



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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Hoover plants seeds for future athletes

Recently, Hoover Principal Marci Galinowski presented the following history of the CCSC elementary athletic program. The athletic tradition has remained in the schools and has also carried through family generations with former players becoming coaches, and then becoming fans to grandchildren who have become players. One thing is for sure, while the program has evolved and grown over the years as changes have been made corporation-wide, the longstanding tradition of CCSC providing opportunities to students has remained constant.

The Crawfordsville Elementary School athletic program started with five schools, which provided students in grades 5 and 6 the opportunity to meet other students who attended the other city elementary schools before joining together at Tuttle Middle School. When 6th grade moved out of the elementary schools, the program transitioned to a 5th grade program.

The original teams included:

- Willson Broncos - Blue & White
- John Beard Cougars - Orange & Black
- Hose Hornets - Gold & Blue
- Hoover Tigers - Gold & Green
- Nicholson Destroyers - Green & White

*Also changed the name to Nicholson Knights

• Mills School did not have a team because they only served students through third grade.

The program evolved again around 1996 from having one team at each school to two teams at Hose, Nicholson and Hoover. Around this time, Willson became the Kindergarten Center. Beard and Mills had been closed, but the other three elementary

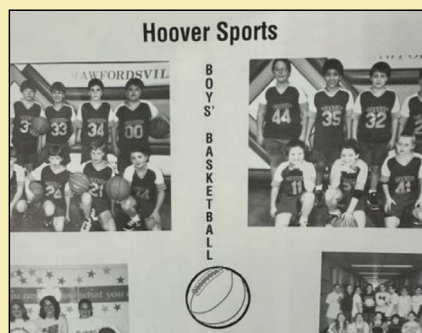
schools continued to compete.

The program changed again when the elementary schools reorganized to the current building grade level organization of K-1, 2-3, and 4-5. The program continued with six teams of 5th graders, all attending Hoover School who practiced and competed against each other. Team names were changed to be known together as the Hoover Tigers and team uniforms were in the colors of Gold & Green. Eventually, budget cuts and loss of gym space at Hose and Nicholson moved all practices and games back to the Hoover gym. Team colors were changed when Hoover School was renovated in 2016 from the Gold and Green to Gold and Blue to create solidarity with CMS and CHS. Hoover currently hosts four teams during each sports season. Hoover averages 48 student athletes every season (about 25% of the 5th grade class) with every sport offered at Hoover. Opportunities exist for students to participate in Co-Ed Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, and Track.

In 2013 Mrs. Reese, our current elementary athletic director started the Hoover 5K run upon receiving a Fuel Up to Play 60 grant. While no longer part of the grant, Hoover continues to hold the 5K run each year under the guidance of Hoover 4th grade teacher and CHS Cross Country Coach, Megan Craig. Hoover students also have the opportunity to participate in other CCSC athletic opportunities such as the elementary dance team with the help of CHS dance coach, Tami Haas. Youth Football and wrestling are offered through programs organized by our CHS sports coaches.

The Elementary Sports/Athletic Program is a long tradition for Craw-

Elementary athletics over the years





Coach Carrie Jones, was a former student athlete and has previously coached Hoover volleyball, CHS tennis, and now cheers for her daughter Lily who plays at Hoover.

fordsville Elementary Students. Generations of families have participated in elementary athletics. Current examples of the long time tradition would be the:

Morrison family: Grandfather - Tim Hudson Hoover Tiger-Basketball, Father - Aaron Morrison - a Hoover Tiger-Basketball, and children - Chloe and Taylor Morrison now Hoover Tigers-Basketball Players.

Former elementary athletes are also giving back and supporting this tradition. Here is a small example of this: Brian Thompson, a Willson Bronco, is now officiating our basketball games. Carrie Jones, a student and athlete from the Nicholson Knights, has coached Volleyball at Hoover, Tennis at CHS, and now has a child, Lily Jones, playing both Volleyball and Basketball at Hoover. Megan Foster, a Hoover Tiger, came back to teach and coach volleyball at Hoover.

Jennifer Coyle was a Hoover Tiger who won the city Championship in 1985, came back to Crawfordsville Schools to teach and coach for a Nicholson team. She is now the principal at Nicholson.

Jen Lowe, Hoover Computer Instructor, was a Hoover student and athlete. Her husband, Scott Lowe, was also a Hoover Tiger, athlete, and coach. Their son Jake has coached Basketball for

Hoover and CMS, and helps lead the youth football program. His children are also Hoover athletes.

Scott Lowe was a student-athlete at Nicholson, who won the city Championship the year he participated, in the 1973-74 school year. Jack Larson, Linda Sabol, and Bob Sabol were coaches. Scott Lowe coached for Crawfordsville for many years. Jake, Scott's son, played and also coached his own son and daughter's teams. Jack Larson coached for many years as well.

Mrs. Kristy Reese, PE teacher and Elementary Athletic Director, was a Willson Bronco. She also returned to teach and coach volleyball at CMS, Track and Gymnastics at CHS, and Volleyball at Hoover Elementary School. All three of Mrs. Reese's children played in the elementary athletic sports program.

Hoover Athletics appreciates every adult choosing to work with our kids. The Elementary Athletic - Sports Program has a strong tradition in the Crawfordsville Schools. Hoover staff believe that athletics is an important part of our students' development and it helps our students to become stronger and more successful future athletes at CMS.

Hoover continues to teach the games, improve individual

skills, and inspire our students to do their best. We believe in motivating every student to have fun, be active, and lead a healthy active lifestyle.

We also encourage students to share their talents by giving back or serving others when possible.

Mrs. Reese said "To be a part of the Elementary Athletic Program is an awesome opportunity to make a positive difference in a child's life." Hoover is thankful for the support given to the Elementary Athletic Program.

Crawfordsville Elementary Athletics - Sports Program

Athletic Directors:

Athletic Director - Don Fine - Before 1977; Michael Barton also ran a Flag Football program for the elementary schools.

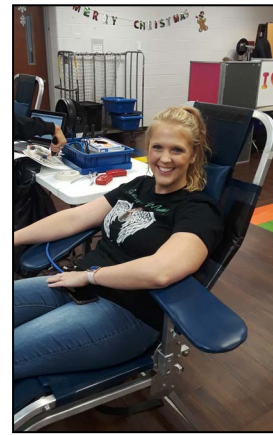
Assistant Director - Brian Norris -1977 and 1978; Athletic Director - Brian Norris 1979 - 2009; Assistant Director - Kristy Reese - 1986 - 2009; Athletic Director - Kristy Reese - 2010 - now; Assistant Director - Ann Stanley 2013 - 2020; Assistant Director - Hannah Lafever - 2020 - now; The Elementary Schools played each other in Basketball, Volleyball, Flag Football and Track & Cross Country.



Above: Nicholson Principal Jennifer Coyle was a member of the 1985 city championship team when Hoover defeated Beard. Right: Aaron Morrison, middle, is the father of Chloe and Taylor Morrison. The three of them and their grandfather/ father, Tim Hudson, were all Hoover Tigers.



Congratulations to team Mason for winning the 2022-23 Girls Basketball Championship.



Community shows up at drive to honor Jaxtyn

Hose Elementary hosted a blood drive in honor of Jaxtyn (Rogers) McClure, their first grade student who passed away in early November following an accident. On Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, Hose Elementary turned into a donation site. The blood drive organizing company, Versiti, keeps donations local as they provide the donations to the hospitals to help those in need of blood. Versiti collected 41 units of blood at the Hose drive, meeting

the goal of 40 set in Jaxtyn's honor.

Hose Elementary art teacher Beata Steiner created a canvas to sign by all those who donated. She used Jaxtyn's favorite color, green, with a heart to create a special keepsake for the family.

"We are pleased to be able to organize and host this blood drive in Jaxtyn's honor," school counselor Mallory Tucker said. "We miss Jaxtyn's sweet smile in the halls each

day, and wanted to find a way to help others in his honor. While it doesn't take away the pain of losing such a young member of our school community, bringing something positive out of the pain is a healthy part of the grief process."

Members of Jaxtyn's family, school community, and other community members touched by his story all donated at the blood drive.



Golden Grecians take talents to Indy

The Crawfordsville Middle School Golden Grecians performed some holiday music selections at the Indy Artsgarden Tuesday, Dec. 13. The group had a great audience and enjoyed singing in such a unique space!

The Golden Grecians is an auditioned show choir composed of 7th and 8th graders at CMS. Their next performance will be on Feb. 13 at the choir departments Classics Concert at 7 pm in the Connie Meek Auditorium at Crawfordsville High School.

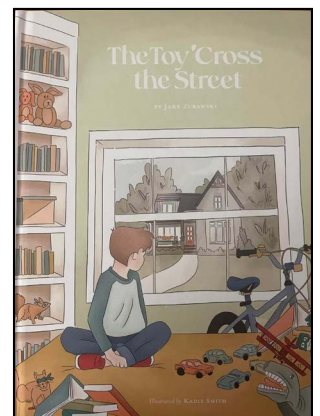


Mrs. Chaney's class gives author and CHS alum, Jake Zurawski's book a thumbs up.

First graders read book by Crawfordsville alum

Heather Chaney's first graders had a special treat in class as they read the book, "The Toy 'Cross The Street" which is written by Crawfordsville High School alum, Jake Zurawski.

The book is about a boy who wants a new toy and is willing to trade all he has to get it. He must learn what he really values and where he can find real joy. It is a fun, but meaningful book with rhymes and lessons for all.



CCSC thankful for Rager's years of dedicated service

Friends, family, and co-workers of Vern Rager gathered on Dec. 21st at Crawfordsville Middle School to celebrate his retirement after a successful 23 years serving full time at Crawfordsville School Corporation. However, if you include the years prior to full-time employment that consisted of driving bus and helping at sporting events, you could total his years of dedication closer to 45 years.

"Vern has served Crawfordsville Community Schools in an ever-present, caring manner. If we needed something done, needed an answer, or needed assistance, he was there. I'm grateful I've had the opportunity to work with him in all of my roles with our schools. His commitment to the schools is second-to-none and his service will be greatly missed. However, I also have comfort in knowing he's still going to drive our students, keep the score at sporting events, and always be there if needed," said Rex Ryker, Associate Superintendent.

Vern started driving bus trips after he turned 21 and received his CDL license in 1978 when the pay was \$1.75 per hour. At that time he was still employed full time as the parts manager at Horner Buick GMC.

Through the 80s and 90s was often driving four to five nights a week. Around 1980, Vern worked to get his EMT license, which led to Athletic Director Bruce Whitehead asking him to help at wrestling meets and other athletic events. By the late 80s and through the 90s he added keeping the scorebook for the boys and girls basketball games.

By the mid-90s, Vern began learning the volleyball scorebook around the time his daughter started playing at Tuttle Middle School. As she moved up to the high school so did he and has continued driving the team and keeping the official book for the Athenians ever since.

Officially, Rager began his work full time for CCSC in 1999 as a bus driver and as a custodian in the maintenance department. Then in 2006, he continued bus routes, but switched to grounds maintenance. From 2012-14, Rager focused solely in grounds maintenance and only in the transportation department as needed.

In September of 2014, shortly after the corporation coordinated maintenance with SSC Services for Education, Vern became the Facilities Director for CCSC and continued in this role until the end



Vern's family celebrated along side him. Left to right: Vern's daughter Amy Mattingly, holding granddaughter, Claire Mattingly, his wife, Pam, daughter Megan Huckstep and grandson, Rylan Huckstep.

of last month. He also continued to sub as needed for bus routes and trips.

Just a few short years ago, following his accident resulting in a prosthetic arm, Vern sought out any necessary steps to continue driving. Nothing extra was needed except being able to pass a physical test. Vern decided to improve his qualifications though and complete the steps for his federal CDL which allows him to cross state lines.

When asked about memories of working at CCSC, Vern recalled his proudest moment of CCSC students and staff. It was in 2010, on one of the coldest days of the year, when students and staff

lined the streets of downtown Crawfordsville and along the snow-plowed side ditches, cleared by the maintenance department, on the high school grounds. The students stood silenced and extremely well-behaved to honor the life of community member, Southmont alum, and U.S. Army Medic Brian Bowman who at only the age of 24 was killed in Afghanistan. The funeral procession was traveling from Woodland Heights to Waveland where he was to be buried.

Vern and his wife, Pam, plan to add more traveling to their schedule, but you'll continue to see him near by helping with a bus trip or keeping score at an athletic event.



Students keep an eye out for germs

The Nicholson school nurse, Miss Todd, shared some hand washing tips as she taught Ms. Boaz's class about germs! Together they're looking for germs under a black light.



Wally surprises kindergartners

The Wabash College swim team was back at Hose Elementary in Mrs. Pendleton's Kindergarten class for more fun and games. They played giant games of Connect 4, rode scooters, had popsicles and enjoyed quality time hanging out. The class also had a surprise visit from the college mascot, Wally.



Purdue swim team cheers for Sosbe, Athenians

The CHS swim team had some special visitors at their meet on Thursday, Jan. 5. The Purdue Men's Swimming & Diving team was present to cheer on the Athenians and Jonathan Sosbe, who is an honorary member of the Purdue team through Team IMPACT.

According to the Purdue sports website, "Team IMPACT provides a safe, supportive and encouraging environment for a child and the family to connect with a college athletic team, with the goal of filling the void left when traditional support systems are lacking for children living with a chronic or life-threatening illness". Sosbe was born with hemophilia and was selected by Purdue to join this partnership.

Sosbe, his family, and the Purdue team kicked off the partnership with an official letter of intent signing ceremony at the Morgan J. Burke Aquatic Center on his 16th birthday in early November. Sosbe was presented with Purdue team gear and apparel gifts and a birthday cake for everyone to enjoy. Afterwards Sosbe and the team jumped in the pool for dives, techniques, and fun.

For photos or to read more about Team IMPACT, visit <https://purduesports.com/news/2022/11/10/mens-swimming-diving-mens-swimming-partners-with-team-impact-to-sign-16-year-old-johnathan-sosbe.aspx>

Sosbe and the Athenians swim-



ming and diving team are preparing for the Sagamore Athletic Conference Prelims on Thursday, Jan 12. Currently, the boys team is 8-2 and the girls team is 7-3. Recently the boys captured the County Champ title while the girls team

was runner-up to North Montgomery. Individual County Champions are Campbell Mason, Whit Horton, Sophia Melevage, Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert, Maesa Horton, Matt Miller, Katherine Novak, and Airtion Schu.



CHS falls by two for title

The 16th Annual Sugar Creek Classic was back for the typical county action and rivalry last Friday and Saturday night. To start off the Friday night action, Southmont and Western Boone competed with Southmont claiming the 38-26 victory. The Athenians played the Chargers and came away with the win, 48-34, and a trip to face Southmont in the championship on Saturday night.

Saturday evening began with the consolation game between WeBo and North. Western Boone ended up with the win, 49-31. The Athenians and the Mounties battled all night, but CHS lost 32-30 in the championship.

ATHENIAN WRESTLERS



The Crawfordsville Athenian wrestling team competed at Tipton on Saturday, Jan. 7 and came home with the team championship title and also four individual champions. Congratulations Athenians!



The youth wrestling program kicked off the first week of January with kindergartners through fifth grade learning the wrestling basics. The athletes will practice twice a week and participate in about a handful of tournaments.