CARDINAL FLYER

Hayes Center High School Journalism Thursday, November 19, 2026

JUST THE START FOR FFA

BY MONICA DIMAS

The Hayes Center FFA kicked off the year with their first big event, the labor auction on Tuesday November 10, 2026. The labor auction has been a fundraiser the chapter has been doing for years. This year, the meal for the labor auction was set up a little bit differently than usual. Instead of having the soups and pies in the gym where the crowd could see them, they were placed in the hallway where the line could move more efficiently. The registration and check-out tables remained in the gym. Also new this year was the chapter including the fundraiser, "I Believe in the Future of Agriculture", which was a free-will donation to the FFA. The chapter was able to auction a day's worth of labor from 43 students in grades 8th through 12th grade while also auctioning many pies and jars of soup.

Thanks to the labor auction, the chapter will be able to provide students with materials for competitions and to pay fees for State and National FFA Conventions. They will also be able to use the fund towards chapter activities like Connecting Chapters and start-of-the-year activities. This year, some of the funds went towards the meal at the open house for the start of the school year. Other funds went to the 5 students sent to Nationals and later in the year, funds will go towards State FFA travel costs.

When asked how she felt the labor auction went, advisor Ellie Chitwood said, "I feel like our labor auction was a huge success this year! We raised more money than we have in previous years, which is exciting for our chapter. I am incredibly grateful for the continued support of our community, families, and local businesses. Overall, I couldn't be happier with how the evening went, and I am proud of our members for all their hard work in making it happen!"

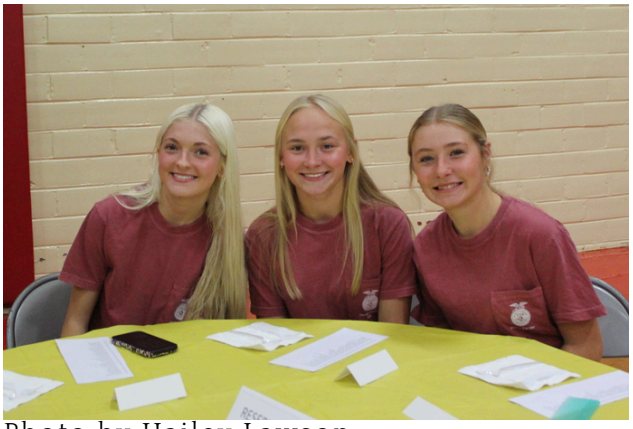


Photo by Hailey Lawson

FFA members Kady Fisher, Agneshka Sankey, and Ava Messersmith smile for a photo at the annual labor auction on November 10th.



Photo by Hailey Lawson

Senior Monica Dimas holds up her homemade Biscoff pie for the FFA labor auction.

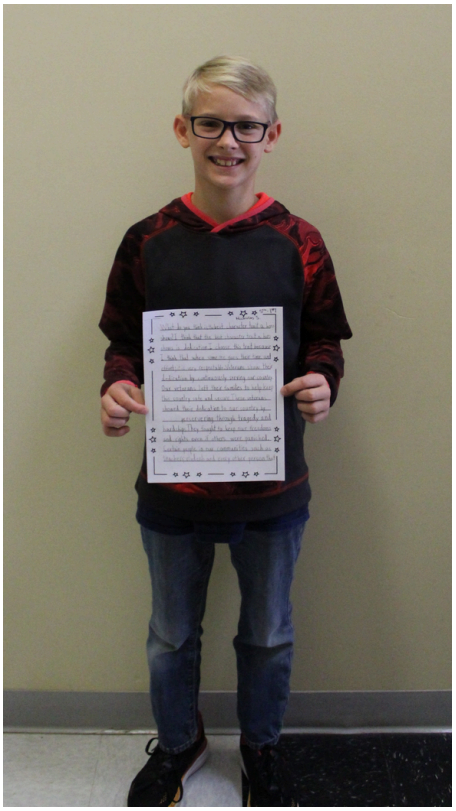
Nicholas Sankey 5th Grade
1st Place Veterans Day Essay

5th - 1st
Nicholas S.

What do you think is the best character trait a hero shows? I think that the best character trait a hero shows is dedication. I choose this trait because I think that when someone gives their time and effort; it is very respectable. Veterans show their dedication by continuously serving our country. Our veterans left their families to help keep this country safe and secure. These veterans showed their dedication to our country by persevering through tragedy and hardships. They fought to keep our freedoms and rights even if others were panicked. Certain people in our communities such as teachers, students and every other person that has a job is dedicated to coming to work. Teachers and students are dedicated to their school.

The other character trait that I chose was sacrifice. I chose this trait because I think it is also very important. Veterans sacrifice many things when they are enrolled in the army, navy, airforce, or marines. They sacrificed their time with loved ones and friends. But this is not the only thing they sacrificed they sacrificed being in normal conditions and seeing people doing things that they did when they were not deployed. We should honor and veterans because they have made many sacrifices to keep our country safe. We can appreciate our veterans by remembering their service.

Last but of course not least I want to thank all the veterans here for protecting this country



Brooke Messersmith 5th Grade
2nd Place Veterans Day Essay

5th - 2nd
Brooke M.

Mrs. Marquardt asked me to write a small essay on two character traits for Veterans day. The character traits I chose were Sacrifice and Bravery. The reason I chose Sacrifice and Bravery is because I feel like I could really explain and know how to write about it.

Veterans Sacrifice a lot going into the army. They have to miss time with their family and friends to go protect people they don't know. Sometimes Veterans even Sacrifice their lives to protect our county and home. Some people in our community Sacrifice things just like Veterans. An example of people in our community that sacrifice things are missing time with family to go work or provide for their family.

The other character trait I chose is Bravery. Veterans really show bravery because they have to be very brave to go out and fight even though they know the circumstances. Veterans have to be brave to go and be without their family and friends and to trust the other soldiers to have their back. Not only veterans show bravery, members in our community also show bravery. Firefighters show bravery a lot of the time, like running into a burning house to go save some one even though it is scary.

Our flag is still up because of veterans who have risked their lives to serve our county. Thank you for serving our country and protecting us.



Colton Softley 6th Grade
1st Place Veterans Day Essay

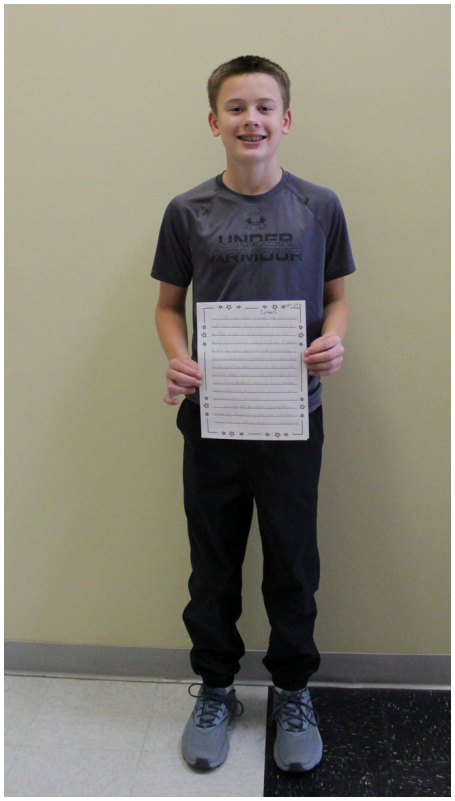
6th-1st 3
Colton S.

Do you know anybody who has served and how have they showed courage to you? The reason I chose courage as the trait I'm talking about is I see it shown a lot by our veterans and community members. Some ways veterans shown this trait is by putting their lives on the line to protect their country and people the don't even know. Another way is they leave their families for months or years to protect others families.

Courage can be shown by everyday heros by stepping up for one another and helping others who are struggling.

We should honor our veterans because they risk their lives for our country and they deserve more than just be forgotten. We can show appreciation by thanking them for their service, respecting them, and showing the courage they have showed us. These are just a few ways that veterans have shown courage. They are the most courages people in our country.

Another character trait veterans show is integrity. They showed up when no one asked them to, and stepped up to face the task at hand. Members in our community also show integrity by having



the ability to stand up for others and ask for nothing in return. We should honor and respect them even more because they showed this trait by stepping up in times of need. Veterans should be the most honored and respected people in our country for what they have done for others and our nation.

Hudsyn Cox 6th Grade
2nd Place Veterans Day Essay

6th 2nd 4
Hudsyn C.

Do you think veterans sacrifice a lot for our country? I sure do. Veterans sacrifice their lives for us, and I think thats pretty honorable. They have to be pretty brave as well, to go out to war to serve and keep our country safe, even when its really dangerous. EMT's are hero's in our community because they drive out ambulances to sick or injured people. EMT's risk getting sick themselves, or hurting themselves while helping a patient. Firefighters are hero's in our community because they go to people's burning houses and go inside the house searching for lost people. They are putting their own lives on the line, to try to save other people.

My chosen character trait is sacrifice because Veterans sacrifice everything for us, including their lives for our country. Veterans sacrifice their lives for us, risk getting badly injured, all just to keep our country and freedom safe. Those are just a few of many reasons that veterans are very brave.

Veterans should not be forgotten. They do and have done amazing things, and they must be remembered. Veterans need to be honored because they choose to go to war to fight for our freedom. All their sacrifice, all their heroic deeds must be kept in our memories. They all helped keep our country safe, on land or out at sea. So, thank you, veterans, for everything you do for us.

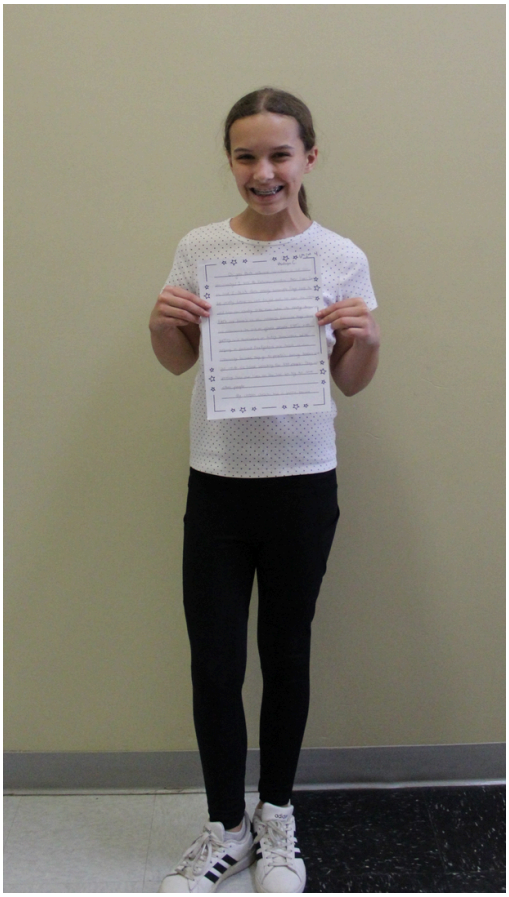






Photo by Kris Freeland

Senior Caylie Softley smiles for a picture with her family and basketball coach Kim Stengel on her signing day to Wayne State College on Wednesday, November 11th



Photo by Carly Softley

First grade teacher Mrs. Jeffers smiles with students Emilio Varela and Quinten Vapenik as they work on addition problems in math.



Photo by Carly Softley

Fourth grader Kailey Rowley shows Pake Hamilton the work she did to figure out the answer to a math problem.



Photo by Rosanna Vapenik

The one-act cast competed at the RPAC competition in Holdredge on Thursday, November 12th and received 5th place in the west division.



Photo by Ava Messersmith

Senior Rubiel Lopez pushes through a set of skull crushers in weights class during 8th period.



Photo by Marguerite Gallegos

Mateo Espinoza, Kallen Unger, Maddox Loomis, Briar Cox, and Wade Hamilton watch in awe as elephant toothpaste erupts in front of them during 7th grade science class.