant Principal: Diana Hill 855-5132

Rose Hamilton Elem. Principal: Sam Pritchard 966-3911