

# Kids get cooking at camp

North Bullitt High teacher helps youths sharpen kitchen skills, create edible art

By Sara Cunningham

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Elizabeth Grau, 12, said she likes to cook but hoped that a cooking camp at North Bullitt High School would improve her skills.

The soon-to-be Hebron Middle School eighth-grader was one of about 20 Bullitt County students who attended a new culinary summer camp at the high school July 6-8.

"Now I think I can actually make food that's edible," Elizabeth said. "Before, all I really knew how to do was make eggs and toast."

The cooking camp was created by North Bullitt teacher Olivia Farris, who teaches foods, culinary arts and child development at the high school. Farris, who has taught at North Bullitt for six years, also runs the school's Family, Career, Community Leaders of America club, or **FCCLA**, for students.

Farris designed separate camp groups, one for students ages 7 to 11 and the other for ages 12 to 15. Each of the three camps had a different theme: desserts, breakfast

food and tailgate recipes.

The summer cooking camps cost \$50 and Farris said the money she raised would go to her FCCLA club. The club organizes community service events and activities around the county, she said.

"There're about 80 kids in the club and it's nice to start out the year with some funds," Farris said.

The idea of running cooking camps also appealed to Farris because of her experiences with food, she said.

"I started really loving to cook when I was in middle school," she said. "I liked the idea of giving kids a little taste of that."

The camps also incorporated reading and math skills as she challenged students to figure out parts of the recipes on their own.

On July 7, the culinary classroom was filled with the smells of yeast, frying dough and cinnamon as the camp worked on breakfast recipes.

The first day, students learned to make French toast, pancakes and waffles. The second day involved doughnuts and coffee cake. The last day was all about quiches and breakfast burritos.

The doughnuts were a big hit.

"It's pretty cool that we're making doughnuts," said Carter Campbell, 13, an incoming Hebron Middle eighth-grader. "It's something you usually buy at the store."

Carter was one of only two boys in the breakfast group for ages 12-15.

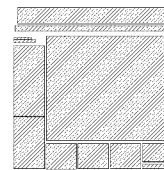
"I don't know, I just want to learn how to cook," explained Tristan Casebier, 12. "We'll have to know how so we can eat when we get older. Our parents won't do it for us forever."

Tristan will be starting seventh grade at Bullitt Lick Middle School in the fall.

Caitlyn Bonzo, who is 13 and will be an eighth-grader at Eastside Middle, said she also was excited to learn more about cooking.

"I've always liked to cook," she said as she scooped flour into a sifter. "It's fun because you're kind of like an artist with how you're making things. It's better than art though because you get to eat what you make."

Reporter Sara Cunningham can be reached at (502) 582-4335.





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Elizabeth Grau, 12, and Tristan Casebier, 12, watched as Carter Campbell broke an egg into their bowl during a cooking camp at North Bullitt High School. "It's pretty cool that we're making doughnuts," said Carter, 13, an incoming Hebron Middle eighth-grader.