Culver Military Academy (CMA) established in 1894 and Culver Girls Academy (CGA) founded in 1971, together known as the Culver Academies, make up one of the leading private boarding schools in North America. We are located in Culver, Indiana on a beautiful 1800 acre campus on the shores of Lake Maxinkuckee. Enrollment is approximately 840 students, made up of about 57% boys and 43% girls in grades nine through twelve.

We admit students capable of pursuing a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum while becoming responsible citizens and leaders. Candidates are selected for their potential to meet Culver’s high academic standards and to contribute to Culver’s nationally-recognized leadership and extracurricular programs. The diverse student body includes representatives from 25 countries and 40 states.

Consistent with the Culver mission of educating students for leadership and responsible citizenship in society, we believe what distinguishes Culver from other secondary schools is the following. While we offer academic training and extracurricular opportunities that are second to none, Culver is the leader in delivering practical experience and instruction in leadership for all students and emphasizing high expectations for personal responsibility and integrity. The leadership principles we seek to teach and develop are those that apply to leaders in all walks of life.
At Culver, we are uniquely positioned to provide a wide variety of interscholastic athletic experiences to our students. Our teams compete at the national, the regional, and the state level. While there are distinct differences between these levels of competition, we wholeheartedly believe that we can provide a quality athletic experience for all of our students – regardless of which team they are a part of. Different doesn't mean more or less important. We are committed to providing the resources that each one of our teams needs to compete, and we will celebrate the successes that our teams enjoy – at all levels.

Total Number Of Sports: 34
Total Number Of Teams: 58

Multiple Levels Of Competition:
Novice, Freshman, Junior Varsity, Varsity, & Prep

The athletic experience at Culver is a small part of the student’s overall Culver Experience. We expect our Student-Athletes to pursue excellence in the areas of academics, leadership training, responsible citizenship, and athletics.

Success is defined by a team's ability to reach its potential, year by year. We will be successful because of how efficiently we train our Student-Athletes. We will be successful because we are more disciplined, because we are more technically sound, because we are more tactically sound, and because we are relentless competitors. We will do this while modeling the highest degree of sportsmanship at all times.

Connecting our Student-Athletes to their future is another core component of Culver’s Athletic Department. Each coaching staff will work in conjunction with the College Advising Department and the Sports Information Director to make sure that their Student-Athletes understand how to market themselves to collegiate programs at the appropriate competitive level for each Student-Athlete. We are not a “Division I or Bust” athletic model. Culver values the opportunities that exist for our student-athletes to thrive at all levels.
THE HOCKEY PROGRAM

The hockey programs at Culver in the modern era date to the building of the outdoor Vlasic rink in 1975. This was made possible by a lead gift from Robert J. Vlasic (CMA ’44), a successful businessman from Grosse Pointe, Michigan and former Culver Board member.

Culver offered hockey on natural ice in the early part of the 20th century. Early opponents were colleges, including Notre Dame. The legacy is a long one, but until Culver had the facilities to maintain ice in the face of uneven weather and temperatures, the program did not develop into a full-time offering.

The original rink, now named for former Coach J. Allan Clark, was enclosed in 1979. A second, Olympic-sized rink was added in 1998 as a multipurpose facility. We have invested regularly to improve our facility since it was built. With this two-rink facility, known as the Henderson Ice Arena, and the leadership of Coach Clark for forty years, our program has flourished.

Since its founding in 1975, the Culver hockey program has had over 200 players advance to NCAA hockey following graduation. Additionally, the hockey program has produced 26 NHL draft picks, a Stanley Cup Champion, a Calder Trophy recipient, a Hobey Baker Award winner, and several Olympians. Nationally recognized for more than 35 years, the hockey program at Culver has evolved from a perennial powerhouse in the world of prep school hockey to an annual contender for USA Hockey National Championships at the U18 and U16 age levels.
THE TEAMS

Prep (U18)
Our goal for the Prep team is to maximize the potential of each player in addition to teaching them how to compete as a team and to prepare them mentally and physically for post-secondary hockey experiences. The Prep team plays one of the most competitive Tier 1 schedules in the country. We play a 45 game schedule with timely high profile events such as the IIT in New Hope, Minnesota, a trip to The St. Andrews tournament in Toronto, and two trips to Massachusetts for high exposure events. The season concludes with the Mid-Am Regional U18 tournament and a trip to nationals if successful at the Regional level. The Prep team schedules eight home weekends per season. All home games are livestreamed for scouts and parents. Our recent success at the Prep level includes a #1 ranking at year’s end in 2018, an appearance in the USA Hockey National Championship game in 2016, and a semi-final berth in 2017.

U16
The U16 team is the entry point for most of our high end players and is the draw to come to Culver. We field a team of approximately 50% first year and 50% second year U16 players – some of which are recruited athletes. We always leave room for players to make the U16 team from other teams at Culver and for players just enrolling at Culver. The U16 schedule is a mixture of high-end USA hockey opponents and developmental games. We play the top U16 teams in the country as well as some Regional U16 teams. Our goal for the U16 team is to maximize the development of each player and to prepare him to have success at the next level. We played approximately four high exposure events last season, including the CCM World Invite in Chicago and the Green Puck in South Bend. The U16 season ends with the Mid-Am Regional and, when successful, the National Tournament.

Varsity A
The Varsity A team plays top high schools throughout the Midwest, including teams from Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and New York. Varsity A also competes in the Indiana State High School Hockey Association (ISHSHA) in pursuit of an Indiana State Championship. Culver has amassed 24 state championships with its latest title earned in 2019. The Varsity A team also hosts the annual Cornfield Cup, which brings in some of the top varsity programs in the Midwest.

Varsity B
The Varsity B team is a member of the ISHSHA and competes locally within the states of Indiana and Illinois, specifically against teams in the local high school hockey leagues. The Varsity B team focuses on development and uses a higher ratio of practices to games in order to better develop skills. The team plays a 25-30 game schedule with their season culminating in February at the ISHSHA playoffs. Most recently, the Varsity B team earned state runner-up honors in 2017.
THE COACHING STAFF

Head Coach (Prep) – Steve Palmer
Assistant Coach – Rene Chapdelaine

Head Coach (U16) – Steve Palmer
Assistant Coach – Paul Plaisir

Head Coach (Varsity A) – Jeff Henderson
Assistant Coach – Ian Speliotis

Head Coach (Varsity B) – Dan Davidge
Assistant Coach – Kevin Bowman

Goalie Coach (Boys & Girls) – Sebastian Ragno

“Culver helps a child grow into a value oriented adult with the ability to create positive habits in all areas of life.”

~Steve Palmer
THE CURRENT PHILOSOPHY

We have 7 practice habits that we hold our players accountable to every day:

**AWARENESS**
Move your head. Good players know what is going on everywhere, even behind them. You need 360 degree vision.

**PACE**
You must make plays on the run at full speed.

**PASS LIKE A PRO**
Make your teammates better receivers by making firm passes all the time. You should correct the pace of your pass long before your accuracy.

**SHUTTING DOWN AT BOTH NETS**
You should always shut down in the scoring areas, with the intent of scoring or eliminating second chance opportunities.

**SHOOT TO SCORE**
Every shot is a chance to score. Focus on a quick release, and put it in a good spot with pace.

**COMMUNICATE**
Eliminate confusion and indecision. Be loud.

**TRANSITION TO DEFENSE**
You are expected to transition to defense with effort and intensity.

Additionally, these 5 learning outcomes are emphasized on a regular basis:

1. We put players in situations to use their offensive awareness in practice. We also help them develop the skill set to make one touch plays, plays under sticks, plays in the air, plays out of their direct field of vision, indirect plays, and plays to areas.

2. Anticipate-Pressure-Recover (APR) is how we get pucks back. We teach players to anticipate and act (not read and react), which reduces opponents’ time and space.

3. When we win pucks, we want to keep them. Early in the season our defensemen are told not to rap pucks, but instead, to solve the problem. Our forwards are also told not to dump pucks, forcing them to find options or to become one. As long as they see the whole picture, our players shouldn’t be afraid to make a mistake.

4. Angling is the cornerstone of how we defend up ice. Often in practice, we prohibit our defensemen from skating backwards. As a result, our forwards and defensemen become experts in forward angling so they can pressure and recover.

5. Maintaining control during break-outs is another cornerstone of our practices. Creating good support instincts and head movement is essential.

*This information is included as a resource for our hockey candidates. It is not an attempt to mandate or influence a philosophy moving forward.*
JOHN W. HENDERSON ICE ARENA

Only a five minute walk from players’ living quarters, the Henderson Ice Arena provides a year-round facility for ice hockey, offering one NHL-sized rink and one Olympic-size rink. Currently, it is home to four CMA teams and one CGA team.

Culver student-athletes have access to a weight room contained within the facility courtesy of former NHL player John-Michael Liles (CMA ’99), and are a mere 50 yards away from the E.C. “Cuba” Smith Weight Room (AKA “The Wilk”) housed in the Steinbrenner Recreation Center, which is used for larger group strength and conditioning programs. The Henderson Ice Arena features a full service Athletic Training room, as well as an alumni/parent lounge for hosting pre and post-game events. Each team has it’s own locker room, and visiting team locker rooms are also on site.
The Olympic-sized rink has additional lines embedded beneath the ice width-wise, representing two standard-sized rinks. The added lines allow the hockey programs to simulate a variety of scenarios in practices and increase the players' repetitions each time they are on the ice.

In the off-season and summer, the Olympic-size rink area also doubles as a multipurpose practice facility for other sports and activities.

“Every practice and every game, you enjoy the rink because of the atmosphere it creates.”

~Timofey Spitserov ’21
THE JOB:
BOYS HOCKEY PROGRAM MANAGER

1. Examine, establish, gain approval, and clearly articulate the Mission and Vision for the CMA Hockey Program, wholly consistent with the mission and objectives of Culver. Work with the Athletic Director and Commandant of Cadets in this assignment.

2. Establish a true program rather than a collection of teams. Encourage and lead vertical alignment across teams (consistent with players’ abilities) in skill development, offensive/defensive systems, strength & conditioning, etc.

3. At Culver, we have four boys teams and anywhere from 90 to 105 kids in the program. We need someone who has the ability to find creative ways to meet all of their needs, including (but not limited to) scheduling equal ice time throughout the program.

4. Beginning when the first recruiting class enrolls, the program manager will likely serve as the Head Coach of the youngest USA Hockey Tier 1 team (U16).

5. Organize and lead an effective and targeted hockey recruitment program focused primarily on junior high-aged players and families. Recruit talented players of high character with financial incentive, if required, and build a core around them.

6. Work closely with the Director of Admissions as the hockey liaison to process applications, files, and financial aid allocations for recruited and non-recruited student athletes.

7. Meet with families and students with an interest in hockey when they visit Culver.

8. Travel extensively (mostly in the off-season) to identify and scout talent. Set an expectation within the coaching staff that all coaches will participate in the recruitment of prospective Student-Athletes.

9. Work closely with the Girls Hockey Program Manager. Actively promote cooperation and collaboration.

10. Lead the CMA Hockey coaching staff in an open and collaborative manner. With other appropriate faculty and staff, lead the recruitment and development of coaches – hiring, training, mentoring, and providing improvement-oriented feedback.

11. Understand that your coaches have other duties on campus. Help make required relationships and communications with non-hockey duties positive and collaborative.

12. Working in conjunction with the hockey coaching staff, ensure that students are fully involved in their non-hockey
responsibilities at Culver. Inform and consult with unit counselors if there are injuries, concerns, or problems with any Student-Athletes.

13. Collaborate with the Alumni Office to actively engage Culver Hockey alums.

14. Be keenly aware of what is going on at Culver Academies (besides hockey) in order to be a more effective recruiter and contributor to Culver. You will be assigned tasks such as barracks inspection, event supervision, academic supervision, etc. in order to establish and maintain a connection to the Culver Community.

15. Organize on-campus youth hockey exposure/open houses for the purpose of introducing prospective Student-Athletes to Culver Academies.

16. Organize hockey budgets, logistics scheduling, and business matters with appropriate Culver departments.

**IDEAL TRAITS & EXPERIENCE**

- Articulates and models leadership, character, and Culver values.
- Commands respect for the right reasons.
- Emphasizes safety, respect, sportsmanship, and personal responsibility.
- Inspires young people to be of high character and to achieve in life, as well as to achieve in hockey.
- Understands and advocates the value of education in general and Culver’s program specifically.
- As much a teacher and mentor as he is a coach.
- Has coached or played at a high level.
- Skilled tactician with demonstrated ability in developing individual skills.
- Has demonstrated success in motivating young men and teams to achieve.
- Gets energy from young men of this age. Goes the extra mile.
- Embraces the opportunity to influence the character development of the students.
- Is active in state, regional, and national programs as appropriate.
- Maintains relationships in NCAA DI-III and with junior hockey organizations to assist our players seeking to play at the next level.
- Is interested in the long-term development of our program.