

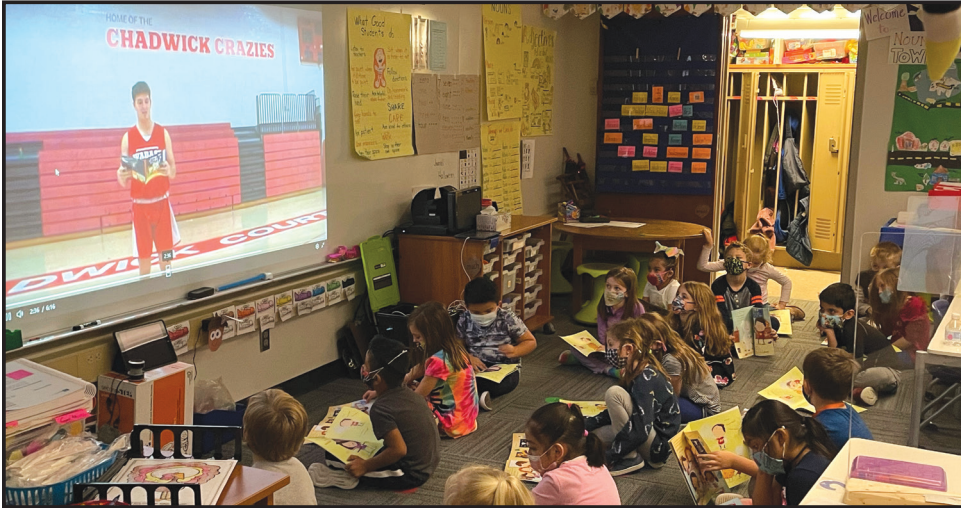


Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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December 9, 2021



Mrs. Rohr's class listens to a Wabash College basketball player read them a story over livestream. This is one activity of Books, Basketball, and Beyond," which is a grant provided through the Montgomery County Educational Foundation.

Hose and Wabash basketball connect

A couple years ago, Hose Elementary teachers Amber Rohr and Amy Hensley were brainstorming ideas to get more books into the hands of their students. They wanted to put books into the homes of their young readers to help them develop a love of reading and understand that reading goes far beyond the classroom setting. This passion for their students led them to pursue a grant opportunity through the Montgomery County Educational Foundation.

Their proposal combined connecting the Wabash College Basketball team with their kindergarten and first grade readers on a monthly basis for activities, games, learning and of course, books!

"We feel very strongly about getting books in children's hands and homes. We also wanted to reach out to the community with its valuable resources and network that is Wabash College," Rohr said.

After discussions with Kyle Brumett, Wabash Head Basketball Coach and father of then kindergarten student, Monte, everyone was eager to get started. Their idea came to life through the Foundation grant and thus "Books, Basketball, and Beyond" was created.

"Wabash College and Crawfordsville have a special relationship. I say it often, most small colleges in a small town don't collaborate like we do here. Many of our alumni, administration, faculty, and staff live in Crawfordsville and our children are educated here. That was part of what drew my family here eight years ago, and being active in the community is important to me," Brumett said.

In its initial year, before the COVID pandemic, events and activities were plentiful and unlimited. Each month, from October to May, an activity was planned and a book went home with each student.

One of the early activities, to kick off the program, was a book night at a Wabash basketball game. The students that attended got to take a book home about professional basketball player Stephen Curry. For this start up event, they even opened it up to any child from the community who attended the game received the book. They gave away about 30 books that night.

In the first year, a little more than 300 books were purchased and given to students!

In addition to books, the grant, which *continued on the back . . .*



On the move before school

A school day is full of learning and the classroom is full of hard work and educational activities, but the Nicholson Knights have taken learning opportunities to the next level with the Fuel Up to Play 60 program. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a program for educators, students and various community partners working together to make a difference. They focus on fueling the mind and body and caring for our planet. Nicholson has made Fuel Up to Play 60 an integral part of the school for the last decade. The national program was created by the National Football League, the National Dairy Council and America's dairy farmers including the American Dairy Association Indiana, Inc.

Grants from this program have provided Nicholson with playground improvements, Two-Bite Tries and other cafeteria promotions and much more!

This year, Holly Catron, Purdue Extension Community Wellness Coordinator and physical education teacher Laura Newman, applied for a nutrition and active play specific grant and a fun *continued on the back . . .*

Nicholson . . .

before-school opportunity has taken off at Nicholson called “Minds in Motion!” Newman noted that kids are seated in the hallway before school begins. She was looking for a way to get kids moving and create an additional opportunity to help students thrive. Now students have the opportunity to head to the gym for active stations that provide improvements to sensory and motor neural development. The program’s research boasts measurable gains academically, socially, and emotionally.

“There is a lot of sensory input through eyes, fingertips and palms, presensors on the sole of feet, muscles and joints. I have seen several improvements with balance and coordination with some children,” Newman said.

Newman also said the kids have a lot of fun and enjoy the opportunity to move around and go through the stations. The stations run in the gym Monday through Thursday with about half of the building’s classrooms going at a one time. Each class gets to participate twice a week. Parent volunteers and Fuel Up to Play 60 Student Ambassadors assist running the stations. Two students are selected from each of the 17 classrooms at Nicholson to become student ambassadors.

Students are also enjoying the nutrition side of the grant. The grant has provided a smoothie immersion blender and coolers so students have the chance to try a monthly fruit smoothie. They enjoy taste-testing new flavors despite interesting ingredients or different looks than they’re used to. With the help of nutritionist, Morgan Stasik and the Indiana Dairy Council, they have offered delicious recipes such as Pumpkin and Monkeys, a banana pumpkin smoothie with honey and cinnamon; Witches Brew consisting of banana, blueberries and purple cauliflower; and a chocolate smoothie with strawberries and bananas.

These Minds in Motion opportunities are made possible by a team of volunteers from the Purdue Extension Office, Pace Dairy, Wellness Coalition, and parent volunteers.

Books, Basketball, and Beyond . . .

totalled about \$2,000, also gave Rohr and Hensley the opportunity to purchase games for a monthly activity. The basketball team visited Hose to play games and pass out books for the month. The games are now part of the school library for all teachers to use and check out for their classrooms.

Students also had the opportunity to visit Wabash College. The players donned their warm-ups and showed their court skills and also had the kindergartners participate in some drills. Brumett and his team view the grant opportunity as a connection to the community.

“It is important for our student athletes to be involved in our community. It helps them feel invested in something other than themselves, and they really enjoy it. The kindergarten and first grade students look forward to meeting the basketball players. Whether the college-age students realize it or not, these small contributions have a lasting effect on elementary students,” Brumett said.

Hensley agreed, “Kindergarten and first grade students get to see that there is life outside our school doors. They get a brief glance at the college experience and envi-

ronment. We want them to value reading and know it is cool and fun.”

With last year being an unusual year, the Montgomery County Educational Foundation allowed last year’s grant to carry over to this year without rewriting. To kick off this year, the basketball players recorded a video introducing themselves and reading a book.

“Reading to the students via zoom, or recorded and sent electronically was necessary to keep some kind of connection, but it will be nice when we can get back to in-person reading all the time. We are hopeful that this is a grant that will continue to be supported and our relationship with Crawfordsville Schools will continue to grow,” Brumett said.

Just last week, a small group of about ten players and coaches were able to visit Hose to read books, play games and get to know each other. This was the first in-person activity of the year and hopefully the start of many relationship-building activities.

While there are still a few COVID restrictions in place this year, Rohr and Hensley are looking for creative ways for students and players to interact. However, the gift of

New staff welcomed at Hose

Music Teacher Katie Ferguson

Katie Ferguson, is the new music teacher at Hose Elementary. Ferguson is in her third year of teaching. She previously taught 6th grade at Sunnyside in Lafayette and 4th grade at Southeast Fountain.

“I love kids and love being involved. I want to assist them to grow in their education as well as socially and emotionally,” she said, “I am a giver and want nothing more than to be a light to Crawfordsville schools.”

The transition to Crawfordsville has been a good one. She noted the great community support and said the staff has been so kind and welcoming.

Ferguson has been married for about 10 years. She and her husband have two girls, Lylah, 6, and Lillian, 3. One added bonus is that she loves that she works where her daughter, Lylah, goes to school.



reading will continue, as each month they will still get to take a book home for their own reading library.

“Our partnership is so fun. Coach Brumett and Wabash Basketball are true team players. We work as a unit with them to make these experiences happen, no matter how creative we have to be. Our students love the interaction and attention from positive role models,” Rohr said.



GaGa pit now complete

Hoover Elementary is enjoying their new GaGa ball pit. Hoover Student Council held a dedication ceremony and also initiated the pit with its first game. The new GaGa pit, which is handicapped accessible, was made possible through student fundraising efforts, parents, staff, and Kettlehut Construction.



Food drive overflowing

Nicholson Elementary donated almost 5,000 items to the local Fish Food Pantry.



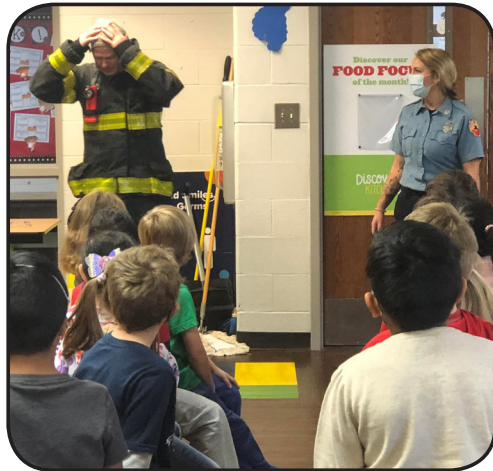
CMS band honorees

Congratulations to Shawn Ewoldt and Danny Wills as they recently performed in the Indiana All-Region Band under DePauw University Director of Bands Dr. Craig Paré. Danny and Shawn are the first Crawfordsville students to participate in an IBA Honor Band in more than six years.



Athenian performers

The Play That Goes Wrong was a great success at CHS.



Fire safety lessons at Hose

Hose first graders had a lesson on fire safety. The classes learned to check smoke detectors, get out of a burning house, find a meeting place, and that firefighters are here to help us.



CHS band honorees

Congratulations Olivia Pettit, left, Mercedes Randels, Ruth Garcia, and Harmony Taylor on their performance in the Indiana All-District Band at Northview High School. Becca Bailey was also selected, but did not perform that day. They are CHS's first All-District members in more than six years. They performed under Dr. Kenneth Steinsultz, Director of Bands at Evansville University. The Indiana All-District Band celebrates the finest Indiana 9th-12th grade students and our district encompasses more than 40 schools.



Dance teams off to great start

CHS to host 21st Invitational this Saturday

The Crawfordsville Dance Team kicked off the season with three 1st place routines at last weekend's competition at Avon High School. The routines were JHA HH 1st Place, AA Jazz 1st Place, AA HH 1st Place. CDT will host the 21st Invitation at CHS on Saturday, Dec. 11.



Concert Choir sings at Anderson

Concert Choir had a great day at the Anderson University Choral Fest, learning from Professor Hicks. They also enjoyed seeing the campus and were entertained by the theater's production of "Raven Shorts."



John Froedge Field sign added

The Athenian baseball program received a new scoreboard addition honoring former head coach John Froedge.