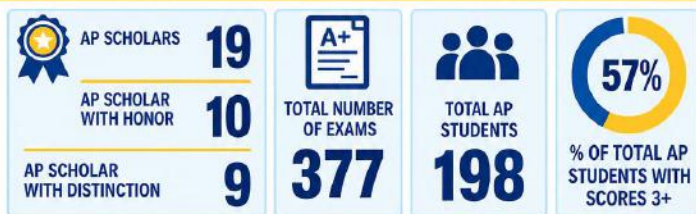
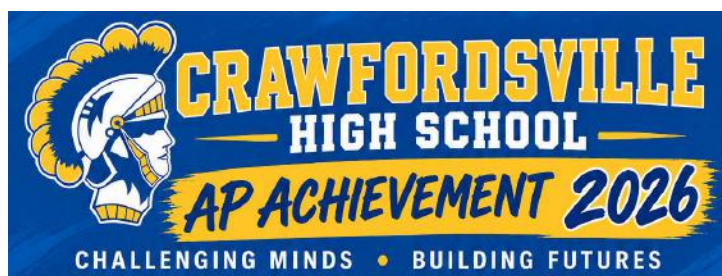




THE ATHENIAN Oracle

October 8, 2026

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



AREAS OF STRENGTH

PERCENT OF CHS EXAMS WITH 3+

AP Spanish Language and Culture	100%
AP Spanish Literature and Culture	100%
AP Seminar	100%
AP English Language and Composition	94.4%
AP English Literature and Composition	88.9%
AP Physics 1	85.7%
AP US Government and Politics	77.8%
AP World History: Modern	75.8%
AP Calculus AB	66.7%
AP Precalculus	60%

College-level learning is next level at CHS

In recent years, Crawfordsville High School has significantly expanded its Advanced Placement (AP) program, both in the number of courses offered and the number of students participating. Today, CHS offers more than 20 AP courses, giving students opportunities to challenge themselves with college-level content and skills while potentially earning college credit, depending on their exam scores and chosen college or university.

In spring 2026, **198 of CHS's 684 students —29%**

see AP on page 3 . . .

O'Neal named Inspirational Educator

Crawfordsville Middle School's Rachel O'Neal was awarded the Inspirational Educator from the Crawfordsville-Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce at their annual awards banquet.

Each year Rachel consistently demonstrates a deep and unwavering commitment to student learning and growth through her innovative approach to language arts instruction. Her willingness to lead, mentor, and continuously improve makes a lasting impact on both students and staff. She goes above and beyond to ensure that all Crawfordsville Middle School students are provided with the lightest quality language arts instruction.



Athenians achieve National Merit honors

Crawfordsville High School is proud to celebrate the outstanding academic achievements of two members of the Class of 2027 who have earned national recognition through the National Merit Scholarship Corpora-



Yeung



Johnson

see Merit on page 3 . . .



A MESSAGE FROM

Dr. Rex M. Ryker

SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to Fall, Athenians!

One of my favorite parts of being superintendent is getting to see, firsthand, the many ways our students are learning, growing, and succeeding.

I am incredibly proud of our National Merit students and their academic accomplishments. I also enjoy seeing students learning new skills and applying them in meaningful ways, whether that's serving customers at the Essential Skills Restaurant, competing and finding success on the athletic fields and courts, or participating in the hands-on activities our teachers bring to their classrooms every day.

These experiences remind me that learning happens in so many different ways. Our students are doing great things, and our teachers continue to find creative ways to help them discover what they can accomplish.

It is an honor to be an Athenian and to see the pride, passion, and potential across our schools.

Go Athenians!

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



[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

Crawfordsville Community School Corporation

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1** CHS AP Achievement
Inspirational Educator
National Merit
- 2** Dr. Ryker's Message
- 4** District News
- 5** Willson Preschool
- 6-7** Nicholson Elementary
- 7** Hose Elementary
- 8-9** Hoover Elementary
- 9** Career & Technical
Education
- 10** Crawfordsville Middle
School
- 11** Athletics
- 12** Supporting our
Athenians

of the

student body—took at least one AP exam. In total, 377 exams were administered across 20 subjects.

Research has also highlighted the potential long-term benefits of AP participation. A 2019 study found a statistically significant positive association between taking an AP course and completing a college degree, with an even stronger association for students who earned a 3 or higher on the AP exam. At CHS, **57% of the students who took AP exams in May 2026 earned a 3 or higher on at least one exam**, demonstrating their readiness to take on rigorous college-level work.

Athenian highlights include the following AP courses, in which a majority of students earned a 3 or higher on the exam

- AP Spanish Language and Culture — 100%
- AP Spanish Literature and Culture — 100%
- AP Seminar — 100%
- AP English Language and Composition — 94.4%
- AP English Literature and Composition — 88.9%
- AP Physics 1 — 85.7%
- AP U.S. Government and Politics — 77.8%
- AP World History: Modern — 75.8%
- AP Calculus AB — 66.7%
- AP Precalculus — 60%

Beyond the more than 100 CHS students who earned a 3 or higher on at least one AP exam, **38 students earned additional AP Scholar distinctions.**

19 students were named **AP Scholars**, earning a 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.

10 students were named **AP Scholars with Honor**, earning a 3 or higher on four or more exams and an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken.

9 students earned the highest distinction, **AP Scholar with Distinction**, earning a 3 or higher on at least five exams and an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken.

CHS has continued to grow its AP offerings in recent years, adding AP Music Theory, AP World History: Modern, and AP Precalculus. This year, students have another opportunity to expand their college-level learning with the newest addition to the program: AP Business with Personal Finance.

In the spring, 225 CHS students, which is one third of the school, will prepare to take 439 AP exams in May 2027.

With more courses, more students participating and more Athenians earning AP recognition, CHS continues to provide students with opportunities to prepare them for success beyond high school.

tion (NMSC®)

Chang Yeung has been named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist, placing him among more than 16,000 academically talented high school seniors nationwide selected as Semifinalists in the 72nd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Semifinalists represent less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors and include the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

In addition, Paige Johnson has been named a National Merit Commended Student, recognizing her outstanding academic promise and achievement.

“We are incredibly proud of Chang and Paige and the academic accomplishments they have achieved,” said CCSC Superintendent Rex Ryker. “Their recognition reflects their hard work, determination, and commitment to excellence. We are also proud of the academic opportunities and rigorous coursework available to our students at Crawfordsville High School that encourage them to challenge themselves and pursue their highest potential.”

More than 1.2 million juniors from approximately 20,000 high schools entered the 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2025

Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which served as the initial screening of program entrants.

As a Semifinalist, Yeung will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for approximately 6,700 National Merit Scholarships worth about \$24 million, which will be awarded in spring 2027. To advance to Finalist standing, Semifinalists must complete a detailed scholarship application, maintain an outstanding academic record, receive a school recommendation, submit an essay, and earn SAT or ACT scores that confirm their earlier qualifying-test performance. About 95 percent of Semifinalists are expected to advance to the Finalist level.

The accomplishments of Yeung and Johnson highlight the academic excellence of Crawfordsville High School students and the culture of high expectations that encourages students to pursue challenging coursework and meaningful academic opportunities. CHS provides students with access to rigorous classes and college-level opportunities that help prepare them for success beyond high school.



Safe Routes to School: *Walking, Rolling and Building a Safer Community* *Mark your calendars for Nov. 10 for the next rally!*

Shortly after the school year began in August, students from Hoover Elementary and Crawfordsville Middle School joined staff, families, and community partners for the first Safe Route Walk & Roll Rally!

The event marked an exciting step in the Safe Routes to School initiative, a partnership between Crawfordsville Community School Corporation, the Montgomery County Wellness Coalition, and the City of Crawfordsville. The initiative is focused on creating designated, safer routes for students and families traveling to and from school.

The rally brought the school community together to celebrate active ways to get to school while raising awareness about the importance of safe routes for students, families, and everyone in our community.

The Safe Route Walk & Roll Rally will take place each quarter, giving students and families regular opportunities to walk, roll, and connect with their community. The next rally is scheduled for November 10th.

A designated Safe Route to School is highlighted on a community map, helping families identify the recommended route to Hoover Elementary School and Crawfordsville Middle School. To view the map and learn more about the Safe Routes to School initiative, visit CCSC's [Safe Routes to School webpage](#).





A dream return to Willson for Carol

Willson Preschool Academy recently welcomed back beloved former principal and educator Carol Carrington for a special “Live A Dream” visit made possible by Wellbrooke of Crawfordsville.

Carol served as a teacher and principal at Willson, including 14 years as principal. She was instrumental in launching the Even Start Family Literacy Program, which supported children and families through early

childhood education, adult literacy, and parenting classes.

During her visit, Carol was welcomed with applause, flowers, chocolates, letters from former colleagues, and a special fingerprint art project created by Willson students. She also read with a preschool class, tasted apples, created an apple graph, and enjoyed watching students at recess.

Joined by her daughters and grand-

daughters, Carol had the opportunity to revisit the halls where she made such a lasting impact. Her visit was a beautiful reminder that a life dedicated to serving children and families leaves a legacy that continues for generations.

Thank you, Carol, for your years of leadership, compassion, and dedication to Willson Preschool Academy. Your legacy continues to inspire!

Teachers explore at learning expo

A group of teachers from Willson Preschool Academy recently attended the Early Learning Expo, hosted by the Montgomery Early Childhood Coalition. This year’s theme, “Roots & Wings: Nature-Based Learning in Early Childhood Education,” explored the powerful role nature can play in supporting young children’s growth, curiosity, and development.

Throughout the expo, teachers participated in hands-on experienc-



es and gathered classroom-ready ideas for incorporating nature into everyday learning. Sessions explored affordable ways to bring learning outdoors, bring nature inside the classroom, incorporate natural materials into children’s art, and use the natural world to inspire literacy-rich

experiences.

The professional learning experience provided Willson teachers with new ideas and inspiration to create engaging, meaningful learning opportunities that encourage preschoolers to explore, create, ask questions, and discover the world around them.



VIP mini chefs earn fancy lunch with friends

Nicholson Elementary PE teacher, Laura Newman, has started a new program inspiring restaurant etiquette at lunchtime in the Knights Castle Cafe. While in the cafeteria, students are working on exhibiting manners that include saying please and thank you, eating over the table and keeping their space clean, helping a friend who dropped their tray or trash, talking quietly in a restaurant-style voice, keeping hands and body parts in their own space, and more. Students who demonstrate these behaviors consistently get chosen as a VIP mini chef! The VIP mini chef is then celebrated at a special table with one or two friends of their choice, served lunch on glass dinnerware, and given a special chef's hat to wear, ultimately giving them true VIP treatment!



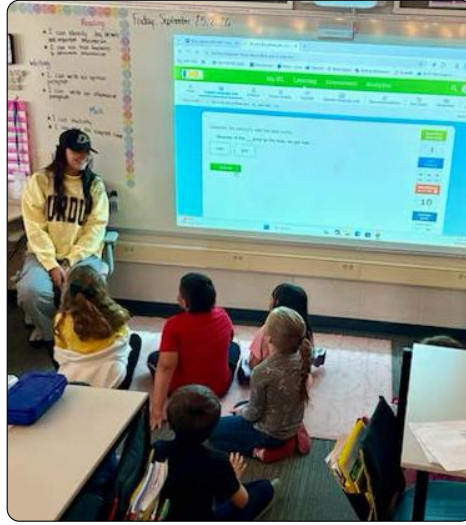
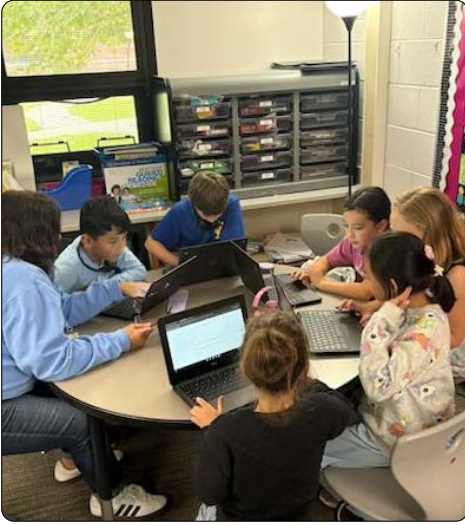
Nicholson teacher, Mrs. Newman, treats students to a special VIP lunch after it was earned by demonstrating excellent cafeteria manners and etiquette.



Third grade reading surgeons take action

To review the skills students have been learning throughout Unit 2, students in Miss McVay's class became "reading surgeons" as they rotated through four operating rooms! In OR 1 and OR 2, students performed Text Feature Transplants by examining patient symptoms, choosing the text feature each patient needs, and explaining its purpose. In OR 3, students tackled a Con-

text Clue Emergency, using clues in sentences to determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and "patch" their patients with Band-Aids. In OR 4, students performed Prefix Transplants, combining prefixes with base words to create and understand new words. This hands-on review gave students a fun and engaging way to practice their skills before the Unit 2 Assessment!



Nicholson's WIT focuses on improving literacy skills

Nicholson's Walk to Intervention Time, WIT, has started out strong with students traveling to skill-specific groups across the grade level. Students are grouped with peers who have similar learning needs in the area of reading. Every available educator including classroom teachers, essential arts teachers, special education teachers, EL teachers, instructional aides and assistants, and interven-

tionists lead a targeted small group during this time daily. Students physically move to another classroom or group space during this time for 30 minutes. Our second and third grade students have done a wonderful job traveling to their location and being ready to learn. This WIT time has shown to be highly effective for improving literacy skills.



Save the Date!

Special Persons Day at Hose next month

Special Persons Day has become a favorite event for students and visitors.

Hose will have their Special Persons Day for first graders on Thursday, Nov. 5th and for kindergarten on Friday, Nov. 6th.

Each student can bring up to two special adults to visit on their assigned day.

Please watch your ParentSquare for details and for requirements to participate.



Last year visitors enjoyed lunch with their student and also time in the classroom doing various activities.



Hoover competes in middle school meet

The Hoover Cross Country team had 16 runners compete in the Tiger Cub middle school meet on Saturday, Sept. 19. Hoover runners competed just as hard as the middle schoolers and were the only elementary school there. Four of the boys placed in the top 7 for the entire Crawfordsville Middle School team! The girls ran so hard as well, even beating out some middle schoolers. Coach McMurry and Mr. Hensley are so proud of all the runners! Ribbon earners include Eli Pierce, pictured above, Grayson Zachary, Oliver Lee, and Ezra Mortara.



Hoover volleyball champions celebrate post-match

Hoover Elementary completed the fall volleyball season with Mrs. Jones' team crowned as the champions!

Way to go Hoover Tigers!





Hoover visits park, supports Veterans

Hoover 4th graders visited Veterans Memorial Park. 4th graders are working to raise \$100 to purchase a brick around the flag pole in appreciation of our local veterans.

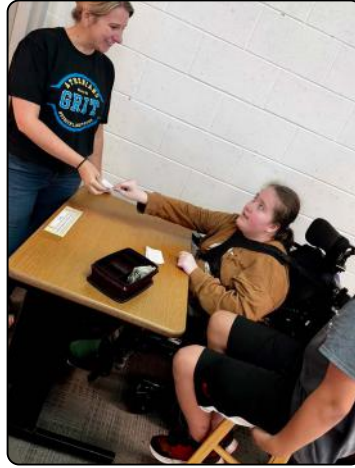
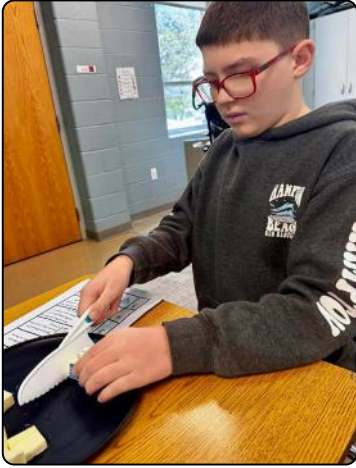


CTE leadership team gives back

Members of the West Central CTE Student Leadership Team spent the morning volunteering at the Montgomery County Day of Service. These students partnered with CCSC Data Specialist, Laura Harris, to help paint the Masonic Cornerstone.

In the past, the Masonic Cornerstone has donated their event space to West Central CTE and the students were very excited to help give back. Three Athenians, Crystal Gonzalez, Kolton Jones, and Melanie Dowd, are all part of the CTE leadership team.





Serving up grilled cheese & soup for hungry staff

The Essential Skills students in Mrs. Hardebeck's class recently opened their very first Grilled Cheese Restaurant, and what a success it was!

This hands-on experience provided every student with the opportunity to practice important, real-world life skills. From shopping for groceries and preparing the food to serving guests, handling money, and cleaning up, students were involved in every step of the restaurant experience.

Perhaps the best part of the day was watching our students interact

with their restaurant guests. They demonstrated confidence, responsibility, teamwork, and kindness while taking orders, serving meals, collecting payment, and making sure their guests had a great experience. They took their jobs seriously and did an amazing job!

Mrs. Hardebeck and her teacher assistants worked together to ensure that every student had an opportunity to participate and experience success throughout the activity. Their dedication to creating meaningful learning experiences for our students

is truly appreciated.

We are incredibly proud of our Essential Skills students, Mrs. Hardebeck, and her teacher assistants! This restaurant was about so much more than grilled cheese—it was about building independence, confidence, communication skills, and valuable life skills that our students can carry with them beyond the classroom.

We can't wait until you cook for our teachers again! We know there are some hungry Athenians already looking forward to your next restaurant!

Volunteering at Farmers Market

Over the past few weeks, Mrs. Cindy Pierce and a group of amazing students have been giving back to our community by volunteering their time at the Crawfordsville Farmers Market. The students put their creativity to work by painting faces and bringing smiles, laughter, and a little extra fun to the children who visited the market.

This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to serve others, connect with members of our community, and share their talents. Their willingness to volunteer their time is a wonderful example of what it means to be an Athenian and to give back to the community that supports us.

The Crawfordsville community also showed its support for our students by generously donating to our PBIS program. We are so grateful for the kindness and generosity shown to our students and school!

A special thank you to Mrs. Pierce and these incredible students for representing our school so well and making a difference in our community. We are proud of the joy you brought to the Farmers Market and grateful for the way you continue to give back!





BOYS SOCCER
MAC Co-Conference Champions
County Champions



GIRLS SOCCER
MAC Champions
County Champions



BOYS TENNIS
Sectional Champions - 5th year in a row
County Champions



GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY
County Champions



Always an Athenian

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

Kristen (Albrecht) Olivera

CHS Alum

Class of 2014

Current Location:

Monmouth Junction, NJ

Current Employment:

**Senior Project Specialist at
Admera Health**

Q & A

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

During my undergraduate education at Princeton, I built my foundational scientific knowledge in molecular biology, and my senior thesis in herpesviruses introduced me to research. I further strengthened my critical thinking and research skills during my PhD work with HIV at Yale. The laboratory methods I utilized as a graduate student gave me the technical knowledge that I now use every day in my current role as a project manager at a contract biopharma research organization.

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

After reading *The Hot Zone* in Mrs. Veatch's Biology II class in my sophomore year, I became fascinated by viruses. I planned to study biology in college and conduct research with viruses while completing a PhD, and I achieved these goals. I did not expect to be working in a project management role at a contract research organization rather than working as a research scientist in a pharmaceutical company or governmental organization. However, I am enjoying the role and think it will provide valuable experience as I progress in my career.

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

My proudest accomplishment is earning my PhD. Graduate school and scientific research are challenging, and living three hours away from my husband made it even more difficult. Receiving my degree after seven years of work and with my family present was one of my proudest moments.





What advice would you give current students?

Repeatedly over the last 12 years, I have realized the importance of taking advantage of opportunities. Just applying to multiple elite colleges and universities seemed bold from someone from a small town in the Midwest. As an undergraduate, I applied for a summer internship program and was able to join a research lab in Budapest, Hungary, for two months. I also decided to accept a coach's invitation to walk on as a coxswain for the women's rowing team despite having no experience with the sport. I was not sure that I could succeed at a top school, navigate a foreign country, or learn a new sport while maintaining my academics. However, I felt I could not pass up the chance to try, and I am so grateful that I did.

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

I really enjoyed studying for and competing with the English academic team all four years, especially being able to participate in the state finals during my senior year. It was special to share this experience with my supportive teammates, including one of my best friends whom I chose as my maid of honor at my wedding.

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

I am grateful for many wonderful teachers at CHS. In particular, Mrs. Veatch, Ms. Race, and Mrs. Neville nurtured my curiosity and challenged me to think more critically about a range of interesting topics.

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

Running has been part of my life since joining the CHS cross country team as a junior. As a senior, I was the only girl on the team. Though this was intimidating, that season developed my independence and resilience. Since then, running has been a way to take time for myself and to test myself through training for and completing half marathons and marathons.

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

I did not have an idea of where I would be living 12 years after graduating from CHS, but my high school self would be surprised to know that I am living in New Jersey and that I do not have any pets yet.

"Once an Athenian, Always an Athenian."

What does that mean to you?

I am proud to be an Athenian because the education and leadership opportunities I had in high school prepared me to learn, grow, and work hard in college and beyond. Crawfordsville was my home for the first 18 years of my life, and it shaped me in to the hard-working, caring person I am today.



SUPPORTING OUR ATHENIANS!



DATES TO REMEMBER



October 8

School Board Meeting
5:30pm
Administration Building



October 9

No School
Staff Development Day



October 12

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



October 15

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



October 19-23

No School
Fall Break



November 6-8

CMS Musical:
Troll's Jr. Musical
Fri./Sat. 7:00 pm
Sunday: 2:30 pm



ATHLETIC SCHEDULES

Follow the links for athletic event schedules



[CHS Athletic Schedule](#)



[CMS Athletic Schedule](#)

Support the boys and girls basketball teams

PRESENTED BY:
CHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

4TH ANNUAL ALLEY-OOPS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1ST 2026
PLAZA LANES 12PM-4PM

BLUE SUPPORTER \$125
TEAM OF 5 INCLUDES: SHOES, BOWLING, FOOD, AND DRINK

GOLD SUPPORTER \$150
BLUE + DRAFT PICK OF CHS BASKETBALL PLAYER

ATHENIAN SUPPORTER \$200
GOLD + RECOGNITION AT HALF TIME OF CHS BOYS VARSITY HOME GAMES

SILENT AUCTION!

PRIZES FOR:

- HIGHEST SCORE TEAM
- HIGHEST SCORE MALE
- HIGHEST SCORE FEMALE
- MOST STRIKES MALE
- MOST STRIKES FEMALE

CHS ATHENIANS

WITH QUESTIONS OR TO REGISTER:
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