Cranbrook welcomed the Cranbrook community to the Fall 2020 interscholastic athletics season in early August and there was no question that what we all are and have been experiencing in our lives has been undeniably challenging. It felt great to be back in school and after the cancellation of the spring sport season in April, we were excited to be back with our teams and coaches this fall! The turnout for the fall season was stronger than it has been in years with 312 students (146 girls and 166 boys) representing Cranbrook in sport. Even with these numbers, we missed many of our teammates that were not able to be with us physically due to the pandemic.

Most of the competitions this fall were delayed due to COVID (with the exception of golf and tennis), rendering the competition schedules to be greatly reduced. As Cranbrook opened school face to face and indoor pools and gyms opened up, Girls Swim and Dive and the mid-risk and high-risk sports of Volleyball, Field Hockey, Soccer and Football were able to begin competitions. Unfortunately, with the spike in COVID cases, for those still in the playoffs, the season was suspended one week before the Thanksgiving break. Fall playoffs were reinstated after the new year to complete the fall season. As we closed out the season, fall athletics 2020 was one of the most successful falls in years. Here is a summary of the fall season.
Head Coach Kevin Van Houten (3rd season) and the Cranes Crew Team set a goal this fall to simply be able to train together again, even if it meant spending the entire season on land. With much coordinated effort between transportation, athletics, and administration, the rowers returned to the waters of Orchard Lake in mid-September for the first time since last November. Adjustments to daily temperature checks, distancing, sanitizing equipment, and wearing masks quickly became routine. The Cranes were led by senior captains Ella Michalak and Ruhaan Doshi. The young team of the thirty-four rowers and coxswains were well guided.

Head Coach Greg Miller (25th season) and the CK Girls and Boys Cross Country Team was forty-five strong, twenty girls, and twenty-five boys. Of that forty-five, almost 50% are new to the sport of cross country. With the COVID delays for competition, training was largely focused on building an aerobic base and teaching the kids the standard campus running loops such as the Lake Loop, the Campus Perimeter, the Lower Field Loop. Cross Country was considered a COVID low-risk sport and given the general nature of XC kids, the team was able to exercise at nearly all times with acceptable social distancing and masks were not required for sport competition. To further reduce contact, most large invitational competitions that traditionally make up a large part of the competitions were cancelled rendering the schedule to dual meets.

At the Catholic League Championships, the Cranes Girls Team finished in 7th and the Boys finished 8th overall.

In the MHSAA Playoffs, the State created a District Meet to reduce the numbers of the traditional larger Regional Meet. The top four teams in each District were then able to move on into now much smaller Regional Championship. Both Cranbrook Teams finished 4th at Districts to advance.

At the MHSAA Regional Championship, the Cranes Boys Team finished 7th overall. Freshman Solomon Kwartowitz missed qualifying for States by two places finishing 15th overall to lead the
boys Team. The CK Girls Team placed 8th overall and were led by freshman Jalia Marks who placed 19th.

**Head Coach Zubair Ahmed (6th season) and the Girls Field Hockey Team** spent early August readying themselves for successful competition in Division II East of the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association with their eyes set on the Catholic League and State Championships.

The Cranes were well balanced this season and trained hard to develop and improve skills to showcase during the season. The varsity team had 14 returning players from last year’s roster and added 7 more to the roster. Senior captains Lilli Sherman, Olivia DeMuth, and senior Peyton Messner led the team. During the preseason, the Cranes enjoyed playing inter squad round robin tournaments and skill challenges while waiting to be cleared to compete during COVID.

In the **State Playoffs**, the Cranes opened with the Lakers of West Bloomfield. The team was poised for the competition and **defeated the Lakers 5-0** and were led by Olivia DeMuth’s 3 goal hat trick.

In the **quarterfinal round**, the Cranes traveled to Chelsea to play the Bulldogs. CK scored first with a picture-perfect goal by Emma Brandimarte which was set up by a great assist by Lilli Sherman. The Bulldogs answered with 2 goals to take a 2-1 lead and were able to hold on to that score to end the Cranes season.

Lilli Sherman earned All-State and All-Catholic League honors. Peyton Messner earned All-League and Stephanie Nemeh earned Academic All-Catholic League.

**The Cranes Football Team** experienced a fall that was an emotional rollercoaster. The Cranes entered the season in early August prepared to compete in the always challenging AA Division of the Catholic League. Two weeks into the season, the MHSAA made the decision to suspend the high school football season until the spring with the hopes that COVID data and health
of our region would improve by then. Five days later, Cranbrook lost its’ 2nd year Head Football Coach Ben Jones in a tragic car accident. Two weeks after the season suspension, the MHSAA shockingly made the decision to reinstate the fall high school football season.

CK Athletic Director Steve Graf stepped into the Interim Head Coach position for the season, given the timing of the season reinstatement. In these adverse conditions, the CK Football Team (some of whom had joined other CK sports teams) and coaching staff reported back in late August to get back to work.

The Cranes were led by senior captains Bryce Hall (Honorable Mention All-Detroit News North at Defensive End), linebacker Drew Lauer and Eli Asmar WR/DB. Fellow seniors Max Spradlin DE/OL, and All-State kicker Chase Paulus provided outstanding leadership and team spirit. Junior quarterbacks Shane Wittenberg and Chase Zaidan both saw playing time, while fellow juniors Travis Ilitch RB/OLB, Victor Berger C/DL, newcomer Ethan Peruski RB/OLB along with sophomores John Kersh TE/LB, Alex Yolles WR/DB, and lineman Alex Smith each contributed to the success of the team this year. The Football program is excited about a great group of sophomores and freshmen as we look to the future!!!

With Covid delaying football competitions, the Cranes faced a reduced schedule and tough competition against Divine Child and AA Division Champion Loyola along with a strong Redford Union team and rival Lutheran North.

This season, the MHSAA chose to allow any team that played a minimum of 4 games and was healthy enough to enter the post season. In the District Semifinal, the Cranes drew the top seeded and undefeated Rams of Lamphere. Although the CK defense slowed down the Rams potent running game early, turnovers shortened the field and Lamphere took advantage ending the Cranes season 43-0.

Bryce Hall earned MHSFCA 1st Team All-State, All-Region, Detroit News All-North Honorable Mention and All Catholic League honors. Chase Paulus earned All-Region, Detroit News All-North Honorable Mention and All-Catholic League honors. Alex Yolles earned Detroit News Honorable Mention All-North and All-Catholic League honors. Drew Lauer, Max Spradlin and Victor Berger earned All-League recognition and Jonathan Uwase earned Academic All-League honors.

CK Football welcomed new assistant coaches: Zach Cutkomp who coordinated the defense and coached running backs. Uday Singh joined the varsity staff to work with the defensive and offensive lines. Corey Childs and Sam Pearlstein joined the staff as Co-head Coaches of the CK Junior Varsity Team and were joined by Andrew Koterba who worked with the JV offensive and defensive linemen.
Coach Cutkomp played high school football at West Des Moines Valley (IA) where he was selected first team All-State 2 times and led the Tigers to a 14-0 record and a state championship his senior year. Zach went on to play college football at the University of Northern Iowa, being voted a team captain and playing offense, defense, and all special teams during his career. This is his first year coaching high school football. Coach Singh played football at Salem High School and Hillsdale College. He was a member of the 2018 Charger team that won the Great Midwest Athletic Conference and finished the season ranked #15 nationally. 2019 was his first season coaching, serving as the Defensive Line coach at District Champs Hillsdale High School. Coach Childs played football at Detroit Henry Ford who were DPS Detroit City Football Champions and played semi pro football for the Metro Detroit Saints. In a 15-year span, Coach Childs coached at Henry Ford and Loyola High Schools and in the PAL League. Coach Pearlstein brought coaching experience from the Walled Lake School District. Coach Koterba was and All-Region player for Orchard Lake St. Mary’s where he played in 4 state championship games and won the State Championship in 2011. He continued his football career at Wayne State until injuries ended his career. He started his coaching career at St Hugos.

Head Coach John Minnich (3rd season) and the 4th ranked Girls Golf Team were led by senior captains Julia Frykman and Sydney Greenlee. Juniors Ashley Cong, Natasha Samsonov and Katherine Li were a force this season and the Cranes had good production from freshmen Mackenzie Behnke, Sienna Ilitch and Anya Samsonov. The Cranes were ranked 4th overall in Division 3 during the season.

At the Catholic League Championships hosted at Detroit Golf Club, the Cranes finished 4th overall in cold and rainy conditions shooting a team score of 343.

Individually, Natasha Samsonov led the team placing 9th with a score of 82. Julia and Ashley both shot 86 to tie at 16th. Sienna placed 20th shooting 89.

At the Oakland County Championships hosted at Auburn Hills, the Cranes once again had a good day against county schools from every division, finishing 5th overall in the 18-team field (shooting 360).

Individually, Natasha Samsonov placed 4th shooting 78 and Ashley Cong placed 6th (shooting 80) to medal. Sienna Ilitch shot 96 and Julia Frykman rounded out the team scoring.

At the MHSAA Regional Championships, the Cranes were ready to bring home CK’s first MHSAA trophy of the 2020 school year winning the MHSAA Regional Championship with a team score of 355!
Individually, Natasha had another strong outing shooting 82 to place 3rd, followed by Julia Frykman who placed 6th shooting 89 and Ashley Cong 7th with a score of 90. Katherine Li (13th) and Sienna Ilitch (16th) rounded out the scoring shooting 94 and 99 respectively.

At the MHSAA State Championships hosted at Forest Akers in Lansing, the field once again dealt with cold and windy conditions. With a relatively young lineup, the Cranes finished 4th overall.

Individually, Ashley Cong led the Cranes shooting 78 to finish tied for 9th to medal. Natasha Samsonov placed 24th shooting 84, Julia Frykman 33rd shooting 87, Sienna Ilitch 48th shooting 91 and Katherine Li finished the scoring with a 100 to finish 79th.

Ashley Cong earned All-County honors. Natasha Samsonov earned All-County, All-Catholic League and Academic All-Catholic League honors, and Julia Frykman earned All-League recognition.

Head Coach Chad O’Kulich (22nd season) and the Boys Soccer Team were led by senior captains Sam Morawski and Lukas Schaub. The Cranes returned 8 varsity players from last year's unit which finished 8-2-4. The roster was the largest in the past twenty plus years with 25 players that supported each other on and off the field.

The Cranes have won the regular season Catholic League Division Title every year since Cranbrook has joined the Catholic League and has received the MHSSCA TEAM All State Academic Award every year.

The Cranbrook soccer program was a cohesive unit that continued to grow and work hard each day, both on and off the field. The team looked forward to growing through the season and adapting to the challenges that the season brought in a COVID environment.

Once CK was cleared to compete, the weeks of preparation and conditioning paid off. Although the Cranes had not completed a full CHSL AA Division game schedule, their undefeated record enabled the team to compete in a winner takes all Divisional Championship game against a tough Divine Child team. The Cranes scored first in the second half with a goal from sophomore Nathan Hooker and held the lead with 120 seconds left in regulation when Falcons tied the game 1-1. In a flurry, CK bounced back to score another goal by junior Zach Wittenberg with 40
seconds left to seal another AA Division Championship. With the win, Cranbrook would play Central Division Champion Catholic Central for the Catholic League Title.

In the Catholic League Championship match, the Cranes found themselves down 2-0 at half. The Shamrocks kept their foot on the gas scoring early in second period then holding on to the lead to defeat the Cranes 3-0.

Cranbrook hosted the MHSAA District Playoffs and in the first round, CK faced the Rams of Lamphere. The Cranes started fast scoring three quick goals and finished the match with a 7-0 victory to advance. In the second round of District play, the Cranes hosted the Vikings of Hazel Park. The game ended with another 7-0 CK victory to vault the Cranes to the District Championship against the rival Yellowjackets of Detroit Country Day.

In the District Championship the Cranes came out hot! Senior Chase Paulus put one in the net early in the first half and the boys played great defense! Sophomore Evan Evans scored two more goals in the second half to put the Cranes up 3-0. DCD scored a goal late in the game but it would not be enough. CK defeated DCD 3-1 to win the District Championship and advance in the post season.

In the Regional Semifinal hosted at Brandon High School, the Cranes had a rematch with Catholic League rival St Mary’s Prep. After a pre-game mix of rain and snow, the late fall conditions were perfect for a great match. The Cranes scored first about midway through the first half with a great goal from Nathan Hooker then followed with a second goal by Evan Evans to take the Cranes to halftime. The Eaglets were not going to go down easy and scored early in the second half. After a great save by goalie Lukas Schaub, momentum switched back to CK who turned up the offensive pressure and followed with two more goals by Hooker and Evans to win 4-1.

In the Regional Championship match, the Cranes faced the Spartans of Imlay City. After a slow start, Bennett Luckoff scored with 6:19 left in the first half. Evans and Wittenberg quickly followed to put CK up 3-0 at the half. Ryan Marvar put one in 3 minutes into the second half followed by goals from Jeff Ren and Cameron Hannah. Luckoff finished the scoring on the night with a penalty kick. The Cranes brought home the Regional Crown with a 7-1 victory to advance to the Final Four.
The 8th ranked Cranes faced the 10th ranked Panthers of DeWitt in the Semifinal match. The Panthers scored first with 23 minutes left in the first half then scored a second goal early in the second half. CK came back with a goal by Ryan Marvar to close the gap but the Panthers responded with a third goal to put the game away CK 1-DeWitt 3.

Junior Zach Wittenberg earned 1st Team All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-Catholic League recognition. Junior Garrett Gantz earned 2nd Team All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-Catholic League. Sophomore Nathan Hooker earned 3rd Team All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-League. Seniors Sam Morawski and Lukas Schaub earned Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-Catholic League honors. Senior Chase Paulus earned Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-League. Sophomore Evan Evans earned Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-League honors. Junior Ryan Marvar earned All-District and All-League. Junior Bennett Luckoff was joined by sophomore John Lee on the All-District Team and senior Santo Craprotta earned Academic All-Catholic League honors. Coach Chad O’Kulich was selected by his coaching peers and the Regional and District Coach of the Year.

Head Coach Gary Jacoby (3rd season) and the CK Sailing Team experienced a very limited fall season due to Covid. After a couple regattas, CK was able to compete at the State Championships hosted by Grosse Pointe South. The Cranes competed against twenty teams from all over the state and more than one hundred sailors. The racing was close through the first ten races with Novi winning the last two to pull away with the State Championship, followed by Grosse Pointe South and CK placed 3rd overall (just 2 points out of 2nd). On the day, the Cranes defeated Grosse Isle by six and DCD by twenty-one points. The Cranes will be looking to the spring season regattas.
The Cranbrook athletic department welcomed first year Head Coach Paul Ellis to the Girls Varsity Swim and Dive program. Coach Ellis comes to Cranbrook with a rich background as a 21 Time All-American Swimmer and standout at Kalamazoo College where he earned MVP and MIAA Swimmer of the Year. Coach Ellis was a standout 3-sport athlete in Swim, Golf and Baseball at Lahser High School. Paul has served as Assistant Professor and Assistant Swim Coach at Washington and Lee University, served as Interim Head Coach at Notre Dame College, and as assistant swim coach at Troy and Bloomfield Hills High Schools.

The Cranbrook Girls’ Swim and Dive Team got off to a hot start in the year of COVID. The Aardvarks Team was senior loaded with 11 of our 29 rostered athletes graduating in 2020. The Team was led by senior captains Gwen Woodbury, Charlotte Trunsky, Halé Oal, and Jordan Foxx. The seniors were instrumental in leading the Team through the struggles of training in a new way this season due to Covid-19 and our home pool under renovation. The team trained off campus in an outdoor pool before and after school with some morning workouts in 40-50 degree temperatures. Despite these challenges, the Team displayed tremendous toughness, swimming fast and starting the season with a big win against D1 Novi (which hasn’t happened in years).

At the Oakland County Championships, CK made history finishing as the Oakland County Runner-Up! The team had an outstanding day scoring 266 points!

Individually, Gwen Woodbury was County Champion in the 200 free and the 100 free! Justine Murdock earned County Champion in the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke! Julijana Jelic placed 6th in the 100 backstroke, Charlotte Trunsky took 7th in the 50 free, Sarah Weissman placed 7th in Dive, Serena Hao took 7th in the 100 fly and the 100 breast stroke.

In the relay events, the team of Trunsky, Hale Oal, Woodbury and Charlotte DeSantos were Oakland County Champions in the 200 free relay. The team of Murdock, Hao, Oal and Elea Mast were County Runner-Up in the 200 medley relay and the team of Mast, Trunsky, Murdock and Woodbury earned County Runner-Up in the 400 free relay!

Other outstanding performances were Oal 10th in the 50 free, Jelic 12th and Oal 13th in the 200 IM, Allison O’Donnell took 17th in the 500 free and 28th in the 50 free, Jordan Foxx took 17th in
the 100 fly and 28th in the 100 breast stroke, Eryn McLaughlin placed 17th in the 100 backstroke and 18th in the 500 free, Carolyn Farner placed 18th in the 100 backstroke and 20th in the 100 fly, DeSantos placed 24th in the 50 free and 29th in the 100 fly, Trunsky 24th in the 100 free, Mast 26th in the 100 free, and Emily Zhang placed 26th in the 500 free and 36th in the 200 free.

Unfortunately, the **Catholic League Championships** were suspended due to the spike in COVID cases and the proactive strategy to keep our teams healthy and able to compete at the State Championships.

At the **MHSAA Regional Diving Championships**, Sarah Weissman was **Regional Runner-Up** scoring 309 and Elizabeth Hamel finished 4th scoring 272.3 and qualifying both for the State Championships.

This year the **Cranes qualified 15 athletes for the State Championships**! Seniors Charlotte DeSantos (200 IM, 50 Free), Jordan Foxx (100 Fly, 100 Breast), Serena Hao (200 IM, 100 Fly, 100 Breast), Justine Murdock (200 Free, 200 IM, 100 Fly, 100 Back), Hale Oal (200 IM, 50 Free, 100 Fly, 100 Breast), Allison O'Donnell (200 Free, 50 Free, 500 Free, 100 Back), Charlotte Trunsky (50 Free, 100 Free, 500 Free), Gwen Woodbury (200 Free, 200 IM, 50 Free, 100 Fly, 100 Free, 500 Free, 100 Back, 100 Breast), and Elizabeth Hamel (diving) each qualified individually for State competition. The seniors were joined by juniors Sarah Weissman (diving), Carolyn Farner (100 Fly, 100 Back) and Emily Zhang (200 Free, 500 Free); and freshmen Julijana Jelic (200 Free, 200 IM, 100 Fly, 100 Back), Elea Mast (50 Free, 100 Free) and Eryn McLaughlin (100 Fly, 500 Free, 100 Back) to round out the State Team.

CK also qualified the following team members for the State Championship in the following relay events: Murdock, Hao, Oal, Mast (200 Medley Relay), Trunsky, Oal, Woodbury, DeSantos (200 Free Relay), and Mast, Trunsky, Woodbury, Murdock (400 Free Relay).

With the spike in COVID cases, 5 days before the meet, the MHSAA temporarily suspended the MHSAA State Championships and in the span of the next six weeks, the coaches provided zoom workouts for the girls to train individually wherever they could find a pool with the hopes of having a chance to finish the season. Amazingly, the MDHHS and MHSAA reinstated the season to restart January 4th under the guidelines of COVID testing every other day but there was a silver lining. The Williams Natatorium project was complete and the Team was able to come back together and train for two weeks in our pool!

The **MHSAA State Championships** looked different this year due to Covid. The Diving Championships took place by themselves on Friday January 15th and the Swim Finals took place the next day with no prelims. Instead, the athletes were seeded based on their State
qualifying best times and would race in designated heats based on those times. The top 16 times in each event score team points. The senior heavy team was not going to allow an 8-week break, Covid or a pool renovation to interfere with the goal they started working towards in August….which was to win the 2020 State Championship! Diver Sarah Weissman started the team scoring on day one placing 10th overall.

On day two, the Aardvarks showed they meant business from the first event! In the 200-medley relay, Justine Murdock, Serina Hao, Hale Oal and Allison O’Donnell set a pool record and blew out the field on their way to the Team’s first event State Championship. In event two, Gwen Woodbury shattered the pool record in the 200 free (narrowly missing the Division 3 State record) winning her first individual State Championship. In event three, Justine Murdock defended her 2019 State Championship in the 200 IM, winning it again this year! Woodbury came back to win the State Championship in the 100 free (again shattering the pool record and missing the State record by 6 one-hundredths of a second) while Murdock came back to set a pool record on her way to her second individual State Championship (defending her 2019 State Championship) in the 100 backstroke. Hale Oal finished as the State Runner-Up in the 100 butterfly.

CK’s relay teams weren’t finished after the 200-medley relay! In the 200 free relay, Charlotte DeSantos, Hale Oal, Charlotte Trunsky and Gwen Woodbury represented winning the State Championship and the meet and season ended with an exclamation point… as DeSantos, Trunsky, Murdock and Woodbury dominated the field in their final high school race on their way to a State Championship in the 400 free relay!

The Swim Championships were highlighted by the points earned as an entire team. CK went on to score an incredible 379 points to run away from the field as they captured Cranbrook’s 4th Division 3 Team State Championship. Julijana Jelic placed 4th in the 200 IM and 6th in the 100 back: Serena Hao placed 4th in the 100 breast and 5th in the 200 IM; Charlotte Trunsky placed 4th in the 50 and the 500 free; Allison O’Donnell placed 8th in the 500 and 9th in the 100
back; and Hale Oal took 8th in the 100 breast.

Eryn McLaughlin placed 9th in the 500 and 14th in the 100 back; Charlotte DeSantos took 10th in the 200 IM and 17th in the 50; Carolyn Farner placed 10th in the 100 butterfly and 15th in the 100 back; Elea Mast placed 14th in the 100 free and 15th in the 50 free; Emily Zhang placed 15th in the 200 free and 18th in the 500; and Jordan Foxx finished 15th in the 100 breast and 25th in the 100 butterfly.

Individually, **Gwen Woodbury was honored by the Michigan Swim Coaches Association as the Division 3 Swimmer of the Year!** Justine Murdock, Hale Oal, Charlotte Trunsky and Gwen Woodbury each earned 4 All-State honors. Serena Hao earned 3 All-State honors and Charlotte DeSantos, Julijana Jelic and Allison O’Donnell earned 2 All-State honors.

Carolyn Farner, Elea Mast and Eryn McLaughlin each earned 2 Honorable Mention All-State honors, and Charlotte DeSantos, Jordan Foxx, Allison O’Donnell, Sarah Weissman, and Emily Zhang each earned one Honorable Mention All-State honor.

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**Head Coach Steve Herdoiza (4th season) and the Boys Tennis Team** entered the season with high hopes for a chance to compete during the COVID pandemic. The Cranes were led by senior captains Enzo Martella, Dhilan Nagaraju and Geoffrey Qin and welcomed a strong group of new freshmen.

Due to the pandemic, only the top four teams from regular season matches advanced to the **CHSL Championships**. In a team dual match format, CK defeated Brother Rice 5-3 and Greenhills defeated Catholic Central in the semifinals to advance to the Championship. In the Championship match, the #2 ranked Cranes upset #1 ranked, Defending CHSL and State Champion Greenhills for the 2020 CHSL Bishop Division Championship!

Individually, **senior Geoffrey Qin #4 singles, junior Theodore Taubman and senior Enzo Martella #2 doubles, junior Sebastian Taubman and junior Jacob Coburn #3 doubles, freshmen Caden Che and Andrew Fink #4 doubles were CHSL Champions.** Sophomore Owen DeMuth #1 singles, junior Patrick Tiwari #2 singles, sophomore Gian DeGuzman #3 singles, junior Isaiah Croskey and senior Dhilan Nagaraju #1 doubles were CHSL Runners-Up.

Due to COVID, the MHSAA broke the State into Division Districts to minimize contact. Cranbrook hosted Lamphere and Marysville in a **MHSAA District Final** on a beautiful fall day. The Cranes dominated the field bringing home a **District Championship** and a team berth to the MHSAA Championships.
Individually, Owen DeMuth #1 singles, Patrick Tiwari #2 singles, Gian DeGuzman #3 singles, Geoffrey Qin #4 singles, Isaiah Croskey and Dhilan Nagaraju #1 doubles, Theodore Taubman and Enzo Martella #2 doubles, Sebastian Taubman and Jacob Coburn #3 doubles, Caden Che and Andrew Fink #4 doubles each were District Champions.

At the MHSAA State Championships, the playoff format was changed due to COVID. The quarterfinal competition occurred in dual matches as they worked up the championship bracket. CK first faced the Panthers of Parma Western then the Pioneers of East Grand Rapids and defeated both teams by a score of 8-0 to advance to the semifinals.

In the MHSAA Semifinals, the Cranes faced rival Detroit Country Day on a blustery and chilly day. CK fought through the challenging weather conditions to defeat the DCD Yellowjackets 6-2 to advance to the Finals!

In the MHSAA Championship match, CK faced defending State Champion Greenhills in a rematch of the Catholic League Championships.

With the match tied up, Patrick Tiwari won his second set to force a third at 2 singles and Geoffrey Qin won his match at 4 singles to secure the team victory!

Geoffrey Qin, Theodore Taubman, Enzo Martella, Sebastian Taubman, Jacob Coburn, Caden Che and Andrew Fink earned All-Catholic League honors. Owen DeMuth, Patrick Tiwari, Gian DeGuzman, Isaiah Croskey and Dhilan Nagaraju earned All-League recognition.
Cranbrook also welcomes Amanda Yaklin in her first season leading the Girls Varsity Volleyball program as Head Coach. Amanda has collegiate coaching experience at Wayne State, Oakland Community College and 20 plus years of high level club and high school varsity coaching. Also new to the program, varsity assistant coach Zak Krug brought mens college head coaching experience along with a strong background in mental health and leadership development. Tom Prychitko assisted returning coaches Alissa Patterson (head) and Taylor Webb (assistant) at JV, and Coach Ryan Eskuri assisted freshman for coach India Woods.

The Cranes were led by senior captains Avery Salesin and Sarina Lee. This roster team of 16 were a tight knit group that were resilient through the end, displaying development with their court sense and execution each week. The senior crew helped blaze the trail for building the foundation for greatness to come. Juniors and underclassmen are ready to carry the torch in the off season to hit the group running in 2021.

Due to mandated Covid delays for gym access and competitions, the volleyball match schedule was greatly reduced this season. Despite the challenges that were presented this season, Cranes competed and developed as a team and program.

In the first round of the MHSAA District Playoffs, the Cranes faced the Trojans of Clawson High. CK battled from the onset but came up short in three sets, 25-19, 26-24, 25-11 to end the season.

Junior Sophie Lanzon earned All-Catholic League recognition, senior Avery Salesin made the All-League Team and senior Gjulia Camaj earned Academic All-Catholic League honors.

**COLLEGE COMMITMENTS**

Senior Swimmer Gwen Woodbury signed a NCAA National Letter of Intent to swim for the Buckeyes of Ohio State. In her illustrious career swimming for Cranbrook, Gwen was a 4-year State Qualifier, 16-time All-State honoree, and helped her team to a State Championship in 2020 and 2017 and two State Runner-Up finishes in 2018 and 2019.
Individually, Gwen Woodbury was honored by the Michigan Swim Coaches Association as the Division 3 Swimmer of the Year for 2020. Gwen was a three-time State Champion in the 200 free (school records), two-time State Champion in the 100 free (school record) and was a three-time member of the State Championship 200 free and 400 free relay teams (all school records). Gwen was also State Runner-Up in the 100 and 200 free (school records) and the 200 butterfly. Woodbury was a member of the State Runner-Up 200 free relay team (school record).

Gwen was also a two-time Oakland County Champion in the 200 free, County Champion in the 100 free and a member of the County Championship 200 Free relay team. Woodbury was County Runner-Up in the 100 free and a member of the County Runner-Up 200 free and 400 free relay teams.

In Catholic League competition, Gwen was a two-time CHSL Champion in the 50 free, two-time member of the CHSL Champion 400 free relay team (school records), a member of the 200 free CHSL Championship relay team, and a member of the CHSL 200 medley relay Championship Team. Woodbury was also CHSL Runner-Up in the 50 free.

Senior Swimmer Justine Murdock signed a NCAA National Letter of Intent to swim for the Wildcats of Northwestern. In her illustrious career swimming for Cranbrook, Justine was a 4-year State Qualifier, 15-time All-State honoree, and helped her team to a State Championship in 2020 and 2017 and two State Runner-Up finishes in 2018 and 2019.

Justine was named the Division 3 State Swimmer of the Year at the 2019 State Championships. Murdock was a three-time State Champion in the 100 backstroke (school records), a two-time State Champion in the 200 IM (school record), State Runner-Up in the 100 backstroke and 200 IM, a two-time member of the State Champion 400 relay team (school record), member of the State Champion 200- medley relay team, and a two-time member of the State Runner-Up 200 medley relay team.

Justine was also two-time Oakland County Champion in the 100 backstroke and County Champion in the 200 IM, and a member of the County Runner-Up 200 medley and 400 free relay teams.

In Catholic League competition, Justine was a two-time CHSL Runner-Up in the 100 and 200 free, a two-time member of the CHSL Champion 400 relay team (school records), a member of the CHSL Champion 200 medley relay team, and a member of the CHSL Runner-Up 200 medley relay team.

**Athletics Facilities Improvements**
The Cranbrook Schools Athletics Booster Club, Boosters and Alumni have come together to help support the recent construction of a beautiful new tennis facility and the renovation of the
Williams Natatorium pool deck. Both of the athletics capital projects will provide for amazing
competition and practice venues for our standout interscholastic athletic programs of Girls and
Boys Tennis and Girls and Boys Swim and Dive Teams! In the past 12 years Cranbrook has won
11 MHSAA State Championships in tennis (6 boys/5 girls) and were State Finalists in 5 seasons
(3 girls/2 boys). In the sport of Swim and Dive, CK has won 7 MHSAA State Championships (4
boys/3 girls) and were State Finalist in 6 seasons (4 girls/2 boys). We are grateful for the support
of all that have contributed to these projects and look forward putting them to great use.