



# Crawfordsville Community School Corporation The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
1000 Fairview Ave. Crawfordsville • 765-362-2342  
www.cville.k12.in.us



November 14, 2023

## Hoover Elementary named Purple Star School

*IDOE recognizes schools' commitment to veterans, service members*

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) today announced 102 newly-designated and/or redesignated Purple Star schools - the largest group since the award was created in 2020. Schools receiving the Purple Star designation are awarded for their significant display of commitment to service members, veterans and students and families connected to our nation's military.

"The daily sacrifices of our service members and their families are beyond what many of us can comprehend," said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. "Honoring their selflessness and unwavering commitment to protecting our freedoms as Americans is a priority for our state, on Veterans Day and every day of the year. It is an honor to award the Purple Star designation to these Indiana schools for their recognition, celebration and support of our military families,

as well as our students who may be considering a future in military service."

Principal Marci Galinowski said, "I am proud of the extra effort our staff and students make to recognize and honor our servicemen and women. Year after year, there are tears of pride in the eyes of many who participate in our annual Veterans Day program. The sacrifice of our service men and women, and their families is just incredible."

One of the designation requirements is for the school to have an appointed school contact supporting military families. Trisha Whicker, Hoover 4th grade teacher, went through an IDOE course on how schools can best support families. In addition, the course informs about the unique stressors that they face, from frequent moves, interruptions in



education, uncertainty when loved ones are deployed, and maintaining regular employment for spouses. While families are always very excited when loved ones return from a deployment, it is another adjustment for families that they sometimes need assistance working through. The school's designated contact is able to assist these families with connecting with local resources that can assist them.

Galinowski said, "This designation is personal for many of our staff members and students. Several CCSC employees have served, as well as, spouses, parents, and grandparents of students, faculty, and staff. As a school we see the education of the importance of our military as essential. The fourth and fifth grade social studies curriculum is focused on the founding of the

United States and the sacrifices made by Americans to secure and maintain our freedom and independence."

This year's designation includes 64 newly-awarded Purple Star schools. The designation is valid for three years. For a complete list, visit the [IDOE website](https://www.idoe.org/IDOE-Website/Purple-Star-Schools).

In Indiana, schools receiving the Purple Star designation must meet the following criteria:

- Have an assigned point of contact for military families,
- Meet all grade-level training requirements for point of contact,
- Have a dedicated webpage providing recognition and resources for service members, veterans
- Host an annual military program,
- Have a public military display recognizing service members,
- Submit a school board resolution publicizing support for military students and families, and
- Ensure military service members and their immediate family members meeting minimum job qualifications for open positions at the school will be guaranteed a job interview.

## Nicholson, Hoover welcome veterans to school programs



Hoover and Nicholson students invited local veterans to be a part of the Veterans Day program and to honor them for their service.

# CHS students selected for county Youth Summit

Several Crawfordsville High School students were selected to participate in the Montgomery County Youth Summit on October 26th. A Youth Summit provides a forum for young people to organize, network, learn new things, and share their hopes and concerns in a public setting. The participants were led through structured discussions on three key mental health topics: stressors, resources, and relationships. Members of the Wabash College Democracy and Public Discourse initiative led and recorded the discussions. The WDPD will then create a more formal report of the findings from the summit which will be shared with school administrators, counselors, and SROs of all three Montgomery County school corporations.



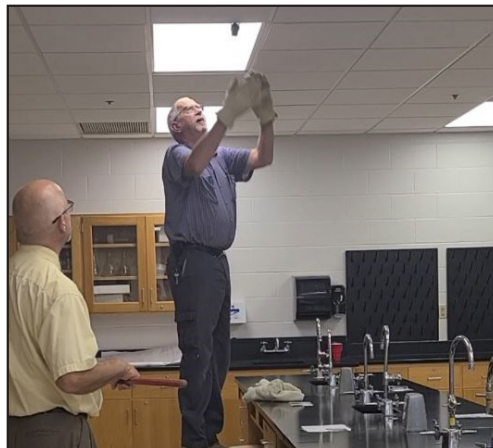
Front Row (left to right): Axel Cifuentes, Jacey Crose, Ella Foster, Kaya Money, Jessie Hartnett, Travis Walton, Jada Moore. Second Row (left to right): Riley Gardner, Adyson Tinsley, Dio Freeze, Chet Kincaid, Tyson Fuller, Kristen Thompson, Emily Powell, Nivek Witt, and Jonathan Giron Lopez. Not pictured: Hayden Jeffries.

## Athenian Torch passed to honorary staff, Carrie Saunders

The new tradition at CHS of passing the “Athenian Torch” continues to highlight coworkers. The torch is passed among our staff and honors staff members who have made a difference, helped out a fellow coworker/student, or just did something worth praising.

Two weeks ago, Jenny Veatch passed the torch to Dave Whitehead with great things to say. “If you’re new to CHS and do not know this man, he is the one who keeps us running (he just does it quietly behind the scenes). From HVAC repairs to bat wrangling, Dave does it all. I don’t know what we’d do without him!”

This week Dave is passing the torch in honor and memory of Carrie Saunders. “A lady of dedication, hope, encouragement, courage, commitment. A lady of



family, God, and school. She never gave up, never wavered, but fought the good fight. She will be missed severely at CHS and by her family, her church, and



her friends! So glad she passed through our lives if only briefly. We’ve all been changed by knowing her. Thank you, Carrie!”



## Students recognized as Hose Heroes

Congratulations to the Hose Hero award winners which were celebrated at a reception at Hose at the end of October.

A Hose Hero is a student who is **H**elpful, **E**ncouraging to others, **R**espectful and **R**esponsible, and demonstrates **O**utstanding citizenship.

Staff members nominate two students each quarter for this award and the PBIS Committee reviews the nominations and then makes the final selection to identify those excelling in the characteristics. Parents are invited to attend the reception where each student receives a Hose Hero shirt, certificate, and a copy of their nomination form.



# “Where the Wild Things Are” comes to life

It’s not often a high school art class and first grade art class team up for a fun project collaboration, but that’s what happened recently with CHS and Hose Elementary.

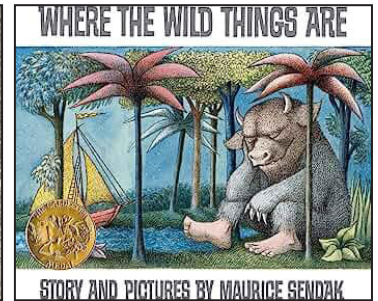
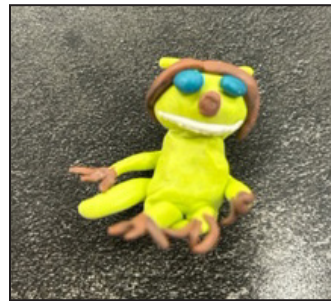
In Alexis Nickle’s art class, first graders listened to the well-loved book, “Where the Wild Things Are,” a story of a boy who visits an island where monsters live and are known as Wild Things. Nickle said the classes discussed the story, the characters, and how they were designed. After the reading and discussion, the first graders had a chance to draw their own creatures and design their own Wild Thing exactly as they wished. The students used markers, colored pencils, and crayons to create their monsters. Nickle said she emphasized drawing different textures and details.

Those drawings then made their way to the CHS classrooms of art teacher Amanda Ellenbarger where high school students took the designs and made them come to life by printing them in 3D form.

The Hose students knew not every drawing would be created, but about 75 out of 200 drawings were sent over to CHS.

“I had a ton of students very excited to send their artwork,” Nickle said.

The Hose students are eagerly waiting to see the final 3D monsters.



Hannah Lafever won the Putnam County Playhouse Upstage Award. Above left she is in action as Annie in *The Play that Goes Wrong!* and right, Lafever is surrounded by coworkers Carrie Jones and Tanner Wilson who came to watch the show.

## Hoover teacher wins theater award

Hoover Music Teacher Hannah Lafever won the Putnam County Playhouse Upstage Award, often referred to as The Hammy, given to the best supporting actor.

Lafever, who was nominated by her director, won the award for her role as Annie in *The Play that Goes Wrong!*

“I was incredibly surprised and so honored to receive this award. The role of Annie was a role I had wanted for over a year, and to be recognized for my work truly meant the world to me,” Lafever said.

Lafever has performed in four different productions at PCPH which include, *She Loves Me*, *Shrek*, *You Can’t Take it With You*, and *The Play that Goes Wrong*. Lafever said that *The Play that Goes Wrong* was definitely her favorite.

Next year’s shows are already set and include *Oklahoma!*, *The Pink Panther Strikes Again*, *Something Rotten*, and *Flowers For Algernon*. The PCPH also offers Children’s Workshops during the summer and are open to any student interested in theater.

## Student council shows movie

The Nicholson Elementary student council planned a school movie night featuring the movie *Hotel Transylvania*.

Nicholson students and a maximum of two accompanying adults were invited to watch the movie, have popcorn, and see friends from school in the elementary gymnasium while enjoying the Halloween-themed movie. More than \$500 was raised from the event and



all proceeds were given to the Saunders family to help with medical expenses.



# William's project featured on "Visit Montgomery County" website

By Visit Montgomery County,  
[www.visitmoco.com/montgomery-county-apple-of-my-eye/](http://www.visitmoco.com/montgomery-county-apple-of-my-eye/)

William Bernhardt III, a fourth-grade student at Hoover Elementary, was inspired by a project assigned by his teacher, Mrs. Danforth. The topic followed studying Johnny Appleseed (Johnny Appleseed,) and the assignment was to create something "apple related while using your own interests and strengths." The timing aligned with Johnny Appleseed's birthday, and the students had one week to complete their projects. Following project completion, each student practiced their public speaking skills and presented their project while other students honed their listening skills in the audience.

Combining his photography talents with the love of his hometown, William decided to photograph sites around Montgomery County, incorporating a lovingly selected apple "with a leaf" in his shots. At the age of 9, William took his Nikon camera, a Christmas gift received the previous year, to eleven attractions around Montgomery County. Each was artistically showcased including the apple "with a leaf" prominently placed in the foreground. He titled his project, Montgomery County: The Apple of My Eye.

When asked about his favorite photo, William (family and close friends call him Liam) said without hesitation, the Linden Depot Museum shot. This museum is a fully restored 1908 junction depot, exhibiting railroad memorabilia. As you can see here, he placed the apple, leaf forward, on the railroad track, yet was still able to get the entire train car in the shot.

Honorable mention for favorite photo went to the Speed Cabin on the grounds of Lane Place. Speed Cabin was a safe haven on the underground railroad. In this shot, the ever-important leaf was situated on the right side of the apple, then placed right of center to the cabin door.

Young Bernhardt shared that one the most difficult shots was of the Carnegie Museum. This structure is Indiana's first Carnegie Library, constructed using Indiana limestone. For this photo, he stood on a stool and placed the apple on a post, just so, in order to capture the imposing columns and limestone carvings.

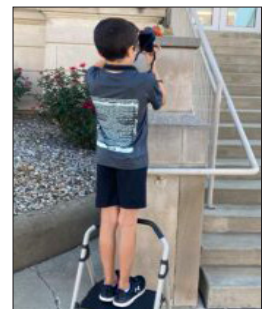
Another challenging shot, according to William, was of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum. A National Historic Landmark, this is the actual place where author, General Lew Wallace wrote most of his masterpiece, Ben-Hur, A Tale of the Christ. Shooting on a Sunday, the museum was closed, and the gates were locked. Trying several angles, the perfect photo was shot placing the apple, leaf forward, on the ground with the study in the background beyond the gates. This photo angle required William to get his shirt dirty laying on the ground.

After a day of shooting, William and his mother were off to CVS to get the pictures printed. From there, he mounted his favorites on black presentation board using red photo mats. Apple red, naturally.

When asked what he learned about Johnny Appleseed, William recounted that the pioneer nurseryman was born in Massachusetts. He learned that Appleseed traveled through Pennsylvania into Indiana to spread apple seeds, growing some of the first apple orchards. Johnny Appleseed died in Fort Wayne, forever tying him to Indiana.

You might be wondering about what grade William earned on his project. To no one's surprise, he earned a 100%!

Visit [www.visitmoco.com/montgomery-county-apple-of-my-eye/](http://www.visitmoco.com/montgomery-county-apple-of-my-eye/) to see all of the project photographs.







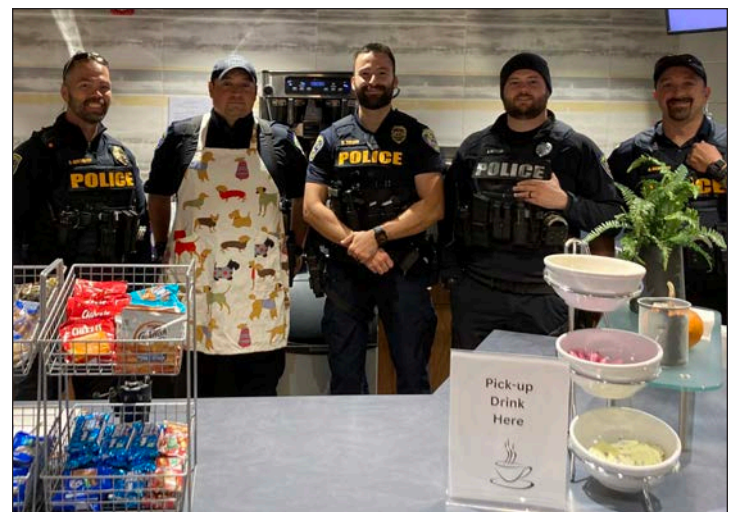
## Wabash basketball, Hose connect each month

*Books, Basketball, & Beyond* is at it again this year thanks to the Montgomery County Educational Foundation.

Coaches and players visited Hose recently in Mrs. Rohr's class to spend time with the students. The players played a math and literacy game for about 45 minutes and ended with Head Coach Kyle Brumett reading a story to them.

Then in November, the activity had a change of scenery as the class visited Wabash College to work on some basketball skills and listen to a book on the court.

Each child receives a free copy of the monthly book each time they get together. The books are supplied via the grant money through the Montgomery County Educational Foundation.



## Coffee with a Cop serves up more lattes to students

After a busy, but successful Coffee with a Cop opportunity last month, Officer Villalpando brought some back-up to the CHS Blue and Gold Cafe. The team of of-

ficers served students during all three lunch shifts. The other officers included Chief of Police Aaron Mattingly, Assistant Chief of Police Ryan Teeter, Sergeant Andy Ells-

bury, Corporal Todd Huckstep, and Officer Lawyer Wintin.

Thank you officers for hanging out with the students and staff at CHS.



# Willson Preschool Hands-On Learning



## ***Preschool has family night at Oak Hill Pumpkin Patch***

Willson Preschool had a family night at Oak Hill Pumpkin Patch where families could join the Willson staff to engage in some developmental activities at Oak Hill. Students were able to play on the big slide, walk the pumpkin patch, take a tractor ride, feed the goats, and much more.

## ***Learning about transportation***

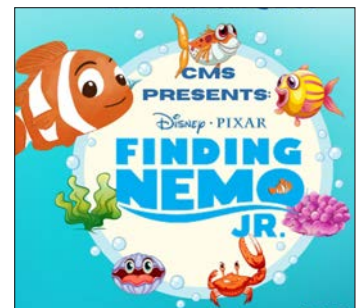
Willson students learned all about modes of transportation and different types of vehicles and machinery. The Crawfordsville Street Department stopped by with their street sweeper, Wilson's Towing brought a tow truck, and students learned about flying in the hallways by testing out some paper airplanes.



## ***Finding Nemo Jr. a big success***

The Crawfordsville Middle School presented *Finding Nemo Jr.* in the Connie Meek Auditorium at Crawfordsville High School the weekend of Nov. 3-5.

The students did a great job and the show was a success!







## Fun experiments in science club

Hoover Elementary Science Club learned about the polymer in Ziploc bags. They tested the bags to see if the molecules would bend around the pencils without letting out water. The experiment was a success!



# Red Ribbon Week

## Hose conducts annual art contest

Hose Elementary completed their annual art contest during Red Ribbon Week which focuses on saying no to drugs. School counselor Mallory Tucker said there were once again many wonderful entries this year.

The art contest provides an opportunity for parents and students to talk about the importance of saying no to drugs. The focus for kindergarteners and first graders is helping them understand never to take someone else's medicine, asking before eating or drinking something as substances can look like candy, and also the general important topic of keeping our bodies healthy.

All art entries are on display throughout the Hose hallways. Winners had their photos taken on Halloween and each received a book to keep. This year's judges were Officer Jack Taylor, art teacher Alexis Nickle, and Principal Jennifer Hall.

The first place winner was Eleanor Tomamichel; second place was Anna Saffel; and third place was Nakash Patel.



Eleanor Tomamichel, 1st



Anna Saffel, 2nd



Nakash Patel, 3rd



## Nicholson clinic receives check

Darian Todd, school nurse at Nicholson Elementary accepted a \$1,500 grant from Wal-Mart to be used to stock the school clinic with a variety of supplies and necessities. This is the third year that Nicholson has received a grant from Wal-Mart and they have generously increased it each year.

Todd plans to purchase emergency student clothing such as sweatpants, socks, and underwear. She may also purchase a larger medicine cabinet, as well as save some money to use in the future for larger items.

In the past, the grant has covered updates to all the emergency backpacks, a thermometer, clothing, and various other items.

Wal-Mart offers grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 through their Local Community Grants program.

## Elementary schools "Can" say No to Drugs



The elementary school students were encouraged to bring a canned good item as a reminder that they "CAN" say NO to drugs!





# TRICK OR TREAT!

*Staff groups join students with fun costumes*



Officer Jack Taylor had a whole new squad of officers on Halloween. Several students from Hose, Nicholson and Hoover dressed up as police officers and SWAT members. Top left: Hoover; Above: Nicholson; Left: Hose.