



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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October 9, 2025

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

Crawfordsville High School is one of the BEST!

Crawfordsville High School has been ranked No. #1 in the Crawfordsville Metropolitan area, ranked #129 in the State, and #6,152 in the Nation among the 2025-2026 Best High Schools by U.S. News & World Report. The rankings evaluate nearly 24,000 schools at the national, state and local level, with nearly 18,000 ranked putting CHS in the top 40% in the nation.

Principal Jay Strickland said, "It is an honor for CHS to be recognized by U.S. News and World Report for earning high National and metro-area rankings in the 2025-26 Best High Schools. This honor is a reflection of our dedicated, pas-

sionate and caring staff at CHS and the variety of learning opportunities they provide our students. Our students are motivated to learn and take full advantage of these opportunities which prepare them for success in many different areas after graduation. I could not be more proud of our CHS team and our students. I am excited to see

our school continue to grow, improve and strive for excellence."

The calculation process focuses on six factors: college readiness; reading, math and science proficiency; reading, math and science performance;

under served student performance; college curriculum breadth; and graduation rates.

CHS offers a strong foundation for all students providing academic opportunities at all levels. CHS challenges students offering 18 in-person Advanced Placement courses.

Superintendent Dr. Rex Ryker said, "I am proud of CHS for once again earning recognition in the U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings. This achievement reflects the dedication of our PK-12 teachers, the hard work of our students, and the steadfast support of our school community."

Parents and students can see how CHS compares to other institutions and how the rankings are calculated on USNews.com.



Mrs. Hensley honored as Inspirational Educator

Mrs. Amy Hensley, Hose Elementary Kindergarten teacher, was awarded the Inspirational Educator Award from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce during their awards banquet on Sept. 11 at Stone Creek Lodge.

The Inspirational Educator Award is for "outstanding teachers who go above and beyond to motivate, inspire, and engage their students. This award recognizes educators who create positive learning environments, implement innovative teaching strategies, and demonstrate exceptional dedication to student success and academic excellence."

The person nominating Hensley for the award stated, "Mrs. Hensley presents the perfect combination of high student expectations, fun, and grace. It is powerful to see her former students return to her room with every opportunity to give her hugs and say hello. She demonstrates a great work ethic, kindness, and drive to always improve her curriculum and instruction."

Hensley was in attendance with her husband, Ed, and children Madelynn and Ian. Also joining her for the evening was Hose Principal Adam Welcher and his wife, Jessica, along with Hose co-workers Mrs. Rohr and Mr. Swank.



Mrs. Hensley celebrated receiving the Inspirational Educator Award with her family and co-workers.



S.R.O. Bowen receives First Responder Award

CCSC's School Resource Officer and Crawfordsville Police Department officer, Tony Bowen, received the First Responder Award at the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.

The Chamber celebrated the achievements of businesses, leaders, and community champions at this year's banquets.



CHS teachers invited to speak on AP classes

On September 25, CHS teachers Colleen Fuller and Emily Race were invited by College Board to speak on a panel for an AP Roundtable. The event, organized by College Board and Wabash Valley Educational Center, hosted principals and guidance counselors from around Indiana. This panel highlighted success stories from Indiana schools in emerging or growing AP classes. Colleen spoke about AP Precalculus and Emily spoke about AP Seminar.

Kids Closet featured on WTHR over the summer

The Kids Closet of Montgomery County, a local nonprofit organization in Crawfordsville was featured in the summer on WTHR's Send the Love segment with Scott Swan. The segment highlighted the important ministry and how it serves children in Montgomery County.



The Kids Closet collects new and gently used clothing and fulfills more than 1,000 orders each year. Volunteers run the small nonprofit by laundering, organizing by age and size, fulfilling orders, and even meeting immediate needs for foster care emergencies.

The ministry strives to help each child have clothing to feel comfortable and confident each day.

To find out more information about The Kids Closet, [visit their website](#). If you'd like to make a monetary donation or donate clothing, please see the Donations tab on their website.



West Central CTE visits Lafayette academy

Last Friday, Career & Technical Education instructors visited Greater Lafayette Career Academy. They were able to tour the building and meet with instructors of similar programs. It was a great chance to collaborate with other teachers.



First E.L. College Night is great success

We had a great turnout for E.L. College Night at CHS! The event took place on Wednesday, September 17th. Representatives from IU, Purdue, Wabash, Depauw, Marian, ISU, Ivy Tech and Ball State were here to interact with our students and families. A delicious meal was served and CCSC also provided a help session for ParentSquare.

Organizer Molly Whitecotton said, "The goal of College Night is to provide resources and contacts to our Spanish-speaking families and put them in touch with the college representatives who can provide them with opportunities for future success."

EL Director Amy Carrington said, "We are already thinking of ways to make next year's event bigger and better."



CCSC students represented at Community Day of Service

Approximately 200 volunteers participated in the second annual Community Day of Service on Wednesday, Sept. 17, completing improvement projects at 17 locations across Montgomery County.

Members of the CHS volleyball team (left photo) welcomed volunteers, handed out stickers, and directed volunteers as they

prepared to serve for the day. Right photo: The CTE Student Leadership Team and Laura Harris, CCSC Data Specialist and regular volunteer at Masonic Cornerstone, worked on various projects at the Masonic Lodge. Projects included cleaning, painting, organizing storage, moving furniture, building shelves, and more.

CARA receives 'Program of Excellence' designation

Earlier this week, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development notified 17 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.

Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA) has earned this designation for the third year in a row. Montgomery County experiences the positive impact of adult education success through increased economic activity and workforce participation of students who are up-skilled 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 educa-

tion or training, which further increases Hoosier employment and economic opportunities.

DWD Commissioner, Josh Richardson, 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 being implemented at the program level in communities every day."

All programs will be recognized by DWD Adult Education leadership at the Indiana Association and of Adult and Continuing Education award ceremony on September 24th, 2025.

CARA Director, Dr. Meredith Boaz, experiences firsthand the impact adult education services can have on adults: "In the brief time I've served in this role, I've been continually inspired by our students' dedication, perseverance, and strength—qualities that transform not only their own lives but also the lives of their families. It's a privilege to

PROGRAM
of Excellence

**RECIPIENT**
2024-25

This adult education program excelled in...

- *Student enrollment*
- *Student growth*
- *High School Equivalency attainment*
- *Career training services*
- *And much more*

DWD
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

**INDIANA
ADULT EDUCATION**

work alongside our exceptional teachers and staff as we support Montgomery County residents in achieving their educational and career aspirations. Our previous Director, Kathy Tobias, established an exceptional standard of excellence, leading our program to three consecutive years of outstanding achievement. I'm committed to building upon this strong foundation and continuing that

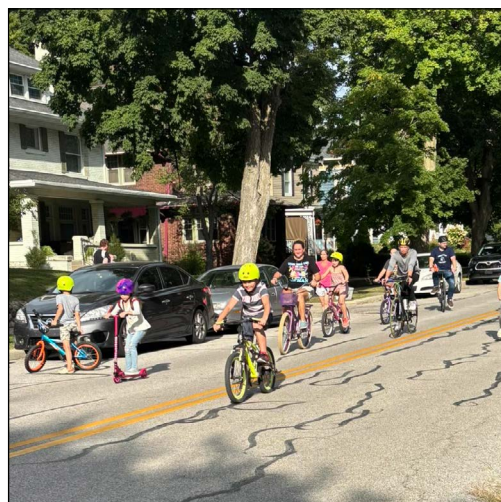
legacy of excellence."

Indiana Adult Education enrolled over 27,000 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, please visit DWD: AmplifyAE ([in.gov](https://www.in.gov)).



CARA to continue top-notch education at new location

Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA) is officially moved to its new location. CARA is now located in the Crawfordsville Career Academy at 2255 Phil Ward Blvd. If you are interested in getting your High School Equivalency Diploma, learning English, or earning a welding or logistics certification, call ((765)362-2690), stop by, or visit their website at www.crawfordsville-adulted.org.



Nicholson Bike and Hike offers tons of activities

The annual Nicholson Bike and Hike took place on September 9th, bringing together over 250 people, including 67 Nicholson students, 31 Wabash athletes, and 18 Crawfordsville High School (CHS) student volunteers.

The event kicked off with a bike and hike parade down Main Street, where students and families were cheered on by local residents. The eve-

ning's activities at Nicholson Elementary focused on promoting nutrition, active play, and family fun.

Upon arriving at Nicholson, a variety of interactive stations were available. Wabash Athletes volunteered to help make this night fun and memorable for our families. They provided guidance and excitement with football tosses, soccer shots, javelin throw-

ing, exercise challenges, and an obstacle course. Students posed with "Milk Mustaches," played Nutrition Bingo, and Beach Volleyball with our CHS National Honor Society and Art Honor Society. The CHS dance team brought dance moves for our families to learn and enjoy. We were honored to have guest appearances from Alexander the Athenian and Buttercup the Cow. The hit of

the night was creating our fruit smoothies by riding the Rock the Bike Blender provided by the National Dairy Council. What a yummy addition along with snacks provided by Chartwells.

The Nicholson staff, Wabash College, CHS and our community came together to make this year another successful and enjoyable evening for our Nicholson families.



Annual Read-A-Thon totals 53,000+ minutes

The CCSC Elementary Schools Annual Read-A-Thon Fundraiser was a great success! Hose, Nicholson, and Hoover raised more than \$12,000 to help support student activities (such as field trips), awards, and new playground equipment. CCSC Elementary Students logged over 53,358 minutes of reading.

Participating students earned tickets for reading minutes that are entered into a prize drawing at each school. Last year, Hose Elementary had one student win the overall national prize of a trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida!

Hose, Nicholson, and Hoover would like to thank all of the parents and community members who supported this year's Read-A-Thon and continue to encourage our students to keep reading!



Willson staff attends Early Learning Expo

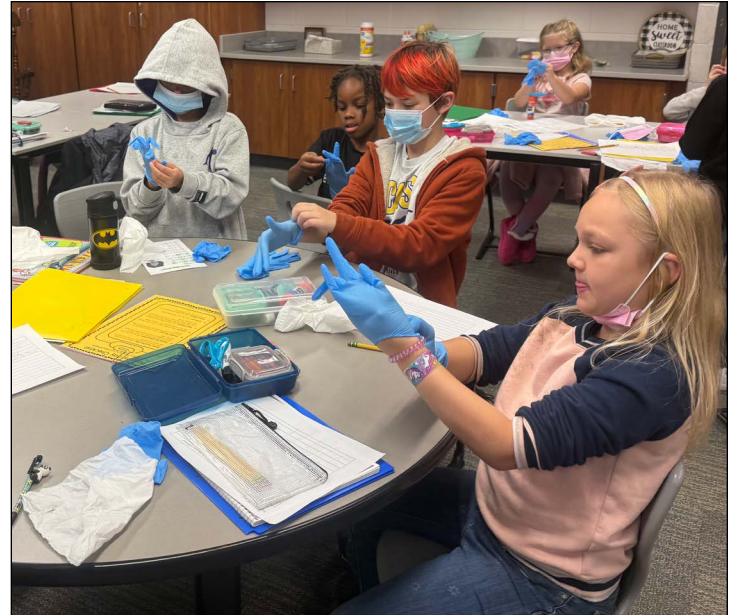
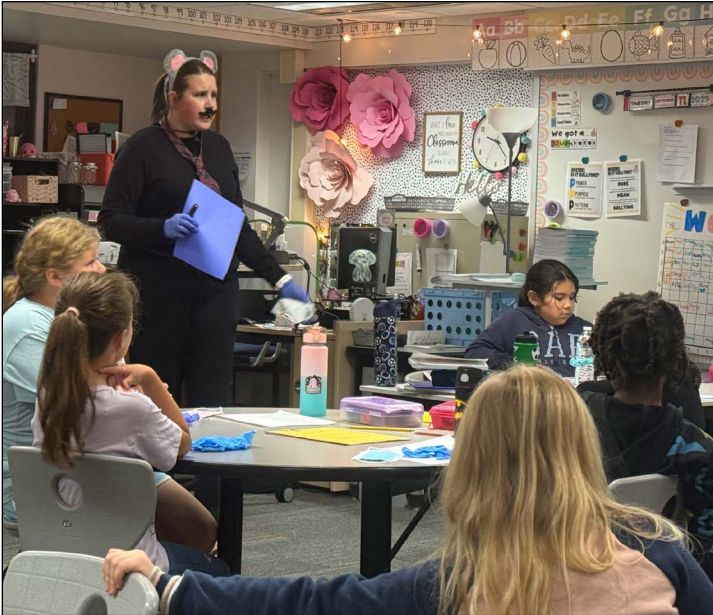
Willson Preschool Academy staff attended the Early Learning Expo in September. This event was hosted by the Montgomery County Early Learning Coalition. Staff were able to participate in this professional development to bring ideas back to the classroom that incorporated fun and innovative ways to bring science into everyday learning. Willson Preschool Academy Employee Childcare won a gift basket for the infant and toddler room. The prizes were shared among the three classrooms.

New curriculum sparks creative learning

CCSC has adopted new curriculum this year and teachers and students are diving in with fun activities while they learn important reading concepts. The new curriculum is Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA), a program designed for the purposeful and sequential building of content knowledge and vocabulary across various subjects like history, science, literature, and the arts. In K-2, the knowledge strand uses rich read-alouds and discussions to introduce

students to diverse topics, vocabulary, and concepts, fostering their listening comprehension and preparing them for future reading comprehension as their reading skills increase to include complex texts.

Below are third grade students in Ms. McVay's class at Nicholson and Mrs. Sayler's first grade class at Hose Elementary. Both classes were learning different concepts, but featured doctor-related activities.



McVay's students become surgeons during lesson

Miss McVay, also known as Mr Rattenborough - the narrator from unit 2 in CKLA, guided the students through text feature surgeries during language arts. Students were the surgeons complete with gloves and mask to wear if they liked. This activity was to support the review of text features and how these features support reading comprehension. Students enjoyed the active learning experience!

Pediatricians fill the class

Did you know the bones in your hands and feet make up over half the bones in your body? All of our first grade classes learned about the human body and all its systems as a part of our new CKLA reading program. Dr. Welbody is a pretend video character in the unit that is a pediatrician taking care of children. Mrs. Sayler went the extra mile and reported that Dr. Welbody dropped off some supplies for her first grade class to celebrate their learning at the end of the unit. They were doctors for the day with lots of hands-on learning opportunities and activities. All of our first graders enjoyed learning about the human body.



First grade students in Mrs. Sayler's class celebrated the end of their unit where they learned about the human body. Students had the chance to pretend to be Dr. Welbody, a video character in their curriculum unit, who is a pediatrician.

All District and All Region selections announced

Ten Crawfordsville High School Students 9-12 were selected for Indiana Central Northwest All-District honors! These students will perform on November 23rd at 4pm. The performance will be at Western Boone High School featuring 100 students from 23 schools in Montgomery, Boone, Hendricks, Marion, Hamilton, Tippecanoe, Clinton, and Carroll counties.

Twelve CHS and Crawfordsville Middle School students, grades 7-9, were selected for Indiana Central West All-Region Honors! These students will perform November 16th at 4pm. The performance will be at Southmont High School featuring 75 students from 18 schools in Montgomery, Hendricks, Clinton, Putnam, Boone, and Fountain counties.

This is the most District and Region selections ever for CCSC band members.

All District

Junior - Emerie Venis, Flute
Senior - Lili Yeung, Clarinet
Senior - Marcus Rogers, Clarinet
Sophomore - Taylor Bray, Clarinet
Sophomore Abby White, Clarinet Alt.
Senior - Ian Hurt, Alto Sax
Sophomore Jarron Torres, Tenor Sax
Freshman - Corbin Bray, Tenor Sax
Sophomore - Eleanor Hesler, Trumpet
Senior - Maxximo Jacome-Huesca, Percussion

All Region

Freshman - Vanessa Pettit, Baritone Sax
Freshman - Anna Boyd, Flute/Piccolo
Freshman - Claire Dennison, Percussion
Freshman - Gage Frazee, Percussion
7th - Phoenix Earl, Alto Sax - Alt
8th - Kendall Heeke, Clarinet - Alt
7th - Annie Dennison, Clarinet
8th - Josie Dowell, Clarinet
7th - Alice Cunningham, Oboe
8th - Yarety Hernandez, Trombone
8th - Caleb Browning, Trumpet
8th - William Hershberger, Trumpet



Tipton Pork Festival

The CHS Marching Athenians marched at the Pork Festival in Tipton, Illinois recently. This is the 5th year for the Marching Athenians in Tipton and they always receive a warm welcome!



Marian University

The Athenians had a great time at Marian University for the inaugural Band Day. It was a great opportunity for students to perform and learn about music after high school.



Motocross Of Nations Parade

The Athenians marched in the Motocross of Nations Parade on Friday, Oct. 3. The downtown area was packed with locals and fans from all across the world!

Alum visits CHS club meeting

On September 17, our Bring Change 2 Mind (BC2M) Club welcomed back Tyson Fuller, Class of 2024 graduate and the club's very first president. Tyson returned to share his personal mental-health journey and talk about what life has been like for him after high school.

Bring Change 2 Mind is a national student-led organization dedicated to reducing the stigma around mental health, raising awareness, and creating a safe space for open conver-

sations.

The school club meets around twice a month to promote understanding, offer peer support, and plan events that encourage mental health awareness.

During his visit, Tyson spoke about the challenges and growth he has experienced since graduation. He offered practical tips for managing stress, seeking help when needed, and maintaining balance during the often hectic high-school years. His mes-



sage of resilience and self-care resonated with club members, inspiring them to continue

building a supportive and stigma-free environment for all students.



Hoover 4th grade visits Veterans Memorial Park

Over the last several weeks, Hoover Elementary 4th grade classes have taken their turn to visit the Veterans Memorial Park located on South Washington Street.



New "Hose Hammer" award celebrates staff

There is a new Hose Hammer being awarded to staff every couple of weeks for outstanding performance. Its first presentation was to first grade teacher Mrs. Heather Chaney by Principal Adam Welcher for going above and beyond for her students to equip them for learning and making valuable contributions to the building's community and academic needs. Mrs. Chaney then presented the Hose Hammer to Mrs. Lyndsy Eslinger for going above and beyond to meet individual student needs and to help her students be successful throughout their school day.



Middle schoolers take full opportunity to slime!

Crawfordsville Middle School was filled with excitement during Spirit Week as students showed off their school pride with creative dress-up days and plenty of laughter. The week wrapped up with a high-energy pep rally and football spirit night that brought our community together in true Athenian style.

Students had the chance to participate in fun activities such as Human Foosball, Fortnite Tag, and even Slime a Teacher—all crowd favorites that kept the energy high. Our fall sports teams



were also recognized for their outstanding seasons, giving them a well-deserved round of applause from their classmates and fans.

CMS raised more than \$1,000 for the Animal Welfare League through the money raised to slime a teacher and the advisory coin collection challenge.

It was a week full of smiles, spirit, and celebration, reminding us all what makes CMS such a special place to learn and grow.



Hoover kicks off new Cross Country program

On Saturday, Sept. 30th, the Hoover Tigers XC team competed in the Greencastle Tiger Cub Invitational. Hoover had a total of 23 runners, which was the largest group of all the teams that competed! As a team the Tigers finished in 3rd place overall.

Individually, Hoover had 3 top 10 finishers and 11 in the top 30!

Our top three finishers were Addie Lindsey placing 5th in the girls division, Eddie Romero placing 9th and Keagan Archer placing 10th in the boys division. Our top 30 finishers for boys were: Brayden Harris- 15th, Chandler Scaggs - 16th, Declan Simmons - 19th, Ezra Mortara- 22nd

Ben Million - 26th, Adam Mason - 27th, Aiden Ford - 28th. Our top 30 finishers for girls were: Zaylie McFarland - 19th, Aubrey Custer- 20th, Giana Esteveck- 21st, Avelyn Gleason- 24th, Ingrid Sierferman- 25th

Athenians off to a great start this fall

BOYS TENNIS



- Sectional Champions
- MAC Conference
- County Champions

GIRLS SOCCER



- MAC Conference
- County Champions

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL



- County Champions

BOYS SOCCER



- County Champions

Crawfordsville Middle School

GIRLS SOCCER

7TH BOYS FOOTBALL



• **County Champions**

• **County Champions**

Crawfordsville Youth Football



2nd/3rd Grade Football Champions