Hard to believe that our fall season is complete with the winter season kicking off November 1st! Many of the varsity fall athletes and coaches reported for tryouts and training in the second week of August where they experienced 3 weeks of hot and muggy weather conditions to start the season and the warm weather extended through late October.

The turnout for the fall season was stronger than it has been in years with 377 students (165 girls and 212 boys) representing Cranbrook in interscholastic sports. It was especially great to have so many of our boarding students with us in person again.

Last year, CK athletics finished ranked as the 3rd most successful athletic program in the state in MLive’s Ultimate State Champion Challenge and the Cranes fall season put Cranbrook in great shape to start off the Challenge this school year! Here is the summary of the fall sport season.

**Head Coach Kevin Van Houten (4th season) and the Cranes Crew Team** began the season with the biggest turnout in 23 years. The varsity squad was tested early in the season against St. Mary's, Northville, East Grand Rapids, Rockford, Skyline, Forest Hills Central, Traverse City, and Perrysburg at the Souper Scrimmage Regatta at Kensington. On October 9th, the Cranes welcomed our CK rowing alumni for our Homecoming Regatta at Orchard Lake and later in
October CK hosted our traditional intrasquad Halloween Regatta. In November, the team closed the season at Kensington to race Northville, Gibraltar Carlson, Saline, and Rockford and was the first regatta for the CK Rowing novices.

Captains Richard Moulton, Shanna Ampaanpenrot, Grant Burnstein and Akira Hasegawa led the team in the fall.

Head Coach Greg Miller (26th season) and the CK Girls and Boys Cross Country Teams were led by senior captains Ethan Liang, Adella DeCapite, and Rachel Faust and junior captain Courtney Cassidy. Each time, the Cranes toed the starting line, the performance continued to improve which was evidenced by personal records, team time and team differential. One word that best described this years’ team was, young.

At the Oakland County Championships hosted at Kensington Metro Park, the CK Boys Team was without two of our top five in a strong field of runners from all divisions in Oakland County. The Cranes finished 30th overall. Individually, sophomore Solomon Kwartowitz earned a top 30 medal finishing 22nd.

At the Catholic League Championships, the Cranes Boys Team finished 6th overall. Individually, Solomon Kwartowitz led the Cranes once again, placing 11th overall. The Girls Team entered the event short-handed and did not receive a team score.

The Cranes Boys Team entered the Regional Championships ranked 6th in the region. Not only did the Cranes face stiff competition, but the field of runners had to contend with a wet and muddy racecourse that Coach Miller described as “the worst course conditions he has seen in his forty-plus years of cross-country coaching”. It wasn't the weather but rather the ankle-deep mud and slick footing throughout the course. CK was up to the challenge, as the team exceeded expectations scoring 113 to finish tied with Fenton for 3rd.

With only three teams qualifying for the State Championships, the 3rd place tie had to be broken by determining individual team overall finishes that went all the way down to the 6th runner of the tied teams. Cranbrook’s 6th runner Michael Atsuya had the better overall finish, earning the Cranes the 3rd place position and a Team qualification for the State Championship Meet!

Individually, Solomon Kwartowitz led the Cranes scoring with a 10th place finish to medal. Freshman
Caleb Goldstein placed 15th, sophomores Eric Shan placed 28th and Bretton Fischer placed 30th, senior Ethan Liang took 33rd and Michael Atsuya placed 40th. Senior Michael Hildwein placed 54th.

**The Cranes Girls Team placed 10th overall.** Individually, Adella DeCapite led the Girls Team placing 35th, Rachel Faust placed 53rd, freshman Yi-An Liao placed 62nd, Ava Clogg placed 63rd, and sophomore Sravya Oruganti finished 64th.

The **MHSAA State Championships** are annually hosted at the Michigan International Speedway and it was a beautiful fall day for the championship races for each MHSAA Division. With the starting gun's crack, 270 runners left the starting line.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of this years' Cranbrook Boys’ Team, was how tightly the one through five runners were packed. This time difference is called the team differential and by fifteen seconds was the teams' best effort for the season. Perhaps a more important measure is the team time was the sum of the top five runner times. For CK, this was 90:07 which was a full three minutes faster than any earlier season effort. This time was shed from the back of all seven CK runners who each set new personal best times for the 5km distance earning the Boys Team a 28th place finish overall.

Solomon Kwartowitz once again led the Cranes finishing 78th, Caleb Goldstein placed 172nd, Michael Atsuya placed 195th, Eric Shan finished 233rd, Bretton Fischer took 242nd, Ethan Liang 247th and Ryan Hildwein placed 265th.

Solomon Kwartowitz earned All-Catholic League honors.

**Head Coach Zubair Ahmed (7th season) and the Girls Field Hockey Team** readied themselves for successful competition in Division II East of the Michigan High School Field Hockey Association, with their eye on the Catholic League and State Championships.

The Cranes welcomed Assistant Coach, **Summer Aldred**, to the Field Hockey program. Coach Aldred served CK last spring as a varsity assistant coach for our State Finalist Girls Lacrosse Team.

The Cranes were rebuilding with the graduation of nine seniors from last fall’s roster, but the Cranes worked hard since early August training camp and the results of early season games
showed that the hard work paid off. The varsity team returned twelve players from last season and added seven more to the roster this fall. Senior Ani Hefter and juniors Anna Timko and Emma Brandimarte led the team that finished with a 15-4-1 record (best in CK history).

In the **Catholic League Championships**, the Cranes took on the Mustangs of Marian in the Semifinal. Despite having to manage a schedule snafu, the **Cranes** handled the sudden change well and defeated the Mustangs 2-0 to qualify for the Championship. In the **Bishop Division Championship** match, the Cranes faced the Marlins of Mercy. It was a great match with a 0-0 tie going into the last 3 minutes of regulation, but the Marlins were able to score before time ran out and the **Cranes finished as CHSL Runner-Up**.

CK entered the **State Championships** seeded third and hosted the Dearborn Pioneers in the first round. The **Cranes** were on fire scoring 7 goals and shutting out the Pioneers offense to win 7-0. Anna Timko started the scoring wave in the 1st quarter followed by a goal from sophomore Milani Sheth. Anna and Milani scored again in the second quarter. Emma Brandimarte kicked off the scoring in the send half and finished the flurry with 4th quarter goals from Anna and Emma.

In the **State Quarterfinal**, CK hosted the Eagles of Hartland. In a great game, the Cranes applied lots of offensive pressure and continued playing stingy defense. In the 2nd quarter, Milani Sheth scored the lone goal of the game to secure a CK 1-0 victory.

In the **State Semi**, the Cranes traveled to Grand Rapids to play the EGR Pioneers. The Team preparation paid off and with strong team defense and a powerful Anna Timko goal, **CK went on to defeat EGR 1-0 to earn a bid at Cranbrook’s first Field Hockey State Championship Game!**

At the **State Championship** hosted at Chelsea, the Cranes drew the Grosse Pointe South Blue Devils. The Blue Devils scored a goal early to set the tone, but the Cranes settled down and played great defense to go into halftime down 1-0. The second half was an even match until GPS capitalized on two fourth quarter corner fouls to defeat State Finalist Cranbrook 3-0.

Junior Anna Timko earned All-State and All-Catholic League honors. Emma Brandimarte
earned All-State and All-League honors. Junior Skylar Fierens earned Honorable Mention All-State and All-Catholic League honors. Senior Ani Hefter earned Academic All-State and All-League, seniors Adina Alterman and Elizabeth Davis earned Academic All-State, and senior Alexandria Miller-Thomas earned Academic All-State and Academic All-League honors. Junior Julia Housey made the All-League Team. The Cranes earned Team Academic All-State recognition for their collective excellence in the classroom as well as on the field.

Cranbrook welcomed first year Head Coach Nick LaFontaine to the community. Coach LaFontaine came to CK from Trinity-Pawling School in New York where he served as Head Football Coach, Math faculty and Assistant Director of College Counseling for 9 years. Nick also coached Track and Field and Lacrosse at Trinity-Pawling.

Prior to Trinity-Pawling, Coach LaFontaine coached in the collegiate ranks at Stonehill College, Amherst, Salve Regina, U. of Albany, Norwich University and Wesleyan University. Coach LaFontaine played football collegiately at Wesleyan University. CK Football also welcomed Woody Mulhinch and Gil Bromley to the staff. Coach Mulhinch worked with the kickers and safeties and served as an assistant coach at Ann Arbor High Schools last year. Gil Bromley worked with the offensive and defensive lines of the junior varsity team.

The 2021 Cranes Football Team was led by captains Victor Berger and Shane Wittenberg. Seniors Jace Danielewicz, Nate Gorman, Ethan Peruski, and Isaac Gurman comprised the rest of the small but impactful group of seniors that have persevered over the past year through the pandemic and the tragic loss of head coach Ben Jones. Their leadership, dedication, and commitment to reestablishing Cranbrook in the Catholic League was inspiring.

The Cranes finished the season with a 3-6 record and a 4th place finish in the Intersectional I Division of the Catholic League. A highlight for the season and community was the return of our Friday Night Lights Homecoming Game. It was great to have the community back for this event after a year hiatus due to COVID.

Junior kicker Christos Tzoumakas earned All-Region and All-Catholic League honors. Junior Alex Smith earned All-Region and All-League recognition. Ethan Peruski was joined by junior John Kersh on the All-Catholic League Team. Victor Berger was joined by juniors Alex Yolles
and Alex Smith on the All-League Team and Nate Gorman earned Academic All-Catholic League honors.

**Head Coach John Minnich (4th season) and the Girls Golf Team** returned a seasoned squad with the return of All-County senior Natasha Samsonov and junior Ashley Cong. Senior Katherine Li, sophomores Sienna Ilitch and Mackenzie Behnke and freshman Aya Samsonov all scored well through the season.

The Cranes started the season ranked 5th in Division 3 but earned a number one ranking by late September after winning four large invitational tournaments this season (Pontiac CC, Lapeer Lightning Summer Tune Up, North Star and the Stoneycroft Hills tournaments) and finishing 1st in the Central Division of the Catholic League.

At the Catholic League Championships, the Cranes were on fire! The Team shot a collective 311 to edge out 4th ranked Lutheran North and defending State Champion Marian to **win Cranbrook’s first Bishop Division Championship!**

Individually, Ashley Cong led the Cranes shooting a 76 to finish as CHSL Runner-Up. Natasha Samsonov and Mackenzie Behnke tied for 3rd with both scoring 78 and Sienna Ilitch tied for 6th shooting 79.

Just a day after winning our first CHSL Championship, our CK Girls Golf Team had to get back on the course to compete at the **Oakland County Championships** hosted at Twin Lakes Golf Club. This event showcases some of the best teams from all MHSAA divisions and CK was up for the challenge.

There was no CHSL hangover as the **Cranes shot a 319 to beat the field and win the County Championship** (our 1st since 2010). Natasha Samsonov led the Team shooting 72 to finish 3rd overall. Ashley Cong shot 79 to place 10th, Mackenzie Behnke and Katherine Li both shot 84 to place 21st and Sienna Ilitch finished 30th with an 87.
At the **Region 18 Championships** hosted at Pontiac CC, the Cranes had to ready themselves for strong competition to qualify for States. The **Cranes** shot 324 to defeat Lutheran North (338) and two-time defending State Champion Marian (349) to win the Region Championship!

Individually, **Natasha Samsonov** again led the team shooting 76 earning **Region Runner-Up**. Ashley Cong was right behind her shooting 77 to place 3rd overall. Katherine Li tied for 6th shooting 85 and Sienna Ilitch and Mackenzie both shot 86 to finished tied for 8th.

At the **MHSAA State Championships**, hosted at Forest Akers Michigan State, course conditions were a challenge for the entire field due to heavy rains the day before competition. But the Cranes held strong shooting 344 to carry a 12-stroke lead into the finals. In the second round, things tightened up, but the **Cranes Team** came through like they had all season shooting 350 and finished the tournament with a 6-stroke lead over Grosse Ile to win the **Division 3 MHSAA State Championship** for the 3rd time in CK history and the first since 2006.

Ashley Cong and Natasha Samsonov earned All-State, All-County and All-Catholic League honors. Mackenzie Behnke and Sienna Ilitch earned Honorable Mention All-State and All-Catholic League honors.

**Head Coach Chad O’Kulich (23rd season) and the 5th ranked Boys Soccer Team** was led by senior captains Bennett Luckoff, Brogan Dougerty, and Garrett Gantz. The senior laden Cranes hoped to be a state contender after getting knocked out of the State playoffs in the semifinal last fall.

CK returned four All-State players in seniors Zach Wittenberg (1st Team) and Garrett Gantz (2nd Team), and juniors Nathan Hooker (3rd Team) and Evan Evans (Honorable Mention).
The Defending CHSL AA Division Champion **Cranes** finished League competition with a 6-1-2 record to win the AA Division to qualify for the Bishop Division Championship (for the 6th straight year).

In the **CHSL Bishop Championship matches**, the Cranes faced the Central Division Pilots of De La Salle. The Cranes scored first with a penalty kick by sophomore Cam Hannah in the first half. The Pilots answered with a goal later in the first half, but Zach Wittenberg and Ryan Marvar countered with goals before halftime to take a 3-1 lead. The Cranes dominated the second half on defense and a second goal from Wittenberg gave **CK** a **4-1 victory to win Cranbrook’s first Bishop Division Catholic League Championship**! Cranbrook’s win was the first championship win for an AA Division team over a Central Division team dating as far back as 1982!

Cranbrook entered the **MHSAA District Championships** as top seed in the district and drew a bye in the first round. In the District Semi, CK hosted the Avondale Yellow Jackets. The Cranes controlled the match from the get-go defeating the Yellow Jackets 4-0.

In the **District Championship**, the Cranes faced the CHSL Central Division Warriors of Brother Rice. The Warriors scored first, off a rebound from a penalty kick in the first three minutes of the game, then scored another late in the first half. In the second half, CK bounced back with an early goal from Nathan Kim and continued to put offensive pressure but could not put the ball in the net. The Warriors added one more to end the Cranes season 3-1.

Garrett Gantz was recognized as the MHSAA Division 2 Defensive Player of the Year and earned 2nd Team All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-Catholic League honors. Zach Wittenberg earned 1st Team All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-Catholic league honors. Nathan Hooker earned 3rd Team All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-Catholic league honors. Ryan Marvar earned Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region, All-District and All-League honors. Bora Akgun earned Honorable Mention All-State, All-Region and All-District recognition. Bennett Luckoff earned All-District and All-Catholic League honors. Evan Evans and Jeff Ren earned All-District and All-League recognition, and John Lee earned All-League recognition. Jeff Ren also earned Academic All-Catholic for his excellence in the classroom as well as the field.
Head Coach Gary Jacoby (4th season) and the CK Sailing Team finished first at the qualifying regatta for the Midwest Sailing Championships. Juniors Charlie Gonzalez, Jack Harman, Max Crozier, and freshman Aaron Wang qualified for the Midwest Championships hosted in Chicago on November 6th.

The Midwest Championship Regatta was hosted in Chicago on a 64 degree weekend (last year’s temps were in the low 30s). After day one of the preliminary round, the Cranes were in a solid 6th place out of 20 teams. On day two of the finals, CK finished in 13th place and was the top Michigan team in the championships. On the final day the Cranes finished 13th out of twenty.

Head Coach Paul Ellis (2nd season) and the Defending State Champion Girls Swim and Dive Team started the 2021 campaign with high expectations after winning the 2020 Division 3 State Championship and finishing with a number 2 final ranking in the state among all divisions. The Aardvarks graduated twelve seniors off that last year’s roster. The Team was excited to be back in the Williams Natatorium to train and host competitions after last year’s renovation of the pool deck that prohibited use of our pool until the final week before States.

This season, CK Swim and Dive welcomed assistant coaches Greg Palmer (who also serves as Cranbrook faculty in the Science Department), Carly Evatz and Diving Coach Virginia Naegeli to the program. Coach Palmer has extensive experience coaching club swim and served as an assistant coach for the CK Boys Swim and Dive Team for one season.

The Aardvarks were led by state qualifying returners senior captain Carolyn Farner and fellow seniors Emily Zhang and Sarah Weissman and sophomores Julijana Jelic and Elea Mast. CK worked through the season to hold a top 3 position at the state meet this year expecting stiff competition from Holland Christian and East Grand Rapids.

At the Oakland County Championships, the Aardvarks swam well with many personal best swims to finish 8th overall. Individually, Julijana Jelic led the Team placing 4th 200 IM and 5th in the 100 backstroke. Carolyn Farner placed 8th in the 100 fly and Sarah Weissman finished 8th in Diving.
At the Catholic League Diving Championships, senior Sarah Weissman scored 343.55 to win the CHSL Diving Championship. Junior Bella Browett placed 5th scoring 248.5, and senior Rachel Thav placed 7th with a score of 244.9.

In November, Cranbrook hosted the MHSAA Regional Diving Championships in Williams Natatorium. CK’s Sarah Weissman finished Regional Runner-Up scoring 361 points, qualifying Sarah for the State Diving Championship. Rachel Thav placed 14th with 256 points and Bella Browett finished 23rd.

At the Catholic League Swim Championships, the Cranes achieved some additional State qualifying cuts and swam some season and personal bests. The Aardvarks finished 3rd overall.

Individually, Julijana Jelic led the Team in scoring, winning the CHSL Championship in the 500. Jelic also finished 4th in the 200 free. Sophomore Eryn McLaughlin placed 3rd in the 200 IM and 4th in the 500 free. Farner finished 5th in the 100 and 200 free. Freshman Hazel Strain placed 6th in the 50 free and freshman Oriana Shi took 8th in the 100 butterfly and the 500.

Other individual finishes included: Zhang 9th in the 100 free and 11th in the 200 IM; Mast 9th in the 200 free and the 100 butterfly; sophomore Isabelle Elie 9th in the 100 breaststroke and 13th in the 100 free; junior Lola Norton 10th in the 200 free and 11th in the 500; sophomore Sabrina Machus 10th in the 100 butterfly and 12th in the 100 breaststroke; junior Kathryn Strain 12th in the 50 and 100 free; Hazel Strain 13th in the 100 breaststroke; freshman Mira Norton 13th in the 50; freshman Eve Feles 20th in the 500; Weissman 21st in the 200 free; and sophomore Ishani Modi 22nd in the 100 breaststroke.

In the relay events, the team of Farner, Mast, Hazel Strain, and Elie placed 3rd in the 200 medley relay. In the 200 free relay, the team of Jelic, Zhang, Elie, and Kathryn Strain placed 3rd and in the 400 free relay, Farner, Mast, McLaughlin, and Hazel Strain also placed 3rd. Also in the relay events, the team of Weissman, Shapiro, and the Norton sisters placed 7th in the 400 free relay. Our 200 medley relay team of Shi, Jelic, Shapiro, and Machus placed 8th and the team of Modi, junior Soyeon Park, and freshmen Milan Kadaf and Jessica Hall placed 9th in the 200 free relay.

CK had 10 team members qualify for the MHSAA State Championship Meet. Diver Sarah Weissman, and swimmers Julijana Jelic (200 IM, 200 and 500 Free, 100 Backstroke), Isabelle Elie (200 Medley Relay), Kathryn Strain (200 FR Relay), Hazel Strain (50 and 100 free, FR, 100 FR, 100 Backstroke), Ellie Mast (50, 100 and 200 Free, 100 butterfly), Eryn McLaughlin
At the MHSAA State Championships, hosted at Calvin College, the Team came ready to compete on day one of the prelims. With many individuals moving up and positioning themselves for the finals. With the Aardvarks predicted to place 5th on day two of the finals round, the Aardvarks scored 165.5 points to finish 3rd overall as a team.

Individually, CK was led by Julijana Jelic who placed 4th in the 200 IM and the 100 backstroke. Eryn McLaughlin placed 5th in the 100 butterfly and 7th in the 500 free, Carolyn Farner finished 6th in the 100 butterfly and 15th in the 100 backstroke, Hazel Strain took 8th in the 100 backstroke, Sarah Weissman placed 9th in dive, Elea Mast took 10th in the 50 free and 14th in the 100 free, Emily Zhang placed 13th in the 500 free, and Oriana Shi placed 16th in the 200 IM. Other notable individual finishes were: Zhang 21st in the 200 free, Shi 27th in the 100 backstroke, and Hazel Strain 27th in the 100 free.

In the relay events, 400 free relay team of Mast, Hazel Strain, McLaughlin and Farner placed 3rd. The team of Hazel Strain, Elie, Mast and Farner placed 5th in the 200 medley relay and the team of Jelic, McLaughlin, Elie and Kathryn Strain placed 19th.

Carolyn Farner earned 3 All-State, 1 Honorable Mention All-State and All-League recognition. Eryn McLaughlin earned 3 All-State and All-Catholic League honors. Hazel Strain earned 3 All-State and All-League. Elea Mast earned 2 All-State, 2 Honorable Mention All-State and All-League recognitions. Julijana Jelic earned 2 All-State and All-Catholic League honors. Sarah Weissman earned Honorable Mention All-State and All-Catholic League. Isabelle Elie earned All-State, Emily Zhang earned Honorable Mention All-State, and Oriana Shi earned Honorable Mention All-State and All-League. Divers Bella Browett and Rachel Thav earned All-League.

Head Coach Steve Herdoiza (5th season) and the Defending State Champion Boys Tennis Team was excited to start the 2021 season after capturing the state title in dramatic fashion last fall. The Cranes relied on team strength, depth, and leadership to put
CK in the best position to defend the Catholic League and State titles. What better way to do so, as the Cranes christened Cranbrook’s amazing new Tennis Complex!

CK returned their top 3 singles players from last year, led by juniors Owen DeMuth at #1 singles and Gian DeGuzman at #2 singles and senior Co-Captain Patrick Tiwari at #3 singles. Sophomore Caden Che really came into his own this year to round out our singles lineup at #4. Senior Co-Captains Isaiah Croskey, Theo Taubman, Jacob Coburn and Sebs Taubman secured our top 2 doubles spots, while sophomore Andrew Fink and freshman Ryan Michaels posed as a formidable team at #3 doubles. Senior Praneel Pillarisetty and freshman Aryan Tiwari held down the #4 doubles spot. The Cranes had great depth with senior Chase Zaidan, juniors Evan Foltyn, Eli Foltyn, Eric Wang and sophomores Kevin Guo and Amaan Khan.

CK hosted the Catholic League Championships at our new Tennis Complex and the Cranes did a great job defending their 2020 Title. CK scored 18 points defeating top ranked Greenhills, Catholic Central and Brother Rice to secure the CHSL Championship.

Individually, Patrick Tiwari at #3 singles, Sebs Taubman and Jacob Coburn at #2 doubles, Aryan Tiwari and Praneel Pillarisetty at #4 doubles were CHSL Champions. Owen DeMuth at #1 singles, Caden Che at #4 singles, Jacob Coburn and Sebs Taubman at #2 doubles, and Aryan Tiwari and Praneel Pillarisetty #4 doubles were Regional Champions. Gian DeGuzman #2 singles, Isaiah Croskey and Theo Taubman #1 doubles, and Andrew Fink and Ryan Michaels #3 doubles were Regional Runners-Up.

Cranbrook also hosted the MHSAA Regional 21 Championships in early October. The Defending Regional Champion Cranes once again took care of business, scoring 22 points to St Clair’s 18 points to win the Region 21 Championship.

Individually, Owen DeMuth #1 singles, Patrick Tiwari #3 singles, Caden Che #4 singles, Jacob Coburn and Sebs Taubman #2 doubles, and Aryan Tiwari and Praneel Pillarisetty #4 doubles were Regional Champions. Gian DeGuzman #2 singles, Isaiah Croskey and Theo Taubman #1 doubles, and Andrew Fink and Ryan Michaels #3 doubles were Regional Runners-Up.
The MHSAA State Championships were hosted at Midland this year and the Cranes looked to defend their State Championship against some talented teams. After day one, seven of CK’s 8 flights advanced to the semi round giving the Cranes a chance! On day two, the Cranes did what they had to do outscoring Country Day and Greenhills 32 to 27 and 25 to bring home the State Championship trophy!

Individually, Caden Che #4 singles, Jacob Coburn and Sebastian Taubman #2 doubles, and Ryan Michaels and Andrew Fink #3 doubles were State Champions in their flights. Owen DeMuth #1 singles, Patrick Tiwari #3 singles, Aryan Tiwari and Praneel Pillarisetty #4 doubles were State Finalists in their flights.

Owen DeMuth, Gian DeGuzman and Patrick Tiwari earned 1st Team All-State, and Caden Che earned Honorable Mention All-State at singles play. Theo Taubman and Isaiah Croskey, Sebastian Taubman and Jacob Coburn earned 1st Team All-State at doubles. Praneel Pillarisetty and Jacob Coburn earned Academic All-State honors. The Cranes Team earned Academic All-State as a Team for their collective excellence in the classroom as well as the court.

Cranbrook also welcomed new Head Volleyball Coach Zak Krug. Coach Krug served as a CK assistant varsity coach last season and brought college coaching experience along with a strong background in mental health and leadership development. Also joining the staff this season was Varsity Assistant Anna Gatt, Head Junior Varsity Coach Rachel Zawodny, and Head Freshman Coach Jenny Roebuck CK’03.

The Cranes Varsity Volleyball Team was led by senior captains Sophie Lanzon, Sara Tweed and Emma Christides, along with fellow seniors Vivian Armstrong, Riya Batra, Ruoyi Chen, Kendall McCaskill. The coaching staff expected a combination of experienced seniors and
talented underclassmen to take the program to the next level. The volleyball program had roughly 50 student-athletes on our three rosters this season. The Team and coaches worked hard to build a competitive volleyball program.

In the MHSAA District Championships, the Cranes drew the Rams of Lamphere in the District Quarterfinal. The Cranes jumped out on the Rams winning the first set, but the Rams won the next two. CK battled back to win the 4th set then finished off the Rams in the 5th to advance to the District Semi.

In the District Semifinal, CK drew the Trojans of Clawson. The Cranes came out sluggish in the first set then picked it up to win the second set, but the Trojans came back to win the next two sets to knock the Cranes out of the Playoffs.

Sophie Lanzon earned All-Catholic League honors. Sara Tweed earned All-League and Riya Batra earned Academic All-Catholic League recognition.

POWDERPUFF FOOTBALL GAME
After having to cancel our Annual CK Powderpuff Game last year due to COVID, it was great to culminate Spirit Week with traditional Homecoming activities and our Powderpuff Game between the junior and senior class.

The game showcased determination from both sides, some creative offensive schemes, and athletic and tough defense. Both teams moved the ball, but stingy defenses kept the other side out of the endzone. With the scored tied 0-0 with a little more than two minutes left in the game, thunder and lightning forced the officials to call the game.
COLLEGE SIGNING

In the presence of family, teammates and coaches, senior Travis Ilitch committed to play baseball for the Hoyas of Georgetown. Travis is an All-District and All-Catholic League and All-League member of the Cranes Baseball Team. Travis was also a varsity letterman for the Cranes Football Team and a member of the State Championship CK Tennis Team.

CK COACHES HONORED

Head Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach John LaFontaine and Assistant Lacrosse and Field Hockey Coach Summer Aldred were honored this November in Lansing by the Michigan High School Coaches Association. Coach LaFontaine was honored as the 2021 Boys Hockey Coach of the Year after leading the Cranes to the 2021 Division 3 State Championship. Coach Aldred was honored as the Girls Lacrosse Coach of the Year for her efforts in starting and building Detroit’s first girls lacrosse program in the city at Cass Tech High School. Coach Aldred did this all while helping coach our girls lacrosse program to the 2021 State Championship game.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Cranbrook Schools Booster Club brought back their Annual Golf Outing Fund Raiser to benefit the Brookside Physical Education Program and our Middle and Upper School Athletic Programs.

It was a beautiful fall day for 72 golfers hosted at Orchard Lake Country Club. The great day of golf was followed by dinner, a ball toss, raffle, and fun auction supported by the Farner Family! The evening was highlighted by presentations from Head of Schools Jeff Suzik and senior athletes Riya Batra (Lacrosse/Volleyball), Carolyn Farner
(Swim/Basketball), and Michael Brown (Hockey) who shared their stories of what representing CK in athletics competition has meant to them.

AIM HIGH