



# Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

## The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation  
3 W. Athenian Dr. Crawfordsville • 765-362-2342  
[www.cville.k12.in.us](http://www.cville.k12.in.us)



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Photos by Kim Johnson Wabash College

## Culture Night filled with fun & learning

The 2025 Culture Night was action-packed with many activities, entertainment, and food. In just its third year, the event brought together around 350 people in attendance.

"When the CHS Diversity Club organized its first Culture Night three years ago, the goal was to promote cultural awareness and understanding among students. Since then, we have found that this event not only entertains, but also educates, fostering a sense of unity and pride, creating memories that last a lifetime," Diversity Club Leader Charissa Ajayi said.

The night is primarily organized by the Crawfordsville High School Cultural Diversity Club, but there are many groups who

step in to make the event a big success.

Attendees enjoyed a smorgasbord of food, including a crepe station this year, that represented countries from nearly every continent.

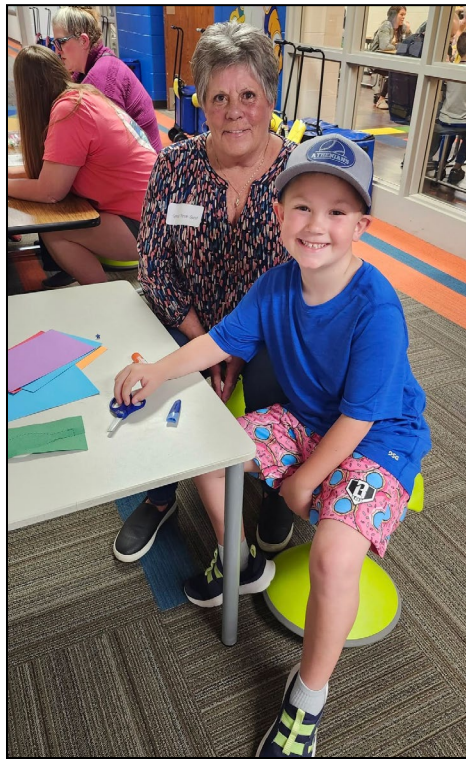
There was an abundance of activities for everyone to enjoy. The CHS world language teachers organized several cultural games, CMS students performed a dance, and Nicholson Elementary Music Club students sang. Outside of CCSC students, Wabash College culture groups which included MXIBS, La Alianza, and the Asian Culture Club brought life and music to the event. They brought a live DJ, a Mariachi band, piñatas, dance instructors, an origami station, and of course delicious food.

Along with music came dancing lessons from a variety of cultures. Lessons were given for line dancing, and others joined in with Salsa, Bachata, Amapiano, and Afro Riddim. The Purdue Afro Riddim Elite dancers who helped with the dancing had such a great time that they remained at the event for the rest of the evening to participate in other activities.

Also popular was a bracelet-making station run by the Humans United for Equality group, and the Henna tattoo artist booth, which was kind enough to stay two extra hours because of the high demand.

The Culture Diversity Club plans to organize and continue the night for many years to come. Don't miss it next year!





## Hose starts new Special Person Day

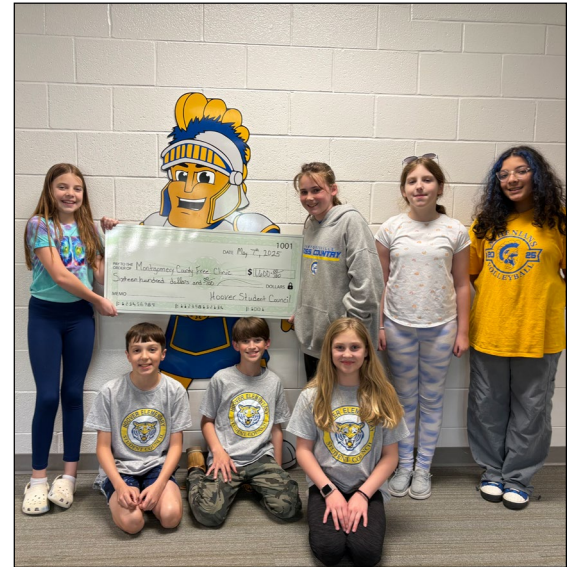
Hose Elementary hosted a Special Person Day event for all of their students. Each student invited two special people to come to school where they enjoyed a hot dog lunch with their student and participated in various crafts and games in different classrooms in the building.

To accommodate for space, Special Persons for Kindergarten students came on Tuesday, May 6th and first grade had their visitors on Wednesday, May 7th.



## Congratulations to the Cville Singers

C-Ville Singers brought home a Gold with Distinction and a Gold in Sight reading at ISSMA contest recently. Their disciplined hard work and dedication have clearly paid off. Congratulations, Athenians!



## Hoover Student Council donates to local clinic

The Hoover Elementary Student Council raised \$1,600 for the Mary Ludwig Free Clinic through their spring carnival efforts! Thank you to everyone who came out to support such a good cause and a fun night!





# New members inducted to National Honor Society

On April 23, 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 members were inducted: Chloe Bean, Alec Saidian, Rowan Asher, Rylee Brown, Genesis Calleja-Inzunza, Breseith Carretero Morales, Rowan Gambrel, Evelyn Kohl, Matt Miller, Marcus Rogers, Christina Susdorf, Laila Torres, Nolan Watt, Elliott Baker, RaeAnn Baker, Henry Bannon, Hannah Barnes, Camila Bellorin Lopez, Olivia Brown, Emma Dominguez Munoz, Sydney Elizondo, Landon Gerold, Crystal Gonzalez, Henry Hoar, Alasandra Johnson, Paige Johnson, Litzy Luna, Franco Marcelo Robles, Scarlett Martinez Castellanos, Kaya Money, Susan Montero, Sabella Moore, Soren Olafson, Princy Patel, Pujan Patel, Reese Price, NaHomi Sanchez, Alexandra Sanchez Hernandez, Josmary Sanchez Huesca, Tryston Saurer, Alayna Schroeter, Jaimee Simpson, Hope Taylor, Adyson Tinsley, Emerie Venis, Makayla Whitecotton, Amelia Wilkinson, Chang Yeung



National Honor Society Officers are picture above from left to right: Jr. VP Gianna Kochert, Secretary Lily Hummel, Service Chair Zoe Abbott, Treasurer Emma Buser, Service Chair Katy Grace Whitecotton, VP Ellie Walker, and President Caedence Brown.



# CHS hosts job fair

Various community groups set up in the gym at Crawfordsville High School for a job fair and were available to talk with students. Assistant Superintendent Brent Bokhart joined in on the fun at the Crawfordsville Police Department table and was challenged to put on a weighted vest and knock out some push ups.





## Fourth grade class quilt on display at Wabash

Mrs. McGaughey's Class quilt is on display at Wabash College as part of the Wabash Fine Arts Center Community Quilt Day.

From top left to right quilt designers are Hayden Corbin, *"The Perfect Land,"* Carter Bokhart, *"Chaos,"* Ryker McCarty, *"Nighty Night,"* Hugh McCrary, *"Mound Under the Sky,"* Trenton Oliver, *"Mushroom Field,"* Adelaide Lindsay, *"My Dad's Work Life,"* Avery Rose Sarver, *"My Magical Garden,"* Angelique Noriega, *"My Room,"* Liam Griggs, *"Commander Munchkin Man,"* Kaiden Goodnight, *"The Blob,"* Pearl Weedman, *"Spring,"* Remi Norman, *"No Name,"* Neo Fatusin, *"Untitled,"* Abi Cifuentes-Figeroa, *"Untitled,"* Naomi Karger, *"Untitled,"* Aiden Ford, *"Halloween Night,"* Alex Moore, *"Nature Park,"* London Trent, *"The Unfinished,"* and Avelyn Gleason, *"The Mountain Range."*



## Yale University ambassador visits high school classes

Recently, Miranda Crowe, a 2024 North Montgomery High School graduate, came to Crawfordsville High School and spoke to students in English 9, 10, and 11 Honors classes about Yale University.

Crowe is currently serving as an undergraduate admissions ambassador for Yale. She shares information about Yale and all that it has to offer interested students. Crowe gave the history of the university, what the admissions office is looking for in prospective students, and shared helpful information about financial aid and affording Yale tuition.



## Willson Preschool Academy invites families to prom

Willson Preschool Academy held a Preschool Prom and many families came out to celebrate the wonderful event. Families and students dressed up for the event. In addition to dancing, students were able to decorate crowns, complete a scavenger hunt, and make bracelets. Families participated with the chicken dance, limbo, and many more fun activities.





## Colts Junior Football Camp comes to Nicholson

Nicholson students had a blast last week when the Colts Junior Football Camp came to school.

Various stations were set up around the playground where many parent volunteers helped lead the students through the activities which included flag football, quarterback pass, touchdown dive, tackling practice, and several others.

Physical Education teacher Mrs. Newman coordinated the event with the Colts organization and with the help of so many willing volunteers, this event has been possible. The Colts have come to Nicholson for this event for approximately eight to ten years.



## Willson celebrates the Week of the Young Child

Willson Preschool Academy celebrated the Week of the Young Child April 5-11, 2025. This annual event celebrates the early learning of young children, their teachers, and their families. Each day has a different theme throughout the weekly celebration. The themes include Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. On Family Friday, we hosted our Willson Preschool Academy Prom.







Left: Campbell White shared about her experience in the Career and Technical Education program with members of the Crawfordsville Rotary Club. Right: CHS Interact Club presented local Rotarian Roger Azar with a check to help support high school students in the country of Lebanon. With Roger Azar are Interact Club members, left to right, Sam Minnette, Celeste Moore, Maesa Horton, and Soren Olofson.

## CHS Interact hosts first joint Rotary meeting

On Wednesday, April 30, Crawfordsville High School's Interact Club held its first-ever joint meeting with the Crawfordsville Rotary Club marking a memorable moment of collaboration and community spirit. The event was hosted at Crawfordsville High School Interact Club, where Chartwells Food service provided a delicious lunch enjoyed by all in attendance.

Club president Sam Minnette and vice president Celeste Moore led the meeting with professionalism and poise. A highlight of the gathering was the presentation of a donation check to Rotarian Roger Azar, designated to support tuition costs of high school students in Lebanon. This meaningful contribution reflects the club's

international commitment to global citizenship and service.

In addition to the donation, Interact members Campbell White and Celeste Moore shared their experiences in the West Central Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. They spoke about the skills they have gained and their aspirations beyond high school, inspiring those in attendance with their energy and ambition.

The joint meeting was a resounding success, showcasing the leadership, service, and community-mindedness of Crawfordsville High School students. Interact members were commended for their efforts in organizing and hosting such a significant event.

## Hoover Elementary has rats in classrooms

Thanks to the Crawfordsville Elementary PTO, the Hoover 4th graders were able to continue the 4th grade rat project. Several sets of rats are being used by the 4th graders to do some scientific research on their rats' growth and development. Students are feeding one of the rat pairs a healthy diet, and the other rat a not-so-healthy diet. Students are regularly measuring and weighing the rats to track their growth. Students are also observing the activity levels of the rats. At the end of the project, a few lucky students will have an opportunity to adopt a rat and take it home!



Left: Fourth grade teacher Mrs. Foster has two rats in her classroom named Remy and Hazel. Right: Students are enjoying observing rats named Snowflake and Jerry in another fourth grade classroom.



# ATEAM treats support staff to dinner

In 2017, ATEAM members began developing an idea to celebrate the amazing middle school support staff members that work so hard behind the scenes, but often do not receive the recognition they so richly deserve. Eventually, ATEAM members agreed that administrative assistants, nurses, and aides should be treated to a luncheon once a year. Once these decisions were made, ATEAMers began to brainstorm how to accomplish that based on CMS core values of character education and development, fostering a community where all are respected, development of problem solving skills, and social and civic learning.

ATEAM members were tasked with fundraising to support their ideas, working with the cafeteria to develop a menu, creating a theme for decorations, and determining types of gifts. The first official Support Staff Luncheon was held in 2018 and has happened every year except 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. Over time, traditions have developed. Dairy Queen fundraising nights, winter dances, pep session activities, and other activities have generated funds for the event. The CMS cafeteria has been absolutely wonderful and kind enough to come to ATEAM meetings to help the members develop special menus. Themes for the event have ranged from Hollywood, to Winter Festival, to Spring Fling. Gifts have always been bags of sweet and salty treats and thank you notes signed by all members.

Co-sponsors Mrs. Vellner and Mrs. Hudson collect the names of all support staff approximately six weeks before the event. ATEAM members can choose to be a personal as-

sistant to one support staff member based on the points they have earned throughout the school year. They are expected to dress nicely and use proper table manners during the luncheon.

One very important component has been added; proper deportment in this type of social situation. Some middle school students are very nervous in these types of circumstances, so we help them understand they just need to have a conversation that could include: where is their support staff member from, how did they come to CMS, what do they like to do outside school, or what is their favorite food, color, music, etc. Students sit with their support staff member during a lunch shift, refill drinks, have conversations, and make the event memorable.

This year, the event was held on Tuesday, April 29. The theme was Red and Gold, and featured side salad, chicken fettuccine alfredo, breadsticks, and make your own brownie sundaes, which were delicious and prepared by CMS kitchen staff Marlena Walbert and Diana Wilbert. ATEAM members decorated small chalkboards as place settings for each support staff member and gifts were again sweet and salty snacks. The support staff members were Kiersten Stevens, Madi-



The ATEAM planned and served a special meal to the Crawfordville Middle School Support Staff to express their appreciation for the work they do at CMS.



Seventh grade student and ATEAM member Vedanti Kiran and staff member Ginger Collins enjoyed their time together at the dinner.

son Dossett, Amy Bales, Emily Daley, Lulu Angelo, Julie Randles, Concetta Horman, Catie Cox, Mary Ann Conley, Mauricia Estrada Munoz, Megan Mell, Tatum Binford, Renee Berg, Lisa Warren and Ginger Collins. The fantastic ladies were hosted by ATEAM members Brooklyn Wilkins, Claire Dennison, Samiyyah Hamilton, Elliot Hamilton, Zoey Zacarias, Ella Seward,

Trevor Norton, Zeke Plunkett, Jasmine Loy, Elizabeth Nunan, Madilyn Biddle, Teagan Spencer, Jo Hesler, Shaeleigh Hreskowsky and Vedanti Kiran.

The ATEAM would like to thank the CMS Support Staff for all the hard work multitasking and extra hours they spend to make this school run so smoothly and efficiently. CMS could not function without you!



# Chartwells serves our schools well

## *New additions offered at CHS*

Over the past month, Chartwells has introduced some new food options aimed at supporting students' health and energy throughout the day at Crawfordville High School. An after-school a la carte snack program has been giving students convenient access to quick, nutritious snacks before home and away sporting events, after-school clubs, and other extracurriculars.

Additionally, breakfast smoothies have been added to the morning menu, offering a refreshing and healthy way for students to kick off their day. Both additions have been well-received and are part of the ongoing effort to enhance student wellness and satisfaction.



## *Chartwells sponsors free prom tickets, prizes*

For two weeks in April, CHS upperclassmen had the chance to win free prom tickets, gift card for flowers, or after-prom tickets and t-shirts sponsored by Chartwells. The only requirement for students was to eat school breakfast and lunch. The more times students ate a reimbursable breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, the more chances they had to win big!

## *Chartwells brings Discovery Kitchen to Hoover Elementary*

Hoover Elementary Tigers had a special guest during their Specials classes. Chartwell's resident dietitian, Kayla Jewell, shared an interactive food demonstration of Roasted Beet Fries using Chartwells Discovery Kitchen Mobile Teaching Cart. Students learned how to prepare this healthy snack and ways to incorporate nutritious foods into their daily snacking routine. Students had the opportunity to sample the recipe and ask nutrition and culinary questions.







# CHS students demonstrate The Athenian Way

• **Brian Melgar (Nominated by Shelley Clouser):** Brian displays the Athenian Way at CHS daily. He is always kind, helpful, and respectful of his classmates and teachers. Even when things become difficult Brian never gives up; he demonstrates determination and grit. Brian sets an excellent example for his classmates!

• **Tirsofer Hernandez Zavaleta (Nominated by Christina Jeffers):** Tirsofer has shown massive improvement since last semester! He has not only “upped his game” in my class by showing improved pride in his work, but he has exhibited great leadership skills by encouraging others to “up their game” and do better in class as well! Tirsofer is also always respectful when he interacts with teachers and students.

• **Stacey Jackson (Nominated by Keri McDonald):** I am nominating Stacey Jackson for her dedication to the students, essential skills classroom, and CHS. She is often asked to do many tasks outside her day to day schedule and does so without complaint. She goes out of her way to support the students throughout the school and has great compassion for them. She shows great pride in CHS in and outside the school. I am blessed to have her as a paraprofessional in my classroom.

• **Bristol Presley (Nominated by Gary Linn):** Bristol is perhaps my best overall student this school

year. She is an extremely hard worker. Her completed assignments are on time and always include great detail, showing her pride in her work. Bristol has a kind personality and treats all of her classmates with respect. She is a wonderful team player when it comes to small group work. She is a main contributor to the award-winning Athenian Guard at CHS. And yet, she is humble at all times and receives my compliments with grace and appreciation. Bristol is without a doubt very deserving of this award.

• **Georgianna Hernandez (Nominated by Danny Pierce):** Georgianna is diligent in her work and strives to do her best in the classroom. She is goal oriented and is kind with her peers.

• **Sergio Manzanera Garcia (Nominated by Ryan Hall):** For the three years I have been here, Sergio has been in many of my classes. He is definitely the leader of this group. He has helped me probably more than I have helped him in the past years. He helps others when they are struggling, but at the same time he keeps others accountable. Sergio is very involved in our everyday learning!

• **Chris Conrad (Nominated by Kris Sims):** Chris struggled academically and behaviorally during his Freshman and Sophomore years. As a Junior, Chris made a decision that would change the direction of his high school

career and his life. He decided to become a positive and conscientious student and role model. No one knew he made this decision. He simply proved it by his actions. I am so proud of him for making the choice that will change his life.

• **Lily Bridgham (Nominated by Brayden Montgomery):** Lily is a prime example of “The Athenian Way.” She brings out the best in others through her leadership and her respect for others. She has been extremely valuable as a leader on the track team and takes great pride in both athletics and her school work. She is kind to her classmates, and is always willing to lend a helping hand. I admire the fact that she is always challenging herself, whether it be asking difficult questions in class or by staying after practice to get in some extra work. I am proud to nominate Lily for “The Athenian Way.”

• **Cameron Bowling (Nominated by CHS Cafeteria Staff):** Cameron is the most kind, respectable and hard working young man that will do anything you ask him. He has a kind heart that shows everyday as he interacts with his co-workers, students, and staff here at CHS. He takes pride in his everyday tasks and does it with a smile. Cameron has had to step up in his job duties in the cafeteria and has done an amazing job. We are all honored to have the chance to work with such a well mannered

young man. Thank you for all you do Cameron!

• **Nicole Hathaway (Nominated by Keri McDonald):** Nicole comes in each day ready for anything. She is caring and respectful with students and staff. She has pride in her job and CHS. She knows what is expected of her and goes above and beyond. She will jump in and complete tasks without being asked, just because she knows they need to be done. She supports our students in and out of class. Nicole goes out of her way to include people outside her classroom and make sure they are taken care of. I could not be successful without her.

• **Averie Davies (Nominated by Eric Danforth):** Averie has been demonstrating The Athenian Way in class by working hard to complete all assignments, and to do them in the best way she knows how. She also has proven to be a good teammate in partner and group settings, and is willing to help others when the need arises. Averie shows respect for others by not setting her own needs ahead of the class, and has been a good citizen in class throughout the year. For these reasons, Averie is a great representation of The Athenian Way!

• **Jayden Wray (Nominated by Peyton Suiter):** Jayden has been a pleasure to have in class throughout the entire year. From day one he has been locked into



each lesson in class, getting all of his assignments done, and assisting fellow classmates in Algebra. Jayden is a member of the high honor roll and of the wrestling team. Jayden takes pride in everything he does at CHS and has gotten his high school career off to a tremendous start!

● **Emily Anderson (Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger):** Emily is always kind, considerate and helpful. She is an amazing kid. I appreciate all her sweet comments and help.

● **Alexia Keeling (Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger):** Lexi is a wonderful artist. She is always willing to help me with favors or help another student. I appreciate her so much! I know that big things are coming her way.

● **Nikolas Dimarzio Gaskins (Nominated by Amanda Ellenberger):** Nik has been so well behaved throughout the last month. I am so proud of him. He has locked in and done well with his projects and behavior.

● **Elizabeth Ellingwood (Nominated by Peyton Suiter):** Elizabeth has yet to finish her freshman year and has already become a true example of The Athenian Way. On top of her GPA that hovers around a 4.0, she is a classroom leader. She leads by example in how she goes about her work, she helps lead the class through our lessons answering questions along with asking them, and assists struggling classmates. She leads outside of the classroom as well. Elizabeth is a member of the school's Bowling Team, Concert Choir, Show Choir, along with participating in this year's musical at CHS. As part of the musical, I was told by Ms. Lisa and the musical crew that whenever extra help was needed from cast members for the show, Elizabeth was always first to volunteer. Elizabeth is a perfect example of what The Athenian Way looks like!

● **Ava Pettit (Nominated by Krystal Rogers):** Ava has grown so much in the last four years and is a great example of the "The Athenian Way." She is kind to adults and other students and is always respectful. Ava shows pride in her work by asking questions and practicing diligently. She

has been involved in Champions Together and attended other school events. Ava has shown grit on the daily by doing things that are challenging to her. Sometimes this means trying again, but she always puts her best effort and keeps trying. Ava is a great representation of "The Athenian Way."

● **Victor Sanchez (Nominated by Krystal Rogers):** I am nominating Victor for always being willing to help other students and staff. I have seen Victor help others with Algebra. Victor exhibits kindness and respect for others daily. Victor participates in Football and attends other school events. He takes pride in his school and his schoolwork. Victor exhibits grits whether on or off the field. Victor is an excellent representation of "The Athenian Way."

● **Jacqueline Sanchez Vazquez (Nominated by Lucy Garing):** Jackie came into Specialized PE hesitant and nervous, but I can truly say that she has blossomed! She is kind and respectful to all of her classmates. This is her second semester with me and in just a few short months, she has started to show confidence and pride in her knowledge and abilities in the weight room. She has improved by 65 POUNDS across all of her main lifts (tied for #1 in most improved) and she's not done yet! Way to work, Jackie! :) #AthenianPower

● **Landon Gerold (Nominated by Brad Clark):** Landon is someone who models The Athenian Way as both a student and an athlete. I have seen many instances of his abilities and have long been impressed by his determination. He has set high goals for himself and works tirelessly in pursuit of those goals. He is one of the hardest workers I have had the privilege to teach and coach. In addition, he is extremely respectful, dependable, and trustworthy. His consistency in both his attitude and effort sets him apart from most. I am excited to see how Landon continues to grow in his leadership and how that example will contribute to our school culture.

● **Savannah Pearson (Nominated by Edward Sieferman):** Savannah struggled somewhat

during the Autumn term, but has REALLY come into her own since we returned from Christmas holiday. She has ALWAYS been an exceptionally kind person, and a pleasure to have in class, but something "clicked" in the weeks leading up to our exam over The Mole (which is NOT an easy topic). She accepted my challenge to put in time outside of class, and to make certain that she REALLY understood the material. She has been coming to my room on an almost daily basis to check answers to assignments, seek help when she doesn't get the correct answer, etc. Savannah scored an "A+" on that exam! One of the other things I REALLY admire about her is that she consistently participates in class discussions, and isn't afraid to raise her hand and contribute an answer, even if she isn't "sure" that she is "right." Savannah also genuinely cares about other people. She will often gather papers, calculators, and slates and markers for her lab partners BEFORE they arrive to class, to help them be prepared and ready for that day's lesson. If someone in her group is absent, Savannah assists them when they return to school, without being asked to do so, to ensure they have everything from the previous day, know what they "missed", etc.

● **Addison James (Nominated by Jennie Swick):** Addison hits all of the qualities of The Athenian Way. She takes so much pride in her activities. She is very involved in choir and theater. She participates in C-Ville Singers and Dynamic Expression and was in the fall play and the musical.

She is respectful to her teachers, directors, and peers. She is always willing to help others with vocal sections and I can always count on her to be a vocal leader. Addison challenges herself to try hard things or things that are difficult to her, which shows how much grit she has. Through all of these activities, she leads with kindness and a healthy amount of sass! Addison lives the Athenian Way in and outside of school!

● **Maecy Leak (Nominated by Jenny Sims):** I have had the privilege of having Maecy in class for the last three years. During

that time I have been so impressed at her desire and determination toward academic excellence. Maecy is never afraid of challenges and meets all obstacles with a smile and grace. She sets high standards for herself and holds herself to those standards. She is kind and gracious with everyone and sets the bar high for work ethic. She demonstrates maturity and wisdom and lights up the room. She is respectful to all and a wonderful example of The Athenian Way. I am so excited to see her pursue her career goals and look for nothing but great things in the future.

● **Sam Minnette (Nominated by Brayden Montgomery):** I am proud to honor Sam for "The Athenian Way" award. Sam frequently demonstrates all of the characteristics that we promote at CHS. I think what I admire most about Sam is his leadership in my classroom, and the respect he shows for others on a day-to-day basis. I've seen him frequently take pride in his work by digging in deep to the content, and not taking shortcuts. I have also seen him collaborate with his peers which makes for a better classroom environment, and ask for feedback to see how he can improve. Sam is a stellar student-athlete at CHS and demonstrates the best that we have to offer.

● **Jude Coursey (Nominated by Jay Strickland):** Jude is an outstanding student athlete and leader at CHS. He leads by example on the baseball field and tennis courts and more importantly in the halls of CHS. I have been impressed with his work ethic and passion to be the best he can be in athletics and academics. He is one of the more mentally tough athletes I have seen at CHS and lives out GRIT everyday at CHS. He handles adversity better than most student athletes I have seen during my career. When things get tough or difficult, he competes that much harder while maintaining a clear head. He is an encouraging and valued teammate who is quick to praise others and give credit when needed. Jude is a great example to our younger athletes and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him all four years at CHS.