# CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL

*Home of the Panthers!*

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**CHS CCSD School Board Report — January 2026**

CHS students completed first semester on January 15. Notable changes for second semester include adding an in-person Alaska History class taught by Mr. Robert Jeffrey. We are borrowing Mr. Jeffrey from our PACE program and he has been happy to have students in his classroom! While most of our classes are yearlong, we do have some semester-length courses. Second semester these include Economics, Ceramics, and Physical Education 9.

The CHS Winter Concert was postponed last December due to traveling students. The band and choir performed January 13.

CCSD music director, Rachael Balcom, were recognized and awarded a trophy from the Michael D Sewell Foundation for their Veteran's Day Service Project. Congratulations Rachael!

The 2nd Annual Craig Cultural Tournament was enjoyed by all. In total, groups raised $10770! Special thank you to Shaan Seet, Craig Tribal Association, and Sealaska for their financial support of the tournament. This type of event does not happen without volunteers. Thank you to those who brought food, setup and cleaned up the hospitality room, those who ran the clock and kept book, Ronnie Fairbanks for making our awards, and a Huge Thank You to Tina Steffen for organizing such a successful event!

We have entered into an agreement with Instructure, the parent company for Parchment. This contract supports us in digitizing our transcripts and makes them available digitally for alumni. I am expecting to begin posting transcripts by the middle of next month.

We have entered into a contract with Gaggle for their Reach Out service. This is a crisis line that will be available to our K-12 brick and mortar students 24/7/365. We are excited about providing this resource to our students and are eager to start collecting usage data. Part of our onboarding was to provide emergency contacts from the school (Jackie, Josh, and Christy), to provide the number for local police, and to provide a list of local mental health resources. The crisis counselors working for Reach Out are trained crisis responders and are mandated reporters. Crisis resources can be accessed via phone call or via a web-based chat window. Chat access is embedded in the CCSD website for easy access. We are planning for an all-school assembly to roll out this service the first week it is fully implemented.

Thank you to Melissa Peavey for arranging SAT Testing throughout the year and to Stephen DeHart for the time spent proctoring the exam for our students.

Speaking of Melissa Peavey, Friday, January 30 is her last day for the year before she leaves on maternity leave! Best of luck to you Melissa — we can't wait to meet our newest Panther!

Region V Wrestling Championships took place at Mt Edgecumbe High School December 12 and 13. We had 5 wrestlers from the Island Wrestling team qualify for the State meet: Eva Clark (2nd), Jayla Edenshaw (2nd), Abby McCoy (2nd), Alan Trimmer (3rd), and Makhi Williams (5th). Our girl's team took 3rd place overall at the tournament. Great job Panthers! The state tournament was held December 19-20 and I'll just skip the story of their extended return.

I have really appreciated Brent stepping up to pitch in with maintenance. Between him, Geno, Doyle, and me, CHS continues to be warm, ice and snow-free, and clean. Having one bus driver is proving to be challenging for our athletic travel - while Brent is able to accommodate most of our needs, there have been several conflicts with IFA needs due to the alternating Hollis/City schedule. Having a single bus also limits the number of students we are able to transport, especially when considering luggage. Shelby Beck and I have addressed space needs by driving a van and personal pickup truck for passenger spillover and luggage relief. Thank you to both Shelby and to Ronnie Fairbanks for being willing to drive at a moment's notice.

I have mentioned the CHS auditorium deficiencies in past reports. As a means of securing significant funding to repair and update the auditorium, Lauren Mackie has come forward to write a grant to the Rasmussen Foundation seeking $300,000 in funds that would be used to replace the lighting and install a sound system in the facility. I initiated the conversation with Rasmussen last year. The Foundation does not provide funding for schools, but because the auditorium is the only facility of its kind on the island, we are promoting it as a community space. It is easy to provide evidence to support this claim and because of that, RF was open to funding. It is very exciting to picture the CHS auditorium as a functioning, well-used facility.

CHS conducted MAP testing the week of January 19 in our math and English language arts classes. Testing was successful — it's great seeing progress made over the course of the year!

Reyn Hutten, the outreach lead from Outer Coast (based on the former Sheldon Jackson campus in Sitka) will be presenting to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Outer Coast has a two-year undergraduate program for high school seniors and recent graduates, and summer program for sophomores, juniors and seniors. All our programs are pay-as-you-can, experiential, and geared especially towards Alaskan students. High school graduates can complete up to the first two years of college credit (60 credits) through a partnership with the University of Alaska Southeast. Outer Coast is offering a new full-ride scholarship for Alaskan students in their undergraduate program. All Alaskan students who apply by March 15 will be eligible to be considered for the scholarship, which will cover tuition, food, housing, and additional expenses.