



THE ATHENIAN Oracle

September 10, 2026

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation | 3 W. Athenian Dr. Crawfordsville | 765-362-2342 | www.cville.k12.in.us/about-us/athenian-hype

CHS ranked among the Best High Schools

Crawfordsville High School has once again been recognized as one of Indiana's top-performing high schools in the latest 2026-27 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings, earning the No. 119 ranking in Indiana and the No. 1 ranking among high schools in the Crawfordsville metropolitan area.

Crawfordsville High School ranked No. 4,780 nationally among high schools included in the U.S. News rankings. The school also earned a No. 131 ranking in Indiana for college readiness, reflecting the school's continued focus on preparing students for success after graduation.

The rankings evaluate public high schools across the country using factors that include college readiness, state assessment performance, graduation rates, college curriculum breadth, and performance among underserved student groups.

One notable measure highlighted in the rankings is Crawfordsville High School's 38% AP participation rate, demonstrating the opportunities students have to challenge themselves through Advanced Placement coursework.

"We are extremely proud of our students and staff for this recognition," said Dr. Rex M. Ryker, Superintendent of Crawfordsville Community School Corporation. "These rankings represent much more than a number. They reflect the dedication of our teachers, the hard work of our students, and the support



Crawfordsville High School's recognition includes several notable rankings:

- #119** Best High Schools in Indiana
- #1** High Schools in the Crawfordsville metropolitan area
- #4,780** National Best High Schools ranking
- #131** College Readiness in Indiana
- 38%** AP participation rate

of our families and community. Our goal is to provide every Athenian with meaningful opportunities to grow academically and prepare for whatever path they choose after high school."

A Strong Showing for Crawfordsville
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- #119 — Best High Schools in Indiana
- #1 — High Schools in the Craw-

fordsville metropolitan area

#4,780 — National Best High Schools ranking

#131 — College Readiness in Indiana

38% — AP participation rate

The recognition comes as Crawfordsville High School continues to expand opportunities for students through Advanced Placement courses, dual-credit opportunities, career and technical education, extracurricular activities, athletics, and other programs designed to support college and career readiness.

"Our students have so many opportunities to discover their interests, challenge themselves, and prepare for life after graduation," said CHS Principal Jay Strickland. "This recognition is a testament to the commitment our staff makes every day to help students reach their potential. We are proud of what our Athenians are accomplishing."

The U.S. News recognition is a reflection of the collective efforts of Crawfordsville High School students, teachers, administrators, families, and community partners who contribute to student success.

As Crawfordsville Community School Corporation continues its commitment to "Enter to Learn. Go Forth to Serve," the recognition provides another reason for the Athenian community to celebrate the accomplishments of its students and staff.

Congratulations to the students, staff, and families of Crawfordsville High School on this outstanding achievement!



A MESSAGE FROM

Dr. Rex M. Ryker

SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome Back, Athenians!

Welcome to a new school year at Crawfordsville Community School Corporation and another year of sharing excellence and care demonstrated by our teachers, staff, and students. I hope everyone had a restful summer and is ready for another school year of learning, growth, and opportunity.

Our schools are filled with dedicated educators, enthusiastic students, and supportive families who make CCSC such a special place to learn and grow. As we continue this journey together, let's continue to live The Athenian Way—with pride, respect, grit, involvement, and kindness!

Thank you for being an important part of our Athenian community. I look forward to all we will accomplish together this year.

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



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Crawfordsville Community School Corporation



SSC Services for Education Clears the List

Three new teachers at Crawfordsville Community School Corporation are receiving an extra boost as they prepare for the 2026-27 school year, thanks to the generosity of SSC Services for Education, the maintenance, custodial, and groundskeeping company for CCSC.

Through its Clear the List program, SSC Services for Education is helping new teachers stock their classrooms with supplies they need to create welcoming and engaging learning environments. As part of the program, SSC fulfills up to \$400 in classroom supplies from each participating teacher's Amazon Wish List.

This is the second year SSC has offered its Clear the List program to CCSC teachers. This year's recipients are Ava Cooper, kindergarten teacher at Hose; Megan McCumber, third grade teacher at Nicholson; and Leina Helfers, CMS science teacher.

McCumber, was absolutely thrilled to hear about Clear the List.

"I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity! I have absolutely loved working for Crawfordsville Schools and truly wouldn't want to be anywhere else. I plan to use this opportunity to add calming lights to my classroom and more books to my classroom library. As a new teacher, it can be challenging to fully set up your classroom during your first year, so this support means so much to me. I am beyond grateful and excited to create an even more welcoming and engaging space for my students," McCumber said.

The support comes at an important time for educators who are beginning their teaching careers and building



their classrooms from the ground up. Classroom supplies can quickly become a significant expense for new teachers, and the Clear the List program helps alleviate some of that financial burden while allowing teachers to select the materials that best meet the needs of their students.

SSC Resident Regional Manager Nathan O'Neal said the company values the opportunity to support educators and students in the communities it serves.

"Supporting students, faculty, and staff at our partner schools is always our top priority. We recognize that our teachers play an essential role in inspiring curiosity and fostering a desire to learn in our students," O'Neal said.

Helfers is already looking forward to putting her new supplies to use in her science classroom.

"I am so grateful to have been selected for the Clear the List initia-

tive. I can't wait to get more shelves/carts and other tools to keep the many, many papers and supplies organized. I also love that I'll be able to provide science-related board and card games for some screen-free fun. So many of my students will benefit from having access to extra notebooks and school supplies throughout the year. Thank you so much for supporting my classroom and helping make it an even better place for my students to learn, explore, and grow," Helfers said.

Cooper also expressed her appreciation for the support as she prepares to welcome her first group of kindergarten students.

"Thank you for this amazing opportunity to help make my classroom a place to provide students with the tools they will need to be the best students they can be," Cooper said.

Thank you for supporting our teachers!



Left: Braeden Schlote, a CHS junior, reads to Mrs. Voliva's 1st grade students in the gym. Middle: Jamie Moore, freshman, assists with activities in art with Mrs. Hauk's 1st grade students. Right: Walter Samuels, freshman, reads to Mrs. Gilland's kindergarten class.

Making reading a real touchdown!

Hose students are getting time to interact with members of the Crawfordsville High School football team who are giving up the chance to sleep in a bit later on Wednesdays and instead are coming to read and impact our young learners. Eleven members

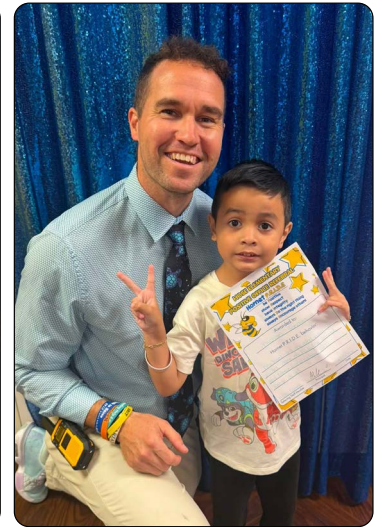
of the team are paired with seven classes at Hose Elementary to read to them or help with learning activities. "I think it is positive for both the high school athletes and the young kids," said Erin Gilland, teacher coordinator for the football reading partner-

ship at Hose. "They love seeing them come in wearing their jerseys." The athletes meet with the same class each time to help build a connection. Partner teachers choose a book for the athletes to read or direct an activity that the players can assist with.



Extra hands help Hose start strong

As the school year began at Hose Elementary, it was all hands on deck to make sure our youngest learners made it to their classrooms each morning. Staff helped to make sure all students knew where to go and made it to their classroom ready to learn. Dr. Ryker and Dr. Bokhart, as well as other members from CCSC Central Office, stopped by several mornings to assist.



Hose highlights honorable Hornets

Hose Elementary has several programs designed to recognize the great actions of our students and staff.

Positive Office Referrals

Students can earn positive office referrals from any staff member when they are noticed doing something noteworthy. They may be showing kindness to a classmate, working hard in class, being a willing helper, staying positive during a challenge, or doing any number of other positive choices. Positive Office Referral recipients get to hear their names on announcements and get to have their picture taken to share the good news with their favorite adults.

Hose HERO Award

Students may also earn an award called the Hose HERO award. It is

given to eight Hose students each quarter based on staff nominations and a committee vote for students who are Helpful, Encouraging, Respectful and responsible, and Outstanding Citizens. Students may only be selected as a Hose HERO once during their time at Hose. Hose HERO winners are the students who are consistently doing the right things each day. They come to school and set a good example. Hose HERO winners have a surprise ceremony with their parents and guardians and their photos are displayed on the entry wall at Hose for the school year.

Staff Positive Office Referrals

Staff also receive recognition through positive staff referrals where any staff member may compliment

and thank any other staff member for going above and beyond their typical duties.

Hose Hammer Award

Hose also began a Hose Hammer award last year where a teacher passes the hammer to another staff member who they believe consistently displays character and actions worthy of recognition.

“Hose loves to recognize both their students and teachers with our Positive Office Referrals, Hose HERO and Hose Hammer (teacher) awards because when people are recognized it helps strengthen relationships, build confidence and improve school culture,” said Principal Adam Welcher. “Positive recognition reminds us that positive actions matter.”



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Principal Adam Welcher



Nicholson Knights shine in action!

Kindness. Responsibility. Teamwork. Great choices. Nicholson Knights are kicking off the school year by showing that positive behavior deserves to be celebrated!

Students who go above and beyond are recognized with Positive Office Referrals for demonstrating what it means to be a Nicholson Knight: Helpful, Organized, Nice & Nurturing, Optimistic, Respectful & Responsible. Whether they are lending a hand, encouraging a classmate, making responsible choices, or simply helping make Nicholson a better place, these students are earning well-deserved recognition.

Principal Jen Hall said, "It was been one of the best starts to school we have ever had. Our

Nicholson Knights are starting the 26/27 school year strong demonstrating their Knight's HONOR while at school and on the bus!"

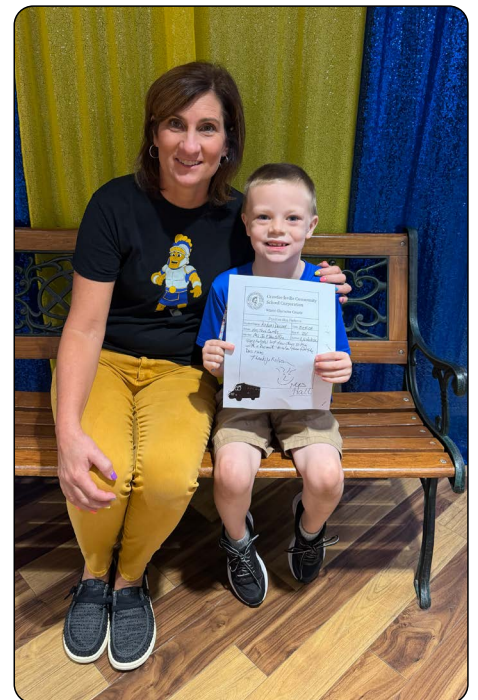
The celebration extends beyond the classroom, too. With the help of the transportation department, students who demonstrate positive behavior on the bus are also recognized for being respectful and responsible riders.

And sometimes, the whole team deserves a shout-out! Classes can earn recognition as a class honor when they work together to demonstrate outstanding behavior and live out the Nicholson Knight expectations.

From the classroom to the bus—and everywhere in between—Nicholson Knights are proving that great behavior makes a difference! We're excited to celebrate their successes all year long.



Mrs. Bowker's class received a positive office referral for being great role models as they were staying safe and following expectations!



Principal Hall smiles with Dylan, left, and Koleson, right, as the students received their positive office referral paper and pencil prize. Dylan was recognized for being kind to a classmate who was having a rough day. Koleson helped his seatmate on the bus stay calm during the bus ride.



Hoover digs into agriculture at Cain Farm

Hoover Elementary fourth grade students recently visited Cain Farm for Agriculture Days, an annual field trip that has provided hands-on learning opportunities for Hoover students for more than 19 years. Students explored the many ways agriculture, soil and water conservation impact our daily lives through interactive learning stations throughout the day.

Activities focused on water quality, soil health, pollinators and other important aspects of conservation and agriculture, giving students an opportunity to learn through hands-on experiences while gaining a greater appreciation for the role agriculture plays in our community and beyond.



Hoover student, Anitza Hernandez Flores, reacts to the worm in her hand while visiting Cain Farm.



Student Success Night offers information, assistance

Hoover Elementary invited families to the school in early August to help parents prepare their students for a great school year.

At Student Success Night, teachers

informed parents of Hoover homework guidelines, attendance policies, how to check grades in PowerSchool, explained the R.O.A.R. Behavior Expectations and Rewards program,

and various other classroom details.

Following the short meeting, parents could stop by the computer lab to get additional help logging in to PowerSchool or ParentSquare.



Indiana's Graduation Plan: Looking at the whole student

Indiana is taking a broader approach to measuring student success through its new Accountability Framework. Rather than focusing primarily on test scores, the framework recognizes several indicators that provide a more complete picture of a student's growth, preparation for high school, and readiness for life after graduation.

The Student Success Indicators include regular school attendance, high school-level coursework and credit, academic growth, proficiency in Math and English/Language Arts, and the Graduation Promise.

Crawfordsville Middle School recently celebrated an important milestone as more than 100 students signed the Indiana Graduation Promise. The celebration recognized students' commitment to taking ownership of their education, making responsible choices, attending school and participating in learning, completing their coursework, exploring future career opportunities, and working toward an Indiana diploma.

For students, these indicators reinforce the importance of building strong habits early. Attendance, academic progress, and planning for the future all play a role in long-term success. For middle school students, the Graduation Plan is not about choosing a career right now. Instead, it provides an opportunity to begin meaningful conversations about who students are, what interests them, what options are available, and what they may need to reach their goals. The plan can—and should—be revisited and adjusted as students grow and their interests develop.

The Graduation Promise is a document included in each student's graduation plan. Students sign the promise beginning in seventh grade, committing to make responsible choices, attend and participate in school, complete their work, work toward an Indiana diploma, explore careers and opportunities after high school, and ask for help when they need it. Parents also sign, emphasizing the partnership between students, families, and schools in supporting success during high school and beyond.

Other indicators emphasize the importance of consistent attendance and early access to high school-level coursework. Students can earn credit in courses such as Algebra 1, world languages, Preparing for College & Careers, Engineering Essentials, and Health and Wellness, with a C or higher required.

Ultimately, Indiana's Graduation Plan is designed to help students begin thinking about their future while recognizing that their goals may change. It is a starting



point for conversations, reflection, and planning—and an opportunity for students, families, and schools to work together to help every student prepare for success beyond the classroom.



CRAWFORDSVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



CMS achieves High Reliability Schools Level 3

CCSC continues its work with Marzano Resources and the progression of High Reliability Schools certification levels. Crawfordsville Middle School is proud to announce

reaching Level 3 of the High Reliability Schools which is to design a guaranteed and viable curriculum.

Only last February, CCSC received recognition at the Marzano

High Reliability Summit for having all schools Levels 1 and 2 certified and administrative leaders are proud to see CMS achieve the Level 3 completion.



CRAWFORDSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL



Peer Mentor Art class creates great teamwork

New this year at Crawfordsville High School is a class called Peer Mentor Art. The class includes students of varying abilities and each student is paired with another peer as a helper. The class has 32 students including 20 helpers. All students benefit teaming up with each other

to create beautiful projects. CHS art teacher, Amanda Ellenberger, noted that the helpers are learning many educational based ideas of patience, modifications, and much more. She predicts a few of them becoming teachers down the road!



CARA expands learning opportunities with new technology for each student

Crawfordsville Adult Resource Academy (CARA) is creating even more opportunities for adult students to reach their High School Equivalency goals with the help of a generous grant from the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

The grant provided funding for additional classroom computers and an online learning platform designed to help students progress toward their HSE goals more quickly and effectively. With the new technology in place, every CARA classroom now offers 1:1 devices for students.



Computers were installed this month, and full classrooms were immediately able to take advantage of more intentional, student-led and efficient instruction. The new resources allow teachers to provide multimodal learning experiences while giving students greater flexibility to work at their own pace and engage with material in ways that best support their learning.

This investment is helping CARA strengthen its commitment to meeting adult learners where they are—and giving them the tools and support they need to move forward.

SSC, Chartwells K12 support CMS Shield Trip

Last spring, 67 Crawfordsville Middle School students who demonstrated positive choices each quarter, earned the ultimate end-of-the-year Shield trip. Last year's big reward was to Indiana Beach!

Through a partnership with CCSC, Chartwells K12, and SSC for Education, the qualifying students' expenses were completely paid for! SSC covered the trip expenses and provided t-shirts allowing students to enjoy the rides, food, and time with friends.



CMS students who earned the Ultimate Shield Trip to Indiana Beach last year benefited from the support of SSC for Education and Chartwells K12.

CCSC mechanic finishes top 10

Over the summer, CCSC's transportation mechanic Luke Brinkerhoff competed in the annual skills event, STAI Technician/Mechanic Competition. Brinkerhoff finished at an impressive 8th place out of 40 competitors across the state.



Brinkerhoff

The competition is hosted by the School Transportation Association (STAI) and is designed to test the elite school bus professionals. The test features rigorous hands-on diagnostic challenges and complex troubleshooting.

Congratulations to Brinkerhoff! We're thankful for your knowledge and service to our transportation department.



Always an Athenian

*Once an Athenian, Always an Athenian—
discovering where our alumni are making their mark.*

Reagan Cole Minnette

CHS Alum

Class of 2020

Current Location:

Indianapolis, Indiana

Current Employment:

**An actor for the touring company
“TheatreWorks USA”**

Q & A

What education, training, or experiences helped you prepare for your current career?

Thanks to my loving parents, I was lucky enough to have access to theatre classes and conservatories all throughout middle and high school.

I then went on to graduate with a BFA in Musical Theatre with a minor in Dance and Choreography from Millikin University.

What did you originally think you would be doing after high school? Did your path turn out differently or as planned?

I have been working as a professional actor since I was nine years old. I knew that my love for this career would only grow as I grew up.

What is one of your favorite memories from your time at CHS?

I enjoyed my time with the Crawfordsville Dance Team. I was so proud of my teammates and all we accomplished together through our hard work.

Was there a teacher, coach, counselor, or staff member who made a lasting impact on you? Tell us about them.

Jennie Rae Fights Swick is one of the best teachers out there. She helped me find confidence and perseverance in the art form that would be a part of my life forever.

Is there a particular class, activity, sport, club, or experience at CHS that influenced who you are today?

I had so much fun in Dynamic Expressions, Student Council, Swim and Dive Team, Zero Period, and Cville Crazy's.

What is something you're especially proud of accomplishing since graduating from CHS?

I have had the honor of getting to participate in a few New Works musicals. From cast recordings to readings to first stage productions, I am so lucky to be a part of the growth and continuation of Musical Theatre.



What is something your high-school self would be surprised to know about your life today?

My high school self would be surprised to see how the love and support of her family is still the most important thing. I am so lucky that no matter the distance or time, I have 3 built-in best friends and 2 loving parents.

What advice would you give current students?

Always Keep Trying! It is actually really cool to care about yourself and the others around you. The more you have an open mind and continue to learn about the world around you, the better you can make it!

“Once an Athenian, Always an Athenian.”

What does that mean to you?

This makes me think of the wonderful people I grew up with as an Athenian. I am so proud of my friends and classmates, and I try to live my life in a way that would make them proud.



SUPPORTING OUR ATHENIANS!



DATES TO REMEMBER



September 10

School Board Meeting
5:30pm
Administration Building



October 5-8

Elementary Early
Dismissal 1:30pm
P/T Conferences



October 9

No School
P/T Conferences
Staff Development



October 12

CMS/CHS
Fall Choir Concert
7:00pm @ CHS



October 14

CMS/CHS
Fall Band Concert
7:00pm @ CHS



October 19-23

No School
Fall Break



ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Follow the links for athletic event schedules



[CHS Athletic Schedule](#)



[CMS Athletic Schedule](#)

CMS FUNDRAISER



Crawfordsville Middle School is selling laundry detergent, scented laundry products, fabric softener, and other items from Profitable Solutions. Order now through Sept. 15!

To order, find a middle school student you know or call CMS at 362-2992.

