



BLACKHAWK BULLETIN

The latest news and updates from Cowan Junior-Senior High School



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From Valencia to Muncie...Welcome Miss Hurtado

At the beginning of the 22-23 school year, Miss Isabel Hurtado was hired to be our new Spanish teacher at the high school. Before Miss Hurtado's arrival, she was teaching and living in Barcelona. She talked excitedly about the possibility of teaching in the United States during her interview and it was apparent that she had a passion for teaching and wanted to experience something unique and an opportunity to teach in the United States piqued her interest. Within a matter of weeks, Miss Hurtado accepted our teaching position and began the process of upending her roots in Spain to begin a new chapter in Muncie, Indiana. We interviewed her to find out a little bit more about her background and how she has acclimated to life in the US.

Isabel was born and raised in Valencia. She says she has many great memories of her summer, Christmas and Easter with her family, grandparents, uncles, cousins, and friends. Miss Hurtado studied law at the University of Valencia and completed her fourth year as a student in the University of Gottingen in Germany. She added a master's degree in Humanities focused on history, culture, and society, and another master's degree in Anthropology focusing on diversity





and globalization at the University of Castilla La Mancha. She later added private insurance to her educational resume and completed her certification for teaching English, German, French, Italian, and Catalan. Before she began her teaching career in Barcelona, she was working as a procedural manager of insurance at the Ministry of Justice in Valencia.

Miss Hurtado quickly settled in to Muncie upon her arrival. She describes Muncie as a “very welcoming city that is easy to get to know where the people are friendly.” She said living in Muncie gives her the opportunity to get to know the real America that is far from what is depicted on television. “I think it’s a very good experience since I can live in peace, make friends, and get to know the American language and culture first hand”, she said. Currently, her favorite things to do in Muncie are to go out with her friends to restaurants or go dancing downtown. She recently went to the Renaissance Festival in Ohio and loved watching *Beauty and the Beast* at the Muncie Civic Theater. Isabel also stated that she enjoyed going for walks to watch the sunset at the Reservoir. Her favorite restaurant in Muncie so far is Elm Street because of their great food, live music, and stylish venue.

Isabel has been very pleased with her start at Cowan. “Cowan seems to me to be a very quiet area, close to Muncie with very good people. I love the family atmosphere between the students and teachers, always willing to help and the students to participate. I have to say that the educational community is very cohesive and the administration and teachers do a great job.” She was especially thankful for Mr. Hanser and his family for welcoming her with so much love in their house when she first arrived. She says their hospitality made her feel as if their house was hers and it was a big relief for her the first few weeks after her arrival. She was very appreciative for the number of people who volunteered to donate furniture and supplies once she arrived. “I am happy and grateful...I couldn’t have chosen a better place to come.”



Outside of teaching, Miss Hurtado loves to travel and study languages. “What I like the most is attending language courses during the year and intensive language courses during the summer in different countries such as England, Germany, France, and Italy. In addition to knowing the language, I get to live a wonderful experience and am able to learn the culture in the country.” Her other hobbies include dancing salsa and bachata, playing the Spanish guitar, and she likes to participate with international aid organizations. “Last April I visited some schools and hospitals in Kenya, Africa...an unforgettable experience.” Over Fall Break, Isabel was able to visit Boston and New York, which was an experience that left her totally in awe. “I think it is a city worth seeing at least once in a lifetime, there is nothing like it. It is wonderful to see so many skyscrapers together shining in the night of the city.”

We are so thankful to have Miss Hurtado at Cowan Junior-Senior High School as a part of our Blackhawk Family. We appreciate her hard work and dedication to our community and look forward to her educating our students about the Spanish language and culture.



What are you thankful for?

I am thankful for our kids! I think we have some of the best kids to be found. As a whole, our kids are respectful and try to do the right things. These qualities do not go unnoticed and are appreciated.

~ Mr King

I'm thankful for a return to normalcy, the return of the ability to do fun projects and assignments, and students with great attitudes.

~ Mrs Cloud-Johnson

I am thankful for all of the wonderful people at Cowan. This great community has been a huge part of my family for the last 32 years. I appreciate all of the love and the memories I will have.

~ Mrs Dabbs

I am certainly thankful for my family, the love of God and a school corporation that I enjoy working at and with!

~ Mr Groves

I am thankful for family, good health, and a job that I love coming to every day!

~ Mrs Abbott

I am thankful that I get to see my students' faces this year! I am also thankful for Cowan and my colleagues. CHS is a special place, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

~ Dr Conrad

I am thankful for the entire Cowan community. We have great students, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members. It truly is an amazing place and I am grateful to be a Blackhawk!

~ Mr Adams

I am thankful for healthy children, to be working much closer to my children and family, and for all of my family and friends who have been by my side through thick and thin!

~ Mr Lacey

I am thankful for my family. I am thankful for friends. I am thankful for open roads and time to run.

~ Mr Hanser

I am thankful for my family and the staff here at Cowan.

~ Mrs Weaver

I am thankful for all the blessings in my life.

~ Mrs Morgan



Homecoming for Mr. Lacey



During the summer of 2022, there was some movement within the administration team at Cowan Junior-Senior High School. With the assistant principal position open, Mrs. Crump and Mr. Adams worked quickly to find our new administrator and it did not take long for them to find the perfect fit. Mr. Joe Lacey was hired to be the new assistant principal at Cowan Junior-Senior High School on July 21st. Being a Cowan graduate and someone who already has so many connections within our community was a huge benefit and he hit the ground running and has immediately made an impact with our staff and students.

Mr. Lacey is a proud 1994 Cowan graduate and looks back on his time as a student with fond memories. “Even though I didn’t realize until I was older that I attended a ‘small’ school, I remember enjoying the environment and the fact that I knew most everyone in the building. I always felt that the teachers and staff members looked after the students and helped to take care of them. This was my safe place where most all of my friends were in classes with me.” Mr. Lacey says he loved sports and remembers the teams that he participated with during those high school years fondly. He added, “The times before and after practices and the bus rides back and forth to away games are some of the best memories that I still hang on to.” Mr. Lacey says that he cared about and respected all of his teachers and coaches and that is what ultimately led him to become a teacher himself. He says that while he liked all of his teachers, his favorite was Mrs. Collins because of the amount of time he spent with her when he was involved with band.

Mr. Lacey started his teaching career as a long-term substitute at Daleville days after his graduation from Ball State. That summer, he landed his first full-time teaching position at Delta High School where he taught business courses for 12 years. He moved on to become a teacher at Southwood and after a few years of teaching there, he was hired to become their assistant principal. Mr. Lacey says that he credits his interest in pursuing a career in administration to many different great teachers and administrators who he worked with over the years. “I always felt a drive to impact my students’ lives in a positive way, and I believe that as an administrator, you can help to impact every student who is in the building.”

Mr. Lacey said that he is very happy and proud to be back at Cowan Junior-Senior High School. He said that no matter where he has been in his career, he always kept an eye on Cowan to see how things were going and to see how our athletic teams were performing. He feels that coming back home has been an amazing experience. “My parents still live exactly two miles from this building, and all of my siblings live within 10 minutes of here. My daughter is a sophomore at New Castle, so I am thrilled that while I am here at work, she is about 20 minutes from me.” He says that the main thing that has changed is the employees and some aspects of the building. Mr. Lacey felt it was strange to walk around the halls again after so many years of being gone and trying to remember which classes he had in each room. He also said that the additions of the auxiliary gym, weight room, and central office along with the change in locations for the cafeteria, band room, choir room, and front office area makes the building feel a little different.



While certain things may have changed, Mr. Lacey says it feels great to be back home as a Blackhawk. “The people here could not have treated me better or welcomed me more warmly than what they have done so far, and for that I am very grateful.” Mr. Lacey has done an amazing job of getting to know our students in a short amount of time and is frequently seen mingling with the students at lunch or in the hallway to get to know them better. “I am excited to not only be back, but to be here in a role that will allow me to pour back into the community that raised me. I obviously feel that a lot of my personal foundations were formed in and around our school community, and I am thrilled to now be able to assist our current and future students form theirs.” Welcome home, Mr. Lacey!

Make it Count

8 TIPS TO MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

1

USE YOUR DAILY PLANNER

School is a busy time between classes, friends, extracurricular activities, studying, family, and much more. A daily planner will help keep everything in your life in order. Every assignment due date, test, deadline, or appointment will all be in one place. Stay organized so that you can keep up in your classes and still have fun!

2

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH TEACHERS

Your academic performance really matters. To excel in your classes – other than hard work and studying – is to respect and communicate with your teachers. Ask questions and thank your teachers at the end of class. Make an effort outside of class to connect with your teachers. Even if your peers make snarky comments or accuse you of trying to be a teacher's pet, at the end of the day, your teachers are the ones giving you your education. Not only will they be able to help you throughout your school career, but you'll also feel much more comfortable asking them to write the recommendations for your college or job applications.

3

FIND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Cowan has a lot of extracurriculars such as clubs, band, drama, student government, and sports teams. While this is a great time to try new things, figure out what your skills and interests are and also be willing to try activities that are new to you whether it's volunteering, a new sport, or a club. Successful high school students don't disappear outside the walls of their classroom. They are also engaged members of their community. Get involved with issues that impact your student experience. While too many activities can get in the way of homework, too few may negatively impact your school experience. It's better to be heavily involved and productive in a few outside activities than minimally involved in a lot.

4

MAKE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

Academic success is a huge part of school, but socialization is just as big. Your friends will help you have fun at school and get through any tough experiences life throws your way. Be kind to everyone you see. Making these friendships can be the determining factor between an isolating school experience full of drama or a positive one with meaningful connections. Branching out your social groups can mean making new friends that have different interests, talents, backgrounds, and values as you. By doing this, you are preparing yourself to meet different kinds of people when you go off to college or the workforce.

8 TIPS TO MAKE THE BEST OF YOUR HIGH SCHOOL YEARS

5

DON'T COMPARE YOURSELVES TO OTHERS

When it comes to grades and learning, comparison is usually a bad idea. Everyone has different strengths and weaknesses, so don't get nervous when yours don't align with the majority. Even though there will be some times when you do poorly and everyone else seems to do well, there will also be times when the opposite happens. Similarly, don't be discouraged if there is a subject or topic with which you are not completely comfortable. All students have academic weaknesses, but these can be overcome by working a little bit harder, asking plenty of questions, and getting extra help if necessary. You'll get the most satisfaction out of high school if you focus on the subject, people, and activities that feel right to you rather than spending time comparing yourself to others.

6

ASK FOR ADVICE

You might think that juggling all this by yourself is the sign of true strength and independence, but successful students are those who know how to use the resources available to them. Build strong relationships with teachers and peers, establish connections with learning resources, and connect with mentors to ensure you have a support system in place. Have confidence in reaching out to others for help! Don't wait until you're drowning to call for help; instead, let others know when you're worried or confused and let them help before it gets over your head. It's amazing to see how others will jump to help so don't hesitate to ask a teacher, parent, family member, or another student for some tips.

7

ENJOY THE RIDE

Your time at Cowan Junior-Senior High School will fly by. Take your time and don't let things get you down. The best memories are the ones you make with your friends on adventures, where nothing happens twice. Be the person who cheers for their team, asks someone to dance, and has fun with their friends. You can never have too many memories! Go on the field trip, by your yearbook and have your friends sign it, or go root on your fellow classmates at the basketball or volleyball game. These things are sometimes thought to be overhyped but the moment you graduate you'll suddenly realize how precious these memories are.

8

PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIP...

HAVE FUN!



NOW HIRING



Join Our Blackhawk Family

SPECIAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTIONAL AIDE GRADES 7-8

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

**LETTER OF INTEREST
COWAN EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION
RESUME**

**APPLICATION, ADDENDUM, & LIMITED CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND
CHECK AVAILABLE AT:**

[HTTPS://WWW.COWAN.K12.IN.US](https://www.cowan.k12.in.us)

APPLY TO:

**MR. BRENT ADAMS, PRINCIPAL
COWAN JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
9401 S. NOTTINGHAM STREET
MUNCIE, IN 47302**

BADAMS@COWAN.K12.IN.US

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: UPON FULFILLMENT
BEGIN DATE: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

COWAN



ATHLETICS

NOVEMBER SPORTS SCHEDULE

Friday, November 4th:

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball @ Alexandria 6:00 pm

Monday, November 7th:

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball @ Blackford 6:00 pm

Friday, November 11th:

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball vs Delta 6:00 pm

Saturday, November 12th:

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball vs Madison-Grant 6:00 pm

Monday, November 14th:

Junior High Boys Basketball @ Monroe Central 5:30 pm

Tuesday, November 15th:

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball @ Randolph Southern 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 16th:

Junior High Girls Basketball vs Randolph Southern 5:30 pm

Thursday, November 17th:

Junior High Girls Basketball @ Yorktown 5:30 pm

Junior High Boys Basketball vs Delta 5:30 pm

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball vs Eastern Hancock 6:00 pm

Saturday, November 19th:

Junior High Boys Basketball @ Wes-Del Invite 9:00 am

Varsity Boys Basketball @ MEC Jamboree TBD

Monday, November 21st:

Junior High Boys Basketball @ Muncie Burriss 5:30 pm

JV/Varsity Girls vs Elwood 6:00 pm

Tuesday, November 22nd:

JV/Varsity Boys Basketball @ Sheridan 6:00 pm

Saturday, November 26th:

JV/Varsity Boys Basketball vs Hagerstown 6:00 pm

Monday, November 28th:

Junior High Boys Basketball vs Blue River 5:30 pm

Junior High Girls Basketball vs Muncie Burriss 5:30 pm

Tuesday, November 29th:

Junior High Girls Basketball vs Wes-Del 5:30 pm

JV/Varsity Girls Basketball vs Union-Modoc 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 30th:

Junior High Boys Basketball @ Anderson Prep 5:30 pm

⚠ SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ⚠

ALL SPORTS PASSES ARE AVAILABLE NOW! CALL THE FRONT OFFICE AT 765-289-7128 FOR PRICES AND DETAILS