



Crawfordsville Community School Corporation The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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December 11, 2025

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Superintendent, Dr. Ryker
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Hose makes Community Thanksgiving placemats

The attendees of the Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, held at First United Methodist Church, had lovely and colorful placemats to welcome them to the meal.

The students at Hose Elementary were the artists that had the opportunity to color the Happy Thanksgiving placemats. Students enjoyed working alongside their classmates and friends while they perfected their creative color choices.



CHS band invited for National Anthem performance

On November 7th the Crawfordsville Pep Band was invited for the third time to perform the National Anthem for the Indy Fuel, ECHL affiliate of the Chicago Blackhawks. Students had a great performance pregame and stuck around to watch the Fuel take down the Bloomington Bison, 5-0.

Dedicated group serves quietly at CMS

Every Wednesday morning, a dedicated group of 7th and 8th graders quietly makes a big difference at CMS. The CMS Recycling Team begins their day, moving from classroom to classroom—and even through the main office—to collect our school’s recycling. While it may seem like a simple routine, their work plays an important role in keeping our school clean, organized, and environmentally responsible.

This weekly effort helps reduce waste, supports our sustainability goals, and teaches all of us that caring for our environment starts with small, consistent actions. By giving



CMS Recycling Team includes, left to right, Zeke Plunkett, Isaac Simmons, Brooklyn Wilkins, Ella Seward, Angelique Cervantes, and Layla Alexander.

up part of their morning, these students demonstrate true leadership and service. Their commitment is selfless, steady,

and deeply appreciated.

We are proud of our CMS Recycling Team for modeling what it means to serve our

school community. Their work reminds us that when we each do our part, we create a healthier school and a better world.



CCSC receives MCCF grant

Montgomery County Community Foundation presented its final grant cycle for 2025 awarding a total of \$218,234 to various organizations within the community.

CMS Nurse Amy Bales accepted a \$10,000 check on behalf of Crawfordville Community School Corporation for the Health & Welfare project which provides financial assistance for medical, dental, vision, and mental health services. It focuses on assisting student healthcare needs and healthcare access as well as aiding in nurses’ professional development. Thank you, Montgomery County Community Foundation.



Local chocolatier judges 8th grade art assemblage project

Students in Mrs. Vellner’s 8th grade art class recently completed a new 3D assemblage project where they created sweet treats out of recycled materials. The students’ work was judged by teachers and administrators as well as Miss Sugar Ray, chocolatier. Overall winners were recognized with gift certificates and prizes. We want to thank Miss Sugar Ray for being our community partner and celebrating our art students.

Winners include: Edyn Melvin, Emily Green, Cooper Adams, Sidney Johnson, Quatish Anderson, Zylas McMurry, and Emily Cucinella.



3rd grade creates their Thanksgiving Day parade

Third grade students learned about the tradition of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and had a chance to make their own balloon "floats" and create their own parade down the hallways of the building. A variety of unique and creative balloons filled the school!



Congratulations to the newest Noble Knights

Nicholson Elementary celebrated students achievements after quarter one and proudly gave recognition to the first quarter's Noble Knights! Way to go, Knights!



Indiana Bandmasters Association All-Region Band (7-9th grade) members include Claire Dennison, Caleb Browning, Yaretzy Hernandez, Josilynn Dowell, Vanessa Pettit, Anna Boyd, Alice Cunningham, Annie Dennison, Gage Fraze, Maxwell Short, and William Hershberger.

Indiana Bandmasters Association All-District Band (9-12th grade) included, left to right, Emerie Venis, Corbin Bray, Taylor Bray, Eleanor Hesler, LiLi Yeung, Jarron Torres, Marcus Rogers, Maximo Jacome-Huesca, and Ian Hurt.

CCSC students earn multiple district, regional band honors

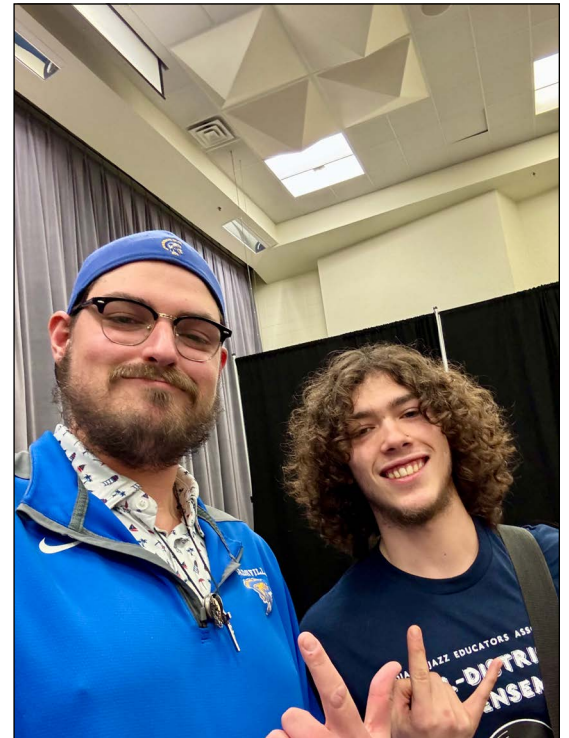
Several awards and honors are flowing from the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation's band department.

The Indiana Bandmasters Association, for grades 7 through 9, selected 11 CMS and CHS students for the All-Region Band. This marks the most Crawfordsville students that have ever been selected. Students include, Claire Dennison, Caleb Browning, Yaretzy Hernandez, Josilynn Dowell, Vanessa Pettit, Anna Boyd, Alice Cunningham, Annie Dennison, Gage Fraze, Maxwell Short, and William Hershberger. They performed at Southmont High School under the direction of Dr. Lucas Petersen of Purdue University.

In addition, the Indiana Bandmasters Association selected nine students

for the All-District Band for grades 9 through 12. These students were Emerie Venis, Corbin Bray, Taylor Bray, Eleanor Hesler, LiLi Yeung, Jarron Torres, Marcus Rogers, Maximo Jacome-Huesca, and Ian Hurt. These students performed at Western Boone High School under the direction of Dr. Brian Weidner of Butler University.

Individual recognition was received for Ethan Owens, a CHS senior. He was selected for the Indiana Jazz Educators Association All-District Jazz Band. He performed at Lafayette Jefferson High School with students from the Lafayette area. Ethan was a featured soloist on Eric Santana's Europa. He performed under the direction of Mo Trout, retired Purdue University Jazz Director.



CHS Band Director Jon Tebbe, left, with CHS senior Ethan Owens.



Willson Preschool Academy creates Candyland Tree

Willson Preschool Academy took part in the "Festival of Trees" at the Masonic Cornerstone Event Center by sponsoring and decorating a tree. Each student had an opportunity to decorate an ornament to place a touch of magic on this tree. The theme for Willson Preschool Academy's tree is Candyland and the student ornaments are brightly displayed. Several ornaments were made and also decorated for the tree located at Willson Preschool Academy.

A total of 70 beautifully decorated trees are on display at the event center. The community can visit the 2025 "Festival of Trees" on December 12, December 20, and December 21 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Masonic Cornerstone Event Center located at 221 S. Washington St. Crawfordsville.

Admission supports the non-profit organization and is \$8 for adults, \$5 for Seniors, \$5 for Children ages 3-10, and Free for Children 2 years and under.



Gold n Blues Jazz Band performs at North

On November 14th the Gold n' Blues Jazz Band traveled to North Montgomery High School to participate in the True North Jazz Cafe. Gold n' Blues played four different charts and had a rocking performance. Students Ethan Owens, Jar-ron Torres, and Ian Hurt also got the opportunity to perform with the Big West Winds Big Band out of Indianapolis who headlined the evening.



Marching Athenians play each branch's song

On November 11th the Marching Athenians were honored to participate in the 4th Annual Crawfordsville Veterans Day Parade. The Marching Athenians have performed in the parade since its inception in 2022. The Marching Athenians perform the service songs from the Navy, Army, Marines, and Air Force to ensure that as many Veterans as possible get to hear their branches' songs.



CHS Quarter 1 Athenian Way winners recognized

Emily Fullenwider nominated by Emily Race

Emily supports every person in this building. She greets our visitors with respect, checks students in and out with kindness, responds to staff and admin questions with alacrity, wrangles coverage on the most chaotic days, and shows pride in CHS through our social media posts and staff spirit. In the first quarter, she had additional bases to cover, which she did with grit and grace. Most of her tasks are invisible to the student body and the general staff, but they are crucial for CHS to fulfill its mission.

Sophia Wabile nominated by Shelly Clouser

Sophia is a leader in my English classroom this year. She is focused, works hard, and takes pride in her work. School has not always been easy for Sophia, but she never gives up. She goes above and beyond to be helpful and kind to the Essential Skills students in our class this year as well. I am very proud of Sophia, and love her kind heart.

Camila Bellorin Lopez nominated by Kris Ervin

Camila Bellorin Lopez demonstrates the Athenian spirit of kindness and grit. As a student learning the English language, Camila demonstrates extraordinary determination and grit. She approaches tasks as an opportunity to grow-whether it's learn-

ing vocabulary, understanding academic content, or expressing her thoughts clearly. Her dedication to learning is evident in her unwavering commitment to doing her best – regardless of the obstacle.

What makes Camila truly stand out is not only her academic determination, but the way she carries herself each day. She brings a bubbly energy to the room, and her positive attitude is contagious to those around her. Her kindness uplifts those around her, and she is quick to offer a smile.

Camila is a shining example of the Athenian Way, and it's my pleasure to work with her each day and to nominate her for this award.

Tereza Funez Puerto nominated by Patricia Zavala-Alonso

I'm nominating Tereza Funez Puerto not only because she is a kind and respectful young lady, but also because she has exemplified "The Athenian Way" since her Freshman year. She has demonstrated remarkable determination in overcoming the challenges of being an ELL Student.

Her dedication to acquiring the English Language is impressive. Additionally, she maintains excellent relationships with her classmates and is always ready to offer help to anyone in need

Bristol Presley nominated by Amanda Ellenberger

Bristol exemplifies many aspects of good character. She is kind and caring. She is also a very hard worker and talented artist!

Jacey Crose nominated by Amanda Ellenberger

Jacey is a wonderful student. She is always kind and respectful. She is a great role model for underclassmen.

LiLi Yeung & Ian Hurt nominated by Jon Tebbe

This fall Ian and LiLi have been vital to the success of the CHS band program. In the fall with the birth of my daughter, I relied on Ian and LiLi to run the day to day operations of the band program when I was not there. Not only did they do that, the band was better than we ever have been. Their leadership and actions modeled the Athenian way. They showed so much PRIDE in our program. They showed KINDNESS and RESPECT to their peers though what was a difficult learning process for them and others. Their GRIT was apparent though the work that they put in and their INVOLVEMENT was unmatched. I am so proud of them and the leadership that these students have demonstrated shows maturity well above their years. Our ISSMA Gold is on their shoulders.

Yuilana Torres nominated by Brayden Montgomery

Yuli has been a shining example of "The Athenian Way!" She shows up to class every day with a great attitude while being involved in numerous activities like soccer, prom committee, and National Honor Society. She is respectful, kind, and is always giving her best effort. She is a true example of what this award represents. I am proud to nominate her for "The Athenian Way" this quarter!

Brooklyn Crew nominated by Brandy Franklin

I am nominating Brooklyn for her work ethic in PreNursing CTE. Brooklyn comes to class early, she is prepared for the day, she asks for additional work to help better her understanding of the material, and is not afraid of challenges. I asked her to step into a leadership position as part of our CTE student leadership team and she was excited to try something new. I am really proud of Brooklyn and her hard work!

Isabel Gerdes nominated by Matt Reynolds

Isabel Gerdes exemplifies "The Athenian Way" through her unwavering Pride in herself, her school, and everything she pursues. She consistently demonstrates Respect and Kindness to everyone around her, treating others with fairness and compassion.

Isabel has also shown remarkable Grit, overcoming recent physical challenges while continuing to maintain outstanding grades and competing in varsity level athletics. In addition to her academic and athletic achievements, she is actively involved in multiple clubs, and school activities, always eager to contribute to the CHS community. Isabel Gerdes truly embodies the spirit and values of “The Athenian Way.”

Gavin Bray nominated by Lucy Garing

Gavin shows up every single day to PE with the best intentions. Our workouts are not easy and he pushes through with GRIT. He shows Kindness to all of his classmates and teachers. I am really proud of Gavin and his drive to improve his physical fitness! He improved dramatically on the 1/2 mile in just 9 weeks and I can't wait to watch him continue to improve! He never makes excuses and always finds a way to give his best effort in everything we do! Way to work Gavin!!! :)

Jack Sweet nominated by Eric Danforth

I nominate Jack Sweet for The Athenian Way award. Jack gets the job done in class and is totally accountable for his effort and actions, never accepting a victim role. When it comes time for partner or group work, Jack sets a respectful and positive tone, with the understanding that his classmates are trying to learn, the sum total of which is fine leadership. It is for these reasons that I am nominating Jack Sweet for The Athenian Way award.

Emily Fullenwider nominated by Caleb Fenimore

Emily embodies the Athenian Way each and every day in the front office. She is very passionate about our school and works very hard in the front office to help make the school run smoothly. Emily deals with phone calls, students/parents coming into the building, other visitors, organizes coverages/subs and many many more things. She does all of this with

a smile on her face even when the hours and days may grow long especially when down there mostly by yourself. We are very lucky to have her on our team!

Silas Thompson nominated by Craig Carrell

Silas Thompson demonstrates Pride, Respect, Grit, Involvement, and Kindness in all he does. He is polite, hardworking, and always willing to help others. Silas treats everyone with respect and approaches challenges with a positive attitude and determination. He is a great example of what it means to live “The Athenian Way.”

Paige Johnson nominated by Jordan Chandler

Paige is a remarkable student who embodies characteristics of “The Athenian Way”. She is very involved within the school by participating in multiple clubs, sports, and serving on the Youth Civic Engagement Council. Paige is also the Vice President of our Bring Change to Mind Club. She participates in all of these activities while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. This is a testament to her Grit and Determination. She is also the kind of student who leads by example and makes a difference in the lives of those around her. Paige is kind and tries to make others feel seen, heard, and included. She is a true example of what it means to live by the Athenian Way.

Davion Warmoth-Hunt nominated by Brad Clark

I have Davion Warmoth-Hunt as a student multiple times each day. He is a pleasure to have in all classes. However, I am nominating him because of his effort in Specialized PE. Not only is Davion one of the hardest

workers in the class, always eager to learn and get better, but he consistently goes above and beyond. Davion goes through the weight room every day after students have left to make sure all equipment is picked up, organized, and placed back where it belongs. This continuous act of selflessness is the absolute definition of the characteristics of the Athenian Way. It is my pleasure to recognize Davion for his daily effort and attitude.

Paige Johnson nominated by Edward Seiferman

If ANY student I have demonstrates GRIT, it is Paige Johnson! Paige was... shall we say... stressed? about our Unit 2 Assessment in AP Physics I. Rather than allowing that to get the best of her, she devoted FOUR HOURS of time outside of class the day BEFORE the exam to prepare and review, take additional notes that were NOT assigned, etc.

She was the ONLY one of my 15 AP Physics I students to receive a “5” (A) on the assessment. Interestingly, on the day of the exam, my Sage Saying for the day was from the Roman Stoic philosopher, Seneca, who wrote “You CANNOT spell ‘learned’ without the word E-A-R-N-E-D!” Paige deserves EVERY BIT of what she EARNED, because she put that INTO what she LEARNED.

This is ALL in addition to being a member of the cross country team, the Key Club, Choir, AND serving as my TA Period 3, where she routinely volunteers for REALLY tedious tasks such as organizing and labeling all of my drawers and cabinets for me!

Dylan Wolcott nominated by Gary Linn

Always tells me to have a nice evening as he leaves school

in the afternoon. He was a major contributor to my AP class last year as a junior.

Krystal Rogers nominated by Jenny Sims

Krystal is an amazing teammate. She does it all - English, Math and Special Education. In addition, she navigated the new IEP database and did this all with a smile on her face. She never complains and is a rockstar in the classroom. I am honored to be called her colleague. CHS is a better place because of you.

Alexa Logan nominated by Jenny Sims

Can't begin to say how proud I am of this young lady. She absolutely works her heart out. She displays GRIT and perseverance each and every day. She comes in every day, asks questions, works hard and engages in the learning process. She not only is working on the day to day responsibilities as student but looking ahead and preparing for the future by securing an internship at a local vet clinic to springboard her future aspirations of becoming a vet tech. Way to go Alexa! You make us proud!

Oyyuki Arcos Hernandez nominated by Morgan Rainwater

I am nominating Yuki for “The Athenian Way” award because she exemplifies Kindness every single day. She is in her 2nd year of the CTE Education Professions program and is doing such an amazing job both in class here at CHS and at her placement school. She has really come out of shell over the years and brightens everyone's day when she's around. She is truly one of the kindest people I've ever met and I can't wait to see what she does with her future teaching career.

Jason Briones nominated by David Pierce

Jason takes great pride in his school work, and is one of the most respectful students around. His kindness is quiet, but always present. Jason is a student that demonstrates “The Athenian Way.”

