

CLARK-PLEASANT

Education Foundation



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clarkpleasanteducationfoundation.org



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JANUARY NEWS



January marked a strong start to the second semester for the **Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation**. The winter months ushered in the new year with **fresh energy, reflection, and meaningful moments connecting with our school community**. We are very proud to announce our **Recognize Excellence winner** this month as **Stephanie Smiley of Clark-Pleasant Early Learning Center**. We are very thankful to **Bailey & Wood** for making these recognitions possible!

In addition to the Recognize Excellence winner we like to recognize educators going above and beyond with the help of **Beeson Mechanical**! This month we are proud to celebrate **Trevor Reece, Allison Dugan, Alice Fuquay, and Nathan Kern** as **Educators the Month**. These amazing educators, **nominated by their students**, have had a great impact on those around them. **Thank you** for all of the **hard work and dedication** you put into your students, and **keep up the great work!**



As we move into **February**, we are excited to continue the momentum of the new year and focus on making the second half of the school year a great one. We remain **committed to supporting our students and educators and are looking forward to the events and initiatives planned for the weeks ahead**. Keep reading to stay up to date on the important things happening throughout our community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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>

Candyland Kids Prom

Saturday, February 28th, 5-7 p.m.
Clark-Pleasant Middle School
For Preschool & Elementary Students
with an Adult Guest

April 17 | 6:00 PM
8th Annual Blue Jeans Ball

The Garment Factory Event Center

Join us for the 8th Annual Blue Jeans Ball, a refreshed and reimaged benefit event supporting the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation and the students and staff of Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation. [Get your tickets today by clicking here!](#)



Staff Spotlight: Jamie Kidwell

Decade of Impact: Jamie Kidwell Receives CPEF Grant for the Second Time

Ten years ago, Jamie Kidwell was a 4th grade teacher at Clark Elementary with a strong desire to continue growing as an educator. After looping with her students from 3rd to 4th grade, Jamie was eager to find new ways to keep her learners engaged, motivated, and successful. That opportunity The Ron Clark Academy, founded by two nationally recognized educators, is known for its dynamic teaching practices, highly engaged students, and exceptional academic outcomes. Jamie participated in an intensive two-day training that left her inspired and energized.

"I was able to attend a two day training that left me mesmerized and inspired. It was so fun to bring back some of the ideas back to my classroom and keep my students engaged, motivated, and successful as we navigated state testing and the final nine weeks," said Jamie.

Now, a decade later, Jamie's passion for student success continues in a new role. Currently serving as the Literacy Coach at Whiteland Elementary, she works closely with teachers through coaching cycles and MTSS meetings. Through this work, Jamie has identified a growing need for additional resources, knowledge, and instructional strategies that help students learn how to prepare themselves to learn.

This year, Jamie was awarded another grant from CPEF, marking a meaningful milestone in her professional journey. This new grant provides access to specialized coursework that will allow her to train staff on effective strategies to support learner readiness. Additionally, grant funds will be used to purchase classroom kits for select kindergarten and first-grade classrooms. These kits will include a variety of materials that students will learn to use to help improve focus and engagement in the classroom.

Adding to the significance of this moment is a full-circle connection. One of Jamie's students from her classroom ten years ago, Kylie McGovern, was present when Jamie received her second grant—this time serving as a CPEF Intern. The moment highlighted the lasting impact educators have on their students and the incredible continuity of learning and leadership within Clark Pleasant Community Schools.

Receiving a grant again, ten years after her first, reflects Jamie Kidwell's dedication to continuous growth and her commitment to supporting both students and staff. Her journey exemplifies the strength of investing in educators and the meaningful ripple effects that can span generations.

Honoring Jerry Lasiter Through Competition and Community

The Clark-Pleasant Community School Corporation continues to honor the legacy of Jerry Lasiter (WCHS Class of 1967) through the Jerry Lasiter Scholarship, which supports students as they continue their education after high school.

While the annual community pickleball tournament remains a cornerstone fundraiser—celebrating Jerry's love of the sport and his gift for bringing people together—the scholarship is also supported through a **staff-only volleyball tournament**. Held each winter, the event brings employees from across the district together for a night of friendly competition, fellowship, and purpose.

For staff member Bethany Guilfoy, who has coordinated the volleyball tournament for the past three years, the event is deeply personal.

"This tournament was created as a way to honor Jerry's legacy while bringing staff members together for a night of fellowship, fun, and connection—both within buildings and across the district," Guilfoy shared. "It's filled with laughter, friendly competition, and meaningful memories. Most importantly, it serves as a tribute to the lasting impact Jerry made



through his kindness, spirit, and love for the Whiteland Warriors."

The Jerry Lasiter Scholarship is awarded to Clark-Pleasant students who reflect Jerry's commitment to inclusion and service. Students may qualify if they plan to pursue a career in Special Education, had an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or have made a meaningful impact in their school or community.

Through events like the Staff Volleyball Tournament, Jerry's legacy lives on—bringing people together and opening doors for future Clark-Pleasant graduates.

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. 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 and enter daily through February 22 to win custom Warriors Air Force 1 shoes!

And visit our Greencroft Banking Center or open your accounts online at JCBank.com/Open.

JCBank The official bank of Clark-Pleasant Schools.

Scholarships and Legacy Award Nominations are NOW OPEN



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS
OPENING NOW!

All of the CPEF Scholarships are open and accepting applications. Spring Break is a great time to apply!

Check out the CPEF website for more information! <https://clarkpleasanteducationfoundation.org>

Questions? Contact Jenny Zahm jzahm@cpcsc.k12.in.us



The Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation is now accepting Legacy Award nominations and scholarship applications for CPCSC seniors.

Legacy Awards allow graduating seniors to nominate a staff member who has made a meaningful impact on their educational journey or their lives.

CPEF also presents scholarships to deserving students as part of our mission to support continued educational experiences beyond high school.

Details and application links are available on the CPEF website.

[Click here for scholarships!](#)

[Click here for the Legacy Awards nomination form!](#)



Legacy Awards
Nominations open!

Check out the CPEF website for more information! <https://clarkpleasanteducationfoundation.org>

Questions? Contact Jenny Zahm jzahm@cpcsc.k12.in.us



Welcome, Spring Intern: Cooper Adams

We are excited to welcome Cooper Adams as the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation's Spring Intern.

Cooper is a senior at Whiteland Community High School, where he is involved in Student Government, Spanish Honor Society, and National Honor Society, and participates in Tennis as well as Swim and Dive.

This spring, Cooper will be writing the majority of CPEF's monthly newsletters, helping share stories of impact, events, and opportunities across our district. After graduation, he plans to attend the University of Notre Dame, where he hopes to study neuroscience or biomedical engineering.

We are excited to have Cooper on our team and look forward to his contributions this semester.



When local businesses give back, our community thrives.

CPEF is thankful for The Mother Daughter Real Estate Team's commitment to our community.

Their \$500 donation at each closing helps fund programs that benefit students, teachers, and classrooms across our community.



Buy or Sell a home with us & we will donate \$500 to CPEF in your name at closing!

Lenell Tate
317.840.2754
goldie888@gmail.com

Tammie Lee Hall
317.627.7900
TJH2000@gmail.com

2026 Fine Arts Grant Applications Now Open

The Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation is accepting applications for the 2026 Fine Arts Grant, supporting creative and innovative fine arts projects that enhance student learning. All CPCSC staff and administrators are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$200–\$1,000.

Applications are open February 2–27, with one grant awarded in the spring. Collaborative projects are encouraged.

Applications are reviewed based on student impact, creativity, and community engagement. The recipient will be announced March 17. Applications must be submitted by February 27 at 5 p.m.
[Click here to apply!](#)



SPRING
Fine Arts Grant
APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN!

APPLICATION IS OPEN TO CPCSC EMPLOYEES
CPEF WILL AWARD UP TO \$1,000
OPENS: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND
CLOSES: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
AWARD WILL BE GRANTED ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 17TH "IT'S YOUR LUCKY DAY!"



QUESTIONS: EMAIL jzahm@cpcsc.k12.in.us

Grant Dollars in Action: Space Day

Thanks to a recent Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation grant, classrooms at Grassy Creek Elementary have been transformed into a space mission control center! Through this "Out of This World Problem Solving" project, students became astronauts, engineers, and mission specialists solving mission-based math word problems and writing opinion pieces tied to their space adventures.

By making learning immersive and hands-on, students strengthened problem-solving skills, built confidence in math, and practiced supporting their opinions with strong reasoning, all while having a blast.

"THANK YOU CPEF!!!! I was excited for today, but the students were over the moon about it!!! They had a blast and loved demonstrating their knowledge through this experience!" — Ashley Vaught, GCES

This is what your support makes possible—engaging, memorable learning experiences that impact students today and for years to come.



A Special Thank You to Our Candyland Kids Prom Sponsors

Event Sponsor:



DJ Sponsor:



Candy Sponsors:



Student Spotlight: Cadence Wiggam

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 **Cadence Wiggam**, a junior at **WCHS**.

She is involved in the Blue Revue Dance Team, serves as a captain for Marching Color Guard and Varsity Winter Guard, plays flute in the Wind Symphony, and participates in several academic and honor organizations, including NHS and Spanish Honor Society. She is also part of the WCHS Radio and TV program.



Cadey plans to major in **media with a focus on advertising** after high school and enjoys YLA for the leadership skills and real-world preparation it provides.

Congrats, Cadey!



Jenny's Journal

February has always felt a little special to me. It's my birthday month and the month we celebrate Valentine's Day—both gentle reminders to pause and appreciate the people and places that fill our lives with meaning.

As I've gotten older, birthdays have become less about the number and more about gratitude. I find myself reflecting on the relationships that shape my days, the work that gives me purpose, and the community that continually shows up in ways both big and small.



That sense of connection is at the heart of the Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation. Everything we do—supporting educators through grants, celebrating students through scholarships, and building partnerships with local businesses—comes down to people who care deeply about one another and about the future of our schools.

Valentine's Day is often associated with cards and candy, but at its core, it's really about love expressed through action. I see that kind of love all year long in Clark-Pleasant: in teachers who go above and beyond for their students, in donors who give quietly but consistently, and in community members who believe that investing in education is one of the most meaningful ways to make a difference.

Here's to a month filled with appreciation, connection, and a little extra love—for our schools, our students, and one another.

With appreciation,
Jenny