



# Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

## The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
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April 13, 2023

## Hoover remains a Family Friendly School by IDOE

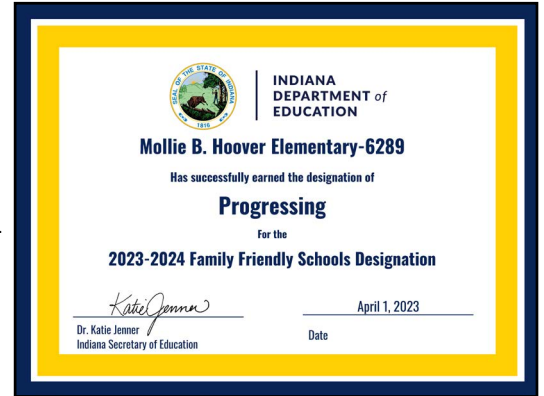
Mollie B. Hoover Elementary School continues to be recognized as a Family Friendly School by the Indiana Department of Education and has received this honor again for the 2023-24 school year.

The Family Friendly School designation is given to schools who meet requirements and demonstrate great engagement with families, students, staff, and building leadership within the building.

According to the IDOE, the Family Friendly Schools designation focuses on addressing the academic, physical, emotional,

and social needs of students, while providing the needed resources and fostering the active involvement of their families through schools and the community. The program recognizes and honors schools that welcome all families into the school community, communicate effectively, support student success, speak up for every child, share power and collaborate with the community.

Hoover Elementary first received the award in 2020 and has continued to keep the title. Hoover is thrilled to continue the tradition of serving its community and students.



## Hoover's Whicker awarded Lilly Endowment grant

Each year, Lilly Endowment offers the Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program to support educators, promote renewal, and offer financial resources to complete the unique and desired experiences. The direct outcome is believed to rejuvenate teachers and reignite energy so they can return to the classroom to continue shaping today's students.



Whicker

Our very own Hoover Elementary teacher Trisha Whicker was awarded this very Lilly Endowment grant and is now busy preparing for a one-of-a-kind educational and adventure vacation to Alaska with her husband, Steve.

Whicker was familiar with the grant after colleague Ann Stanley received the Lilly grant several years ago. Each year Stanley has encouraged co-workers to apply and last spring Whicker decided to go for it. She focused the application on a trip to Alaska to learn and

visit all that she can about the Iditarod Sled Dog race.

About 12 years ago, Whicker was introduced to the Iditarod through friend and teaching colleague, Deb Vaught, and she has been hooked ever since. Whicker said each March they would do cross-curricular activities based on Alaska and the 1000-mile race. Students and Whicker look forward to tracking a musher through live GPS on the Iditarod.com website, reading books about the race, and even following their training throughout the year leading up to the race. It was a no-brainer for Whicker to pursue a trip to Alaska to learn about something she's so passionate about and use the experience to explore, reflect, and return to the classroom next fall renewed and ready to share her first-hand experiences with students.

"I am fascinated by the dedication and determination of the mushers and their dog teams to complete the race amid blizzards, extreme temperatures, unforeseen obstacles, and dangers as they cross the

Alaskan Range and the Bering Sea. These characteristics of the mushers are excellent lessons that I provide for my students and can be personally applied when they face obstacles in their own lives," Whicker said.

Whicker's itinerary and estimated budget were also to be included in the application. One stop she is very excited about is visiting two kennels owned by Iditarod champions. One is owned by five-time champion, Dallas Seavey. Whicker said they will take a helicopter to a glacier top and then be pulled on a sled by one of Seavey's dog teams for a 45 minute ride.

Other activities include a visit to the start of the Iditarod National Trail, an Iditarod checkpoint village which is inhabited and managed by indigenous people of Alaska, and also the Iditarod Race Headquarters and Museum. Whicker will also hike in Denali National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park, take day cruises to see glaciers, whales, and other wildlife.

"This is going to be a dream

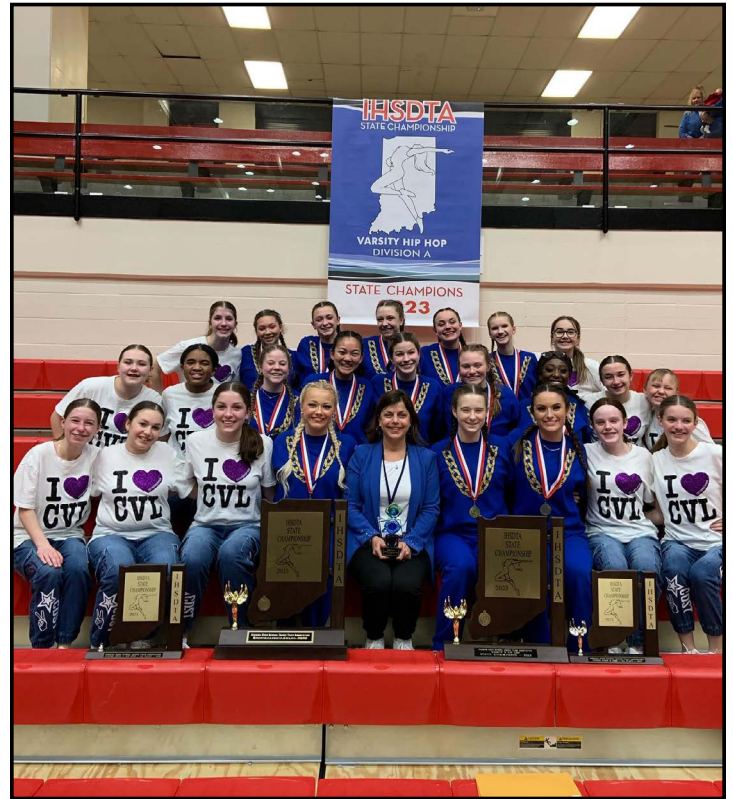
trip. The grant money will allow me to do everything I want to do in Alaska. I am over the moon excited and thankful!" Whicker said.

Applicants must have five years experience, be a current full-time educational professional in Indiana with daily face to face interaction with students, and also plan to teach at least two more years. Two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a current colleague, are also required. Whicker said, "Although the requirements are minimal, the application is fairly lengthy, and includes several questions. The focus of the grant is really for teacher renewal and refreshment and doesn't have to be tied to curriculum."

Following the trip, she'll submit a simple report to Lilly as requested through the grant. Most importantly, Whicker will be refreshed and ready to present a wealth of new information to her students as they learn about the Iditarod and be able to see it all through her digital photo library.



# State Champions & Coach of the Year



The Crawfordsville dance teams finished off a great season with the CHS team named A Hip Hop State Champions and the Sportsmanship Award winner! The middle school dance team was the JHA 3rd place winner in Hip Hop by less than one point and they were also in the top five for the JHA Jazz competition. To top it all off, Coach Haas won the Coach of the Year award! Congratulations to Haas and all of her dancers for all of their hard work and a job well done.

## Crawfordsville Middle School wrestlers make history

For the first time in history, the Crawfordsville Middle School wrestling team claimed the Sagamore Athletic Conference Champion title!

In the season-ending meet, six first-year wrestlers placed as well as six returning wrestlers. The first six included Champions Blayze Robbins and Fredrick McGregory, Runner-Up Jaden Leap, 3rd place Aiden Hall and Victor Sanchez, and 4th place Yurem Lopez.

Returning wrestlers placing included Champions Carlos Gutierrez and Armando Munoz, Runner-Up Noe Torres, 3rd place Nikolas Dimarzio-Gaskins and Aiden Hutchison, and 4th place Jayden Whaley.

The conference championship title came shortly after the CMS team claimed the Montgomery County Championship for the first time since 2005. CMS had eight county champions during the county match-ups this season.





# Sagamore Athletic Conference Champions!

*2023 CMS Swimming & Diving Team celebrates a great season*



Both the CMS girls and boys swimming and diving teams were crowned Sagamore Athletic Conference Champions and earned the traditional pool photo with their trophies and soaking wet coaches!

The girls team was undefeated for the season and worked their way to a one-point finish at the conference

event.

Melanie Dowd was a three-event conference champion in the 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle, and the 400 free relay, which also included teammates Mila Blackwell, Jade Brattain, and Mabel Hoar. Other top 16 finishers include Eleanor Hesler, Mable Hoar, Sarah Melevage, Mila

Blackwell, Tori Truax, Aria Richards, Vanessa Pettit, Amelia Wilkinson, and Bella Hernandez.

The boys team came together to also take the Conference Champion title scoring 17 points ahead of runner-up, Tri-West.

Henry Hoar won the 200 freestyle and the 50 butterfly

with times that put him in the top ten in CMS history.

Others placing in the top 16 were Jayken McFarland, Nathan Wilhoite, Seven Vo, Grant Schroeter, Tryston Sauer, Konner Hartelp, Josh Inskeep, Isaac Zuniga Estrada, Jakub Brewer, Konner Ellsbury, Graeme Mason, and Franco Marcelo Robles.



## Shrek was an exceptional performance by CHS

Crawfordsville High School presented three performances of Shrek, the Musical during the weekend of March 17-19. Each was a great success entertaining the audiences of all ages with dance and musical talent, humor, and great acting.

Shrek was directed and choreographed by Lisa Warren and vocal director was Jennie Swick.







## Raising our American Flag

A group of Nicholson students are learning the importance of honoring our country and respecting the American Flag. Led by Connie LaFoe, students work together to raise the flag each morning. LaFoe values our flag and saw the opportunity to get Nicholson students involved each morning.



## Knights relax with yoga during testing week



Third grade students at Nicholson Elementary were feeling nice and relaxed during the week of their standardized testing thanks to some new yoga techniques. Penny Keller from Happy Sloth Health & Fitness visited Nicholson to demonstrate and lead the students in yoga to stretch, relax and relieve a little stress. They were reminded that these exercises can be done at anytime they may be feeling worried or stressed. Principal Jen Coyle said many students wished they could do the yoga exercises each week. Coyle said, "We're so proud of how hard everyone is working this week during 'testing.'"



## Color Guard finishes 15th at State

The CHS Color Guard finished their season at state. Out of 66 schools that started in prelims they qualified for state and finished their first season 15th in the state finals!



## Hoover Choir receives Gold

Congratulations to the Hoover Choir who received a Gold rating in their group V Indiana State School Music Association contest!



## CMS receives Gold with Distinction

The Crawfordsville Middle School Golden Grecians also competed at the Indiana State School Music Association and came home with the rating, Gold with Distinction.



# 4th graders focus on Underground Railroad

The 4th grade students at Hoover Elementary had an eventful Friday focusing on lessons and activities all relating to the Underground Railroad.

Fourth graders had finished reading *Freedom Crossing* by Margaret Goff Clark, which was the basis of the day's events and activities.

The *Freedom Crossing* book had been provided through the Montgomery County Educational Foundation and was chosen by the Hoover teachers to assist in curriculum of the Underground Railroad as part of studying Indiana History.

Kicking off the day's events was a presentation by Crawfordsville Middle School science teacher, Shannon Hudson. Hudson has done extensive research on the Underground Railroad and its history in Montgomery County. It was only fitting for Hudson to share her knowledge with students.

Hudson has published a book on the subject titled, "Abolitionists of the Underground Railroad: Legends of Montgomery County."

Fourth grade teacher Trisha Whicker said, "She is so knowledgeable and did a fabulous job. She even read the book *Freedom Crossing* and tied it all into her presentation."

Following her presentation, 4th grade classes completed 25 minute rotations at stations with various activities relating



to the topic. Each 4th grade teacher prepared activities relating to the book or Underground Railroad in general.

Stations included quilt patterns and their history, Polaris and the importance of the North Star, how spirituals were used in the lives of slaves to help them communicate and get to freedom, an underground railroad Escape Room style challenge, a Kahoot game



CMS teacher Shannon Hudson led the opening presentation about the Underground Railroad's history in Montgomery County.



Students study the history of and create a quilt block pattern.

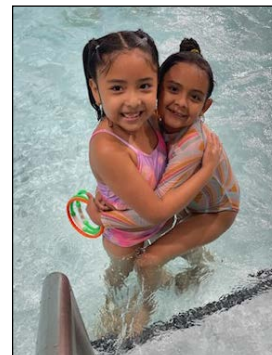
based on *Freedom Crossing*, a poetry lesson and how it was used in the lives of runaway slaves, and a Harriet Tubman activity.

"We spent the entire day immersed in the topic and I think it was very valuable. The kids learned a lot and we had a great day," Whicker said.

# Hose Elementary first graders learn safe swimming

For the first time since Covid, Hose Elementary first graders were able to participate in a week-long swimming course at Crawfordsville High School. Through this program, students spend time in the pool each day for one week with instructors to learn new skills or build on what they already know. Students also receive instruction on swim safety. For some students, it is their first experience in a pool. Students reported a mixture of

feelings from nervousness to excitement, but as the week went on their comfort levels with the pool greatly increased. Favorite activities included going on the slide, learning to float, jumping to an instructor, and practicing swimming skills. The first two classes have completed their swimming experience prior to spring break and the remaining first grade classes will have a turn to learn and swim at the aquatic center after break.



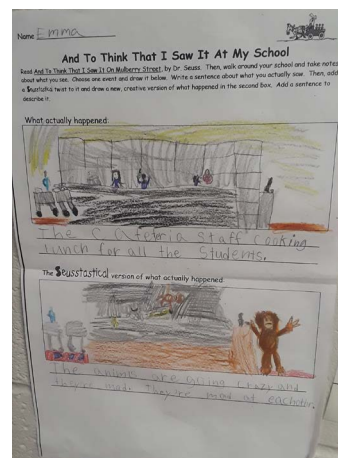
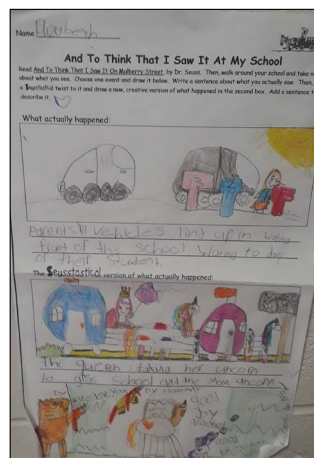
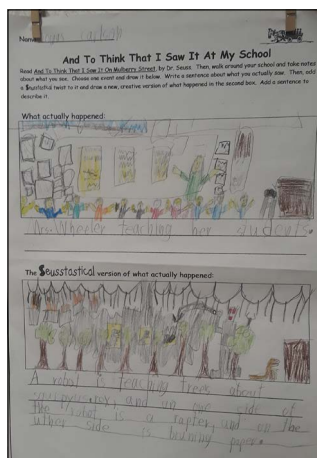


# Fun-filled activities for Dr. Seuss Week at Hose

“You’re never too old, too **WACKY**, too wild, to pick up a book & read to a child.”



Students and staff at Hose Elementary School celebrated Dr. Seuss Week February 27-March 3, 2023. Thursday was Read Across America Day. Throughout the week, students listened to stories written by Theodore Seuss Geisel and completed their own creative writing ideas in his fun and lyrical style. Students from the Wabash football team visited some of the classrooms and read stories to them. Each day, students had optional spirit day activities to participate in like hat day, wearing stripes, or wearing a shirt with letters or certain colors. Students also had the opportunity to try green eggs and ham as a side item for lunch. We encourage our community to read - for themselves and with children. In the words of Dr. Seuss, “You’re never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book & read to a child.”



## Hoover students, Hose staff present at MCEF event



Left: Hoover students did a fantastic job presenting at the MCEF Grant Breakfast recently. Students and their teachers, Mr. Spencer and Mrs. Furgye, talked about how the Family Game Night and Book Dragon programs are making a positive impact for students and their families. Right: Hose music teacher, Ms. Kern also presented at the breakfast.