

Crown Point Community School Corporation

we are CP

Volume 2, Issue 2
Feb/March 2023



COMMUNITY BUILDS HERE

From construction to
classrooms to clubs,
community is part of
every CP school

Welcome, Class of 2036!

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT IS MARCH 14-24

WELCOME, class of 2036!

Crown Point Community School Corporation is thrilled to welcome the future class of 2036! If your child will be five years old before August 1, 2023, and you live in the district boundaries, we invite you to enroll for kindergarten March 14-24. More information is available on our website at www.cps.k12.in.us/kindergarten.

To enroll, you must provide the following documents:

- Child's certified birth certificate (not hospital certificate)
- Child's immunization record
- Child's social security card
- Valid driver's license or state photo ID with current address
- Two documents from the following are required to prove residency: utility bills (NIPSCO, water), property deed or mortgage statement, or Lake County Tax Bill





Get Ready!

Join our **FREE** kindergarten readiness program! Birth to School (BtS) is a free program for children who live within the district boundaries and will enter kindergarten in the fall of 2023.

The program meets twice a month. Each hands-on, hour-long class includes activities with basic literacy, math, social, and science skills. Caregivers stay with their children, and program leaders share activities that can be done at home to support kindergarten readiness.



Sign up here! 
cps.k12.in.us/bts

1. Pick enrollment type

- Fully online - March 14-24. Enter student info AND upload your required documents yourself online.
- Hybrid - Enter student information online starting March 14, but bring the required documents to your child's school on the assigned date to be copied.

Families who are new to the district are encouraged to complete hybrid enrollment.

2. Provide documents

Document copying for hybrid enrollment will be available at your child's future elementary school from **9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m.** on the following dates:

- March 21 - Winfield, Eisenhower, and Lake Street**
- March 23 - Timothy Ball, Solon Robinson, Jerry Ross, and MacArthur**

Hybrid enrollment is only for copying required documents. Students and their families will be able to tour the building and meet teachers at a later date.

3. Later this Spring

You will be contacted to schedule a kindergarten screening for your child. Our kindergarten teachers use the screenings to interact with your child and learn more about them, which helps teachers prepare to meet each child's needs in the upcoming year. Please be sure to visit our website and sign up for your school's ParentSquare group to receive more information.

4. Before School Starts

Final registration for kindergarten will be in late July. This is the annual process you will complete every summer before the school year.

Elementary schools will each host a Kindergarten Kick-off in August. This is an opportunity for students to become familiar with staff, understand routines, and interact with peers before the year officially begins. Watch your school's social media and website for dates.

On August 15, you and your kindergartener can take a practice ride on the school bus, which will go to and from the bus stop and school. Each school will also hold an open house in August to meet your teacher and take a tour.

If you have questions during the enrollment process, please contact your child's future school.



Elementary school boundaries recently changed as part of the redistricting process. Please use the information on our website to check your child's future elementary school.



Community Builds Here.

We Are CP

Capital improvement projects throughout Crown Point Community School Corporation continue to progress on schedule. Some of the teachers at Timothy Ball Elementary were recently the first to move in to their new classrooms. An additional eight rooms were added on the building's west side, and nine more kindergarten and preschool classrooms will be added on the east side.

District wide, more than 80 new classrooms are under construction. Large group spaces are also undergoing changes in nearly every school. New auditoriums and gymnasiums, expanded media centers, STEM labs, and small/large group meeting rooms will provide space for academics, clubs, and activities as well as host parents and visitors for events. "It's important that our schools are places that bring people together and welcome parents and community members," Dr. Todd Terrill, Superintendent of Schools, said. "Every musical performance or athletic event, every student showcase or parent night, it all contributes to students' experiences. Those physical spaces - gyms and cafeterias and auditoriums - are where we come together as a community to support students. It is important that we address these spaces in addition to classrooms."

Another community-centered space that will soon receive an upgrade is the baseball and softball complex at Crown Point High School. Thanks to a generous \$3 million donation, both fields will receive expanded stadium-style seating rather than bleachers, and new brick dugouts, ticket booths, press boxes, lights, and walkways. Gathering spaces will be added so spectators can watch a game while eating at picnic tables or sitting on the grass berm beyond the outfield. The upgrades will create a community and family-friendly space for Crown Point residents and visitors. "To have this space for our families to enjoy and to illustrate what a great community Crown Point is to families who are visiting, it's fantastic," Dr. Terrill said. The donor, a CPHS alum, wishes to remain anonymous at this time.

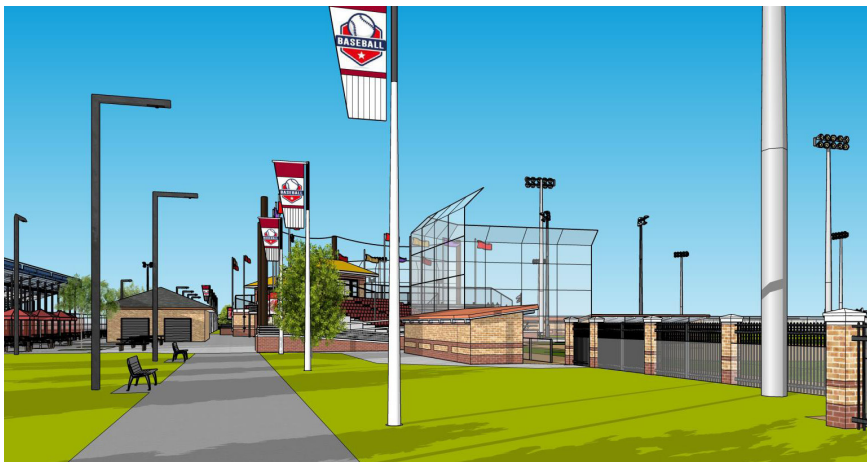
The district's construction projects aren't just creating space for the community, they're also being built by the

community. Local, skilled laborers from multiple trades are working at each site, some of whom are parents of CPCSC students. Tony Petrovski, a painter with Munster-based Oban & Sons Painting, is also dad to Oliver, a third grade student at Jerry Ross Elementary. Tony has worked on projects at Winfield Elementary, Crown Point High School, Wheeler Middle School, and the current construction at the new Taft site. He says that working in Crown Point schools is rewarding and being able to tell his children he helped build their school is meaningful.



Eric Shoemaker works for Emcor Hyre and has lived in Crown Point for 35 years. His sons Spencer and Shaun attend Col. Wheeler Middle School and Jerry Ross Elementary. As an electrician, Eric is typically one of the first trades on the job and one of the last to leave. When a project begins, his team brings power to the site. As it wraps up, they connect the final pieces that literally power and illuminate a school day. Eric has worked on projects at Timothy Ball, Jerry Ross, and Crown Point High School. "Working in my community means a lot to me," he said. "It means that I am giving back and helping to make a better learning experience for not only my children, but also for all other kids in the community."

Projects will continue through the end of 2025. You can find more information on the district's website at www.cps.k12.in.us/capital.



Top row: Renderings of the CPHS baseball and softball fields show enhancements that will take place in 2023-2024.

Middle row: The new Taft Middle School's auditorium will provide significantly more space for events and performances than the current location. The theater can seat up to 700 guests. The building's atrium is also much larger than the current Taft entrance and will welcome both students and visitors.

Bottom row: Once construction is finished, all elementary schools will have a gymnasium with a stage. Shown is a rendering of the Timothy Ball Elementary gym. A new board room will be part of the administration building, which will be located at the former Taft site. It will accommodate more community members and serve as space for teacher and staff professional development. The room can be split into three smaller rooms to maximize space.

Opposite page: Timothy Ball teachers Jennifer Pollitt, Jamie Pauley, and Abbie Perkovich are almost ready to move in to their new classrooms once carpets and furniture are put in place.

spend it WISELY

Eighth grade students at Taft and Colonel Wheeler Middle Schools recently received hands-on experience with life's financial realities at the annual Chambertown event.

Chambertown is hosted at Col. Wheeler Middle School and uses approximately 60 volunteers from local organizations and businesses. With the help of these volunteers, students are coached through creating a budget and understanding how life's circumstances can affect financial well-being. The event is an opportunity for students to put part of their Advisory class into practice, where they recently completed Junior Achievement's Economics for Success program.

Chambertown is hosted in partnership with the Crossroads Regional Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement of Chicago. Before the event begins, students each receive a career with an estimated salary. They must create an annual budget that fits within their salary and consider needs versus

wants. Students "walk around town" to visit various businesses and receive important information about insurance, transportation, retirement, utilities, childcare and more. As they move from place to place, students begin to understand how far their salary will go - and whether they will have any money left in their budget by the end of the afternoon.

Lindsey Palaschak, Program Manager for Junior Achievement of Chicago, says the program isn't possible without the community's support. "The volunteers all bring real world situations to life and demonstrate the importance of living within your means for the students in a way that is different from parents and teachers," she said. "One of my favorite comments from the students was that they never realized the importance of insurance! It's moments like that that show we are making a difference. We are all invested in educating tomorrow's leaders and want to help them make the connections between the classroom and the working world."

Crown Point High School senior Trent Hurysz participated in Chambertown as an eighth grader four years ago, but this year, Trent returned as a volunteer. His role was to help students understand how different insurance plans and deductibles affect a budget. "As an eighth grader, I remember coming in thinking I could buy the most expensive things. Now I realize that you have to choose wisely. I think this is a great chance to help younger students understand that, too."

Col. Wheeler Middle School students arrive at the last station of Chambertown. They total their spending and determine whether they stayed within their budget.



Check out the video!



Learn more about Chambertown and our community partnerships in our *Super Things* video series. Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera.

Right: Jawan S., fifth grader at Timothy Ball Elementary, designed a mixed media playground for the historical Crown Point courthouse. His design includes a hot air balloon - an intriguing addition to the 'Grand Old Lady'!

Below: Students in Mrs. Teesdale's class strengthen their small motor skills by cutting paper designs for their mixed media projects.



Students at Timothy Ball Elementary explored the connection of art, architecture, and play in Ms. Teesdale's first semester art class. Because of the construction around the building, the school was temporarily without a playset on the playground, so Teesdale invited her students to imagine a new one. The catch - they had to incorporate a historical Crown Point building in their designs.

Students used the basics of mixed media to create their pieces. By layering paper sculpture techniques on top of historical photographs, students were challenged to imagine their future playground within the context of the buildings they see every day in their community. Teesdale says that even though students are finished with the project, they continue to talk about the homes and buildings in their neighborhoods. "They tell me about what's changed at the courthouse or that they drove past one of the historic homes and told their parents about it," she said. "There's a sense of pride about the buildings in their community now, and that really makes me smile!"

STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) skills of paper sculpture have real-world construction applications, like the engineering principles used for tabbing and bracing. Fine motor skill development with cutting, gluing, and coloring were also important to Teesdale who was concerned that some students may have lost those skills during the pandemic. However, she said her kindergarten students adapted to the new challenges. "I did not expect kindergarteners to do the 3D portion of this project. My expectation was that we would cut shapes and glue them down flat. One day I left the visual supports on the tables that showed sculpture techniques for the older students. I usually put those away, but it had gotten away from me. I was running around, helping students art it up in here, and I noticed many kindergarteners

had picked up those supports and simply jumped right in to try out complicated techniques! Their confidence level just snowballed, and they started helping each other figure it out! I brought their teacher in at the end of the class to look at their gluey amazing art lined up on the counter to dry, and she was absolutely amazed."

Teesdale likes to start each year with a whole-school unity project around themes that are present in the building, and she says she will definitely teach a version of this project again. "Mixed media art promotes critical thinking, so I always really like it, but the student response to this was so high and we reinforced so many skills - it's a keeper!"

art, architecture & PLAY

learning in the WORKPLACE

About once a week, Crown Point High School student Jeannine Biggart spends the morning at the Crossroads YMCA. Don't worry, she isn't cutting class - she's gaining valuable workplace experience. Jeannine is one of 34 exceptional learners who work at local businesses either during class or after the school day.

While many people are familiar with the traditional internship program provided at CPHS, the 18-22 and Pre-ETS (employment transition services) programs are different. In these experiences, exceptional learners work alongside a job coach to learn vocational skills. Job coaches specialize in assisting individuals with disabilities to learn and accurately carry out job duties. They provide one-on-one training tailored to the needs of the employee.

Jeannine says that her job coach, CPCSC employee Ann Hannon, has helped her learn the various skills for her placement and provides a lot of encouragement. "Mrs. Hannon loves us," Jeannine said. "We probably drive her crazy, but she loves us."

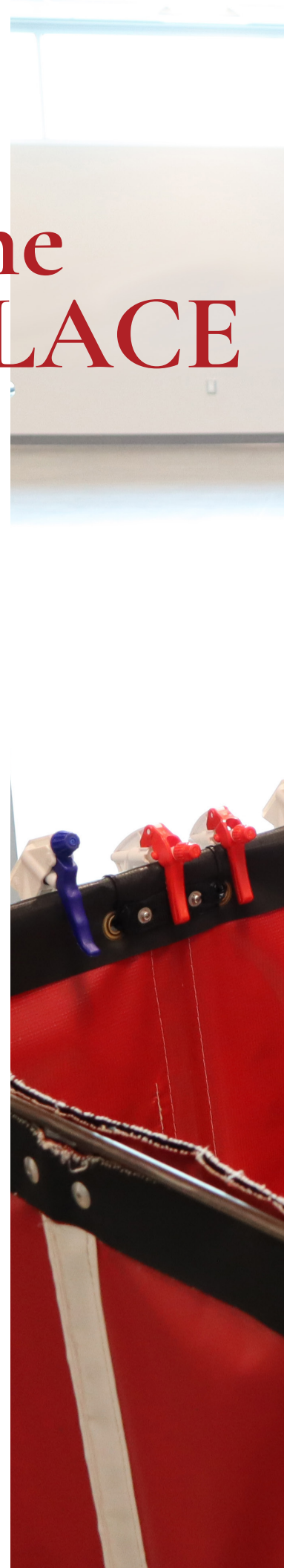
Pre-ETS provides students with IEPs, 504s, or documented disabilities essential career focused services including job exploration consulting, work based learning, workplace readiness, post secondary enrollment assistance, and self-advocacy. PCG (Public

Consulting Group) is the Pre-ETS provider for Crown Point Schools, and through a government grant, PCG pays students for their after school work.

Students who work during the school day do so as part of the curriculum of Crown Point Community School Corporation's 18-22 year old program. Students attend this program upon graduating high school with their certificate of completion. Just like Pre-ETS, students prepare for vocational opportunities and learn skills for independent living and self-advocacy.

Students are matched with jobs based on their interests and ability levels. You might see them at the district's preschool program (Bulldog Buddies), the Crossroads YMCA, Gelsosomo's Crown Point location, and local restaurant Station 21. At the YMCA, students working in the aquatics area act as a slide attendant and lily pad monitor. They scan members into the pool, complete cleaning tasks in the pool area, and set up swim lessons. At Gelsosomo's and Station 21, students assist with cleaning and food preparation, like weighing ingredients or cutting pizza dough.

"Our local business community is supporting our students. They understand the value of having all students, not just those from the traditional internship program, working in our community."





CPCSC Director of Exceptional Education Heather Paskis said the program has grown thanks to community partnerships. “Our local business community is supporting our students and this program by offering placement opportunities. They understand the value of having all students, not just those from the traditional internship program, working in our community and learning the skills that prepare them for the next step in life.”

Program coordinator Marissa Duppstadt says job placements prepare students for more independent work after high school. “When they are done with the program, we hope that the students can have skills to help them have a successful future,” she said. “Some students will go to college, some will start in the workforce, and some will connect with vocational rehabilitation groups.”

Before finishing her work for the day, Jeannine said that the last few minutes of her shift is her favorite part of the job. “I like returning all of the towels and the bottles. I feel like I’ve been able to help once it’s all done, and it feels really good.”

If your business would like to be a job placement site for CPCSC students, please email program coordinator Marissa Duppstadt at mduppstadt@cps.k12.in.us or call the CPCSC Learning Center at 219-663-4330.



Previous page: Jeannine Biggart replaces the spray bottles in the workout spaces and classrooms throughout the YMCA.

Above: Student Juan Duarte weighs ingredients to help the kitchen staff prepare for lunch at Station 21.

Right: Student Paul Simonovski prepares the dining room for lunch at Station 21. After finishing his cleaning tasks, Paul prepares all of the to-go containers that the restaurant will need for the day, which he says is his favorite part of the job.

Imagine a preschool...

Where curiosity is always the right answer.

Where hands get messy and discovery abounds.

Where children learn together by playing together.

Bulldog Buddies is a Crown Point Community School Corporation preschool program for children ages 3-5. Children engage in **playful learning** that supports the guidelines of Indiana's Early Learning Foundations Framework. In our program, children become lifelong learners while cultivating friendships in an inclusive environment. A **child-centered** approach to learning supports children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development.

Our classrooms are **inclusive**, so children who receive special education services are learning alongside their peers who do not receive those services - the way a classroom should be. Because Bulldog Buddies is located in our district's elementary schools, children also have the benefit of preparing for their future K-5 school environment.

Space is limited.

Reserve your spot by visiting

cps.k12.in.us/preschool



Honor the past,
create the future.

The Crown Point High School Alumni Association is the bridge between thousands of CPHS alumni and the most recent CPHS graduates. In 2022, we awarded more than \$16,000 in scholarships, and this year, we hope we can give even more with your help.

Your gift to the CPHS Alumni Association, whether through a membership or a scholarship donation, propels a 2023 graduating Bulldog to their next phase of life. Because even though we love to remember our past, we can help our newest alumni create the future.

Become a member, make a donation, or learn more by visiting our official website at **www.cphsalumni.org**.

Go Bulldogs!

CPHS
Alumni
Association



behind the SCENES

Ambassador Program provides an inside look at district operations, curriculum, and support services.



If you have ever wondered how a district made of nearly 9,000 students and 1,500 staff operates, Crown Point Community School Corporation's Ambassador Program may be of interest. Launched in September 2022, the program is a six-session behind-the-scenes look at district finances, operations, curriculum and instruction, and student services.

The Ambassador Program is open to community members who live within the district's boundaries and would like to become more familiar with Crown Point Schools. Participants meet once a month on Wednesday mornings for presentations and hands-on experiences delivered by administrators, instructional specialists, support services staff, and teachers. The goal is to provide an opportunity for more community members to meaningfully engage with Crown Point Schools.

This year's sessions include an overview of the district's finances and construction projects, understanding the scope of support departments, the use of instructional technology, inclusion practices, curriculum and testing, and shadowing an administrator. The program has only 15 participants so that each session is interactive and personalized. Ambassadors are encouraged to ask questions and engage in conversation to learn more about each topic.

CPHS parent Susan Yadron is one of this year's ambassadors. As a parent new to the district, Yadron said she wasn't certain about the transition from a small private school to a large public high school, so she joined the Ambassador Program to learn more about the district. "My husband and I are new parents to a public school student. I was very nervous about the transition and wasn't sure where my place would be as a parent of a high school student. I am blown away with the transparency as well as the dedicated time and resources to plan a vision for partnership with the community through this program," Yadron said. "The culture established by the leadership team is apparent. Not only as a parent, but as a healthcare leader, I have very much enjoyed getting a glimpse of what makes the CP school system such an amazing organization."

The Ambassador Program also provides school administrators an opportunity to

listen to community members' questions. "It's a chance for our team to sit down and discuss what actually happens in our schools every day," Dr. Todd Terrill, Superintendent, said. "It's not just about us sharing what we do, but also about listening to feedback from our school community in a way that is personalized and meaningful. We can listen to a variety of perspectives and experiences."

You can learn more about the Ambassador Program at www.cps.k12.in.us/ambassador. Although the current group is full, the application for the 2023-2024 cohort will be available in August.

DID YOU KNOW?

CPCSC support departments by the numbers

- Transportation has 80 buses that drive over 1 million miles annually
- Technology maintains more than 13,000 devices and answers more than 700 tech tickets a month
- Food services prepares and serves nearly 5,000 meals every day
- Maintenance clears and salts 37 parking lots and 7 miles of sidewalk when it snows
- District external communications receive more than 4.5 million views via digital and print media each year



Above: Blended Instructional Design Specialist Susan Valentine shows ambassadors Jen Rosenbaum and Kristin Niemiec how teachers use Pear Deck in their classrooms.

Opposite page: Sophomore Ellie Friedman explains to ambassador Jenn Uren how students use lathes in Precision Machining. Teacher Brian Trapp explained to the group that these jobs are in high-demand, and most students in the course will be able to find employment when they graduate.

SAMPLE AMBASSADOR SESSION:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Breakfast and networking with other ambassadors and the administrative team.

Instructional specialists demonstrate ways technology is used in classrooms. Ambassadors are divided into three groups to see how technology enhances instruction but never replaces a teacher.

Hands-on opportunities include using a Chromebook, navigating Buzz, using an interactive panel, and playing a round of Blooket.

Participants reflect and discuss the role of technology in the classroom during Q&A.

Ambassadors tour some of the industrial technology classrooms at CPHS. The automotive, engineering, construction, and machining classes use a variety of technical tools that prepare students for future careers.

Students demonstrate tech for the ambassadors, and teachers provide an overview of courses.

"I have learned more than I could have ever imagined. From the financials to watching all of the construction, seeing all the moving pieces it takes to make it all happen has been extremely eye opening. I think this is a fantastic opportunity for community members!"
- Kate Rios, CP parent and ambassador

innovating, life-saving

The U.S. Bureau of Labor & Statistics predicts that healthcare will be one of the fastest growing industries in the next decade, adding more than two million new jobs. Students at Crown Point High School interested in these jobs have a variety of classes and clubs preparing them for future success. Their teachers also create community connections for more opportunities.

In Biomedical Innovations, students are challenged to complete a number of critical thinking projects throughout the school year, including a yearlong independent research project. The course is a capstone in the Project Lead the Way Biomedical track at CPHS.

For one project, students must create or improve a biomedical product by researching, exploring

design solutions, and designing a proposal. Students showcase their designs with a model, prototype, or schematic and create a marketing plan to pitch their product to a panel of 'investors' made of community members. It's high school "Shark Tank," and the results are impressive.

Teacher Ashley Cosme says that through the project, students learn to professionally communicate an idea to the public. Having members of the community participate in the presentations provides a real audience and an opportunity to be engaged with Crown Point residents. "We have developed this wonderful relationship where they have been able to see how the projects change from year to year as the class evolves," Cosme said.

Some of the projects this year included a device to prevent

endangered bats from being killed by wind turbines and an effective tracking device for at-risk patients in hospitals. Senior Kendra Steinberg's prototype was designed to prevent amputees from having wounds and ill-fitting sockets due to muscle atrophy (muscle weakness). Her design stimulates muscle strengthening in a patient's residual limb to keep their prosthesis fitting.

Each year, biomed students present their prototypes to Dr. Jerry Allee and James Baltzersen, both members of the Crown Point Rotary Club. "Watching these presentations helps me realize that we are in good hands for the future because of these students and their abilities. It renews my faith in the next generation. We have some very remarkable students at CPHS," Dr. Allee said. Baltzersen agreed. "This is something that we look forward to every year. The work that the students put in to present their projects is incredible. I am always amazed at the creativity of the students to present something that could benefit the medical community."

As far as the students, the feedback they receive is just as valuable. "Having guests from the community evaluate my project was a very positive experience. These community members valued the hard work and many hours I have put into my innovation," said Steinberg.

Students have more opportunities to connect with community members who work in healthcare during Code Red. Code Red is an afterschool club that hosts a guest speaker each month to talk about their healthcare career and background. "It is a great way for students to hear about the medical field directly from someone doing it daily," said club sponsor Stephanie Harnew. "Oftentimes, students are offered opportunities to job shadow or intern with guest speakers because of the connection."

In the last year, Code Red students have met with a surgeon, a pathology assistant, a neonatologist, a speech pathologist, a medical





Opposite page: Biomed Club students receive Stop the Bleed training from Erik Schmitt of the Crown Point Fire Department.

Left: Dr. Jerry Allee and James Baltzersen take a photo with Ms. Cosme and students in Biomedical Innovations.

Below: Senior Kendra Steinberg demonstrates her biomedical prototype during a "Shark Tank"-style pitch to community members.

student, a chemistry professor, and multiple general medical practitioners. Senior James Batides, who is currently interning with an oral surgeon, says Code Red helps students learn about the various career paths available in healthcare. "I think that every speaker we have had offers their own unique insight into their specific medical field," Batides said. "It has given me the opportunity to further my interest in the medical field by allowing me to speak with medical professionals within the community."

You might also recognize Code Red's name in conjunction with the Crown Point Community Foundation. Each year, Code Red students raise funds for the Isabelle Melchor Memorial Scholarship (which is held with CPCF) in honor of CPHS student Izzy, who started the club in 2015. "Izzy passed away in March 2020, and we celebrate her life every year by incorporating green in the club shirt and donating funds to the scholarship," Harnew said. For more information about the scholarship, Mrs. Harnew can be reached at sharnew@cps.k12.in.us.

The CPHS Biomedical Club is another opportunity for students to learn about careers in biomedical science. This fall, Biomed Club and Code Red collaborated with the Crown Point Fire Department in an



hour-long, hands-on training called Stop the Bleed. Stop the Bleed is a program that teaches participants three steps to stop life-threatening blood loss - the leading cause of preventable death after injury. Worldwide, the program has trained more than one million people.

Junior Megan Szpak and Senior Alexandra Bajmakovich both thought the training was valuable. "Stop the Bleed training was a great experience to receive hands-on learning related to the medical field," Bajmakovich said. Szpak agreed, saying Biomed Club gives her the opportunity to learn more than what's available in the classroom. Club sponsor Kelly Chevalier, who

also teaches Dual Credit Biology at CPHS, said the students were even more excited to learn that all of Crown Point High School's AED stations are equipped with the tourniquets to provide these lifesaving strategies.

Crown Point Fire Chief Mark Baumgardner said his department welcomed the chance to train students. "One of the great aspects of our job is when we have the opportunity to get out into the schools and provide them with this type of training and education that they may use one day to save a life."



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

200 East North Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

save the DATE

- **March 9** - Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Terrill, 4 p.m., Crown Point Library
- **March 14** - Kindergarten enrollment begins
- **March 20** - Board of School Trustees meeting, 6 p.m.
- **March 27-31** - Spring Break
- **April 7** - No school, Good Friday
- **April 13** - Coffee & Conversation with Dr. Terrill, 9:30 a.m., Crown Point Library
- **April 24** - Board of School Trustees meeting, 6 p.m.
- **May 22** - Board of School Trustees meeting, 6 p.m.
- **May 29** - No school, Memorial Day
- **May 31** - CPHS graduation (rain date June 1st)
- **August 16** - First day of the 2023-2024 school year

On the cover: Students in Mrs. Farnsworth's class sign a structural steel beam at MacArthur Elementary. MacArthur students and teachers signed the beam before it was placed in the newly constructed classrooms located on the building's southwest side.

we are CP 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

