

Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year!

Although this school year will certainly look different than in years past, we are so excited to be able to see some of our students back in the hallways and others through the screens of Chromebooks. I never thought this would be something I would ever have to say to our families at the beginning of a school year. This summer has brought on a lot of difficult decisions for our families and I know there is a lot of anxiety and fear as we approach this school year. Please know we are working hard to follow and implement the safety guidelines within our building set forth by local health and state officials. Together, with patience and understanding, we will get through this.

Each student, in person and virtual, will have a Chromebook assigned to them and they will be used on a daily basis. For those attending in person, these Chromebooks will be taken home as well each day. Although the Chromebooks are assigned to each student for the year, they are still property of the school and should be handled as such. Our teachers have been working hard this summer on their Canvas pages to ensure all students and parents have easy access to information. Each teacher will implement a consistent template to help navigate announcements, assignments and daily instruction. We look forward to seeing a more streamlined process for our students.

continued on next page...

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 *Principal*
Mrs. Trudy Young *Assistant Principal*
Mr. Dan Perdun *Assistant Principal*
Mr. Darren Monke *Activities Director*

Carmel

Middle School

300 South Guilford
Carmel, IN 46032
Phone: (317) 846-7331
Fax: (317) 571-4067

AUGUST 2020

Volume 4 Issue 1

Principal's Message

continued...

Each year, we develop a school improvement plan that includes goals and action plans. Last year, we developed a three-year plan in the areas of technology, responsive instruction, social emotional learning and identity safe classrooms. We will continue this year with an intense focus on social emotional learning and identity safe classrooms. Our students are going through unprecedented times and our goal is to listen, understand and support them as much as we possibly can.

Just like you, we are not sure what this year will bring us. We are ready to adjust at any time if needed. Our school motto this year is One School, One Family...Sharing our Stories Together. We strongly believe we are a family here at Carmel Middle School and each one of us brings a different story to our family. Together, we will get through this as one school, one family.

Are you a Parent, Guardian, or Teacher of a Carmel Middle School Student? Congratulations, you are members of the Carmel Middle School Parent Teacher Organization! While that seems simple, this is the way we intended it to be – simple. Your organization provides much-needed support to the Students, Teachers, and Staff at Carmel Middle School. In conjunction with guidance from our beloved Principle Pitman, the PTO has already been discussing and helping to support our CaMS community throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

With the utmost respect to the current 'times' - our challenge has grown tremendously. We intend to help support our students and staff within the confines of our building as well as virtually. Whether we are providing teacher and staff support, or simply recognizing our essential transportation and custodial crews, there is no doubt that your child is impacted by the PTO. Your PTO also reaches into and supports a multitude of extracurricular clubs and will be providing an additional backup role to help with the school's activities' changing needs. Again, your student truly benefits from your PTO – Please financially support and try to keep us 'top-of-mind'.

You may be wondering how you can personally help your student and our Middle School Community. First of all – we ask for each family to donate



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PTO

\$40 or more to your organization – [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#). We only average about 43% participation in this (our primary) fundraiser. We strongly encourage and need your participation in order to confidently support our anticipated needs this year. Secondly, consider signing up to volunteer. Currently, we are looking for Book Store and Media Center support – [CLICK HERE TO ADD YOUR NAME TO THE VOLUNTEER LIST](#). Thirdly –

Please be patient and appreciative of the Administration and Staff as we all are undertaking unprecedented challenges and planning going into the new school year. Know that your PTO has open, often, and direct communication with our principal and staff. They know we are here to help. We will be needing you, more than ever, to afford your time and charitable donations now & throughout the year. As needs develop and change we feel comforted knowing that we have a strong base of dedicated parents and guardians ready to step up to the plate in support of our community.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR PTO

- **DINE OUT NIGHTS** – Purchase food from a participating restaurant on a given night. Notify them you are supporting Carmel Middle School PTO. They will provide a percentage of the sales back to your PTO! Our first dine-out is at Noble Romans Pizza – Carry Out or Delivery – August 14th from 4 pm to 6 pm – Carmel Location
- **KROGER PLUS** – Through Kroger Community Rewards, the CaMS PTO earns rewards on all eligible purchases you make with your Kroger Plus Card. Register online at krogercommunityrewards.com. (The Carmel Middle School PTO number is #83337.)
- **AMAZON SMILES** – Do you shop Amazon.com? If so, your personal shopping can help raise money for the CaMS PTO! Through the Amazon Smile program, CaMS PTO receives a percentage from all purchases made. To register, go to the link on the Carmel Middle School PTO web page for the Amazon Smile program.
- **PANTRY PACKS** – With the changing times, we are currently needing your financial support for your Pantry Packs Program. Pantry Packs provides needed food and snacks to CaMS students identified through our counseling center. We are trying to limit the “touches” on actual food products at this time. So please [CLICK HERE TO DONATE](#) to your Pantry Packs Program.
- **KEEP UP-TO-DATE and STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOUR PTO** – Stay informed on CaMS PTO happenings & ways you can help support our students & staff by regularly checking the CaMS PTO web site at <http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/cam/pto>. On Facebook, find us at www.facebook.com/Carmel-Middle-School-PTO-173571263236536/ and on Twitter, check us out at @CaMSPTO to receive immediate updates on CaMS happenings.

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STUDENT SERVICES

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! We are so excited to be working with you and your child. We are here to support your family throughout the school year. Your student can access their social worker or counselor daily through canvas or our google signup sheet on the Student Services web page. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Cheyenne Walker
School Counselor
8th grade A-L, 6th grade
cwalker@ccs.k12.in.us

Tanya Garber
Social Worker
8th grade A-L, 6th grade
tgarber@ccs.k12.in.us

Christine Winger
School Counselor
8th grade M-Z, 7th grade
cwinger@ccs.k12.in.us
Connie Peregrin
Social Worker
8th grade M-Z, 7th grade
cperegrin@ccs.k12.in.us

We know that many students and parents may be feeling anxious about coming back to school. As a school district we are working together and taking the necessary precautions to keep students safe and help everyone feel comfortable at school. The article listed below gives parents some helpful tips and strategies to address your students' mental health needs as they return. If you have any questions or concerns about how to support your child please feel free to reach out to our student services department.

Pantry Pack Program

The Student Services Department, with the help of the PTO, is offering the pantry pack program this school year. Pantry packs provide food for Carmel Middle School students over the weekend. Participation in the program is completely confidential and only Student Services is aware of who is participating. Social workers place disposable bags of food in the participating student's locker every Friday. Students will not return bags to school on Monday as in the past. We will use safety precautions when packing and distributing food items.

Please use the link to register your child for the Pantry Pack Program: <https://forms.gle/n6AUysh7NsLtC7HWA>.

Supporting your child's mental health as they return to school during COVID-19

<https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/supporting-your-childs-mental-health-during-covid-19-school-return>

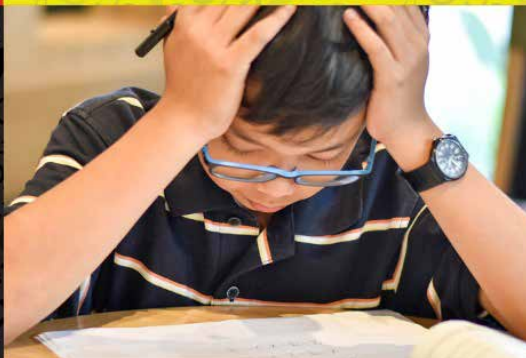
Homework Strategies to Start the New Year

From Miss Roberts, *School Psychologist*

Welcome back to school, Carmel Cougars! The staff at Carmel Middle School is excited to see everyone back in the classroom this August. As we enter a new school year, the following tips may be beneficial in helping students build strong study habits for completing school work at home.

1. **Create a Designated Study Area-** Create your own study area to train your brain to concentrate on the information that you are studying. Designate one room or area as "your space." Store everything you will need to complete assignments- your Chromebook, paper, pencils, highlighters, etc. Having materials readily accessible will help you enter "study mode" quickly. Limiting your time in this area to when you need to study, not using the

[continued on next page...](#)



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STUDENT CALENDAR

Important Dates to Remember

AUGUST 14PTO Dine-out 4pm to 6pm
 Noble Romans
 1438 W. Main Street
 Carmel, IN

August 26Late Start

SEPTEMBER 7 Labor Day – No School

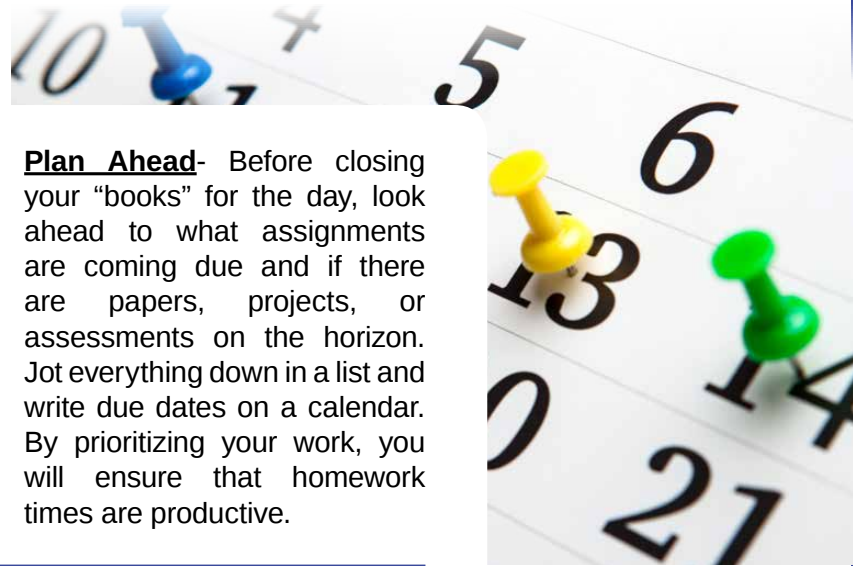
September 9Late Start

September 23Late Start

OCTOBER 7Late Start

October 14.....End of Quarter

October 15 & 16 Fall Break – No School



same area to play video games, tells your brain that everything read in that space is important and it needs to pay attention while you're sitting at that table.

2. **Red Light System**- Just like traffic signals cue drivers to the rules of the road, using similar visual cues can let others know when you need to study or complete an assignment. You'll need a red, yellow, and green item. For example, you might set colored cups on the corner of your study area, tape colored paper or sticky notes to your door, or wear a colored t-shirt. Brothers and sisters will soon recognize the meaning of each color. For example:

- **Red** - You cannot be interrupted unless it's a true emergency.
- **Yellow** - Your assignment is important. If a question or statement can wait, then please wait; however, you can briefly be available if someone needs you.
- **Green** - You are available and would not mind interruptions.

3. **Block Scheduling**- If you can remember back to February and March, you might remember that the block schedule at Carmel Middle helped you focus on one subject at a time. This can help you complete homework assignments too! By blocking out hours to study, you are reminding yourself that assignments need to be completed. Block scheduling leads to a consistent routine and that leads to productivity!

4. **Plan Ahead**- Before closing your "books" for the day, look ahead to what assignments are coming due and if there are papers, projects, or assessments on the horizon. Jot everything down in a list and write due dates on a calendar. By prioritizing your work, you will ensure that homework times are productive.

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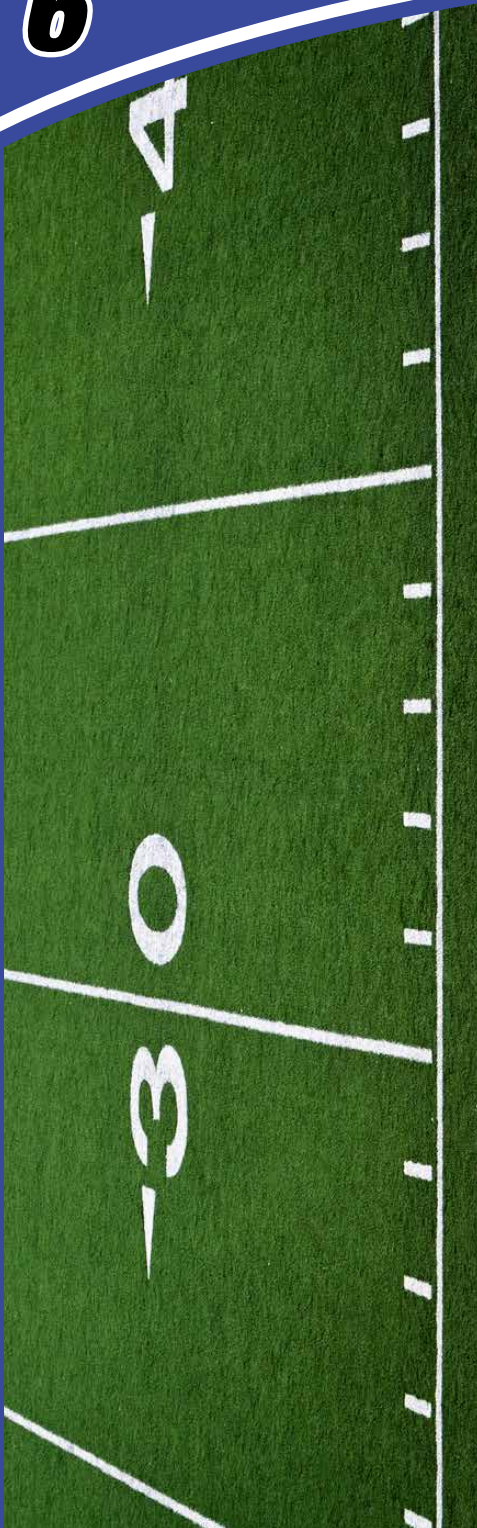
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ATHLETICS

The athletic department is eager to get students back safely playing the sports they love. To ensure your athlete is ready to participate, please be sure to complete the three required forms. All student athletes must have the forms completed prior to the first day of participation. We also encourage you to visit team webpages for details and contact information for coaches. Looking forward to a safe and successful fall season!

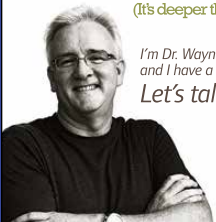
- **Physical Form:** 2019-2020 Physical Forms are valid for the 2020-2021 school year. Reference your PowerSchool account to verify you have a physical on file.
- **Health History Update:** Form was recently added by the IHSAA. Please complete a hard copy and submit to the athletic office.
- **Required Athletic Forms**
<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/cam/athletics/required-forms>
- **2020-2021 Online Consent Form**
<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/crm/athletics/required-forms>
- **Team Webpages**
<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/cam/athletics/teams>
- **Carmel Athletics Return to Play Guidelines - Phase 2**
<https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1595601873/ccsk12inus/qjcfnfepbthr9mwbmswa/Carmel-Athletics-Return-to-Play-Guidelines-Phase2.pdf>

GO Carmel Cougars!!!



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SRO MESSAGE

Hello Cougar Families,

It's getting close to school starting again, and I'm super excited! I can't wait to see all of my Cougars. As always, I'm constantly thinking about safety, and what I can do to keep our kids safe. A really timely subject that I have had the unfortunate pleasure of investigating this Summer has been inappropriate images being sent and received by dozens of our CCS students. This topic is part of the Curriculum that we talk with our kids about starting in Elementary School, and continue through High School. Unfortunately, with the way the Teen Brain develops, the message and lesson doesn't always stick. I want to implore you to continue having these difficult conversations with your Teen about appropriate behavior online, and the everlasting consequences of poor choices. I also want you to really think if your child can handle the pitfalls that come with having Social Media.



Officer Broadnax



ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

**24-HR
ATTENDANCE
VOICE MAIL
(317) 846-7331**

Please call before 8:00 AM and select **OPTION 1** if:

- Your student will be **ABSENT**.
- Your student will be **LATE**.
Note: Students must arrive by 11:30 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.

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2020-2021
CARMEL MIDDLE
SCHOOL YEAR



CARMEL CLUBS & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alliance | Intramurals |
| Academic Team | Jazz Band |
| Art Club | Magic the Gathering Club |
| Best Buddies | MATHCOUNTS |
| Book Club | Minecraft Club |
| Chamber Orchestra | National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) |
| Chess Club | Pep Band |
| Coding & Robotics Club | Ping Pong Club |
| Comic Book Club | Sci-Fi Film Club |
| C.O.R.E. Club | Student Government |
| Cougar Cooks | Vista Core |
| CRU | Young Writers Club |
| Drama Club | Volleyball Club |
| French Club | Winter Run Club |
| G.E.E.K. | Woodwind Ensemble |
| German Club | |
| Green Team | |
| Guys That Sing | |
| Harry Potter Club | |

Consider joining one of our many club or student organization this year!

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