Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation
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January 8, 2026

Share feedback with Superintendent, Dr. Ryker
We'd love to hear from you!



Rising Stars named

The Rising Stars of Indiana Class of 2027 were announced recently and include CHS juniors Emerie Venis, left, Paige Johnson, Hannah Barnes, and Chang Yeung.

Schools across Indiana can nominate up to four students currently in the 11th grade based on their academic achievement. Congratulations to these four Athenians!



CHS students, Katherine Novak, left center, and Isla Seward, right center, were contestants for the Montgomery County Distinguished Woman award. Novak was named the winner. Other contestants include Southmont's Jolie Hoenshell, left, and North Montgomery's Katelyn Woolwine, right.

Katherine Novak named county Distinguished Young Woman

The Distinguished Young Women of Montgomery County scholarship program was held recently and featured two young ladies from Crawfordsville High School. Seniors, Katherine Novak and Isla Seward were part of this nation's largest and oldest scholarship program. Contestants are evaluated in the following categories: scholastics, interview, fitness, talent, and self-expression.

Novak was named the 2026 Distinguished Young Woman of Montgomery County winning the categories of scholastics, interview, and talent. She will move on to compete in February at the Indiana University Kokomo campus for the state title.

Seward won the fitness category and was named the first runner-up for the DYW of Montgomery County.

Novak selected as Wells finalist



CHS Senior Katherine Novak has recently been selected as a finalist for the Indiana University Wells Scholars Program.

The Wells Scholars Program covers the cost of eight semesters of undergraduate study as well as a living stipend for room and board. Recipients are required to complete at least 12 credit hours each semester and maintain a 3.4 GPA.

The finalist invitation includes attending the finalists weekend in February on the Indiana University's Bloomington campus to participate in interviews with faculty, converse with fellow finalists, and discover more about IU and the opportunities of the Wells Scholars Program.

2025 A great year for the Athenians!

A look back at some of our top headlines

Athenians claim County Chase title

With the conclusion of the 2024-25 athletic seasons, the Crawfordsville Athenians have once again captured the

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 18 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



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



STATE CHAMPIONS!

CHS Color Guard team completes fantastic season

The Crawfordsville High School Color Guard has had a phenomenal season

Vanessa Pettit. Staff members inlcude Thomas Hillenbrand, Color Guard





Girls track wins SAC Conference, Sectional Title

Hose reader wins trip to Disney!

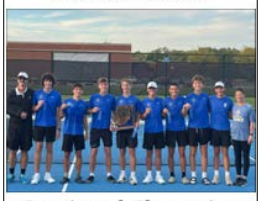
One lucky Kindergarten student at Hose Elementary, Kayson Oresik-Teeguarden, has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to go to Disney

great news to Kayson! Several family members and friends of Kayson came to celebrate with him.

Hose staff planned



BOYS TENNIS



- Sectional Champions
- MAC Conference
- County Champions



Congratulations to the Cville Singers

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





CMS presents Elf, The Musical

Crawfordsville Middle School students presented an excellent production of "Elf, The Musical" the weekend of



Hill, Santa Claus -- Zachary

Wrestling team invited to state tournament

CHS wrestling team wins County Champion title

For the first time in Athenian Wrestling history, the CHS wrestling team received an invitation to compete in the 2A Indiana High School Wrestling Coaches Association Team State Tournament on Saturday, Jan. 11.

At the beginning of each season, the coaches' association asks coaches for nominations to compete at the state level. With the nominations and details from each nominee school's previous season, a computer program then compiles a list of top teams to invite.

This invitation is a significant honor for a hardworking team. Head Coach Aaron Keller, who is in his third season as head coach, told the Journal Review that this is an exciting time for the program. Keller believes the honored invite comes from last year's success com-



As a school corporation, Year goal a

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

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 op-

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

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

Congratulations to the Class of 2025



Above: Valedictorian, Guinevere Schmitter-Torbert, speaks at graduation.

On the evening of Friday, May 30, 2025, the 154 members of the Class of 2025 gathered together to celebrate the end of their four-year high school education.

ville High School wind ensemble, Tebbe, began the graduation procession- ing of "Athenian March" followed by ntenance."

re welcomed to the event by class Brunsel. Assistant Principal Kris Simms dass valedictorian, Guinevere Schmitter- title of her speech, "A Step Forward." ditzer-Torbert's speech was class salutae Brown's speech, "Finding the Power in





CCSC officially opens new administration building

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation employees and members of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce celebrated the official grand opening of the CCSC new administration building before the May monthly board meeting.



CCSC accepts recognition of Marzano High Reliability School

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation was recently recognized

Recognition as a Level 1 certified school district reflects the hard work



First Multilingual Proficiency Certificate attained at CHS



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."

Thank you, Veterans!

alks in community parade & hosts Veteran pr

Hoover Elementary began Veterans Day by w Montgomery County Veterans Day Parade throug Crawfordsville and were awarded 1st place comp for the school to display.

Later in the day, Hoover hosted their annual V program where students invited family members celebrated and thanked for their service.













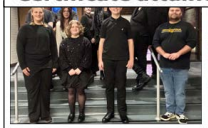


Culture Night filled with fun

The 2025 Culture Night was action-packed with many activities, entertainment, and food. In just its third year, the

step in to make the event a big success.

Attendees enjoyed a smorgasbord of food, including a crepe station this year,





Indiana Bandmasters Association All-Region Band (7-9th grade) members include Claire Dennison, Calea Brannning, Yaretsy Hernandez, Joslynn Daniel, Vanessa Pettit, Anna Boyd, Alice Cunningham, Amia Dennison, Gage Haze, Hassel Short, and William Hershberger.

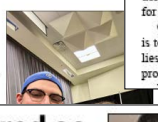
Indiana Bandmasters Association All-District Band (9-12 grade) included, left to right, Emerie Viers, Corbin Bray, Eleanor Hesler, Lili Yeung, Jaron Torres, Marcus Rogers, Maximo Jacome-Huesca, and Ian Hunt.

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

for the All-District Band for grades 9 through 12. These students were Emerie Viers, Corbin Bray, Taylor Bray, Eleanor Hesler, Lili Yeung, Jaron Torres,



Sugar Creek Classic champs!

Congratulations to the junior varsity and varsity boys' basketball teams as they both are the 2025 Sugar Creek Classic Champions. For the varsity, this marks the 6th time CHS has claimed the championship title.



Boys claim 6th straight Sectional title

The Crawfordsville High School boys swim team has done it again and won the 2025 Sec-

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



CARA hosts inaugural Student Celebration

On December 15th, Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA) kicked off its very first Student Celebration to honor a multitude of achievements. Family and friends packed into the community room at CARA's new location, north of Crawfordsville, and were able to see their loved ones receive recognition for their progress in their academic programs.

CARA Director Dr. Meredith Boaz said, "It's so important to recognize and celebrate the success and accomplishments of our students. Celebrating student success boosts motivation, confidence, and engagement by building a growth mindset and fostering a supportive learning culture where students feel seen and valued.This leads to persistence and higher achievement by reinforcing hard work, normalizing effort, and strengthening connections between students, teachers, and our community. This powerful, positive feedback loop can lead to continued learning, personal growth, and a renewed sense of self-assurance and pride. This is exactly what CARA strives to offer all students who come through our doors."

The student population consists of learners who want to earn their High School Diploma, improve their English language skills, or earn a career certification to advance their employment opportunities.

The following numbers show the impressive achievements throughout the program.

•17 students completed their High School Diplomas.

•13 additional students have passed one or more of the 5 subjects toward their High School Diploma (reading, writing, math, social studies, science)

•43 students achieved a Measurable Skills Gain on the National Reporting System ***NRS levels refer to the National Reporting System for Adult Education, which classifies adult learners into six educational functioning levels. This mandatory data is gathered through leveled student testing at regularly scheduled intervals, and is used to classify adult learners to track progress for state and federal accountability. This performance data is also used to determine future state and federal program funding, as well as contributing to the necessary metrics to achieve the designation of an Indiana Program of Excellence.







Top photo: CARA Director Dr. Meredith Boaz welcomes everyone to the celebration. Middle photo: The community room was packed with friends and family ready to celebrate. Bottom photo: The dedicated CARA staff were excited to congratulate students.

•22 students have achieved an industry-recognized Career Certification in AWS Welding, MSSC Logistics Technician and Logistics Associate, and ParaPro (certification needed to work as a paraprofessional in our public school system).

Dr. Boaz acknowledged the tenacity of the CARA students.

"I am so impressed by the hard work, dedication, and consistency of our students. Many of them are balancing work, families, and other everyday life obstacles. Still, they stay committed and continue to come to class and give up their personal time to learn, grow, and achieve their goals. CARA students are some of the most determined people I've met in our community," she said.

She also attributed student success to those working diligently behind the scenes and alongside the program.

"Our amazing CARA teachers and staff members work hard every day to provide individualized education to help all students succeed. We are so thankful for the support of CCSC and our community partners, without whom none of this would be possible!" Boaz said.

CARA plans to continue the celebrations based on the great turnout last month. The second semester honor's night will take place in the Crawfordsville High School Commons to accommodate a large crowd. The formal graduation ceremony is scheduled on June 26th in the Crawfordsville High School Auditorium.





Harris' class goes to IRT

Ms. Harris' 5th Grade High Ability Class went to the Indiana Repertory Theatre to see A Christmas Carol and lucked out with front row seats close to the action and the indoor snow fall!

Lunch program gets a boost thanks to runner

Local resident runner, Brian McDonough, sought out to serve the schools of Montgomery County and help contribute to the schools' lunch programs.

McDonough committed himself to running a 50k ultra-marathon as a fundraiser to support students of Montgomery County and ultimately fill the bellies of many local students.

His efforts raised $5,149.72 which provided each school corporation with a check of $1,716.57.

McDonough completed his long run in September and began the day at 4:30 a.m. on the day of his run.

We are grateful for the generosity of Mr. McDonough!





McDonough documented his run throughout the community and local area.





Annual Hoover movie night supports Riley

Hoover Elementary School's Student Council welcomed students and families to their annual movie night! All proceeds from the event go to Riley Children's Hospital which this year was $800! This event is one of the ways Hoover supports the hospital as a Riley Caring & Sharing School. To be a Riley Caring & Sharing School, each school is required to give $1 per student. Way to go, Hoover Tigers!







CHS Interact Club teams up with Rotary Club

The CHS Interact Club helped warm up the Crawfordsville Christmas Parade by teaming up with the Crawfordsville Rotary Club to sell hot chocolate and raise funds for a Rotary service project. Their work reflected the dedication of CHS students and the positive impact that comes from our community coming together.



Key Club shops for REINdear children

The CHS Key Club worked together to shop at Walmart for two REINdear children in the community.



Nicholson organizes winter coat drive

Morrison Realty sponsored a coat drive to provide warmth this winter to students at Nicholson Elementary.
Morrison Realty provided a $400 check for the school to purchase appropriate sized coats for students in need. Thank you for your generosity!

It has been a busy fall for the A TEAM



The Crawfordsville Middle School ATEAM, a service-learning group made up of dedicated 7th and 8th graders, has once again demonstrated the power of compassion, leadership, and community engagement. This October, November, and December, the students completed several meaningful projects that made a lasting impact on local veterans, families, and animals in need.

In October, the ATEAM also organized a major collection for the FISH Pantry of Crawfordsville, donating more than 500 pounds of food to support families experiencing food insecurity. Students worked together to promote the drive, sort donations, and deliver the items—demonstrating teamwork and a deep awareness of community needs. One of the ATEAM's largest efforts centered on honoring area veterans. Students wrote and decorated more than 500 heartfelt thank-you cards, each expressing gratitude for the sacrifice and service of local men and women who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces. These cards were delivered to the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), where they were distributed to veterans throughout Montgomery County. The project not only helped students understand the importance of service but also brought joy and appreciation to those who have bravely served the nation.

In addition to their work with veterans, the ATEAM focused on supporting animals in the community. Through the Coin Collection and Slime-A-Teacher contests, students donated $1,000 to the Animal Welfare League of Montgomery County. Their contribution helps provide shelter, medical care, and essential supplies for animals waiting for their forever homes. The students' efforts reflect their commitment to extending kindness to all members of the community—people and animals alike.

The ATEAM also participated in the annual ReinDear holiday program, raising funds to shop for two local children. Students carefully selected clothing, winter gear, and gifts to help make the holiday season brighter for the children and their families.

Crawfordsville Middle School's ATEAM partnered with the Kids' Closet of Montgomery County to support local families in a hands-on, meaningful way. Students volunteered their time to help wash and dry donated clothing, ensuring items were clean and ready for distribution. They also assisted with sorting laundry by size and season, making it easier for the organization to meet community needs. This partnership allowed students to see the direct impact of their service while contributing to a cause that strengthens Montgomery County.

Crawfordsville Middle School's ATEAM is proud to partner with the ZTC Foundation on this year's Christmas Parade float, working together to shine a light on the importance of positive mental health. Students collaborated with ZTC members to design meaningful visuals and messages that promote kindness, connection, and emotional well-being. The float highlights the power of community support and encourages everyone to look out for one another, especially during the holiday season. Through this partnership, the ATEAM is helping spread hope, joy, and awareness throughout Crawfordsville.

Through these initiatives, Crawfordsville Middle School's ATEAM continues to showcase the power of youth leadership and the impact that thoughtful, service-minded students can have on their community. Their dedication stands as a model of generosity, empathy, and meaningful action.







Basketball team tunes up their singing voices

The CHS boys basketball team traveled to local nursing homes to sing carols to the residents spreading holiday cheer to those they were near. Following their songs, the team had a wonderful dinner at Francis & Mount.



Hose students create Nutcracker puppets

Kindergarten students in Miss Aguilar's class made Nutcracker puppets in music and used the puppets to move to the March from the Nutcracker Ballet.



Bus drivers receive training from L.S.C.

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation and Western Boone were honored to have Elizabeth Schmidt from Lafayette School Corporation take time out of her day to complete a training with the special needs bus drivers and monitors.





Holiday concerts spread lots of cheer

Left: The CCSC Holiday Band concert once again held a Toys for Tots Toy Drive and encouraged attendees to bring toy donations. Several boxes were filled with goodies that helped children have a great Christmas. Right: Ladies in the CHS choir dressed in their red Santa dresses during a performance in the winter concert.



NHS gifts books to students

In December, members of National Honor Society donated and wrapped children's books which they presented to early learning students at Willson Preschool Academy. This event was part of a school based service opportunity for quarter two. Other service projects included: a food drive, writing letters to veterans and first responders, selling bracelets and t-shirts in support of the Strickland family and donations to the local Kids' Closet. In September, NHS sponsored a dance and donated funds to the Carrie Saunders Scholarship as well as other Athenian families battling cancer.



Willson's Winter Festival is fun for families

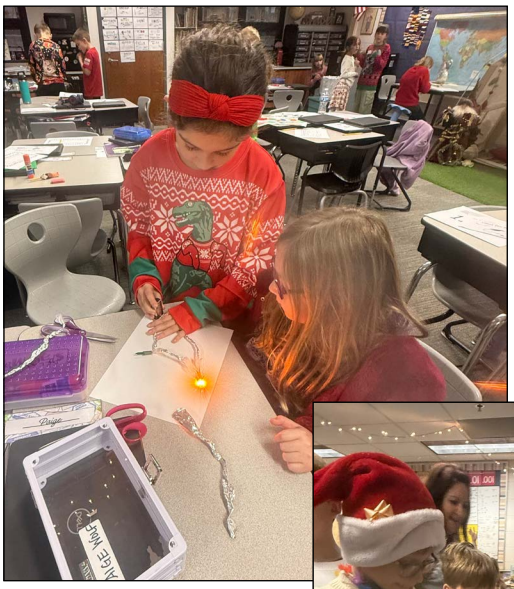
Willson Preschool Academy hosted a Winter Festival and invited preschool families to celebrate the winter holidays by making gingerbread houses and ornaments, creating life size gingerbread men, and writing letters to Santa Claus. Many of these activities were examples for families to continue at home with their own materials to help their children continue to develop school-ready skills. Students were able to meet Santa Claus and take a picture next to this year's Candy Land themed Christmas tree.





Nicholson Knights perform at winter program

Second grade students participated in the Winter program on Dec 9. Students performed various songs demonstrating their skills with instruments and rhythm movements.





Students create circuits for Christmas lights

Mrs. Lawson's third grade class created circuits using foil, tape, and a battery. Some students were able to create circuits that powered three Christmas light bulbs!



Knights celebrate semester

Nicholson staff and students celebrated successfully completing the first semester of the 2025-26 school year. Students enjoyed caroling and were victorious in the teacher vs student snowball fight. The event concluded with Ms. Barnett and Miss O'Collins sharing their talents on the violin and flute.









Hose Elementary's holiday spirit shines

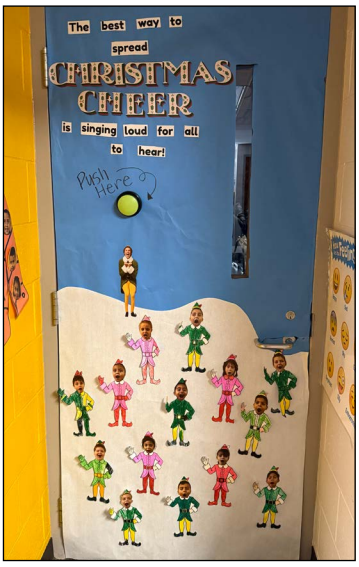
Hose Elementary celebrated the last day of school before winter break with a Polar Express Day. Students wore their pajamas, had a special pancake breakfast in the classrooms, rotated through a variety of fun stations, and even had a special visit from Santa.

In addition, classrooms completed a door decorating challenge complete with various judges from outside the building. Requirements included spreading holiday cheer and clear evidence of student involvement.

Pictured are just a few of the amazing creative designs!

The following are this week's winners; 1st place: Burns and Gilland; 2nd place: Aguilar; and 3rd place: Chaney











Boys and Girls Swimming are County Champions!







Girls wrestling team wins first County Champion title

Five wrestlers advance to Regionals, including a champion!



Congratulations to the girls wrestling team who are the County Champions for the first time in program history. CHS defeated North 42-30 in round one and then defeated Southmont 54-6.



The girls wrestling team finished fourth at sectionals, but were able to advance five individuals to Regionals including a champion, Michelle Montes. Other regional qualifiers include, left to right, Brittany Crew (4th), Jazmen Russell (2nd), Champion Montes, Olivia Abney (4th), and Laken Suitors (3rd). These five will compete Saturday, Jan. 9th at Kokomo.

CHS poses for awkward family photos

Spirit days are extra fun when staff knocks it out of the park!

















Nicholson staff gets creatively awkward



















