



# Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

## The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
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## Oh, what a night!

### *Crowd gathers for memories & basketball*

Floors were fixed, locker rooms prepared, old bleachers were dusted off, and so much more behind-the-scenes-work was done to prepare for the final home game of the boys basketball team against Covington in the former Crawfordsville High School gymnasium.

Many minutes before the junior varsity took the floor to warm-up, the seats were filled with CHS alumni, former coaches and players, and young students and players about to learn what was so special about the former CHS gym.

The Athenians and Trojans, led by CHS alum, coach Evan Morgan, had a hard fought game with CHS coming up just short, 55-58.

Over time that score may fade, but fans will remember the unique opportunity to play in the gym nearly 30 years from the last game played there in 1993.

During half-time, former coaches and athletic director Bruce Whitehead were honored, all-time leading scorers were recognized, and current CHS dance teams and cheerleaders provided entertainment routines. The dance team seniors were also honored with their parents at the center line.



The CHS band and packed student section contributed to the Hoosier Hysteria atmosphere. Right: Head Coach David Pierce thanks Mike and Jill Shubert during half-time when they were honored for the many years of coaching and supporting Athenian basketball.



The classic gym was nearly full prior to the start of the junior varsity game.



Crawfordsville honored former coaches Brad Acton and Gary Lester, retired Athletic Director Bruce Whitehead, and Dottie, Debbie, and Dawn Curtis, members of the Paul Curtis family.



Photos by Susan Ehrlich

Former Athenians who remain in the all-time scoring spots, Matt Petty, right, and Matt McCarty were honored during the nostalgic night.



# CCSC and Dr. Ryker receive county United Way awards

Montgomery County United Way has awarded Crawfordsville Community School Corporation the 2022 Award of Merit for the category of 51-299 employees based on the significant campaign growth. In addition, Assistant Superintendent Rex Ryker has been given the 2022 Ann Malott Leadership Award for his dedication and leadership to making a long-lasting impact and change to Montgomery County.

The corporation's Award of Merit was given based on the results of the annual United Way campaign and compared peer organizations based on numerical evaluations. The evaluation criteria is as follows: Employee per capita giving levels (35% weight); Employee % growth from previous year to current year giving levels (30% weight); Employee dollars raised (25% weight); Total dollars raised (10% weight)

According to Montgomery County United Way, "CCSC has been a long-time supporter of the MUFFY/United Way campaign. As the teachers frequently state, they see the need that our children and families have on a daily basis plus see how our agencies provide much needed services and support. This year was another solid campaign that included a 54% increase or growth in giving. We also recognize that they supported the work of United Way in Montgomery County on another front by becoming our first Kindergarten Countdown Camp partner."

Kindergarten Countdown Camp is a free summer camp to help prepare children with very little or no preschool experience to become ready for kindergarten. Camp is taught by licensed and experienced teachers in a school setting. Last year was the first summer of camp for Montgomery County.

To begin a significant program like Kindergarten Camp is no easy endeavor, which is one aspect of why Ryker was awarded the Ann Malott Leadership Award.

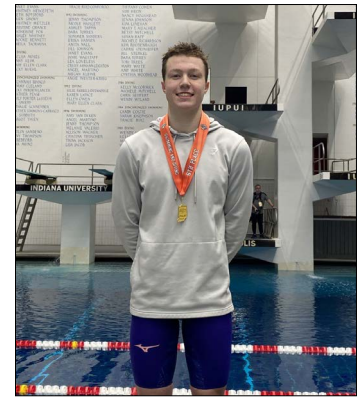
The Ann Malott Leadership Award honors a community member or organization who exemplifies service and leadership to improve our organization and our community. It will be given to an individual or group who has demonstrated a commitment to action and made an impact on causes, programs, or projects that create lasting change



Above left to right: CCSC Superintendents Dr. Rex Ryker, Dr. Scott Bowling, and HR Coordinator Heather Ford. CCSC was awarded for its campaign growth for Montgomery County United Way. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ryker received the Ann Malott Leadership Award for his significant contribution of leadership and organization to our community.

in Montgomery County through their involvement with United Way in Montgomery County.

Ryker was praised by Montgomery County United Way and Area Director, Gina Haile, stating, "When we decided to merge with United Way of Greater Lafayette, we knew two things were key. First, we needed to have a few good "wins" in our first year. And second, we needed to bring community impact programs to Montgomery County. Kindergarten Countdown Camp was one of the programs we identified and we felt the Crawfordsville Community Schools was the logical partner. We reached out to Rex and quickly knew that we were working with the right individual. Rex asked important assessment questions, but also immediately understood the import value that this program could bring to Crawfordsville students and families. Rex brought the right people to the table, worked through the logistics and administrative details, tactfully dealt with "hiccups" along the way, and kept us all laughing through the process. Like Ann Malott, Rex's visionary and thorough leadership set the foundation for a successful partnership in this endeavor. A true "win" for our community!"



Whitman Horton

## Horton in top 10

Junior Whitman Horton has made his mark in the record books following the boys swimming and diving state swim meet. Horton finished in the top 10 at the IHSAA State Finals with a 6th place finish in the 100 backstroke. He also won the consolations and finished in 9th place overall in the 200 IM.

The last time a Crawfordsville Athenian finished in the top 10 for swimming was when Cameron Hobson competed in 2007.



## Regional Hip Hop champs

Both the CHS and CMS dance teams are the Southern Regional Champions in Hip Hop! They now advance to state at Lafayette Jefferson on March 11.



## Swim county champions

The CMS Girls Swim team are county champions following the county meet at the end of February. They won first by an 80-point margin ahead of North.

# CHS senior speaks at nonprofit launch event

In late February, Our Public Schools Work held its launch event to promote the outstanding success, dedication and community that is public schools.

Our Public Schools Work is a nonprofit multimedia initiative supporting Indiana public schools by demonstrating their incredible contribution to the quality of life in the Hoosier State. The organization is dedicated to promoting community understanding of our public schools, illustrating what they do best, and supporting why they are the right schools for students in Indiana. This program strives to celebrate the accomplishments, achievements, innovations, efficiencies, and impact of Indiana's public schools.

The launch event brought together Hoosiers to celebrate all that embodies public schools. To help celebrate and describe the impact of public schools was key speaker, Steve Inskeep, a host of NPR's *Morning Edition*, and morning news podcast, *Up First*. Inskeep is a Carmel High School graduate whose parents were both educators. Inskeep shared his pride of being a public school student mostly through his family background, but also learning over the years.

Inskeep said, "I don't think I realized growing up how pre-

cious public education is, how rare it has been in history for people to have access to it, and how hard it has been for people through history to get as educated as they want to be."

He stressed the importance of our ever-changing and challenging world and believes the constant that must remain to keep our democracy working well is for people from all walks of life to have an equal voice and ability to make decisions together, to learn how to think critically, to adapt, and to persist. He said it's vital for public education to be one of the ways people can learn these skills.

Emcee Dr. Andy Melin, Executive Director of Central Indiana Educational Service Center, transitioned from Inskeep, to pointing out the value of hearing from students who are benefiting from public schools. A variety of students spoke including our own Crawfordsville High School senior, Roman Contreras through his leadership and connection through the robotics program and membership on the FIRST Indiana Student Board of Directors. This board helps oversee the decisions for the FIRST Robotics programs offered at many Indiana schools including CHS.

The program is near and dear to Contreras and is helping to



Senior Roman Contreras shared about his experience and opportunities provided to him through his public education at Crawfordsville High School.

seek more funding for school robotic programs as a student board member.

"We've had meetings with Governor Holcomb, The Secretary of Education, Dr Jenner, and Secretary of State Diego Morales about the importance of STEM in schools, as well as garnering support for our bill HB 1382 which would provide schools more funding for after school robotics programs," he said.

Contreras credited the FIRST Robotics program at Crawfordsville for teaching him a wide variety of life skills incorporated in the problem-solving team challenges of robotics. Teams learn skills which include building a business, fundraising, and marketing all while problem-solving the given robotics challenge.

Contreras noted the opportunities presented to him through public education that have helped him grow as a student.

"It's because of the experiences that I've had in public schools that I've grown from someone who was just at school because

he had to be, to someone who enjoys everyday he is at the school and is actively working to improve these schools through everything I do," Contreras said.

He was appreciative of CHS Principal Jay Strickland for the opportunity of a job in the IT department where he helps other peers solve problems with chrome books all the while being able to learn more about the issues himself.

In addition to his membership on the FIRST student board, he is a team captain of the cross country, track team, and Robotics team.

"I'm honored to have been asked to speak at the event. CHS and the other public schools I've attended have done so much for me personally and provided me countless opportunities, so it was easy for me to get to go up and gush about subjects I'm so passionate about. STEM is so important in public schools and to be able to share that importance with others is really important to me," he said.

## CHS, Principal Strickland named 2022 Journal Review's Best

Recently Crawfordsville High School and Principal Jay Strickland received the plaque for the 2022 Journal Review Best Principal and Best High School of Montgomery County awards as part of their annual "Best Of" Awards. Presenting Strickland, middle, with the award are Superintendent Dr. Scott Bowling, left, and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker.





# CMS presents Crinoid display at Carnegie Museum

The Crinoids of Montgomery County Carnegie Exhibit made its debut opening on Feb. 25, 2023 with approximately 96 people who came to view the crinoid display.

This special display was a project completed by Crawfordville Middle School 6th and 7th grade students of Mrs. Hudson.

At the exhibit you can learn about the history, how they are formed, and how you can hunt for your own crinoids.

The project began in the spring of 2022 through a grant from the Montgomery County Educational Foundation.

Students began by studying the history of Montgomery County and the climate conditions that allowed these echinoderms to thrive, the characteristics of the animals, and their general body structure. Students then chose a Montgomery County crinoid, found a picture, and created a list of characteristics, feeding habits, and approximately when they were alive. Students submitted documentation of their work which was submitted to the Carnegie Staff to determine which projects would be entered into the exhibit. Some students offered their own personal specimens from their collections.

Students also created activities such as building a crinoid out of fuzzy sticks and beads, a matching game, crossword puzzles, trivia questions and answers, and word searches.

The Carnegie Museum staff compiled the students' work and information into an impressive exhibit that will be available to visit until September 2023. Crinoids will also be incorporated in the Summer at the Carnegie Museum Program this summer.

A special thanks is given to the Montgomery County Education Foundation, which provided the grant funds to complete the project. The MCEF awards thousands of dollars each year to teachers to use for a variety of innovative projects. Grant applications are currently open and due on April 17, 2023.

### Crinoids of Montgomery County

**Crinoids are Animals, Not Plants!**  
Crinoids are sea creatures related to starfish, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins. While crinoids thrived throughout the Paleozoic Era, most became extinct at the end of the Permian Period. However, their descendants can still be found throughout the ocean floor today.

**How to find Crinoid Fossils**  
Crinoid fossils fragments are most commonly found alongside or in river beds, creeks, or streams. Many complete fossil specimens have also been excavated from Indiana's limestone quarries. If you carefully search along Sugar Creek, you may even find your own!

**Parts of a Crinoid Fossil**

**Horace Carter Hovey**  
In 1842, Horace Carter Hovey found the first complete crinoid ever along Sugar Creek when he was 16! Horace grew up to be a Presbyterian Minister and a published geologist. In addition to writing several illustrated guides to Kentucky's Mountain Caves, he published over 100 articles in the *Scientific American*, and several entries in the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

This exhibit is funded in part by a grant from the Montgomery County Educational Foundation.

### When Did the First Crinoids Appear?

**Phanerozoic Eon**

| Time   | Paleozoic Era<br>252 - 252 million years ago                     | Mesozoic Era<br>252 - 66 million years ago | Cenozoic Era<br>66 - 0 million years ago |
|--------|--|--|--|
| Period | Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Carboniferous, Permian | Triassic, Jurassic, Cretaceous             | Tertiary, Quaternary                     |

At the beginning of the Paleozoic Era, the first crinoids lived during the Cambrian Period, nearly 500 million years before dinosaurs!

During the Mesozoic Era, dinosaurs ruled the earth!

In the Cenozoic Era, mammals and humans became the dominant species.

The Paleozoic Era ended with the Permian Period's mass extinction event, "The Great Dying," during which approximately 96% of all marine life perished.

### Why are Crinoid Fossils Found Here?

Millions of years ago, there was a shallow sea above what is now Indiana. Vibrant reefs, packed with corals, crinoids, and other varieties of marine life grew along the floor of that sea.

If you find that rare fossil that is still in one piece, chances are that the crinoid was buried quickly in poorly oxygenated waters. The burying material that killed the crinoid also served to protect and preserve it.

In contrast, most crinoid fossils are found in many pieces. This is because corrosive issues which held the crinoid skeleton together decayed, allowing the pieces of the crinoid to separate before becoming fossilized.

All the crinoids featured here are found in Montgomery County!







Hoover essay winners, left to right, 3rd place - Sophia Ingalsbe, 1st place - Vera Gobel, and 2nd place - Mila Green.



CMS winners, left to right: 3rd place - Caroline Bowling, 1st place - Gabriella Saidian, and 2nd place - Olivia Todd.



CHS winners left to right: 2nd place - Aleyah Jones, 1st place - Kristen Thompson, 3rd place - Tyson Fuller

## CCSC students shine in Character Counts contest

Each year students in grades 3-12 have an opportunity to participate in the Character Counts Foundation for Life Essay contest describing how they apply the six pillars of character.

A panel of judges read and select the

essay winners.

The county-wide contest winners were honored during a ceremony that took place at Crawfordsville High School.

Winning Crawfordsville students are the following: Hoover students - Sofia

Ingalsbe, Vera Gobel, and Mila Greene; CMS students - Gabriella Saidian, Olivia Todd, and Caroline Bowling; CHS students - Kristen Thompson, Aleyah Jones, and Tyson Fuller. Congratulations to our winners and all who participated!

## Hoover, Nicholson promote Kids Heart Challenge *Nicholson kicks off challenge with Family Heart Healthy Night*

For the first time Nicholson Elementary hosted a Family Heart Healthy Night on February 16 to promote heart and healthy habits through games and activities and also kick off the American Heart Association's Kids Heart Challenge.

This year's Kids Heart Challenge theme is Be The Torch with various dragon characters known as Heart Heroes. Each character represents a healthy habit from the following list: breathing, water, active/exercise, sleep, thoughtfulness, and helping others.

Physical education teacher and challenge organizer, Mrs. Newman said, "This event is a way for students and families to have fun while promoting doing heart-healthy activities together."

At the Family Heart Healthy Night, stations were set up throughout the school focusing on each of the healthy habits.



The gym represented exercise and active games, the cafeteria held water games which focused on keeping water clean and promoting good hydration, and Nicholson Counselor, Mrs. Scheidler provided an activity promoting thoughtfulness creating gratitude hearts. Students also focused on helping others and teamwork in the hallway with walking skis.

The Montgomery County Health Department also joined efforts with Nicholson to share health information. They fo-



cused on the breathing habit by providing information on the effects of smoking and how to improve breathing health.

Currently the Nicholson Knights have raised more than \$6,600 so far. The challenge has been extended to March 10 with a goal of \$9,000. If the student body reaches \$9,000, Principal Jen Coyle has agreed that the students can duct tape her to the wall! Each donating student would receive a foot of duct tape for every \$10 donated in their name.



**Hoover raises \$2k, hosts blood drive**

Hoover Students participated in the American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge in February and raised \$2,160.98 for the AHA. 100% of our students met their program goals of being kind, active, and/or learning hands free CPR.

Hoover's Student Council also hosted a blood drive the same week in February to complement the Kids Heart Challenge. Student Council members greeted those donating blood and thanked them for the 20 pints of blood that will be used right here in Montgomery County.





## Indiana's Ultimate Preteen, CMS student reads to Hose students

*CMS sixth grader, Shaeleigh Hreskowsky, is the 2023 Indiana's Ultimate Preteen*

Hose Elementary students in Mrs. Erin Gilland's kindergarten class had a special treat recently when the 2023 Indiana Ultimate Preteen came to read Dr. Seuss's book, "Oh! The Places You'll Go!"

It just so happens that the 2023 Indiana Ultimate Preteen is also an alumna of Hose Elementary and is currently a sixth grade student at Crawfordsville Middle School. Her name is Shaeleigh Hreskowsky.

Hreskowsky will soon represent Indiana on the America's Ultimate Queen National Pageant in April.

The national pageant strives to encourage and empower women to celebrate, and "be your own kind of beautiful."



Hreskowsky



## Molly Hutchison is champion of the Hoover Spelling Bee

Hoover had its annual Spelling Bee competition in early February. The 2023 Hoover Spelling Bee Champion is Molly Hutchison and runner-up is Callen White. Molly will compete in the regional competition in West Lafayette, Indiana later this spring. Way to go, Molly and Callen!



## 34th annual fesitval held at CHS

Crawfordsville High school hosted the 34th Annual Circle the State with Song Festival on Feb 11th. Jennie Swick is the Area 3 coordinator for the middle school portion. There were 200 students in attendance for this event including 14 different schools from our surrounding area and 11 students were our own CMS students.



Left: Benjamin Tucker stands next to the wall to "Be the 'I' in KIND." Right: Asher Griggs showed kindness by drawing a picture for his bus driver.



## Hose celebrates Kindness Week

New at Laura Hose Elementary this year was Kindness Week during February 13th through the 17th. Kindergarten and 1st graders learned and focused on kindness in the classroom and were also challenged to find ways to show kindness at home and to staff at the school. With their class, each student had the opportunity to stand as the "I" within the word KIND spelled on the wall.



# CCSC attends Mental Health First Aid training

Five Crawfordsville Community School Corporation employees joined other county educators for a day of Mental Health First Aid Training. The training was provided by Volunteers for Mental Health in Montgomery County in partnership with the Women's Legacy Fund, all administered under the Montgomery County Community Foundation so this training was free for attendees. The eight-hour session took place on Feb. 23 at the Hoosier Heartland Success Center and was led by Tina Hoffman and Stacy Zambala, Franciscan Health trainers.

Educators received valuable information with the main goal of helping students in challenging circumstances. Information was provided on topics including suicide, anxiety, substance use, and self care. Attendees discussed the stigma of mental health care and resources that

are available to help. Educators also took home a 400 page resource manual and items to use for stress/anxiety while working with our youth which were made possible by the partnership with Franciscan Health.

During the training, attendees were put into random groups and given a scenario to work through and challenged to respond to the situation.

"Getting to hear different perspectives from those in different sectors helped to broaden my view of ways to respond," said Hose Elementary school counselor, Mallory Tucker.

CCSC representatives included CMS nurse and health services coordinator Amy Bales, CHS mental health counselor Jordan Chandler, Hoover director of student services Nathan Mason, Nicholson school counselor Mary Scheidler, and Hose school counselor Mallory Tucker.



Five CCSC employees and other educators in Montgomery County participated in the Mental Health First Aid Training sponsored by Women's Legacy Fund and Volunteers for Mental Health in Montgomery County.

Overall Tucker had positive things to say about the training.

"This training was a great reminder of the importance of the basics with our students - things like listening to their concerns and being willing to talk with them about hard things. All adults can make a difference to

a child, and it is important to keep the door open for the conversations, even if they aren't ready yet. While school is not always the appropriate setting to dive deep into a student's situation, we can continue to let students know we care," Tucker said.

## Sixth grade cheers on Indy Fuel



CMS 6th graders had the opportunity for a field trip at the end of February to watch the Indy Fuel hockey team in Indianapolis.



## Loads of fun at Willson!



Preschool teacher Joey Gerold, plays puppets with students at Willson Preschool. Mr. Gerold's puppet must have said something pretty funny!



The new climbing wall is getting great use at Willson! Thank you to the Montgomery County Community Foundation for the grant funds!