

# On, NEW CASTLE

NEW CASTLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

Fall 2022 Newsletter



The Spirit Bowl, originally presented by the Class of 1962, has been passed to the class of 2023.

**Building Better Futures**



## Tiny Trojans



Colleen Myers, a New Castle Kindergarten teacher of 36 years, helped pioneer the Tiny Trojans Preschool program. "I do love the exploration of preschool! I felt I could be useful to the start-up, knowing what kids need to be successful in their primary years. Each child will learn to recognize their name by sight, while being introduced to letters, phonics, numbers, and counting. They'll learn how to play with others, use supplies, and learn expectations and procedures of classroom etiquette. We're building motor skills for the future and are having fun with our new gig!"



### Tiny Trojan Teachers

Colleen Myers  
Westwood & Eastwood  
Angela Miller  
Riley & Wilbur Wright  
Tonia Haines  
Parker &  
Pre-K Coordinator

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HYCA Teachers: Richardson, Dicken, Pratt, Fishers, Drummond, and DeHart



# HYCA @ New Castle Schools

## Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy in Knightstown

New Castle High School is growing! The Hoosier Youth Challenge Academy, located at the historic Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in Knightstown, and NC Schools are partnering in online education with the National Guard to create positive change in the lives of Indiana's at-risk youth. On average, Cadets recover 8-10 credits towards their high school diploma, through the guidance of eight amazing NCHS teachers. The Instruction instills values, skills, education, and self-discipline to help the students successfully contribute to society. The program uses a military model to instill positive leadership through a five-month residential program and year-long mentorship post graduation.

Grace Morgan will graduate from HYCA in December and head to Ivy Tech. "I earned three credits towards my Core 40 honors diploma, one for community service, and two college credits for physical fitness! ...I was like a broken puzzle when I came here. We pulled out all the broken pieces, reorganized, and they are slowly putting me back together... I'm ready to restore relationships back home."



HYCA Principal Chris DeHart, a 2000 NC grad, taught 15 years at the Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility, and is accustomed to non-traditional schooling. "Our students come to rebuild behavior or academics. The National Guard takes care of all disciplinary issues, so I get to encourage students emotionally and push them towards credit recovery in our online classes. Whether they choose to get a diploma from NCHS, or continue to earn their final credits back home, we've helped them increase vocational experience with quality certifications and ultimately build them a better future!"



## NCMS Cafeteria Chat

### Spontaneous Lunch Comments

The Middle School cafeteria is modern, designed with many unique places to sit! Students are awarded booth space for personal achievements. Paris Washington (6th) made perfect attendance, and was allowed to pick two friends to eat with her all week! Extremely grateful 8th graders shared their favorite things about the year.



Barnes, Dunaway & Washington

Harris, Ryan, Blessinger, Blackford, Blessinger, Flynn, Frasier, Gilman & Owens

"Mrs. Law makes Spanish class relatable to real life, as we translate our own problems into Spanish! Mr. Harvey's hilarious; we look forward to gym class, and we love the new gym! Middle School now has Girls Volleyball! We get to use the new tennis courts, and the Head Coach, Mr. Huntley, also teaches Technology! Mrs. Goff is a favorite for English. We're not stuck in the same two hallways; there's so much more room! love changing classrooms. The hardest thing to get used to: so many stairways!"

Ellen Bergum only took one AP class at NCHS. But she did something unique: all the classes she took were dual credit! With "normal HS homework," she earned 47 dual credits, surpassed 14 college classes, and propelled into her sophomore year of college classes! She will graduate from the University of Louisville with her RN in only 3 years! Participating in the Career Center's Health Science Education classes, Ellen enjoyed the one-to-one coaching. "In college, you're on your own, in a class once a week with no help!" She's also taking *World Religion*, exposing her to cultures outside of New Castle. "I've been pushed outside of my comfort zone; it's been really tough, but now I love it!" Bergum can be found studying on late nights and hanging out at *Insomnia Cookies*, only 30 feet from her dorm. She's now a member of Delta Zeta Sorority, and has found a deep love for community service, and philanthropy.

"My advice? Take dual credit courses! You don't have to have a plan, but take them now and not in college. If you don't have a .

## Alumni Spotlight

Ellen Bergum | 2022 Grad | @ Louisville, KY



Ellen & Mrs. Talbott, NCCC Health Careers



support system, talk to Mr. Middleton or Mr. Amman! Use the counselors! Find a couple of teachers to get you through a tough class. Just find a connection. Sometimes your peers can be better than family!"





The Before School program is only open to Eastwood and Wilbur families at this time. We are planning to expand to all schools next year with the building expansion at the YMCA.

## YMCA Before School Care

**Wilbur Wright, Eastwood and NC graduates work together for early morning success!**

Last semester, two Career Center seniors, Keisha Brown (Education) and Rheanne Cary (Health Science), displayed student leadership by piloting our before school program at the YMCA. Every school morning, both ladies open their hearts to these young early risers. This year the program expanded, and the two returned to work for NCCSC while attending college. Kids are treated to breakfast, homework help, games and quality time before most other students are out of bed! Our bus drivers then take the students to their schools at 7:30! Call 765-521-7201 for info.

## NCHS Top 19 Academia Annual Achievement Day Honors, Speakers, Rings & Crests

We are proud to present the Class of 2023's Top 19 academically competitive seniors. The tradition of Achievement Day dates back to the fall of 1961. The program is intended to celebrate the academic achievements of our students and to inspire scholastic success among the student body. Rings and honor crests are presented to seniors who have maintained at least a 4.0 average for six semesters. Keynote speaker Mark Nicholson, a 1987 graduate, shared his testimony of life behind bars before becoming a successful lawyer in Indianapolis.



3rd Row: Valarie Wong, Alanah Amman, Catherine Hannon, Lexy Jaris, Sam Underhill, & Carter Guffey  
2nd Row: Colin O'Farrow, Madison Parsons, Guest Speaker, Ryleigh Forsberg, Madilyn Moffitt, & Cole Johnson  
1st Row: Elena Millikan, Camryn DeVine, Ella Garvin, Sacha Shunneson, Lydia Harvey, Ryan Greieser, Aidan Bradley, & Cole Kernel

## Luddy Tennis Center Grand Opening

**By Coach Kurt Huntley**

The brand new Fred Luddy Tennis Center opened August 13th with eight fully-lit courts and an open center for spectator viewing. Coming from Memorial Drive, you'll find the gem on Trojan Lane. You'll pass the Hall of Fame, the Luddy Tennis Center, and then Neal Field, giving the south side of campus a curb appealing facelift. The two additional courts from our pre-existing six, opens more individual play at the beginning of each team match. In the past (with only four lit courts), we had to modify our team schedules, and not everyone got to play at every match. Both boys and girls high school teams average between 18-22 players each year. In addition, our co-ed middle school team has had as many as 50 players in one season. During the fall season, we hosted an event almost every weekend during August and September! The new facility also has



a shelter house. During events, we set up a grill, and serve hamburgers and hot dogs as part of our concessions. I am also extremely excited about the new location, given it is considerably quieter during matches, not competing with other school events and activities. The facility will also be open to the community. As a tennis person, there is nothing better than driving by the courts and seeing them completely full of not only our players, but older players and families. Tennis is a life sport, and in the past two years I've seen an extremely high increase of people that have picked up the new lifestyle. It's proven that as people get older, tennis can help them stay in good health!



**The Boys Tennis Team set multiple School records this year, and for the very first time, competed at Semi-State! Congratulations!**

I am so grateful to Dr. Shoemaker, the school administration, and Mr. Fred Luddy for making this happen. It's a huge addition to the New Castle Campus and community.



# NextGen SIG & ETT: School Improvement Grant & the Educational Transformation Team

NCCSC was recently awarded the *NextGen* School Improvement Grant for 3.4 million dollars from the Indiana Dep. of Education, with the mission of **Building a Better Community through the development of educational opportunities, giving New Castle Students the skills to thrive in an ever changing world.** Built upon five pillars that reflect the IDOE's vision strategies, the ETT is implementing the timeline into curriculum. Amy Madden, ETT Liaison, shares how community improvement is the overall goal, "The purpose of this grant is to better prepare our students for life after graduation, whether that means going to college, trade school, or heading straight into the work force. This is huge benefit for the community; our grads will be more conscientious employees, hopefully staying in Henry County." Skybound Education (Indianapolis) is our expert partner in the planning process, facilitating our monthly meetings and the overall goals of the grant. Launch date is set for August of 2023, and will be implemented for three years.



## SIG Grant, 5 Pillars

### • Resources

- Academic Support with an emphasis on college readiness
- Professional Development for Teachers to enrich student learning
- Mental Health
- Family Support & Engagement

### • Opportunities

- Career Education (Continuum from 7-12 grade, with events for each level)
- Work readiness Skills
- Alternatives to traditional course design

### • Attitudes

- How do we ensure stakeholders advocacy?
- Educating Businesses to ensure a quality work based learning experience for our students.
- Inform staff about sustainability and longevity of the program
- Educate families about the importance of attendance and there support in the college/career process
- Staff Models what it is like to "do life well?"
- Developing resiliency in students and relevance to education

### • Outcomes

- Lasting Partnerships with local businesses
- Communication plan to stakeholders about changes
- Meeting needs of those currently not being met
- Path to Employability for all students

### • Community Engagement

- Establish an educational foundation to support sustainability
- Continuum of career education starting in Middle School
- Partnerships with Community organizations for student support
- Community Service
- Higher Education
- Engaging Parents and Alumni

**Kendall Crabtree (5th):** "Maybe a person who takes someone's job while they're out on leave."

**Diesel Piper (5th):** "Super-what? Never heard of it. ...If somebody broke something, he would fix it! Like a doorknob! ...Ohhhh yeah, I remember that name! Mrs. Wilson said Dr. Shoemaker told us we could finally take our masks off last year!"

**Riley Bertram (2nd):** "In first grade, I was in trouble a lot, but I never got to meet the Superintendent. I think he goes around to all the schools to see if the kids are being good, and looks at teachers. He always looks for good people! He can fire people if they don't do their job right, and can also kick out students for being bad! I think he likes to talk to principals." (*How do you know all this?*) "I watch videos about Superintendents on YouTube. Ever seen *MrBeast*?"

## What is a Superintendent?

We randomly asked Parker & Sunnyside students what Dr. Shoemaker's role is at NCCSC.

**Lucian Clark (K):** "I think he unlocks the house when we get home."

**Max Neal (K):** "I don't know what that word is, but I think it means *how pepperoni pizza tastes*." (Would Dr. S. deliver *supreme* pizza?)

**Savannah Sasser (1st):** "Is he like a therapist? Does he help us with emotions?"

**Sophia Mitchell (K):** "I'm pretty sure he fights bad guys, and likes to build things."

**Liam Adkins (1st):** "Dr. Shoemaker? Ohhhhhh! I met that guy once! (Back-to School Festival) He gives people pencils!"



# After the Bell



## After School Care, a Partnership with New Castle FourSquare Church

Meet Jen Frombley, Foursquare Children's Pastor, and Executive Director of *After the Bell*. "When we first met with Dr. Shoemaker about joining the corporation for this new adventure and partnership, we asked ourselves, 'Why should we do this?' After an exciting staff meeting, we concluded it's our *honor* to help build the character of the next generation, and in turn, we can bless their parents." This past summer, Frombley and her staff formed the objectives of the after-school program (formerly known as Latch-Key), and fashioned purposeful curriculum.

The students meet in their school's cafeteria and have a little fun for a mental break. While healthy snacks are being served, a character-based lesson is presented. Daily the kids learn new ways to integrate the weekly theme into their home or school lives. "In August, we emphasized self-control. We had them define it. By incorporating games, books and showcasing historical figures learning life-lessons, the students began to grasp the meaning of self-control, and we watched their character traits mature."

After all the fun and lessons are through, there is always time for homework help and personal connection. Currently, over 100 students participate in *After the Bell*. Sunnyside and Wilbur Wright students ride a bus to join Eastwood's program, while Parker, Westwood and Riley all have their own programs. There are two staff and usually an ICAP Foster Grandparent at each location. "Trust and relationships are being built. No matter the different walks of life, our students have become quite comfortable in sharing their hearts. They feel safe and loved."

If you are in need of a place for your child after school, *After the Bell* information can be found at the Foursquare Office 765-529-7448.

## SRO Chase Koger Student Resource Officer

This year we're celebrating a milestone at NC schools! We have our first permanently assigned Student Resource Officer! Chase Koger grew up around law enforcement, as his Father worked for Kightstown P.D, and local Chief Catron was also a close mentor. After graduating NCHS in 2009, Chase worked as a correctional officer in the city jail until he shifted into the Sheriff's Dept. in 2013. Koger had prior relationships built with students, already working as our DARE coordinator, bringing drug abuse resistance curriculum into the schools, and is our Boys Basketball Assistant Coach! Naturally, he was perfect for our first SRO. "My hands are full! I'm not just here to monitor behavior. I'm here to be a positive mentor and form trusting relationships between the schools and our community."



Chase has already made significant safety upgrades to each building in the corporation, and has connected all staff through a safety app designed for school emergencies. Developing our new SRO department, we're aiming to have an officer at every school!



Koger visits with the high school students daily at lunch.

## Bundy Auditorium: Looking Inside the transformation!





# Some New Faces at NCCSC

## NCMS Dean

Amanda Ruble has taught social studies and psychology for 14 years. She's married to a Fishers Detective and has a 9 year old son. Her goal as Dean at NCMS is to realign students' thinking, teaching them to understand the consequences of behavior and why it matters in the real world. "Teaching isn't always about reading and writing. We're also teaching social skills, and that's difficult to master." Her favorite thing about being Dean is "seeing the big picture of the entire school, interacting with all kids, and all subjects." Ruble is a "get-it-done kind of person," and she's guiding us towards #abetterncms.

## NCHS Dean

Mr. Todd Grace has had 20 years in the classroom, teaching PLTW (Medical Detectives), Physical Education and Health. For three years he served as an athletic director, and 2 years as Dean of Students for Muncie Schools. His goal at NCHS is to "build rapport with students and staff, help create a nurturing culture, and provide assistance and guidance where needed." He's already learned most of the high schoolers' names, and is quick to joke and give praise. He has three sons, including identical twins who are both in medical school!

## Transportation Mechanic

Jeremy Howard joined our Transportation team in September. He ran Knightstown's Howard Family Transportation for 20 years, hauling steel across America, and logged 1.8 million miles driving through 44 states. He's a motor expert, rebuilding cement, garbage, dump trucks, and buses! Howard likes a challenge, and is pushing the Bus Barn towards total "efficiency and optimization; it will eventually run itself!" Married for 30 years with four grandkids, Jeremy values safety at home and work. "It's a huge responsibility keeping the children protected on the road; one I don't take lightly."



## Employee Spotlight

### Amy Tyner, Special Services Bus Driver

Working with Meridian Health for 15 years, Amy always had a heart for children with special needs. She started subbing for the Transportation Dept. in 1999 as needed, until a full time special needs route opened up in 2003. "I'm privileged to have my route, as it's more personal. I get to form quality relationships with families, and we remain friends far after student graduations." Amy also loves to drive for field trips, cheerleading, girls basketball and show choir! Her advice to future drivers: "Be patient with your students, because you never know what could have happened to them at home or at school. We have an hour a day to make a positive impact and bring lasting joy to their hearts!"



## Share your story!

We'd like to hear from you!  
Is there a story you'd like to share in the newsletter?  
Do you have a great photo for social media?  
Feel free to call/text our Communications Specialist, Rhema Glover, at 765-465-6644, or email your information to [rglover@ncweb.me](mailto:rglover@ncweb.me)



## Connect with us!

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