



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
3 W. Athenian Dr. Crawfordsville • 765-362-2342
www.cville.k12.in.us



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Share feedback with
Superintendent, Dr. Ryker
[We'd love to hear from you!](#)



Continued and Growing AP Success at CHS

CHS now offering 18 in-person Advanced Placement courses

We're excited to celebrate the incredible growth in AP (Advanced Placement) achievement at CHS! This spring, our students and AP teachers achieved a 35% increase in the number of passed AP exams, resulting in a new high for CHS! Students achieved passing scores in each of the 16 in-person AP courses offered during the 2024-2025 school year. Congrats to our amazing students and staff for pushing academic excellence at CHS.

CHS Principal Jay Strickland said, "AP scores at Crawfordsville High School continue to rise, reflecting the dedication and excellence of our outstanding AP teachers who go above and beyond for our students every day. Our students continue to push themselves in AP courses and work hard toward achieving postsecondary success. As we celebrate their hard work, we're also proud to be expanding our AP course offerings to provide even more opportunities for academic growth at CHS."

For 2025-2026 we have added AP Music Theory, AP French, and AP Japanese. This year we are preparing students with 18 in-person AP courses for 21 AP exams.

What is Advanced Placement:

Advanced Placement is a program created by the College Board that offers college-level courses and exams to high school students. By taking AP courses, students can earn college credit, advanced placement, or both,



CHS students recognized by College Board

Crawfordsville High School students have been awarded National Recognition from College Board. Students can qualify for this award by either **a)** scoring in the top 10% on the PSAT/NMSQT among CHS test takers, Indiana's first generation test takers, or Indiana's rural or small town test takers OR **b)** earn a 3+ on two or more AP exams in 9th and/or 10th grade. Students must also earn a cumulative GPA of B+ or higher by the time of submission. Congratulations, Athenians! Keep up the great work!

depending on their exam performance and the policies of the college they attend.

Why AP matters:

AP courses build academic skills necessary for college, and they also offer the chance to earn college credit – saving time and money down the road! At Purdue University, a score of 3 or higher will earn you college credit! At Wabash College, many AP scores of 4 or 5 qualify for course credit or elective credit (Department dependent). See the following link to search you

desired college or university's AP policy: <https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/getting-credit-placement/search-policies>

According to the College Board, students who take AP exams are more likely to graduate from college on time compared to their peers. AP coursework builds academic skills necessary for college and enhances student readiness. Colleges and Universities look at AP Courses on student applications. College retention data shows that students who complete a rigorous

college preparatory curriculum that includes AP coursework are best prepared to complete degree requirements.

Now and for the Future:

To prepare students for AP courses and college, we offer a strong pre-AP curriculum before high school. Dr. Ryker shared, "We've expanded opportunities for K-8 students to work above grade level in language arts and math, ensuring more students are ready for AP success. If your child is college-bound, we here prepare them for success."



CHS football serves for Taste of Montgomery County

The Crawfordsville High School football team showed up in numbers and strength to help set up for the Taste of Montgomery County.

The team moved 23 picnic tables out of storage to various places around the grounds of the General Lew Wallace Study so that attendees of The Taste could sit, relax, eat, and fellowship with others.

In addition, the team also

helped move floor boards from storage to the stage area where they then helped build the stage.

A total of 21 players volunteered their time toward the community event.

Head Coach Brad Clark sees these service opportunities as beneficial for the team.

“Service is an important characteristic that I want guys in our program to learn.

Opportunities to serve your community and give back to others is a great lifelong lesson. These are tremendous experiences for our players to think about how they can impact others in a positive way,” Clark said.

When coaches provide the opportunity, players are impacted. Senior Mason McCarty said, “Service projects really help a team bond by spending

some time together while doing good for the community. Since we helped I just saw how grateful the people were when we helped them out and how much they appreciated us.”

Senior Cohen McClamroch saw the opportunities to build relationships. “These projects are important to build relationships with teammates and other people you don’t know super well,” he said.



Summer Lunch program serves 11,717 meals

June	
2,764	Breakfasts Served
4,685	Lunches Served
July	
1,272	Breakfasts Served
2,996	Lunches Served

Throughout June and July, CCSC operated five summer meal sites, concluding service on July 25th in preparation for the new school year. Crawfordsville High School served as a breakfast-only site, while Crawfordsville Middle School and Nicholson Elementary both functioned as

public lunch sites. Nicholson also supported summer school programming during the first two and a half weeks of the session. In addition, CCSC partnered with the Boys and Girls Club and Park and Recreation’s Camp Milligan, both of which operated as closed sites.

Across all locations, a total of 4,036 breakfasts and 7,681 lunches were served during the summer months. In June (21 days), 2,764 breakfasts were provided and 4,685 lunches, for an average of approximately 132 breakfasts and 223 lunches per day. In July (18 days), 1,272 breakfasts and 2,996 lunches were served, averaging about 71 breakfasts and 166 lunches per day.

During July, when school was not in session, our two public lunch sites averaged 27 students per day at CMS and 15 students per day at Nicholson, for a combined daily average of 42 students served.

CMS highlights Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Swick

Miller wins large literacy grant

Crawfordsville Middle School is proud to announce that Jenni Miller has been awarded the prestigious Dollar General Literacy Grant for her project, “Empowering Athenians: A Journey Through Reading.” Her mission for the grant is to support students who have missed key foundational reading skills and help them grow into strong and confident readers.

With the \$5,000 grant, Miller plans to provide impactful programs and resources that strengthen essential areas such as letter recognition, sounds, morphology, phonics, phonemic awareness, fluency, and writing. Her dedication to building literacy skills ensures that students not only catch up, but also develop a lifelong love of reading.

CMS Principal Tami Haas said, “We are so excited to celebrate Mrs. Miller and her passion for reading instruction. Her commitment to empowering every student through literacy truly embodies the spirit of this grant.”



Swick’s passion fuels success



Jennie Swick brings energy and passion to every choir class she teaches. With her deep knowledge of music, she provides frequent, meaningful feedback while also empowering students to critique and measure their own growth. Her clear expectations and well-established classroom procedures create a seamless learning environment where students can focus on both excellence and enjoyment.

Mrs. Swick is known for her balance of high expectations and encouragement. She continually praises her students’ efforts, making them feel safe to take risks and grow as musicians. Every student knows she believes in their ability to meet the standards she sets, and that belief fuels their success. Her enthusiasm, structure, and commitment ensure that CMS choir students are not only learning music, they are thriving.

CHS announces 2025 Homecoming Court

Congratulations to the Crawfordsville High School Homecoming Court.

Front row, left to right: Senior candidates Aubrey Lowe, Ciara Wilke, LiLi Yeung, and Bristol Presley. Back row, left to right: Freshman attendant Olivia Abney, Junior attendant Nahomi Sanchez, and Sophomore attendant Mila Blackwell.

The CHS homecoming football game is Friday, Sept. 12 and begins at 7:00 p.m. against MAC opponent, North Putnam. The homecoming festivities and queen announcement will take place during halftime.

Come on out to CHS and cheer on the Athenians!





Hoover takes annual trip

Hoover Elementary 5th grade students had another great trip to Camp Tecumseh located in Brookston, Indiana.

A total of 225 students and chaperones traveled to camp the morning of September 3rd where they hiked, canoed, gathered around the campfire, explored and searched for items in the woods, and created memories that will last them a lifetime.

If you haven't already, be sure to follow the link to watch some of the [Hoover staff perform a skit](#) by the campfire!



CHS offers invaluable experiences

Education Professions Program gets students in the classroom

At Crawfordsville High School, juniors and seniors can gain real-world experience while exploring careers.

The Education Professions program (formerly cadet teaching) lets students earn up to 15 dual credits through Indiana State University while working in local elementary and middle schools.

CHS Social Studies teacher and Education Professions Program coordinating teacher, Morgan Rainwater said, “The Education Professions CTE program is a great way for students, who are interested in becoming a teacher, to really experience all aspects of the world of education. While in our CHS classroom, students learn how to create fun and exciting lesson plans, develop their own philosophy of teaching, and understand the process of child and adolescent development. At their placement schools, students get to take everything they’ve learned and created and apply it within their own classrooms.”

When a junior class student begins the program, he or she spends Monday and Wednesday mornings, for the first three hours of the day, at the high school completing curriculum work with Rainwater. The IDOE curriculum consists of Principles of Teaching, Child and Adolescent Development, and Teaching and Learning. The remaining three mornings on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday are then spent at their placement schools learning from classroom teachers. If students continue the program a second year as a senior, students complete their capstone program and are in their host school each morning except Wednesdays.



Left: Amber Rohr and C.C. Cox discussing during recess. Middle: Ciara Wilke helps a student on her Chromebook. Right: Christina Susdorf assists Miss Burns during a class lesson.



Hose Elementary has three students in the Education Professions program and school counselor Mallory Tucker sees many advantages.

“I think the Education Professions program is beneficial for both our older and younger students. The high school students get to experience being in a real classroom and see behind the scenes as they help the teacher with various aspects of classroom life. Our kindergarten and 1st grade students benefit by having extra helping hands in their classroom and they gain a role model closer to their age to look up to,” she said.

Our high school students are enjoying the opportunity too. Kelsey Ramsey, a senior, enjoys working with kids and observing learning styles.

“I have enjoyed spending one on one time with a certain

amount of kids. I enjoy seeing how much different their learning is and being able to help them understand something in a unique way,” Ramsey said.

Ramsey is spending her

while junior C.C. Cox works in Mrs. Rohr’s kindergarten class.

Ciara Wilke has found the job to be rewarding and meaningful.

“What I like most about assisting in the class is the ability to connect with a student who’s having a tough time. Simple moments – like offering help with a smile—make the job so meaningful. Those small acts of reassurance and kindness are what turn a kid’s day around,” Wilke said.

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Rohr said, “My cadet teacher was once a kindergarten student in my classroom. I am honored she chose me for this experience.

She is fantastic with children. She has the “gift” and helping students comes very natural to her. I am one lucky teacher and my students love her already.”

As an educator, Rohr had

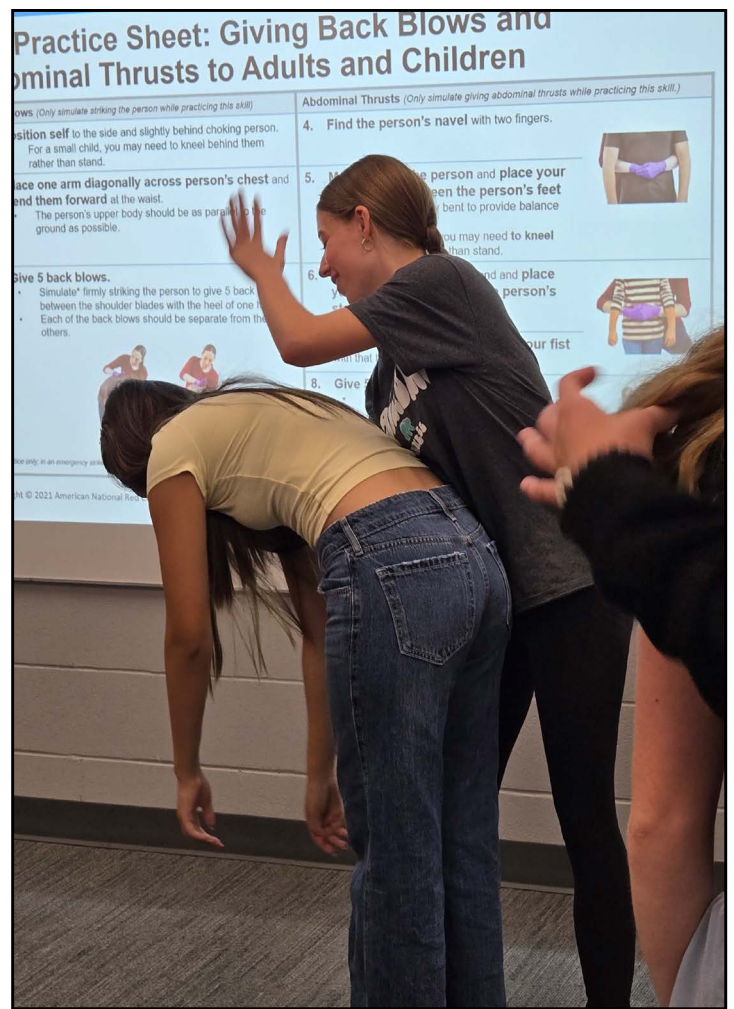
“What I’ve learned about education is that it’s not just a teacher and students in a classroom, but it’s a family that you build and the community that you’re around. When students know they are valued members of a classroom family, they are more likely to participate, and that improves the education of the students.”

**Ciara Wilke,
CHS Senior**

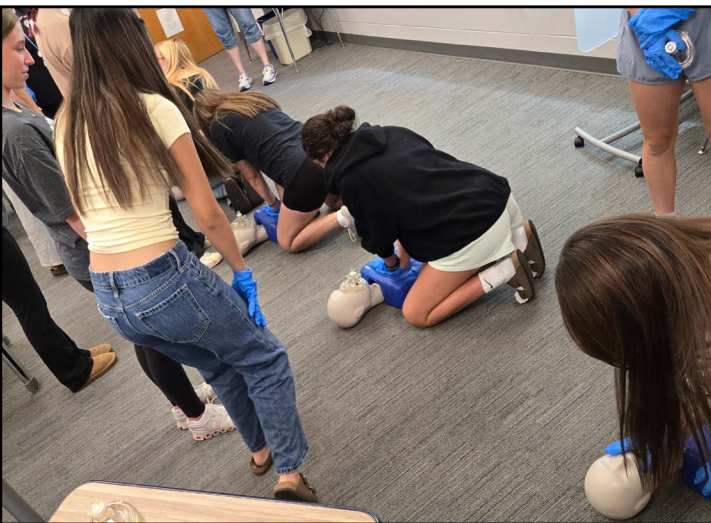
time in Mrs. Caplinger’s class at Nicholson Elementary.

Two students who visit Hose have the opportunity to work with their own former Kindergarten teachers. Senior Ciara Wilke assists Mr. Swank

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Students in the Education Professions class had the opportunity to learn CPR and First Aid Training during their instructional time at CHS.



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great things to say about the program.

"It is a great experience for high school students. They get first-hand experience in classrooms at a very early stage of their future career path. Being in the classroom helps them decide, #1- if they want to be in education and #2- what age they may enjoy teaching," she said.

"What I've learned about education is that it's not just a teacher and students in a classroom, but it's a family that you build and the community that you're around. When students know they are valued members of a classroom family, they are more likely to

participate, and that improves the education of the students," Wilke said.

Currently there are 15 high school students in the Education Professions program. In addition to three students at Hose, there are four students at Nicholson, two students at Hoover, and six students at CMS.

Senior Camy Cutcliff who helps at Hoover Elementary said, "Being able to have this amazing opportunity is wonderful. I enjoy being with the kids every single second even if they are in a bad mood. There are times I wish that we could stay there for the whole day."

In addition to the Education Professions, CHS offers Ca-

reer Exploration Internships. Depending on a number of student factors, they still have the opportunity to get hands-on classroom experience. According to Career Exploration Coordinator, Alex Ehrlich, specifically with internships in the classroom, students are doing similar work of the Education Professions students like helping kids with assignments, leading group activities, and assisting the teacher in what they need.

This year there are three students interns at schools.

Ehrlich said the Career Exploration Internship course does not involve the college credit coursework, but does require 18 hours of classroom time and 85 hours per credit or

about 170 hours per semester of on-site work at their job site and/or school.

The 18 hours of classroom time includes planning for the internship with goals, building resumes, and a report about their job site or school. Once hours are complete, students begin each morning until 11:30 at their job site or school.

Career Exploration Internships are not limited to the education field, but include a broad range of student interests including health care, veterinarian services, physical therapy, athletic training, optometry, and more. This year there are a total of 21 students in the Career Exploration Internship course.



Willson Preschool receives safety upgrades

Willson Preschool Academy recently received several upgrades to their building thanks to a Montgomery County Community Foundation (MCCF) grant of more than \$23,000.

The upgrades improve fire safety and comply with the State Fire Marshal's regulations for Willson's childcare rooms serving children under the age of 2 ½ years.

The new additions include

three exterior doors, panic hardware, exit signs, emergency lighting, and ADA-compliant sidewalks and walkways all of which were completed by Keystone Builders.

"We are very pleased with the workmanship of Keystone Builders and especially grateful to the Montgomery County Community Foundation for this grant. We are thankful we can now provide these safety mea-

sures for some of our youngest learners," said Amber Reed, Crawfordsville Community School Corporation Director of Food Service and Student Wellness.

The Montgomery County Community Foundation has supported the community since it began in 1991 and has given more than \$20 million dollars in more than 4,000 grants to various organizations throughout

our community. In this recent grant cycle, which included Willson Preschool Academy, MCCF provided 12 grants totaling \$263,424. These grants included non-profit organization areas such as early childhood education, community development, health, human services, and youth. For additional information about MCCS or how to donate, visit their website at <https://www.mccf-in.org/>.



Willson Preschool off to a great start

The students at Willson Preschool are adjusting to their new routines at school. They are making many friends, participating in new experiences, and shaping their cognitive, physical, and social-emotional development.



Mrs. Norman's class learns 'I love you' sign

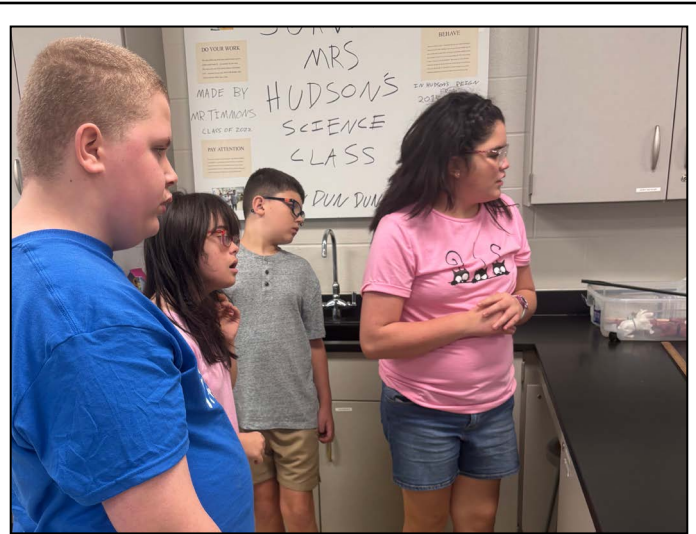
At Nicholson Elementary in Mrs. Norman's class, students read and learn weekly from the News2you online weekly newspaper curriculum in their Life Skills classroom.

Recently the class learned about a Korean pop or K-Pop band from Seoul, South Korea, named Big Ocean. What is unique about Big Ocean is that all three band members have a hearing impairment. Each of Big Ocean's performances all include signing, dancing, and sign language. Norman's students learned more about sign language and how the use of hand and body gestures are used to create symbols and words and ultimately used for communication by the hearing impaired. Each student had their own opportunity to learn the sign language symbol for "I Love You" and create a craft to display the sign.

CHS football reads at Hose

During the fall season, CHS football players are scheduled to read to Hose students on Wednesday mornings when they have a late-start schedule.

Numbers vary each week based on availability, but the first week nine players split up to read in three different classrooms. Following the reading, players went outside to recess with the students.



CMS classes explore fun ways to learn together

Mrs. Hudson's class recently hosted a hands-on measurement activity that was both exciting and educational. To make the experience even more special, she invited Mrs. Hardebeck's class to join in on the fun!

During the class, students explored a variety of stations showcasing different ways to measure. Mrs. Hardebeck's students enjoyed listening, watching, and learning from the creative activities at each station.

The highlight of the day took place outside, where Mrs. Hudson challenged her students to carefully carry a beaker of water down the school walkway and back within a set time. Before starting, students estimated how much water they would still have at the end and whether or not they would spill along the way. Mrs. Hardebeck's class joined in with plastic cups and walked right alongside the older students, turning the activity into a team effort filled with laughter and learning.

This collaboration gave both classes a chance to experience measurement in a real-world, active way—making math memorable, fun, and meaningful!



Hoover expands athletics to fourth grade students

Whitney Cosgray, Elementary Athletic Coordinator, and her team have worked together to expand the elementary athletic program to include 4th graders this year, doubling the student opportunity. This fall co-ed volleyball and cross country were offered. There are 56 volleyball and 26 cross country participants. Nearly 25% of Hoover students are participating in fall sports!



Community members back to 'Leaders as Readers'

Now that school is back in session, our committed Leaders as Readers are back in the classroom too! Pictured above on the left is Mr. Justin Froedge, a local attorney who works at Goebel Law Office. He is reading to Mrs. Pendleton's kindergarten class. On the right is Monte Thompson of McGowan Insurance Group and

CCSC board member reading in Mrs. Chaney's classroom.

This is the 3rd year since Leaders as Readers began. Each Hose Elementary classroom has a designated reader who comes to the classroom twice a month based on a scheduled worked out between the teacher and reader.

Athenians Are Back At School!

