

Paving Our Path To Greatness

For the parents, students, staff, and community of Clay Middle School

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

Welcome back from spring break everyone. I hope that each of you had an opportunity to rest, relax and recharge with your children and families. As always, both the women and men's NCAA basketball tournament did not disappoint. Hopefully you had time to enjoy some March Madness. This time of year reminds us that we are close to the finishing yet another school year. With fourth quarter now started, we are excited to be heading into the final stretch of school in April and May. With the Indianapolis 500 approaching soon, our motto will be.... **FINISH STRONG!**

We have seven weeks left to go and a great deal of things still left to complete. We have ILEARN and state standardized testing this month. As a staff, we will continue to encourage our students to give their very best each and every day until the end of the school year and continue to try to develop a school culture that our students and staff take pride in so they can live out **THE CLAY WAY**.

**"DON'T
COUNT THE DAYS;
MAKE THE DAYS
COUNT."**

- MUHAMMAD ALI

How do we Build the Clay Culture? By Highlighting GREATNESS

Spring sports are underway.

Softball, baseball and track and field are our spring sports offered at Clay and they are now well underway and gearing up for competition. Our student athletes are working hard to prepare for their seasons and representing Clay Middle School with great character and sportsmanship. I would like to take a moment to thank all of our coaches and our athletic director, John Corcoran for all of their support in modeling a winning attitude for our student athletes. I would also like to thank you as parents for all of your support and pride for Clay Middle School. For more information, please feel free to contact our Clay Activities / Athletic Director, Mr. John Corcoran at jcorcoran@ccs.k12.in.us OR visit our new website at www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics/.

ISSMA Competitions

As a performing arts department, we just completed

...continued on the next page

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, Principal

Brooke Cole, Assistant Principal

Mark Smith, Assistant Principal

John Corcoran, Athletic/Activities Director

BUILDING A LEGACY OF **GREATNESS**
FINDING THE POWER OF OUR...
OUR STUDENTS
OUR STAFF
OUR COMMUNITY



WE WANT TO BE THE BEST
AT GETTING BETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

our ISSMA competition season during the month of March. I am proud to announce that it was a very successful month with our ISSMA solo and ensemble competitions with band, orchestra and choir. Throughout the competition months, our students have been awarded several gold ratings and gold with distinction ratings as they competed and performed their hearts out. We are very fortunate to have an amazing performing arts department with wonderful directors such as Jeff Frizzi, Gretta Pote, Chris Grifa, and Miranda Susie. These teachers and directors give an enormous amount of time to our students at Clay Middle School so that our school can compete at the highest level in order for all of our performing arts students to achieve at the highest level. **We thank them for all they do!**

Education is a People Business "Continuing to Pave Our Path to GREATNESS"

TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER!

Over the last few months, we have celebrated and recognized the following people for their service.

- **School Safety Week**– Thank you to our school resource officer Greg Dewald
- **National School Counseling Week**– Thank you to our Clay Student Services Department
- **Food Service Appreciation Week**–Thank you to Amy Glover and our Food Services Department.
- **National Library Week**– Thank you to Stephanie Swartzendruber and Carole Fitzgerald for all they do for all students and staff in our Clay Media Center to promote the love of reading and writing.

At Clay, we believe that by showing appreciation to others, it allows us to better understand that it truly takes all of us working together to achieve success. There are a lot of people to thank on a daily basis for all the work they do here at Clay to make sure Clay remains a great school and these are just a few of them.

March – Disabilities Awareness Week

During the month of March, we took time to recognize National Disabilities Awareness Week. Our Clay Friendship Circles Program (under the direction of staff members Erin Mayer, Mary Walstrom, Leyla Niese, Emily Flores and Nicole Paolicchi). Our students developed a special week dedicated to various disabilities. We had some activities and information regarding those disabilities and the overall objective was to educate and

bring more awareness of various disabilities to everyone in our school, both students and staff.

Successful Transitions

As we look to this month we will be welcoming our 5th graders and their families back into our building again for our Spring Open House to continue to increase their exposure to middle school life. This event happens on Wednesday April 20th and we look forward to seeing our future Clay Trojans. This time of year in middle school we really have two different transitions going on (5th -6th grade and 8th – 9th grade). Having said that, so we will continue to prepare and transition our eighth graders to Carmel High School. Our 8th graders are preparing for high school and all the changes ahead, and one thing that we will do is continue to encourage them to make the most of each day as they close out their middle school over the next two months. Even though COVID interrupted our 8th graders middle school experience, they have done an exceptional job of adjusting, adapting and learning in different ways through the pandemic and for that I could not be prouder of them. As principal, I want our eighth-grade class to look back on their middle school experience with special memories of Clay.

Along with these major transitions occurring, we still have a full schedule of activities for you as parents to take full advantage of this spring. These activities include performing arts concerts, club competitions and our sports teams in action. I hope to see you at some of our events and I cannot stress to each and every one of you enough how much we appreciate all of your support for our school, but for your child's educational success. It is a true partnership between the school and families. THANK YOU!

I challenge all Clay Trojans to **Continue Paving Our Path to GREATNESS** and together we will take Clay Middle School to even greater heights. As principal, I believe it is my position to help provide vision, leadership, oversight, safety and the best instruction to every student that attends Clay Middle School. I truly realize that success cannot be accomplished without an active school community to continue to take Clay Middle School in the direction of continuous success and excellence. I am happy to announce that the Clay Nation is alive and well.

| Teacher | Block 1A | Block 3A | Block 7A | Block 1B | Block 3B |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Patrick Anderson Team Justice 6-3 | Story H Kabir G Eleanor S | Emma A Elise M Rodion Z | Camryn L Saket S Moki N | Colin P Ellie W Lauren G | Brooks K Madisyn R Caroline R |
| Brian McGuckin Team Avengers 6-2 | Madison B Patrick J Lakshmi N | Lucia B Victoria I Brooke R | Leen A Peyton H Eli N | Leah D Rayyan M Izabella R | Josie A Gabrielle C Brayden D |
| Kristi Myers Team Titans 6-1 | Skylar D Liam H Maggie Y | Savannah H Caleb K Lucas W | Betsy M Jackson N Lolah P | Katie D Sam H Ellery T | Jackson F Carly O Olivia P |



SERTOMA CLUB OF BROAD RIPPLE

Sertoma Club of Broad Ripple is a service organization founded in 1912 and stands for "Service to Mankind." The Sertoma Club of Broad Ripple has sponsored the National Heritage Essay Contest for over 30 years for sixth grade students in public, private, and parochial schools in the greater Indianapolis area. Students are asked to write on the topic "What Freedom Means to Me" and are encouraged to consider the founding principles of our country and how those principles affect their lives today. Students who submit essays can become a classroom winner; finalist; honorable mention recipient; or a grand prize winner.

6th grade Social Studies teachers offered all students an opportunity to share "What Freedom Means to Me" through an essay contest offered by the SERTOMA organization. Many were outstanding, but the listed students have been identified as classroom winners. We wish them congratulations and hope to see an overall winner from any of these great submissions! Winner will be named in mid-April.

MATHCOUNTS

Congratulations to (eighth graders) **Chutian C., Rachel Z., Hillary Y.**, (seventh graders) **Alex C., Grant M.**, and (sixth grader) **Rodion Z.** for qualifying and competing in the State MathCounts Competition on March 12 at Rose Hulman! Competing at the state level takes a lot of practice and dedication- Way to go!

A special shout out (congratulations) to **Hillary Y.** for placing **13th individually out of all competitors and placing 3rd in the head-to-head countdown round.**

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It's Spirit Wear Time!

Spirit wear store is open and includes Clay and Carmel gear. Orders will come in and be sent home with your student in May.

<https://clayspring2022.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>



8th Grade Graduation Sign

Show your pride for the Class of 2026 and order a yard sale sign!

<https://clay8thgrade.itemorder.com/shop/sale/>

Committee Chairs

We need committee chairs for the PTO. Please reach out to claypto.16@gmail.com if you are interested in helping!

Game Shack

We still need volunteers for the Game Shack during lunch. Please consider volunteering!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaba92fa4fc1-makers1>

Save the Date for the 8th Grade Celebration

**Tuesday, May 24th
from 6 - 8:30 PM at Clay**

This evening event (just for 8th grade students) will be a great way for current 8th graders to say "see ya later!" to Clay and will feature games, dancing, snacks, and a whole lot of fun! Registration will be available mid-April.

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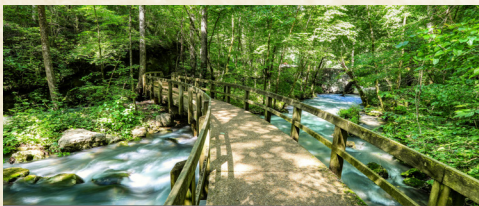
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ILEARN TESTING

STATE STANDARDIZED TESTING HELPFUL REMINDERS

As we look ahead in preparation to the new ILEARN test, here are a few things that you can do to help your child be as successful as possible.

How can students get ready for ILEARN?

- **Be prepared** - Cramming for any test is never the best way to prepare. Keep up with your homework and ask your teachers for help when you need it.
- **Ask for help** - If you've had trouble with standardized testing in the past, ask a teacher, counselor or parent about extra help now.
- **Review** - Try to take it seriously when your teachers review important information that may help you feel more prepared.
- **Double-check your work** - Get in the habit now of double-checking your work and proofreading your answers on homework to be ready to find mistakes on test days.
- **Get plenty of sleep** - Go to bed a little earlier so you get a good night's sleep. Being well rested will give you an extra boost of energy.
- **Have a good breakfast** - Eating a healthy breakfast will help you perform better. Too much food can make you feel sleepy, so don't overdo it.
- **Take a break** - Get some exercise during your breaks or after school to keep your energy up.



What can parents do to help students prepare for ILEARN testing?

- **Stay connected** - The best preparation is to provide consistent support for your child throughout his or her education.
- **Know what's expected** - Read information available at Indiana Department of Education (<https://www.doe.in.gov/>) so you know what your child should know and be able to do, reinforce these expectations at home and stay connected to your child's academic performance throughout the year.
- **Check grades** - Your son or daughter may say things are "fine" at school but don't stop checking Canvas, progress reports or, if available, your child's online grades or class progress.
- **Check Canvas / Team Newsletters for updates** - Teachers know how hard students are working, the quality of their homework and what areas need improvement.
- **Stay involved** - Nothing will have a bigger impact on your student's success than your involvement in his or her education. If your child is not studying at home, ask why, and double-check with teachers. It's tough to hold the line, but making sure your child does get the proper amount of rest and eat properly is important for academic success as well.
- **Ask for help** - Students who are struggling in a particular class may need extra help after school or with a tutor. Find out from your school where you can go for help and make sure your student gets the help he or she needs. Catching a problem area now can make a big difference.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any major questions or concerns on how to best support your child.

Sincerely,
Todd A. Crosby, *Principal*



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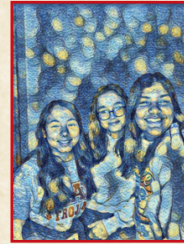
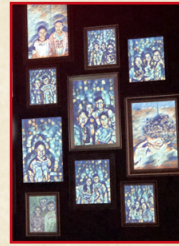
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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

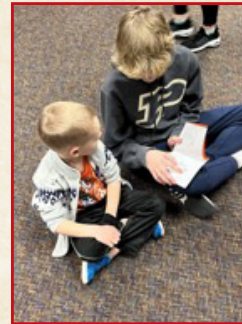
On Friday, March 18th, over 60 English Language Learners from Clay Middle School had the opportunity for a unique field trip. With the generosity of the Clay PTO, students spent most of their day touring the Indianapolis Museum of Art and experiencing the immersive LUME exhibit on Vincent van Gogh. While there, students practiced speaking skills, discussing with a partner things they saw and noticed. Clay's English Language Learner population has nearly doubled in the past year. We were excited for the opportunity to use this field trip to connect with new students and new families.



PUTTING NEW LANGUAGE SKILLS TO THE TEST

Spanish

Spanish classes are learning weather terminology. Students created children's books with their new vocabulary lists and then had the opportunity to share their stories with children from Educare. It was a wonderful way for Spanish students to gain confidence in their language ability, while also teaching young kids un poco de español!



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CCS

CCS offered a banner competition to celebrate women during the month of March. The task was to illustrate women who have made a positive mark on the world. Criteria for judging was to focus on educational content, creativity, and design. Four Eighth grade Clay students took advantage of sharing their artistic interpretations of this theme for Women's History Month.



Lyla B

A **SWEEPING CONGRATULATIONS OF GREATNESS** goes to first place student (from Team Legends) Lyla Barnhart; second place (from Team Revolutionaries) Belle Giles; and third place (from Team Visionaries) Chloe Tolson and Zara Khan!

Fantastic job, ladies.



Belle G, and Mrs. Giles



Chloe T, Zara K, and Mrs. Giles



AVID SPOTLIGHT

One goal of the AVID program is to cultivate a college-going culture in middle school. The AVID program at Clay has surely fulfilled that goal! AVID 7 is busy creating their own podcasts in which they compare and contrast two possible college majors. AVID 8 is spreading the love of college culture at Clay along with the NCAA tournament! AVID students created a bracket, teachers drew a college, and doors had to be decorated by core plus students! Our very own Clay Final Four has been determined, and students are excited as we anticipate the championship winner!



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WELLNESS

8th grade Wellness students were busy in February competing in the Wellness Olympic Games. Each team was assembled into a Winter Olympic team and assigned a country to represent. They completed in a series of Olympic games- mock challenges to test their skills as well as in winter sports such as hockey and basketball.

We continued throughout March by wrapping up with some basketball round-robin games and finishing with a Just Dance Competition where students selected their dance teams/partners, songs and then practiced and performed them against their peers and in front of a "live" audience.

Enjoy these photo recaps of whats been up in Wellness the past few months!



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SILENT DISCO

In 2022, a need for sensory inclusive spaces has come to the forefront. Many national public facilities such as zoos and sports stadiums have created a family experience that chooses to include children with sensory challenges. Schools, such as Clay Middle, have clubs that encourage celebrating these individuals with special needs. **Friendship Circles Club**, for example, has a mission statement as follows: "This club will allow students with disabilities to benefit from positive peer relationships that lead to greater self-confidence and stronger communication skills. Staff will encourage general education students to lead the chapters and work to develop the leader within them". The unique grant idea includes an after school "**SILENT**

DISCO". 100+ students (grades 6-8) will be given the chance to sign up, volunteer and/or attend. The event will celebrate and encourage a diverse group coming together to practice empathy while having fun.

The potential date for the dance is Friday, April 29th afterschool. Students must furnish a permission slip as well as get their own rides home. **Details to follow!**



21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

The 21st Century Scholars Program provides income-eligible students the opportunity to earn a scholarship that covers up to four years of tuition and regularly assessed fees. 21st Century Scholars support eligible students and parents with the tools they need to prepare for college, graduate on time and begin a successful career.

Indiana's 7th and 8th grade students can apply for the 21st Century Scholars Program if their families meet the eligibility guidelines. All students must apply by June 30 of their 8th grade year. Please visit <http://scholars.in.gov/> to learn more and apply!

If you have any questions please contact Gina Potter, LCSW at gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us.

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10 Paving Our Path To Greatness

FINDING THE POWER OF OUR OUR STUDENTS... OUR PARENTS... AND OUR COMMUNITY



MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Clay Media Center was thrilled to have award winning author K.A. Holt present to both 7th and 8th grade students, sharing with them her journey to authorship, her writing process and inspirations. Many of K.A.'s books are novels in verse, a type of non-rhyming poetry that tells a story. Her most highly acclaimed book (to date) is *House Arrest*, which is #18 on Clay's top 50 book checkouts for the last year. *House Arrest* was a Young Hoosier Book Award (YHBA) Nominee in 2018-2019. The book, as well as the audiobook, are highly recommended for middle grade readers and could lead to some really great conversations with their adults. Below are some discussion questions that might be used if your middle schooler has read the book or if you choose to read it together.

1. Should Timothy have stolen the credit card to buy medicine for his brother? Why or why not?
2. It is against the law for Timothy to steal. Does that make it morally wrong?
3. In general, should people do everything they can to obey the law? Why or why not?
4. Timothy says about Jose, "He just doesn't even know" (pg. 60) This is a refrain throughout the book. Discuss who else Timothy accuses of "not knowing." What does he think each of these characters misunderstands about his life?
5. Compare Jose's family and house to Timothy's. What do you think Timothy feels about Jose's family? How does he feel when he's at Jose's house? What role do Jose and his family play in Timothy's life?
6. Given the incidents at the end of the book, do you think Timothy changed, or developed, through the course of the book?
7. There are many acts of generosity throughout this novel. Which would you say was the most generous gift of all?



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SAFE SITTER® CLASS CONTENT

SAFETY SKILLS

Students learn how to prevent unsafe situations and what to do when faced with dangers such as power failures or weather emergencies.

FIRST AID & RESCUE SKILLS

Learning skills such as choking rescue and CPR is often students' favorite part of the class. Students also learn a system to help them assess and respond to injuries and illnesses.

LIFE & BUSINESS SKILLS

The ability to screen jobs, discuss fees, and greet employers will set students up for success now and in the future. Students practice these skills through various role plays.

CHILD CARE SKILLS

Students learn tips to manage behavior that will help them stay in control of themselves and the children in their care. Students also learn the ages and stages of child development, as well as practice diapering.

CALL 317.460.5792
EMAIL kfreer@carmel.in.gov
VISIT www.carmel.in.gov



CLAY FRIENDSHIP CIRCLES CLUB

The Clay Friendship Circles Club celebrated Disability Awareness Week during the week of March 21st. During this week, the club attempted to raise our school community's awareness of various disabilities such as Down Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and autism. We capped off the week with a core plus meeting where we played board games and ate cookies and a movie night where our members could enjoy a Friday night out with friends.

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FINDING THE POWER OF **OUR** OUR STUDENTS... OUR PARENTS... AND OUR COMMUNITY

IMPORTANT DATES



APRIL

- April 11-15..... National Library Week
- April 12..... Spring Sports Begin
- April 13..... Late Start
- April 19-22..... iLearn Testing
- April 20..... 5th-6th Grade Open House
Spring Sports Pictures
- April 25..... Carmel Clay Schools School
Board Meeting (Service Awards
Recognition)
- April 25-29..... iLearn Testing
- April 27..... Administrative Professionals Day
- April 27..... Late Start

MAY

- May 9-13 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 10 Spring Orchestra Concerts (6th,
7th and 8th grades)
- May 11 Late Start
- May 11 National School Nurse Day
- May 13 Clay Dance Marathon (Riley
Children's Hospital) – 3:30-5:00
p.m.
- May 16-20 National Police Week (thank you to
our SRO)
- May 19 ENL Family Night - 6 p.m.
- May 24 8th Grade Celebration (Clay
Middle School Gym from 6:00-8:30
p.m.)
- May 25 Quarter 4 Ends
- May 25 Last student day
- May 26 Teacher work day



CSI UNIT

8th graders completed their CSI unit, successfully finding the teachers that stole Mr. McVey's coffee. Science students analyzed blood, powders, liquids, fibers, inks and fingerprints found at the crime scene to narrow their list of suspects. Thanks to Carmel Police Officer Reynolds and K9 Axel for their help in searching suspected teachers' rooms, to Officer DeWald for teaching students about fingerprinting and crime scene investigations, and for Donate Life Indiana for presenting about blood types and organ donations.

WASHINGTON DC TRIP

Attention current 7th graders. If you are going to be attending Clay Middle School this fall and are interested in going on the Washington D.C. trip over Fall Break, you need to sign up as soon as you can. We currently have a short waitlist but we will try our best to take everyone who signs up. Please use this link [Washington DC Trip Brochure](#) for additional information and steps to register. The registration site will remain open until June 1st. Should you register, Clay's Tour ID is **35462204**. Feel free to reach out to Mr. Carr at ccarr1@ccs.k12.in.us if you have any questions and to Donate Life.

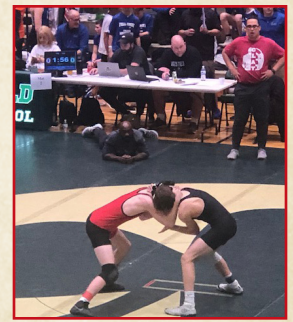
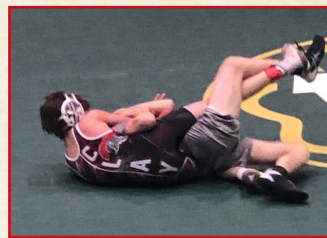
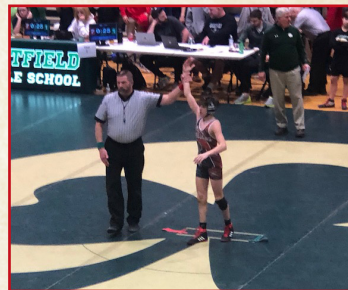


SRA Field Trip to Grace Food Pantry



SRA

The Clay Student Representative Assembly (SRA) went on a field trip to the Grace Care Center this March. The trip served as the perfect opportunity for students to see how their efforts from their successful canned food drive in the fall are directly impacting families in Hamilton County. While at the center, SRA students took a tour, listened to a presentation about donation and volunteer needs, and participated in a food sorting activity. SRA is comprised of 75 students in grades 6-8. The club is application based and meets monthly throughout the school year. We are proud of our young leaders!



Congratulations to the 2022 Hamilton County Wrestling Tournament Place Winners

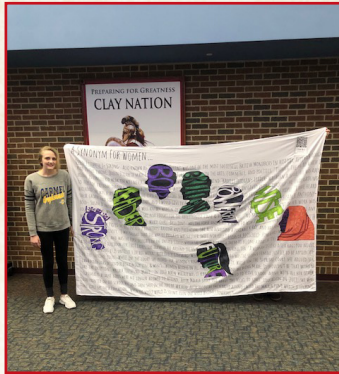
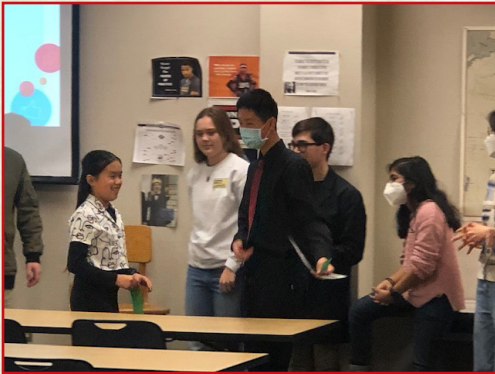
- 1st:** Brogan McGinley
Lito Ledezma
Elijah Pimental
- 2nd:** Jordan Penquite
Xander Dora

- 4th:** Isaac Pimental
Chase Smitley
- 5th:** Caden Covington
- 6th:** Patrick Joseph

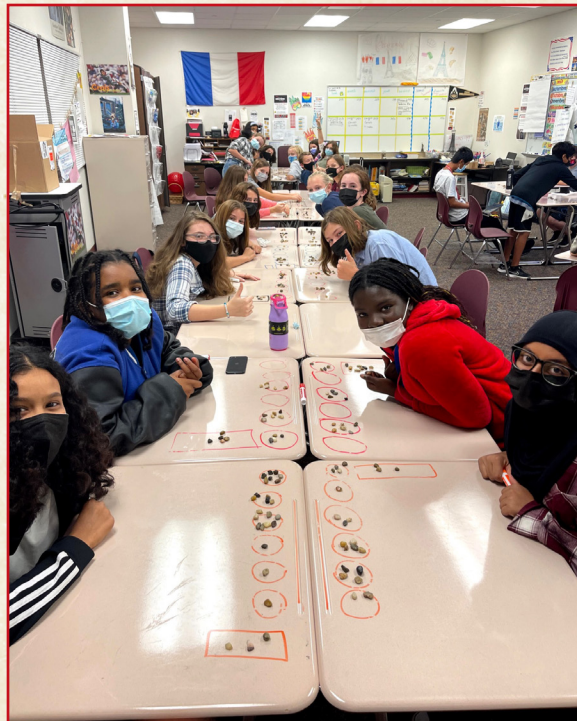
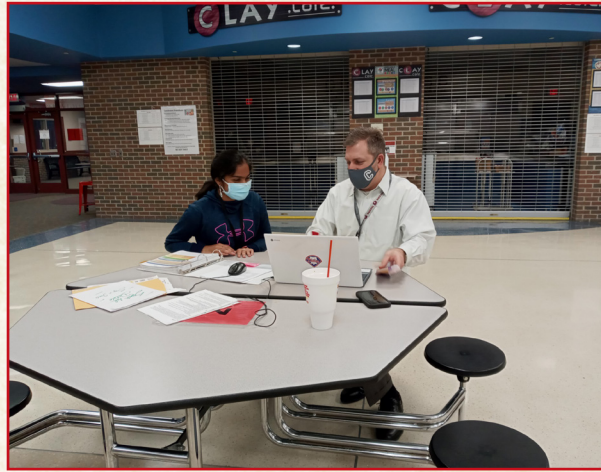
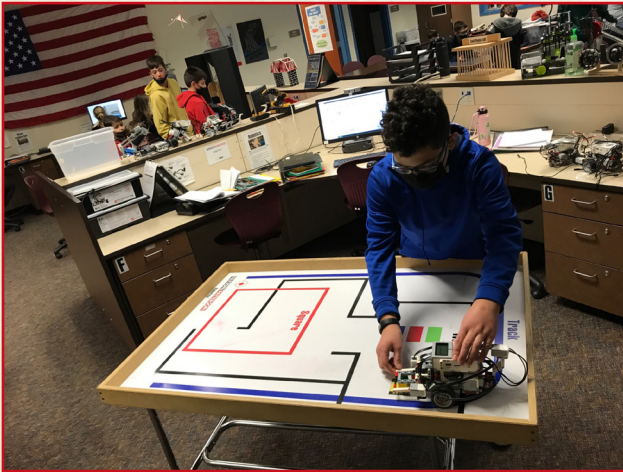
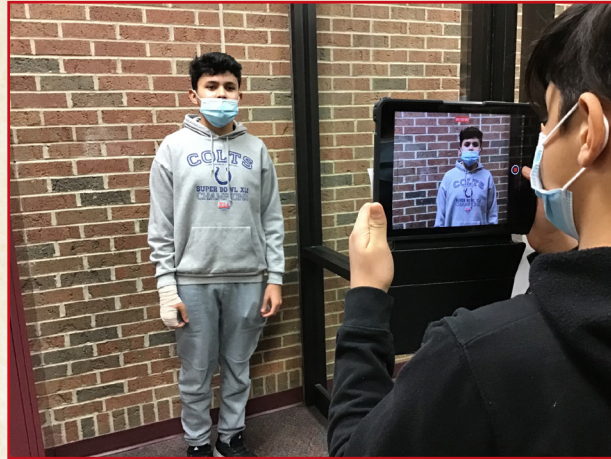
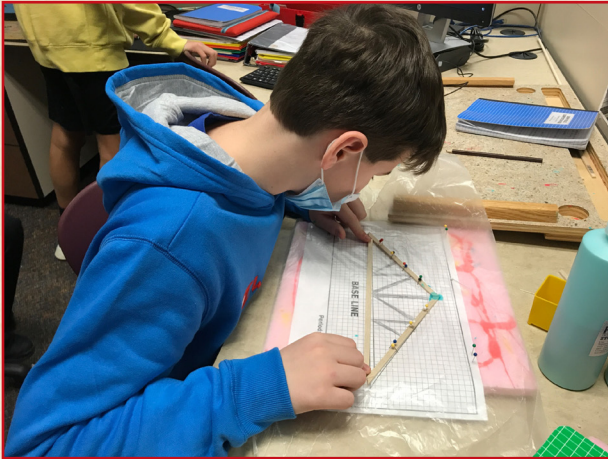
Awesome job to our entire wrestling team on a very successful season. A special thank you also goes out to each of our coaches for all the time, dedication and commitment to helping develop young leaders.

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