



# Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

## The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
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May 7, 2024

## Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve

### *Each CCSC student participates in service project this year*

Each of the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation schools have been busy all year working hard in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, and new this school year, fulfilling the “Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve” motto, by each student completing a service project to better serve their community and those around them.

Service projects include blood drives, canned food drives, fundraisers benefiting local families, supporting the Animal Welfare League, donating to the local hospital, and much more!

To help document the corporation-wide service success, the Digital Art students at Crawfordsville Middle School compiled a slideshow to feature each school building’s hard work throughout the year serving the community and beyond. The Digital Art students, led by Mrs. Vellner, will present the slideshow to the school board on Tuesday, May 7.

The following is a list of completed service projects at each school.

**Willson Preschool Academy:** Valentines Day Cards for Nursing Homes

**Hose Elementary:** Holiday Cards For Deployed Service Members and Created Holiday Banners For The Nursing Homes

**Nicholson Elementary:** Movie Night Fundraiser for Carrie Saunders, a Food Drive for FISH, and Care Packages for soldiers

**Hoover Elementary:** School Grounds clean up, a Red Ribbon Week Food Drive, a Donation to Riley Hospital, a Blood drive and cards for Wellbrook

**Crawfordsville Middle School:** Comfort Cart Coin Collection Supporting our local hospital, a Pantry Donation To FISH Food, Kiss-A-Llama Money and Items Donation to AWL, Crazy Teacher Dress Up for CMS Teacher Grants, Bottle Cap Collection for Memorial Benches for Mental Health Awareness, and Pop Tabs Collection for Riley Hospital



McKenzie Mulvey, left, and Rinoa Kuchler work on the slide presentation highlighting CCSC's service projects to be presented at the upcoming school board meeting.



Hoover students tidy up the playground sidewalks as one of their projects.

#### **Crawfordsville High School:**

9th Grade made Appreciation Notes To Service Members, 10th Grade did a AWL Fundraiser, 11th Grade Visited a Nursing Home (Jazz band and bird feeders), and 12th Grade will do a School Grounds Clean-up



The CHS junior class visited Wellbrook and Whitlock House assembling and placing bird feeders on windows around the facilities for residents.





## Concert Band makes history

On April 13th, the CHS Concert Band traveled to Lafayette Jefferson to perform as part of the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) Organizational contest. At the contest, the CHS Band received not only a Gold Rating, they also received a With Distinction Award that is given to bands that score within six points

of perfect. The CHS Band also received a perfect score in sight reading.

Achieving a Gold rating also checked the final box for the ISSMA All-Music Award.

This is the first time that CHS has achieved a With Distinction award or the ISSMA All-Music award in CHS history!



## Whit Horton, a regional IASP Academic All-Star

Indianapolis – Now in its 38th year, 40 high school seniors from throughout Indiana have been named 2024 Indiana Academic All-Stars, a program of the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP). In addition, 50 other students were recognized as Academic All-Star Regional Honorees. The students were selected from a field of 281 outstanding nominees from the state's private and public accredited schools.

CHS senior Whit Horton received the IASP Indiana Academic All-Star Regional Award.

Academic All-Star distinction recognizes seniors who excel in the classroom first and foremost, but who also are actively involved in their schools and communities, and take on leadership roles in those activities. The program is produced by the Indiana Association of School Principals, and sponsored by Purdue University. Additional support is provided by Inter-State Studio.

The IASP Indiana Academic All-Stars program salutes academic excellence in the same manner that student athletes traditionally are honored. By providing a showcase for academically talented seniors, the sponsoring organizations hope to accomplish the following objectives:

- Give academic achievement the prestige it deserves;
- Motivate students to recognize the value of academic excellence;
- Provide students with an incentive for academic achievement, and
- Promote a positive image of Indiana's young people.

Each public and private high school accredited by the Indiana Department of Education may nominate one senior for consideration as an Indiana Academic All-Star. From these nominees, a selection committee chose the Regional winners (representing five regions in Indiana) and the 40 Indiana Academic All-Stars. Selection of the school's nominee is based upon the following considerations:

- Student transcript, with a focus on Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, International Baccalaureate, and Advanced College Placement classes taken/grades received.
- Academic achievements and honors, academic courses and academic extracurricular activities.
- Other extracurricular activities, community service and leadership qualities.



## Hoover named Family Friendly School

Hoover Elementary has once again been designated as a 2024-25 Family Friendly School through their efforts to engage families, students, staff, and leadership within the school.

As stated in the congratulatory letter, Hoover's commitment to fostering strong family-school partnership is truly commendable, playing a vital role in promoting student success.

This designation highlights that prioritizing family engagement enriches both the educational experience and strengthens the community as a whole.

The Indiana Department of Education presented Hoover with the certificate shown above with the designation of "Progressing."

Congratulations to Hoover Elementary staff, students, and families!





Bring Change 2 Mind Club attended a Meetup recently to learn about mental health from a panel of professional athletes. **Top left photo** includes club member attendees, Back Row, left to right: Jordan Chandler (Club Advisor), Katherine Novak, Melanie Dowd, Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert, Maesa Horton, Remy Swinford, Na'arah Byard. Front row, left to right: Landon Gerold, Tyson Fuller, Jacob Lee, Campbell Mason, Whit Horton, Thomas Bowling, Chet Kincaid (kneeling). **Top right:** Remy Swinford, left, and Melanie Dowd have a chance to meet a therapy dog. **Right:** The seven boys pose for a picture with the Indianapolis Colts trophy.



## CHS club attends meetup with professional athletes

On April 24th, the CHS Bring Change 2 Mind Club was able to take 13 students to the Indiana Farm Bureau Football Center for a Club Meetup in collaboration with USA Swimming and The Indianapolis Colts. The students had the opportunity to listen to a panel of three professional athletes discuss topics related to mental health and how they have overcome those challenges. The panel included 2x Olympian Lilly King from Team USA, Olympian Ashley Twichell Wall from Team USA, and Cornerback Kenny Moore II from the Indianapolis Colts. The panel also included Kalen Jackson who is Vice Chair & Owner of the Indianapolis Colts.

After the discussion, students participated in multiple activities related to mental health. Maesa Horton, a sophomore at CHS, expressed that her main take away from the event was “sustaining good mental health is just as good for you and important for your body as physical health, if not more. It is hard to perform at your best when you are carrying a lot of emotional and mental problems along with you. I took away from the discussion that especially as an athlete it is OK to have “off days” or days when you just need a break. You don’t have to “tough it out” because in the long run toughing it out is much worse for you. It is also good to remember that it

is okay to talk to people about what you are feeling, and know that you are not alone.”

Campbell Mason, a senior at CHS, expressed that he had many takeaways from the conversations that will help him better facilitate mental health conversations in his community. “The first lesson learned was from the panelist who provided specific and helpful examples on every topic ranging from mental health on social media to the conversation about mental health in sports. Another important thing that I learned was new mental health activities from the activity fair. I learned about service dogs, calming arts and crafts, and the power of positive affirmations. Overall, it was a great learning

experience.”

Other students who attended were Thomas Bowling, Na’arah Byard, Melanie Dowd, Tyson Fuller, Landon Gerold, Whit Horton, Chet Kincaid, Jacob Lee, Katherine Novak, Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert, and Remy Swinford.

The Bring Change 2 Mind Club is a student-led High School Program to help increase awareness and education while empowering youth to be leaders of this movement and end stigma around mental health. This is a national club with 520 high school clubs throughout 40 states. BC2M’s mission is to end the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness. This is the first year for BC2M Club at CHS.





# New members inducted to National Honor Society

On April 24, the new members of the National Honor Society were inducted to the Crawfordsville High School chapter.

National Honor Society is a prestigious organization and has been the true mark of student achievement for over 100 years. By empowering, championing, and recognizing well-rounded students, NHS provides schools with a values-based framework to elevate a culture of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

The following are the new inductees, Cimbria Bowling, Cristian Castilla, Devan Johnson, Ashlyn Harding, Chet

Kincaid, Briar Mills, Feliz Montero, Zoey Abbott, Ashley Callejas, Jayden Callejas, Colten Custer, Victoria Flores, Myca Garrett, Alayna Hall, Jessie Hartnett, Marie Hesler, Maesa Horton, Ian Hurt, Maximo Jacome-Huesca, Gianna Kochert Cosby, Aubrey Lowe, Cohen McClamroch, Adrian Medina, Caroline Melevage, Campbell Murray, Caroline Novak, Katherine Novak, Molly Pierce, Bristol Presley, Alfonso Riano, Isla Seward, Collin Simpson, Ally Strickland, Daniel Surface, Remy Swinford, Yuliana Torres, Andrew Turner, Dylan Wolcott, Ester Xotla, Lili Yeung



Officers of National Honor Society led the induction ceremony which was held at Crawfordsville High School. Pictured above are NHS

Officers, left to right, Jaycie Myers, Kristen Thompson, Emily Powell, Caedence Brown, Whit Horton, Tyson Fuller and Nivek Witt.

# Elementary students keep it rolling during P.E. classes



Hose students work on their roller skating skills during P.E.

As a part of the elementary physical education curriculum, all students had the opportunity to participate in one week of roller skating during their PE time with Mrs. Landrum, Mrs. Newman, and Mrs. Reese. Students learned basics of skating skills including skating safety, stopping themselves on skates, and of course getting their skates moving.

“I liked skating on the gym floor,’ kindergarten student Alaric Williams said, ‘I actually stayed on four wheels!’” Students enjoyed listening to upbeat music as they practiced. Many parents volunteered to help make this happen.

The parent volunteers were instrumental in making sure each student had their safety gear on and felt safe and confident on their skates.



# Way to go quarter three Athenian Way winners!

The newest Athenian Way awards for quarter three

**Mackenzie Siggins:** Nominated by Cole Wemer

Showing determination every day to do her best!

**Addison Steward:** Nominated by Cole Wemer

For always coming to class prepared and being a great overall student!

**Reagyn Frets:** Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger

Reagyn always has a good attitude. She tries so hard to help other students and mentor them. She is a positive influence on many kids.

**Allyson Grimes:** Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger

Allyson is always respectful and kind. She is always helping other kids in class. I truly enjoy her positive spirit!

**Scarlett Martinez Castellanos:** Nominated by Caleb Fenimore

Scarlett is terrific to have in class and willing to help out other students. A new student came into the class she is in and had trouble with the language. Scarlett stepped up right away to help with translating and also helping the other student get acclimated to the school. I had only asked for her help just to start out, but Scarlett continued to help her each and every day and moved to sit by the other student to be more available for questions if they arose! Scarlett shows how to live the Athenian Way each and every day!

**Sergio Manzanares Garcia:** Nominated by Jenny Veatch

Sergio is a trustworthy and responsible young man. He has done an amazing job bringing our messy, disorganized greenhouse back to life and takes great pride in his work. Teachers brought in plants last fall and Sergio (and two helpers) have worked hard over the winter watering the plants and feeding them nutrients. This is a daily task that he takes very seriously. Sergio also took it upon himself to clean up the entire greenhouse this past winter. Thank you for all your hard work!

**Emily Fullenwider:** Nominated by Renae Tebbe

Emily has been an amazing addition to CHS. She goes above and beyond everyday to help students and staff. Emily is always looking for new ways to improve CHS and it has been a privilege to get to know her. I look forward to working with you everyday.

**Braxton Smith:** Nominated by Tom Perkins

While taking CTE classes and holding down a job, Brax has become a force on the CHS golf team, and works hard every day go keep improving his game. As he's juggling the job and golf, he continues to excel academically his Senior year, showing sharp improvement during his time at CHS. Braxton will excel at whichever field he pursues after graduation. He's very deserving of this award.

**Na'arah Byard:** Nominated by Jordan Chandler

Na'arah is a great candidate for the Athenian Way award. Na'arah is always smiling and positive every time I see and interact with her. She shows kindness to others and is always willing to help and encourage her peers. She is very dedicated in everything she does and pushes herself to do her best. She has been a pleasure to coach in cheer and is always very respectful and works hard. She is a two-sport athlete, involved in multiple different clubs, and works a part-time job while still maintaining a high GPA.

**Na'arah Byard:** Nominated by Kelli Bowling

Na'arah exemplifies all of the characteristics of the Athenian Way! She is involved in numerous school activities and shows her Athenian pride in a positive way that represents our school well. She shows grit and a



strong work ethic as she balances rigorous coursework with a busy schedule. Most importantly, Na'arah shows respect and kindness toward students and teachers every day. She is the first to volunteer to take a topic that no one else wants and will do it with her characteristic smile! Na'arah puts her all into her assignments and projects, but what I appreciate most is that she cares about learning and growing as a student, not just making a good grade.

**Lilyanah McCollum:** Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger

Lily always has a positive spirit. She is kind and helps so many students. Lily is a wonderful peer mentor for Mrs. McDonald's class.

**Rebecca Bailey:** Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger

Rebecca is such a hard worker and so creative. She constantly tries to learn more about art. I enjoy her so much!

**Thomas Bowling:** Nominated by Brayden Montgomery

Thomas has gone above and beyond in AP Microeconomics this semester. He frequently goes out of his way to help others and has a positive attitude every day. In many ways, he is basically a second instructor in the room. Thomas models all characteristics of the Athenian Way and is incredibly deserving of this nomination.

**James Novak:** Nominated by Brayden Montgomery

James is a great choice for "The Athenian Way" because

of how passionate he is about learning. James is very involved with both his school work and extracurriculars. What makes James a great choice for this award though, is the pride he shows in his work and his willingness to help others frequently. In AP Microeconomics, he basically acts as another instructor in the room which is super helpful to me. I am proud to nominate James for "The Athenian Way."

**Jacob Lee:** Nominated by Craig Carrell

Jacob Lee experienced an extremely hard time with the passing of his dad. I am so proud of Jacob. During this tragedy, Jacob has truly shown "The Athenian Way." Everyday he walks the halls with a huge smile on his face. He has excelled in the classroom during this tough time. Jacob shows great pride in his math work, has a tremendous amount of respect, and has GRIT! Jacob Lee has earned "The Athenian Way!"

**Brenden Warren and Thomas Bowling:** Nominated by Brent Bokhart

Brenden and Thomas both stepped into some very large "shoes" to demonstrate great pride and school spirit for our schools and fellow Athenians. This has required being involved in activities across the corporation that are above and beyond expectations. Alexander the Athenian would be proud of Brenden and Thomas and their example set for the Athenian Way!

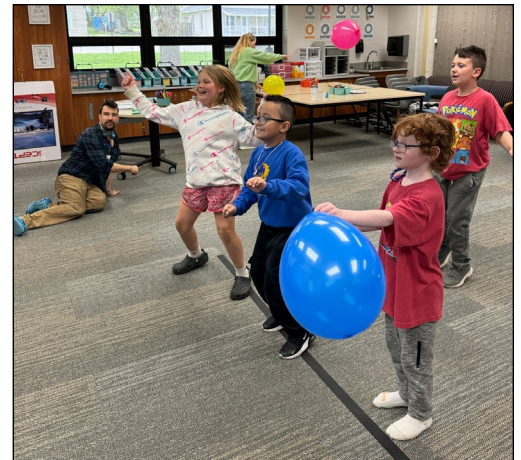
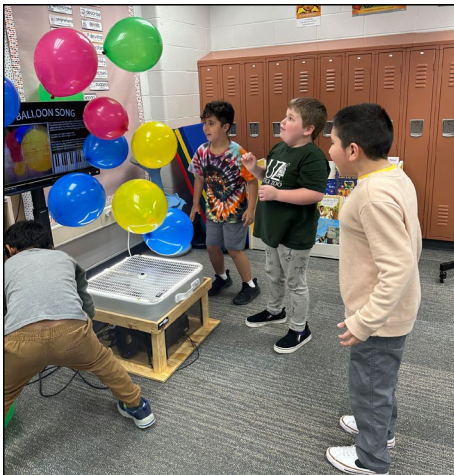




## Nicholson displays talents at Fine Arts

Nicholson Elementary students performed songs and showcased their artwork throughout the hallways at the school for fine arts night. Friends and family were welcomed to the school to see their child and classmates display what they have been working on all semester.

## Visiting Wabash artist brings interactive art to school



Mrs. Duell scheduled Owen Lowery, a visiting art professor at Wabash College to bring his interactive art series to Nicholson Elementary. The students had a blast exploring the unique and hands-on displays. Lowery focuses on creating art that is interactive for all learning styles. The community can visit his art, which is currently at the Carnegie Museum.





# CCSC board honored for excellence

The Crawfordsville Community School Corporation School Board has been recognized by the Indiana School Boards Association (ISBA) with an Exemplary Governance Award (EGA) for calendar year 2023 for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to professional learning and student success.

Dr. Rex Ryker stated, “Our board’s commitment to attending regional meetings and professional development opportunities ensures they are aware of current legislation, educational challenges, and exciting opportunities affecting our students, teachers, staff, and school community.”

The Exemplary Governance Awards (EGA) are conferred annually to school boards across four levels of distinction.

Board awards are based on points earned by each member for attending ISBA seminars, workshops, conferences, and other learning events, as well as the board’s completion of certain additional criteria, such as a retreat with an outside facilitator and goal setting to elevate student achievement



The CCSC School board was honored for its outstanding commitment to student success and professional learning. The group was recognized by the Indiana School Boards Association.

outcomes. Ryker added, “This award required each board member to engage in a set number of hours of professional development. Each of our board members has a career and family but still finds time to devote to our schools and to develop as a board member.”

This year, 105 school boards are receiving awards through the EGA program.

“On behalf of ISBA, I would like to commend this most exceptional group of school boards and school board members,” said ISBA Execu-

tive Director Terry Spradlin. “School boards perform a vital public service for their communities, and board members who actively participate in professional learning are better equipped to perform their duties effectively and meet the needs of their students.”

The honorees will be formally recognized during ISBA’s Spring Regional Meetings taking place across the state during the month of April.

In addition to the board-level awards, ISBA is presenting

individual EGA awards to 270 school board members.

ISBA provides a full range of professional learning opportunities at dozens of events throughout the year to inform and educate school board members about best practices, legislative issues, policy development, school law, and more.

For more information about ISBA’s EGA program requirements and to see the full list of individual and board award recipients for the 2023 award year, please visit <https://www.isba-ind.org/ega-awards.html>.

## Bus drivers wish students Happy Cinco de Mayo!

The CCSC transportation department had shirts made stating, “Nacho Average Bus Crew” and wished their student riders a Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Thank you to our transportation department for getting our students to and from school safely each day and having fun as a team while doing it!



# Nicholson wins \$1,000 grant through NFL Play 60

Congratulations to Nicholson Elementary on winning a \$1,000 grant for their participation in the NFL Play 60 Fitness Tracking Competition!

One school in each of the 32 National Football League (NFL) team hometowns has won a \$1,000 grant for physical activity equipment as a part of the American Heart Association and the NFL's NFL PLAY 60 Fitness Tracking Competition. The competition encouraged classrooms to get moving for at least 60 minutes every day and log their movement minutes through the NFL PLAY 60 app. Physical activity positively impacts overall mental and physical wellness which is essential to

help children reach their full potential.

The number of winning schools corresponds to the number of NFL franchise teams while Rosholt High



**American Heart Association.**



60 Draft Fitness Break broadcast which aired virtually in classrooms nationwide earlier today. The competition, held Jan. 22 to Feb. 9 in advance of Super Bowl LVIII, invited

PLAY 60 app avatars onscreen to complete exercises adding minutes to their classroom's total.

"At the American Heart Association, our future is all about improving yours," said American Heart Association Chief Executive Officer Nancy Brown. "The American Heart Association and the NFL have teamed up to inspire kids to get moving to support their overall wellness by pairing fun with health fundamentals to drive life-long wellness through NFL PLAY 60. As we enter the next century of work by the American Heart Association, we will continue to be laser focused to propel physical and mental health in children."

School in Rosholt, Wisconsin, representing the Green Bay Packers, was named the nationwide winner for logging the most physical activity minutes and received an additional \$1,000 grant. The names of the winners were announced during the annual NFL PLAY

NFL PLAY 60 app (free and available for iOS and Android devices) users to select an NFL team to compete under and use the Group Quickplay feature in the app's Teacher Dashboard to track a classroom's total activity minutes. To log minutes, participants followed NFL



Softball photo by Susan Ehrlich

Addison Hodges, pictured with officials, received one of the Dr. Todd Clark WIOA Scholarships for student athletes.

## Athenian athletes honored with scholarships

Congratulations to senior Addison Hodges who was awarded one of the Dr. Todd Clark WIOA Scholarships as an outstanding senior student athlete. Six scholarships are presented each year representing the nearly 30 schools in the Western Indiana Officials Association area.

Student athlete Gabby Warren received the Amy Hasbrook Leadership Award, which is awarded to just two female senior student athletes in the state of Indiana.



Warren

## Crawfordsville Athenians win County Chase contest

Crawfordsville High School has already sealed the victory for the Montgomery County Chase competition earning its second county chase cup within the last three years. This is the earliest the victory has been decided and are on pace to have the highest point total in the history of the Chase competition since it's start in the 2015-16 school year.

The Athenians currently sit at 51 points following the boys and girls county track meet. The record

point total is 52 points held by CHS when they won two years ago.

Two points are earned for a school each time they win over a county school, with the exception of baseball and softball which are one point since they compete twice each season.

In a county meet competition, a school could earn four points as county champion and two points for a second place finish.

The travel trophy will display at CHS



ing be on next year.





## Annual Hoover Carnival is again a fun success

Students and their families came out to support the Hoover Carnival sponsored by the Hoover Student Council. The gymnasium and various classrooms were filled with fun games, face painting, contests, and gift basket raffle opportunities. The student council was able to donate about \$1,500 from the proceeds.