

Crown Point Community School Corporation

we are CP

Volume 6, Issue 1
July 2026

BETTER *Together*
Collaborating
for student success

A NEW STRATEGY:
The 3-year plan to
guide our district

**Registration
begins
July 22!**





a shared purpose

With community support, CPCSC students achieve the greatest possible success.

Each summer, I have the opportunity to reflect on the past school year and look ahead to the next, and once again, I am grateful to serve a district filled with dedicated staff and surrounded by a supportive community. The 2025-2026 school year was another strong example of what makes Crown Point Community Schools such a special place.

Senate Enrolled Act 1. Despite so many successes, CPCSC is in the bottom 7 percent of Indiana districts in state per-pupil education funding. The district is also projected to lose millions of additional dollars annually as SEA-1 takes effect, and we are concerned about adequate financial support for student programs, school safety, and transportation that thousands of students rely on each day.

This year, CPCSC students performed above the state average on each state standardized assessment, with a continued focus on strong foundations in reading and math. Fourth grade students scored 27% above the state average in math, more than 80% of second grade students passed the IREAD 3 assessment a year early, and CPHS students scored more than 100 points above the Indiana average on the SAT. Over the past five years, CPHS students have earned more than 41,000 college credits through our partnerships with multiple universities.

Earlier this year, CPCSC made \$7.1 million in budget reductions that included administrative and central office positions, some support positions, operations changes, and curriculum and software resources. We will be able to welcome back all of our certified classroom teachers, and we preserved current student programming, but continued financial strain will eventually impact the opportunities and services our students rely on.

Students also earned recognition in academic clubs and career-focused programs. CPHS students placed at the national level in Business Professionals of America and Speech & Debate competitions, while automotive students once again placed at the UTI Top Tech Challenge. Robotics teams from Colonel Wheeler and CPHS qualified for the World Competition.

Those services and opportunities are the truly important measurements in a district, not awards or championships. The work that matters most happens in the daily moments of teaching and learning inside our classrooms, and those moments do not happen by accident. They happen because caring adults invest in students every day and because families and community members support that work alongside us.

Our arts and music programs excelled, with students in grades 5-12 earning more than 375 Gold awards through ISSMA competitions. CPHS vocal jazz group Bella Voce earned a state championship, and Colonel Wheeler, Taft, and CPHS each received ISSMA All-Music Awards.

In athletics, CPCSC students continued a tradition of success with ten teams advancing to semi-state and state, including state championships earned by CPHS Cheer, Boys and Girls Wrestling, and Colonel Wheeler Dance.

As proud as we are of these accomplishments, we must also recognize the challenges facing public education in Indiana. School districts across the state are under financial pressure with the loss of tax revenue from

I ask our community to continue your investment in the children of our district. Their success depends on all of us working together. Whether you are a parent, staff member, volunteer or community member, you play an important role in helping students succeed. At a time when the world can feel increasingly divided, we have the chance to show our students what it means to lead with partnership and a shared purpose.

Thank you for all you do to help the students and staff of Crown Point Community Schools. I look forward to another outstanding year focused on the growth and well-being of our students, and I look forward to accomplishing that work together.

- Dr. Todd Terrill, CPCSC Superintendent of Schools



district snapshot

68

Advanced Placement and Dual Credit courses offered at CPHS.

72

Career and technical courses offered at CPHS, including courses in machining, automotive, construction, healthcare, design, culinary, and more.

\$11 million

Total college tuition saved for families in the last five years based on credits earned by high school students.

1,971

High school credits earned early by Taft and Col. Wheeler Middle School students in the 25-26 school year.

80%

Percent of CPCSC second graders who passed the Indiana IREAD 3 test a year early.

728
2026 Graduates

The Class of 2026 featured 728 grads, plus an additional 27 students who graduated a year early. Students took more than 1,800 AP exams this year.

.63%
Average annual enrollment growth

While some student subgroups have grown, CPCSC's district enrollment over the last five years is stable. The number of graduating seniors are replaced by a combination of new and kindergarten students each year.

7642
Bus Riders

83% of CPCSC students rely on bus transportation. With a fleet of more than 80 double-routed buses, our transportation department covers more than one million miles every year.

2,395
Financial need

CPCSC's population of students who qualify for free or reduced meal benefits is approximately 26%. This number has grown by 375 students in the last five years.

288
Preschool students

Since expanding our preschool program in 2021, enrollment of our earliest learners has tripled. Our preschool population is now approximately half the size of an elementary school.

1604
Exceptional Learners

17% of our students receive special education services. In the last five years, exceptional education has grown by 34%. The most significant growth includes services in the areas of speech, autism, and behavioral support.



Who we are By the numbers

CPCSC is made of **9,188 students** in grades preK-12 and more than **1,360 teachers and staff**. 73% of our staff live in Cedar Lake, Crown Point, and Winfield, and we are proud to employ hundreds of neighbors right here at home. Students who live in Center and Winfield Townships can enroll in CPCSC. Open enrollment is not available to students outside the district.



community CONNECTION

CPCSC is proud to be part of an active and supportive community. Check out these opportunities to connect with our schools. **Find more info at www.cps.k12.in.us/community.**



62+ Activity Pass

Residents age 62 and older of Center and Winfield Townships will be admitted to home student extracurricular and school corporation sponsored activities with a valid activity pass. This does not include post-season athletic contests.

A 62+ Pass from the district is available at the Administration Building at 1050 S. Main St. Bring a photo ID that shows your in-district address.

Be an Ambassador

The CPCSC Ambassador Program is a seven-session, behind-the-scenes look at our district. Topics include finances, operations, curriculum and instruction, and student services. This small group meets for two hours one morning a month.

Board Meetings

The regular business meetings of the CPCSC Board of School Trustees are held the fourth Monday of the month at 6 p.m. Meetings are at the Administration Center at 1050 S. Main St. The public is invited to attend in person or watch the livestream on CPCSC's YouTube channel. Board meeting agendas and policies are available at www.cps.k12.in.us/board.

CPCSC employs hundreds of licensed teachers, but it takes hundreds of additional support staff to make our district move.

Join our team and discover why our schools are a great place to work. Find more information or apply at www.cps.k12.in.us/careers.

CPCSC will host open interviews for paraprofessionals on Tuesday, July 21 from 8-11 a.m. and 3-5 p.m. at our Administration Center, 1050 S. Main St., Crown Point. No appointment is necessary. Please bring your resume if you have one.

together
we
teach

Find more information on our website.



pursuing excellence

New strategic plan outlines upcoming goals for CPCSC

The best opportunities for students are created when a community supports them with a common goal. CPCSC's new strategic plan is a roadmap for the next three years built on the belief that every student deserves to feel supported, challenged, and connected. Collaboratively designed through the voices of staff, families and community members, the plan focuses on working together to help students grow academically and personally.

At the heart of the plan is CPCSC's updated mission and vision. Our vision encourages everyone in the district, including students, families, staff and community, to pursue their own version of excellence. While each path may look different, the goal is moving forward together so each student and employee has the opportunity to succeed.

The plan also reaffirms CPCSC's core values of courage, connection, citizenship, college & career, culture, and creativity. These values shape the experiences we hope to provide for students and guide the work happening each day.

As we look ahead, the new strategic plan emphasizes strong family relationships, deeper community connections, and support systems that help students thrive at every stage of their educational journey. It also recognizes the financial challenges facing public education and the importance of being thoughtful stewards of district resources while protecting opportunities for students. You can find more information at www.cps.k12.in.us/strategicplan.

Our Focus Areas:

Teaching & Learning: create high-quality, engaging learning environments, experiences, and opportunities for all students and staff.



Stability & Resiliency: build a sustainable, adaptable organization that proactively responds to financial, operational, and workforce challenges.

Family and Community Engagement: provide communication and engagement opportunities that invite parents and the community to understand and be involved in the educational process.



Safety, Wellness & Responsibility: cultivate a safe, supportive, and accountable environment where students and staff demonstrate responsible decision-making and care for themselves and others.

Our Core Values:



College & Career

Students have the knowledge and skills required after graduation



Citizenship

Advocate, initiate, and engage in self and community improvement



Connection

Relationships create belonging and purpose



Courage

Facing adversity with confidence and leadership



Culture

Diverse perspectives and expressions are appreciated and respected



Creativity

Activities provide space for imagination and ingenuity to thrive

staff of the year

Elementary Teacher of the Year - Josh Hedl

Josh Hedl is a physical education teacher at Winfield Elementary with 23 years of experience in education. Mr. Hedl is actively involved in his school community as the Kids Heart Challenge coordinator and a Unified Sports co-coach, while also serving as a school safety specialist and participating in ongoing professional development. He is committed to creating engaging, active learning environments where all students can participate and develop a lifelong appreciation for health and wellness. Winfield principal Jillian Alonzo said, "Mr. Hedl's passion, expertise, and tireless advocacy for all students truly sets him apart as a remarkable educator and leader."



Left to right: Jacob Rodriguez, Mary Bachnak, Josh Hedl, and Kathy Birk

Finalists for Elementary Teacher of the Year were:

- Patty Begley – Eisenhower Elementary
- Kathy Zacharias – Lake Street Elementary
- Kristin MacPherson – MacArthur Elementary
- Haritine Kostouros-Saenz – Timothy Ball Elementary
- Leah Naumovic – Solon Robinson Elementary
- Kylie Extin – Jerry Ross Elementary

Secondary Teacher of the Year - Mary Bachnak

Mary Bachnak is a business teacher at Crown Point High School with more than 20 years of experience in education. She serves as the department chair for the CPHS Business Department and is involved in the Instructional Leadership Team and School Improvement Team. Mrs. Bachnak is also the advisor for the Business Professionals of America (BPA) club, where she has led students to regional, state, and national success while helping them develop skills that extend beyond the classroom. CPHS principal Russ Marcinek noted that Mrs. Bachnak

"embodies everything we hope for in our teachers," highlighting her enthusiasm and ability to create a positive and engaging learning environment.

Finalists for Secondary Teacher of the Year were:

- Austin Thorne – Colonel Wheeler Middle School
- Connie Scott – Taft Middle School

Employee of the Year - Kathy Birk

Kathy Birk is a math interventionist at Jerry Ross Elementary. She has been an educator for nearly 57 years. Through her work, she provides targeted support to students while building meaningful relationships that help them grow both academically and personally.

A colleague shared that "Kathy Birk never ceases to amaze me. She is deeply self-reflective and consistently goes above and beyond the expectations of her role. I have witnessed firsthand the care and dedication she brings to her work, and it is clear that her students love and respect her. Kathy's heart for others makes her truly exceptional."

Finalists for Employee of the Year were:

- Marijana Celksoska, CPHS
- Jodi Kvachkoff, MacArthur Elementary
- Beth Peters, Bulldog Buddies
- Lisa Kosiara, Winfield Elementary

Admin of the Year - Jacob Rodriguez

Jake Rodriguez is the principal of Colonel Wheeler Middle School and has more than 20 years of experience in education. Mr. Rodriguez leads a school culture that focuses on the well-being of students and building positive relationships with families. He continuously finds ways to recognize the hard work and dedication of Col. Wheeler's teachers and staff.

A parent nomination noted that "he has a great rapport with students and he promotes a positive school culture while also helping young adolescents learn responsibility and accountability. Mr. Rodriguez's "fireside chats" always have a relevant connection to not only helping students achieve academic success, but to helping them become better humans as a whole."



CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

2026-2027 Calendar

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No school

E-learning day

Start of 9 weeks

1st & last student day

End of 9 weeks

Teacher work days

Crown Point Community School Corporation

1050 S. Main St., Crown Point, IN 46307

219-663-3371 www.cps.k12.in.us

Open Monday-Friday, 7am-4pm

2026 Retirements

CPCSC retirees have a combined 449 years of service! Read more about them on our website by scanning the QR code with your smartphone's camera.





OPEN HOUSE/ BULLDOG RUSH

Please see the back cover for dates of back-to-school events throughout the district. Times and more details will be available on each school's website, Facebook page, and parent newsletters.

SUPPLIES Supplies for middle and high school students vary by grade and by course. Students will receive more information about any course specific supplies the first week of school. Please come prepared with basic items such as paper, pens/pencils, and folders.

Supplies for elementary students are paid for by the district. However, CPCSC requests that elementary students also have a backpack (no wheels), pencil case, headphones, reusable water bottle, and in grades 1-5, a Chromebook case/cover (12 x 9 inches).

SCHOOL HOURS Crown Point High School instructional hours are 7:35 a.m. to 2:37 p.m. Taft and Colonel Wheeler Middle School instructional hours are 7:40 a.m. to 2:55 p.m. Elementary instructional hours are 9:05 a.m. to 3:44 p.m.

FOOD SERVICES If your child purchases breakfast or lunch, you will need to put money in their account via MealTime (www.mymealtime.com). Applications for free and reduced lunch are available starting in mid-July at www.mealtimeapps.com. Lunch prices are \$2.65 for elementary, \$2.85 for middle school, and \$3.20 for high school. Breakfast prices are \$1.80 for elementary and \$1.90 for middle and high school. Find more info at www.cps.k12.in.us/food.

COMMUNICATION CPCSC uses ParentSquare to help facilitate communication. Find all of your messages in one place, volunteer for events, sign permission slips, and view photos of your child's day. Download the ParentSquare app for iOS or Android. Log in with the phone number or email you provided at registration.

CHILD FIND Child Find is a program to identify, locate and evaluate all children who are suspected of having a disability. Any individual (parent, teacher, staff) who suspects a student may have a disability and could benefit from special education services should initiate a referral by contacting the building principal to share concerns.

TRANSPORTATION Bus routes will be posted the afternoon of Monday, August 10. You must complete registration or address changes before August 6 to have transportation on the first day of school. Students who enroll or make a change of address after August 6 will have transportation starting August 18. A practice bus ride for kindergarteners will be held on August 11. More information is available at www.cps.k12.in.us/transportation.

CHILDCARE CPCSC offers a before/after school child care program at each elementary before school from 6-9 a.m. and after school from 3:45-6 p.m. Child care fees are \$10 before school each day and \$10 after school each day. On e-Learning days the fee is \$10 for up to 4 hours, \$20 between 4 and 8 hours, and \$30 for more than 8 hours. There is an annual \$10 non-refundable sign-up fee. To register for child care or to find more information about the program, visit www.cps.k12.in.us/childcare.

SCHEDULES/TEACHERS Schedules for middle and high school students will be available in PowerSchool at the end of the day on Tuesday, August 4, 2026. Teachers for elementary students will be listed in PowerSchool at the end of the day on Friday, August 7.

REGISTRATION

RETURNING STUDENTS

Online registration for returning students will open at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. This includes kindergarten & preschool students who enrolled in the spring of 2026. New students or students who were withdrawn during the school year must follow new student procedures below. More information will be on the district's website at www.cps.k12.in.us/register.

If you are moving over the summer, you must update your address before August 6. This can be done by visiting your child's school and providing proof of address. If you submit a change of address after August 6, transportation will be available starting August 18.

NEW STUDENTS

New elementary and middle school students can enroll by contacting their school. New middle school students will receive a call to set a scheduling appointment. New elementary students will receive an email with instructions to finalize your enrollment.

High school students new to the district may enroll at Crown Point High School throughout the summer on Mondays. An appointment is required. Call 219-663-4885, ext. 11028.

New students who enroll after Thursday, August 6 will not receive transportation services until August 18, 2026.

ready for school!
2026-2027 info

School Begins
**Wednesday,
August 12, 2026**





CROWN POINT COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

1050 S. Main Street, Crown Point, IN 46307

save the DATE

- **July 22** - Registration opens online: www.cps.k12.in.us/register
- **August 4** - 9th grade Chromebook exchange
- **August 5** - CPHS 9th grade parent meeting. 9th grade Chromebook exchange
- **August 6** - Middle school Bulldog Rush and parent meetings (for 6th grade). CPHS new student/family orientation grades 10-12
- **August 7** - CPHS Bulldog Rush (freshmen students only)
- **August 10** - Open houses for MacArthur, Timothy Ball, Lake Street, K only at Winfield
- **August 11** - Open houses at Eisenhower, Jerry Ross, Solon Robinson, 1-5 at Winfield
- **August 12** - First day of school. Welcome back!
- **August 13** - Middle school open houses at Taft and Colonel Wheeler
- **August 27** - Open house at Crown Point High School

Find us on social media and online
at www.cps.k12.in.us



we are CP is published by Crown Point Community
School Corporation and mailed to residents in Crown
Point, Winfield, and Cedar Lake.