After a challenging yet very successful fall season, (which included a 3rd position rating in MLive’s Ultimate State Champion Challenge with 67 points), the CK athletic program was poised to kick off the winter sport season!

To say the winter season started slowly is an understatement. Although our girls basketball and girls and boys ice hockey teams started on time in early November, Covid-19 statistics prompted the MDHHS and MHSAA to suspend the winter season the week before Thanksgiving break (prior to boys basketball tryouts). This pause in the season lasted until the new year (January 11th) when our ski, boys swim and dive and figure skating teams were able to practice and compete while our contact sports of hockey and basketball were allowed to practice without contact until the 8th of February. There were some real schedule challenges trying to make up for lost time and competitions in a shortened season. The MHSAA extended the seasons of basketball, hockey and boys swim and dive into the spring to provide for the safest and meaningful season as possible.

This winter, 185 students (119 boys and 66 girls) represented Cranbrook in interscholastic athletics competition and through all of the pandemic trials and tribulations, Cranbrook had one of its most successful winter seasons on record. As we kicked off the spring sport season, the CK Athletic Program climbed to number 1 in the MLive Ultimate State Championship Challenge.
Head Junior Varsity Girls Basketball Coach Dan Russell stepped up this season, filling in for Varsity Head Coach Matt Fortescue because of the pandemic. Coach Russell is also Cranbrook’s Head Varsity Girls and Boys Track and Field Coach.

Cranbrook Women's Basketball also welcomed Paige Sickmiller to the CK Girls Basketball staff as an assistant coach. Coach Sickmiller coached on the AAU circuit and was a standout basketball player at Wayne State University. She went on to play professionally in Germany after her college career.

The Team experienced a reduced game schedule after the State temporarily suspended the season in November, due to COVID-19. When the season resumed in January, the Cranes were led by seniors Jordyn Russell, Charlotte Trunsky, Lana Fadlallah and Kayla Austin who were supported by some talented underclassmen. Juniors Ella Bousamra and Kendall McCaskill, sophomores Jordan Richie, Annabel Brown, and Rachel Claxton and freshmen Yasmyn Palmer and Maggie Hilliard all contributed to the success of the program this season.

In the Catholic League Playoffs, the 3rd seeded Cranes opened with the Knights of Shrine on the road. CK got off to a slow start and although they closed the scoring gap in the 4th period with scoring from Ella Bousamra, Shrine knocked them out of the bracket defeating the Cranes 48-44.

In the MHSAA District Playoffs, Cranbrook drew the Panthers of Center Line High. The Cranes had a good shooting night and the defense was ready to up their game. **CK defeated the Panthers 48-18.** In the District Semi, Cranbrook faced the Rams of Lamphere.

In the District Semifinal, Cranbrook once again proved to be peaking at the right time. With good offense and sound defense, the **Cranes** advanced to the District Final **defeating the Rams 43-22.**

In the District Championship Game, CK faced the Trojans of Clawson on their home court. The Trojans jumped ahead early with some good shooting but CK worked to close the score. However, the clock seemed to work against them, and the Trojans ended the Cranes season with a 44-29 defeat.

Jordyn Russell earned All-Catholic League honors. Sophomore Rachel Claxton and freshman Maggie Hilliard earned All-League recognition and Charlotte Trunsky earned Academic All-Catholic League honors for her efforts in the classroom and on the court.
Head Boys Basketball Coach Shane Finney (18th season) Boys Basketball Team was anxious to get back on the court after the successful 2019-20 season ended abruptly last year on the day before the District Championship game due to Covid-19.

Unfortunately, the program experienced a late start for tryouts and competition due to Covid-19 but maintained a great team GET TO attitude. The Cranes were led by senior captains Cam Garner (point guard) and Bryce Hall, who anchored the inside for the Cranes. Sophomore John Kersh was a force to be reckoned with inside and out while senior Sharpshooters Miles Pistner and captain Graeme Gump were relied upon in the back court for the Cranes. Defense, rebounding, and transition was the strength of the 2021 Team that relied heavily on Garner, Hall and Kersh to carry the majority of the workload.

In the Catholic League Playoffs, Cranbrook drew the Mountaineeers of Everest Collegiate on the road. The Mountaineeer, riding a ten-game winning streak, made it eleven straight by knocking the Cranes out of the tournament 68-41.

In the MHSAA District Playoffs, the top seeded Cranes drew a bye in the first round, then faced the Yellowjackets of Country Day in the District Semi. CK started slow falling behind 17-9 after the first period and had to grind out the next two periods to get their first lead after the third. With some tough defense and Cam Garner (15 points in the 4th period) taking the offense on his shoulders, the Cranes defeated the yellowjackets 61-57 to earn a spot for the District Championship.

In the District Championship, the Cranes faced the Irish of Notre Dame Prep in what turned out to be a great game. The Irish took an early lead and both teams battled for four periods. CK closed the scoring gap down 3 but the Irish outlasted the Cranes 68-62.

Cam Garner earned AP and BCAM (Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan) Honorable Mention All-State and All-Catholic Team honors. Miles Pistner and Bryce Hall earned All-League recognition. Dhilan Nagaraju earned Academic All-Catholic League honors. The
Cranes Team earned Academic All-State for their collective efforts in the classroom.

Head Girls Hockey Coach Alexis Bohlinger (5th season) and the CK Girls Hockey Team played less than fifty percent of a normal season schedule based on the challenges of Covid 19. The Cranes were led by senior captains Lilli Sherman and Paige Gorman.

In the State Playoffs, the 8th seeded Cranes drew a bye in the first round then played 9th seeded Livingston United in the second round. Cranbrook outshot Livingston United and scored the first goal of the game. CK showed some good defense to hang on to the 1-0 lead and finished the game with their second goal on an empty net. The Cranes 2-0 victory advanced the team to the quarterfinal against the top seeded Knights of University Liggett.

In the State Quarterfinal, the Cranes traveled to Canton to play the top seeded Knights of University Liggett. The Knights came out fast, scoring in the first minute and never took their foot off the gas pedal. Liggett knocked the Cranes out of the playoffs by a score of 5-1.

Paige Gorman and Ella Lantigua earned All-Catholic League recognition. Lilli Sherman and Maryam Khan earned All-League honors and Lilli Sherman earned Academic All-Catholic League recognition for her work in the classroom as well as on the ice.

Head Boys Hockey Coach John LaFontaine (2nd season) and the 2020-21 Boys Varsity Hockey Team were led by senior captains, Leyton Stenman, Alex Ceritano, Jack Wineman, and Isaac Cheli along with fellow seniors Luke Hellweg, Alex Hopkins, Lucas Hunter, Ronan McLaughlin, Nick Wade and Julian Zvyagin. Thirteen juniors, and two sophomores created a competitive group of young men at each position. The Cranes had 8 defensemen, 14 forwards and 3 goalies and all displayed excellent team chemistry.

Fourth year Junior Varsity Assistant Coach Pat Hultman was brought up to assist with the varsity program this season and we welcomed new assistant Karl Daiek to the program. Coach Hultman played Junior A Hockey and was recruited to play hockey for Saint Mary’s University.
of Minnesota. Coach Hultman has also served the CK Football program as an assistant and coached football and lacrosse at the Boys Middle School. Coach Daiek was the former Head Hockey Coach for Clarkston, Avondale and Bloomfield High Schools. The Cranes hockey program also welcomed back former CK Girls Hockey Head Coach, **Terry Brooks**. Coach Brooks led the Cranes to State Championships in 2010 and 2013.

CK experienced a reduced yet very tough MIHL/CHSL schedule (including a back to back sequence of games against St Marys, Catholic Central and Trenton) as well as tough non-league opponents like Howell and Traverse City Bay Reps.

In the **Catholic League Championships**, the 6th ranked (Division 3) **Cranes opened with the Pilots of De LaSalle**. A Stingy CK defense held the Pilots to only 17 shots on goal. Alex Ceritano opened the scoring for the Cranes with a goal in the 1st period and junior Michael Brown added a second goal, but in a tight 2-2 game down the stretch, Isaac Cheli took a pass from Jack Wineman and lifted the Cranes to a 3-2 win with 8.9 seconds remaining in regulation play.

In the **CHSL Semi**, CK faced the 3rd ranked (Division 2) Warriors of Brother Rice. With goals from Leyton Stenman and Jack Wineman, the Cranes were up 3-2 when Cheli put the exclamation point scoring the 4th CK goal on an empty net….**Cranes won 4-2** to advance to the championship game for the first time since joining the Catholic League in 2010.

The Cranes faced top ranked (Division I) Catholic Central for the 3rd time this season for the **CHSL Championship** on their home ice (after the two teams split victories earlier in the season), to set the stage for another big game. The Shamrocks came out firing to get an early 2 goal lead and the Cranes did not recover. The **Cranes were CHSL Runner-Up with a 3-0 loss**.

Cranbrook hosted the **MHSAA Regional** Championships at Wallace Ice Arena. The top seeded Cranes drew a first-round bye then faced the Cougars of Stoney Creek in the semifinal. **CK proved to be too strong defeating the Cougars 8-0** in two periods to advance to the championship round.

In the **Regional Championship**, the Cranes faced the Irish of Notre Dame Prep. NDP had advanced to the championship game after moving through the bracket in the first two rounds with forfeit wins due to covid-19. The Irish were no match for
the Cranes with the final score **CK 8-NDP 0 and the Regional Championship.** The victory advanced Cranbrook to the quarterfinal.

CK hosted the **MHSAA Quarterfinal** game between the 4th ranked (Div. 3) Cranes and the 2nd ranked (Div.3) Cubs of U of D Jesuit (who defeated CK 2-0 two weeks earlier). The game was fast and furious for all three periods and after a 0-0 tie after one period, the Cranes scored the game’s only goal with 7:45 left in the 2nd period. Alex Ceritano scored the goal with an assist from Isaac Cheli to Leyton Stenman and CK won the game 1-0.

The Cranes faced the Chargers of Flint Powers Catholic in the **MHSAA Semifinal** Game hosted at USA Arena. Cranbrook opened the scoring in the first period with a goal from Luke Hellweg then took a 2-0 lead in the second period with a goal from Jack Wineman. The Chargers answered with a goal early in the third period but CK responded with a great goal from Leyton Stenman, then Isaac Cheli put the icing on the cake with an empty net goal…**Cranes 4-Chargers 1!**

In the **MHSAA State Championship** Game, the Cranes faced the top ranked (Division 3) and undefeated Calumet Copper Kings at USA Arena. Cranbrook scored first after Nathan Hooker took an assist from Max Bergen and Jacob Budabin and put it in the net in the first period. Later in the first period, Jack Wineman scored a great goal assisted by Nick Wade to take a 2-0 lead after period one. Isaac Cheli scored the Cranes third goal assisted by Michael Brown and Calumet closed the gap with a goal. With a 3-1 lead in the third, Ty Esterline helped secure the win, scoring the fourth and final goal of the game assisted by Lucas Hunter. With fantastic goal keeping by Julian Zvyagin and stellar defense….**CK wins the State Championship 4-1.**

**Leyton Stenman was recognized By State Champs Sports Network as the State Hockey Player of the Year** and is the first defenseman to receive this honor. Leyton was also honored as the **MIHL Player of the Year AND was the Division III State Tournament MVP.** Stenman, Jack Wineman, Julian Zvyagin and Isaac Cheli made the All-State Tournament Team. Stenman, Wineman, and Zvyagin earned MIHL Dream Team honors, All-MIHL North and All-Catholic
League recognition. Julian Zvyagin also earned Academic All-State recognition. Isaac Cheli earned Academic All-State, All-MIHL North and All-League honors. Alex Ceritano earned All-MIHL North and All-League honors. Jacob Budabin earned 2nd Team All-MIHL North and All-League recognition. Michael Brown and Lucas Hunter earned 2nd Team All-MIHL North. Nathan Hooker and Andrew Swartz earned Honorable Mention All-MIHL North and Luke Hellweg earned Academic All-State and All-Catholic League for his work in the classroom as well as on the ice. The Cranes collectively earned Academic All-State as a team. **Head Coach John LaFontaine was honored by his coaching peers as the Division 3 Coach of the Year.**

**Head Coed Coach Laura Lepzinski (8th season) and the Figure Skating Team** experienced a shortened season due to Covid-19. The unified team consisting of students from Cranbrook, Marion and Country Day were held to one district competition in February to qualify for the State Championships.

The team was led by A Team senior captain Julia Frykman and fellow seniors and four year letter winners Sofia Valbuena and Isabel Jacobson (who represented the B and C Teams, respectively).

CDMCK Unified had a respectable showing at their one-meet season. Frykman led A Team moves to a 2nd place finish with her forward loops. Junior Lara Seledotis and sophomore Charles Huang also represented A Team executing the spiral sequence and power pulls. Frykman landed a loop jump, while Huang landed a double lutz combination. B Team also pulled off a silver medal in the Jumps category. Overall, A Team finished in 4th, B Team tied for 3rd, and C Team finished 3rd.

Cranbrook welcomed first year Head Girls and Boys Ski Coach Julie Kehoe to the CK coaching staff. Coach Kehoe has served as a coach for Pinnacle Ski Racing and was ski captain and a varsity tennis player for Flushing High. **Scarlett Shader CK’11** joined the coaching staff serving as assistant coach. Scarlett was a two-time captain and an All-Region member of the Cranes Ski Team. Coach now serves professionally in the healthcare industry.
The 2021 Cranes were led by senior captain Mallory Brophy and junior captain Dylan Kowal. Although the season got off to a slow start due to Covid-19, the CK Ski Team was able to get to training and competitions in early January.

At the Catholic League Championships, the CK Girls Team won their 4th straight CHSL Championship!

Individually, Mallory Brophy led the Cranes with a couple of great races to win the CHSL Championship in both the slalom and giant slalom events. Freshman Bianca Bologna showed her stuff finishing CHSL Runner-Up in both the slalom and giant slalom! Fellow teammates, junior Lily Aikens placed 5th, sophomore Elli Moen 8th, junior Meagan Sayre 11th and junior Ani Hefter placed 12th in the slalom. In the giant slalom, Aikens placed 8th, Moen 9th, Sayre 13th and Hefter took 14th. The Cranes Boys Team finished 4th overall at the CHSL Championships with sophomore Rett Krug leading the Team in the slalom event placing 6th. Junior Dylan Kowal followed placing 8th, freshman Louis Chang 31st, freshman Aden Kushnir 35th and freshman Marcelo Rodriguez placed 42nd.

In the giant slalom event, Chang lead the boys placing 23rd, followed by junior Grant Burnstein placing 27th, Kushnir 35th, Rodriguez 36th and Kowal finishing 37th.

At the Pine Knob Divisional Championships, the CK Girls Team placed 4th overall. Mallory Brophy again led the way, winning the Division Championship in the giant slalom! Bologna also placed 10th, Moen 17th, Aikens 21st, Sayre 32nd and Hefter finished 34th in the giant slalom. In the slalom event, Brophy placed 4th, Aikens 14th, Moen 17th, Hefter 21st, and Sayre placed 32nd.

The Cranes Boys Team placed 8th overall at the Pine Knob Divisional Championships. Individually, Kowal led the team placing 13th in the giant slalom and 22nd in the slalom. Also in the slalom, Krug placed 25th, Chang 32nd, and Burnstein placed 39th. In the giant slalom event, Krug placed 30th, Chang 51st, Burnstein 56th, freshman JD Gibson 69th and freshman Grant Mikesell finished 74th.
At the **MHSAA Regional Championships** hosted at Alpine Valley, the **Cranes Girls Team** finished **Regional Runner-Up** to qualify as a team for the State Championships. **Mallory Brophy** once again showed her speed, strength and leadership **winning the Regional Championship in the giant slalom and finishing as Regional Runner-Up in the slalom.** Individually in the GS, Bianca Bologna placed 6th, Lily Aikens 18th, Meagan Sayre 23rd, Elli Moen 24th and Ani Heftet 29th. In the slalom, Moen placed 15th, Aikens 17th, Sayre 28th and Kat Bolukh placed 37th.

On the **Boys side of the Regional Championships**, the **Cranes finished 9th overall.** Dylan Kowal led the boys finishing 8th in the GS and 12th overall in the slalom to qualify individually for the State Championships. Rett Krug placed 16th, Grant Burnstein 41st, JD Gibson 57th and Grant Mikesell finished 58th in GS. In the slalom event, Krug placed 20th, Rodriguez 52nd, and Grant Burnstein finished 53rd.

At the **SEMSL (Southeast Michigan Ski League) Championships**, the **Cranes Girls Team qualified and had another outstanding performance finishing SEMSL Runner-Up** behind Division I Clarkston.

Individually, **Mallory Brophy led the team winning the SEMSL Championship in GS and finishing 3rd in slalom.** Also in slalom, Bianca Bologna made the podium placing 4th, followed by teammates Elli Moen (27th), Ani Heftet (42nd), and Meagan Sayre (50th). In GS, Bologna placed 12th, Moen 33rd, Lily Aikens 35th, Sayre 54th, and Heftet 76th.

At the **MHSAA State Championships** hosted at Boyne Highlands, the **Cranes Girls Team placed 7th overall. Mallory Brophy and Bianca Bologna made the podium with Brophy placing 8th and Bologna finishing 9th in the slalom event.** Rounding out the scoring in slalom, Aikens placed 40th, Moen 41st, Heftet 47th and Sayre placed 58th. Individually in GS, Brophy finished 13th, Bologna 31st, Aikens 48th, Sayre 50th, Moen 57th and Heftet 58th.

Individual qualifier, Dylan Kowal, placed 20th in GS and 27th in the slalom event.

Mallory Brophy and Bianca Bologna earned All-State, All-Region, All-SEMSL, All-Division and All-Catholic League honors. Lily Aikens and Elli Moen were recognized on the All-League Team. Dylan Kowal earned All-Region and All-League recognition and Rett Krug earned All-League honors.
Cranbrook welcomes first year Head Girls Swim and Dive Coach Paul Ellis to his additional role as Cranbrook’s new Head Boys Swim and Dive Coach. After winning the MHSAA Division 3 State Championship with the CK Girls Team, Coach Ellis was ready to take on the Cranes Boys Program.

The 2nd ranked (Division 3) Cranes raced through a shortened season due to Covid-19. Despite being limited to 8 weeks of training, the Cranes amassed a 6-2 record defeating the likes of Brother Rice and De La Salle. The Cranes were led by senior captains Ben Angileri, James Wiater, Josh Zexter, and Andrew Zhang.

At the Oakland County Championships, the Cranes put together some state meet qualifying times and personal bests to finish 4th overall behind the larger schools of Seaholm, Catholic Central and Groves.

Individually, sophomore Ethan Schwab led the Team with a County Runner-Up finish in the both the 100 backstroke and the 500 free events. Josh Zexter placed 5th in the 200IM and 12th in the 100 butterfly, Andrew Zhang placed 9th in the 100 backstroke and 14th in the 200 IM, Ben Angileri placed 11th in the 500 free, and James Wiater took 16th in the 100 free. In the relays, the team of Zhang, Schwab, Josh and freshman brother Colin Zexter made the podium placing 3rd in the 200-medley relay. The team of Angileri, Josh Zexter, Wiater and Schwab finished 6th in the 400 free relay and in the 200 free-relay, freshman Will Farner, Colin Zexter, Wiater and Zhang took 9th.

In the Catholic League Diving Championships, CK’s Titus Smith was the only freshman in the competition where he finished 10th overall.

At the Catholic League Swim Championships, the Cranes finished 4th overall. Individually, Ethan Schwab was CHSL Champion in the 200 IM. James Wiater finished 4th in the 100 free. Andrew Zhang placed 4th in the 100 backstroke and 7th in the 50 free. Schwab placed 5th in the 100 free, and Josh Zexter placed 5th in both the 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke events. Ben Angileri placed 7th in the 100 free and 8th in the 50 free.

Other individual top 16 finishes included: Hans Machus 9th in the 100 butterfly to make a State cut and placed 13th in the 200 free. Will Farner placed 9th in the 100 free and 10th in the 200 IM.
Ryan Bhola placed 12th in the 500 free, and Colin Zexter placed 13th in the 200 IM. Michael Sawula placed 11th in the 100 breaststroke and 14th in the 200 IM. Jason Haywood took 14th in the 100-breaststroke, Austin Henry took 16th in the 200 free and Justin Song placed 16th in the 100-breaststroke.

In the CHSL relay events, the team of Colin and Josh Zexter, Zhang and Schwab placed 3rd in the 200-medley relay. The team of Schwab, Angileri, Wiater and Josh Zexter also placed 3rd in the 400-free relay. The team of Colin Zexter, Wiater, Zhang and Farner finished 4th in the 200-free relay.

Cranbrook hosted MHSAA Diving Regions in Williams Natatorium, where the best grouping of divers competed to qualify for States. CK’s freshman Titus Smith placed 17th overall.

The Cranes qualified eight swimmers to represent Cranbrook at the State Championships. Ben Angileri, James Wiater, Josh Zexter, Andrew Zhang, Hans Machus, Ethan Schwab, Will Farner and Colin Zexter earned state cut times.

At the MHSAA State Championships hosted at the Holland Aquatic Center, CK knew that EGR returned a strong team with depth and that there would be a competitive battle for the next four spots. The Cranes started with a splash in the opening event….winning the State Championship in the 200 medley relay event! The relay team of Ethan Schwab, Andrew Zhang and Josh and Colin Zexter set the tone for the meet. Ethan Schwab broke school records finishing as State Runner-Up in both the 500 free and 100-breaststroke to help the Team finish in third place overall scoring 194 points.

Other individual standout performances included: Josh Zexter placed 5th in the 200 IM and the 100-butterfly. Andrew Zhang took 5th in the 100 backstroke and 12th in the 200 IM. Ben Angileri placed 8th in the 500 free and 13th in the 200 free. James Wiater placed 9th in the 100 free and 12th in the 200 free. Colin Zexter finished 13th in the 100 backstroke and Will Farner placed 15th in the 200 free and 19th in the 100-butterfly.

In the 400-free relay, the team of Wiater, Angileri, Schwab and Josh Zexter placed 5th and the team of Zhang, Farner, Angileri and Wiater placed 12th in the 200-free relay.

Ethan Schwab earned All-American, All-State (4), All-Catholic and All-League honors. Josh Zexter earned Academic All-American, All-State (4), All-Catholic League and All-League recognition. Andrew Zhang earned Academic All-American, All-State (2), Honorable Mention All-State, All-Catholic and All-League recognition. Ben Angileri earned All-State (2), Honorable Mention All-State, All-Catholic League and All-League honors. James Wiater earned
Academic All-American, All-State, Honorable Mention All-State, All-Catholic League and All-League recognition. Colin Zexter earned All-State, Honorable Mention All-State, All-Catholic and All-League and Will Farner earned Honorable Mention All-State and All-League honors.

**MHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD HONOREE**
Cranbrook congratulates Senior Dhilan Nagaraju who was selected as one of 32 students (8 from class B schools) in the State of Michigan to earn the prestigious **MHSAA Scholar Athlete Award for 2020-21**. The Scholar Athlete Award (sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance) is awarded based on student athlete excellence in the classroom, sports participation and leadership, school and community service, and sportsmanship.

Dhilan was an All-Academic, All-League and All-State captain of the 2020 Boys MHSAA State Championship Tennis Team. In #1 doubles, Dhilan was Catholic League Runner-Up and District Champion. Dhilan was also a varsity letter winner on the CK Basketball Team.

Dhilan has been a student leader with the Horizon Upward Bound Program, Bridge the Divide, the Business and Entrepreneurship Club and participated in LEAD Summer Business Institute and Cornell university Real Estate Exchange.