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# The Cometary



Winter/Spring 2023

Volume 19 Issue 3

## Spaghetti dinner and silent auction

by Ella Randall

Mamma Mia! The Cameron Music Parents Organization hosted a spaghetti dinner and silent auction at Cameron High School on Thursday, February 9.

According to Cameron High School band director Tyler

Halverson, the event was a huge success, as he stated, "The event helped our organization raise over \$4,000, which all goes directly back to supporting students in the form of scholarships, honors band/

"The event helped our organization raise over \$4,000, which all goes directly back to supporting students in the form of scholarships, band/choir tuition assistance, and other avenues."

- Tyler Halverson

avenues."

Sue Wanink and Nicole Kohel provided kitchen assistance for the dinner, and Jen Groskopf served

as one of the silent auction coordinators.

Forty-eight items were donated and sold at the silent auc-

tion. Local businesses who donated to the event included Kwik Trip of Cameron, McDonald's of Rice Lake, Bush and Gilles Furniture, Black Marx, Lake 7 Theatre, Schmitt Music, Eckroth Music, UWEC-BC, Northwoods Technical College, Northwoods Promotions, Joosten's Wisconsin Woodworking, Rand Lanes, St. Croix Casino, Village Dell and Wine Shop, Spring Green Lawn Care, Maurices, Flutter Lash Lounge, Enliven Spa, Sioux Creek Golf Course, Rolling Oaks Golf Course, Trollhaugen Outdoor Recreation Area, Jensen Rent-A-Tent, and the Barron Area Community Center.

As a member of the Cameron High School band, it is amazing to see how a community comes together to support its people and provide numerous opportunities for band and choir students. I am truly thankful for the people who care so much about the Cameron



Go blue! Northwoods Promotions in Rice Lake and Black Marx in Cameron donated some Cameron Comet gear to be sold at the auction.

music department.

If you didn't get the chance to attend the event this year, no worries! The auction and dinner will be held again next year, and the Cameron Music Parents Organization looks forward to it.



Bid high! Spaghetti dinner attendees check out the silent auction items and keep an eye on their favorites to ensure they get the bid!

## Save a life - donate blood

FBLA will be hosting a blood drive on April 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please see Mrs. Hopkins to sign up or

go online to American Red Cross to schedule your appointment.



Sold! A variety of gift baskets were donated by local businesses for the spaghetti dinner and silent auction on Thursday night.

## From Mr. Meznarich - principal

### 2023-24 school year

Returning students will have their 2023-2024 schedules in hand prior to leaving for the summer. Our school schedule is based on student requests and as such, changes to student schedules are not permitted. An information letter will be sent out in July with more specifics for the 2023-2024 school year. Mark your calendars for the start of next school year which will be Tuesday, August 29.

### Graduation

The 2023 graduation celebration will be on Friday, May 26 at 7 p.m. We hope you can join us to celebrate this milestone with our seniors.

### End of year info.

The last student day will be Friday, June 2. Students will have a full day of school. Students will be turning in their computers on that day so it is extremely important that students are here with all of their computer equipment. All fines and fees should be taken care of prior to the end of school. The last school day for seniors will be Tuesday, May 23.

### Summer School

Summer school will be offered for those students who were unsuccessful in earning credit for required courses this school year. Summer school will run throughout June and students will report to the high school. Information will be sent to those students who need to come in for summer school.



## Academic Excellence Award

Cameron High School has named Sydney Leschisin, daughter of Joseph and Angela Leschisin, as its 2023 Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholar. Each year the school names its top academic senior after the first semester and notifies the Higher Educational Aids Board, which offers the scholarship program, in an effort to encourage Wisconsin's top academic seniors to attend universities in the state. Students selected as Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholars will receive a tuition scholarship renewable for 4 years, worth \$2,250 per year, as long as a 3.0 grade point average is maintained at a Wisconsin public or private university. The State of Wisconsin took legislative action to provide tuition and fee schol-



arships to Wisconsin's top high school scholars beginning in the 1990-91 academic year and have done so each year since.

Sydney plans to attend Concordia University - Wisconsin to pursue a degree in nursing. Congratulations, Sydney.

## Technical Excellence Award

Cameron High School has named Trinity Huffman, daughter of Dwayne and April Huffman, as its 2023 Technical Excellence Scholar.



This scholarship is awarded to a high school senior who demonstrates the highest level of proficiency in technical education subjects. The scholarship program was started to encourage students to attend technical colleges in Wisconsin. Trinity will receive a tuition scholarship renewable for three years worth \$2,250 per year as long as a 3.0 grade point average is maintained at a Wisconsin Technical College.

Trinity plans to attend Northwood Technical College to major in cosmetology. Congrats, Trinity.

## Abusive Head Trauma Certifications

by Caitlin Quarders

Certified students!

Mrs. Laurie Adams' Child Development class has been busy! Most recently, thirteen Cameron High School students have received certificates stating they successfully completed Abusive Head Trauma Prevention Training for Child Care Providers. If students wish, they can go on to earn an Assistant Child Care Teacher certification which would allow them to become certified Day Care Providers.

The AHT certification is particularly important to individuals who want to work with children in the future. The certification became a requirement for Day Care Providers in 2020 by the Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. The AHT certification goes hand-in-hand with the Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) prevention training.



Elementary trip. Junior Chloe Wall and her group made slime with the students.

Child Development students Chloe Wall and Bailey Hauck believe that everyone can and should take the class. Bailey states, "I would absolutely recommend the class, especially for people going into professions involving early childhood, or even people that may want to be parents in the future!"

Chloe explained a different point of view: "Even if you aren't interested in a career that involves children or you don't want to have your own, it's important to be aware of how we as people grow and what things you can do to positively influence the children in your life."

The class also has other opportunities in store! Senior Bailey Hauck particularly enjoys the opportunities to work with children throughout the class. One of the projects in the class is to make an educational game that is later brought to the elementary school. Bailey says that her group created a ring toss game that correlated with the students' present unit - identifying numbers. Each cone had a number on it, and the students had to throw a ring around the number they were given. Not only did the kids practice identifying numbers, but they also practiced patience by waiting in line for their turn.

Check out the relevant things going on in Mrs. Adams' class!



Certificates. Certificate earners are from L to R: Olivia Leschisin, Aiden Kurtzhals, Bailey Hauck, Elisabeth Gerber, Georg Saffert, and Makayla Laehn. Not pictured: Isabella Perzichilli, Colt Mikolon, Kyle Johnson, Chloe Wall, Sophia Guerra, Giselle Dahle, and Kadence Cook.

# Abundant activities

by Nicole Kargus

The students at the high school are working hard this trimester and having some fun along the way. With the new classes that the third trimester brings, the students have the opportunity to try new classes and challenge themselves or find something new that they enjoy.

One of the enjoyable classes this trimester is Mrs. Adams' Fabrics and Design class. This class has a range of experienced students. For some, this is the first time that



**Hard at work.** Junior Jamyne Schofield is working on making her fabric for a pair of shorts.

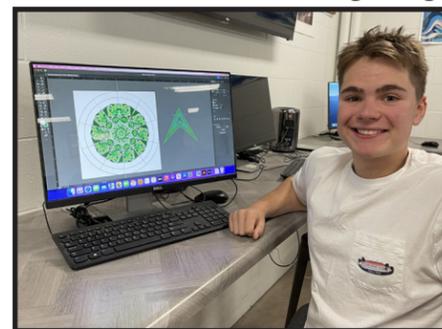
they are sewing, while others have been in this class a few times and are aiming to gain more experience and sharpen their skills. Among these students, they have a few different projects going on, based on their skill levels. Most of the first-year students are making great progress and are even ahead of schedule. Some of the projects that they have done so far are pin cushions, zippered bags, and are now working on either making PJ shorts or zippered wallets. One of the second-year students is knitting while the other is almost done

with the dress that she is making.

The three third-year students are all working on different things. One is making fabric for shorts, another a contour pillow, and the other is working on perfecting her French seams.

Mrs. Leschisin has a few different fun classes this trimester. Her Folk Art students have been creating Ukrainian eggs. The project includes waxing, designing, and dyeing the eggs. Mrs. Leschisin explains the process: "Pysanky eggs, derived from the Ukrainian word 'pysaty' meaning 'to write,' originated in the 10-14th century. The eggs are created with a wax-resist method to capture many dye colors. The traditional kistka is a wood dowel that holds a small copper funnel, when heated melted wax flows onto an egg. Students draw a design on their eggs, then wax the portions that remain white. The egg is dyed in a light color, like yellow. Then students apply more wax to seal in the part of the yellow design. A darker dye is used and more wax. Once the design is completed, the student carefully burns off all wax with a small candle, which exposes the beautiful, layered design underneath."

In her Graphic Design class, students have been working using



**Designer Dan.** Senior Dan Eichman has put in much effort on his radical design: a mandala, that he created on the computer.

Adobe Illustrator to create mandalas, a radial design.

The seniors in Mrs. Hagen-Salm's Advanced Composition class have been working hard, finishing their last research project of their high school career! Encouraged to write about a topic related to their major for college, they have to write an eight to ten page research paper using APA documentation.

Don't be afraid to ask the students what fun things that they have been doing in their classes this trimester.

Who	Major	Paper
Hailey Kirkland	Graphic Design	Minimalism
Hannah Miller	Nursing	Gender Bias in Healthcare
Bailey Hauck	Education	Reading
Ashlea Bossany	Education	Classroom Censorship
Ethan Gifford	Education	Electric Cars
Maycee Heggedahl	Psychology	Effect of Divorce on Children
Aiden Kurtzhals	Education	How Poverty Impacts Learning
Ashaaylah Hill	Art & Design	Bumble Bees
Carli Wilson	Sonography	Epilepsy
Leo Luckert	Forestry	Wisconsin's Invasive Species
Luke Salm	Business/Real Estate	Public Lands
Grant Paetzold	Business	Caffeine & Sleep
Alyssa Kuffel	Nursing/Medical	Blue Light Glasses
Sarah Weber	Athletic Training	Needs of Female Athletes
Jazmine Tietz	Pre-Medicine	Organ Transplants
Garin Melton	Therapist/Counseling	Foster Care
Sydney Leschisin	Nursing	Medical Care in Developing Countries
Julian Pense		Propaganda in Politics



**Top 10%.** Students representing the top 10% for this year's graduating class are Gretta Hall, Alyssa Kuffel, Jazmine Tietz, Carli Wilson, Sydney Leschisin, Katelyn Kohel, and Ashlie Falstad.

## Dog sledding in person



**Mush!** Mr. Martin's English I classes recently completed a unit on American author Jack London, *The 1897 Gold Rush*, and read stories about the Yukon Territory. Area musher Ruth King brought in her Siberian Huskies for the students to learn more about the sled dogs that were used in the stories they read.

# Summer plans

by Kennedy Ladehoff

The third trimester has started, and students are looking forward to the summer break more than ever. Students are busy with multiple activities during the school year, whether it be with sports or otherwise. However, students have other activities to keep them busy during the summer. In fact, many students have plans during the summer break.

What exactly are the plans of students during the summer break? Some of the student body was surveyed on what their summer plans would be. Sixty-two students responded to the survey whether it be with one plan or many. There were varied plans throughout the student body.

Out of the students surveyed, 44 had stated that they were going to work or find a job, which amounts to about 71% of students surveyed. Twelve students stated that they were going to hang out with friends,



**Hangin' out.** Students surveyed said that other than work, they plan to hang out with friends. Enjoy!

which amounts to about 19% of respondents. Sixteen stated that they were going to do something active with their summer, which amounted to around 26%. Finally, around thirteen stated that they were going to do some form of traveling, which was about 21%.

Many students had plans to work,

but plenty of them had other plans as well. Whether it be hanging out with friends, traveling, staying active, working, or otherwise, there were plenty of exciting plans among students.

Whatever students may be doing over the summer, here's to hoping it's enjoyable.



**Bring it on.** Students are looking forward to summer -- travel plans to tropical areas may be on the horizon for some of our students.

# Powerlifting

by Sydney Leschisin

Cameron powerlifting had a lot of growth this year. The team had a record of 38 athletes that participated in at least one meet. Powerlifters were more dedicated than ever. People spent time getting stronger, and it paid off.

Nine lifters took part in the state competition on March 4-5. This included Logan Simenson, Logan Crawford, Garrik Block, Leo Luckert, Devon Tasker, Jada Thompson, Emma Anderson, Anna Baribeau, and Taya Jossart. Everyone did very well, and Leo placed second in his weight class.

Nationals is this weekend. Garrik, Jada, Emma, Anna, Leo, and Devon qualified. They will be headed down to South Carolina on March 31 for a few days to compete. Good luck, powerlifters!



**Ready to take on state.** The state powerlifters were excited to head down to Madison for the competition. Back row L to R: Leo Luckert, Garrik Block, Logan Crawford, Logan Simenson, Devon Tasker. Front row L to R: Taya Jossart, Emma Anderson, Anna Baribeau, and Jada Thompson. Coached by Mr. Ridout.

# Welcome, Ms. Meier

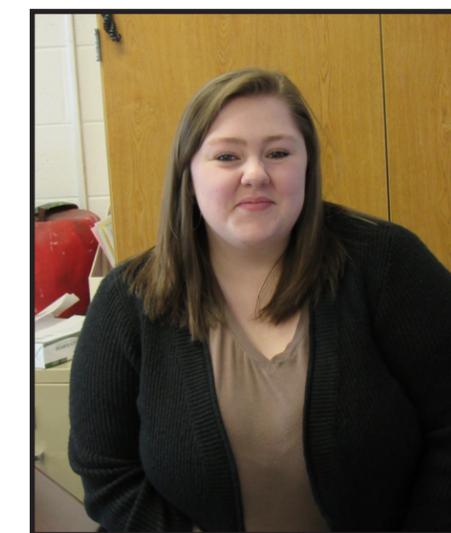
During the last quarter of the trimester, Mrs. Sheri Hagen-Salm is hosting a new student teacher. Ms. Alli Meier is from Ham Lake, MN (25 minutes north of Minneapolis). She chose teaching because she's always loved working with other people and lending a helping hand. She was the person everyone came to to edit their essays and look over projects so it seemed like a natural fit. She chose English because she's had a love for reading and writing for as long as she can remember, and she's always been passionate about sharing that love with others. So far in her student teaching, she's loved getting to know her students as people and helping them succeed in the class-

room. She also gets to meet lots of other teachers who can give her tips and words of encouragement which she appreciates a lot.

She started her student teaching journey at Chippewa Falls Middle School and now will finish here with CHS. She said, "I love how different Cameron is from where I grew up (my high school was HUGE!) I am really enjoying how close knit everyone here is and that everyone is so welcoming."

After graduation in May from UW-Eau Claire, she plans to stay in the Eau Claire area for the next few years and find a teaching job nearby! She said she'd love to be close to Eau Claire but is definitely not opposed to going a little further out and working in a rural

school district. She is really excited to be here and is excited to grow as an educator! Welcome to CHS!



**Ready to teach!** Ms. Alli Meier joins Mrs. Sheri Hagen-Salm as a student teacher this quarter.

# Guest speakers galore!

by Caitlin Quarders

From entrepreneurs to white-collar workers to tradesmen, the career opportunities for our students are unlimited!

Cameron High School's business teacher, Mrs. Cheryl Hopkins, had

two Careers classes in the second trimester for the 2022-2023 school year.

Students in the class begin with researching potential jobs they may be interested in; they can also explore jobs that they may have never considered. Along with Mrs. Hopkins, students invite all types of people to come and speak about their career. When not listening to riveting speakers, students learn life's must-haves: how does my paycheck get to me, how do I properly execute an interview,

how do taxes work, what is an I-9 and W-4, what does it take to be a good employee, and more!

The guest speakers were fantastic and many have offered job shadowing or internship opportunities.

Briana Kisling, a junior at CHS, shadowed with Mrs. Ewing at Cameron Elementary School. Briana is interested in teaching

elementary students, and she was able to shadow Mrs. Ewing as she taught her kindergarten class. Briana believes that other students should shadow if given the opportunity – "I think shadowing is a really good idea because it can really help you figure out if that career path is something you would be interested in or not before spending all the money for college." The experience is completely free, and many businesses are willing

"I think shadowing is a really good idea because it can really help you figure out if that career path is something you would be interested in or not before spending all the money for college."

- Briana Kisling



Wake up, students! Guest speaker Carrie Glaser from Kitchen & Floor Decor brought donuts to wake up the first hour Careers class.

to take on shadows. Other students shadowed other employers, as well, and learned much about what they may be interested in doing eventually.

At the end of the trimester, students wrote a final essay discussing the many jobs presented to them – and what they think may work for them. Students are not lacking options! Each student invited at least two people, and some invited more than that. Mrs. Hopkins also invited representatives from local UW schools to talk about the programs they offer. Talk about endless opportunities for our Comets!



College recruiters. UW-Stout admissions counselor Abbie Hartung shares the majors that the school offers.

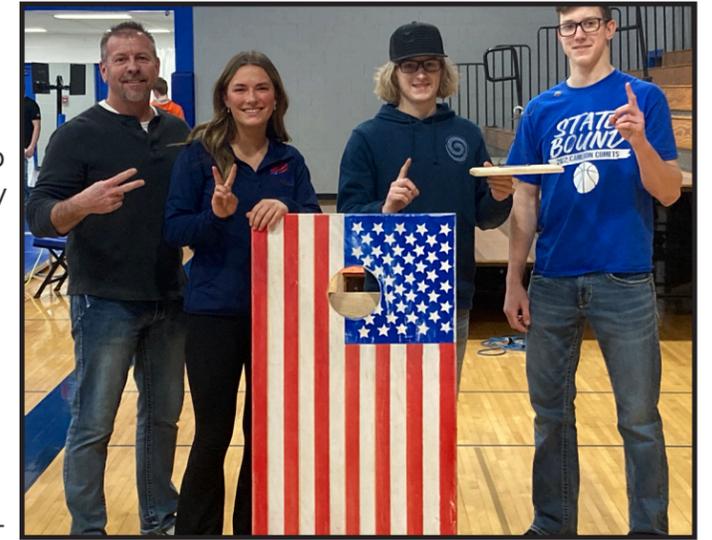
# Fascinating Forensics and FBLA

by Katie Shilts

Most adults, not to mention high schoolers, would say that they get public speaking anxiety. In fact, surveys show that 70-75% of people fear public speaking. So kudos to the Cameron Forensics team for facing their fears and improving their oratory skills. Under the direction of high school English teacher Mrs. Sheri Hagen-Salm, the team has participated in four competitions: Baldwin-Woodville, Menomonie, Rice Lake Sub-District, and District at Eau Claire Memorial,

On Saturday, February 4, the Comets got up bright and early to compete at Baldwin-Woodville's

again were the champions in Group Interpretation. Seppie also placed first in solo acting, and in play acting, Lauren Carlisle, Mallory Duerkop, Maddie Severt, and Eva Sevals took second. Also, Khalia Evans was fifth in Farrago (a form of speech that addresses a theme or emotion from a variety of literary



We are the champions. Wyatt Halverson and Brady Quinn took first in FBLA's beanbag tournament, followed by Evie Martinson and Mr. Kuffel.

genres).

Next, the team took part in subdistricts at Rice Lake. In order to qualify for districts, the students had to receive a score of 16 or more. Everyone who competed earned a spot at State. They finished with

their push for State at the district competition - held Tuesday, March

7, at Eau Claire Memorial. Again, all qualified for State!

Congratulations, forensics team! The FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) chapter at Cameron has also had a busy past couple of weeks. From February 6 to 10, for National FBLA Week, they held dress up days and a bean bag tournament during lunch. Additionally, the team did very well at regional competition, placing third in regional community service and 11th overall in the region out of 27 total chapters. A large number of individuals also qualified for State.

Best of wishes at State on April 16-18 in Green Bay!



Bringing home hardware. The Group Interpretation teams collect their medals at Baldwin-Woodville.

14-team tournament. On a day that featured many students competing for the first time, they were led by seniors Dan Eichman, Ethan Gifford, and Luke Salm along with junior Michael Kuchera placing first in Group Interpretation. A trio of freshmen: Abby Kuchera, Kia Plucar, and Audrey Grady, took second in the same event. Ashaaylah Hill placed fifth in Oratory, and Seppie Pica earned third in Solo Acting.

At the invitational in Menomonie, Dan, Ethan, Luke, and Michael

## FBLA State Qualifiers

-  Sydney Leschisin- 1st in Publication Design
-  Jami Folz- 1st in Word Processing
-  Evelyn Martinson, Chloe Wall, and Abby Salmonson- 2nd in Broadcast Journalism
-  Katelyn Kohel- 3rd in Healthcare Administration
-  Ryan Hodge- 3rd in Job Interview
-  Donara Bjugstad, Laila Guerra, and Savannah Sadowski- 3rd in Introduction to Social Media Strategies
-  Audrey Grady- 3rd in Cybersecurity
-  Ellie Gerber- 3rd in Intro to Event Planning

# Wrapping up winter

by Katie Shilts

Congratulations to the winter sports teams on their great seasons. Wrestling, along with girls and boys basketball, ended their seasons recently in the playoffs and came away with some great results.

Three members of the wrestling team wrapped up a successful season at Sectionals, with the exception of senior Kayne Johnson, who qualified for the State Tournament after winning his 120-pound bracket. Seniors Julian Pence and Alexander Williams and junior Ethan Frampton came up short, each finishing 0-2 at Sectionals. Kayne made it to State individually the previous two



**3's all around.** Senior Zory Parker scores a multitude of 3-pointers each game.

years, finishing fourth in 2021 and sixth in 2022. At the Kohl Center in Madison, he won two of his four matches to claim fifth place. He ends his high school career with a senior year record of 44-5 and an outstanding overall record of 107-25. In addition, at the Super Duals in Northwestern, he earned his 100th career win on January 29. Coach Mitch Breed praised Kayne on his leadership and impact on the Cameron wrestling program. "Wrestling is one of the toughest sports, pe-

riod. It is mental, it is physical, and it is grueling. Kayne represents our school and wrestling in general very well." Receiving the seventh seed in the playoffs, the girls basketball team earned a 62-49 win over Webster, led by Alyssa Kuffel's 22 points. Next the girls traveled to face an experienced Cadott team. While they weren't able to come out on top (the score was 65-42), it was a vast improvement from the early season's 72-25 loss. Despite being the youngest team in the conference, they ended tied for sixth place and are looking to improve on that next year. Three seniors graduate after playing together since third grade: Alyssa Kuffel, Sydney Leschisin, and Sarah Weber. Alyssa also earned Second Team All Conference for her efforts.

The boys basketball team came up just four points short of back to back State Tournament trips. Instead their season was ended by the Whitehall Norse, 66-62. The program graduates five seniors



**Winning one hundred.** Senior Kayne Johnson earned his 100th career win on January 29 in Northwestern.



**She shoots, she scores.** Senior Sydney Leschisin makes a layup during the team's 62-49 playoff win over Webster.

in Zory Parker, Grant Paetzold, Hunter Rognholt, Ethan Gifford, and Logan Crawford. They ended their last high school season with a record of 22-6 and back to back regional championships. Advancing to the Sectional championship game after beating an undefeated Unity team 67-52, the difference in the game was Whitehall's 11 made three-pointers to the Comets' four. Tyson Lucas led the scoring with 22 points, followed by Grant Paetzold's 15. Lucas also scored 1,000 points, an amazing accomplishment as a junior, and was selected to the Division 4 All State Team. Additionally, Tyson and Grant were named First Team All-Conference, Zory received Second Team, and Brady Quinn earned Honorable Mention.

We are proud of you, Comet athletes, for representing our school well!

# FFA updates

by Emma Somerville

FFA has done many things this year from fundraisers to blood drives. The most recent activities FFA has done are Food for America and traveling to Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo.

They went to the rodeo at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minnesota on February 3. At the rodeo, they were able to get a behind the chutes tour where they got to see and learn about the animals there. They were also able to meet some of the cowboys and were able to hear about what their job was like. They learned that the rodeo clowns were not only there to entertain the

"Going out with a group of friends on these different adventures is always fun. We learn new things everytime, about the experience or about each other!"  
~FFA President Keara Butterfield



**Ready for the rodeo.** FFA members eagerly wait for the Cinch rodeo to begin at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

crowd, but they had a very important job of protecting the riders. Food for America is an educational program

that focuses on agriculture. The Cameron FFA participated in this program by going to the elementary school on February 21, where they taught the 4th graders about their food. The goal was to teach the 4th graders about where their food comes from and how to safely handle food as well.

The club split up into stations, each station talking about a different ingredient in pizza. The kids formed an assembly line stopping by each station to build their pizzas and learned about each ingredient. The different stations were based on the main components in a pizza including crust, sauce, cheese, and toppings. Once the students made it to the end of the presentation, their pizzas were cooked and they got to enjoy them. Learning about food and eating it was the best part of their day!

FFA has done incredible things so far this year, but the year is not over and they have many more exciting activities in the works as they continue to do amazing things.



**Food for America.** Sophomore FFA members Lorelei Schieffer and Riley Komp teach 4th graders about where their food comes from.