

Crown Point Community School Corporation

we are CP

Volume 1, Issue 1

BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

Registration, school
calendar, and more

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS,
PRESCHOOL EXPANSION,
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

Make Way for a New Taft

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS BEGIN THROUGHOUT CPCSC



“Whether you were an in-person learner, a distance learner, or you are new to the Crown Point Community School Corporation family - welcome to a new year.”

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, I'd like to welcome each of our students and their families back after what was an uncertain and sometimes difficult year. Whether you were an in-person learner, a distance learner, or you are new to the Crown Point Community School Corporation family - welcome to a new year.

Although last school year saw an unprecedented number of challenges for all of us, CPCSC students and staff excelled both in and out of the classroom. Academic and extracurricular success

do not happen without the help of parents and community. Thank you for the continued support and love you have shown to our students and staff.

The list of accomplishments from last year could fill pages. Multiple teams and academic groups placed in or won state championships. 708 students graduated from CPCSC. Our district retirees completed a total of 409 years of dedicated service.

It is our hope that CPCSC returns to a more normal learning environment this

August. It's still unclear how the pandemic will affect our students in the years to come. However, Crown Point Community School Corporation will continue to identify the needs of our learners and meet those needs through innovative, effective instruction and programming. We will continue to move forward while putting our students first.

Notable changes or improvements on the horizon for 2021-2022 include:

- Continuing work on our capital improvement projects, including the construction of a new Taft Middle School (see p. 6)
- Expanding our preschool to four locations and implementing a fully-inclusive, play-based program that prepares children for kindergarten (see p. 8)
- Developing a district strategic plan that guides the work of CPCSC for years to come (see www.cps.k12.in.us/plan)

- Continuing to build more inclusive environments so every child can succeed
- Welcoming eight new assistant principals and 12 new specialists across the district to strengthen support systems for parents, students, and teachers (see p. 11)

August 18th is our first day of school. Some students will return to the building for the first time since March of 2020. Some students have only been gone for a few weeks because they were here for summer school. Others will join us for the first time, like our kindergarteners - the future Class of 2034. Our team looks forward to welcoming each of our learners to the classroom.

Here's to a great year,

Dr. Todd Terrill
Superintendent of Schools



“Crown Point Community School Corporation will continue to identify the needs of our learners and meet those needs through innovative, effective instruction and programming.”



Before & After School Care

CPCSC offers a before and after school child care program (also called Latch Key care) at each elementary before school from 6-9 a.m. and after school from 3:45-6:30 p.m. On school breaks and distance learning days (either scheduled or for emergency closure), child care will be available from 6 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Eisenhower and Jerry Ross Elementary Schools.

Child care fees are \$7 before school each day and \$7 after school each day. On distance learning days the fee is \$7 for up to 4 hours, \$14 between 4 and 8 hours, and \$21 for more than 8 hours. There is an annual \$10 non-refundable sign-up fee.

To register for child care and to find more information about the program, visit the CPCSC website at www.cps.k12.in.us/childcare.

2021-2022 school year info

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

RETURNING STUDENTS

Online registration for **returning** students will open at 9 a.m. on the following days based on the beginning letter of the “registration parent’s” last name (the parent who is completing the registration process). Registration is done via the RDS Parent Access account. The link is available on the district’s website.

- Wednesday, July 28: A – G only
- Thursday, July 29: H – P (along with A-G)
- Friday, July 30: Q – Z (along with A-P)



Lunch is covered!

Breakfast and lunch will be free for all students during the 2021-2022 school year. You may still want to add money to your child's meal account for a la carte items.

PLEASE FILL OUT YOUR FREE AND REDUCED FORMS DURING REGISTRATION! Even though lunch is free, additional benefits such as textbook rental assistance are determined via this form.



Online registration is for ALL RETURNING students including kindergarten & preschool students who pre-registered in the spring of 2021. New students (or students who were withdrawn at the end of the 2020-21 school year) must follow new student procedures below.

If you are a returning student without computer access, please call your school beginning July 28 to make an appointment to finalize online registration.

NEW STUDENTS

Any **new** elementary and middle school students must pre-register online at www.cps.k12.in.us/newstudents beginning July 23, 2021. This is only if you are new to the district.

Any student who pre-registers after Wednesday, August 4, 2021, will not receive transportation services until Tuesday, August 24, 2021.

Elementary and middle schools: Once pre-registered, all new elementary students will receive a letter with instructions on how to finalize registration. Middle school students will receive a call to set a scheduling appointment.

Crown Point High School: High school students new to the district may register at Crown Point High School throughout the summer on Mondays. An appointment is required. Call 219-663-4885, ext. 11028.



Board of School Trustees

The business meetings of the CPCSC Board of School Trustees are held the fourth Monday of the month at 6 p.m. Meetings are at the Administrative Service Center at 200 East North Street. The public is invited to attend in person or watch the live-stream on CPCSC's YouTube channel.

Board meeting agendas and policies are available on the CPCSC website at www.cps.k12.in.us/board.

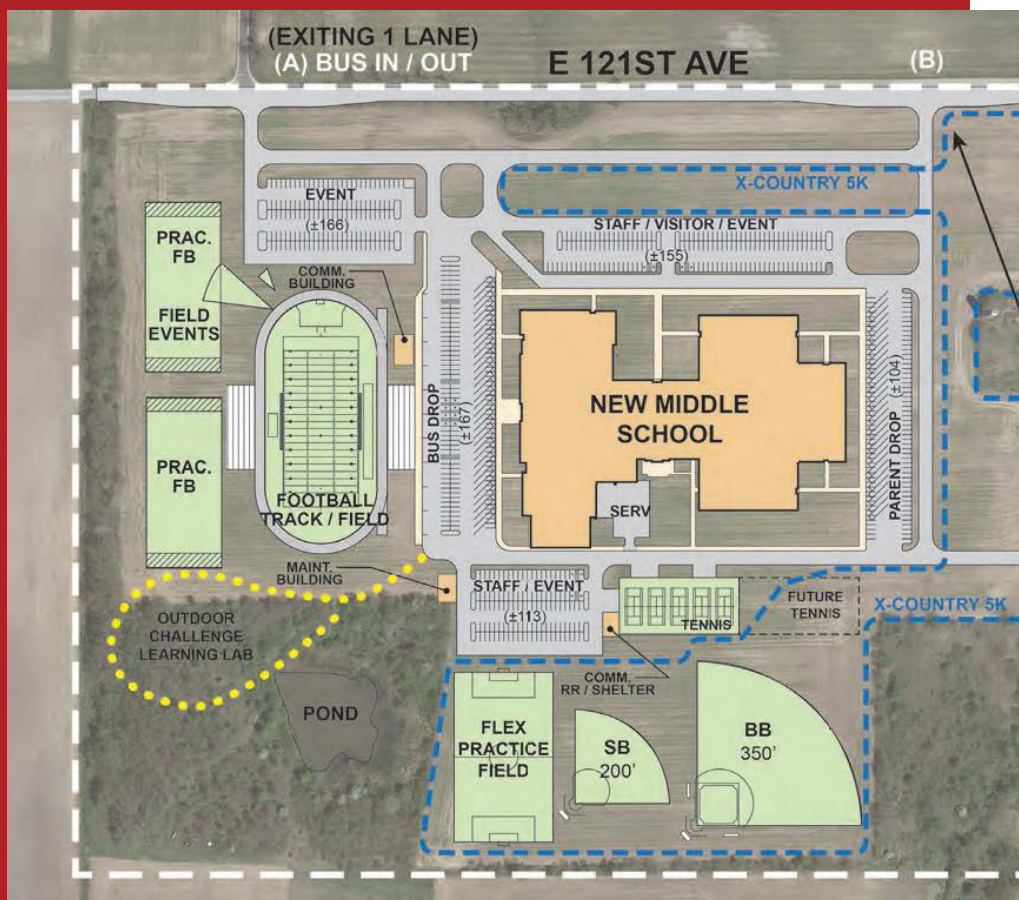
CPCSC Board of School Trustees:

- David Warne, President
- Scott Angel, Vice President
- Thomas Hoffman, Secretary
- Scott Babjak, Member
- Brian Smith, Member



It's no secret that Crown Point's population continues to grow. To accommodate that growth, the CPCSC Board of School Trustees approved a capital improvement project that will affect every building in the district. Preparation for the project began in 2017, but official approval to move forward was given in November 2020. The plan calls for additional classrooms and infrastructure upgrades, as well as construction of a new Taft Middle School.

Groundbreaking for the middle school is scheduled for this summer, with plans to open August 2023. It will be located at 121st Avenue and Gibson Street near Winfield. The location was chosen from three properties already owned by the district. Only two of the three sites were large enough to fit a middle school for the growing population. Out of those two, the chosen site in Winfield was best for both site layout and adequate traffic



groundbreaking GROWTH

Capital improvement projects and new middle school aim to accomodate growing population



flow, which includes considering school buses and first responder access in an emergency.

With Taft's relocation comes the potential for school boundary modifications. However, the administration won't be planning those changes until the project is further underway. "With growth happening so quickly in our community, we



A recently remodeled classroom at Winfield Elementary awaits furniture for the '21-'22 school year.

are working with demographers to get a more complete picture of our upcoming student population," said Superintendent Dr. Todd Terrill. "Once we have that information, we will analyze transportation routes and class sizes to determine potential changes."

Built in 1954 with multiple additions in the decades after, Taft Middle School's aging infrastructure, lack of accessibility, and insufficient space pose significant problems for the future. "Taft was remodeled over the years to what was a reasonable amount," said Dr. Terrill. "But we're at a point that remodeling isn't reasonable anymore. It's not sufficient enough to solve the issues we have there." It has not been determined yet what steps the district will take with the existing Taft building once the new one is complete.

It's not just Taft that will see changes. Crown Point High School, MacArthur Elementary, and Timothy Ball Elementary will all add classrooms to alleviate overcrowding.

Technology and infrastructure upgrades will also be completed at all CPCSC buildings (excluding Winfield where new classrooms were completed last school year). By the time the projects are finished, every student in the district will benefit from the improvements.

While the total estimated costs are around \$214,000,000, it's important to note that the construction is not financed through a referendum. This means Crown Point residents will not see an increase in their taxes because of the project. The district's previous debt "falls off" over the course of the next three years, which means the project will be financed through the sale of bonds, not through increasing property taxes.

Continuous updates on the capital improvement project can be found on the district's website at www.cps.k12.in.us/capital. Information includes summaries of board meeting reports and project updates, as well as FAQs and public notices.



bulldog BUDDIES preschool

Imagine a preschool where curiosity is always the right answer. Where hands get messy and discovery abounds. Where children learn together by playing together.

Crown Point Community School Corporation is offering a new preschool program in the 2021-2022 school year. The program, called Bulldog Buddies Preschool, is a play-based preschool for children ages 3-5 who live in the Crown Point district.

Bulldog Buddies is experiential, child-centered, and implements Indiana's Early Learning Foundations Framework to ensure that students are kindergarten-ready. Play-based learning is emphasized, giving children opportunities to creatively explore their environment. Because Bulldog Buddies is located in CPCSC elementary schools, students also have the benefit of becoming familiar with their future K-5 school environment early.

Parents can register their children for morning or afternoon sessions that run 2, 3, or 5 days a week depending on their child's age. Tuition is calculated via a weekly fee, but fees are adjusted for families who qualify for financial assistance. Program locations include Winfield Elementary, MacArthur Elementary, Eisenhower Elementary, and the CPCSC Learning Center. There are plans to expand to additional elementary schools in future years.

The preschool is a fully-inclusive environment. While CPCSC previously offered preschool at

the Learning Center for children who receive special education services via an IEP, the new program also welcomes non-IEP students. This means that children of all abilities will now be in class together. Director of Exceptional Education Heather Paskis said she's looking forward to the change. "We know that whether kids need special services or not, they learn from each other and form strong friendships - and that the best classroom is one that includes all children."

Pre-registration for Bulldog Buddies opened last spring and spots filled quickly. There is a waiting list for the 2021-2022 school year, and interested families are encouraged to visit the website to add their names to the list.

Visit www.cps.k12.in.us/preschool or call 219-663-4330 for more information. Bulldog Buddies is also on Facebook.





CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

2021-2022 Calendar

August 2021

M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September 2021

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October 2021

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November 2021

M	T	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

December 2021

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

January 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

March 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

May 2022






M	T	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

June 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

July 2022

M	T	W	Th	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

	No school		Start of 9 weeks	Teacher work days
	Distance learning		End of 9 weeks	1st & last student day
	Half-day for students			

Crown Point Community School Corporation
Administrative Service Center
200 East North St., Crown Point, IN 46307
219-663-3371 www.cps.k12.in.us
Open Monday-Friday, 7am-4pm

Aug. 16 - First teacher day, no students

Aug. 18 - First student day

Sept. 6 - Labor Day, no school

Sept. 29 - Half-day for students; staff PD

Oct. 8 - End of 1st 9 weeks (37 days)

Oct. 14 - K-5 Parent/Teacher conferences: distance learning for elementary students

Oct. 20-22 - Fall Break, no school

Nov. 24-26 - Thanksgiving Break, no school

Dec. 17 - End of 2nd 9 weeks (44 days)

Dec. 17 - End of 1st semester (81 days)

Dec. 20-Jan. 3 - Winter Break, no school

Jan. 17 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school

Feb. 2 - Half-day for students; staff PD

Feb. 21 - Presidents' Day, no school

Mar. 11 - End of 3rd 9 weeks (47 days)

Mar. 28-Apr. 1 - Spring Break, no school

Apr. 15 - Good Friday, no school

May 30 - Memorial Day, no school

June 2 - Last student day

June 2 - End of 4th 9 weeks (52 days)

June 2 - End of 2nd semester (99 days)

June 3 - Last teacher day

Summer school will begin following the end of the regular school year.

School & Building Directory

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

School day: 9:05 am - 3:44 pm

Eisenhower Elementary



219-663-8800
www.cps.k12.in.us/eisenhower
1450 S. Main St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Jerry Ross Elementary



219-663-3010
www.cps.k12.in.us/ross
11319 Randolph St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Lake Street Elementary



219-663-5683
www.cps.k12.in.us/lake
475 E. Lake St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

MacArthur Elementary



219-662-3600
www.cps.k12.in.us/mac
12900 Fairbanks St.
Cedar Lake, IN 46303

Solon Robinson Elementary



219-663-2525
www.cps.k12.in.us/solon
601 Pettibone St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Timothy Ball Elementary



219-663-0047
www.cps.k12.in.us/tball
720 Summit St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Winfield Elementary



219-663-2287
www.cps.k12.in.us/winfield
13128 Montgomery St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

School day: 7:40 am - 2:55 pm

Taft Middle School



219-663-1507
www.cps.k12.in.us/taft
1000 S. Main St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Colonel Wheeler Middle School



219-663-2173
www.cps.k12.in.us/wheeler
401 W. Joliet St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL

School day: 7:35 am - 2:37 pm



219-663-4885
Guidance: ext. 11053
Athletics: ext. 11131
www.cps.k12.in.us/cphs
1500 S. Main St.
Crown Point, IN 46307

CPCSC LEARNING CENTER

Open 7 am - 4 pm



219-663-4330
130 Harrington Ave.
Crown Point, IN 46307

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENTS

Open 7 am - 4 pm



Central Office: 219-663-3371
Transportation: 219-663-1465
Food Services: 219-662-6480
Technology: 219-662-5659

CPCSC SAFETY TIPLINE

Call or text: 219-306-8063

Email: 1789@alert1.us

Web: <https://cps-k12-in.safeschoolsalert.com>

expanding the TEAM



Elementary assistant principals, left to right: Joshua Graegin, Kate Reeder, Melanie Pociask, Misty Scheuneman, Jennifer Grill, Kelly Wade

Crown Point Community School Corporation will welcome eight new assistant principals and 12 new instructional and student support specialists in 2021.

The assistant principal and specialist positions were created to provide necessary support for students, teachers, and parents as the district continues to grow. “Many people understand the need to hire more teachers as our schools grow, which we’ve done over the years,” noted Superintendent Dr. Todd Terrill. “However, additional teachers also require support in the form of administrative and specialist roles. Those roles are critical for our schools to function efficiently and meet the needs of our students.”

The new assistant principal positions and hires include:

- Taft Middle School - Jennifer Grill, 15 years of elementary and ELL education experience
- Wheeler Middle School - Misty Scheuneman, 9 years of teaching experience at CPHS, 9 years of admin experience in Hobart
- Lake Street Elementary - Kelly Wade, 6 years of experience as a teacher and instructional coach

- MacArthur and Timothy Ball Elementary - Joshua Graegin, 10 years of experience as a Crown Point teacher and 3 years as a Crown Point admin
- Solon Robinson and Eisenhower Elementaries - Melanie Pociask, 16 years of teaching experience at Lake Street Elementary
- Jerry Ross and Winfield Elementary - Kate Reeder, 14 years of teaching and Title I experience
- Crown Point High School - Mike Depta, 26 years of teaching experience (16 in Crown Point)
- Former deans Kyle Hanaway (Taft) and Annie Lorek (CPHS) will move into assistant principal positions at their current schools.

Instructional and student support positions new to the district include an additional high school counselor; four positions in the Department of Exceptional Education, including a diagnostician and department coordinators; and seven positions in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction, including an additional blended learning specialist, two ELA specialists, two math specialists, and two curriculum specialists.

spotlight on student SAFETY

Preparation, practice, partnerships. In the last two years, these topics have been a focus for continuing to improve school safety throughout CPCSC. Secondary Director of Education Mark Gianfermi and Supervisor of Security Dave Coulson led administrators and staff in drills and training that utilized new technology and coordinated meetings with local first responders to strengthen safety partnerships.

CRISIS GO

All CPCSC schools have adopted Crisis Go, a digital safety platform. Crisis Go sends alerts to each staff member's computer and/or cell phone in the event of an emergency. The alert details the type of emergency happening, which allows staff to take swift action. Teachers can use the digital roster to account for each student as well as send messages between staff and administrators. Any staff member can activate an alert, saving valuable time.

Every CPCSC school has practiced with Crisis Go during their regularly scheduled drills. Principal Jacob Rodriguez from Colonel Wheeler Middle School notes that Crisis Go has better prepared their staff for emergencies. "Practicing drills as rostered events assures we are able to account for students during and after a crisis," he said. "We have also found significant value in providing teachers mobile access to student rosters, school maps, and specific crisis response steps, tailored for the wide variety of staff roles in each building."

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

Monthly meetings between CPCSC leaders and city first responders have provided an opportunity



Director of Secondary Education Mark Gianfermi and Chief Human Resource Officer Art Equihua review contents of a kit used during emergency evacuations.

to become familiar with emergency response protocols from both school and city perspectives.

Each month the teams meet at a CPCSC school to practice a "table top" drill. These drills present an emergency scenario and each department walks through the steps for responding to it. The collaboration is a chance to understand each department's role and analyze potential improvements to the response. Gianfermi said that "Getting together with the people we would be actually working with in a real emergency, focusing on our processes and communication, is a level of preparation not all districts have. We are fortunate our local agencies see the value of good partnerships for the safety of our students."

More information about school safety can be found on the district website at www.cps.k12.in.us/safety.

**See something,
say something**

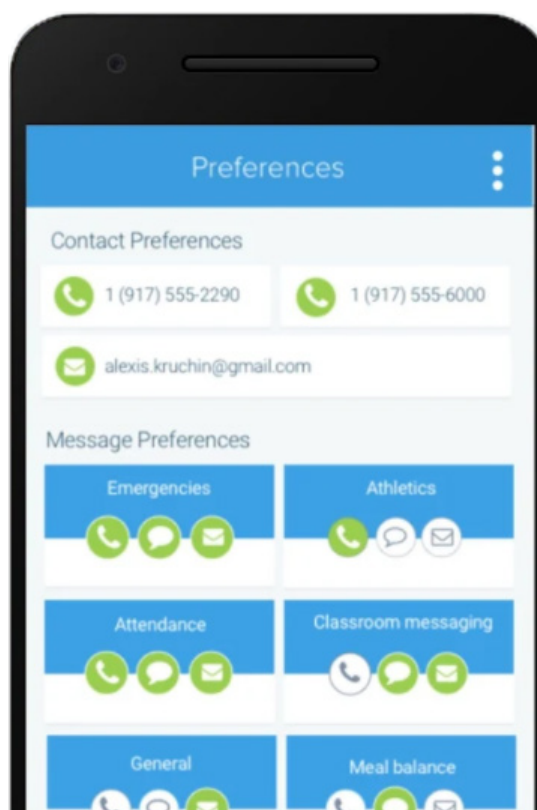
Anyone can report a safety concern using our Safe Schools hotline. Anonymous tips can be made via our website, by phone or text at 219-306-8063, or by email at 1789@alert1.us.

never miss a message

CPCSC's central office and schools use SchoolMessenger for robo-calls and email notifications. All official communications to parents are sent via this system. This includes information about school closings/delays, important news, and emergencies.

Here are some tips to make sure you never miss a message from the district's central office or your child's school:

1. Update your contact information and preferences in RDS Parent Access. You can choose a primary number and up to four additional phone numbers. Two email addresses per student can be included.
2. Download the SchoolMessenger app on iOS or Android.
3. Don't forget to check your spam email folder (but we recommend downloading the app so you don't have to!).



staff of the YEAR

Elementary Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Pollitt, a third grade teacher, has been part of the staff at Timothy Ball Elementary since her student teaching experience in 2008. She then moved to the position of Instructional Aide and became a classroom teacher in 2011. Beyond her successes in the classroom, Mrs. Pollitt also coordinates Spell Bowl, Math Bowl, and Lego Club.

Secondary Teacher of the Year

Jeremy Walker is a geometry teacher and Blended Learning Specialist at Crown Point High School. Mr. Walker has been part of the CPHS teaching staff since 1995. As part of his blended learning position, Mr. Walker has provided teachers, parents, and students with countless hours of help to navigate technology and learning in a non-traditional year. He is also a sponsor of the CPHS Latin Club.

Employee of the Year

Dana Torreano is CPCSC's health coordinator and leads the district's team of school nurses. Under Ms. Torreano's leadership, CPCSC's nurses worked



Left to right: Mike Carnahan, Dana Torreano, Jeremy Walker, Jennifer Pollitt, Karin Toth

tirelessly through the pandemic while still providing day-to-day care for students.

Administrator of the Year

Karin Toth, Director of Transportation, has been with the district for 23 years. She oversees drivers, mechanics, and other transportation staff to ensure students arrive to and from school safely every day. Our transportation staff drive more than one million miles every school year!

Finalists for Teacher of the Year were Amanda Kosiba (Winfield), Danielle Mulder (Lake St.), Jamie Edgington (Learning Center), Katie Rice (Solon), Melissa Donaldson (MacArthur), Nicole Sekulaski (Jerry Ross), Sarah Fritz (Eisenhower), Jill Vagner (Col. Wheeler), and Scott Reid (Taft). Finalists for Employee of the Year were Chantel Pierce (ASC) and Mike Carnahan (MacArthur).

Mike Carnahan Spirit of a Bulldog Award

A new award was created and named after retiring MacArthur Elementary head custodian Mike Carnahan. This award recognizes the significant contributions of a district employee. It honors an individual who has exceeded the expectations of their position and created a long-lasting impact through mentorship, dedication, and support for students.

You can read more about the award and Mike's accomplishments at www.cps.k12.in.us/spirit.



join the TEAM!

**CPCSC is hiring substitutes,
paraprofessionals, bus
drivers, and food service
team members.**

**Apply online at
www.cps.k12.in.us/careers.**

FREE kindergarten readiness



Birth to School
Kindergarten Readiness

CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Birth to School (BtS) is a free CPCSC program designed to support caregivers and their children ages birth to five.

BtS offers a kindergarten readiness program for children who live within the district boundaries and will enter kindergarten in the fall of 2022.

Additional programming is available for children up to five years old who live within the MacArthur Elementary, Timothy Ball Elementary, and Solon Elementary boundaries.

More information is on the Birth to School website at www.cps.k12.in.us/bts.



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

200 East North Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

save the DATE

Crown Point High School

- Wednesday, August 11 - Freshman parent orientation, 10-11 a.m. OR 6-7 p.m.
- Thursday, August 12 - New student orientation (new students who will not be freshmen), 10 a.m. - noon.
- Friday, August 13 - Bulldog Rush. Find your locker, review schedules, attend important information sessions about technology, club sign-ups, guidance, and more.
 - 8-11 a.m. - Incoming freshmen last names A-L
 - Noon-3 p.m. - Incoming freshman last names M-Z
- Wednesday, September 1 - Open House

Colonel Wheeler Middle School AND Taft Middle School

- Thursday, August 12 - 6th grade parent night, 6-7 p.m. Parents new to the district may also join.
- Friday, August 13 - Jr. Bulldog Rush, 9-11 a.m. 6th grade student orientation. Students new to the district may also join.
- Thursday, August 19 - Meet the Teachers, 6-7:30 p.m. Parents can meet teachers and understand the middle school experience by following their child's schedule from class to class.

For more information, visit your school's website or call their front office (contact info p. 10).

we are CP magazine is published by Crown Point Community School Corporation and mailed to residents in Crown Point, Winfield, and Cedar Lake.

Find us on social media and online
at www.cps.k12.in.us

