CLARK-PLEASANT Education Foundation

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SEPTEMBER NEWS

September was an extraordinary month for the Education Foundation as we celebrated excellence, community, and the lasting impact of our Warrior family. We kicked off the month by bringing back **Surprise September** alongside local realtor **Andrew Prince**, surprising deserving staff members across the district with **$100** gifts to show our appreciation. We celebrated **Sara Saylor** at the **Clark-Pleasant Early Learning Center**, **Nicole Miller** at **Grassy Creek Elementary**, **Maria Rabusa** at **Pleasant Crossing Elementary**, and **Jessica Lee** at **Whiteland Community High School** for their incredible dedication to our students. Continuing our celebration of outstanding educators, we are also thrilled to honor **Kimberly Frahm** as our **Recognize Excellence** winner for her unwavering commitment to excellence for our students! A special thank you to **Bailey & Wood for sponsoring the Recognize Excellence** award and continually supporting our hard-working Clark-Pleasant staff.





That momentum carried right onto the court for our **4th Annual Jerry Lasiter Pickleball Challenge**, where a short weather delay couldn't stop **32 dedicated players** from raising an impressive **$10,000** in sponsorships for student scholarships! Congratulations to our division champions—**Libby Terhune**, **Debbie Brinkman**, and **Amy Thompson** for the women, and **Corbin Carver**, **Matt Martin**, and **Mark Griffith** for the men! From custom trophies handcrafted by **WCHS manufacturing students** to **National Anthem singer Jazmen Morris**, **student volunteers from NHS and Spanish Honor Society**, and setup support from **Ryan Homes**, it was a true community effort. Thanks to our **hard-working Pickleball Committee** (Butch Zike, David Ebeyer, David McMillan, Evan Fruits, John Schilawski, Kylie McGovern, Rusty Fleming, and Rick Brinkman), event proceeds expanded beyond the now-endowed **Jerry Lasiter Memorial Scholarship** to also fund **The Michael L. McElwain and Donna J. (Esteb) Scholarship** and **The Haveman Family Agricultural Scholarship**.





To wrap up a month of celebration, our **Homecoming weekend** brought alumni together from near and far to support our **GIVE YOUR GRAD YEAR** campaign, directly benefiting CPEF grants for our teachers and classrooms. A special congratulations goes out to the **Class of 1975** for taking home the crown with the highest number of donations—thank you for proving that Warrior pride never fades!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Trunk or Treat

This year's **Trunk or Treat** is more than just a spooky night of family fun–it's hands-on classroom learning in action for **Whiteland Community High School** students! Several WCHS classes are collaborating directly with CPEF to handle the event planning, logistics, marketing, and media promotion, giving students real-world experience while raising vital funds for WCHS Prom and Post Prom. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, October 22**, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at **Whiteland Community High School**. Families and community members are invited to wear costumes and bring candy buckets for a fun, free evening with no registration required. If you represent a local business or organization looking to get involved, we invite you to **Sign Up to Host a Trunk Here** and hand out treats to our Warrior families!



Candyland Kids Prom

Give the young Warriors in your life an unforgettable evening of music, dancing, games, photos, candy, prizes, and more. Kids Prom is for preschool–5th-grade students and their families in Clark-Pleasant Community Schools; each student must attend with an adult. Food trucks and other food will be available for purchase, and $2 from each ticket supports each school's PTO. Dress your best! Buy tickets



Honoring the Legacy of Jerry Ferguson



The Clark-Pleasant Education Foundation joins our entire community in honoring the memory of **Gerald Joseph "Jerry" Ferguson**, a beloved educator and administrator who passed away on **September 14 at age 93**. Jerry devoted **31 distinguished years to Whiteland Community High School**, serving as a math teacher, guidance counselor, middle school principal, and assistant superintendent before his retirement in 1993. An Indiana State University basketball alumnus and U.S. Army veteran (1953–1955), Jerry's decades of visionary leadership helped shape our district into what it is today. In an inspiring final gesture of devotion to Clark-Pleasant, **Jerry chose to leave a monetary gift to CPEF in his will**, ensuring his passion for education supports future generations of students. His family has generously requested that memorial contributions be directed to the Foundation in lieu of flowers, and you can honor his incredible story today when you Make a Memorial Gift in Honor of Jerry Ferguson Here.

Jenny's Journal: A Legacy That Lives On



This month has had me thinking a lot about legacy—what we leave behind, how we are remembered, and the people who help carry our stories forward.

September brought two moments that reminded me just how special the Clark-Pleasant community is and how fortunate I am to have a front-row seat to some of those stories through the Education Foundation.

Earlier this month, we held our fourth annual Jerry Lasiter Pickleball Challenge. What began as a way to honor Jerry and support the scholarship in his memory now helps fund scholarships created by Clark-Pleasant alumni and families. But the best part is the people who return each year—sharing stories, renewing friendships, and keeping Jerry's legacy alive.

This month, our Clark-Pleasant family also said goodbye to Jerry Ferguson. Jerry served as an administrator, stayed connected long after retirement, and never stopped caring about this school community. I was fortunate to get to know Jerry personally. About once a year, we would have dinner and I would fill him in on what was happening at Clark-Pleasant. His family asked that memorial contributions be made to CPEF, and we learned Jerry had also left a gift to the Foundation in his will.

That thoughtful act stays with me. Jerry chose to make Clark-Pleasant and its students part of his legacy.
That is what I have come to understand about legacy. It isn't just about what someone leaves behind. It's about the impact that continues, the lives they touched, and the ways their story carries on because they were here.

A scholarship awarded. A student encouraged. A story shared. A gift left for students he would never meet. This is how a legacy lives on.

At Clark-Pleasant, being a Warrior doesn't end when you graduate, retire, or move away. You remain part of the story. Through CPEF, we're honored to help those stories live on.

Once a Warrior, always a Warrior.

Jenny

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.



Pigtails & Crewcuts makes haircuts fun and comfortable for kids. Their **welcoming salon** features vehicle-themed chairs, movies, a wooden train table, and a treasure chest after the haircut. **Families can also find first-haircut packages, ear piercing, hair bows, hair-care products, and more.**
Their team knows that haircuts can be challenging for some children, so they create a calm, supportive experience **with special care for children with sensory sensitivities or other special needs.**
We're thankful for their support of CPEF and Kids Prom, and we're pleased to introduce our families to a local business that truly puts kids first!

Pigtails & Crewcuts
haircuts for kids