

# CRAIG HIGH SCHOOL

Josh Andrews, Principal  
jandrews@craigschools.com

*Home of the Panthers!*

100 Panther Way  
P.O. Box 800  
Craig, Alaska 99921  
(P) 907-826-2274  
(F) 907-826-3016  
craigschools.com

Liz Thomsen, Administrative Assistant  
lthomsen@craigschools.com

Tina Steffen, Activities Director  
chsad@craigschools.com

---

## January 15 CCSD Board Report

Craig High School wrapped up 2024 with a half day of crafts and activities for the students in attendance. Staff appreciated having abbreviated classes and enjoyed being able to spend time with students in a non-academic setting. Everyone came back from break refreshed and ready to get back to work!

**Basketball season** has started and our first home game took place the last Friday and Saturday of break. The boys junior varsity team got some good playing experience against Petersburg. The girls JV won their games both nights and boys and girls varsity teams also won in some very close, exciting games!

Sixteen CHS boys and girls basketball players traveled to Delta Junction via Fairbanks the week of January 6 to participate in the Dean Cummings Memorial Basketball Tournament. This is a fund-raised trip that does not cost the district financially.

January 23 through the 25 CHS is hosting the first **Cultural Tournament** in our region. The vision for the tournament is to provide a venue to share knowledge of local cultures and increase understanding across cultures through a regionally significant activity. Joining Craig for the tournament will be teams from Klawock, Hydaburg, Ketchikan JV, and Wrangell. There are plans for lunches where fry bread will be served. The documentary film, *Carved from the Heart* and a new documentary by 'Waats'asdiyei Joe Yates (a CHS graduate and owner of Alaskan Films) following the raising of the new totem at CTA. This tournament is possible because of Activities Director, Tina Steffen. She hopes that it will become an annual tournament that rotates around various host communities. Thank you Tina for your work to make this tournament a reality.

All districts are experiencing budgetary squeezes and this has impacted the number of conference games we will have this year. The second and final home conference basketball game will be held on February 20-21 against Haines. This series will also feature our senior night and homecoming.

Last night, January 14, Rachel Balcom presented the **Modern Band concert**. I have heard the band practicing throughout the year and witnessed great progress. I'm sure the concert was a success.

**First semester** ends Thursday, January 16. Our 64 students are scheduled for their second semester classes and schedules have been shared with parents for their review and approval. CHS has made adjustments to the master schedule and the bell schedule that move us from a 7-period day (with FLEX) to a 6-period day (with FLEX). Class time will be increased from 47 minutes to 52 minutes, passing periods will increase from 3 minutes to 4 minutes, and FLEX will increase from 28 minutes to 30 minutes. We worked hard to get students in class and we have reduced the number of students taking online courses from 13 to 3. None of the three students are enrolled in core courses. A great deal of collaboration was necessary to make this change - thank you to the entire staff as well as Mr. Harris for helping to make this work.

Last meeting, the board approved a student for **early graduation** and he will be receiving his diploma on Thursday, January 16. Congratulations Donny Arntzen! He is excited to start the next chapter of his life and is appreciative of the willingness of the board to extend him this opportunity.

The CHS **ACDC Team** will be off to Anchorage February 19-22 for their state competition. This group has historically done very well and we expect more of the same!

Finally, we have two groups who have been fundraising for the past year. Our **Washington DC CloseUp** group has 16 participating students and 4 adults! Not only is it exciting that we have so many interested in traveling to Washington DC (and New York City) to learn about civics and our government, but it demonstrates the importance families are placing on these type of experiential opportunities for their children. Then there is the **EF Spain** group. These ten students and three adults continue to raise funds for a tour of Spain in June. Both groups are being organized and led by Shelby Beck. Thank you Shelby for making these opportunities available to our students.

It is easy to sometimes forget the little things that people do that make the whole organization function smoothly. **Thank you** Kris and Allan for providing breakfast to our visiting groups when they are housing in the school. Thanks Liz for learning about the CHS office so quickly and continuing to take on new tasks/ roles. Thanks Ms. Peavey for your work with our students and assistance with scheduling. Thanks to Daniel and Brent for being absolutely responsive to all of our maintenance needs. Thanks Deno for keeping the school spotless. Thanks Doyle for your custodial work during the basketball games over the break. Thank you Jared for your research and steady hand on the technological wheel. Thanks Ms. Cross for continuing to work on getting our students to read for fun. Thank you Ms. Cook for your overflowing heart. Thank you Halli for your dedication and sense of humor. We really appreciate our substitutes, Ford Vaughan, Evelyn Wilburn, Tina Nelson, Tanya Roberts, and Tylene Coleman. Thanks to Ms. Hughes, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Beck, Mr. DeHart, Ms. Stock, Ms. Penrose, Mr. Fairbanks, Ms. Balcom, and Mr. Jeffrey for your hard work and dedication to our students. Also a big thank you to Ms. Hanson for her support of all staff and for the efforts she is making on behalf of the district. It's great to work with her.