

# Principal's Message

Welcome back to school! I hope you were able to enjoy your summer and find time to relax and unwind.

As we approach the start of the school year, we are planning some fun activities to welcome our students and get to know each other. This will be so important as we have students new to the district joining us as well as students who were redistricted. We also will be welcoming back our virtual students. Regardless if you are new to Carmel Middle or have been here a year or two, we are so excited to have ALL students back into the building together.

As a part of our welcome back activities, each student will receive a new Carmel Middle School t-shirt. A HUGE thank you to our PTO who stepped up to purchase these

shirts for our students. Students will receive their shirts on the first day of school and will be expected to wear them the second day as a part of our back to school activities. We love our PTO! Please be sure to donate to this supportive group as they do so much to assist our students and staff members.

Communication is a priority and we will be sending biweekly emails to you with updated information and important reminders. Please be sure to look for these emails as well as our newsletters. Also, if you haven't done so, please be sure to become an observer of your student's Canvas pages where you will also find updated information from your student's teachers as well as be able to see assignments. Schedules and grades can be found in PowerSchool.

*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  
Fax: (317) 571-4067

## AUGUST 2021

## Volume 5 Issue 1



## Principal's Message

*continued...*

We know that many of you have some worries about the return to school full time. If you have questions, concerns or need to seek some support for your child, please do not hesitate to reach out to administration, our Student Services team or your student's team. We are here to help you!

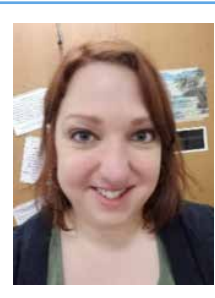
We are ready for a fantastic school year!

# WELCOME

**TO OUR  
NEW STAFF!**

### Kristin Anderson

I will be teaching journalism courses this year, including digital media, newspaper, and yearbook. This is my second year at Carmel Middle School. Last year, I taught 6th grade social studies. I graduated from Butler University with a bachelor's and master's degrees in education. In my free time, I love to read many different genres, but I especially like historical fiction. I also like to do genealogical research, which is an interest I share with my family in northern Indiana.



### Erin Benning

I am excited to be teaching 7th Grade ELA and Honors ELA for the first semester this year. I have worked as an IA in Carmel Clay Schools for the last three years, and I previously taught Middle and High School Social Studies in Louisiana and Texas. I have two kids, a 7th grader at CAM and a sophomore at CHS.



### Emily Ehrgott

This is my 8th year teaching art and my 2nd year teaching art at Carmel Middle School. I was the perm sub at CAM for 2 years before that and previously taught elementary art for 6 years. I took off some time to raise my kids and I spent 3 years as the Executive Director at the Carmel Clay Historical Society. I enjoy being pool-side, shopping, interior design, painting and creating and especially going to my kids' baseball games. I have 3 kids that attend Carmel schools, a 6th grader at Carmel Middle and a freshman and junior at Carmel High School. I am looking forward to creating art with the students at Carmel Middle School this year.



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**Stephani Madl**

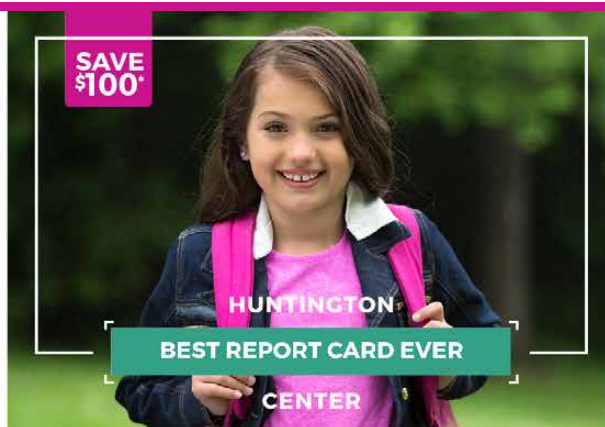
Hi! My name is Stephanie Madl. I will be a Wellness Teacher for 6th grade. I am a recent Butler University graduate; I majored in Human Movement Health Science and Education and minored in Sport Coaching and Recreational Sport Studies. Throughout my time in college, I have worked closely with Butler's Football Program and I will continue to assist them for this upcoming season! I really enjoy the outdoors and I love baking! I hope to instill a positive lifelong fitness mindset in my students! I look forward to working with my students this semester and to have a lot of fun in the classroom and the gymnasium!

**Kristen Milewski**

I lived in Southern California most of my life and moved to Carmel in 2018. I graduated from San Diego State University with a degree in Liberal Studies (their name for Education) and received my master's degree from CSU Fullerton in Educational Leadership. I have 3 daughters and have been married for 7 years. My twins will be starting Kindergarten at Towne Meadow this year and my preschooler will start in the Edu-Care here at CMS. I enjoy cooking, watching movies, and spending time with family and friends. I have been teaching Special Education for 14 years. This year, I will be teaching 6th grade Resource. I am looking forward to a great year and learning all about Carmel Middle School!

**Anna McConnell**

My name is Anna McConnell and I'm thrilled to be joining the Carmel Middle School team this year as a 6th Grade Science teacher. I graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Elementary Education in 2011. For the first five years of my teaching career, I taught early childhood classes in Chicago, Bangor, Maine, and Indianapolis. For the last five years I was a fourth-grade teacher at West Lafayette Intermediate School. My husband and I recently relocated to the Carmel area with our two young children, and I'm excited for the opportunity to work in this community. I'm eager to get this school year started at Carmel Middle!



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## 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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## 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.



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## PTO

The Carmel Middle School PTO's goal is to enhance and enrich the school experience for our students and support our teachers and staff. As you have a student at Carmel Middle School, you are already a member! The PTO funds various programs that directly impact students and provide additional resources to support the amazing work our teachers do every day. None of this is possible without funds and volunteerism – without you! The PTO is already busy getting ready for the 2021-2022 school year. We are going to make it the best year possible!!

The PTO is not asking families to sell anything. Instead, we ask for a **\$40 per family donation**. [Click to donate](#). We thank you in advance for your support!

The PTO is proud to fund the "Back To School Together" t-shirts for all the students and be part of the excitement of everyone coming back to school.

Please check out and follow our Facebook page [Carmel Middle School PTO](#) or [@CaMSPTO](#) to keep up with the most current information.

Please visit the [PTO website](#) to view more information about the PTO.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING PTO EVENTS:

- Dine to Donate @ Tropical Sno: August 18**  
 From 3pm-9pm on August 18 stop by the Tropical Sno stand at 452 East Carmel Drive for the monthly Dine to Donate night. It's an easy way to support Carmel Middle School PTO. When you place your order, make sure to tell the cashier that you are there to support the CaMS PTO and a percentage of the proceeds go back to our PTO.
- Back to School Student Social: September 22**  
 Hosted after school, right before a home football game, this fun event includes food & fun activities for all participating students. More information to come.

The PTO is still in need of more volunteers! If interested please fill out our [volunteer form](#).

Laura Roth, PTO President

### Follow CaMS PTO on Social Media



Like & Follow us on Facebook!



On **Twitter**, check us out at: [@CaMSPTO](#) to receive immediate updates on CaMS happenings.



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# CALENDAR

## Important Dates to Remember

Aug 9 . . . . . All Grades Make-up Orientation (3-5 pm)

Aug 12 . . . . . First Student Day

Aug 18 . . . . . 7th & 8th Grade Meet the Teacher Night

Aug 25 . . . . . Late Start

Aug 25 . . . . . 6th Grade Meet the Teacher Night

Sept 2 . . . . . Fall Sports Pictures (After School)

Sept 6 . . . . . Labor Day Holiday-No School

Sept 8 . . . . . Late Start

Sept 21 . . . . . Picture Retake Day

Sept 22 . . . . . Late Start

Oct 6 . . . . . Late Start

Oct 13 . . . . . End of Quarter

Oct 14 & 15 . . . . Fall Break-No School



## 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**.

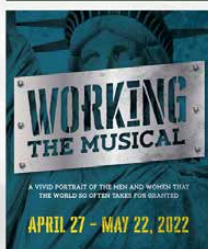
**To Leave a Message:**

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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## ATHLETICS

### Required Forms

Register My Athlete is now open for the 2021-2022 school year. All CCS Athletic Departments use the online platform for families to upload physical forms and complete consent forms necessary to participate in athletics. There is no need to submit hard copies to school. Please find the instructions in the link below and contact Darren Monke with any questions. *All forms must be completed, uploaded, and accepted prior to the first day of participation in Carmel Middle Athletics. All Physical Forms must be completed after April 1, 2021.*

### Get Started:

- [Register My Athlete](#)
- [Register My Athlete Instructions](#)
- [IHSA Physical Form \(2021-2022\)](#)

### All Sports Pass & Paw Pal Booster Club

Interested in an all sports pass or becoming part of the booster club? Passes are good for all regular season home athletic events. You may purchase through [Carmel Middle's GoFan Page](#).

**GO Carmel Cougars!!**



## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Well Cougars, I am so happy to welcome you all back! I am looking forward to more of a normal year. With safety always being in the forefront of my mind, last year's unique challenges forced us to look at safety differently. I'm happy to say that this different perspective helped us to think of ways to help keep our beloved Carmel Middle School even safer. With that being said, I want all of us to maintain that mindset of looking at our safety from different perspectives, and sharing when we don't think something is safe, or could be safer. Remember, we are all Cougars now, and in this together.

With love,  
Officer Broadnax

## CARMEL ATHLETICS: PURCHASE TICKETS HERE



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## STUDENT SERVICES

**Navigating through middle school- it can be a rocky road!**— As our middle school parents know, academics aren't the only challenge of middle school. There are also numerous social challenges that also often add stress to your child's day. While some of the middle school "drama" may seem silly, it is not silly to your child. At this age, fitting in becomes a very big deal. And with so many changing emotions, small things really can seem like "the end of the world". That's why your child needs your support now more than ever. As we transition to a full school day schedule and in-class learning, supporting your student through this transition is a crucial part of the healthy development of your middle school child.

**Staying Connected**— one of the best things you can do for your child is to keep your communication open. Let your child know you're there for him or her no matter what. When he or she opens up, listen without criticizing or judging. When possible, help your child find ways to work out the problems he or she is facing. For example, if your child doesn't fit in with one group, suggest ways he or she could make other friends, such as joining a school club or sport.

### School Social Workers:

Tanya Garber  
Connie Peregrin

**Decisions, Decisions**— Teaching your child to make good choices is another way to help him or her deal with negative peer pressure. Start by instilling good values, which are the basis for good decision-making skills. Talk about characteristics you value, such as respect for differences, honesty, and helping others. Also, teach your child to stop and think before he or she acts. Explain how to think through possible options and the pros and cons of each before making a choice. Sometimes, you can use situations in a movie, a TV show, or book as a way to start a conversation about choices.

Remember, the Carmel Middle School Student Services Department is always available to you and your child to help through this often turbulent time. If you are worried about something regarding your child's experience here at Carmel, please do not hesitate to give us a call or email us. We are happy to offer help or a friendly ear.

### School Counselors:

Cheyenne Walker - 6th Grade (A-L) & 7th Grade  
Christine Winger - 6th Grade (M-Z) & 8th Grade

### School Psychologist:

Kym Roberts

## YEARBOOK

Don't miss out on the opportunity to own a piece of history in a year unlike any other! The Vista, Carmel Middle's award-winning, all-color yearbook, is still available for purchase. Available quantity is limited, so act now! Visit [www.yearbookordercenter.com](http://www.yearbookordercenter.com) use code 8127.

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