

EDUCATION

Sixth Grade Chronicles

20-things I am grateful for this Thanksgiving season

Elise Matney
Messenger Staff

Hello everyone, my name is Elise. Today I am going to tell you 20 things that I am thankful for. As most of you know, it is getting to be Thanksgiving time and a list of things that I am thankful for really fits with the season and the time of year.

First of all, I am thankful for my family. They help me through the good times and bad, they have always cared for me, never given up on me, and always provided me with everlasting love. Secondly, I am thankful for my friends. They are loyal to me in almost any-

thing I do.

I am also thankful for food and water because you literally couldn't survive without them. I am thankful for Taekwondo because it has taught me self-defense. I'm also thankful for laughs, movies, books, and Chick-fil-A. These are things that just seem to make the world a better and happier place.

I am thankful for my religion because it helps me through hard times. I am thankful for my house. I am especially thankful for my house because for almost three years my family and I lived with my grandmother. It was still fun, but it is nice to have our own house.

I am thankful for dogs, music, and even my school. Dogs are one of the most loving souls on the planet. It always feels like they really listen to you when you have something important to say, and they just love you without cause.

Music makes almost anything better especially if it matches your mood. And of course, school is a great place that will help you learn about lots of different things.

I am so grateful for animals and how they can range from the gentlest puppy to a wild elephant. I am very thankful for all fluffy items because who

doesn't like something soft and fluffy? I am extremely grateful for holidays, pizza, sticky notes, and art. Holidays are wonderful reminders to me to love my family and friends. Pizza is all around amazing. Sticky notes are super handy when it comes to remembering things to do. Art is a great outlet for me when I get emotional, or I just feel like doing artistic crafts.

Lastly, I love pictures of all kinds. Big pictures, little ones, they all are amazing. These are 20 things that I am thankful for. I encourage you to join me in thinking about your 20 items that you are thankful for.



Photo by Elise Matney

Elise Matney shares reasons why she is grateful.

Up to Date with Ella Kate

Are you being kind or are you being polite?

Ella Kate Berg
Messenger Staff

All writers, regardless of their age, collaborate with me on story ideas. Ella Kate and I meet up at the end of each month to discuss stories for the upcoming month. Because it's November and there is an air of gratitude, it was a natural choice to choose to write about being kind. Ella Kate's original submission spoke of smiling at one another and saving seats at lunch for friends. We talked about the difference between being kind and being polite. After our discussion, Ella Kate wanted to rewrite her topic to reflect on the differences. We both agree that it is hard to differentiate between being kind and being polite. We looked them up and compared the differences together. As an editor and former educator, I am proud of Ella Kate for not allowing a rejection of a story idea to sway her commitment to write; I even teased her that doing a "rewrite" is the sign of a true writer.

Hi, my name is Ella Kate and this week, I am going to be up to date on the difference between being kind and being polite.

Last week, my article was not in the newspaper because my editor rejected it. She told me to write a story about showing kindness. I thought what happens at school is an example of being kind, but instead, it is more about being polite.

For example, I wrote about an adult smiling at me and saying, "good morning" and my editor said that's politeness. Kindness is where you go out of your way to do something to help somebody. Some other things I wrote about are as soon as I walk in the buildings, adults wave at and greet me and how my social studies teacher always tells us good morning, or how our friends save each other seats at lunch. I thought that was being kind, but it is more about being polite.

My editor and I talked about it for a while, and although it is a little complicated, I can see now there is a differ-



Photo submitted by Ella Kate Berg

Ella Kate poses with her Editor in a moment away from the newspaper business.

ence between the two things. Kindness is helping somebody when they do not know what to do or when they need help. Anybody can show politeness. You could be the meanest person in the world and still smile at someone but not mean it. I was confused about the differences between politeness and kindness, and in some ways, I still am, but I do understand now that there is a difference. Being kind takes effort of some kind. Hav-

ing manners can just be a requirement for social skills. They are not the same.

It was tricky learning about the two. But I wrapped up a conclusion that kindness is when you go out of your way to do something even if you don't want to do it, but you still do it because you know it'd make them happy or to be helpful. On the other hand, politeness could be something you do that could just be a social skill.

"THIS" OR "THAT" Questions

Cambell Hardy
Messenger Staff

Cambell Hardy covers Stuart Pepper Middle School's "This or That" each month. This month, Hardy asked her fellow students the following questions:

1. Would you rather drink apple cider or a pumpkin spice latte?
2. Would you rather dress like a scarecrow or dress like a turkey?
3. Would you rather watch a movie or play a board game?
4. Would you rather be Charlie Brown or Snoopy?



Mya Pike
7th grader at Stuart Pepper Middle School

1. Apple Cider
2. Dress like a Scarecrow
3. Watch a movie
4. Snoopy



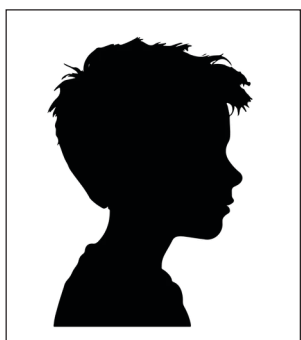
Haidyn Ford
7th grader at Stuart Pepper Middle School

1. Pumpkin Spice Latte
2. Dress like a Turkey
3. Watch a movie
4. Snoopy



Kensley Dodson
7th grader at Stuart Pepper Middle School

1. Pumpkin Spice Latte
2. Dress like a Turkey
3. Watch a movie
4. Snoopy



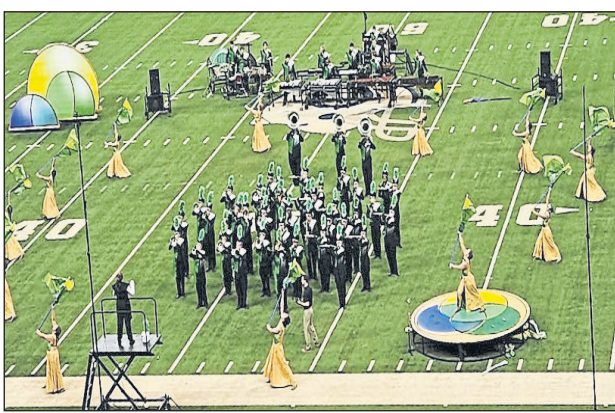
Ian Rodriguez
7th grader at Stuart Pepper Middle School

1. Apple Cider
2. Dress like a turkey
3. Watch a movie
4. Be Snoopy

2025 Meade County High School Marching Band Season draws to a close



Chris Staley gets his senior rose pinned, a long running tradition by the Band.



Photos by Claire Brown

Meade County marching band, you may take the field!

Claire Brown
Messenger Staff

My name is Claire Brown. Marching Band is a large part of my life. I have marched and played the trumpet since my eighth-grade year. Now, three years later, I am ending the 2025 season as a junior in high school, and a leader in the marching band.

This year, our show was titled "Intersect." It is a show about differences coming together to make something beautiful in the end. Our season has had its highs and its lows, but overall, I would call it my favorite season in marching band so far.

Every year we end the season with a trip to Grand National Championships in Indianapolis. It is by far everyone's favorite part of the season, despite how bittersweet it is to know it is the last marching show

of the year. This year, our trip spanned from Thursday, November 13th to Saturday, November 15th. It was a busy, but unforgettable, trip.

Our trip began just a little after noon on Thursday, with all of us departing from the school on the way to Indianapolis. It was a four-hour bus ride packed with quality time spent with friends, chatting, and anxiously awaiting the next day, our performance day.

The hours at the hotel were fun filled with relaxation in preparation for our performance the next day. This included chill out time as well as some splashing about in the pool with classic chicken fights. Dinner was Italian cuisine with pizza and different pastas. We had cookies for dessert before going to bed that night. We woke up early the next morning for a few hours at the In-

dianapolis Children's Museum.

After visiting the museum, which was full of learning while still enjoying ourselves, we returned to the hotel for some leisure time before the big moment.

I am not sure how many people know, but there is a long running tradition in the Meade County Marching Band whereas the seniors perform their final performance with a rose pinned to their chest, placed there by family or friends. The tradition continues, as after the performance, seniors often gift rose petals from their rose to their favorite underclassmen. Usually, underclassmen chew the rose petals and then spit, because chewing a rose petal will turn saliva purple. This tradition has been ongoing for many years and was the last thing we did before leaving the hotel to

go to Lucas Oil Stadium.

I think we gave our best performance yet on that field, and I think many of my friends agree with me. It was a performance full of working equipment and everyone driving to give it their all, leaving crowd goers to applaud our efforts at the end. It was an amazing feeling to perform in front of a packed stadium, since we were the very last preliminary band to perform.

Overall, we grew from previous years and contributed to Lucas Oil stadium an impressive performance fueled with emotion and passion for what we do. I think we made our mark on Bands of America, even if we did not advance further. The season ended with a performance we can be proud of. As I progress into the next season, which will be my senior season, I can only hope that next year is as good as this one.

PICTURES WITH SANTA AND LIGHT UP THE LIBRARY

December 1
5:00 - 6:30

All Ages

Come get your Christmas Card picture done early! Santa will be set up by the fireplace with beautiful music provided by The Heartland Dulcimer group. Must take your own photo. Phone stand will be provided.

At 6:30 Santa will turn on the Christmas lights!

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