CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism Thursday, November 26, 2026

Elementary Students Explore Ag

By Lanie Soundy

On Friday, November 13th, the 2026-27 Hayes Center FFA chapter went down to the elementary school for Connecting Chapters. Connecting Chapters involves projects in which 18 selected FFA members are divided among kindergarten through 4th grade classes to teach and help spark interest in learning more about agriculture. In kindergarten, Harli Cox helped the students learn about picking corn in which she led an activity on making crayons into corn. In first grade, Monica Dimas taught students about bees. The second graders learned about compost and made some compost with the help of Chloe Jeffers. Bentley Broz helped the third graders turn beans into plastic. Last but not least, the fourth grade students learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin with Yami Bencomo. This year's Connecting Chapters activities and projects were enjoyed by all grades.



Photo by Dove Lacey

FFA members Quaid Brott, Harli Cox, and Bristol Cox stopped by Kindergarten to read a book about corn picking during Connecting Chapters on November 13th.

First FFA CDE Brings Success!

By Ava Messersmith

After weeks of early morning practice and preparation, the Hayes Center FFA chapter finally was able to compete in their first career development event competition. The main three events that students entered were Livestock Judging, Natural Resources, and Agriscience. Each team had the opportunity to show their preparation and prove that they had worked hard and studied. The livestock judging team had a successful day with Kade Broz placing first individually and the team which included Cooper Soundy, Braydon Cox, and Ava Messersmith placing 5th overall qualifying for state. Senior Kade Broz was surprised and excited when he found out that he had placed first. Thinking back on finding out the news he said, "When I first found out I placed 1st individually, I could not believe it. I am very glad Mrs. Chitwood and Abbie Brott took time out of their day to help me work toward my goal of becoming better at oral reasonings and learning the terminology to give strong reasons. Their help and support made me be able to become better at livestock judging."

The Natural Resources team also competed very well with Kaylee Stewart placing first overall while the team of Agneshka Sankey, Colton Koetter Aaron Lawson also placed 5th, qualifying them for state as well. Sophomore Kaylee Stewart was also very proud of her team for qualifying for state and said, "I am very proud that our team qualified for state. I know that with studying and hard work, we will do our very best as a team when we get there."

By competing in the first CDE contest, the junior agriscience team of freshmen June Messersmith, Izzy Messinger, Kai Landry, and Harper Richards automatically qualified for state. The next FFA leadership development event will be held in Curtis at NCTA on December 8th. Good luck to the Hayes Center students who are competing!

Happy Thanksgiving!

The 5th and 6th graders were asked about their perspectives on Thanksgiving...

What is your favorite Thanksgiving dish?

Turkey, rolls, and mashed potatoes and gravy. -Karolyna Gallegos, 5th
Green beans, cheesy potatoes, and ham. -Jaycelyn Vapenik, 5th
I like lasagna. -Jude Jurek, 5th
Cream corn casserole. -Tierra Benson, 6th
Turkey and corn. -Tatum Lacey, 6th
Hard boiled eggs. -Parker Koetter, 6th
My favorite dish is turkey. -Cienna Vogt, 6th
My mom's chocolate cake. -Julieta Rodriquez, 6th
I would say dirt cake. -Brooke Messersmith, 5th

What is one of your family's Thanksgiving traditions?

Going to my grandma's house. -Tara O'Neil, 5th
We eat a veggie tray that is in the shape of a turkey. -Cadie Jeffers, 5th
Spending time with my family. -LeiBrady Landry, 5th
We play pool every year. -Tierra Benson, 6th
We play as the Bills in Madden on Thanksgiving. -Aaron Hernandez, 6th
We do the turkey dances. -Preslie Broz, 6th
Everyone goes to my grandma Marlene's house and before we eat, we pray for the food. -Hudsyn Cox, 6th
My family goes to my grandma's and we have a big dinner. -Kylee O'Neil, 6th
We celebrate my birthday. -Julieta Rodriguez, 6th

Why do you enjoy Thanksgiving?

I like it because I get to spend time with my family. -Karolyna Gallegos, 5th
I get to see my grandma and grandpa. -Peyton Koetter, 5th
Because I get to hang out with my cousins. -Sadie Richards, 5th
Because I can see my relatives. -Nicholas Sankey, 5th
Making memories with family. -Cadie Jeffers, 5th
You get to give thanks to God. -Brooke Messersmith, 5th
My family comes together. -Tierra Benson, 6th
Because my family comes home. -Aaron Hernandez, 6th
You can eat lots of food and see family. -Tatum Lacey, 6th
Because I can hang out with people I love. -Cienna Vogt, 6th
I like being with my family. -Colton Softley, 6th
Because I get to spend time with my family. -Kylee O'Neil, 6th
I get to eat a lot of food. -Drake Weston, 6th
Food and family. -LeiBrady Landry, 5th

What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?

Spending time with both sides of my family. -Karolyna Gallegos, 5th
When I was little, my cousin Korban and I would always play games. -Tara O'Neil, 5th
Going to grandma Starla's house. -Sadie Richards, 5th
When we pretended to be Indians and pilgrims. -Nicholas Sankey, 5th
When my grandma lived on the farm and all of the family came. -Dash Messersmith, 5th
After eating, we played basketball. -Drake Weston, 6th
Eating grandma's chocolates. -Tierra Benson, 6th
When the turkey exploded. -Aaron Hernandez, 6th
Watching football. -Mr. Rohde
Hanging out with all my friends. -Preslie Broz, 6th
Playing games with all of my cousins. -Tatum Lacey, 6th
Seeing my aunts and cousins. -Parker Koetter, 6th
When we play football. -Jude Jurek, 5th

What three things are you most thankful for?

My family, friends, and food. -Peyton Koetter, 5th
Family, food, and my home. -Tara O'Neil, 5th
Friends, water, and food. -Emma Lawson, 5th
Family, friends, and food. -Sadie Richards, 5th
Family, friends, and food. -Nicholas Sankey, 5th
Books, family, and fun. -Jude Jurek, 5th
Family. -Cadie Jeffers, 5th
My mom, dad, and siblings. -Dash Messersmith, 5th
Family, food, and my life. -LeiBrady Landry, 5th
Family, my life, and friends. -Tierra Benson, 6th
I'm thankful for family, friends, and where I get to live. -Kylee O'Neil, 6th
Family, my home, and school. -Aaron Hernandez, 6th
Three things I am thankful for are baseball, my parents, and my siblings. -Konstantine Sankey, 6th
Family, freedom, and food. -Mr. Rohde
I am thankful for my dad, mom, and horses Bleu and Danny. -Preslie Broz, 6th
My family, food, and games. -Parker Koetter, 6th
My family, my friends and my dog. -Cienna Vogt, 6th
I am thankful for family, my friends, and a roof over my head. -Colton Softley, 6th
My family, friends, and the delicious food I get to eat every year. -Hudsyn Cox, 6th



Photo by Ava Messersmith
Fourth grader Christiana Duron poses with her pumpkin artwork in front of the fall bulletin board in the elementary school.



Photo by Harli Cox
Third graders Colynns Brott, Adeline Gohl, and Embry Grimes smile during a fall painting activity in art.



Photo by Ava Messersmith
First graders Quentin Vapenik, Brynn Gohl, Aryann Hernandez, and Emilio Varela hold up the balloons they made to march around the gym for the elementary school's Macy's Day Parade.



Photo by Monica Dimas
Carson Cox holds his Macy's Day Parade balloon with his drawing of a semi.



Photo by Ava Messersmith
The elementary students line up for a photo to show off the balloons they made for their Macy's Day Parade in the gym.