

# *Paving Our Path To Greatness*

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

# CLAY NATION NEWS



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings Clay Nation!

I would like to take a moment as we approach the holiday season to wish you and your family a happy holiday. I try to acknowledge our school community and you as parents as much as possible in each monthly newsletter because without you, Clay would not be able to do things at the highest level. I want each and every parent to know how much we thank you for all you do as parents for your child and for our school. As I reflect on this year and over the last approximately 22 months of this global pandemic, I have witnessed first-hand just how people's lives have been altered. From students to teachers to parents to our community to our entire world, we are truly living through unprecedented times. It is through difficult and challenging times where such things as kindness, compassion, empathy and understanding often rise to the forefront. It seems as though there has not been one thing that has not been impacted by the pandemic. But if you look closely, characteristics such as kindness, compassion, empathy and understanding are all around us. These things are often right in front of us, if we take the time to stop and reflect. It is during these times that we do not have to search very far to see good people doing great and remarkable things for others. As principal of Clay Middle School, I am so proud of our students and teachers for what they have had to adjust to and continue to adjust to as we go through the 2021-2022 school year.

We pivoted from hybrid last school year (½ in person, ½ virtual learning) for the entire school year to welcoming every student back in person every day this year. As we made this transition back to in-person learning every day back in August, you as parents have been very supportive and we could not have had as successful of a semester as we did without you.

In a world  
where you can be anything  
**BE KIND**

We are fortunate to live in a caring and supportive community like Carmel where we are resource rich with people that take care of each other and lend a helping hand when needed. These signs of kindness are what has helped us all get through these challenging times. For example, we had an amazing canned food drive these last three weeks where we shattered previous year's records. We collected Coats for Kids and donated several coats that will help provide warmth during the winter months to children in need. We collected "Hearts for Heroes" and took time to thank our heroes and military veterans across our country and within our own community. In a year that has brought so many challenges for us all, these are only a few examples of true humanity and the human spirit that will never be forgotten.

*...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...*

### What are positive signs of courage and kindness that we can take note of during this first semester?

- Witnessing the courage, determination and an unwavering spirit of caring has been astonishing.
- Hearing stories of people in our own Carmel community having to spend time away from their own families to take care of others in need.
- Recognizing our front-line workers (including our teachers) as "heroes".
- Educators working diligently to transform their educational delivery so that our students have the best educational experience possible.
- Witnessing middle school students ages 11, 12, 13 and 14 doing things that are quite remarkable. We as adults never lived through a pandemic as a child, yet our children currently are. They are showing signs of discipline and organization that often times students in college may struggle with. It takes a true partnership from the school to the family and the family to the school for success to happen. Kudos to our families and parents that have been there to support their child. Please know your efforts and support for your child and their education does not go unnoticed.
- We have always tried to address the social emotional well-being of our students first and foremost at Clay Middle School, but there has been a heightened level awareness these last almost two years with COVID where I have observed our teachers and Student Services Department (guidance counselors and social workers) going the extra mile to "connect" with our students to ensure they are taken care of and have a person they can go to for support.
- Efforts made by Mr. John Corcoran (Clay Activities and Athletic Director) and our Fall and Winter season coaches and athletes for being able to offer and participate in sports for our students during this pandemic. The amount of time and precise preparation it has taken to do this, has been no short of remarkable. Thank you to all of our parents who continue to adhere to our COVID guidelines as you attend our sporting events on campus. Thank you for all your hard work everyone!

These are just a few examples of how this pandemic has brought us all together to realize that it will indeed take all of us working as a TEAM to get through this. The extra effort and dedication being displayed is pretty amazing. As an educator of 27 years, perhaps others may be now seeing what I already knew, that educators are true heroes and the work they do deserves our respect and appreciation.

As we look to this holiday break, I challenge each of us to look for something to be grateful for. When we look back on 2021, I think we can all admit, this year has been one we will never forget.

The amount of GREATNESS that I have witnessed is more than I can fit into one letter and attempt to describe. As I reflect on the year, it makes me very proud to be a Clay Trojan. I am quickly reminded how fortunate we are at Clay to have such a supportive school community. As principal, it never seems to amaze me all the great work being done at Clay help develop the whole child. Having said that, please know that our success

could not have been accomplished without the support of you as parents. Thank you, Clay Nation, for all you have done in 2021 to make Clay Middle School the best it can be. I speak for all Clay faculty and staff when I say, what a blessing and a privilege it is to serve the Carmel Clay Schools Community, where anything is possible – especially when we all work together. We want to always strive to be the best at getting better.

### **GREATNESS Highlights:**

Our faculty, staff, and student body have been very busy this first semester adjusting to all the changes from the COVID pandemic. They have been working so hard to share their GREATNESS throughout this holiday season. Here are a few examples:

### **Clay Middle School - 12 Days of Mindfulness:**

Mindfulness is the simple act of being present in the moment without judgment. It helps us to manage thoughts and emotions, notice more of what's happening in a situation, and immerse ourselves in the moment. Clay Staff members have been celebrating the season by participating holiday challenges from making holiday crafts to enjoying prepackaged treats that have helped us all be present and find joy in this holiday season. These days of mindfulness could not have been possible without all the work from the following people: Mrs. Cole (Clay assistant principal), Mrs. Pletcher, Mrs. Mann and Mrs. Hagemann in our Clay front office, our Clay Student Services Department for all they do to help our students and staff and last but not most certainly not least a special thanks goes out to our Clay PTO who have helped with making these days happen. You all have been awesome!!



### **Clay Performing Arts:**

As many of you know this would typically be our holiday concert season. A huge thank you goes out to our Clay performing arts program. Throughout this month choir, band and orchestra have had incredible in person concerts again open to the public. For example, our choir under the direction of Mrs. These are just some of the ways our performing arts students in choir, band or orchestra and our directors (Mr. Frizzi, Mrs. Susie, Mrs. Pote and Mr. Grifa) have went the extra mile in an effort to return to normalcy. They all have really done an amazing job on finding new ways to connect with our families and we are delighted the students and directors got to perform.

### **Clay AVID Program:**

Back on December 2, 2021 Clay hosted a Clay AVID Parent

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE** *continues...*

Information Night. This year we were able to offer this event again in person for our families and we had a great turnout of parents. We truly have a super Clay AVID team of professionals. Special thanks go out to all of our AVID teachers, Mrs. Catherine Gahl, Mr. Evan Snyder, Mr. Ryan Newman, Mrs. Heather Elliott, Mrs. Liz Wegner and Mr. Mark Smith for their leadership of the Clay AVID program. Thank you to all parents that attended this event.

**CCS Green Team:**

Recycled Lights - REMINDER that you can still donate used Christmas lights to our Recycled Christmas lights effort through Thursday January 7th, 2022. (first week we return back from holiday break)

**Clay Athletics:**

Thank you to Mr. John Corcoran (Clay Activities and Athletic Director) for a successful Fall sports season. We are well underway with winter sports seasons. Boys basketball and cheerleading has already started competitive play, while Clay Girls' basketball and Wrestling starts once we return from holiday break in January 2022. I would like to recognize our coaches and athletes for being able to offer and participate in sports for our students during this ongoing pandemic. Thank you to all of our parents and families who continue to attend our sporting events on campus. Thank you for all your hard work everyone. **ONWARD TO VICTORY CLAY!**

**THE CLAY WAY**

I challenge all Clay Trojans to inspire others 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 success cannot be accomplished without an active school community to continue to take Clay Middle School in the direction of continuous success and excellence. Please take care of yourself and your family.

**HAVE A GREAT HOLIDAY BREAK AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness

**GO TROJANS!**

Sincerely,  
Todd A. Crosby  
Principal



**\$100 OFF**  
Personalized Attention. Proven Results.

*"The academic skills and education he has received could not have been better, but, more importantly, the increase in self-reliance, attitude, happiness and self-worth simply cannot be measured or accurately described in words"*  
- Mary J.

**TAKE THAT REPORT CARD FROM "OKAY" TO "OUTSTANDING"**

**Make your next report card the best yet!**  
Huntington has helped students K-12 improve their grades, academic skills, and confidence since 1977.

**THE HUNTINGTON ADVANTAGE**

- Thorough academic evaluations
- Proven programs tailored to each student's needs
- Individualized instruction from highly qualified teachers

**TUTORING**

Reading - Writing - Math - Study Skills  
Spelling - Vocabulary - Phonics

Algebra - Geometry - Trigonometry - Pre-Calculus  
Calculus - Earth Science - Biology - Chemistry - Physics

**TEST PREP**

SAT - PSAT/NMSQT - ACT - Advanced Placement (AP)  
State Tests - HSPT - ISEE - GED

**Carmel**  
2440 E. 146th Street, Carmel,  
IN 46033

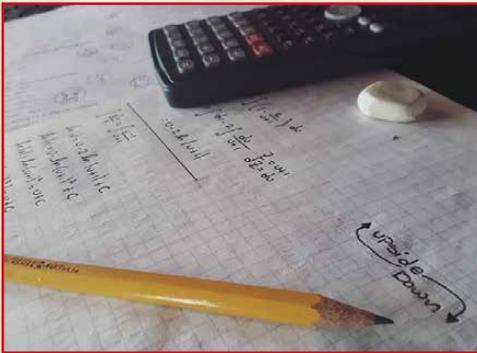


**317-571-8700**

[www.huntingtonhelps.com/center/carmel](http://www.huntingtonhelps.com/center/carmel)

## NWEA TESTING

Students will take the NWEA Reading test during their Language Arts class on Monday, January 10 or Tuesday, January 11. Students will take the NWEA Math test during their Math class on either Wednesday, January 19 or Thursday, January 20.



## MATHCOUNTS

The **MathCounts School Competition** will be Tuesday, December 14 after school in room 622 (Mrs. Grace's room) -ALL students are welcome!

Bring a pencil and calculator and a snack/water if you would like.

PARENTS will need to be here to pick you up outside DOOR 1 (main entrance) by 5:15 pm. Please have them wait in their car for you.

## 8TH GRADE WELLNESS

### Health

*Students learn about the negative effects of illegal drug use through project-based learning*



### PE

*Sweat like a Vet- honoring our Veterans for Veterans Day*



## NURSE'S NOTE

Hey Clay Families!

This a friendly reminder that updated immunizations records and exemption letters for the 2021/22 school year can be submitted to the clinic. We are still missing a large amount of state required immunizations (particularly 6th grade) - please be on the lookout for emails from nursing and the district regarding this information.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions or concerns. Thank you!

Julie Dickson (Collings), BSN, RN  
jcolling@ccs.k12.in.us | 317-844-7251 ext 6717



## WINTER ORCHESTRA CONCERT!!

The Clay Middle School Winter Orchestra Concert is on Tuesday, December 14th. Performing will be the 7th Grade Concert Orchestra, the 8th Grade Symphony Orchestra and the Advanced String Ensemble. This event is open to the public and there is no admission fee.



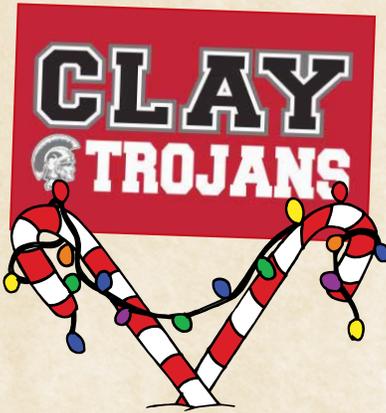
**Finkelmeier**  
ORTHODONTICS

Braces and Invisalign for  
Kids and Adults

**317.993.3789**  
finkelmeierorthodontics.com

Brett R. Finkelmeier, DDS, MS  
912 S. Rangeline Road, Suite 120  
Carmel, IN 46032





## HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING DRIVE

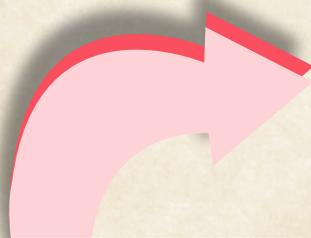
Are your burned-out holiday lights leaving you down in the dumps? Are you thinking of replacing your old holiday lights with new energy efficient LED lights? Make your spirits bright and help make our planet "green" by keeping those old strands out of the landfill.

The CCS Green Team and Carmel Utilities are proud to sponsor the **10th Annual Holiday Lights Recycling Drive November 29th – January 6th**. A box will be located at the school during this time to collect any discarded holiday lights. Lights will also be collected at White's Ace Hardware 731 South Rangeline Road. Each strand is almost 100% recyclable (no garland, wreaths or trees - lights only!) Over four tons of holiday lights have been recycled by Technology Recyclers through our efforts which keeps our landfill a little lighter!

## FRESHMAN SCHEDULING

Below are important dates to be aware of as we move into the 2022-2023 scheduling season.

- **November 30:** All 8th grade students were invited to the [CHS - 8th grade transition to CHS - Class of 2026](#). In the course, you will find an FAQ section, Honors Programming information, instructions for entering courses online in PowerSchool.
- **December 7:** Students will view an informational video during Core+ classes put together by CHS counselors explaining both the Canvas course and scheduling process. The PowerSchool online request system will open on December 7, 2021 and close on January 17, 2022.
- **January 10:** Academic Transition Night at CHS. This program will help 8th grade students and parents get acquainted with academic options, opportunities, and resources at Carmel High School. There will be booths allowing you to learn about specific courses and ask questions. All four Freshman counselors will be hosting sessions in classrooms for parents to meet them and ask specific questions about their child's schedule. *\*We ask that parents and students hold questions until after this date. Contact information for your child's Freshman Center counselor can be found in the 8th grade transition to CHS Canvas page. Counselors will look forward to addressing individual questions following the Academic Information Night.*
- **January 13:** CHS Freshman Center counselors will hold a live Zoom with all 8th grade students during Core+. They will be providing scheduling information and answering questions.
- **January 17:** The online course request system through PowerSchool will close on this date. All course requests must be entered by January 17, 2022.



## STAFF FAVORITES

Staff Favorites 2021-2022 can be found [HERE](#).



**OFF *The* WALL**  
**SPORTS**

**(317) 580-5900 | [offthewallsports.net](http://offthewallsports.net)**

**Register Now For High School Indoor Soccer Leagues!**

- **Winter Session 1** runs from November to January
- **Winter Session 2** runs from January to March

To ensure your spot in either session, register early!

Located: 1423 Chase Court | Carmel, IN 46032 | [offthewallsports.net](http://offthewallsports.net)



**VetCheck**  
PET URGENT CARE CENTER

**For both preventive & urgent care needs of your pets**



**OFFICES**

14069 Mundy Drive  
Fishers, IN 46038  
(317) 572-7557

Mon, Thu & Fri 9AM-11PM  
Tue & Wed 4PM-11PM  
Sat 9AM-8PM Sun 9AM-6PM



1374 S Rangeline Rd  
Carmel, IN 46032  
(317) 516-0707

Mon, Thu & Fri 4PM-11PM  
Tue & Wed CLOSED  
Sat 10AM-8PM Sun 10AM-6PM

[admin@vetcheckpucc.com](mailto:admin@vetcheckpucc.com)

[www.vetcheckpucc.com](http://www.vetcheckpucc.com)

**WALK-INS FOR PET URGENT CARE /IMMEDIATE CARE ARE WELCOME!!**



Follow Us!



CarmelClaySchools



@myccs



CarmelClaySchools

CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS PRESENTS

## School to Heart to Home



A Social-Emotional Workshop Series! Presenters will provide information on CCS activities and initiatives involving character development and emotional intelligence, as well as, provide information and resources to caregivers of students K-12.

**October 18th (6-8 pm)** CCS and SEL: An Introduction (Virtual)

**November 3rd (5:30-7:30 pm)** Intro to Conscious Discipline at CCS Educational Services Center (5201 E. Main Street)

**January 18th (5:00-7:00 pm)** Part II: Conscious Discipline at CCS Educational Services Center (5201 E. Main Street)

February-May Workshops will be Released by January 2022



**Workshops will be provided in-person or utilizing a virtual platform. To Register, utilize the QR Code or [Click this Link](#)**

CLUB PILATES®

EXPERIENCE CLUB PILATES WITH A

### Free Intro Class



CLUB PILATES DOWNTOWN INDY  
317.643.5330

CLUB PILATES CARMEL  
317.565.4828

CLUB PILATES NORTH INDY  
317.927.8750

CLUB PILATES FISHERS  
317.863.9470

CLUB PILATES ZIONSVILLE  
317.572.8704

clubpilates.com

Graphics > Signage > Displays

**317.222.5665**

WALL MURALS	FEATHER FLAGS	VINYL DECALS
EVENT DISPLAYS	BANNERS	POSTERS
VEHICLE GRAPHICS	YARD SIGNS	MAGNETS

9541 Valparaiso Court, Indianapolis, IN 46268  
info@image360indynw.com  
[www.image360indynw.com](http://www.image360indynw.com)

Brent T. Garrison, DDS, MSD  
Robert P. Alderman, DMD  
Patrick S. Kelly, DDS

**(317) 841-1100**  
[www.neomsindy.com](http://www.neomsindy.com)

Dental Implants	Oral Pathology
Bone Grafting	Platelet Rich Plasma
Wisdom Teeth	
Facial Trauma	Exposure of Impacted Teeth
Extractions	

9860 Westpoint Dr. #100  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

**ENROLL NOW!**

**Online Course Behind the Wheel Training**

Lots of open drive times available. Schedule online today!

**\$25 OFF** online or classroom courses use coupon code: DRIVE2021

**CARMEL.ROADSTARDRIVING.COM**

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING ARE NOW AVAILABLE Largest drivers education school in Indiana

**317-366-8497** 1033 West Main Street | Carmel, IN 46033 | [carmel@roadstardriving.com](mailto:carmel@roadstardriving.com)

## STUDENT SERVICES

### Public Speaking

**Did you know that public speaking is the most common fear in the world?** Last week, Mrs. Janson in Student Services and the 7th grade Social Studies teachers teamed up to provide a presentation focused on public speaking. Based on feedback from students, parents, and teachers, we have learned of the increasing struggle many students experience when presenting to their classes. In an effort to address, normalize, and educate on overcoming this common fear, Mrs. Janson reviewed frequent worries and physical symptoms often felt when one must give a speech or present to a group. She also discussed effective strategies on how to prepare, tune into body cues, and choose a positive mindset which can all lead to successful public speaking experiences. Students were also encouraged to seek out small, simple speaking opportunities throughout their day to build their confidence...such as continuing to answer questions in class, standing up at dinner and sharing a short story from their day, etc. We are excited to work with our students on these skills and support them in finding their voice as public speaking is a competency that people of all ages work to master. Thank you!



## SHARK INNOVATION

Sharks were once again seen circling the auditorium of Clay Middle School. On the hunt for innovating new ideas, the sharks observed Clay's young geneticists present their newly formed creations in hopes the sharks would invest.

Using their knowledge of genetics, science and business, the students crossed two living things to create a new organism with commercial value in which the sharks would like to invest. With Punnett squares developed and documents made, the scientists presented in hopes for a nod from the sharks.

From birds that clean high rise windows to newly combined fruits such as Grangos, a cross between a grape and a mango, the sharks were presented with many options in which to invest.

Student groups made fantastic sales pitches and many were rewarded with an "investment" from the sharks to continue their research and development and to grow their businesses.

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE SHARKS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!**

2021-2022 STUDENT SERVICES STAFF	
<p>➤ <b>Holly Baker Banninga</b> Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>➤ <b>Kelli Grogg, Ed.S., NCSP</b> School Psychologist</p>
<p>➤ <b>Michelle Janson, PhD</b> Counselor - All 7th Grade 6th Grade Teams 6-2 &amp; 6-3</p>	<p>➤ <b>Erin Naas</b> Counselor - All 8th Grade 6th Grade Team 6-1</p>
<p>➤ <b>Gina Potter, LCSW</b> Social Worker - All 7th Grade 6th Grade Teams 6-2 &amp; 6-3</p>	<p>➤ <b>Britney Coats, LCSW</b> Social Worker - All 8th Grade 6th Grade Team 6-1</p>

Clay Middle School Student Services Department promotes the academic, social, emotional, and career development of all students. Our Student Services staff serve as advocates for students while collaborating with parents, staff, and the community to assist students in reaching their full potential. Each student has a school counselor and school social worker assigned to them.



**MATHNASIUM**  
The Math Learning Center

Mathnasium of Carmel 317-846-MATH (6284)  
located at 116th & Illinois in front of Market District

[mathnasium.com/carmel](http://mathnasium.com/carmel)

MATHNASIUM  
@home



**Koto Japanese Steakhouse**  
*Now Open for ToGo and Dine-In*  
 14490 Lowes Way | Carmel, IN 46033  
**(317) 575-5686**  
 DOORDASH kotocarmel.com GRUBHUB



**LOMAN**  
EYE CARE

Loman Eye Care has been a leading provider of optometry services and vision care products in the Carmel community since 1992.

EYEGLASSES  
 CONTACT LENSES  
 RED EYES / INJURIES  
 DRY EYE  
 EYE DISEASES

630 3rd Ave. SW  
 Carmel, IN 46032  
**317-844-7474**  
[lomaneyecare.com](http://lomaneyecare.com)



## STUDENT SERVICES CANVAS PAGE

Clay Middle School's Student Services Canvas page serves to provide social emotional lessons, resources, and department contact information. Students wishing to sign up to meet with a counselor or social worker should do so through the [CONTACT US](#) link. Parents/guardians can also find links to [RESOURCES](#) including a variety of community links under [FAMILY RESOURCES](#).

Students should have accepted an invitation to the Clay Student Services Canvas page at the start of the year. Parents set to be observers can then view the page.

## NEW FAMILIES

If you have not submitted your second proof of residence (a GAS or ELECTRIC bill) please bring in a current copy to the office, or scan and email Holly Baker Banninga at [hbakerba@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:hbakerba@ccs.k12.in.us).



Please remember to call the school's Main Office (317-844-7251) or our Attendance Line (317-571-4450) for **ALL** attendance issues before 8:30am on the day of the occurrence:

**Full Day Absences**

**Late Arrivals**

## Everyone needs a helping hand — so don't be afraid to reach out!

Services available:

- In the school
- Through Video in Person appointments
- At our Carmel clinic:
  - 697 Pro-Med Lane, Carmel, IN 46032
  - (317) 574-0055



# YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for a Dine to Donate event at Arni's Restaurant. Bring this flyer with you, give it to your server, and Arni's will donate 20% of your check back to our organization!

Organization: Clay Middle School  
 Day: Wednesday Date: 12-15-2021 Time: ALL DAY (11am-10pm)  
*Flyer must be turned in at time of payment in order to receive credit.*

**Arni's Restaurant**  
 4705 East 96th Street  
 Indianapolis, IN 46240  
 317-571-0077



Order online at  
[www.meetyouatarnis.com](http://www.meetyouatarnis.com)  
*\*Reservations recommended but not required for dine-in customers*

## DINE TO DONATE

Join us December 15th for "Dine to Donate" at Arni's Restaurant on 96th Street! Bring the flyer below and 20% of your check will come back to the Clay PTO--100% of PTO proceeds go back to the school. See you there!



## 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

21st Century Scholars is a scholarship which provides eligible students up to four years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana. If you attend a private college, the state will award an amount comparable to that of a four-year public college. To enroll your scholar or learn more visit <http://scholars.in.gov/parents/enroll/>



### RECLAIM YOUR SMILE & CONFIDENCE



Before



After

Dr. Springhetti is committed to excellence and high-quality oral healthcare. He makes every effort to stay up to date with the latest continuing education and technological advancements in the field.

At the same time, he believes in building personal and sincere relationships with his patients, providing them a level of attentive customer service that is truly unmatched in the Carmel community.



All Ages Welcome!

317.875.7645 | 10485 N. Michigan Rd. Suite 150 Carmel, IN | [springhettidentistry.com](http://springhettidentistry.com)

**Free Consultations**

**Individualized Therapy Solutions**  
 Speech-Language Therapy & Family Coaching

*In-Home & Online Services Available*  
 (317) 537-7698  
[contact@IndividualizedTherapySolutions.com](mailto:contact@IndividualizedTherapySolutions.com)  
[www.IndividualizedTherapySolutions.com](http://www.IndividualizedTherapySolutions.com)

Follow us!

Alyssa Jones  
 M.S., CCC-SLP

FAMILY LAW • GUARDIANSHIPS • WILLS • TRUSTS

**Angela B. Swenson**  
 Attorney



(317) 564-4848  
[angie@swensonlegal.com](mailto:angie@swensonlegal.com)  
[www.swensonlegal.com](http://www.swensonlegal.com)

301 E. Carmel Dr. Suite E300 • Carmel, IN 46032

# 10 Paving Our Path To Greatness

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

## FREE WAYS TO BENEFIT CLAY

**FREE and EASY way to raise money for our school:** By signing up with the following link, Kroger will donate a portion of your shopping trips (when you use your Kroger Rewards card) directly to Clay Middle.



<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

**School code is #RK877 for 'Clay Middle School'.**  
*Sign up now!*



Clay Middle participates in AmazonSmile donation program! A portion of your purchases will be directly donated back to Clay Middle at no cost to you. Please click on the unique link below to be taken to smile.amazon.com where you will be automatically asked to support "Clay Middle School PTO". Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/>.

CARMEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
JANNA HYMES ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*Experience the Exceptional*

2021-22 SEASON

Season & Single Performance Tickets Available

**ON SALE NOW!**

[CarmelSymphony.org](http://CarmelSymphony.org)

317.844.9717

THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



**ERIN CONNELL**  
Managing Partner  
SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS

**CATHERINE MICHAEL**  
Managing Partner  
SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS

Connell Michael Kerr, LLP is a full service family law firm dedicated to serving our clients with zealous advocacy and compassion. We assist clients in a variety of family law matters including prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, divorce, child support and custody disputes, property division, surrogacy and reproductive law, as well as personal injury and education law matters. Our dedicated team of attorneys is focused on providing clients outstanding advocacy and comprehensive legal advice even in the most complex circumstances. Conveniently located in Carmel, our family law office serves clients throughout central Indiana.



## RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON & A PANDEMIC



### INFORMATIONAL RESOURCES TO COPE AND CARE FOR EACHOTHER THIS PANDEMIC HOLIDAY SEASON

- [American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry](#)
- [The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists](#)
- [Thrive by IU Health](#)
- [Mental Health America](#)



## HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE

The holiday season can be a time of joy and warm memories, but it can also be a time of financial strain. If you find that you or someone you know is in need of assistance this holiday season - food, toys, clothes, etc. - some helpful resources you can contact are Connect 2 Help (dial 2-1-1) and The United Way Christmas Service. The Good Samaritan Network is also a helpful resource - applications can be found online at [www.gsnlive.org](http://www.gsnlive.org), or by calling (317) 842-2603.

*Welcome Back for Our*  
**2021-2022 SEASON**

<p><i>Always... Patry Cline</i> SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 3, 2021 <small>Written by Ted Swadlow</small></p>	<p><b>LOMBARDI</b> * A NEW AMERICAN PLAY * OCTOBER 29 - NOVEMBER 21, 2021</p>
<p><i>The History of the World Like You've Never Seen It Before!</i> <b>THE BIG BANG</b> THE MUSICAL JANUARY 28 - FEBRUARY 20, 2022 <small>By Ted Dwan and David Graham</small></p>	<p><b>WORKING</b> THE MUSICAL A VIVID PORTRAIT OF THE MEN AND WOMEN THAT THE WORLD SO OFTEN TAKES FOR GRANTED APRIL 29 - MAY 22, 2022</p>

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [atistage.org](http://atistage.org).

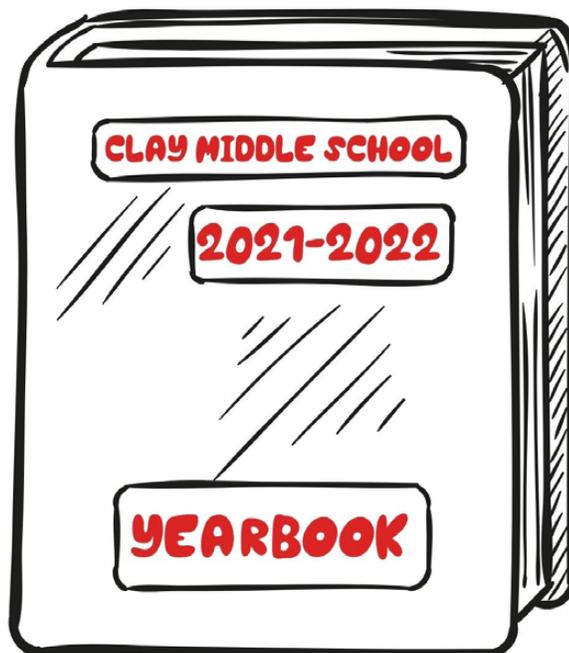
actors theatre  
**ati**  
of indiana

# 2021 | 2022

**Don't forget to reserve your copy of this year's 2021-2022 yearbook!**

Make sure to reserve your copy early to get \$5 off!

Scan the code and use Job No. 8522 for Clay Middle School!



## ABOUT OUR ADMINISTRATORS



**Todd Crosby, Principal**

27 years in public education (12 years of teaching and coaching at both middle school and high school levels and now starting my 15th year as an administrator) I have been in Carmel Clay Schools (CCS) for 10 years; starting my 10th year as principal at Clay Middle School  
My favorite thing about Clay is the people (from the students to the adults). We have worked hard to build a culture of GREATNESS that our students, parents and staff can be proud of. We are so lucky to have a strong school community with the Clay Nation. I take great pride in being the principal at Clay and continuing to learn something new every day from our students and staff as we all strive to live out the Clay Way. ONWARD TO VICTORY CLAY!



**Brooke Cole, Assistant Principal**

18 years in education  
I've been in CCS for 13 years; starting my 4th year at Clay  
My favorite thing about Clay is the school culture and family. It always brings me joy to be around students and staff who live out the Clay Way and show respect, responsibility, are ready to learn and full of Clay pride.



**John Corcoran, Athletic Director**

This is my 19th year in education  
I've been at Clay Middle School for 18 years  
My favorite thing about Clay is the positive educational and extra-curricular environment. I am extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to watch students perform in the activities they love.



**Mark Smith, Assistant Principal**

This year is my 34th year in Carmel Clay Schools and 28th at Clay Middle School. It is a joy to be part of a school community where parents are actively involved and seeking to build partnerships with the schools—this truly gives us the best chance to help students find success. I love that we have an experienced and devoted staff that goes above and beyond in helping to provide for our students. I'm looking forward to a great year.

## LITTLE THINGS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

As we close out 2021, parents we ask for your continued support with emphasizing to our students (all 6th, 7th and 8th graders) the *power of kindness and the impact of our words*. You may recall that as a school we informed all Clay families a couple weeks ago that we had a moment of “reset” to talk with each and every student about what it means to be a Clay Trojan and THE CLAY WAY. We are asking for you to please provide your child with some reminders as to the expectations at school.

- Your words are powerful – use them in a positive manner.
- Think before acting or saying something that is not appropriate or hurtful.
- Be kind to one another
- Positive behavior is contagious so please encourage them to be leaders for others.
- Chromebooks are expensive! Treat them with care. Use technology responsibly – Chromebooks are for school work.

### THE CLAY WAY

**Be Respectful**

**Be Responsible**

**Be Ready to Learn**

**Be Full of Pride**



## IMPORTANT DATES

### December

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, December 1st   | Late Start  |
| Wednesday, December 15th  | Workout Wednesday (Staff Fitness Day)               |
| Friday, December 17th     | 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester Ends                     |
| December 20th-January 3rd | Winter Break ( <b>Students return January 4th</b> ) |

### January - TESTING DATES

- NWEA testing in Language Arts – January 10 or 11 in LA class
- NWEA testing in Math – January 19 or 20 in Math Class

