

CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

FOR LITERACIES AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



**Cultivate Change.
Lead with Impact.
Achieve Excellence.**

APPLY HERE!

Nov. 3, 2025 - Jan. 20, 2025

F A Y E T T E C O U N T Y P U B L I C S C H O O L S



Making Our Mark

A Better Future Starts Here

At Crawford Middle School Leadership Academy for Literacies and Civic Engagement we develop thoughtful citizens who take ownership of their learning and actively contribute to a better world.

Student leadership is at the core of CMSLA. Students can serve on school action teams, engage in student-led service-learning projects within the community, and showcase their mastery of learning to staff, families, and community partners. At CMSLA, we provide students with grade-appropriate assignments, strong instruction, deep engagement, and hold ALL students to high expectations.

Through real-world application, we empower students to emerge as compassionate, adaptable leaders equipped to excel in an ever-changing world.

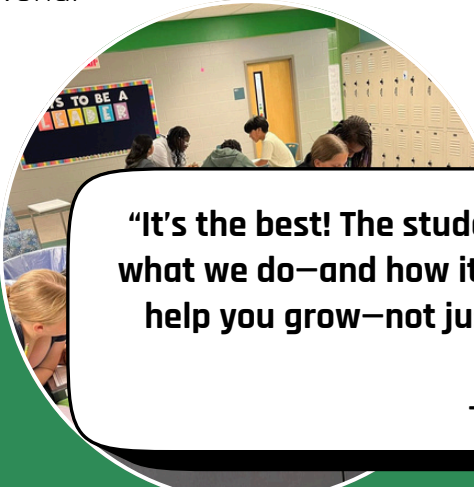
Our Vision

At Crawford, students become compassionate, adaptable leaders who possess the skills and knowledge to actively engage in their communities, solve complex problems, and inspire meaningful change for a better future.

Our Mission

At Crawford, students are empowered to cultivate meaningful change as informed, thoughtful citizens, lead with impact through purposeful action, and achieve excellence by taking ownership of their learning.

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A circular inset photograph showing a group of students sitting at a table in a classroom, engaged in a discussion or activity. A teacher is also visible, interacting with them.

"It's the best! The students and community make Crawford what it is. It's what we do—and how it changes you. Here, people really relate to you and help you grow—not just teachers, but other students too. It gives you a whole new point of view."

— 8th Grade Student, CMSLA



CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Leadership Academy

Four Houses

One School



ALTRUISMO
The House of
Givers



AMISTAD
The House of
Friendship



ISIBINDI
The House of
Courage



RÊVEUR
The House of
Dreamers

What is the House System?

CMSLA has four houses: Altruismo, Amistad, Isibindi, and Rêveur. These houses make up smaller communities within our school. Every staff member and student belongs to a house so that everyone feels a sense of belonging. Each house represents different traits, but, when we all embody each of the main characteristics, it will make us all more successful!



Scan the QR Code to
learn more

Why the House System?

- It builds character and school-wide community.
- It provides opportunities for students to socialize with peers outside of their classes and with positive adult role models beyond just their classroom teachers.
- It provides student leadership opportunities.
- It promotes a culture of constructive competition--students learn how to be team players and contribute their efforts toward a group.
- It fosters a culture of supporting one another and learning how to gracefully handle defeat.

How are students sorted?

Students will be sorted at random! Students should not feel "assigned" to a house, but "chosen" by one! This is a huge moment for students and they will be surrounded by other students and staff cheering them on as they are sorted into their house!

Which house will **choose** you?



Core Values

Student Leadership & Voice



We believe every student is a leader empowered to make a positive impact. Through opportunities such as student-designed initiatives, civic discourse, and collaborative projects, we cultivate the skills, confidence, and critical competencies needed to thrive in today's world. Leadership at Crawford is about recognizing your strengths, making a difference, and empowering others to create meaningful change.

Deeper Learning



We foster deeper learning through instruction that aligns PBL and mastery learning with Kentucky Academic Standards. Students not only master the standards but also learn to apply their knowledge to new and novel situations, gaining a deeper understanding of the content. By connecting rigorous academic concepts to real-world applications, students develop critical literacies, leadership skills, and the ability to solve complex challenges, preparing them for success in an ever-changing world.

Access to Opportunities



We are dedicated to creating a school environment where every student has the access, opportunities, resources, and support they need to succeed. We focus on community building, and create a space where all voices are valued, respected, and empowered.

Staff Empowerment & Voice



We are committed to fostering a culture of professional growth, collaboration, and innovation for our staff. Through Data Design Teams, we provide ongoing opportunities for development and leadership. These initiatives ensure educators are equipped with the tools, strategies, and support needed to inspire and empower students, creating a dynamic and impactful learning environment. By inspiring excellence and fostering community, we celebrate achievements, cultivate a positive culture, and strengthen the bonds that make our school a thriving place for both educators and students.

Civic & Community Engagement



We cultivate meaningful civic and community engagement through a leadership course that fosters critical thinking, knowledge transfer, and active participation in society. By collaborating with local organizations and community leaders, we build enriching connections that enhance the educational experience and prepare students to thrive as engaged citizens.

Through service-learning and community-based activities, students develop a deep sense of responsibility to both their local and global communities. We also engage stakeholders with events, tours, and open dialogues, ensuring every voice helps shape our school's vision and success.



Student Leadership & Voice

- **Beta Club:** Promotes academic achievement, character development, and leadership through service projects and activities.
- **Student Action Teams:** Groups where students identify and implement projects that address real-world challenges and positively impact their community.
- **STLP: The Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)** empowers students to use technology creatively and collaboratively to solve real-world problems, showcase their skills, and develop leadership abilities.
- **House Captains:** 8th-grade students are elected by their peers to serve as co-leaders of our CMSLA Houses. They assist adult House Leads with planning, implementing projects, and representing students.
- **Principal Advisory Council:** This council of selected students collaborates with school leadership on key initiatives, programs, and policies that support student success.
- **Student Ambassadors:** A select group of students who serve as the welcoming committee for Crawford. They give school tours to prospective families and students, providing a firsthand look at campus life, and offer mini-orientations to help newcomers feel at home. Ambassadors play a key role in making Crawford a friendly and inviting place for all.





CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Leadership Academy

Deeper Learning

Our Goal

At CMSLA, we collaborate to design engaging instruction, monitor and respond to student needs, and refine our practices to support academic, social, and civic growth.

Our Approach to Learning

In addition to offering a variety of High School credits in multiple content areas, CMSLA is the only FCPS middle school offering students high school credit for Civic Literacy.

At CMSLA, we incorporate vibrant learning experiences to support students in reaching proficiency on the Kentucky Academic Standards, while developing literacy, leadership skills, and civic engagement opportunities. We are committed to fostering an environment where every student has equitable access to opportunities, resources, and the support needed for success.

Project Based Learning (PBL)

At CMSLA, we are committed to providing an education that goes beyond memorization and standardized tests. Project-based learning equips students with essential competencies such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving—skills that prepare them for success in school, careers, and life. Our students engage in hands-on projects that encourage creativity, innovation, and real-world problem-solving. Learning is not just about getting the right answers—it's about asking the right questions and thinking critically about solutions. We believe in a culture of continuous improvement, where students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning, reflect on their growth, and develop resilience. Our school community plays a vital role in supporting students as they explore new ideas, challenge themselves, and prepare for the future.





CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Leadership Academy

Access to Opportunities

Learning for All

We are dedicated to creating a school environment where every student has access, opportunities, resources, and support they need to succeed. We focus on community building and create a space where all voices are valued, respected, and empowered.

Beyond the Classroom

- **8th Grade Leadership Trip:** An all-expenses-paid, capstone experience where students travel to explore cultural landmarks, participate in team-building activities, and reflect on their growth at Crawford. This trip is designed to celebrate their achievements and prepare them for the transition to high school, all while giving students an opportunity to build everlasting memories with their peers.
- **6th & 7th Grade Magnet Themed Field Trips:** Opportunities for ALL students to have an off-campus trip that provides students with a rich experience deepening leadership, literacy, and civic engagement.
- **Community Partnership Projects:** Opportunities to collaborate with local organizations on initiatives that make a difference in our community. Every student at CMSLA gets a magnet-related field trip.
- **JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates):** Equips students with the academic, employability, and leadership skills needed to succeed in high school, postsecondary education, and the workforce through hands-on career exploration and community engagement.





Staff Empowerment & Voice



- **Commitment to Professional Growth:** We are dedicated to fostering a culture of continuous learning and development for our staff. Through professional learning opportunities, we support educators in refining their skills and expanding their knowledge to enhance student success.
- **Collaborative Learning Communities:** We believe in the power of collaboration. Our Data Design Teams (DDTs) bring educators together to share best practices, analyze student outcomes, and develop high-yield teaching strategies. These communities cultivate a supportive environment where teamwork drives improvement.
- **Recognizing Excellence and Fostering Community:** We prioritize a supportive and uplifting work environment where staff feel valued and appreciated. We celebrate achievements, milestones, and contributions through schoolwide events and a culture of gratitude. By fostering a positive and encouraging atmosphere, we strengthen our community, boost morale, and create a workplace where educators feel inspired to grow and thrive.
- **Impact on Student Success:** By investing in our teachers, we create a dynamic learning environment that empowers students. Our professional growth initiatives ensure that educators are equipped to inspire, innovate, and drive meaningful change in the classroom.





Civic & Community Engagement

Transformative Learning Opportunities That Inspire Excellence

We inspire students to achieve their fullest potential while fostering leadership, developing a strong literacy foundation, and engaging students to be citizens of their communities.

Service Learning

Our students lead service learning projects that combine community service with meaningful learning experiences. Through these projects, students will deepen their understanding of their responsibilities as active members of their local community and broader world.

Partnership with Community Organizations

Our students collaborate with local community organizations to enrich their learning experiences. These partnerships allow students to take part in real-world projects, gain valuable hands-on experience, and build meaningful connections within the community.





What You'll Love About Crawford:

Accelerated Learning Opportunities



- **Accelerated Math:** Students will build a strong foundation in mathematical concepts, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, preparing them for higher-level math courses, and offering opportunities for high school-level credit in Algebra I and Geometry.
- **Accelerated Literacy and Language:** An opportunity designed to boost language proficiency through high school courses in Spanish 1, Spanish for Heritage Speakers, and Chinese 1. Students can also earn high school-level credit in English 1, strengthening their literacy skills and preparing them for success in a globalized world.
- **Accelerated Elective Offerings:** Focused on critical thinking, writing, and public speaking, our elective programs prepare students for future academic success. Students also have the opportunity to take high school-level courses in digital, financial, and civic literacy.
***CMSLA is the ONLY FCPS Middle School to offer the opportunity for high school credit in Civic Literacy.**
- **Accelerated Health and Physical Education:** Designed to challenge students with a comprehensive curriculum that integrates advanced topics in health, fitness, and wellness. This opportunity emphasizes physical conditioning, nutrition, mental health, and lifelong wellness strategies, offering high school-level courses in Health and PE that build a foundation for active, healthy living.



What You'll Love About Crawford:

Enriching Experiences

At CMSLA, learning extends far beyond our walls. Students participate in authentic, community-connected experiences that empower every student to connect learning with real-world purpose.

Civic Lex Partnership: Students collaborate with Civic Lex and the Lexington City Council to explore real-world civic issues and develop action plans through our Civic Seal Projects.

Interdisciplinary Learning: Teachers team up for cross-curricular projects, such as the Tree Walk and environmental storytelling experience, helping students see the connections between science, literacy, and civic engagement.

College & Career Exploration: Visits to college campuses—where students explore academic programs, campus life, and career pathways that inspire their future goals.

- Kentucky State University
- Thomas More University
- Morehead State University
- Eastern Kentucky University
- Campbellsville University
- Transylvania University

Cultural and Arts Connections: Students experience professional theater performances and go behind the scenes to learn how productions come to life, deepening their appreciation for the arts thanks to experiences like Broadway Buddies.

Community and History Connections: Field trips to the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville and the cultural landmark statue "Towards Freedom" inspire students to reflect on courage, civic engagement, purpose, and leadership.

These experiences help students connect classroom learning to their community and the wider world, preparing them to lead with empathy, creativity, and confidence.





CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL Leadership Academy

What You'll Love About Crawford:

Extracurricular Opportunities



Athletics

Boys Basketball
Cheer
Cross Country
Dance
Football
Girls Basketball
Track
Volleyball

Bridge Builders

CMSLA's before and after-school program. The mission is to assist students academically and enrich their lives by acting as a bridge between the school, home, and the community. We offer topics such as art, STEM, mindfulness, goal setting, college and career prep, and much more.

Current offerings:

Cooking with FoodChain
Studying food systems with the Living Arts & Science Center
Mindfulness activities with the University of Kentucky Community Mental Health Clinic
Homework help
Visual art
Debate

Intramurals & Clubs

Anime Club
Book Club
Chess Club
Kickball
Soccer





CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
Leadership Academy

Leaving Your Mark

Crawford is more than a middle school—it's a launchpad for empowered, thoughtful, and informed leaders ready to make their mark on the world.

Schedule a visit today to see how we can inspire your student's potential.

"It is evident that the staff at CMSLA care about and want what's best for students. CMSLA is definitely a community you want to be a part of! GO COUGARS!"
- Proud parent of an 8th grader at CMSLA.



Schedule A Tour Today!



Crawford Middle School

Leadership Academy

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CRAWFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
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FOR LITERACIES AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Discover your
leadership journey
at CMSLA -
Apply today!
2026-2027



Crawford Middle School
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"Crawford has such a welcoming environment. Teachers and students are patient, kind, and always willing to help. People here step up as leaders and support each other—it really feels like a community."

— 8th Grade Student, CMSLA