

NEWSLETTER

CRETE-MONEE SD 201-U



IMPORTANT DATES

- FEBRUARY 7**
100TH DAY OF SCHOOL, EARLY DISMISSAL
- FEBRUARY 13**
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
- FEBRUARY 16**
EARLY DISMISSAL
- FEBRUARY 19**
NO SCHOOL, PRESIDENT'S DAY
- FEBRUARY 20**
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Unity Starts With "U"



Message from Dr. Kara Coglianese, Superintendent of Crete-Monee School District 201-U



We continue to work together, supporting and developing our greatest assets—our children. We are dedicated to ensuring their individual successes and achievements are met. This requires a collaborative partnership between our school district and community fulfilling our mission to empower each student to positively impact the world for a bright new future.

In our ongoing commitment to support the community, we have taken significant steps by providing engaging programs and resources and developing strong partnerships with local organizations. Looking ahead, our school district is in the process of developing a new strategic plan. We invite you to actively participate, share your thoughts, and contribute to shaping our future. Together, let's build upon our achievements and work towards our continued success.

Dr. Kara Coglianese
Superintendent



A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Community,

Our 2023-24 school year is progressing smoothly, and I am thrilled to share some exciting news. The Bridges Program at the south wing addition is in full swing, and our state-of-the-art building is now complete—a significant accomplishment aligned with our previous strategic plan.

Looking ahead, we are gearing up for a new strategic plan to ensure the district's sustainability and growth. Throughout this process, we will identify areas for improvement, strengths, student performance and progress, educator quality, community engagement, and facilities and operations. To make this process inclusive, we are forming a Strategic Workgroup and inviting diverse community members to join.

Please keep an eye out for more information on how you can be part of shaping our district's future. Your insights and perspectives are invaluable, and together, we can continue to build on our successes and create an environment where every student thrives. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Yours in Service,
Maurice Brown



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF CM201-U: STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Crete-Monee School District 201-U is embarking on a strategic planning process to outline a path to sustainability and growth for the district in the years to come.

The process will be driven by the **Strategic Planning Workgroup**, which will meet approximately 4-5 times over the next several months. Members will focus on identifying areas of growth and strength, student performance and growth, educator quality, community engagement, and facilities and operations as they conduct their work.

The strategic planning process will provide an opportunity for collective engagement around the district's "why," while providing intention and focus for continuous improvement. The plan will guide decision making, set specific actions for progress, and enable the district to monitor, evaluate, and adjust to reach its goals.

Transparency and communication channels will remain open throughout the strategic planning phase, ensuring consistent updates for all members of the district community. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to get involved!

BRIDGES PROGRAM GRAND OPENING

Crete-Monee High School is pleased to introduce the grand opening of its newly imagined and innovative Bridges Program, tailored for students with specialized learning needs. Housed in the newly constructed 35,000 square foot wing addition at the high school, this program is set to redefine educational experiences. CMHS manufacturing and vocational programs will also be housed in this new addition.



On Tuesday, January 9, 2024, a ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of this transformative project and the commencement of the Bridges Program for future generations. Notable attendees included CM-201 administration members, community mentors, local dignitaries, and our dedicated Board of Education representatives.

The first day for students and staff in the new wing addition took place on Wednesday, January 10, right after the Winter break. Their enthusiasm was palpable as they entered the new space, ready to embark on a new educational journey, building upon the foundations established at the former Monee Education Center. The programming offered in the new wing includes:

- Participation in the Classroom Community Model
- Individualized Academic Programming (IAP)
- Social Emotional Support
- Vocational Training
- Transition Back to Home School
- Credit Recovery & Crisis Intervention Behavior Stabilization (CIBS)

Through the Bridges Program, our same high-quality education is provided in a smaller setting, with the goal of ensuring that students are prepared for their chosen post-secondary endeavors. We are excited to provide a fresh and sophisticated infrastructure, offering access to state-of-the-art facilities and advanced resources.

WARRIOR BOOSTER CLUB

Do you have a passion for encouraging student participation, supporting athletic teams, and boosting school spirit? Warrior Boosters is calling on you to join us!

We're on a mission to grow our membership and volunteers for various events, and we welcome not only parents but anyone in the community who shares a desire to champion Crete-Monee athletics.

Here's how you can make a difference by volunteering: Indoor and outdoor concessions during games, fundraisers, annual craft fair, spirit-wear initiatives, and enhancing school spirit!

Join us at our monthly meetings every first Thursday at 6 p.m. in the teacher's lounge at CMHS.

Upcoming Meetings:

- February 1
- April 11
- March 7
- May 9

As some of our dedicated members and administrators retire, we're looking for the next generation to step up and get involved. Be a part of something special—join Warrior Boosters today!

For more details, please contact Carol Millsap at Millsap95@aol.com.



EVOLV WEAPON DETECTION & SAFETY

The Crete-Monee 201-U School District remains committed to assessing and implementing strategic measures to enhance safety and security across our schools. Recently, the school district received approval to acquire the Evolv technology system as an innovative alternative to traditional metal detectors. The Evolv system will be installed only at CMHS and consists of two towers that students and staff will pass through upon entry into the school.

A designated security team will oversee the process, welcome staff and students, and address any identified threats. In the event that red notification lights on the towers signal a potential threat, the individual will undergo a secondary screening at a designated location.

The Evolv system offers an efficient and effective means of detecting weapons, adding an extra layer of security for everyone entering the high school daily. The new Bridges Program, housed in the recently completed south wing addition, initiated the use of this system on January 10 following Winter Break, marking an upgrade from the previous metal detectors at the former Monee Education Center.

Additional units were delivered in January, with calibration and training sessions scheduled for March. The Evolv technology system will be implemented at all student arrival and guest entrances, with an anticipated go-live date before Spring Break. The system will also be operational for sporting events and other extracurricular activities requiring building entry.

The school district continues to prioritize safety through FEMA training, tabletop sessions with the entire security staff, and collaboration with local law enforcement to enhance dialogue and response scenarios. We are delighted to announce the full-time return of School Resource Officer Al Taylor from the Crete Police Department to CM 201-U, stationed primarily at CMHS but serving all schools within the district on a daily basis.



ATHLETICS/ACTIVITIES NEWS

We're excited to spotlight the exceptional achievements of our student-athletes in the Southland Athletic Conference fall sports season. Their dedication and outstanding performances have brought pride to our district.

We also congratulate CMHS Coach Willie Cole on his induction into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association for his outstanding coaching contributions.

Additionally, our Marching Band took center stage in the annual Columbus Day parade in Chicago, showcasing talent through their fantastic performance. This is our 2nd year participating and has been a wonderful opportunity for students. Our drama students also captivated audiences in their recent production of *Alice in Wonderland*. Great job to all involved!

We are also excited to share that all home basketball and volleyball games are now being livestreamed, bringing the excitement straight to your screens.

The inaugural baseball season was a resounding success, marking a milestone in our sports history. Additionally, girls softball at Crete-Monee Middle School has seen a remarkable revitalization, laying the foundation for a promising future in girls' softball.

Finally, history was made at Crete-Monee Middle School! The 7th Grade Girls Basketball team secured a spot in the State finals for the first time in school history. Their victory at Sectionals and subsequent qualification for State tournaments showcased exceptional skill and dedication. Congratulations to Jada Franklin for receiving the Outstanding Sportsmanship Award.



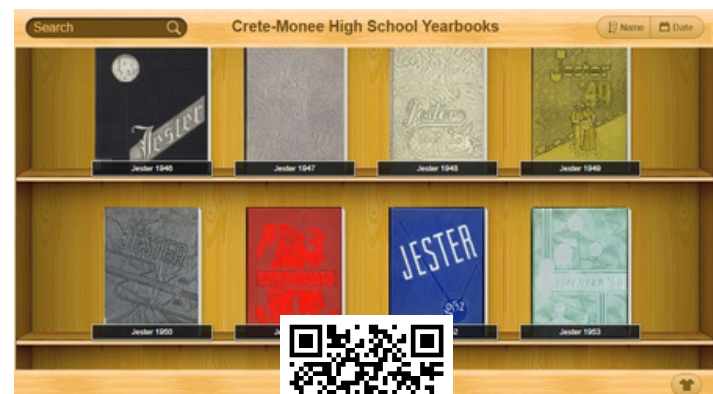
ALL-CONFERENCE FOR SOUTHLAND ATHLETIC CONFERENCE (FALL SPORTS):

- **Football:** Tayshawn Harper, Johnathan Jones, Giovanni Arroyo, Vincent Vargas, Justin Lawton, Joseph Lewis, J' Juan Henderson, Terrance Sandidge, Sir Albert Cole II, Taron Hampton, Julian Rosson, Tylin Brefford
- **Football Academic All-State** (3.5 Cumulative GPA or higher): Tayshawn Harper, Jonathan Jones, Joseph Lewis
- **Boys Cross Country:** JoJo Poku: 1st Place in Conference Championship
- **Girls Cross Country:** Evelyn Stolzenbach, Aaliyah Eubanks, Janissa Williams
- **Girls Tennis:** Kaylee Mazur
- **Boys Soccer:** Jordi Romo, Omar Romo, Alex McClure
- **Volleyball:** McKenzie Richardson, Sukiya Jones, Dariyon Mickens
- **Golf:** Michael Leonard, Terrance Blevins

UPDATES FROM OUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Return to memory lane by exploring our NEW online CMHS Jester Digital Yearbook Library! Our digital yearbook collection spans 58 years, from 1938 to 1996, and is now accessible! Take a trip down memory lane and scroll through our yearbook library at your leisure.

A big thanks to Corina Posada, Barbara Smith, and Jennifer Smith for participating in our Holiday Online Yearbook Scavenger Hunt! We hope you enjoy your Warrior swag!



View the Digital Yearbook Library today:
www.cm201u.org/alumni

ALUMNI MAKING NEWS:

Josh Franklin, '23: Recorded his first career tackle against Eastern Michigan as a wide receiver for the Broncos at Western Michigan.

Lynel Billups-Williams, '23: Led his team to victory in the MAC Conference Championship as a wide receiver for Miami University.

Trayvon Rudolph, '20: Recognized on the Paul Hornung Award watchlist while playing as a wide receiver at Northern Illinois University.

Terry Elias Jr., '22: Named MSFA Conference Defensive Player of the Week twice this past season as a linebacker at Saint Xavier University.

Jesus Ambriz, '19: Named All-WIAC (Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) First Team Offense while playing as an offensive lineman at University of Wisconsin-Stout, graduating with a BS degree in construction.

Nehemiah Lomax, '21: Recognized in All-WIAC Second Team Defense as a defensive lineman at University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

Raychelle Jackson, '13: Crowned Mrs. Continental in the Continental Worldwide Pageant.

Eduardo Gonzalez Jr., '23: Awarded the Evans Scholarship Program, with a full ride to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign—a prestigious honor for high-achieving caddies.

Let us know what you have been up to since your time at CM 201-U. Email alumni@cm201u.org.



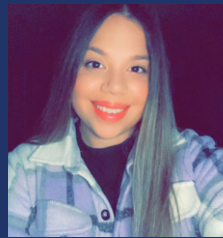
Crete-Monee School District 201-U
690 West Exchange Street
Crete, IL 60417



RECENT ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS:



September: Ashley Henry, '14, showcased her journey from playing basketball at CMHS to coaching at the collegiate level and working in the business office at Miami University.



October: Karla Sullivan (Salinas), '11, transitioned from the Army National Guard to pursuing a teaching career. She's now a valued paraprofessional at CM 201-U.



November: In honor of Veterans Day, we highlighted Veteran William (Bill) Perry, '80, who served from 1983 to 1992 and now contributes to the IT department at CM 201-U.



January: Kyla Summer Miller, '16, discovered a passion for politics and activism at CMHS, leading to a career in politics and her current role at a top-five government relations and communications firm.



[Login to Crete-Monee Warriors Alumni & Friends to read their full stories!](#)



[Know an alumni we should spotlight? Nominate them and tell us why!](#)