Crown Point Community School Corporation

# we are (T)

Volume 4, Issue 1 July 2024

## LITERACY & LEARNING

Growing a community of 21st century readers

Back-To-School Information

Investing in Students
YOUR TAX DOLLARS IN ACTION

## forward MOMENTUM

The 2023-2024 school year was one with many adventures. At MacArthur Elementary, students showed me how kinetic energy transfers when toy cars collide, and Eisenhower Elementary students let me join them on a simulated space mission. I had lessons in auto body repair and healthcare from two high school interns. Timothy Ball Elementary fourth graders took to the high seas to teach me vocabulary and character development in Treasure Island. And our youngest learners from Bulldog Buddies Preschool shared their favorite musical instruments with me. No matter which school I visit, learning experiences like each of these are happening every day across classrooms in our district.

This year, we are wrapping up more than \$350 million in capital improvement projects. New classrooms and community spaces will ensure more opportunities for our 9,000 students, and as we begin the 2024-2025 school year, we can't wait for these spaces to come to life with new adventures. All of our elementary students will take STEM classes as part of their weekly related arts rotation. At Crown Point High School, a new Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) lab will provide vocational training and workplace credentials for our graduates.

As you read more about the accomplishments of our students and staff in the upcoming pages, I invite you to become part of the adventure. Whether you are a parent who volunteers at your child's school, a community member who wants to show your support, or an alumni who reads news about our district from somewhere else in the world, be sure to check the community connection opportunities on page 19, follow us on social media, and check our website for news each week. There's always something to celebrate in our schools.

Whatever a student's path might be, it's our job to support them, to push them forward and provide the momentum that carries them through their next steps. Thank you for being a trusted partner in that process. Our team is proud to serve our students and our community, and we look forward to seeing you all in the upcoming year.

For our kids,

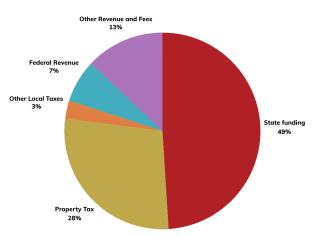
Dr. Todd Terrill, Superintendent of Schools





### WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM

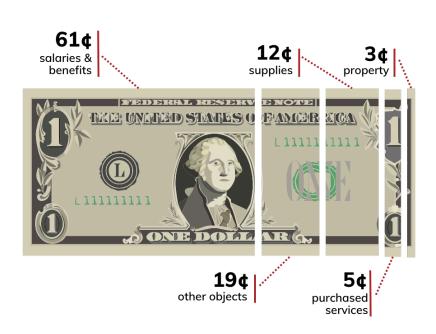
Indiana's education funding formula is the largest source of revenue for CPCSC and accounts for roughly half of the dollars brought in each year. Property taxes account for 28%. Although more than 70 local and state grants contribute money to CPCSC annually, they make up less than 2% of the district's total revenue. These grants are valuable for student programs but do not significantly increase annual income. Many people are surprised to learn that federal funding only contributes 7% to the district's income.



# investing in OUR KIDS

#### **DOLLAR BY DOLLAR**

CPCSC invests our resources to benefit all students, maintain efficient operations, and deliver a quality education. The majority of district funds are used for salaries and benefits. Our greatest asset is the amazing team of teachers, support staff, and administrators we employ. As a service organization, we spend most of our money on people. The average CPCSC teacher salary is \$71,000 (the state average is \$57,700), and new teacher salaries start at \$59,000 (the state average is \$45,655). CPCSC new teacher salaries are above the average salary for all teachers in the state.

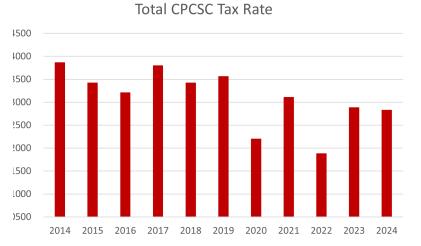


#### LOWER OVERALL TAX RATES FOR HOMEOWNERS

For CPCSC homeowners, the 2024 overall tax rate is the 3rd lowest it has been in the 13 years since the district passed an operating referendum. Despite the \$350 million in capital projects, the debt rate has remained steady

and is lower today than it was just 9 years ago. During the 2010's the district's target tax rate was between \$1.30-\$1.40. The target tax rate for 2020's has been reduced to between \$1.20-\$1.30.

For Crown Point Schools, the overall tax rate is made of three rates including debt service, operations fund, and referendum operating fund. Each rate is determined by the school district's budget needs and the property tax base, then combined to form the total tax rate. This total rate is applied to the assessed value of property within the district to generate the necessary revenue for the school district's operations and obligations, accounting for 28% of CPCSC's income. The



tax rate impacts the funding available for education, influencing the quality of facilities, programs, and resources provided to students. When the revenue from these taxes is used to fund schools, it can enhance property values and the quality of life within the community.





Top: The new Robert A. Taft Middle School is located in Winfield and has nearly 240,000 square feet of learning/community spaces. Above: The new auditorium at Colonel Wheeler Middle School connects to what used to be the CPCSC Learning Center, which was redesigned into arts and elective classrooms for Wheeler students.

#### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

CPCSC is nearing the completion of \$350 million in capital improvement projects. These projects were funded through bonds, so residents had no increase in their tax rate.

CPCSC expanded buildings to accommodate future growth and added more than 100 classrooms. We created more community, athletic, and performance spaces, and added 21st century learning spaces such as elementary STEM rooms, a high school CNA lab, and science and robotics labs. Every building in the district received money for capital projects, which means every student benefits from the upgrades.

While Crown Point, Cedar Lake, and Winfield have growing populations, families are staying in their homes after their children graduate. New students are replacing our graduating seniors at an equal rate. This means our anticipated student growth over the next ten years is expected to be low.

very year, CPCSC elementary students spend a week anticipating their school's big announcement. It's not a famous visitor or a prize. It's a book. Specifically, it's the same book for every student, teacher, and staff member in their building. Everyone, from the littlest kindergartener to the oldest fifthgrader, reads together. This is the essence of the "One School, One Book" program.

The idea is straightforward: a single book is chosen for the entire school, and every student, teacher, and staff member gets a copy. Teachers incorporate the book into their lessons, parents are encouraged to read at home with their children, and the school hosts activities centered around the novel. This unified reading experience engages students in new ways while also boosting their literacy skills.

To help involve and excite students as the big reveal parties/assemblies with games

and activities that preview the themes of the novel. At Winfield Elementary's assembly, staff members all wore bright red glasses to mimic the main character in their novel Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library. Teachers competed against each other in a scavenger hunt, and students cheered for their grade level teams. The book features characters who must solve puzzles in a scavenger hunt in order to escape from their local library. Before leaving the assembly, each student received their copy of the

to listen to at home each night especially helpful for younger or reluctant readers.

One benefit of "One School, One Book" is building a community of readers through a shared experience that extends beyond the classroom and into the hallways, cafeterias, playgrounds, and even into students' homes. Schools organize book-themed events such as dress-up days, art contests, and daily morning trivia where students can showcase their work and discuss the book. These activities not only make reading more fun but also deepen students' understanding of the book's

A visit to Lake Street Elementary highlighted the variety of activities and skills students worked on while reading their book, A Boy Called Bat. The protagonist, whose nickname is Bat, is a young man with autism. Students explored the challenges he faces and immersed themselves in his world to learn vocabulary, create art, write letters, and more. Mrs. Barno's 4th grade class created marketing campaigns for Bat's mother's new business. Students designed posters and digital advertisements while using details from the text, all of which connected to Social Studies standards they were learning. Down the hall, Mrs. Damjanovic's class was practicing the correct format for writing letters as students composed notes to the characters. And in the library, furniture decades-old skill: how to play 4-square, a game in the book.

"I am grateful for the wonderful experience we had with One School, One Book in my classroom. It was truly a joy to see the enthusiasm and engagement it brought to my students," said Mrs. Barno. "The shared reading experience allowed students to connect with their peers across different classrooms and grade levels, sparking meaningful discussions and interactions." When it comes to choosing a book, staff work together to select a novel

that appeals to a wide range of interests and reading levels so every student feels included. It's important that themes connect to students' lives, and that they can see themselves or others reflected in the characters.

At Taft and Colonel Wheeler Middle Schools, one book is chosen for all 6-8th grade students. Col. Wheeler ELA teacher Amy Mehrle says their team makes sure themes relate to the Bulldog Blueprint, a framework for citizenship and





Opposite: A Winfield Elementary student receives her book at their launch. Timothy Ball Elementary's book launch featured games about their novel The Lemonade Wars.

Above top: Students in Mrs. Barno's class create advertisements to connect their book to Social Studies standards.

Bottom: Mrs. Damjanovic's class writes letters to characters in their novel.



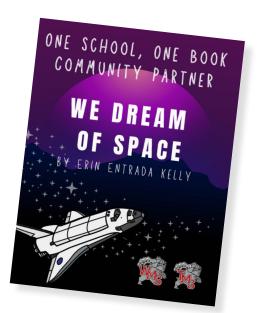
responsibility used by both middle schools. Last year, students read Posted by John David Anderson. In the novel, phones are taken from students so they begin passing notes on Post-Its instead. The characters quickly learn that it isn't the device that matters, it's what they say and share that counts - and sometimes results in consequences. "Understanding the power of words, that words matter, is really important with middle schoolers," Mehrle said. "We talked a lot about being intentional with your words through open-ended discussions in our advisory classes." Local businesses like McDonalds supported student engagement by providing gift cards for middle school students who won weekly trivia questions.

#### Join the Excitement

For the 2024-2025 school year, all elementary schools will read the same book as a district-wide K-5 initiative. Be sure to follow the district's social media for more information as the big book reveal approaches.

CPCSC middle schools have already announced their one book for 2024-2025! Students in grades 6-8 will read We Dream of Space, a Newbery Award winning novel about three teens who are anxiously awaiting the launch of the 1986 Challenger. The book explores themes of family dynamics, resiliency, dreams/aspirations, and the impact of tragedy. The selection provides a backdrop for interdisciplinary lessons rich in history, STEM, and social topics.

Community members will be invited to read along with all of our schools and join opportunities for engagement. If you are a local business owner interested in supporting literacy efforts of this program, email Amy Mehrle (middle school) at amehrle@cps.k12.in.us or Janna Carney (elementary) at jcarney@cps.k12.in.us.



Support One School, One Book and our students by reading along or becoming a community partner!





# together We TEACH

CPCSC employs hundreds of licensed teachers but it takes hundreds of additional support staff to make our district move. Join our team and discover why our schools are a great place to work. Find more information or apply at www.cps.k12.in.us/careers

#### Starting pay:

- Substitute: \$115/day. Subs are employed through our partner, ESS.
- Bus Driver: \$25.53/hr. We will train and pay for your CDL!
- Paraprofessional: \$14.95/hr
- Custodial: \$17.56/hr.
- Cafeteria: \$14.19/hr.



## library RELAUNCH

reating strong readers and learners doesn't stop at the classroom door. CPCSC's school libraries are an important part of literacy throughout the district. With recent construction projects, the district's libraries have been redesigned to serve 21st century readers.

#### **Physical Spaces**

CPCSC's libraries have undergone major makeovers. District Media/Library Coordinator Janna Carney said these improvements have allowed the district to rethink the physical design of each library. This includes signage, seating areas, spaces for collaboration, and displays for materials. "We've been able to modernize how we think about our libraries, and they've been shaken up, in a good way," Carney said.

When choosing the furniture for these new spaces, the goal was to create inviting seating arrangements where students feel comfortable independently reading or working together. Outdated furniture that was sometimes too heavy for children, especially young elementary children, has been replaced by lighter and more open seating.

New methods of displaying books are being used. Rather than a strict Dewey Decimal system, books might also be displayed in a similar style as bookstores. Books in a series that have different authors (like the popular The 39 Clues books from Scholastic) are arranged together rather than by author's last name so that students can locate all of the books in that series.

#### **Curated Collections and Professional Development**

The upgrades apply to more than just the physical spaces. The libraries' collections are also receiving some love. "When we looked at our materials overall, the average date of publication indicated that we need to update our materials," Carney said. School libraries have been weeding their materials to make sure what's on the shelves is factually correct and engaging for young readers. In the last year, the average age of publication for the district's collection has improved by four years.

Professional development for the district's team of librarians has been critical. Because each librarian is the only person in their building who serves in their particular role, collaborative time together is essential. The team utilizes student e-learning days to meet in-person and exchange ideas, best practices, and receive new training. This year's training focused largely on guidelines for purchasing, organizational methods for efficient libraries, and analyzing collection/circulation data.



Librarians also had time to connect with classroom curriculum so they could create collections to supplement student learning. When fourth graders read Treasure Island, their library featured a collection about pirates, ships, and oceans with materials that targeted different reading levels and styles.

#### **New Views on Reading**

Gone are the days of Accelerated Reader (AR) where students were required to choose books within a certain reading level and earn points for taking tests. Instead, CPCSC library time is more about a "readers' advisory" method where students choose materials that are of high interest to them. "We aren't using this time for students to learn to read," Carney said. "They already do that in class thanks to the quality curriculum that's in place. Our focus in our libraries is teaching them to read to learn." This might mean that students read books above or below their reading level, that it's okay for students to not finish a book, or that they can check out the same book repeatedly. The idea is to keep students engaged and teach them selfselection skills that they can use the rest of their lives.

#### Parent and Community Collaboration

Parents and caregivers can help support student literacy and our libraries at home! Here are some suggested resources:

- Encourage your child to try different genres or topics of interest. This is especially true for reluctant readers. Graphic novels, nonfiction, magazines - they are all a form of reading and all are valuable.
- Sign up to be a library volunteer!
   Our librarians love to have help with shelving, circulating, and caring for our media collections. Ask your school whether they need additional volunteers or visit our website at www.cps.k12.in.us/library to fill out the form.
- Support the school book fair. Every building has at least one book fair a year, and the money raised goes directly back to your child's school.



# prepare for LIFTOFF

#### 2024-2025 **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

#### **RETURNING STUDENTS**

Online registration for returning students will open at 9am on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. This includes kindergarten & preschool students who enrolled in the spring of 2024. New students or students who were withdrawn during the school year must follow new student procedures below. Parents do not have to complete

registration based on last name like previous years. More information will be on the district's website at www.cps.k12.in.us/register.

If you are moving over the summer, you must update your address before August 8. This can be done by visiting your child's school and providing proof of address. If you submit a change of address after August 8, transportation will be available starting August 20.

#### **NEW STUDENTS**

New elementary and middle school students can pre-register by contacting their school. New middle school students will receive a call to set a scheduling appointment. New elementary students will receive an email with instructions to finalize your registration.

High school students new to the district may register at Crown Point High School throughout the summer on Mondays. An appointment is required. Call 219-663-4885, ext. 11028.

New students who pre-register after Thursday, August 8, 2024, will not receive transportation services until August 20, 2024.

#### **CHILD FIND**

Child Find is a program to identify, locate and evaluate all children who are suspected of having a disability. Any individual (parent, teacher, principal) who suspects a student may have a disability and could benefit from special education services should initiate a referral by contacting the building principal to share specific concerns.



#### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

Middle & high school students will receive supply lists from their teachers the first week of school. Supplies vary based on each course. Please come to school with the basics the first week (pencil/pen, paper, folders).

Most supplies for elementary students are paid for by the district. Students will also need a backpack (no wheels), pencil case, headphones or earbuds, and a reusable water bottle. A Chromebook case cover is strongly recommended. Chromebook dimensions are 12 x 9 inches.

CHILDCARE CPCSC offers a before/after school child care program (also called Latch Key Care) at each elementary before school from 6-9 a.m. and after school from 3:45-6 p.m. On scheduled e-Learning days, child care will be available from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. at Timothy Ball and Jerry Ross Elementary Schools.

Child care fees are \$8 before school each day and \$8 after school each day. On e-Learning days the fee is \$8 for up to 4 hours, \$16 between 4 and 8 hours, and \$24 for more than 8 hours. There is an annual \$10 nonrefundable sign-up fee. To register for child care and to find more information about the program, visit the CPCSC website at www.cps.k12.in.us/childcare.

**TRANSPORTATION** Bus routes will be posted the afternoon of Monday, August 12. You must complete registration or address changes before August 8 to have transportation on the first day of school. Students who pre-register or make a change of address after August 8 will have transportation starting August 20. A practice bus ride for kindergarteners will be held on August 13. More information is available at www.cps.k12.in.us/transportation.

FOOD SERVICES If your child purchases breakfast or lunch, you will need to put money in their account via My MealTime. Applications for free and reduced lunch are available on the food service department website. Find more info at www.cps.k12.in.us/food.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS**

The regular business meetings of the CPCSC Board of School Trustees are held the fourth Monday of the month at 6 p.m. Meetings are at the Administrative Service Center at 1050 S. Main St. The public is invited to attend in person or watch the livestream on CPCSC's YouTube channel. Board meeting agendas and policies are available on the CPCSC website at www.cps.k12.in.us/board.

**CPCSC Board of School** Trustees: Scott Angel, President; Brian Smith, Vice President; Scott Babjak, Secretary; Danielle Bazin; and Tim Vassar.



## staff of the year



#### Elementary Teacher of the Year - Theresa Zarndt

Theresa Zarndt is a third grade teacher at MacArthur Elementary with 30 years of service in education. Mrs. Zarndt has been a Spell Bowl coach, Girls on the Run coach, a MacArthur team leader and mentor teacher, and is part of the MacArthur Inclusion team.

Principal Marian Buchko noted that Mrs. Zarndt "Consistently goes above and beyond as a teacher, demonstrating a remarkable dedication to meeting the individual needs of students. She is an exemplary communicator, and her contributions extend far beyond the classroom walls."

Finalists for Elementary Teacher of the Year were:

- Grace Kellett Eisenhower Elementary
- Jessica Markle Lake Street Elementary
- Tera Baechle Solon Robinson Elementary
- Carolyn Winland Timothy Ball Elementary
- Staci Santefort Winfield Elementary
- Abbey Rauch Jerry Ross Elementary

#### Secondary Teacher of the Year - Ryan Jurczak

Ryan Jurczak is an exceptional education teacher at Taft Middle School. He has worked in education for 8 years. Mr. Jurczak led initiatives to create Unified Basketball, Best Buddies, Unified Track, Bulldog Bowling, student-led coffee carts, and peer mentor programs at both Taft and Colonel Wheeler middle schools.

Taft Middle School principal Tracy Seibert said Mr. Jurczak has a true commitment to the field of exceptional education, "Ryan's dedication to addressing the individual needs of his students sets him apart as an outstanding educator. His leadership embodies trust, fosters a sense of belonging, and cultivates a positive school culture where every student feels loved, valued and supported."

Finalists for Secondary Teacher of the Year were:

- Mary Lux Crown Point High School
- Amy Mehrle Colonel Wheeler MS

#### **Employee of the Year - Jennifer Eaton**

Jennifer Eaton is an Applied Skills paraprofessional at Crown Point High School. Mrs. Eaton navigated caring for our exceptional education students through some significant changes this year.

James Twardy, a CPHS teacher, recognized her accomplishments. "Jenny's commitment and care for her students and co-workers is on full display for all who enter the classroom, as she routinely puts others' needs first. She shows initiative and is quick to step up to meet any challenge, taking on new roles and providing veteran leadership. Her dedication and experience make her a valuable asset to the CPHS Exceptional Education team."

Finalists for Employee of the Year were:

- Bob Berkes Maintenance, Carpenter
- Scott Kessler Driver Coach

#### Administrator of the Year - Martin Freeman

Marty Freeman is CPCSC's Director of Transportation and has a 30-year career in education. He has been employed with CPCSC since 2022 and led the transportation department through what could be described as a reboot. Under his guidance and leadership, CPCSC recruited and retained more bus drivers, established a sense of community amonast our transportation employees, and become more efficient with our transportation services. Marty leads his team in covering more than one million miles per year.



#### a Bulldog Award

This special award recognizes an employee whose vears of service leaves a longlasting impact on students and the school community.

former CPCSC Director of Food

Services, retired this year after 23 years of service. Her dedication to providing nutritious meals to our students, managing our cafeterias, and navigating changes in food service requirements is unmatched. We estimate that over the course of her tenure. Pam led her team in serving nearly 14 million meals to students.



### 2024-2025 Calendar

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Aug. 12 - First teacher day, no students

Aug. 14 - First student day

**Sept. 2** - Labor Day, no school

Sept. 18 - E-learning day; staff professional dev.

**Oct. 11** - End of 1<sup>st</sup> 9 weeks (42 days)

Oct. 14-18 - Fall Break, no school

Oct. 24 - K-5 parent/teacher conferences: E-learning for elementary students only

**Nov. 5** - E-learning day: staff professional dev. Nov. 27-29 - Thanksgiving Break, no school

Dec. 20 - End of 2<sup>nd</sup> 9 weeks (42 days), 1<sup>st</sup> semester (84 days)

Dec. 23-Jan. 6 - Winter Break, no school

Jan. 6 - Teacher work day

Jan. 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no school

Jan. 29 - E-learning day; staff professional dev.

Feb. 17 - Presidents Day, no school

Mar. 11 - E-learning day: staff professional dev.

**Mar. 14** - End of 3<sup>rd</sup> 9 weeks (47 days)

Mar. 24-28 - Spring Break, no school

Apr. 18 - Good Friday, no school

May 26 - Memorial Day, no school

June 2 - End of 4th 9 weeks (49 days), 2nd semester (96 days)

June 3 - Last teacher day

Summer school will begin following the end of the regular school year.

### **School & Building Directory**

#### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

School day: 9:05 am - 3:44 pm

#### **Eisenhower Elementary**



219-663-8800 www.ike.cps.k12.in.us

1450 S. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **Jerry Ross Elementary**



219-663-3010 www.jerryross.cps.k12.in.us

11319 Randolph St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **Lake Street Elementary**



219-663-5683 www.lake.cps.k12.in.us

475 E. Lake St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### MacArthur Elementary



219-662-3600 www.mac.cps.k12.in.us

12900 Fairbanks St. Cedar Lake, IN 46303

#### Solon Robinson Elementary



219-663-2525 www.solon.cps.k12.in.us

601 Pettibone St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **Timothy Ball Elementary**



219-663-0047 www.tball.cps.k12.in.us

720 Summit St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### Winfield Elementary



219-663-2287 www.winfield.cps.k12.in.us

13128 Montgomery St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

School Day: 7:40 am - 2:55 pm

#### Taft Middle School



219-663-1507 www.taft.cps.k12.in.us

5235 E. 121st Ave. Winfield, IN 46307

#### **Colonel Wheeler Middle School**



219-663-2173 www.wheeler.cps.k12.in.us

401 W. Joliet St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **CROWN POINT HIGH SCHOOL**

School day: 7:35 am - 2:37 pm



219-663-4885 Guidance: ext. 11028 Athletics: ext. 11131

www.cphs.cps.k12.in.us

1500 S. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION CENTER**

Open 7 am - 4 pm



Central Office: 219-663-3371 Transportation: 219-663-1465 Food Services: 219-662-6480

1050 S. Main St. Crown Point, IN 46307

#### **CPCSC SAFETY TIPLINE**

Call or text: 219-306-8063 Email: 1789@alert1.us cps-k12-in.safeschoolsalert.com

### 62+ Activity Pass

Residents age 62 and older of Center and Winfield Townships will be admitted to home student extracurricular and school corporation sponsored activities with a valid activity pass. This does not include post-season athletic contests. Residents of these townships who are eligible for social security disability or social security supplemental income may also receive a pass. A 62+ Pass from the district is available at the Administration Building at 1050 S. Main St. Bring a photo ID that shows your in-district address.

#### Take a Tour

A normal field trip? No way! Cruise on down to Main Street and join CPCSC on a one-day, fun, fast-paced tour of our district. Designed as an overview for our community, a ride on The Bulldog Tour Bus is a chance to become more acquainted with CPCSC, our current projects, and what's ahead. And yes, our day will be themed around The Magic School Bus. "Seatbelts, everyone!" Our trip will take place August 8, 2024.

www.cps.k12.in.us



### Be an Ambassador

The CPCSC Ambassador Program is a sevensession, behind-the-scenes look at our district. It is open to residents who live in the CPCSC boundaries and would like to learn more about our schools and what we do. Topics include finances, operations, curriculum and instruction, and student services. This small group meets for two hours one morning a month. Meetings are during the school day so you can see teaching and learning in action!

## community CONNECTION

CPCSC is proud to be part of an active and supportive community. Check out these opportunities to connect with our schools. Find more information about each one and sign up at www.cps.k12.in.us/community.



# save the DATE

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

- **July 24** Registration opens
- August 6 CPHS 9th grade parent meeting. 9th grade Chromebook exchange
- **August 7** 9th grade Chromebook exchange
- **August 8 -** Middle school Bulldog Rush and parent meetings (for 6th grade & new students). CPHS new student/family orientation grades 10-12.
- August 9 CPHS Bulldog Rush (freshmen students only)
- August 12 Open houses for Lake Street, MacArthur, Timothy Ball. Open house for Winfield kindergarteners
- **August 13 -** Open houses at Eisenhower, Jerry Ross, Solon Robinson and Education Center. Open house for Winfield Elementary grades 1-5
- August 14 First day of school. Welcome back!
- August 15 Middle school open houses at Taft and Colonel Wheeler
- August 28 Parent open house at Crown Point High School

On the cover: Timothy Ball 3rd grader Naomi spends part of her library time silent reading. Reading in the dark with a flashlight for a few minutes is one of many strategies that Mrs. Tufts uses to engage students with their new books before they leave the library each week.

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