



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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November 14, 2024

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Superintendent, Dr. Ryker
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Celebrating Veterans Day

Schools honor local veterans through special programs



IDOE Purple Heart School, Hoover Elementary, celebrated Veterans on Monday, Nov. 11.

Students began the day walking in the Montgomery County Veterans Day parade through downtown Crawfordsville. Later, veterans were invited to Hoover for a special assembly in their honor.

Nicholson Elementary invited veterans to their program on Friday, Nov. 8 where students sang songs, read lines, and performed for veterans. In addition, American Legion Honor Guard demonstrated the official flag folding technique and the meaning behind each fold. The honor guard also passed out small flags to each student.

Superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker said, "As a superintendent and the son of a veteran, I was honored to witness Nicholson and Hoover students and staff's exemplary participation in this year's Veterans Day events. Witness-



ing our schools unite to honor our veterans was both moving and inspiring. The 4th-grade students' enthusiasm and respect while marching in the parade highlighted their understanding of the importance of this day. This event showcased why Hoover Elementary is an IDOE Purple Star School."

Both schools were honored and thankful to have the privilege to recognize the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families.





Students receive National Recognition

Congratulations are in order for the Crawfordsville High School students pictured above as they received AP National Recognition following criteria of test scores and grade point average.

The honor comes based upon the following criteria:

- Students that take the Fall 2023 PSAT/NMSQT (10th or 11th) or Spring PSAT 10 (10th) and score in the top 10% of test takers from their award program in their state.
- Or earn a 3+ on 2 or more distinct AP exams in the 9th and/or 10th grade.
- And earn a cumulative GPA of B+ or higher (at least 3.3 or 87-89%) by the time of submission.
- And identify as first-generation, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Indigenous or Native and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.

The following students, pictured left to right, are: Ellie Walker - Rural; Lilyann Bridgham - First Generation; Max Brumett - Rural; Abigail Coffey - First Generation; Xavier Whaley - First Generation, Indigenous; and Katherine Novak - Rural.



Purdue women lead classroom activities

Students in the Purdue Women in Engineering program visited Mrs. Bowker's classroom to lead activities with the class. One included a Spaghetti Bridge Challenge using noodles and other classroom objects to construct a strong bridge.

Nicholson receives Gold Star Award

Nicholson Elementary has recently received the Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award for their efforts in the Carrying the Torch to Student Success program. Only 30 schools in the state received this recognition.



An awards ceremony will take place Friday, Nov. 15 at the Indiana School Counselors Fall Conference in Indianapolis where former Nicholson school counselor, Mary Scheidler, and current school counselor Sheridan Pool will receive the award.

Superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker said, "We are incredibly proud of Nicholson Elementary School for achieving the Indiana Gold Star School Counseling Award! This honor reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment to student well-being demonstrated every day by our outstanding office team and staff. A special acknowledgment goes to Mrs. Scheidler, Nicholson's former counselor, whose vision paved the way for this award. Congratulations to everyone involved in making this achievement possible!"

This program gives school counselors in Indiana the opportunity to develop a comprehensive school counseling program using the platform offered by Inspire Success. Each school counselor can choose to participate in various levels to meet requirements for Carrying The Torch, which include bronze, silver, or gold star levels. The gold star level is a two-year process to complete, which is what Nicholson has successfully completed under former counselor Scheidler.

"I am very proud and honored that our school counseling program has been recognized as a model program in the state of Indiana. This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team, especially our advisory council. It motivates us to continue striving for excellence in supporting academic, career and social emotional development through programs that we offer for our students," Scheidler said.

The process requires assigned tasks and modules that must be approved as well as an application process submitted to IDoE/Inspire Success for final approval of the gold star level.

The gold level status demonstrates the comprehensive counseling and guidance program meeting the highest standards which implements a program vision and mission, data-based accountability, standards-driven guidance activities, counseling and advocacy, program management, alignment of resources, and an annual improvement plan.

Scheidler, now a school counselor at Crawfordsville High School, has enrolled CHS in the Carrying the Torch process with anticipated completion of gold level status in 2026.

Special guest readers at Hose

Hose Elementary School serves all of Crawfordsville's kindergarten and first-grade students and is in its second year of an exciting and caring program called "Leaders as Readers." This program invites community leaders into classrooms to help create a fun learning environment for students and to expand their community connection.

Superintendent Rex Ryker explained, "Our youngest students need to hear multiple adults read, especially the leaders in our community." Dr. Ryker shared that Harry Truman stated, "Not all readers are leaders, but all leaders are readers," which led him to think community leaders are the perfect role model readers for our students.

Dr. Ryker and Hose Principal Mr. Welcher recruit community leaders with the explanation that our youngest students need to hear multiple adults read and that research shows that 15 minutes of daily reading to a child allows that child to hear over 1,000,000 words in a year. Plus, Ryker and Welcher promise that each community leader who reads to the K-1 students will have

the best moment of their day, if not week.

Community Leaders who read regularly at Hose represent the Montgomery County Courts, Montgomery County Sheriff's Department, City Government, Community Foundation, Cain Farms, Fountain Trust, Crawfordsville Police Department, Mishler Dental, Safe Hiring Solutions, McGowan Insurance, and all Crawfordsville School Administrators. In addition, special guest readers also show up occasionally.

This week's special guests were Indiana State Representative Beau Baird and Congressman Jim Baird. Dr. Ryker explained that when he introduced the program last year at a Community Council meet-



Journal Review photo

Hose Elementary had special Leaders as Readers as U.S. Representative Jim Baird and Indiana State Re. Beau Baird read "The Boo-Boos That Changed the World."

ing, Representative Beau Baird expressed immediate interest, and the two worked together to find a date that would work for all involved. Dr. Ryker was thrilled when Representative Baird shared that Congressman Jim Baird would love to read, too. Both read the book *The Boo-Boos That Changed The World* (A true story about an accidental invention (really!) by Barry Wittenstein. Students loved the cute explanation of how we ended up with Band-Aids.

Congressman Baird provided a large box of books from the Library of Congress. Mrs.

Chaney and Mrs. Wheeler's students provided gifts for Congressman Baird and Representative Baird.

Prior to the Bairds' visit, students learned about their life prior to becoming a Congressman and State Representative. Students had prepared questions and were very interested in quarter horses and previous jobs. Representative Baird had built a business of breeding Quarter Horses and became Indiana's largest horse breeder. Representative Baird shared that Bucky was his favorite horse and working on the farm was his favorite job.



National Honor Society donates to AWL

During the month of September, members of National Honor Society raised more than \$380 for the Animal Welfare League (AWL) as part of the annual Homecoming "Coins for a Cause" service project.

Members also collected and delivered donations to the AWL. National Honor Society Officers pictured left to right are: Zoe Abbott, Gianna Kochert-Cosby, Emma Buser, Caedence Brown and Katy Grace Whitecotton.

Nicholson sends donations for Hurricane Relief



Journal Review photos

Nicholson Elementary students, parents, and surrounding community members sprang into action following the hurricane devastation in North Carolina. Students and their families brought in various donations of toiletries, flashlights, household items, and much more to pack up and deliver to hurricane victims.

Pictured above are instructional coach Dr. Boaz, left, third grade teacher Mrs. Hodge, and Hodge's students loading supplies in bags and boxes. Over fall break Hodge and her husband Robert, delivered the items to victims in need and to those who were unable to reach the aid stations.



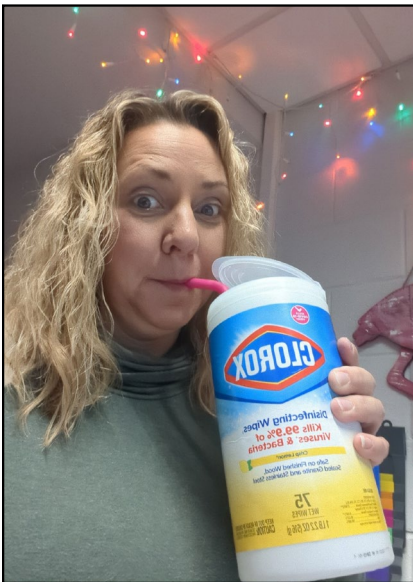
Noble Knights receive honors at Nicholson

Thirty-one students were recognized as Noble Knights recently during an assembly at the elementary school. Families came to the school to celebrate their student. Congratulations to the following Knights: Emma P, Benjamin T, Ashley C, Vivienne L, Gianna R, Raegan J, Margo J, Spencer L, Michael N, Berklee D, Temprance G, Clara B, Rayleigh L, Nora F, Jessica S, Mila M, Chauncey K, Annabel H, Johnathon R, Melody G, Konnor P, Liam C, Aubrey C, Valeria V, Daleysa H, Santi S, Bailey H, Lucy W, Braxton K, Silvia M. Not present for the picture, but receiving the award, James G.



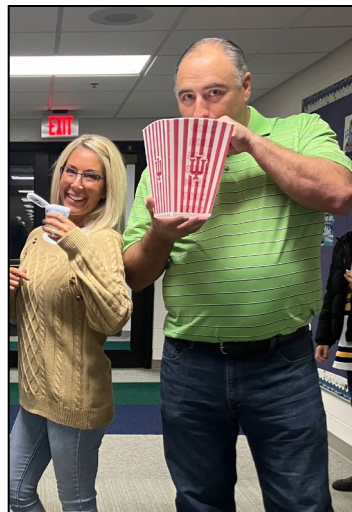
Griggs and McCurry classes win attendance award

Two classes at Hoover Elementary were awarded attendance trophies for the first nine weeks of school. Mrs. Griggs' 5th grade and Mrs. McMurtry's classes both had a 97% average attendance.



Hoover organizes a secret spirit week

Students at Hoover Elementary had a fun guessing game to play each day of the week leading up to fall break. Staff creatively had an Underground Secret Staff Spirit Week where they dressed up with mismatched prints and patterns day, Christmas dress up day, and even an "anything but a cup day" where they drank from unique and hilarious containers not typically used! The fun days kept the kids guessing each day's theme and carried them through the week until fall break.



CARA receives excellence designation second year

By Journal Review

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development notified 21 adult education programs across the state of their designation as a Program of Excellence. DWD started this designation in 2022-23 to recognize adult education programs that meet multiple state and federal metrics around student academic achievement, enrollment, partnering with employers, offering high-demand wage training and high school equivalencies earned.

CARA has earned this designation for the second year in a row. Crawfordsville experiences the positive impact of adult education success through increased economic activity and workforce partici-

pation of students who are upskilled through career training and foundational education credential. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates the average yearly wage increase of earning a high school credential at \$8,400. The high school credential also provides access to postsecondary education or training, which further increases Hoosier employment and economic opportunities.

DWD Commissioner, Richard Paulk, recognizes the critical work a local adult education program contributes

to the state.

“Indiana continues to excel as a state, leading the nation in student outcomes for the past six years, due to the hard work, dedication, and innovative practices implemented at the program level in communities every day,” Paulk said.

All programs will be recognized by DWD Adult Education leadership at the Indiana Association and of Adult and Continuing Education award ceremony on Thursday.

“Education is more than just acquiring knowledge; it’s

“Education is more than just acquiring knowledge; it’s a pathway to a brighter future.”

CARA Director
Kathy Tobias

a pathway to a brighter future,” said CARA’s director Kathy Tobias. “It’s a win-win for everyone involved, from the individual learners to the broader community. When adults have the opportunity to learn new skills and expand their knowledge, it creates a ripple effect that benefits families, businesses and the entire community.”

Indiana Adult Education enrolled more than 25,000 adult students across the state in the most recent program year and is a national leader in student achievement, high school equivalency diplomas earned, career certifications, and employer-based education.

For more information on Indiana Adult Education, visit DWD: AmplifyAE (in.gov).

Journalism class embodies middle school values

The Crawfordsville Middle School Journalism class plays a unique role in reinforcing the five core values of Crawfordsville Middle School: be safe, be respectful, be responsible, be kind, and get involved. By capturing memories, celebrating achievements, and preserving the spirit of the school, the yearbook staff positively impacts the CMS community.

The yearbook team carefully ensures that all content is appropriate and safe for every student. They respect privacy by carefully selecting images and captions and creating a safe environment for everyone to enjoy. Respect shines through in the team’s inclusive approach, representing students from all backgrounds, interests, and activities. By showing respect for the diversity of the student body, they create a yearbook that everyone can feel proud to be part of. Journalism class members are accountable for

meeting deadlines, working collaboratively, and producing a quality publication. Their commitment to accuracy and detail demonstrates responsibility and setting a standard for their peers. The staff celebrates every student’s unique qualities and accomplishments, promoting kindness by highlighting moments that reflect unity and friendship. This inclusivity fosters a sense of belonging among students. Being on the yearbook staff requires involvement with various school events, activities, and clubs. Being part of this team encourages others to engage in the school community, illustrating the value of involvement.

The CMS Yearbook Staff not only documents memories, but also embodies and promotes the five core values that define Crawfordsville Middle School. Their work leaves a lasting impact, reminding all students and staff to live by the core values.

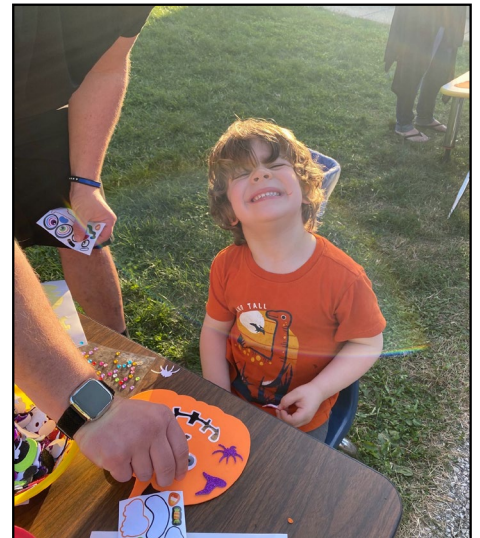


Way to go, Hose Heroes!

In October, Hose Elementary celebrated the first eight Hose Heroes of the first quarter of school.

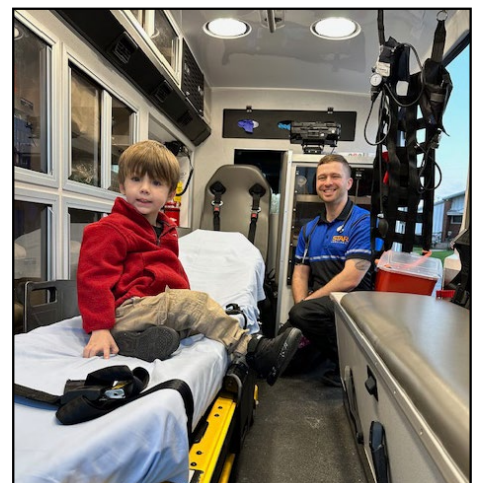
A Hose H.E.R.O is a student who is Helpful, Encouraging, Respectful and Responsible, and an Outstanding citizen.

The following students are quarter one Hose Heroes: Elizabeth Peters, Carter Moore, Abigail Olmstead, Thatcher Hoffman, Achilles Stockdale, Alexander Wright, Mallory Dowd, and Joshua Martinez Gutierrez.



Willson Preschool Academy busy with activities

Above: Willson Preschool Academy hosted a Fall Festival for families to join their students to play festival games, decorate mini pumpkins, vote on the best class pumpkin, and much more. The Crawfordsville High School National Art Society volunteered to do the face painting for students. Below: Willson hosted a Touch-A-Truck event for students and families to explore a variety of trucks and equipment including a firetruck, police car, tow truck, bucket truck, and several others.





Athenian Way winners receive certificates

The quarter one Athenian Way award winners gathered for a picture and certificate after being nominated by a staff member. Congratulations on demonstrating The Athenian Way at CHS.

Malcolm Robinson (Nominated by Shelley Clouser): Malcolm is a very helpful and kind person. I have witnessed Malcolm step up, on multiple occasions, to help a classmate when no one else tried to help. One time in particular, a student dropped his book bag and his papers, pencils, and all materials went everywhere! None of his classmates even moved to help except for Malcolm. His kindness is much appreciated!

Jazmen Russell (Nominated by Caleb Fenimore): Jazmen is a student assistant in one of my Freshman Biology classes and she has been a tremendous help in the class. Whether it is helping out other students with homework, exit tickets, or partnering up with someone in a lab, she is always up for the task! She has been great to have as help in that class. Especially when Freshmen may be shy at first to start high school, Jazmen's personality

shines through to bring them in for help!

Daniel Surface (Nominated by Gary Linn): Danny combines a great work ethic with a caring and kind demeanor. He takes great pride in his school work as well as his extra curricular activities. He respects his teachers and fellow classmates and our entire school community. As a result, Danny is a great ambassador of what it means to be an Athenian and follow the Athenian Way. He represents his family, our school and our community with distinction.

Max Brumett (Nominated by Emily Fullenwider): Max has been a valuable soccer team player for as long as I can remember. Not only has he competed in 2 fall sports, he has hustled every step of the way. This soccer season he has navigated his way through some adversity with Pride, Respect and Grit. Great job, Max! We will miss you next year. Keep hustling!

Guinevere Schmitzer-Torbert (Nominated by Brayden Montgomery): Guin is an excellent example of The

Athenian Way. What really stands out about Guin is her pride in her work, and her kindness in the classroom. These characteristics made her a leader in my classroom on day 1. In addition to her outstanding academics, Guin excels at numerous extracurricular activities, which makes her other accomplishments even more impressive. I am proud to nominate Guin for The Athenian Way! She really deserves it!

Karen Dominguez (Nominated by Matt Reynolds): Karen does an awesome job of exhibiting "The Athenian Way." As a student in the classroom, peer, and in all that she does, Karen demonstrates Respect. She makes sure to show Respect for everyone she comes into contact with. In the classroom, Karen does what is asked and does not ever need to be reminded to be considerate. Karen also has an open-mind to peers with a different viewpoint than herself; she is someone who does not judge, but Respects others opinions. Karen also exhibits "The Athenian Way" by having Pride in all she does. She is able to show Pride

in her schoolwork, in promoting her peers, and all other aspects of life at CHS. Karen takes Pride in her schoolwork and does every task to the best of her ability. She also shows Pride in her peers by cheering them on during their activities. Lastly, Karen shows Pride in all that she does; others are able to look up to her and emulate her dignity and self-worth. Karen is definitely worthy and deserving of earning "The Athenian Way" award!

Fatima Fabiola Barco (Nominated by Patrica Zavala-Alonso): Being an ESL Student is a challenge, and it's exhausting. Fatima understands this very well. She has overcome great obstacles, often without help. I have witnessed her struggle, but also her resilience and how she has learned from her mistakes. She is an example for ESL students, who look up to and respect her, mainly because she has never denied them her help. She is an excellent friend and classmate to all alike. That's why I truly believe Fatima represents all the characteristics of The Athenian Way.

continued on next page . . .

Lily Hummel (Nominated by Emily Race): Lily is an accomplished athlete and hard-working student. She challenges herself and shows leadership and enthusiasm for excellence. She often helps the students around her, whether with classwork or with understanding the intricacies of college financial aid. She is responsible and dedicated, focused and driven. While she makes mature decisions to set up her future, she remains committed to the present moment, going all out for Spirit Week or a given assignment. She is a great example of an Athenian.

Reese Price (Nominated by Craig Carrell): Reese has done an excellent job in Algebra 2. She has taken great Pride in her work. She is a very hard working student. Reese has shown "The Athenian Way" by how she helps her classmates with the different assignments we do in class. Reese is involved with Volleyball. I believe that Reese shows Pride, Respect, GRIT, Involvement, and Kindness in all that she does! Great job Reese Price.

Katelyn Williams (Nominated by Eric Danforth): Katelyn Williams follows The Athenian Way big time by assisting students in her class who experience struggles. What I have observed is that she always makes time for questions, and is extremely patient and pleasant when helping. Her respect, kindness, and involvement in these situations are great representations of The Athenian Way.

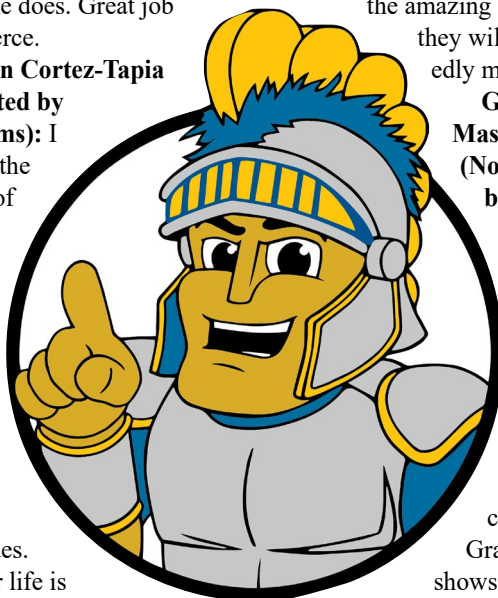
Molly Pierce (Nominated by Craig Carrell): Molly is a tremendous student who brings energy to class. She is tremendous when it comes to working with other students. She shows GRIT in Algebra 2 by asking questions during the lessons and is willing to ask for help during assignments. She then takes what she has learned and helps teach other students within the class. Molly is involved with soccer, basketball, and softball. Molly shows great Pride, Respect, Grit, Involvement and Kindness in

all that she does. Great job Molly Pierce.

Joselyn Cortez-Tapia (Nominated by Jenny Sims): I have had the pleasure of having Joselyn for two years. In that time I have seen her make tremendous strides.

While her life is not without its own obstacles, she does not let that stop her. She strives every day to do her very best helping anyone she can along the way. She shows up every day with a positive attitude and a smile on her face. Words can't begin to say how proud I am of her and look forward to the great things she will accomplish. She is the definition of true GRIT.

Ruth Garcia and Olivia Pettit (Nominated by Jon Tebbe): Ruth and Olivia have taken on the role of the first Drum Majors for the Cville Bands in many years. As leaders of the leadership team, they have truly become my right-hand partners in every situation. Their remarkable PRIDE in the Cville Bands and CHS as a whole is inspiring. Both Ruth and Olivia demonstrate unparalleled RESPECT for their peers and colleagues. They have shown incredible GRIT, making tough choices that may not have been popular but were undoubtedly the right ones. Their INVOLVEMENT in the program is evident through their advocacy and active participation in various events. On top of their leadership skills, they are two of the kindest and most caring individuals I have ever had the pleasure to know. I am genuinely excited to watch them continue to grow this year. I also look forward to their future as educators and can't wait to see



the amazing impact they will undoubtedly make.

Graeme Mason (Nominated by Craig Carrell): Graeme brings the energy to first period Geometry Honors class. Graeme shows great

pride in his work. He doesn't allow a challenge to stop him. He shows GRIT working through the challenges. He is a great teammate and a pleasure to have in class. He is willing to ask for help and is also willing to help out other students during class. Great job Graeme Mason.

Ellie Walker (Nominated by Jay Strickland): Ellie has stepped up as a senior leader at CHS. She is a member of our student leadership team and leads several other groups. In addition, she serves as a team captain on our volleyball team. She and the other senior members of the volleyball team have turned around the culture and led our program to a more successful season. Ellie is a confident, kind and tough leader with a lot of GRIT. I have really appreciated her positive attitude and ability to encourage and motivate other teammates and classmates. I have a tremendous amount of respect for her as leader and value her input on ways to improve CHS. She embodies and represents The Athenian Way in all that she does both at CHS and in her life outside of CHS.

Owen Tomamichel (Nominated by Bryce Barton): Owen has spent this fall serving as a football manager. He has asked me on multiple occasions if there was anything that he could do for me as I set up for athletic events. Week by week, I have

given him more responsibilities and Owen has excelled. He helped me at two football games with the chain gang when I was short-handed. I have witnessed Owen going out of his way to greet players as they arrive for practice and games. He makes them feel welcome and asks how their day has gone. I am impressed by Owen's positivity and lifts people up on a daily basis.

Jayden Whaley (Nominated by Shelley Clouser): Jayden displays the Athenian Way every day! He comes to school excited to learn and is engaged while in the classroom. He demonstrates pride in his work and grit to complete his daily assignments. Jayden is always very respectful to his classmates and teachers. He goes above and beyond to display kindness to others every day. Way to go, Jayden!

Mary Scheidler (Nominated by Molly Whitecotton): Mary is a fantastic addition to our Athenian family at CHS! She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise to our building. She takes pride in her work and she has a giant heart for the students. I appreciate how she has helped my senior navigate through the college application process, APEX classes and her kindness in general. Mary is always positive and loves what she does.

Lindsey Snow (Nominated by Robin York): This is the woman behind the scenes of the Crawfordsville High School Kitchen who cooks all of the food that the students and staff get to eat. She also is out on the register during meal service. She is the kindest lady that I know. She cares about the students and respects not only the students but her co-workers and all other staff. Lindsey works hard everyday going above and beyond her daily duties to make sure the students and staff get a well nourished meal daily. I think she deserves to be honored and acknowledged for all her hard work and kindness.