



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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CHS senior wins Lilly Endowment scholarship

Montgomery County Community Foundation

The Montgomery County Community Foundation is pleased to announce that Campbell Mason has been named the 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar for Montgomery County. He is a senior at Crawfordsville High School and the son of Keith and Rebekah Mason.

Each Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship provides for full tuition, required fees and a special allocation of up to \$900 per year for required books and required equipment for four years. The scholarship is for undergraduate students studying on a full-time basis leading to a baccalaureate degree at any eligible Indiana public or private nonprofit college or university. Lilly Endowment Community Scholars may also participate in the Lilly Scholars Network (LSN), which connects both current scholars and alumni with resources and opportunities to be active leaders on their campuses and in their communities. Both the scholarship program and LSN are supported by grants from Lilly Endowment to Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI) and Indiana Humanities.

"I am tremendously fortunate to be named this year's Lilly Endowment Community Scholar," said Mason. "I am extremely thankful to the Montgomery County Community Foundation and Lilly Endowment for believing in me and investing in my education, as well as for their kindness throughout the

entire application process. This scholarship is an incredible opportunity, and I am grateful for the opportunities in my life that it will open. It is the highest honor to be named this scholar in such a great community. I couldn't have done it without my principals and administrators, dedicated teachers, coaches, friends, and family who supported me throughout the process. It is my current goal to attend the University of Notre Dame to pursue a degree in Economics. Once again, I am humbled and so incredibly grateful for this life-changing opportunity, and I would like to thank everyone involved at the Montgomery County Community Foundation for their belief in me. I aspire to use this further education to bring positive change back to Montgomery County."

Campbell has been involved in many different clubs and organizations throughout his high school career, including National Honor Society, Student Council, Spanish Club, and the CHS Recycling Club. He has also volunteered his time as a peer tutor, member of the Montgomery County Mental Health Task Force, and regularly helps deliver meals to the elderly through Meals on Wheels.

A talented athlete, Campbell has many accomplishments as a four-year member of the CHS varsity swim team. He is a two-time qualifier for the state finals and is serving as captain his senior year. Campbell also competes as a member of the Sugar Creek Swim Club, where he is



CHS Senior Campbell Mason is the 2024 Lilly Endowment Community Scholar for Montgomery County.

also a captain. When he's not in the pool Campbell enjoys playing pickleball with friends, going to the gym, and spending time with his parents and grandparents.

To be considered for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship, students must be a resident of Montgomery County, have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.85 on a 4.00 scale, and be in the top 10% of their graduating class at an accredited Montgomery County high school. Campbell, along with 19 other local applicants, participated in a highly selective review process that evaluated academic achievement, student activities and leadership, and two essay responses. Finalists were also required to appear before the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Community Foundation for two interviews. Concluding the process, the scholarship committee narrowed the field of applicants and submitted the finalists' names and applications to Independent Colleges of Indiana, Inc. (ICI) for final selection of

the recipient.

The primary purposes of the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program are: 1) to help raise the level of educational attainment in Indiana; 2) to increase awareness of the beneficial roles Indiana community foundations can play in their communities; and 3) to encourage and support the efforts of current and past Lilly Endowment Community Scholars to engage with each other and with Indiana business, governmental, educational, nonprofit and civic leaders to improve the quality of life in Indiana generally and in local communities throughout the state.

Lilly Endowment created the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Program for the 1998-99 school year and has supported the program every year since with grants totaling in excess of \$505 million. More than 5,200 Indiana students have received the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship since the program's inception.

Ms. Drake named Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted

Rochelle Drake was named the 2023 Hazel Feldhausen Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted by the Indiana Association for the Gifted on Dec. 5th. Dr. Kristen Seward, Associate Director of The Gifted Education Research and Resource Institute at Purdue University, presented the award.

Ms. Drake has faithfully served the students in Indiana as a classroom educator for over 50 years. For the last 22 years, she has taught in a self-contained high-ability classroom of third graders at Nicholson Elementary School. Ms. Drake has served on the Broad-Based Planning Committee for Crawfordsville Schools for 33 years and was instrumental in helping design and implement one of the first

formal programs for gifted students in a public school corporation in Indiana.

According to Crawfordsville Superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker, "One of Shelly's outstanding qualities is her remarkable ability to recognize and celebrate her students' individual strengths and unique abilities. She creates a nurturing classroom environment where every child feels valued and appreciated for who they are, fostering a sense of belonging and self-worth. Even as she sets high academic and behavioral expectations, Shelly's grace and understanding are a testament to her unwavering support."

Upon receiving the news that the IAG Awards Committee had chosen her as the 2023



Rochelle Drake, left, accepted the 2023 Hazel Feldhausen Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted award at the Indiana Association for the Gifted conference on Dec. 5th in Indianapolis.

Outstanding Teacher Award recipient, Ms. Drake said, "A most humble thanks...I am so overwhelmed. As I watched

others accept this award through the years, it never occurred to me that it might be me up there someday!"



Horton selected for scholarship

CHS senior Whit Horton was selected as the local representative for the Heisman School Scholarship in recognition of outstanding achievement in academics, athletics, and community service.

To be eligible students must maintain a weighted GPA of 3.0 or better and must be proven leaders and role models within their school and community. Applicants must also have participated at some point in 9th, 10th or 11th grade in one of the following; International Olympic Committee in the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, the Paralympic Games or the National Federation of State High School Associations.



Hose students make, send cards to Veterans

Students at Hose recently came together to make hundreds of cheerful cards for veterans and senior citizens. For Veterans Day, students and families sent in pictures and information about veterans from their families and a wall was created to display photos and honor them. Soon the student's cards will be included in packages that will be sent to veterans. While we may not know all of the veterans who receive the cards, our students can show appreciation for them from many miles away. Other cards are going to be delivered to local nursing homes in Crawfordsville.





Team wins first in division

Congratulations to the Hoover Elementary Spell Bowl team as they won first place in the orange division in November at the spelling competition held at West Lafayette Intermediate School.



Two Athenians represent at All-Star Honor Band

Ruth Garcia and Danny Wills were selected to participate in the Indiana State University All-Star Honor Band weekend which was held on the Indiana State campus. Students began Friday night with auditions, hearing a special performance by the ISU Steel Drum Band, and had their first rehearsal with Dr. Kevin Sedatole. The honor band students continued rehearsals throughout the day Saturday and concluded with their finale concert on Sunday afternoon.



Community Foundation announcements fall 2023 grants

The Montgomery County Community Foundation announced their awards for the 2023 Fall grant cycle. A total of \$334,003 was awarded to various local organizations. Crawfordsville Community School Corporation received money for two separate areas.

Willson Preschool received \$52,503 which will provide furniture and re-

search-based curriculum for two classrooms, allowing them to double their current program. These items will help meet criteria towards becoming Paths to Quality Certified, allowing them to accept CCDF and On My way Pre-K vouchers.

The CCSC health department received \$10,000 and the money will be used for the health and welfare of students K-12 with

financial need. This could be for dental, vision, medical, mental health care, or prescriptions. It will also provide education on topics such as drug use prevention, growth and development, CPR trainings and supplies, and more.

CCSC is very grateful for MCCF and the work they do to support our community.

First Academic Letter winners announced at CHS

Crawfordsville High School awarded its first group of Academic Letter winners recently for their participation in various academic activities.

To earn an academic letter, students are required to participate in an academic competition during their time at CHS, meet eligibility requirements, complete an application, and receive approval from the Academic Coordinator and the Academic Teams Committee, which is made up of academic team coaches.

The inaugural group includes four seniors, Beth Turner, Thomas Bowling, James Novak, and Elli Jeffries.

Principal Jay Strickland said, "The academic letter is offered at CHS to continue to praise, recognize and celebrate the academic achievements of our students. We are proud of our highly successful

academic teams and encourage our students to participate in team and individual competitions. This was an idea that came from some of our Academic Team coaches such as Maggie Bryant, Emily Race, Kelli Bowling and Cindy Turner."

The eligibility requirements include a 2.75 cumulative GPA at application time, and a minimum of 12 points over a minimum of two academic school years involved in one or both categories of academic teams and individual academic competitions. One season of an academic team earns a student four points. Individual competitions such as the Anna Willson Oratorical Contest are worth two points. After earning the initial letter, students can earn an additional bar for every six points earned. Both Turner and Novak earned a bar after their letter.



Beth Turner, Thomas Bowling, James Novak, and Elli Jeffries earned the first-ever Academic Letter for participation in academic activities including Academic Super Bowl, Speech Team, and Spell Bowl.



Pie in the Face for a great cause!

The Nicholson Student Council wrapped up their Pie a Knight event before Thanksgiving break. For several weeks, students could donate and pay \$1 and vote for a teacher or staff member to receive a pie in the face. More than \$400 was raised and will be used for Christmas presents for the student council's sponsorship of a REINdear family and also to send care packages to soldiers. The entire student body watched first place winner, Mrs.



Hodge, 2nd place, Mrs. Ferguson, and 3rd place, Officer Taylor, all get a whipped cream pie in the face.



Athenians perform in regional band

Four Athenian band students performed at Southmont High School in the 2023 West-Central Indiana All-Region Band! They had a fantastic performance under the direction of Wendy Higdon Rice.



From left to right: 8th Grader Jarron Torres, 8th Grader Eleanor Hesler, 7th Grader Claire Dennis, and 9th Grader Emeire Venis

Congratulations to the Athenian Way winners

The Athenian Way award is given to students and staff who follow The Athenian Way and demonstrate grit, kindness, engagement, pride and respect. Students and staff are nominated by staff members and award winners will receive a t-shirt, certificate, and an end of the year celebration. Congratulations to these students and staff for following The Athenian Way!

The Athenian Way Award 2023 quarter one recipients are as follows:

Daniel Surface: Nominated by Peyton Suiter

Daniel exemplified what it means to put the team over himself in football this year. He showed pride in representing CHS and being a leader on and off the field for the team.

Cody Warmuth: Nominated by Jonathan Huber

Cody is nominated for showing grit by being the first person in his family to graduate high school. He also demonstrated respect and kindness for his willingness to pick up extra trash outside the cafeteria without being asked.

Tyson Fuller: Nominated by Bryce Barton

Tyson has been an excellent role model for what a student athlete should look like. He works hard to maintain his grades and gives 100 percent effort in all areas. Tyson is a leader in the hallways, classroom, and locker room. He supports his fellow Athenians by showing up to events, has a kind heart, and a level head.

Gabrielle Warren: Nominated by Brayden Montgomery

Gabby is a shining example of "The Athenian Way." I frequently see her demonstrate kindness and respect in the classroom. What makes her stand out though is her involvement. She competed in two sports during the fall, is in a CTE program, is a member of Spirit Club where she helps run the social media accounts, AND she has a 4.0+ GPA. She does a lot and excels! Gabby embodies the very best of CHS!

Frida Palacios: Nominated



by Kelli Bowling

Frida epitomizes the Athenian Way through her dedication to her coursework both here at CHS and in her CTE courses. She demonstrates grit by going the extra mile to stay on top of assignments. She has to miss my English class every Wednesday due to a conflict with her CTE course, but she always checks in ahead of time to make sure she has all assignments completed when she returns to class each Thursday. In addition, she always shows respect and kindness to her classmates and teachers. As a member of National Honor Society, she demonstrates a positive attitude and a servant's heart whenever she engages in a service project.

Tyson Fuller: Nominated by Jordan Chandler

Tyson is a great example of a leader here at CHS. Tyson is always positive, kind, and willing to help others. He is well respected by staff and peers. Tyson exemplifies great pride by being actively involved in sports and other extracurricular activities. He holds many different leadership positions and continues to seek out leadership roles that will make an impact here at CHS. While being involved in multiple different activities, Tyson still maintains a 4.0 GPA. I admire his drive and passion to lead and determination to make a difference.

De'Leon Fowler: Nominated by Shelley Clouser

De'Leon has demonstrated kindness, respect, pride, and grit at Crawfordsville High School. As a junior, he is currently mentoring a freshman student who is going

through a rough time. Before school this morning, I heard De tell this student that he IS a good kid and IS capable of making good choices. De told him that after something bad happens he has a choice to make. "If you get knocked down, you either stay down. Or you get back up and try again. Choose the right path." De said he did not always choose the right path in his past, but he is doing so now. His kind words and actions will have a positive impact on this young man's life.

Henry Bannon: Nominated by Craig Carrell

Henry does an excellent job demonstrating the Athenian Way. Henry is a model student who takes great pride in his work. He frequently collaborates with other students to help them be successful in the classroom. Henry shows GRIT in and out of the classroom. He's a pleasure to have in class!

Caedence Brown: Nominated by Craig Carrell

Caedence Brown is an outstanding student who exemplifies all the qualities that constitute "The Athenian Way". She is a role model in Algebra 2 class. She is willing to collaborate with other students to help them. She always has a can-do attitude. Caedence shows Pride in her work, she is respectful in class, and shows GRIT by helping other students.

The staff award winner received two nominations.

Jenny Sims: Nominated by Molly Whitecotton

I nominate Jenny Sims for an Athenian Way award because everything she does is done with Athenian pride. She has been a



delightful addition to our Athenian family and is one of those people who is ALL IN. She is super involved with our students both during and after school and you rarely see her without her camera - snapping photos and capturing moments. Jenny has a huge heart for all students and staff. If she has a concern about a student she communicates with the staff to get more input and find a solution. Last week she went out of her way to share some impressive writing that my ELL students had turned in to her. Jenny has also offered her support, wisdom, chocolate and headphones to me during WIDA testing and data entry. She is an amazing team player and I am blessed to be her coworker!

Jenny Sims: Nominated by Kelli Bowling

Jenny Sims demonstrates the Athenian Way every day teaching at CHS. When she joined the staff last year, she immediately found her place in the CHS family and began to bleed the blue and gold. She goes the extra mile for her students and for her colleagues in countless ways. Mrs. Sims is a master teacher who brings a wealth of experience and ideas to CHS, and her mind is always thinking of ways to make her classroom, the yearbook, and our entire school better. Her encouraging words and joyful laughter brighten our English department every day, but her students reap the greatest benefits. Mrs. Sims truly has a heart for her students: she continually thinks about and advocates for their academic, social, and emotional success inside and outside of the classroom.

All fall sports banquet honors student athletes

This fall the Crawfordsville High School athletic department tried something new following the fall season to celebrate the athletic and academic achievements of all fall athletes and teams. Following the completion of all fall sports, the athletic department hosted all fall sports athletes and their families for the sports for one large banquet instead of individual team banquets. The new event was a success with great feedback from CHS families.

“The fall athletic sports awards night went very well. We received a lot of positive comments from parents, coaches, and student athletes. There are a few things we will tweak in the future, but overall it was received very well. The student athletes were excited to be recognized in front of their peers and for our families to hear about the successes of our teams and student athletes during the fall season,” Athletic Directory Bryce Barton said.

Following a short dessert reception, Barton opened the program in the CHS Auditorium congratulating athletes on a job well done. Barton announced the first-time letter winners by sport with each head coach handing out awards.

First-Time Letter winners

Girls Golf- Emery Allen & Madisyn Posthauer

Boys Tennis-Henry Bannon & Travis Walton

Girls Cross Country- Li Li Yeung, Soren Olofson

Boys Cross Country-Jantzen Thayer, Josh Inskip, Zion Zacarias, Alex Sanchez

Boys Soccer-Evan Tyler, David Munoz, Armando Munoz-Gutierrez, Dio Freeze, Eduardo Cesar Hernandez,

Girls Soccer- Scarlet Martinez, Zari Freeze, Laila Torres

Volleyball- Reese Price,

Claire Peacock, Alayna Hall, Andrew McCoy

Football- Xander Blackford, Reese Busenbark, Diego Castillo, Ryder Cummings, Konner Ellsbury, Landon Gerold, Jaden Leap, Jacob Lee, Wyatt Million, Jason Minnette, Miguel Miranda, Maddox Ronco, Rylee Thornburg, Brasen Walters, Mgrs- Cassidy Richmond, Owen Tomamichel, Ella Foster, Kianna Mullins, Martina Starcher

Following letter winners were the conference and sectional championship teams.

Conference/Sectional Championship Patches

Boys Soccer-Evan Tyler, David Munoz, Armando Munoz-Gutierrez, Dio Freeze, Eduardo Cesar Hernandez, Alec Saidian, Matt Miller, Jayden Callejas, Jazy Gil Herrera, Cooper Murray, Andrew Hurt, Patrick Corado, Manuel Olvera, Colten Custer, Taiga Koyanagi, Max Brumett, Juan Sanchez, Kevin Puerto Chirinos, Drew Griggs,

Boys Cross Country- Ryan Miller, Hutton Haas, Max Brumett, Jantzen Thayer, Tyson Fuller, Cole Capper, Colten Custer

Boys Tennis- James Murphy, Wyatt Motz, Rowan Gambrel, Nolan Watt, Jude Hutchison, Jude Coursey, Thomas Bowling, Henry Bannon

Following the team patches, each head coach took the podium to give a quick season summary and announce the team's Mental Attitude winner.

Mental Attitude Winners

Girls Golf- Gabby Warren

Boys Tennis- Henry Bannon

Girls Cross Country-Gabby Warren

Boys Cross Country-Cole Capper

Boys Soccer-Andrew Hurt

Girls Soccer-Emily Weliver



Volleyball- Ellie Walker
Football - Kaden Patton
Barton resumed recognition announcements for all conference awards.

First & Second Team All Conference Players

Girls Golf- Emory Allen
1st, Carli Payne- 2nd

Boys Tennis- James Murphy, Wyatt Motz, Rowan Gambrel-1st, Jude & Jude
2nd Team

Girls Cross Country- Remy Swinford & Skylah Strawser
2nd

Boys Cross Country- Ryan Miller, Hutton Haas, Max Brumett, Jantzen Thayer-1st, Tyson Fuller- 2nd

Boys Soccer- Manuel Olvera, Alec Saidian, Kevin Puerto Chirinos, Jazy Gil Herrera- 1st
Patrick Corado, Matt Miller, Jayden Callejas, David Estrada Munoz

Girls Soccer- Riley Gardner, Caroline Novak, Zoe Corbin-1st Team, Taylor Abston, Emily Weliver, Zari Freeze- 2nd Team

Volleyball- Devan Johnson & Claire Peacock-2nd Team
Football- Kaden Patton & Ethan McLemore-1st Team, Daniel Surface & Jacob Russell-2nd Team

To finish out the awards, Barton announced the Academic All-State honors.

Academic All-State & Honorable Mentions

Girls Golf- Gabby Warren
Honorable Mention

Volleyball- Sam Rohr & Kaydence Brost- Gold Academic All State

Boys Tennis- Thomas Bowling - Academic All-State

Boys Soccer- Patrick Corado, Andrew Griggs, Max Brumett



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball teams who were victorious following Saturday's tournaments against Southmont and North Montgomery making them county champions! Congratulations to all players and coaches. Both teams brought back the new traveling trophies to display at CMS.



Coin Wars in honor of Mrs. Saunders

In November Hose students and families came together to compete in Coin Wars to see who could bring in the most change and money as a friendly competition to raise money for lung cancer research.

November is lung cancer awareness month the Hose social committee came up with the idea of Coin Wars to honor Hose's former school administrative assistant Carrie Saunders. Teams worked together to collect the most coins and earn a prize of extra recess. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of our community. Together our Hose students brought in \$1,362.94. Money will be donated to lung cancer research in honor of Mrs. Saunders. The top classroom team was Mrs. Chaney, Mrs. Wheeler, and Ms. Paxton.



Students decorate Hoover

Hoover Elementary students in the Caring Hearts club helped decorate the Christmas tree after school recently. This year's tree has a blue and gold Athenian theme.



Dance teams are off to a great start for 2023-24 season

The Crawfordsville Dance teams have begun their competition season and are having great success! In November, both the CES Diamond Elite and CMS Startlettes were the Regional Champions at the Dance Team Union Regional Competition in Louisville.

At the Crawfordsville Dance Team Invitational, which took place at CHS, the Athenians hosted 34 competing teams and a total of 127 performances. The CMS Starlettes received 1st place in both Hip Hop and Jazz.

Most recently at Marian High School in Mishawaka, the

CMS Starlettes were 1st place in JHA Jazz and the CHS Blue Illusions won 1st in A Hip Hop.

The CHS Blue Illusions has also qualified to represent CHS at the national dance team championship in the Spirit Showdown in Orlando. Coach Haas said that hundreds of teams attempt for the opportunity, but only the top 25 teams will face off at the national competition in February.

The Blue Illusions will debut the national's routine during halftime of Friday's basketball game against North Montgomery



Fine Arts Night at Willson Preschool showcases student work



Willson Preschool recently had their Fine Arts Night to invite families to the school and share their musical talents, creative artwork, and enjoy some special guests. Students performed a musical piece in each classroom and artwork was on display all throughout the building. Santa even came to visit with students and pass out books.