

Principal's Message

If you would have told me in August that we would still be in school in April, I would have not believed you. I am so thankful every day that we have been able to keep our students in school. We look forward to finishing the year strong!

As we finish up these last few weeks, be looking for further information about performing arts concerts, athletic events, and end of year celebrations. Our hope is to provide some normalcy as we wind down the school year and still maintain social distancing.

ILEARN Testing is still occurring this year and begins Monday, April 19th. All hybrid students (6-8) will test on the following days that they are in person for their cohort group: April 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, and 28. Sixth

grade students will also test an additional two days (April 29 and 30).

All virtual students will test the weeks of May 3rd and 10th. Parents of virtual students received an email in order to sign up for your student's time slots. If you have questions about your time slots, please contact the Main Office.

Please be sure to avoid scheduling appointments on days students are testing.

I know I have said this so many times this year, but thank you again for all your support throughout the school year. On behalf of the staff at Carmel Middle School, we truly appreciate the kind words, words of

continues on page 2...

Let's go, Carmel Cougars!

FOR THE PARENTS, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND COMMUNITY OF CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cougar Connect

CARMEL MIDDLE SCHOOL



Administration

Mrs. Deanna Pitman
Mrs. Trudy Young
Mr. Dan Perdun
Mr. Darren Monke

Principal
Assistant Principal
Assistant Principal
Activities Director

Carmel

Middle School

300 South Guilford
Carmel, IN 46032
Phone: (317) 846-7331
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APRIL 2021

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Principal's Message

continued...

encouragement and patience as we worked through this unusual school year.

How is ILEARN used to assess students?

ILEARN is a summative assessment that measures student achievement and growth according to Indiana Academic Standards. ILEARN assessments are comprised of computer adaptive test segments and performance task segments. ILEARN must be administered to each student annually, according to ESSA. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) mandates that states assess students in the following subjects and grade levels:

- English/Language Arts (ELA) (Grades 3-8)
- Mathematics (Grades 3-8)
- Science (Grades 4 and 6)
- High School Biology

For additional information about ILEARN assessments, please visit The Indiana Department of Education's [ILEARN Family Brochure](#).

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CHROMEBOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

All CCS Chromebooks will be sent home with students grades K-8 over the summer. Students may continue to use Chromebooks for educational review over the break, if appropriate for your family. Please choose a safe place for the device and charger to be stored until we return in the fall.

Only those students not returning to Carmel Clay Schools next year will return their device. All others, regardless of a change in schools or grade level within the district will keep your assigned Chromebook.

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CALENDAR

Important Dates to Remember

- April 21Late Start
- May 5.....Late Start
- May 19.....Late Start
- May 26.....Student Last Day/End of Semester

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Well Cougars, we are in the final stretch of this most challenging year. Sometimes when you get near the end of a race, it's easy to lose focus. I know a lot of you are restless with all of the restrictions that we have had, and are looking forward to getting away for Spring Break, and then the Summer as well. I need you to stay focused on your safety now more than ever. All of the measures that we've discussed over the years, like always being aware of your surroundings, or always saying something to a trusted adult when you see something that's not right, apply now more than ever. It is important to me that you stay safe, so do everything in your power to do so. If you are ever in doubt about the right thing to do, think to yourself "what would Officer Broadnax have me do," then act. I love you all.

DROP OFF ITEMS

You will now find a cart in the entry way to drop off student items. Please let your student know you are dropping off an item for them. Your student will then be responsible for coming to the front office to pick up their item.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

A transportation change (ride your bus/carpool pickup) can be communicated directly with your child via phone/text. If you are unable to notify your child directly, you may call the Main Office and we will get a note to your child.



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STUDENT SERVICES

Virtual Students

Join your counselor or social worker for a Zoom Workshop. Between now and at the end of the school year, you will have the opportunity to meet with your counselor or social worker and classmates via zoom to wrap up the year and plan for next year. Look for the Zoom invitation to come your way soon. Everyone is expected to participate in this opportunity to connect, ask questions, and discuss your concerns.

Teaching Resilience

Resilience is, arguably, an essential life skill. It allows us to learn from past mistakes, adjust our strategies, and try again. The question is: can you teach resilience?

Individuals recuperating from certain medical conditions might be referred to a Physical Therapist to assist with their recovery. The Physical Therapist will determine where that individual is currently functioning and push them to the edge of their competence—where they are challenged but also sure to succeed. Not only does this build confidence but it allows the individual to work toward an acceptable level of functioning. This technique is called “work hardening.”

I couldn't help but wonder how that concept might apply to students. Maybe “work hardening” would involve exposing students to the right amount of challenge, increasing the difficulty level bit by bit, and helping them identify their strengths. For example, suppose a student has three homework questions: one easy, one more difficult, and one requiring higher order thinking skills. Begin with the question that allows the student to succeed while identifying the specific skills needed to answer correctly. After those skills are applied to the second, more difficult question, problem-solve with the student what skills will be needed to answer the final question. Take time to remind the student of the skills demonstrated throughout the first two questions. Finally, praise the student for applying their knowledge to the last question.

The key to “work hardening,” is beginning at the edge of competence. No student wants to continue working when he or she doesn't believe they can be successful. Teaching resilience means engaging or re-engaging students who no longer feel confident in their abilities. Reminding students of the skills they have already demonstrated goes a long way to encouraging resilience.

Submitted by Kymberle Roberts, CaMS school psychologist
With thanks to Jerome Schultz, PH. D, on building resilience.



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SUMMER MEALS REGISTRATION

Parents/Legal Guardians,

Carmel Youth Assistance (CYAP) is partnering with local organizations including St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Orchard Park Presbyterian Church, Merciful H.E.L.P. Center, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, and Carmel Rotary to provide Carmel Clay Schools families with the opportunity to be part of the Carmel Summer Meals Program. The goal of this program is to provide children who qualify for the federal free/reduced meal program in the Carmel community with food items to supplement breakfast and lunch items they would typically receive during the school day.

For the first half of the summer, Carmel Clay Schools will be preparing and distributing meals as a continuation of the program they ran during the school year.

Every Wednesday between **JUNE 2ND - JUNE 26TH PICK UP AT CARMEL HIGH SCHOOL** (located at 520 E Main St, Carmel). Details about pick-up time will be sent out in the coming months.

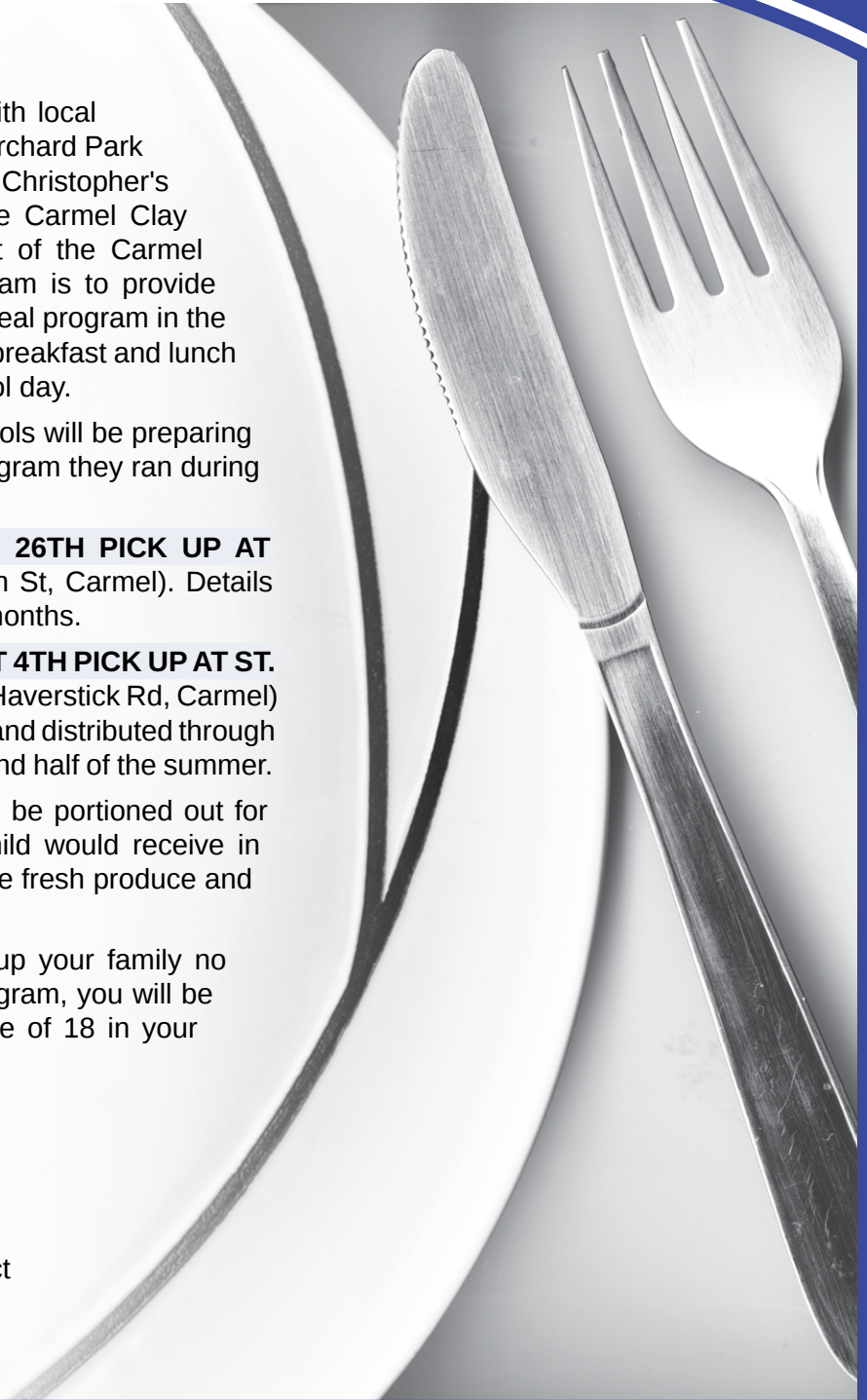
Every Wednesday between **JUNE 30TH - AUGUST 4TH PICK UP AT ST. ELIZABETH SETON CHURCH** (located at 10655 Haverstick Rd, Carmel) between 4:30-6:30pm. Meals/items will be packed and distributed through the Carmel Youth Assistance Program for the second half of the summer.

Please note, during the month of June, items will be portioned out for each child and be similar to a hot-meal your child would receive in school. During the month of July, there will be more fresh produce and less premade meals.

To be part of this free program, you must sign up your family no later than **May 1, 2021**. If you register for this program, you will be receiving food items for each child under the age of 18 in your household beginning June 2nd – August 4th.

- ENGLISH REGISTRATION– <https://forms.gle/xYzAFmRACDV9GSDt7>
- SPANISH REGISTRATION– <https://forms.gle/MHuzADkLiiUhzMYU8>

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your school social worker or Emily Timmins at etimmins@ccs.k12.in.us.



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MAY CAREER LESSON

During the month of May we will have our annual career lesson posted in Canvas. The first lesson posted will be required, so please be sure your student completes the lesson for their grade level. Ask them about what careers they learned more about, or what they might be interested in pursuing in the future. The following lessons will be about what steps they may need to take to get to the career they want! Below is a link to learn more about planning for careers and college!

<https://learnmoreindiana.org/>

VIRTUAL LEARNING

If your student is having technical issues with their Chromebook, please visit the Carmel Middle website parent page and click on Virtual Learning Support to fill out a support ticket. The link is: <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/parents> Our technical support team will reach out to you in order to repair or exchange the Chromebook.

If your student is having trouble connecting to Zoom meetings or understanding where to find assignments in Canvas, please have your student message their teacher directly via Canvas.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

24-hour Attendance Voice Mail: (317) 846-7331

Please call **before 9:00 AM** and select **OPTION 1** if:

- Your student will be **ABSENT**.
- Your student will be **LATE**. Note: Students must arrive by 12:00 PM to participate in an extracurricular activity.
- Your student is leaving school **EARLY**.

To Leave a Message:

1. Say and spell the student's last name.
2. Say the first name.
3. State the reason for absence, late arrival or early dismissal.
4. State the pick-up time for early dismissal.

Note: A late phone call is better than no phone call. Call with attendance changes any time of day.

Please remember to return a doctor's note for students that have arrived late or left early for an appointment.



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PTO

During the March PTO meeting we were joined by many parents. In addition to our typical agenda items we were delighted to hear from our Student Services (Counseling) department regarding a wide range of student topics as well as an update regarding our Ascension partnership. Spring weather and your CaMS PTO are definitely in "full swing" with activities! In March we celebrated our Food Service staff with gifts of appreciation from Starbucks along with much needed sanitizers. We have set up one of our last dine-out nights of the year on April 20th at Carmel's Fat Dan's Deli! Make sure to follow Carmel Middle School PTO's Facebook page for updates on these events and much more! Big thanks go out to Laura Roth and Jessica Barrett for all the time they give to our students and staff.

Quick Quiz Question: Did you know that your PTO provides teacher appreciation gifts each month of the school year? Thankful Thursday is the last Thursday of each month when your PTO provides small gifts from goldfish crackers to candy bars to our teachers and staff!

We are still looking for volunteers for the 2021-2022 school year. Please consider reaching out to find your spot! We need your help! CarmelMSPTO@gmail.com.

ATHLETICS

It is great to see students participating spring sports! The baseball, softball, and track teams have been preparing to compete since mid-March. The six-week season is filled with many opportunities to support Carmel Middle student-athletes. Schedules can be found in the link below. A reminder that all tickets are purchased electronically through GoFan. Information regarding fall athletics will be made available in May!

[Spring Athletic Schedule](#)

[Carmel Athletics: GoFan Tickets & Venue Details](#)



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IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE TO BE A 21ST CENTURY SCHOLAR?

You can enroll your child as a 21st Century Scholar from the time they enter 7th grade to June 30th of their 8th grade year. To apply for the 21st Century Scholars program, your student must:

- Be a resident of Indiana, both when applying and when receiving the scholarship (determined by the residency of the parent or legal guardian).
- Be one of the following:
 - ◊ U.S. citizen or U.S. national (includes natives of American Samoa or Swain’s Island)
 - ◊ U.S. permanent resident who has an I-151, I-551 or I-551C (Alien Registration Receipt Card)
 - ◊ **A non-citizen** with one of the following designations (*Un no ciudadano con cualquier de las designaciones que siguen*):
 - » Refugee
 - » Asylum Granted
 - » Indefinite Parole and/or Humanitarian Parole
 - » Cuban-Haitian Entrant, Status Pending
- Be enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade at an Indiana public or private school accredited by the Indiana Department of Education.
 - ◊ Children in foster care may apply after the 8th grade.
 - ◊ Homeschooled students are not eligible for the 21st Century Scholars program.

Be a member of a family that meets the income eligibility guidelines. See chart below for current income guidelines. *Note: students must meet income eligibility guidelines at time of enrollment and each year of college. Learn more about the financial guidelines for college students in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).*

- A student in foster care does not need to meet this requirement.
- A student in 7th or 8th grade who is in legal guardianship does not need to meet this requirement.

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	MAXIMUM ANNUAL INCOME
2	\$31,894
3	\$40,182
4	\$48,470
5	\$56,758
6	\$65,046
7 or more	For each additional person, add \$8,288

Submit an Application

Get started at **ScholarTrack.IN.gov**. You will need to provide your name and an email address to create a ScholarTrack account. Click on “My Account” to submit an application.

You will receive an email with an application summary and program enrollment information after the application is received. All applications to the 21st Century Scholars program must be submitted before June 30 of the eligible student’s 8th-grade year.

Before you apply, make sure you have the following:

- Student Social Security number, date of birth and address
- Parent or guardian’s Social Security number, or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number if applicable
- Previous year gross income amounts for all members of the household (Example: if you are applying after December 31, 2020, use 2020 amounts).
- A valid email address. Free email addresses are available from Yahoo!, Gmail and Live.
- Court documents, if submitting a legal guardianship application.

During the application process, you will:

- Answer pre-enrollment questions
- Enter student contact information (address, phone, email, school information and SSN)
- Agree to the 21st Century Scholar Pledge
- Enter income information for parent or guardian
- Review and submit application