

School District of Cameron  
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# The Cometary



Spring 2024

Volume 20 Issue 3

## Peace out Class of 2024!

by Caitlin Quaders



The Class of 2024 is heading out on May 21st! After 13 years of assignments, homework, quizzes, exams, sports seasons, club events, friendships, relationships, assigned seats, and group projects, these 52 fantastic students are moving on to the next stage in their lives.

These students have been through state testing, the ACT, a global pandemic, a referendum, three biology teachers, school dances, break-ups, jobs, a new principal, a new counselor, the first statistics class, and car crashes.

If you would like to see what everyone is doing next year, check out Cameron School District social media for their senior shoutouts.

We wish the best of luck to the Class of 2024!

*BUY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!!*

# YEARBOOKS

PURCHASE YOUR YEARBOOK AT  
**JOSTENS.COM**



# Notes from Mr. Rykal

Greetings From the Principal! Spring is here! And all the different activities it brings with it! Spring sports are going strong, playing in the cold and rain when necessary. Forensics and FBLA have been very successful in their competitions, and NHS looks forward to the new members' service projects while finishing up the existing members' good works. It's been a very busy few weeks, with activities continuing as we have the Senior Banquet coming up in May, Farm Safety Days for FFA, and the High School Band will be performing in Madison at the Fallen Officers Memorial on May 10.

And with all these great opportunities, we are still working to

strengthen our school culture by focusing on academics and attendance. We will be running a finals schedule on the last 2 days of the shortened school year. Please be sure students are present on the last days of school, as they will not be able to make up for missing a test. Tests will not be given early. And as a reminder, we will not be having school on May 30 and 31, so tests will happen on Tuesday, May 28, and Wednesday, May 29. We appreciate your support in keeping our students academically engaged!

It looks like another hot summer is possible this year. Hopefully, we'll see more rain than last year, but either way, I hope you all have a safe and happy summer! Look-

ing ahead to the next school year, we will be reviewing and revising our academic and attendance policies in the Student Handbook and sharing that with families in August. We will continue to focus on a safe and positive school environment with rigorous academic standards and developing a student body with strong personal character.

Thank you for your continued support for our students and school community. Please feel free to call or email with any questions or suggestions that can help us to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our Cameron High School Students. Go Comets!



## Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 19  
Open Gym Softball from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM

Monday, May 20  
Youth Softball 4:00 PM-7:00 PM  
HS Softball Practice 4:00 PM-7:00 PM  
HS Softball practice 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM  
Track & Field Boys and Girls Varsity Regional 4:00 PM at Webster High School  
Baseball: Varsity Game 5:00 PM

Tuesday, May 21  
AAU Boys 4:00 PM-5:30 PM  
Softball HS practice 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Wednesday, May 22  
Softball HS Practice 4:00 PM - 6:00PM  
AAU Boys 5:30 PM- 7:00 PM

Thursday, May 23  
Track & Field Girls Varsity 3:00 PM  
Softball HS Practice 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Special Olympics 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Friday, May 24  
Softball HS Practice 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
High School Graduation 7:00 PM

Sunday, May 26  
Open Gym Softball 11:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Monday, May 27  
Music Event Memorial Day Service at Sportsman's Park  
Softball HS Practice 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Tuesday, May 28  
AAU Boys 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Wednesday, May 29  
Softball Practice 4:00 Pm - 6:00 PM

Thursday, May 30  
Softball HS Practice 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Special Olympics 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Friday, May 31  
Track & Field Boys and Girls Varsity State Tournament @ UW La Crosse 9:00 AM  
Haleys Comet 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Saturday, June 1  
Haley's Comet 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Monday, June 3  
Youth Boys Basketball 10:15 AM- 11:15 AM  
Softball HS Practice 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM



# Prom 2024

by Caitlin Quaders

On April 27th, students from Cameron High School dressed in their very best for a VIP Prom night!

Prom was hosted at the Church Barn in Bar-ron this year from 7-11 pm. Mr. Rykal supplied goldfish, rice krispy treats, and Cheez-Itz for students to indulge in. *The Mad Batter* generously supplied miniature chocolate cupcakes with silver and blue sprinkles for students to enjoy as well. The Church Barn also had ice water and cups out for students to stay hydrated.

The most anticipated part of the night came around 10:00 when the court did their walk-ups and two lucky students were crowned. Previous King Caden Anderson and Queen Chloe Wall crowned the new royalty Queen Sofia Diana and King Treye Zimmerman. It was an exciting night for everyone!



**Prom Court 2024.** Cole Peterson, Riley Holdeman, Ryker Ebert, Maddie Severt, Chase Hauck, Lauren Pearson, Treye Zimmerman, Sofia Diana, Carter Cherney, Lexi Kuffel, Bennett Moravitz, Olivia Leschisin, Tyler Phillips, and Cora Romsos made up the Prom Court this year.

The school wants to extend a large thank you to all the teacher chaperones, the Church Barn for hosting our Prom, *The Mad Batter* for making cupcakes for our students, Mr. Mark Rykal for supplying snacks, Mrs. Sarah Pica for checking tickets, Mr. Brent Whittenberger for taking photos, and to Mr. Ryan Mikula for expertly handling the DJ table.



# Diligent Dancers

by Kennedy Ladehoff

High school dance is often seen at various sport events performing routines. However, on April 6th, the Cameron High School Dance Team was able to perform at a recital. The dance recital will hope-



**Group effort.** Cameron High School dancers perform a small group routine.

fully become an annual tradition. The high school dancers performed their competition routines. Dancers were also able to cho-



**Jumping for joy.** A Cameron High School dancer performs an astounding leap in her solo routine.

reograph and dance solo, duet, and small group routines. One of the school dance coaches also coaches at a studio. The studio dancers were Cameron Middle School students and were able to perform at the recital alongside the high school dancers. All the dancers showcased their talents as well as their hard work. It paid off



**Daring duet.** Janelle Barnes and Arabella Kringle, both juniors, perform their duet at the dance recital.



# Spring Sports Update

by Katie Shilts

Spring sports are in full swing, with multiple games or meets each week for Cameron's baseball, softball, track, and golf teams.

Under first-year head coach Justice Groothusen, the baseball team is rebuilding and learning to play well together. A highlight of their games so far is the Comets' 2-1 win over Spooner on April 12. The team is led by senior ace pitcher Tyson Lucas and is mostly made up of freshmen and sophomores.

The softball team has a balanced roster of experienced upperclassmen and talented newcomers. Currently sitting at sixth place in the Heart of the North Conference, they are capable of filling up the scorecard, as they showed in their 20-0 win at Chetek-Weyerhaeuser.



**Shut them down.** Sophomore Emerson Krahenbuhl struck out many batters in the Comets' win over Spooner.

Cameron's track team has already found success this season, and has also shown great improvement from the beginning of the season. Both the boys and girls teams have won their past two meets--the Knicker Invite at Chetek-Weyerhaeuser and the Cumber-



**Dynamic duo.** Senior Gannon Ebert, along with ace pitcher Tyson Lucas, lead the way from the mound for Cameron's baseball team.

land Quint. Additionally, countless individual events have been won, and many school records have been broken.

The golf team has competed in five meets so far this season, with a highlight being their win



**Team players.** Junior Bruno Palacios hands the baton to sophomore Brett Mikolon during their 4 by 800 meter relay at Cameron's track meet. They teamed up with sophomore Preston Eldred and freshman Jaden Reed to earn second place.

over Barron. Led by coaches Brett Sauve and Charlie Roherty, they have a number of new members and are improving steadily. The varsity team consists of juniors Carter Cherney, Chase Hauck, and Jacob Meznarich, and sophomores Jack Griffin and Sam Vogel.



**Fore.** Junior Jacob Meznarich is a member of this year's varsity golf team.

Good luck to our spring sports athletes as they wrap up their regular seasons and head into postseason competition!

# Comets at State

by Nicole Kargus

Cameron had a total of 10 students make it to state for the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club.

On April 7-9, the students who qualified for state went down to Madison to compete in their divisions. The following students



**Award winners.** These competitors won awards and are going to nationals.

## Going For Gold

by Keara Butterfield

Coached by Mrs. Hagen-Salm, the Cameron Forensics Team had 34 people advance to state. For those who maybe don't know what forensics is, it's a club where students choose a speaking piece in a specific category, and the best



**Having Fun.** Anthony Demulling and Mr. Mikula stand next to the Bucky Badger statue in front of the hotel.

attended:

Ryan Hodge in future business educator

Ella Wilson in job interview

Jami Folz in word processing

Kia Plucar in hospitality management

Natalie Guider in digital video productions

Chloe Wall and Abigail Salmonson in broadcast journalism

Anna Baribeau and Lauren Pearson in banking and financial systems

Maddie Gilles in local annual chapter report

Congratulations to Jami, who placed fourth, along with Anna, Lauren, Chloe, and Abigail who all placed fifth as you go to attend the nationals in Orlando in June.

The competitions weren't the



**Ceremony.** Seniors Chloe Wall and Abby Salmonson receive their awards for placing fifth in broadcast journalism.

only thing that the FBLA members did in Madison. They also had the chance to go to workshops about business tours, an opening and closing session, an executive board meeting, and campaign speeches. New this year, there was also a block party with karaoke--a favorite among the group, yard games, trivia, and a TV to watch the final NCAA basketball game.

Good luck at nationals in June!



**Today's the Day.** The forensic competitors are ready for their final hoorah down in Madison.

score you can get is 25. Which is why we wanted 25's, or as we say, going for gold. If you were to score a 24 or 23 you received a silver, and a 22 or 21 you would receive a bronze. These

kids received gold medals, Mallory Duerkop, Evelyn Martinson, Giuseppe Pica, Jacob Lembke, Aryn Ohlson, Reyana Ladd, Ryker Ebert, Wenzel Segebrecht, Riley Holdeman, Preston Eldred, Maddie Severt, Kia Plucar, Colton Melton, Audrey Grady, Abby Kuchera, Elisabeth Gerber. This year we had six returning seniors, with the addition of one more, making the

count seven. All seven seniors who competed made it to state for their final year. Giuseppe Pica, a senior, says that state is a very fun time in Madison and you can explore down there too.



# Coast to Coast

by Nicole Kargus

Costa Rica is known for a multitude of things, including but not limited to its beaches, food, active volcanoes, national parks, tropical weather, animals, rainforests, and jungles.

Any student who has taken at least one year of Spanish in high school, has the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica with Mrs. Pacholke on June 17-25 this summer. The students going are Anna Baribeau, Lauren Carlisle, Ellie Gerber, Brady Gronski, Natalie Guider, Summer Hanson, Izzy Harder, Hailey Hince, Hayden Hince, Jaden Jackson, Reyana Ladd, Kia Plucar, Maddie Severt, Chloe Wall, and Ellie Pacholke. In addition to these current students, former student Katie Kohel had such a great time going to the Dominican Republic

two years ago that she is coming from college to go with the current students to Costa Rica.

Since the average cost for each student is \$2,500, there have been a few fundraising opportunities during the holidays. Teamed up with local businesses, students sold popcorn, pies, and coffee to raise money and promote the business.

The main goal of this trip is language and culture immersion. All students will have the opportunity to practice Spanish while conversing with the people and they'll be able to see what their culture is like. In addition to this, as the students travel from coast to coast, there will be a wide variety of places and events that the students will be able to visit and participate



in, including: the Caribbean Conservation Corporations Museum, a canal tour, Tortuguero National Park, a school visit, Sarapiquí river kayaking tour, red-eyed tree frog night walk, hot springs in Arenal, Tenorio National Park, horseback ride, an optional canopy zipline tour, Guanacaste beach, and white water rapids.

Best wishes to the students!

## Sixth-Grade Visitor

by Caitlin Quarders

Mrs. Adams' sixth grade class was extremely fortunate to have a visitor this year!

The class has been studying child development and what they need to know about babysitting. Mrs. Adams felt it was important that the students interact with

what they were studying, so she brought in her three-year-old nephew Henry. Henry came in with all his toys and tractors he wanted to show the class. As they were visiting and observing Henry, the students were supposed to make note of things like his physi-

cal development, speech skills, and style of play. The students observed Henry, a child on the cusp of preschool, demonstrating parallel and cooperative play.

What an opportunity for the sixth grade class! Cameron Middle School wants to give a special thank you to Henry for visiting our school and to his parents for allowing it.



Parallel play. Henry invited students to play with his cars.

# Farewell Mrs. Pica!

by Caitlin Quarders

After serving the Cameron School District for 30 years, Mrs. Sarah Pica has announced her retirement from teaching!

She started teaching in the 1993-94 school year, and she has built up quite the resume. She earned a Bachelor's Degree at UW-Eau Claire and a Master's Degree at UW-River Falls. Overall, Mrs. Pica is certified in Wisconsin to teach History, English, and Speech Communications for grades 7-12. She has taught all types of classes through the years, and there was only ever one class that she disliked to teach: Economics. Ironically, she still prefers to teach Social Studies despite the fact that she disliked Economics. Though, it is only because English grading demands are very overwhelming. During her years teaching at

Cameron, she has had two children graduate through this district. Starting next year, she will be an empty nester as her son is graduating, and her daughter is away at college.

Despite retiring, Mrs. Pica says she won't be leaving permanently. She is going to continue running the scoreboard during volleyball season, and she is planning on



Driving into retirement! Mrs. Pica is planning on traveling to all her dream destinations.



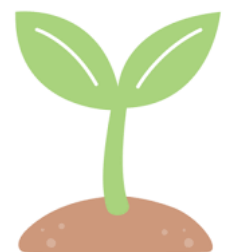
**Before Pica.** Mrs. Pica started her teaching career as Ms. Ackerson. This is her teachers ID from the 1998-99 school year. judging/helping out during forensics season. While it is undecided, she also might be a substitute in the building.

Mrs. Pica is retiring from teaching, but she has more exciting things to come in her journey. She has already committed to a part-time job at Pioneer Village Museum in Cameron, and she wants to travel to places around the world. Make sure to wish Mrs. Pica a happy retirement!

## Cameron High School FFA will be hosting a plant sale



*Details to come!*



*Keep an eye on Facebook for updates!*



# Exploring San Antonio

by Jacob Meznarich

Every two years, the music department allows for students to go on a trip to visit a large city over part of spring break. This year the students and staff decided to go to San Antonio, Texas. Over the course of several days the students would be visiting Sea World, Six Flags, Buc-ee's, and the Riverwalk. Of course, there was also a giant bus ride to get to Texas. The students had to get to school extra early because the bus left at five in the morning. The first major stop was Sea World. Several exotic animals could be seen such as penguins, flamingos, orcas, dolphins, and beluga whales. Next up was amusement park Six Flags. Students could ride an assortment

of coasters, swings, and more.

The trip wasn't just for fun though. Both the band and choir met with two experts in their field for a band and choir clinic respectively. The students spent an hour and a half with their directors to improve their musical abilities. The band met with Dr. Scott Anthony Jones and the choir met with Dr.

Kenneth Williams at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. After the band and choir clinic, students went to the beach at Corpus Christi for some beach fun. To round off the trip, students had a second opportunity to go to the Riverwalk and buy some more souvenirs. The band and choir will be doing a trip similar to this in 2026



# Strong Students

by Jacob Meznarich

Six Cameron High School students qualified for State Powerlifting and two of them went on to compete at Nationals. These students, Anna Baribeau and Alyssa Sagen, went to Baton Rouge, Louisiana for the competition. Both athletes decided to compete at the Junior Varsity level. Junior Varsity in Powerlifting is only for students that are Sophomores or Freshmen. Anna and Alyssa both placed better at Nationals than at State. Neither Anna nor Alyssa placed at State but they both placed first at Nationals in their respective weight classes.

Alyssa squatted 237 pounds, benched 126.8, and deadlifted 286.6 for a total of over 650 pounds. She won her weight class



National champions. Ana Baribeau (left) and Alyssa Sagen (right) after winning nationals.

by a total of 66 pounds. Ana's competition came down to the wire. She squatted 231.5, benched 132.3, and also deadlifted 286.6

pounds. Ana was in second going into her last lift, but she took the lead with a personal best to take home first.

# Honorable Humans

by Katie Shilts

Seven juniors at Cameron High School have taken a pledge to display values of scholarship, leadership, character, and service by induction into the National Honor Society- Cameron chapter. After prospective members submitted an application consisting of volunteer hours, community and school involvement, references, and an essay, a committee reviewed them and chose students who would best represent the school and the National Honor Society's four cardinal traits.

Mallory Duerkop, Riley Holdeman, Nicole Kargus, Lexi Kuffel, Olivia Leschisin, Lauren Pearson, and Katie Shilts were inducted into NHS during a ceremony on April 10. Former NHS President Evie Martinson led the ceremony, and the 2023-24 members passed on their roles to the new members.

Seniors Keara Butterfield, Jami Folz, Maddie Gilles, Evie Martinson, Seppie Pica, Cate Quaders, Kallei Stovern, Mykala Stovern, and Chloe Wall ended their time in

NHS, during which they did many community service projects.

The new 2024-25 members of NHS will now start planning their projects and volunteer hours.



NHS members past and present. Olivia Leschisin, Mallory Duerkop, Riley Holdeman, Lexi Kuffel, Lauren Pearson, Nicole Kargus, Katie Shilts, Seppie Pica, Mykala Stovern, Chloe Wall, Kallei Stovern, Maddie Gilles, Cate Quaders, Keara Butterfield, and Jami Folz make up the past and present members of the National Honor Society.

## Track Sectional

For the second year in a row, Cameron gets the honor of hosting the Sectional Track Meet. The meet will take place Thursday, May 23rd. The meet starts at four in the afternoon, and later in the day the winning team and state athletes will be announced. Forty-seven teams are scheduled to attend this giant meet. Most of the schools are local, for example Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, Cumberland, Ladysmith, Shell Lake, and Turtle Lake. Some schools from farther away that are coming to the meet are Chequamegon and Mondovi.

Out of all these athletes, the top two athletes in each event qualify for the State Meet. Last year, six Cameron students, including alternates, went to state. This year, the track team is aiming to qualify more.

We hope to see you there cheering on the Cameron Track Team.