



*Believe in Your Greatness*

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

# CLAY NATION NEWS

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

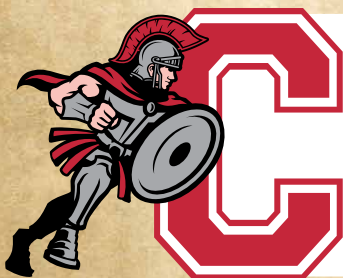
Dear Clay Nation,

Welcome back everyone! As principal of Clay Middle School, I speak on behalf of our entire staff in saying that this has been a great start to the 2023-2024 school year. I hope each of you had a great summer break and was able to rest and relax with family and friends. As we start another school year, our theme this year is *Believe in Your Greatness*. As Clay continues to establish its school culture and identity, we are making every attempt to remain focused on how we accomplish GREATNESS. We believe that the little things matter most and often add up to even bigger things. The power of believing in one's self is huge, but the power of believing together as an entire staff and student body is where true impact happens. As a staff, we continue to work hard to model for our students a growth mindset and the philosophy that we are better together. We will be there as your child looks to transition through these middle school years knowing there will be several exciting changes that they will experience in the years to come.

Since the beginning of school, I have been very

impressed with our sixth graders these first few weeks and their ability to adapt to middle school life. I have been impressed with this class and their energy and school spirit. We look forward to a bright future with this class as they continue to adjust to middle school. As new parents to Clay, I would like to remind you that if your child would need anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers, Clay Student Services Department or Clay Administration. As for our seventh graders, this year will be a building year for our seventh graders as they look to expand their leadership roles from last year and become more involved in middle school by taking on leadership roles and participating in clubs, organizations, sports, performing arts and the many extracurricular opportunities we offer. Our 8th graders have done a really good job of setting the tone for this school year. As you can imagine, a great deal of our success comes with the great foundation our 8th grade class has built over their last two years as 6th and 7th graders. This class is full of great leaders that have learned living out the Clay Way is part the expectations here at Clay

*...continued on the next page*



## ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, Principal

Catherine Gahl, Assistant Principal

Mark Smith, Assistant Principal

John Corcoran, Athletic/Activities Director



# PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

Middle School. They are respectful, responsible, ready to learn and they have pride in being a Clay Trojan.

As principal of Clay Middle, I truly feel all three grade levels are giving their best and we are excited to watch them blossom and grow throughout this school year and model what it means to be a Clay Trojan.

Since the start of school, our Clay administrative team, school resource officer and student services department have had the pleasure of meeting with all of our students in grade level convocations the first week of school. Within these convocations, we talked about things such as THE CLAY WAY, who's who at Clay, how to get involved in middle school, policies / changes for the year and safety updates to highlight a few.

I would like to thank all of our parents that attended our 7th and 8th grade open houses back on August 17th. It was a great turnout and as always, we appreciate all the support you give towards your child's education. Reminder to all 6th grade parents that our 6th grade open house is coming up this next week on August 31st. I am very proud of our 6th grade teachers for redesigning how and when we organize our 6th grade open house event. Kudos to our 6th grade teachers - they have really been trying their best to make this evening the most meaningful for our new families. For example, this evening has been redesigned in an effort to ensure that we are addressing more specifically what you as a new parent may have questions about and then developing informative sessions around certain focus topics. Therefore, we can continue to foster good relationships and better support our students and our parents as they start this journey of middle school.

At Clay, we believe we can be GREAT, but that only happens with the help and amazing support we receive from you as our parents and school community. As a TEAM, we will continue to work diligently to ensure our students and staff feel empowered to achieve greatness by fostering a strong partnership between our families and Clay Middle School. Our current superintendent, Dr. Beresford has encouraged that all of us as a district continue to strive to get better each and every day (*We are better together!*). This idea of becoming better little by little, day by day,

has been a platform here at Clay that has contributed to our success. This element of our Clay culture focuses on the student's well-being as we look to educate the whole child. When educating the whole child, we are intentional about the social and emotional well-being of our students as well as the academic element. We want each student to have opportunities for growth, enrichment, and involvement at Clay Middle School. Students are the most important part of our school culture and we support and encourage them to live out the **Clay Way** each and every day.

I am confident that as your child grows and matures through their middle school years, the pride they will have for Clay will grow as well if we build a solid foundation. As your child becomes part of the Clay Nation and begins his or her middle school experience, please know that GREATNESS will be surrounding them. I believe in leadership focused on collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of empowerment and caring which leads to the development of strong student leaders, as well as teacher leaders throughout our building. Clay Middle School has a proven reputation of being an outstanding school with a constant commitment to exemplary education. Please remember that as parents you are also an important part of our success as a school and I would like to recognize your role as a parent and thank you for all your hard work and effort to support them through these transformative years.

I challenge all Clay Trojans to **believe in your 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.

**Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans  
#ClayGreatness**

**GO TROJANS!**

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby, Principal







## UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

### AUGUST

August 31 .....6th Grade Open House 6:00-7:30 PM

### SEPTEMBER

September 4.....Labor Day- No School

September 6.....Late Start

September 14.....MLL Night 6-8 PM

September 15.....PTO Meeting 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

September 19.....Picture Retake Days

September 20.....Late Start

College Go Week Happens in September

### OCTOBER

October 2-6.....School Custodian & Maintenance Staff Week

October 3.....7th Grade Fall Choir Concert

October 3.....6th Grade Fall Choir Concert 6:00-7:00 PM

October 3.....8th Grade Fall Choir Concert 6:45-7:45 PM

October 4.....Late Start 7:30-8:30 PM

October 6.....1st Quarter Ends

October 9-13 .....Fall Break

## DATES TO REMEMBER!

October 16-20 .....National School Bus Safety Week

October 16 .....National Boss Day

October 18 .....Late Start

October 20 .....PTO Meeting

October 21 .....Ghost & Goblins 5k/2k Run/Walk  
(CHS) 8:00 AM pre-race,  
9:00 AM Races start

10/24/2023 .....8th Grade Orchestra Festival at  
the Palladium

**October 24-28..... Red Ribbon Week Happens in  
October**

October 26 .....7th Grade Symphonic Band  
Concert 6:00-7:00 PM

October 26 .....7th Grade Orchestra Fall Concert  
6:00 -7:00 PM

October 26 .....7th Concert Band & 8th Wind  
Ensemble Concert 7:30-8:30 PM

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- Mary J.



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### CLAY STUDENT SERVICES

The goal of Clay's Student Services Department is to provide a comprehensive developmental school counseling program for our middle school students. We work to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of all students. We do this in developmentally appropriate ways that enable personal growth and academic success. Our efforts are a part of a collaborative model that includes our parents, teachers, and administrators in the process.



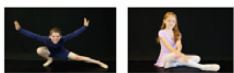
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- Blackbox Recitals for Immediate Family

**Monday**  
Contemporary Ballet A, 4-5pm (ages 8-9)  
Beginning Tap, 5-6:30pm  
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

**Tuesday**  
Creative Movement, 12pm (ages 3-5)  
Contemporary Ballet B, 4-5pm (ages 8-14)  
Intermediate Tap, 5-5:30pm  
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

**Wednesday**  
Creative Movement, 12pm  
Contemporary Ballet A, 4-5pm  
Beginning Tap, 5-5:30pm  
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

**Thursday**  
Creative Movement, 12pm  
Contemporary Ballet B, 4-5pm  
Intermediate Tap, 5-5:30pm  
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

**Friday**  
Boys' Combo Class with Tricks, 5-6pm (ages 8-14)

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FIRST WEEK FOR \$26!

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## MLL FAMILY NIGHT

All MLL families are invited to join us on September 14, 2023 from 6-8 pm for our annual MLL Family Night.

More information and invitations will be coming soon!

## MLL NOCHE DE FAMILIA

Todas las familias de habla hispana están invitadas el 14 de Septiembre de 2023 de 6 a 8 pm. para nuestra Noche Familiar de MLL.

¡Pronto habrá más información e invitaciones!

## DID YOU KNOW?

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

## THE GREEN SCENE

The Team Atlas Green Team is collecting gently used athletic shoes to donate to the MORE Foundation Group now through the end of August!

This year, we are teaming with Carmel Middle and Creekside to make an even greater impact!

**There are just 3 easy steps to follow!**

**Step 1 . . .** Donate your gently used athletic shoes by placing them in the collection boxes across from the main office.

**Step 2 . . .** Once the boxes are full, they are shipped for free!

**Step 3 . . .** Donating shoes keeps them out of landfills. The proceeds from the shoes help the MORE Foundation plant thousands of trees each year which offsets the carbon in the atmosphere and can help bring families out of poverty.

So please....

**DONATE your athletic shoes today. All sizes are needed!**

Visit [morefoundationgroup.org](http://morefoundationgroup.org) for more information!



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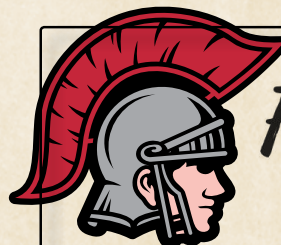
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# THANK YOU

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STUDENT ICE CREAM BAR



STUDENT FUN

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TEAM funds



ROBOTICS CLUB

COMMUNITY NIGHTS

CARMEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION CLAY SCHOLARSHIP



A YEAR IN REVIEW

WITH THE SUPPORT OF TROJAN FAMILIES, WE RAISED \$35,000

8th grade celebration

TEACHER AND STAFF APPRECIATION

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- Winter Session 2 runs from January to March

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## SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies BELIEVES in a great start with students, as we dive into the past and make connections to the future.

Sixth grade Social Studies students will explore civic duty, including rules and responsibilities. As the semester progresses, students will INQUIRE about our Constitution, reasons behind the creation and interpretation of and how to participate in our city, state and country. Second semester students will use INQUIRY to explore European history from Ancient Greece to the Industrial Revolution and Western hemisphere ancients, including: Aztec, Inca, Maya and North American Indigenous groups.

Seventh grade Social Studies students will focus on the Eastern Hemisphere, where 85% of the world's population

lives. The students will explore the culture, religion, geography, and history of the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will begin with an introduction to geography and continue with the ancient empires of Mesopotamia. Then the students will continue to INQUIRE about the continents of Africa and Asia, where they will learn about the peoples, cultures, and challenges these countries face.

Eighth grade Social Studies students will dive into history this year by starting with migration and geography of North America and ending the year with the Civil War era. We will move through seven units and incorporate INQUIRY as a way for students to explore America's past while making connections to our present.



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9

## CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

HOME OF THE TROJANS



### CHAMPIONS OF CLAY

The Champions of Clay Annual Donation Campaign is the **ONLY PTO fundraiser** for the entire school year. The funds raised help enrich every child's education and 100% of the funds stay at Clay to support the school.

Because of the amazing generosity of the Clay Community we were able to hit our big goal of \$35,000 last year! We are hoping to do it again! To do so, we are asking for a minimum donation of \$50/student to make that happen! All donations are tax deductible.

At 75% our own Mr. Crosby will be taking pies in the face during all of the lunch periods and at 100% we will provide a fun treat for all students in Core Plus.

### DONATE ONE OF THREE WAYS:

1. Donate online [here](#)
2. **\*\*NEW\*\*** Text GIVECLAY to 44-321 (Credit Card, Apple Pay, and ACH (check/debit) are accepted!)
3. Send a check into the school office written out to Clay Middle School PTO and marked for the pledge drive.

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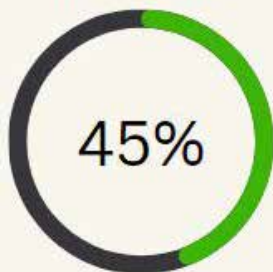
I'm Dr. Wayne Kinney,  
and I have  
a different idea.  
*Let's talk.*

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## CHAMPIONS OF CLAY

HELP US GET TO 50%  
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HELP US REACH OUR GOAL  
OF \$35,000 BY DONATING  
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CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL





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# 10 Believe in Your Greatness

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

## CRU



Cru meetings @ Clay  
Thursdays  
7:30am - LGI

**Join us this year!**

### Student Bible Study & 4 week Parent Boot Camp

Mondays - 6:45-8pm - Christ Community Church

September 11, 18, 25 & October 2

#### Student Bible Study Fall dates

Mondays - 6:45-8pm

Location - TBD

**September 11, 18, 25**

October 2, 16, 30

November 13, 27

December 11

#### 4 week Parent Boot Camp topics:

Week 1 (9/11) - Parenting Fundamentals

Week 2 (9/18) - Parents with Teenagers -  
Stop Doing This!

Week 3 (9/25) - Social Media and Your  
Teenager

Week 4 (10/2) - Helping Your Teenager  
Get Beyond Anxiety

Also, in week 4, a Cru representative will  
share how you can experience freedom in  
Christ!

#### Presented by Jim White

Jim White is an author, coach and  
founder of the Family Enrichment  
Academy. He has been married for  
40 years and has 6 children as well  
as 13 grandchildren. His background  
as a family enrichment coach and life  
experience provide a unique  
perspective on parenthood. His book  
*How to Be the Parent Your Teenager  
Needs You to Be* is his second book  
on parenting.



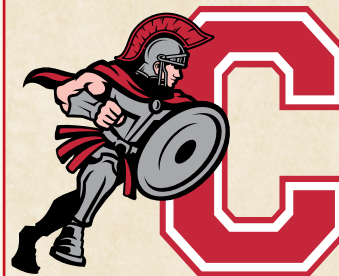
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**Sunday  
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Magic Key**



**Carmel Symphony Orchestra**



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**Listen Live | Listen Often**



# 12 *Believe in Your Greatness*

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

