

Crown Point Community School Corporation

we are CP

Volume 3, Issue 2
February 2024

COMPOSING EXCELLENCE

**CPCSC Music Programs
Take Center Stage**

**Leap into
Kindergarten!**

**ENROLLMENT
BEGINS FEB. 29**

**CPHS Intern Program
Includes 280+ Students**

Crown Point Community School Corporation is thrilled to welcome the future class of 2037! If your child will be five years old before August 1, 2024, and you live in the district boundaries, we invite you to enroll for kindergarten on February 29th. More information is available on our website at www.cps.k12.in.us/kindergarten.

1. Prepare documents

To enroll, you must live in the district and 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

2. Enroll at your school

In-person enrollment will take place at your child's future elementary school on **February 29, 2024 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

- Bring the required documents from Step 1 with you.
- We encourage families to enroll in-person to ensure that all your documents are properly submitted.
- You can fill out the enrollment form at your school OR you can fill out the enrollment form online before you visit. The form will be available online beginning February 26.
- If you are not able to attend February 29, you should call your school to schedule an appointment OR complete the enrollment online February 26 - March 8 and upload the required documents.

LEAP into kindergarten!



Scan me

Not sure which school you will attend? Be sure to check our kindergarten website with a link to our address tool.



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.

4. Before School Starts

Final registration for kindergarten will be in late July. This is an annual process you will complete every summer before the new 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. Each school will also hold an open house in August to meet your teacher and take a tour. Watch your school's social media and website for dates.

On August 13, you and your kindergartener can take a practice ride on the school bus, which will go to and from the bus stop and school. See our kindergarten website for more information.



Kindergarten Readiness

CPCSC offers kindergarten readiness opportunities for children who live in the district boundaries. "Imaginarium" and "Learn Through Play" programs incorporate the Indiana Early Learning Standards to help prepare our youngest learners for kindergarten. Caregivers participate alongside their children during these programs and learn how to continue the learning at home. Please visit cps.k12.in.us/bts or call the Early Learning Center at 219-663-4330 for more information.

If you would like more information about how you can help prepare your child for kindergarten, visit our website or scan the QR code to the left. The Welcome Packet for families includes information about literacy, math and social skills, and how you can help your child at home.





Elementary music teachers play an important role in shaping a child’s musical interests and talents. Across Crown Point Schools, seven dedicated elementary music teachers each bring their unique passions and teaching styles to their classrooms. While teachers begin with a shared foundational curriculum, their personal interests help grow students’ abilities to understand, appreciate, and develop connections to music. No matter which elementary building you might visit, CPCSC music classrooms are full of laughter, movement, music making, and singing.

Krista Woodhull - Lake Street

Miss Woodhull makes her classroom a special place by bridging classical with contemporary. “I love talking about composers of all kinds,” she explained, “but the ones that I talk about the most are those the kids have heard before but maybe don’t know the name of the composer or what they look like.” Woodhull includes composers like John Williams (*Star Wars*, *Harry Potter*, and *Jurassic Park*) and Lin Manuel Miranda (*Moana*, *Encanto*, and *Vivo*.) Older students at Lake Street complete a project where they use musical instruments alongside silenced movie clips to create their own soundtracks. “They can totally change the whole emotion of the scene with their music,” said Woodhull. “We talk about how movies would be



7 melodies, one SYMPHONY

Elementary music teachers each bring unique talents and interests to their classes

different if there was no music in the background.” Students often ask about composers for other movies or TV shows they love, which creates a foundation to learn about classical composers like Tchaikovsky and Beethoven.

Kelly Walton - Timothy Ball

At Timothy Ball Elementary, Mrs. Walton transforms music performances into interactive experiences, blurring the lines between the stage and the audience. Emphasizing that music is meant to be shared, Walton incorporates singing, dancing, and audience participation in what she calls INFORMances. “Our programs are more like everyone having a giant music class together,” she shared. “The grade level giving the performance demonstrates the activity they are learning, then the audience gets to do it with them.” By inviting guests to participate, Walton fosters a sense of community, promoting that music is a common experience, not just a performance. “I think this involves parents in a different way with their child. It gets people out of their comfort zones and makes a fun talking point at family gatherings.”



Jennifer Myers - Jerry Ross

At Jerry Ross Elementary, Mrs. Myers loves teaching what might be parents’ least favorite topic: the recorder. She admits it’s an unexpected passion. “Recorders get a bad rap for having a not so pleasing sound,” she said. “But when everyone is playing them gently, with correct finger placements, notes, rhythms, and articulation of each note, the sound can be impressive considering the typical recorder sound most people associate with.” For most of the students, this is their first experience playing a musical instrument with the goal of playing melodies. It’s typically the first time most of them try to become better musicians, tackling harder pieces as they learn and grow. Myers uses a program called Recorder Karate which provides background music to go along with the songs the students learn. By the end of the program, students play their most difficult piece, “When the Saints Go Marching In.” “It’s awesome when the students accomplish that one,” Myers said.

Laurie Heridia - Solon Robinson

Mrs. Heridia works hard to create an inclusive classroom environment at Solon Robinson Elementary. “I’ve been intentional this year about incorporating silent movement at the start of each lesson for all grades,” she said. “Some of our students with sensory struggles are able to have a quiet time to focus on moving their bodies within their own space.” This practice sets the environment for the rest of class. All Solon students also learn a song in honor of Disability Awareness Month every March. Students learn to sing it through both vocalization and sign language. Several grade levels include this song in their Spring performances. Heridia recognizes that music can be a tool for students to shine and find a temporary reprieve from academics in an environment that celebrates differences.

Brooke Robinson - Eisenhower

Mrs. Robinson at Eisenhower Elementary teaches an immersive ballet unit tied to the third-grade's field trip to The Nutcracker. To help students understand the athleticism of the performers and the strict specifications of dance matched to the music, students try some of the moves themselves, including their own 360 jumps. Students begin to understand how acting involves not just the voice, but the body. "We learn about the dedication of the dancers, directors, and technical staff - how their work must be precise, timely, and consistent," said Robinson. "We listen and identify points in the music where we hear certain effects created by the composer: the Mouse King's heartbeat, the first snowflakes falling from the clouds, toy soldiers marching into the living room of Clara's house, and more." To wrap up the unit, students discuss how the skills and training to coordinate a successful ballet performance carry into many other areas of life.



Christine Santaguida - MacArthur

At MacArthur Elementary, Mrs. Santaguida creates a moving tribute at the school's Veterans Day program. Incorporating various music genres, the program honors veterans while also sharing military history. This year's performance included Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops with a flag ceremony, which was a

suggestion from a student. "It's fun having a front row seat as our students take ownership of their programs," Santaguida said. At the end of the program, students celebrated visiting veterans by creating an honor tunnel. Veterans

were invited to walk through the tunnel as students thanked them and waved red, white, and blue streamers. "My favorite moment was when a 90 year old great-grandfather was wheeled through the honor tunnel," said Santaguida. "Students were saying things like 'Thank you for your service!' and 'We love you!'"

Alex Drakulich - Winfield

Mr. Drakulich at Winfield Elementary introduces a unique twist to traditional music instruction. In the second half of class, he teaches an "artist of the month," delving into the history and impact of famous musicians like Dolly Parton, Fleetwood Mac, and more. Students watch a video about the artist, and Drakulich teaches basic history about the musician or group. The class discusses how a particular song might reflect something from the artist's life or time period. When students study Creedence Clearwater Revival, they learn to sing the song Fortunate Son and practice

Left: Mr. Drakulich plays the guitar in class while students sing along with Fleetwood Mac. **Below:** CPCSC elementary music teachers attend a training at Anderson University. Top right clockwise: Alex Drakulich, Christine Santaguida, Krista Woodhull, Jennifer Meyers, Kelly Walton, Laurie Heridia, Brooke Robinson.



keeping a beat on drums. When they learn about Tina Turner and her song Proud Mary, they have a dance along. Other Winfield teachers bring the artist of the month to their classrooms by playing music during work time

or transitions in class. "I like that learning about these artists creates community," he said. "Not just here in our school, but at home for families. Students can often connect with their parents in a shared music experience."

GUESS the music teacher

CPCSC music teachers are talented! Try to match each musical fun fact below with the right person. Which CPCSC elementary music teacher...

- 1** ...can play the organ?
- 2** ...performed in an opera?
- 3** ...is an active professional trumpet player who performs with the South Shore Brass Band and plays Taps at CP monuments/cemeteries every Memorial Day?
- 4** ...was the lead singer in the local cover band named "Eaten Alive" for more than 10 years?

- 5** ...spent two weeks in Austria performing with a college choir at the palace and cathedrals where Hadyn once wrote and played music?
- 6** ...teaches guitar lessons and performs in gigs?
- 7** ...recently performed as Mrs Fezziwig in a community theater production of "Scrooge, The Musical"?

Answers: 1. Mrs. Heridia 2. Mrs. Robinson 3. Mrs. Walton 4. Mrs. Meyers 5. Miss Woodhull 6. Mr. Drakulich 7. Mrs. Santaguida



SUPPORT STAFF OPEN INTERVIEWS

Open interviews for support positions are held the second Thursday of each month from 9 am -2 pm at the Crown Point Schools Administration Center, 1050 S. Main St, Crown Point.

Careers include paraprofessionals, custodians, food service staff, bus drivers, and substitutes.

Interested applicants should bring a resume to their interview. You can apply now or learn more by visiting www.cps.k12.in.us/careers.

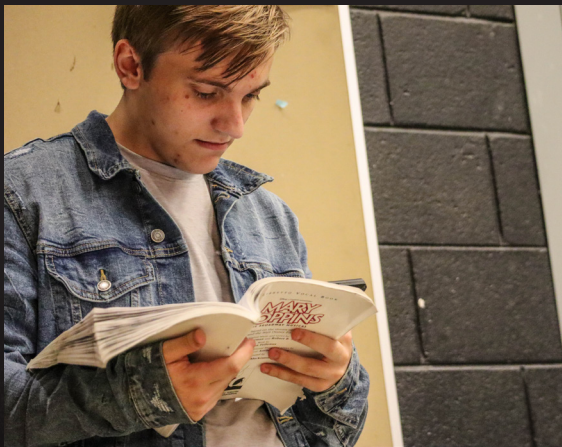


DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 6,600 students ride a CPCSC school bus each day.
- CPCSC provides paid CDL training and reimburses the cost of the CDL test for all bus drivers.
- The CPCSC Department of Food Services provides more than 6,000 student meals every day.
- The most popular lunch choice among students? Pizza - more than 181,000 slices are served each year!



Scan me
Check out more support department facts in our new video series Did You Know?



4401
tickets sold

250
light cues



194
sub sandwiches

149
students



140+
hours of group rehearsals

from auditions to APPLAUSE

What does it take to create a successful musical? Go behind the scenes with these stats from CPHS Theatre's production of Mary Poppins.

87+
costume hours

58+
pit hours

30
chimney sweep brooms

5
collapsible prop cakes

1
parrot umbrella



BEYOND the books

CPHS internship program provides workplace
experience for more than 280 students

How many high school seniors do you know who have assisted with autopsies or flown planes? Thanks to Crown Point High School's internship program, more than 280 senior students are receiving on-the-job training in their own community through local businesses and nonprofit organizations.

This year marks the largest number of participants among both students and businesses, according to CPHS intern coordinator Ginny Zega. "We try to make sure every student has a meaningful experience that is worthy of a career pathway, that this is not just another job that they could have had after school," Zega said. "If a student is in a culinary placement, they should be working alongside management or taking on actual culinary duties."

Although there are a wide range of career interests, internship opportunities in the medical, education, business/law, and culinary sectors account for more than half of the placements among students. Forensic science, marine biology, and meteorology are a few of the more uncommon interests. Because there are so many students and hosts to coordinate, placements begin as early as January of a student's junior year.

Operation Charlie Bravo

Aiden Stankiewicz is an intern at Operation Charlie Bravo (OCB), a non-profit organization that supports veterans with their goal to lower suicide rates and prevent homelessness among vets. The organization has multiple programs such as Hot Rod Therapy where veterans work on repairing and building vehicles or motorcycles. Stankiewicz's main task is to assist the organization's director Jason Zaideman in the organization of the shop. He has also learned skills related to basic vehicle repairs, welding, fabrication, and replacing engine mounts and rear brake rotors. "The thing I like most about my job is the camaraderie of the shop, everyone is always willing to help each other out and give solid advice," said Stankiewicz.

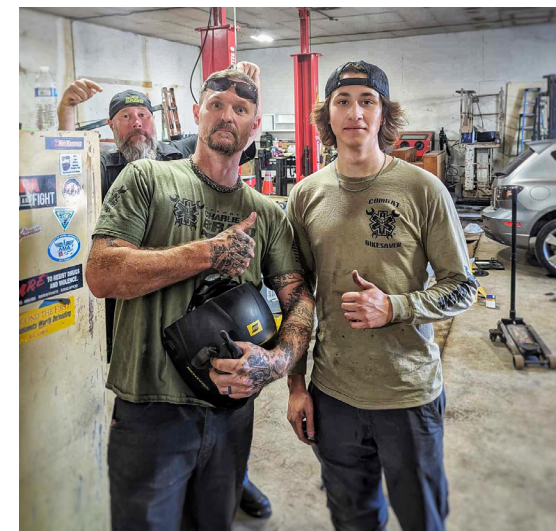
OCB has hosted CPHS student interns since 2018. Zaideman works with each intern to craft their experience based on their particular career interests. "If they're interested in marketing or retail or business management or customer service or mechanical skills or a list of many other skilled jobs, we probably have an area they can learn in," he said. As a disabled veteran himself and a former US Army Combat Engineer, Zaideman says hosting a student is a win-win. While the student is learning new skills, it also gives veterans an opportunity to pass down knowledge and skills to a younger generation, to be appreciated and have someone learn from them.

Stankiewicz's learning experience has been more significant than just mechanics. "I've always believed in supporting our veterans, but my internship has shown me how important it is to support veterans more and the struggles they go through," he said.

"I have more empathy towards their experiences now that I've heard their first-hand perspectives. After hearing about why some of the veterans came to OCB, I realize how important it is to have programs available to support veterans in dark times, as these programs are quite literally life-saving for them."

Lake County Coroner's Office

Reese Jones might be the only CPHS student to earn a "Congrats on surviving your first five autopsies" certificate. As an intern at the Lake County Coroner's Office, Jones does on-site visits, helps answer phones, completes



Top right: Jason Zaideman poses with senior Aiden Stankiewicz at OCB.

Bottom right: Aiden working at the OCB shop.
Opposite page: Senior Emily Jen poses next to an aircraft at the Griffith Airport.

paperwork, and yes, assists with autopsies. “It’s time consuming,” said Jones, “but it helps bring closure to families. I have learned how much this job impacts the community and how important it is for society. There is a lot that goes into the job of working at the coroner’s office that people do not know about. I truly believe that everyone who works there deserves more recognition.”

Griffith Aviation

Emily Jen is at Griffith Airport for her internship. Since she hopes to be a professional pilot, it’s a perfect fit. “I am learning how to fly and I’m working on earning all my pilot ratings,” she said. “I am really excited to pursue a career in aviation.” While at the airport, Jen is also learning to be a maintenance tech, attending the College of Aviation Maintenance.

Crown Point Fire and Rescue

The Crown Point Fire Department began hosting interns to promote vocational training and increase exposure of their department for high school students. “This program gives us an opportunity to open our doors to future firefighters,” said CP Fire Chief Mark Baumgardner. “It has given us a pipeline to bring in young adults.” As a result, the department has hired four former interns as full-time firefighters.

Each intern is assigned a mentor and they are treated like a new employee, going through the normal onboarding process and safety training. They are assigned to a shift for the remainder of the semester and ride along on all emergency calls with their mentor. “As time, training, and experience start to build, and at the discretion of their mentor, the intern will become more involved in department trainings and daily operations,” Baumgardner said.

Teagan Janson is a current intern with the department who has participated in training opportunities and accompanied fire trucks on calls. “This experience has been challenging yet rewarding and taught me a lot about firefighters’ safety measures when responding to real-life situations,” he said. “The Crown Point Fire and Rescue team has been supportive and helpful throughout my internship.” Janson plans to continue his postsecondary education to become an EMT.

Top: Reese Jones shows off a “Congrats on surviving your first five autopsies” certificate at the coroner’s office. Bottom: Teagan Janson at the CP Fire Department. Photos for this article were generously provided by the host organizations.



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 2023, we awarded more than \$21,100 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 2024 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

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. 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 www.cps.k12.in.us/preschool



a soundtrack for SUCCESS

It was an exciting opening for the new auditorium at Colonel Wheeler Middle School this fall. In addition to band and choir concerts, more than 70 students participated in the musical “The Lion King Jr.”

Director and choir instructor Stephen Dean said he wanted to open the auditorium with a bigger production, especially since the school hasn’t performed a musical since 2019. “The Lion King is a big show with a very recognizable title for students, parents, and the community. I thought we’d have the talent to fit the demands of the show - and I wanted to push the expectation. I think we accomplished that.”

The list of technical skills students work on during a musical is long: performing music, dancing, dialogue, stage movements, costume changes, cues, and more. Dean often tells students their brains are “super human” with all of the tasks they’re doing at once. However, one of the more important skills, especially for middle school students, is learning to work together as a team to make a show come to life. 6th grade student Selena Gomez performed as part of the ensemble. “I learned how to work together as part of a whole,” she said. “Being a part of the ensemble was great to come together as a group.”

The Colonel Wheeler Art Club, under the guidance of Jennifer Pineda, helped with sets and props for the production including painting set pieces and constructing dozens of theatrical masks and costume pieces. “Having the Art Club collaborate and provide some extra hands in mass producing the huge amount of props we needed was fantastic!” Dean said.

Below: Col. Wheeler MS students perform the classic song “Circle of Life” from *The Lion King Jr.* **Right:** Alexandria Kidd, London Stinson and Elizabeth Morawska paint a tree that will be part of the set for *The Lion King*. **Far right:** Sullivan Jamison stars as Simba in the Col. Wheeler MS production of *The Lion King Jr.*



Teacher of the Year

Nominations
open through
March 1st



Crown Point Community School Corporation is accepting nominations for the Teacher of the Year, Administrator of the Year, and Employee of the Year who will serve during the 2024-2025 school year. Nominations are open through March 1, 2024.

Students, former students, parents, colleagues, administrators, or members of the community may nominate a CPCSC teacher, administrator, and/or support employee. There is no limit to the number of nominations per person, but you must complete a separate nomination form for each nominee.

Winners are announced in May. Visit www.cps.k12.in.us/teacheroftheyear for more information or to submit a nomination.



Nominate a
teacher, support
professional, or
administrator!



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

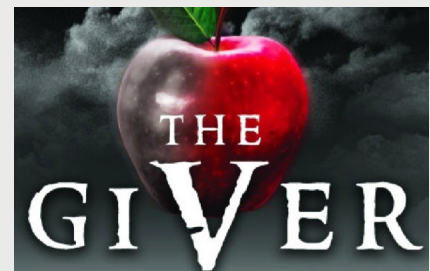
1050 S. Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

save the DATE

Please check your school's website, social media, or newsletters for more information about each item below.

- **February 29** - Kindergarten enrollment at all elementary schools (see p. 2)
- **March 1** - Teacher of the Year nominations due (see p. 15).
- **March 25-29** - Spring Break
- **May 6-10** - Teacher and Educator Appreciation Week
- **June 4** - CPHS Graduation (rain date June 5)

On the cover: CPHS students Ethan Ogrentz and Ella Moon play Bert and Mary in the Crown Point High School production of *Mary Poppins*.



March 8, 9, 15, 16 at 7 p.m.
March 10 & 17 at 2 p.m.

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

