




# Crawfordsville Community School Corporation The Athenian Oracle

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

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

## Back to Back Champions!

The Crawfordsville High School Color Guard are once again State Champions for the second year in a row. The state competition was at Decatur Central High School where the team competed against 16 schools in the Regional A Hayes Division. Their total score of 81 is a new record for CHS.

“Tom Hillenbrand, Color Guard Director, and I were very proud of how the performers buckled down and worked so hard this year. We lost a good group of seniors last year and in turn we were very green this year, but the work ethic of the performers and the amazing work by our team paid off! Being able to win back to back state championships is not an



easy task and we were so proud of them for making that a reality. The organization is really looking forward to moving up a

competitive class next year and are excited to continue to watch this thing blossom!” said Jon Tebbe, CHS Band Director.

## Special night makes big impact

March 17th was the inaugural Athenian Honor and Inspire Night at the Masonic Cornerstone Grand Hall and Event Center, gathering 10 of the top 11 students in the 2026 graduating class, along with their families, and each student’s chosen influential educator.

Each educator was chosen by the student for their significant impact on the student’s



Senior Isla Seward and CHS teacher Mrs. Bowling exchange a heartfelt look during the new Athenian Honor & Inspire Night where the top 2026 seniors honored an influential educator who has made a difference in their educational journey.

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## Parent feedback wanted

Dear Athenian Families,  
As we look toward the 2026-2027 school year, I am proud of how much our “Athenian Way” continues to define the Crawfordsville Community School Corporation. Whether it is our continued success in the fine arts, athletics, and academic achievements of our students, or the daily growth we see in our classrooms, our progress is a direct result of the partnership between our schools and your homes. Thank you for choosing our schools!

To ensure we continue to provide exceptional foundational opportunities, we need your voice. We are currently in the planning phases for the upcoming school year, and your feedback is essential. We want to know what we are doing well—what makes you proud to be an Athenian—and where we can improve to serve our students better.

Please take a few moments to complete our survey via the link below. Your insights will directly impact our goals for academic excellence and student support in the coming year.

[Click Here to Access the 2026-2027 Feedback Survey](#)

Thank you for being such vital partners in our mission.

Onward C’ville  
Dr. Rex M. Ryker,  
Parent & Superintendent



## Honor & Inspire . . .

life through encouragement, guidance, inspiration, and overall positive influence, helping shape who the student is today.

Everyone in attendance enjoyed a dessert bar followed by the banquet, where each student read a letter to their honoree, expressing gratitude and describing their impact. Each honoree was given their framed letter.

Dr. Ryker shared, “It was an ex-

ceptional night celebrating more than academic success—we honored the importance of the parents, teachers, and students who led to the great achievement of our top academic students.”

Crawfordsville High School plans to continue this special event each year to highlight both our top academic students and those who have helped them along their educational pathway.

This year’s top students and their

honorees include:

Katherine Novak - Brent Dickinson  
 Isla Seward - Kelli Bowling  
 Andrew Turner - Jared Kaminski  
 LiLi Yeung - Jon Tebbe  
 Colten Custer - Jay Strickland  
 Maesa Horton - Jenny Veatch  
 Caroline Novak - Gary Linn  
 Bristol Presley - Amanda Ellenberger  
 Tran Duong - Jennifer Hollandbeck  
 Daniel Surface - Brad Clark

# Maesa Horton receives IHSAA Scholarship

The IHSAA, IHSAA Foundation, and Forte’ Sports Medicine and Orthopedics recently announced the selection of 21 senior student-athletes for 10 scholarships ranging in \$1,000-\$2,500.



CHS Senior Maesa Horton was awarded the Pris Dillow “Seize the Day” Post-Secondary Scholarship which gives to \$1,000 to a female student-athlete who excels academically and athletically. Dillow, the first female board member

of the IHSAA, was a trailblazer for women’s athletics who championed equity and inspired others with her “Seize the Day” mindset.

Horton has demonstrated a deep commitment to teamwork, leadership, and sportsmanship throughout her high school experience. A three-sport athlete, she participated in Soccer, Swimming & Diving, and Track & Field for the Athenians.

Maesa has consistently displayed the character and determination that define a true teammate, and her leadership extends far beyond competi-

tion. She serves as President of Crawfordsville’s Bring Change to Mind Club, promoting mental health awareness among her peers, and is a Senior Representative on both the Student Leadership Team and the Student Athletic Leadership Team.

She also contributes as Secretary of the Interact Club and is an active member of Show Choir and Student Council.

Outside of school, Maesa continues to make a positive impact within her church community, where she lends her voice to the choir and volunteers her time to support

families through babysitting services.

Through her athletic journey, Maesa has embraced the responsibility of being a reliable teammate, balancing demanding commitments to ensure she supports every group she is part of. She has come to value the lessons learned through both victory and defeat. As a future educator, she hopes to carry forward the principles of respect, perseverance, and teamwork, inspiring the next generation to understand that true sportsmanship extends far beyond the scoreboard.

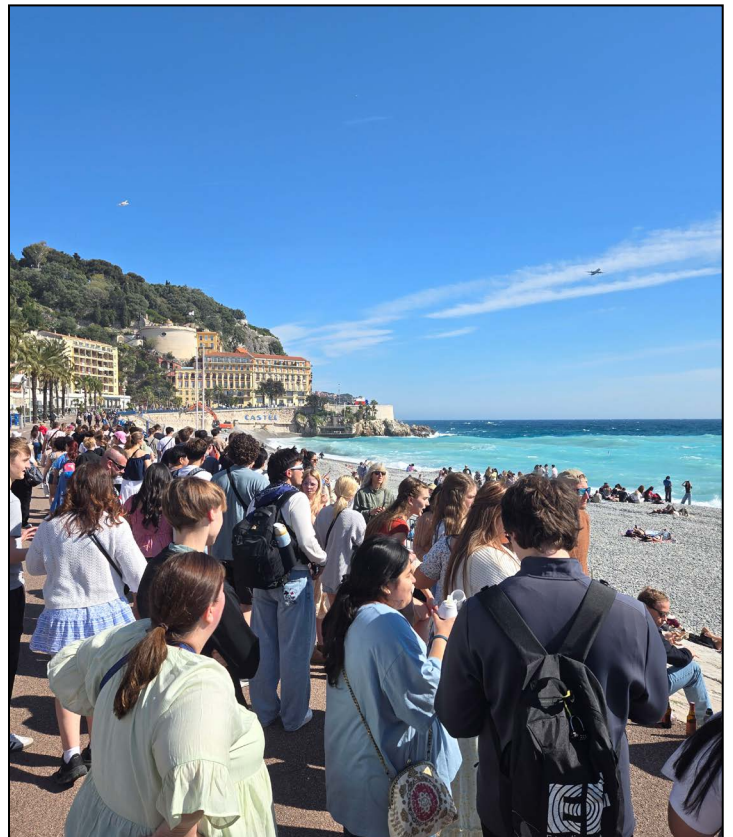
# CHS students travel the world

Over the course of nine days the Crawfordsville Travel Program took students to four different countries across the Mediterranean coast. The group landed in Italy, where the afternoon was spent in Milan before heading south to the coast, where they stayed in a hotel on the water. On the second day in Italy, they visited Cinque Terre, a series of five fishing villages filled with colorful streets, gelato shops, restaurants, and more. The following day they drove along the coast to France. They stopped in Monaco and got to see the F1 track and toured a French Perfume factory before arriving in Nice.

The next day, they spent the morning in Saint Paul de Vence, one of the oldest medieval towns on the French Riviera, filled with art galleries, creperies, and more. The afternoon was spent exploring Nice! Day 6 was a travel day, but they had the opportunity to stop in Carcassonne, a medieval fortified French city before arriving in Spain. Day 7 of the tour started with some free time. Students chose from cooking classes, bike tours, and other students explored the city on their own before everyone joined together taking a guided tour of the city with stops in Park Guell and La Sagrada Familia. They learned about the rich culture and unique architecture in Barcelona.

Day 8 was our last full day of tour where they had additional time to explore Barcelona in the morning before heading to the Montserrat mountain range where they toured a monastery that was built in the 11th century. After one final meal on the water in Spain, enjoying Tapas, they packed up and made the trip home.

If you'd like to see additional incredible pictures and details, visit the [Cville Travel Facebook page](#).



# Golden Grecians perform at ISSMA

Congratulations to the Crawfordsville Middle School Golden Grecians who performed at ISSMA contest on March 14 and received a silver rating!



# Hoover 5th graders get warm CMS welcome

The CMS band and choir performed for the incoming 5th graders at the annual 5th grade Visit Day on March 21. Members of the CMS Student Leadership Team organized the event. The students and staff at CMS are excited to welcome our newest Athenians!



# CMS creates Winter Olympic themed pep rally

CMS finished up Quarter 3 with a Winter Olympic themed pep rally and spirit week. Students participated in a bobsled race, tug O war, and a variety of dress up days including Gold, Silver and Bronze day and Freeze the competition day. Each grade level earned points for participation and the 8th grade class came out on top. Kudos to the Blue Krew students and teacher leaders, Rachel O'Neal and Cami Lain, for organizing a fun and memorable event for the whole school.



## CHS student wins broadcasting award

Karleigh Brown, CHS junior, received an Honorable Mention at the Indiana State Radio/TV conference for the Indiana Association of School Broadcasters which was held at Butler University. Brown competed in the LIVE Event Category for her broadcasting of the Crawfordsville Christmas Parade.

Instructor Matt Foxworthy said, "Throughout the year Karleigh has grown so much and I'm proud of her."



Nicholson students proudly display their 3D figurines and books they have enjoyed reading during the incentive program. Above: The library wall is covered with student book reports or movie posters students have completed after finishing a book.

## Reading is #1 at Nicholson Elementary

This year the Nicholson library started a reading incentive program to boost students' love of reading. Students can choose between creating a movie poster about their library book or completing a short book report, including a drawing of their book. Participation is voluntary and students work at their own pace. Some students turn in a movie poster or book report every week and some students turn one in every couple of weeks, or every month. It's completely up to them as they work at their own pace.

When students turn in a poster, they receive a small 3D printed figurine. After five posters are submitted, students get to pick a book as a small prize for their reading and hard work! The Nicholson Library has partnered with the local Penguin Random House to supply books as prizes.

So far this school year Nicholson has had almost 200 students participating in the library reading program.

Nicholson librarian Mrs. Palmer said, "It's been a big hit and we are so proud of our students for showcasing their love of reading!"



## Singing for family

The Nicholson Music Club performed for their families on March 19th to showcase what they have been working on during their after-school club. Music club members sang, played instruments and acted out a skit for the audience.



Left: Hoover Elementary students share about their projects with attendees while, in the right photo, Nicholson students demonstrate their cardio drumming skills they've learned.

# Montgomery County Educational Foundation

## *Teachers, students showcase many grant benefits*

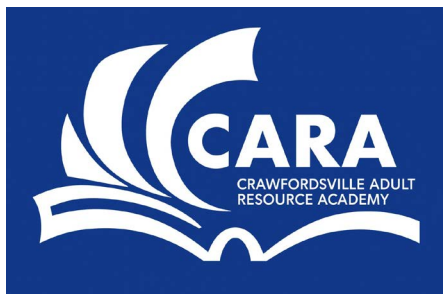
CCSC students attended the Montgomery County Educational Foundation's breakfast to showcase and demonstrate projects they've been able to complete thanks to the foundation and their educa-

tional grants. The combined efforts of the Montgomery County Community Foundation and the Montgomery County Educational Foundation helped award \$33,795 to fund 35 classroom projects across the

county schools. Students from grades Pre-K through 12th benefit through the projects that cover a multitude of subject areas from reading to math, music to engineering, and more.

## CARA selected for competitive grant

Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA) has been selected as one of just 25 adult education programs nationwide to receive the highly competitive COABE-NCCER construction grant, a major investment in workforce development and career training.



"Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy is honored to be selected to receive the COABE-NCCER construction grant. This investment will equip our adult learners with the skills and credentials needed to access sustainable, family-supporting careers, while strengthening the workforce pipeline in Montgomery County."

Through this grant, CARA will launch a new construction training program beginning in August, designed to equip adult learners in Crawfordsville and Montgomery County with industry-recognized credentials and hands-on skills for high-demand careers in the construction industry.

"This opportunity allows us to open new doors for our students and our community," said Dr. Meredith Boaz, Director of CARA.

The construction industry continues to face a critical shortage of skilled workers nationwide. CARA's new program directly addresses this need by preparing adult learners for immediate em-

ployment opportunities while supporting local economic growth. Participants in the program will receive training and certification aligned with National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) standards, as well as OSHA 10 Certification,

providing them with portable, industry-recognized certifications that are valued by employers across the country.

"This program represents more than job training—it's a pathway to long-term stability and success for our students," added Dr. Boaz. "We are proud to bring this opportunity to Crawfordsville and to play a role in building a stronger community."

Enrollment information for the August program will be announced soon.



## Culture Night is April 19th

The Annual Culture Night at Crawfordsville High School is Sunday, April 19th from 5:00 pm to 8:00pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend the evening filled with food, music, and games from around the world.

# Author, Hose alum comes back to share

Hose Elementary had a special guest visit the 1st grade students recently. Author Cheryl Cunningham came to Hose to read her book titled, "Yes I can! I'm Clover Anne!" which encourages young children to become engineers.

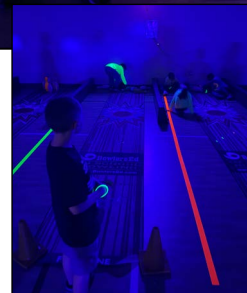
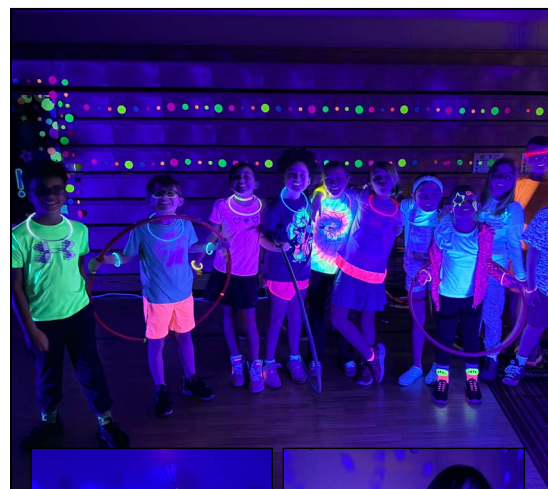
Cunningham has a unique connection to Hose as she attended Hose in elementary school as her family is from the area. Cunningham resides part of the year here and in Arizona. This book is part of a series which she writes with her sister. Cunningham gifted a book to each first grade student and copies for the school library.



## Bring Change 2 Mind Club shares presentation, activities

Top: Some CHS Bring Change 2 Mind Club members gave a presentation to CMS 6th graders on healthy relationships. Those students were Zoey Witherpoon, Evelyn Kohl, Jack Hilligoss, and Ada Simmons.

Bottom: Members read a book about feelings and did a related activity with Hoover Elementary students. Those students were Jaelynn Thompson, Melanie Dowd, NaHomi Sanchez, Adyson Tinsley, Ada Simmons, Paige Johnson, and Addison James.



## IREAD celebration Glow Party!

On March 20th Nicholson students celebrated completing the March IREAD with a Glow Party. Students were provided glow bracelets and got to participate in various glowing activities during their Essential Arts time.

Parents volunteered their time to assist and support Nicholson students while having some fun too!



## New Noble Knights awarded at Nicholson

At Nicholson Elementary, 42 students were honored with the award of Noble Knight! Keep up the great work



Anna Willson Oratorical Contest participants include, left to right, NaHomi Sanchez, Isabel Gerdes, Claire Dennison, Jack Sweet, and Olivia Todd.

## Anna Willson Oratorical Contest

Five Crawfordsville High School students competed in the 100th Anna Willson Oratorical Contest with freshman Claire Dennison winning first place. Second place was won by Jack Sweet, and third place went to Isabel Gerdes.

The contest requires participants to give an original persuasive speech between six to eight minutes in length. The topic must be relevant and meaningful to society. Each speaker is evaluated by judges for their content, delivery, and adherence to the principles of public speaking.

The annual contest is named after Anna Willson, who was a teacher, principal, and the first female superintendent of Crawfordsville Community School Corporation. Willson graduated from CHS in 1886 when she was only 16 years old and then began her education career. Just ten years later, Willson became the CHS principal continuing in the role for 25 years.

## Hoover showcases annual events



Hoover Fine Arts night welcomed families as students displayed their talents and hard work in preparation for the performance.



Hoover 4th graders enjoyed the Annual Freedom Crossing event learning about the Underground Railroad in Crawfordsville.

# Legally Blonde

*CHS provides another top-notch production*



Crawfordsville High School completed their Spring musical production of Legally Blonde and wowed the crowds each night with their theater skills and hard work. This production included some additional administrative characters who played the part of Harvard University administration.



## Hoover Carnival is fun for a good cause

The Hoover Elementary gymnasium was packed for fun, games, and refreshments for the Annual Hoover Carnival. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Montgomery County Mary Ludwig Free Clinic!



## Hoover basketball team champions!

Congratulations to the Hoover Girls Basketball champions coached by Mr. Mason. The team won the victory, 15-8, against Coach Tyler's team. Zaylie McFarland scored all 15 points for the team!

# Champions!

Athenians win county & conference titles

We are proud of the Crawfordsville Middle School Swim and Dive team as they were both the county and Monon Athletic Conference Champions!



## Banquet celebrates athletes' success

Crawfordsville High School welcomed winter sport athletes and their families to the Winter Sports Banquet to celebrate the successes of our Athenians.

CHS Athletic Director Bryce Barton began the evening with appreciation for head and assistant coaches, parents and supporters, and the athletes for their hard work and commitment.

Barton noted CHS still leads the County Chase competition after the winter sports season. CHS has 38 points, South has 32, and North has 20. Two sectional titles were won this winter with both Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving teams repeating as sectional champs. This is the girls 4th straight title and the boys have won 7 straight. The boys also earned a Monon Athletic Conference championship. Athletes received their Conference and Sectional Championship patch-

es. **First Time Letter-Winners include the following.**

**Girls Swimming-** Quinn Olofson, Sarah Melevage, Osi Herrera

**Boys Swimming-** Grant Schroeter, Sebastian Kochert, Jack Sweet

**Cheerleading-** Lluvia Cuevas, Lissette Freeman, Madelyn Chamness, Livi Lowe, Ada Simmons, KaElla Swanson

**Girls Wrestling-** Olivia Abney, Lilah Hungerford, Laken Suitors, Katelyn Teeple, Managers Teagan Spencer & Jatzira Zarate-Encarnacion

**Boys Wrestling-** Justin Gonzalez, Victor Sanchez, Jayden Wray, Austin Campbell, Murphy Cokel, Jaxen Trent, Tony Rock



**Gymnastics-** Nina Kyger, Madilyn Biddle

Each head coach provided a summary recap of the season and announced their Mental Attitude Award Winner.

Mental Attitude Award Winners Include:

**Swimming-** Melanie Dowd & Shawn Ewoldt

**Girls Basketball-** Molly Pierce

**Cheerleading-** Lily McCollum

**Gymnastics-** Yuli Torres

**Boys Wrestling-** Armando Munoz

**Girls Wrestling-** Brittany Crew

**Boys Basketball-** Rowan Gambrel

All-Conference Award Win-

ners were announced by Barton as the athletes came forward to accept the honor.

**Swimming-** Quinn Olofson, Maesa Horton, Katherine Novak, Melanie Dowd, Braxton Lewellen, Shawn Ewoldt, Henry Hoar, Grant Schroeter, Daniel Surface, Adrian Medina, Jayden Callejas,

**Wrestling-** Noe Torres

**Boys Basketball-** Mason McCarty & Johnovan Smith

Academic All-State & Honorable Mentions were next announced by Barton with Girls Basketball earning the IBCA Team Academic All-State award. At the time of the evening, swimming Academic All-States results were not completed.