Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

The Athenian Oracle

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

March 12, 2026

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

2026 Distinguished Young Woman of Indiana

Katherine Novak advances to Nationals

Crawfordsville High School senior Katherine Novak was named the 2026 Distinguished Young Woman of Indiana!

The award came after an extensive five day state competition in Kokomo mid-February filled with planned activities, rehearsals, and a service project. The time concluded with program nights on Friday and Saturday.

Runners up were from Grant, Howard, and Hendricks County.

The first and last time a young woman won from Montgomery County was in 1966 by Sue Ann Starnes Gilroy.

"I feel extremely excited and honored to have received this award. I am very thankful for the program for its support to young women and the amazing experience of being able to meet and befriend so many awesome girls during the program. I never expected to win, but either way, I am grateful for the experience and the skills I learned along the way," Novak said.

The young women competed in five categories including Fitness, Talent, Self-Expression, Interview, and Scholastics. While the scholastics category is specifically each woman's school transcript and academic activities, the other categories take place at the state event.

Throughout the five days, the women practiced the program by learning the opening and closing numbers in addition to practicing the categories of fitness, talent, and self-expression.

There was also time for fun activities, some of which included a tour of Kokomo's glass factory, bowling, and a tour of IU Kokomo college campus.

The state award adds to Novak's scholarship winnings at the county level. She will now compete at the National competition which again offers several scholarship opportunities. The only requirement for the scholarship money is for it to be used towards a college education, in or out of state, and undergraduate or even graduate school if someone's undergraduate fee is already covered.

The National competition is in June in Mobile, Alabama with more quantities of scholarships and larger sums due to the large number of participants.



CHS Senior Katherine Novak, right, accepts the award for the 2026 Distinguished Young Woman of Indiana from last year's winner.

Novak is currently undecided on her college choice, but is considering studying Communications and/or Creative Writing.







CCSC students make their mark at essay contest

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation students were well represented as many won awards for their essay in the Foundations for Life Essay contest held each year for Montgomery County students. Left photo: CHS winners, left to right, 3rd place Caroline Bowling, 2nd place Justin Mendel, and 1st place and overall high school winner, Isla Seward. Middle photo: CMS winners, left to right, 3rd place Carli Bokhart, 2nd place Alice Cunningham, and 1st place Charlotte Boyd. Right photo: Elementary winners, left to right, 1st place Jackson Perry, 2nd place Declan Simmons, and 3rd place Michael Nunan.







The Athenian Winter Olympics at Willson

Willson Preschool Academy held the Athenian Winter Olympics for the preschool families. Families came to enjoy several winter games including hockey, ice skating, the luge, miniature ice hockey, and ski jumpers. Students decorated a gold medal, made an Olympic ring snack, and painted an abstract Olympic canvas. Alexander the Athenian attended the fun event and participated in his own version of an ice skating and skiing competition with the students.



Flag Citizenship award winners, left to right, include Hugh McCrary, Angelique Noriega, Clayton Tucker, Elizabeth Ryker, and Angel Andrade.

Flag Citizenship Awards

Congratulations to the Hoover Elementary students who were recognized and given the 2025-26 Flag Citizenship Award from the American Legion for their outstanding work learning about the United States flag.

As part of Hoover's 4th grade education unit surrounding Veterans Day, the American Legion sponsors the flag history program by providing a booklet about the American flag and its history. Students learn about the flag and complete a test with an essay that is included in the booklet. The American Legion then grades and evaluates the essays.

Students are invited to a reception at the American Legion to accept their award and $50 for their outstanding essays. This year included last year's winners as a result of not having a reception last year so winners included fifth graders, Hugh McCrary, Angelique Noriega, and fourth graders, Clayton Tucker, Elizabeth Ryker, and Angel Andrade.

Grab your tickets now!

The CHS production of Legally Blonde, The Musical, is happening this weekend! Purchase your tickets online, https://cur8.com/18438/project/135843 to see the hard work and talented Athenians on stage. Student tickets are $6 and adults are $8.

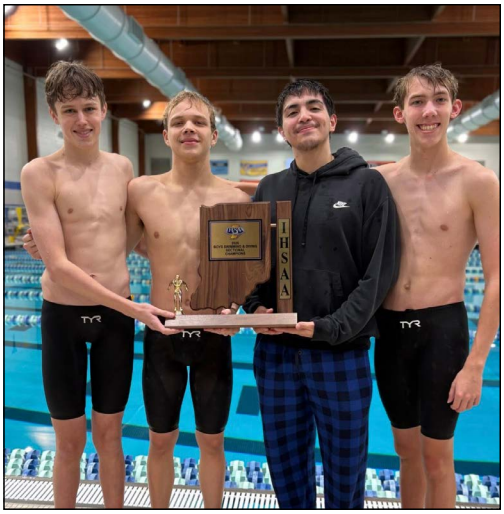




Dr. Ryker gives lesson

Superintendent Dr. Ryker visited Hoover student council to provide a lesson on leadership to help strengthen their role as student leaders. Students had an opportunity to provide feedback on their Hoover experience. In addition, Ryker taught them about the role of a school superintendent and the school board.





400 Free Relay advanced to State where they finished 31st.

Sectional Champions!

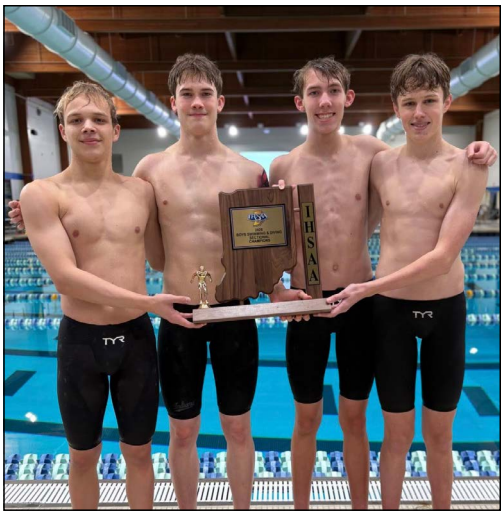
Two relays, two individuals advance to state

The Crawfordsville boys swim team are the Sectional Champions marking the 25th title for the Athenians in school history.

Events that advance to the state competition include: The 200 Medley Relay bottom right: left to right, Braxton Lewellen, Shawn Ewoldt, Grant Schroeter, and Henry Hoar and the 400 Free Relay, top right and left to right, Henry Hoar, Braxton Lewellen, Adrian Medina, and Grant Schroeter.

Individuals that advanced to state are Shawn Ewoldt in the 100 Breast and Henry Hoar in the 200 IM and 100 Fly. Tryston Sauer advanced to Regionals for diving.

At the state competition, the following week, the 200 yard medley finished 27th place, the 400 Free Relay finished 31st, Hoar finished 32nd in both the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly, and Ewoldt finished 23rd in the breaststroke.



200 Medley advanced to State where they finished 27th.



Drivers & Monitors

CCSC celebrates transportation day

CCSC recently celebrated in honor of Bus Drivers and Monitor Appreciation Day. Students colored cards with special messages, Chartwells made cookies, and each were given a gift from the transportation department.

Every school day, our CCSC bus drivers and monitors are among the very first and last adults our students see—and that matters more than words can say.

You do so much more than drive a bus. You create a safe, welcoming space where students feel seen, cared for, and protected. Through early mornings, long routes, changing weather, extra-curricular trips, and countless miles, you show patience, kindness, and unwavering dedication to our students and families.

Thank you for your vigilance, your calm presence, your friendly waves, and your commitment to getting our students to and from school safely each day. You are a vital part of our CCSC family, and we are deeply grateful for the care you bring to every ride.

Band brings home several GOLDs at State

The CHS band had a great day at State solo and ensemble!

All four events took home gold ratings which included 37 students who were awarded Gold.

Congratulations to the Trumpet Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Athenian Thunder Percussion, and Ian Hurt!











Jazz ensemble makes CHS band history

The Crawfordsville Gold N Blues Jazz Ensemble went to the ISSMA Jazz Contest in the Group One category and received a Gold Rating! This is the first time in school history this has been accomplished.



There are 47 ensembles in the Group One category of which Crawfordsville High School is the third smallest school making a Gold Rating a very impressive award.

The ISSMA Group One category also serves as the state qualifying event and only nine groups of the 47 advance to state. While the Gold N Blues did not make it in the top nine this year, they have their eyes set on a new goal for the future.



Alumni return to join the band

During the February 21st basketball game, several CHS alumni band members joined the group to provide pep and entertainment throughout the basketball evening.

Alumni that were able to return included graduating years in the 1970's to as most recent as 2020.



Circle the State with Song held at CHS

Crawfordsville High School was the host location for the Circle the State with Song event on February 14 where 230 students from surrounding areas gathered together to give an excellent concert. Crawfordsville Middle School had four students who were represented at the large event including Zachary Eads, Lily Baldwin, Anna Lindsay, and Naomi Sermersheim.





Bowling comes to a close

The Crawfordsville High School boys and girls bowling teams wrapped up their seasons recently with the boys team advancing to semi-state. Individual honors included Aiden Ryker who was the sectional champion, 3rd place at Regionals, and advanced to semi-state. Max Wilson advanced to the State finals and ended with a 6th place finish. For the girls team, Madison Ellingwood advanced to Regionals.





Hoover donates proceeds

The Hoover Elementary student council donated $500 to Riley Children's Hospital generated from Hoover's Annual Family Movie Night they host each fall.

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.

Cville Jrs. hosts first local volleyball tourney

The Cville Jrs. Volleyball Club hosted its first tournament at Crawfordsville High School last month.

An impressive 28 teams participated in the tournament from the following schools: Clinton Central, Clinton Prairie, Rossville, Frankfort, Tipton, Western Boone, Hamilton Heights, North Montgomery, Cascade, Greencastle, and two Cville Jrs. teams.

This was the inaugural season for Cville Jrs. for young volleyball players to improve their skills and teamwork, and have fun while competing. Cville Jrs. offered a variety of opportunities including practice only or competitive travel teams. Cville Jrs. was led by CHS volleyball staff and a handful of CHS varsity players.







Nicholson loves Cardio Drumming

Nicholson Elementary has a new and exciting unit, Cardio Drumming, which has been made possible through a Montgomery County Education Foundation grant.

Cardio drumming is a cross-curricular program combining elements of physical and music education. Traditionally used with yoga balls and sticks, participants move to set choreography with music. Students have learned an additional part, incorporating hand drums, to further enhance their skills in rhythm, performance, coordination, and aerobic exercise

Physical Education teacher Mrs. Newman and music teacher Miss O'Collins have combined two third grade classes during their essential arts time to implement this project. The third graders have learned cardio drumming routines to "The Greatest Show" by Hugh Jackman and "Thunder" by Imagine Dragons, which they will perform during Fine Arts Night in April.

The response has been positive from students and they are enjoying their cardio drumming experience. Overall the influence has been beneficial in and out of the classroom.

"We hope that cardio drumming becomes a tradition at Nicholson Elementary that encourages lifelong habits of active living," O'Collins said, "Our goal is to one day share this activity with nursing home residents at the neighboring Lane House, exemplifying the motto of the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve."







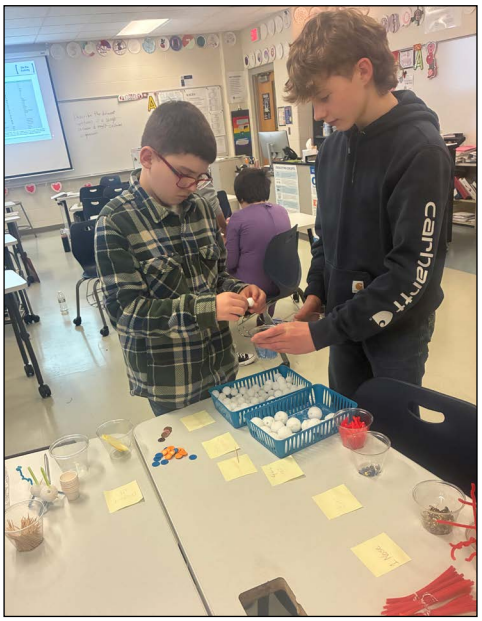


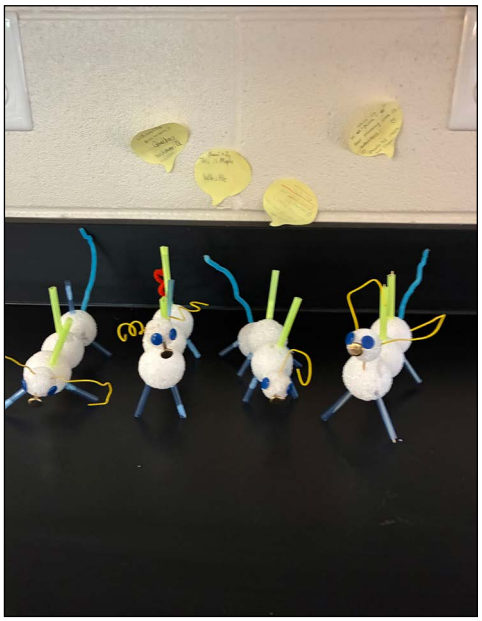


Nearly 300 guests enjoy Family Game Night

The CCSC Title I team hosted 294 guests to the Title I Family Game Night one February evening at Hoover Elementary. Families had the opportunity to play a variety of games together, enjoy refreshments, and win free books and board games for home.







Collaboration efforts building relationships at CMS

Mrs. Pierce's 8th grade science students recently teamed up with Mrs. Hardebeck's Essential Skills class to provide an interactive science experience. This lesson focused on heredity and how traits and DNA are passed down. Hardebeck's class got to choose their partners and the groups were tasked with creating a "critter" with various supplies. Students tossed a coin to determine traits that their critter would inherit. Pierce said the lesson was successful and cooperative. Her students have recently been asking for the next opportunity to work with Hardebeck's class again!

Principal Tami Haas said, "As the building leader, I love seeing ALL of our students learning and growing together. What an amazing experience for all of them!"