

CLARK-PLEASANT

Education Foundation



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NOVEMBER NEWS



We are so grateful for all November brought us---from grant winners to basketball games. **It was the perfect month to remind us why we have the best community to be thankful for.**

Speaking of being thankful, we have two new **JCBank donation winners** to recognize, in honor of the bank's 125th anniversary. November's winner was **WCHS ESports Team!** This is their first year as a Unified Club, and we are excited to see their growing popularity.

December's winner is **Best Buddies!**

They are excited to put this donation towards all the fun events they host, including their Prom and Unified Sports.

Congrats to both of these amazing clubs!



There is even more exciting news to share about our ESports team, as their coach **Thomas Rohlfs** won a \$2,954 educator grant from **Forum Credit Union**. This is the first grant the ESports team has received from Forum, chosen because of Forum's belief in the social benefits ESports provides to students. **Congratulations again to ESports, and thank you to Forum Credit Union.**

Our Recognize Excellence winner this month is **Hannah Imel** of Clark-Pleasant Early Learning Center. We are proud and excited to recognize her, and thank you to **Bailey & Wood** for making this possible!



Our **CPCSC Staff vs. Harlem Wizards** basketball game was a **slam dunk this year!** Students and families packed the stands to cheer on their faculty members, and some even got to have a meet-and-greet with the Harlem Wizard players. **It was a great night, and was wonderful to see our community having so much fun together.**



Keep reading for our staff and student spotlights, a special story, information about Holiday Grams, and our Fall Grant Recipients!

UPCOMING EVENTS



JAN. 10 | 8:00AM
CPCSC Staff-Only
Volleyball Tournament

Whiteland Community High School

Calling all staff! Join us for a day of community building and fun! Registration for 8-player teams is \$160, and individual registration is \$20. All proceeds will go to the Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship! Tickets can be purchased online through the CPEF website "Events" tab.

CPCSC STAFF ONLY

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

2 GAME POOL PLAY, SINGLE ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT

TEAM ENTRY = \$160 (EIGHT PLAYERS)
INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION = \$20

WHHS NORTH BUILDING - MAIN GYM
ENTER THROUGH DOOR #12

JANUARY 10, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Proceeds will benefit the Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship



FEB. 28 | 5:00-7:00PM
Candy Land Kids Prom

Clark-Pleasant Middle School

All families of preschool-5th grade students are invited to February's Candy Land Kids prom! All students must be accompanied by an adult. Each guest will receive candy from the candy shop, a bottle of water, a chance to win prizes, and access to games, dancing, photo opportunities and more! Tickets can be found at <https://clarkpleasanteducationfoundation.networkforgood.com/events/92834-kids-prom-2026>

Staff Spotlight: Raenell Smith

Raenell Smith, Media Specialist at WHS and Chair-Elect of the Association of Indiana School Library Educators, has spent the last few months sharing her expertise at the national level, while still finding ways to innovate locally.

In October, Raenell represented Indiana school librarians at the American Association of School Libraries National Conference in St. Louis. She delivered a presentation titled **"Broken Builds Community: How a Book Repair Shop Serves Students and the Library,"** showcasing a program she developed with resource teacher Mary Zosbi. **The project helps students earn work hours while repairing hundreds of library books, providing a hands-on experience that builds both skill and connection.**

"It was incredible. Being a school librarian is something you do solo most of the time, so being in a crowd that was like me was so reaffirming," Smith said.



She also collaborated with Tim Jones, the 2025 SLJ School Librarian of the Year, in an IdeaLab presentation on advocacy and networking for librarians, and co-presented with award-winning librarian Diane Rogers on demonstrating the value of school librarians through data and evaluation.

Smith is continuing her professional growth through the ALA Law for Librarians course, will become an L4L trainer in Indiana, and is preparing her first fully peer-reviewed academic article that is scheduled for publication in November 2026. She will also present in a national webinar and attend a December ALA leadership training on library advocacy.

"I love returning to school and hearing students ask about the work I've done," Smith commented. "They are just as invested in teachers' success as we are in theirs."

Through her programs and presentations, Smith embodies leadership in school librarianship, while simultaneously inspiring students, colleagues, and librarians from all over. We are so lucky to have her be a part of us.

Special Story: How Amazon Donations Support Our School Community

In the midst of this holiday season, as we celebrate giving and gratitude, we want to bring light to our ongoing partnership that brings crucial support to our families and staff. **For the past two years, CPEF has received donations from local Amazon fulfillment centers, filled with food, clothing, toys, toiletries, school supplies, and more.**

The partnership was first brought to the district by Jamie Jo Hampton, who helped establish the original arrangement. "We are so incredibly grateful; this has opened up avenues I could have never dreamed of," she remarked.

Each shipment is delivered to the "barn"—an old gym now used for storage—where volunteers then come together to sort all the items. **Once they are sorted, a free "store" is set up, where staff members can shop for themselves or for students who need extra help.**

"It is probably my favorite program of the year," said Tracy Neer, who oversees the pickup, sorting, and shopping process. "It warms my heart."

The donations have been especially valuable to teachers during the holiday



season, when both classroom needs and personal expenses increase. **"I love this experience because of all the goodies I can put into my classroom without paying for them,"** preschool teacher Amber Buller commented, who uses donated craft supplies, toys, and extra clothing for her students. **Last year, she even used items from the program to give her students a chance to do "Christmas shopping" for their parents, making the holiday extra special for families in need.**

Any leftover items are shared with local nonprofits, extending the spirit of giving beyond the school community.

Through this program, everybody benefits: staff, students, and families alike, making a difference in so many lives everyday.

Show off your warrior pride in style!

Our friends at JCBank are giving away a custom pair of Warriors Air Force 1 sneakers — and you could be the lucky winner!

Enter once per day at [JCBank.com/WAF1](https://www.jcbank.com/WAF1). Must be 18 or older and an Indiana resident. No purchase necessary.

Contest ends February 22, 2026

We're grateful for community partners like JCBank who continue to support our students, staff, and schools in fun and creative ways. Thank you for being such a strong part of the Warrior community!

We don't know why they're called sneakers.

Everybody's going to see you coming...

Scan here or visit [JCBank.com/WAF1](https://www.jcbank.com/WAF1) and enter daily through February 22 to win custom Warriors Air Force 1 shoes!

And visit our Greenwood Banking Center or open your accounts online at [JCBank.com/Open](https://www.jcbank.com/Open).

JCBank The official bank of Clark-Pleasant Schools

Fall Grant Recipients

This year, our foundation was able to award twenty-four of our staff members as fall grant recipients! Dr. Edsell joined us as we surprised our winners throughout the day. In total, we gave away \$14,693.90 in classroom grants!

A complete list of our winners can be found on our Facebook page.



Holiday Grams

Holiday Grams are Here!
Celebrate the amazing CPCSC staff members in your student's life.
Personally delivered by The Clark-Pleasant Elves

Reduce your Holiday to-do list!

- Amazon Gifts Card
- Delivered by Elves
- Supports our Students
- Spreads Holiday Joy



Brighten someone's day and bolster our school community with a Holiday Gram! Simply choose a dollar amount for an Amazon gift card, and the Clark-Pleasant Elves will personally deliver it before the holiday break. This is a double whammy of goodness because part of your gift sprinkles magic back to the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation, helping fuel scholarships and grants.

Order yours today and make the season bright!

Show your appreciation for a dedicated CPCSC staff member this holiday season and purchase a Holiday Gram!

You can make purchases here:

<https://clarkpleasanteducationfoundation.networkforgood.com/events/94059-clark-pleasant-education-foundation-holiday-gram-order-form>

Student Spotlight: Camrin Mccarty



Each month, we will be featuring a WCHS student who has been chosen as part of the **Youth Leadership Academy (YLA)**. CPEF provides scholarships to WCHS students for their tuition to the program. YLA selects exceptional Johnson County High School students to learn more about the community and enhance their leadership skills.

This month, we introduce you to **Camrin Mccarty**, a senior at WCHS. He is involved with National Honor Society, a 3-year member of the baseball team, and will be a new member of the golf team this spring. He plans to attend Purdue after graduation. **Camrin is excited for YLA because of the values and skills it teaches, and the way it connects students from all over Johnson County.** Congrats Camrin!



Jenny's Journal

Over this past holiday weekend, I found myself reflecting on life such as where I've been, the road that led me here, and how far my husband and I have come over the last 25 years. When you pause long enough to look back, you begin to see not just the moments that changed you, but the growth that happened quietly along the way.

As I was thinking about the path of my own life, I couldn't help but think about the **Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation** and how far we have come together as a community.

Over time, we built on that belief. We grew into larger fundraising events and stronger community partnerships. We developed programs, strengthened our mission, and created a truly solid foundation—one that could sustain us and serve future generations.

Because of all of that growth, we can now proudly say that:

• **Since 2012, CPEF has gifted more than \$536,000 in grants and scholarships,**

• **We currently maintain an endowment of more than \$290,000 to ensure future funding continues.**

None of this would have been possible without you—our partners, supporters, staff, students, and friends of the foundation.

I am incredibly proud of what the Foundation has become and the difference we are able to make in Clark-Pleasant.

Here's to continued growth, continued gratitude, and continued belief in what we can accomplish together.

With appreciation,
Jenny

