



Why Wait to be Great?

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.



The holidays have a way of reminding all of us that those human characteristics such as kindness, compassion, empathy and understanding do matter and can make a difference in the life of another person. 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.

Clay GREATNESS Highlights

Our faculty, staff, and student body have been very busy this first semester in a school year that has gotten off to a phenomenal start. They have been working so hard to share their GREATNESS throughout this holiday season. Here are a few examples:

Clay Middle School – Holidays and 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 enjoying treats that have helped us all be present and find joy in this holiday season. For example, our amazing PTO has

...continued on the next page

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, Principal

Catherine Gahl, Assistant Principal

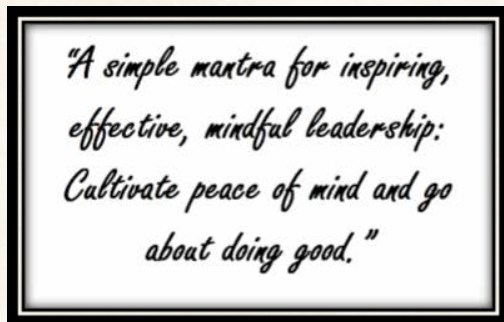
Mark Smith, Assistant Principal

John Corcoran, Athletic/Activities Director



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

sponsored things this past week like the candy cane tree with hot chocolate and all the fixings, breakfast for our staff with casseroles and fresh fruits, stocking our faculty workroom refrigerators with various soft drinks, juices and snacks, and our cookie swap where staff got to join in the holiday season by taking home a cookie tin that they created. These activities and these days of mindfulness could not have been possible without all the work from our Clay PTO, Clay Student Services Department and our Clay front office for all they do to help our students and staff. **You have all been awesome!!**



Clay Performing Arts: It has been a wonderful holiday concert season. A huge thank you goes out to our Clay performing arts programs and our teachers. Throughout this month choir, band and orchestra have had incredible concerts where our auditorium has been packed. Mr. Frizzi, Mrs. Susie, Mrs. Pote and Mr. Grifa have truly gone the extra mile to prepare our students to perform at such a high level. They have all really done an amazing job on finding new ways to challenge our students. We cannot thank you as parents and families for all of your support for Clay Middle School – we cannot do what we do without your support!

Clay Young Artist Award: Clay 7th grade student Madison Bowser was chosen as the Young Artist Award Winner. Madison will have her artwork on display in the Public Meeting Room at our Educational Services Center from November of 2022 through April of 2023. Congratulations to Madison and thank you to Mrs. D'Addario (Clay Art Teacher) for all she does for her students to allow them to achieve at such a high level. We are proud of you Madison.

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 - Acts of Kindness: Thank you to Clay SRA (Mrs. Wegner, Mr. Evan Snyder and Mrs. Trapkus-Harris for helping coordinate our amazing canned food drive these last three weeks where our students did an awesome job. We also collected Coats for Kids and donated several coats that will help provide warmth during the winter months to children in need. We also did blankets to donate from Team Apollo.

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. Clay Boys' and Girls' basketball teams and Winter Cheerleading has already started competitive play, while Wrestling starts once we return from holiday break in January 2023. I would like to recognize our coaches and athletes for modeling what it means to be a Clay Trojan and dedicating themselves to representing the Clay Nation at the highest level. 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 not wait to be GREAT. If we all seize the opportunities when they present to be our very best, 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 CLAY NATION!

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



IMPORTANT DATES

January

Teacher Work Days	3, 4
First Day of Students (Classes Resume)	5
Late Start	11
No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16
5th Grade Parent Information Night	18
PTO Meeting	20
Late Start	25
School Board Recognition Week	9-13

January Important Testing Dates

- NWEA testing in Language Arts – Monday, Jan. 9th and Tuesday, January 10th (in student's ELA classes)
- NWEA testing in Math – Friday, Jan. 13th and Monday, Jan. 16th (in student's Math Class)



February

Orchestra ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest	4
National School Counseling Week	6-10
Late Start	8
National School Resource Officer Day	15
PTO Meeting	17
President's Day Holiday-No School	20
Late Start	22



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Carmel Clay Schools

Holiday Lights Recycling Drive

(In partnership with Carmel Utilities, White's Ace Hardware and Technology Recyclers)

Bring in your unwanted strands of holiday lights

November 21st – January 12th

Place in the collection box

Keep your spirits bright and our planet green!

FRIENDLY REMINDER FOR OUTSIDE FOOD

Food cannot be delivered to students during the school day by food delivery establishments, including but not limited to Uber Eats, DoorDash, or Grub Hub. This also includes students ordering their own food from food delivery establishments.

Other Important Food Reminders

- When coming back to school from an appointment, you cannot bring in snacks/drinks (Starbucks, Smoothie King, etc) to take back into the classroom or drop off in your locker.
- We cannot have special lunch arrangements for birthdays or other special events/celebrations. This includes food brought in from restaurants, pizza, cupcakes, etc.

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THE GREEN SCENE

Clay Middle School is currently collecting holiday lights to be recycled. We are competing against the other two middle schools to see who can collect the most pounds of lights. Please bring us your used or broken strands and place them in the collection boxes located outside the main office!



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FROM STUDENT SERVICES

Freshman Scheduling

Below are important dates to be aware of as we move into the 2023-2024 scheduling season.

- **December 12:** All 8th grade students were invited to the CHS - 8th grade transition to CHS - Class of 2027. In the course, you will find an FAQ section, Honors Programming information, instructions for entering courses online in PowerSchool.
- **December 13:** 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 12, 2022 and close on January 16, 2023.
- **January 9:** 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 10:** 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 16:** The online course request system through PowerSchool will close on this date. All course requests must be entered by January 16, 2023.



NWEA TESTING

Students will take NWEA tests during their ELA and Math classes the week of January 9th. Please make every effort possible to have your students to school and on time that week. NWEA is an important tool that teachers use to guide their instruction and assess a student's growth thus far in the school year. Thank you for your support Clay Nation!

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TEAM APOLLO

The Tuesday before Thanksgiving Break, Team Apollo participated in the 4th Annual, Thanksgiving Back! Enjoying pie from Parents, and a movie, students worked together to create "tie-blankets" from donated supplies to create 25 blankets for Women and Children at The Julian Center. Thankyou to all who participated!



FOOD SERVICES IS HIRING!

Clay Middle School has **two positions available** in Food Services

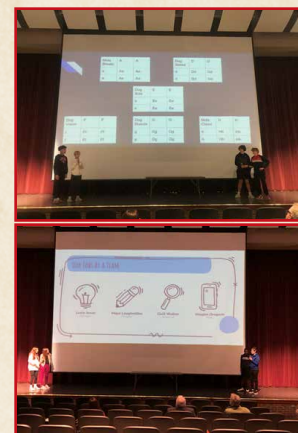
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SCIENCE & GENETICS

As a conclusion to their Genetics Unit, 8th grade science students used their new knowledge to create brand new organisms with commercial value. Student groups pitched their ideas to "investors" in a Shark Tank style format in the Clay auditorium. After listening to sales pitches, Sharks announced which organisms they would like to invest in. The science students did a great job presenting their ideas in front of parents, community members and their peers.

A big thank you to all who volunteered as Sharks!



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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, or by calling (317) 842-2603.



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/>



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The tutors are experts in their subjects and include certified teachers, college professors, graduate students, select undergraduates from accredited universities, and other professionals. The tutor and student work one-on-one in a secure online classroom, and no personal information is exchanged between them.

Tutor.com is available at tutor.com/carmelclaypl or through the **free Tutor.com to Go app**. To register online for a library card, visit carmelclaylibrary.org/get-alibrar-card.

The **Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology** is again offering their homework hotline assistance program. The service is free and is geared toward help in the subjects of math and science. Call 1-977-ASK-ROSE. Hours of operation are Sunday - Thursday, 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Online chat and email questions can also be answered during these hours of operation by clicking this [LINK](#) to their website.

CLAY COMMUNITY!

Thank you for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair this year! Many thanks to the volunteers who gave their time and energy setting up, working registers, refilling orders, supervising and tearing down! An extra special thank you to our shift supervisors who were here EVERY DAY- Marcia Ruderman and Angela Frazier! Both of these ladies have put in a tremendous amount of work to support our book fair over many years and we will miss them as they graduate on to the high school and beyond.



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FROM THE PTO

Nominate your favorite educator today for the CEF Honor Roll — it's a great holiday gift! Online nomination (*and see graphic below*):

https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/foundation/events/honor-roll?f-bclid=IwAR3xLy5MWZKtba3_X6UO9RTMElvldwu2hTgyYyXBI-Y4N37lvfB5tSrX7itc

Sign up to donate items for **Tuesday Treats** (teacher appreciation) during second semester here:

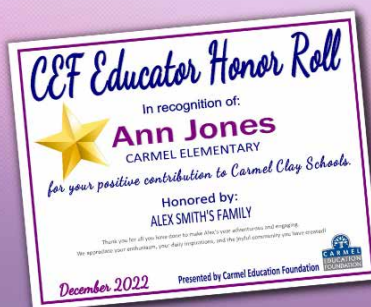
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaba92fa4fc1-clay1/>



CEF Educator HONOR ROLL

Honoring the Positive Impact of CCS Teachers and Staff

CCS students and parents are invited to recognize an educator who has made an impact on their learning experience. Nominees receive a certificate with a personalized message & district wide recognition. These "thank you" gifts have a lasting impact and are highly valued.



Nominate through
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Donations support CEF teacher grants, student scholarships, and district-wide programming.

WAYS TO BENEFIT CLAY

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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/>.



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BRING YOUR ID EVERY DAY

ALL Students will be required to bring their IDs to lunch each day.
We will be implementing a “NO IDs GO LAST” procedure.

Reasons for this change.

1. This is not a new procedure – we have done this before, but this will be the first time this school year.
2. 4 out of our 5 lunch periods have 300 plus students and if students come through the line without their IDs, the lines get delayed and we are struggling to get students through the lines.

What will happen if your child comes up to the lunch lines WITHOUT their IDs?

- Lunchroom Supervisors will call each row as they always do, but they will announce that “NO IDs” go last. This informs students that DO NOT have their IDs to not come up until all the lines have gone through for students that have their IDs.
- If your child gets in line WITHOUT an ID during the regular rotation, they will be asked to go back to their seat until NO IDs are called at the end. We can assure you that your child will still have enough time to eat their lunch.



ATTENDANCE

Please call the school (317-571-4450) or use our School Dismissal Manager system if your student will:

- Have an all-day absence
- Late arrival where they will not be in school first thing in the morning.

If we don't hear from you regarding your students' attendance, we will call and email, as we are required by State Law to know your student's daily attendance.

Tardies:

- 3 Tardies — An email will be sent out
- 5 Tardies — Student will serve lunch detention
- 7 Tardies — After school detention and every 3 consecutive tardies after result in another after school detention
- **At the Administration's discretion, a parent meeting can be requested at any time during this process.

As always, you are welcome and are encouraged to call (317-844-7251) if you have any questions or circumstances that we need to discuss and work through regarding attendance.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE...

CRU**Meetings:**

Every Thursday morning at 7:30
in the LGL room

All are welcome! There will be donuts & drinks. Listen to the announcements and join for the reminders-text 81010 - @cruclay

TARDIES

Clay Nation,

As we approach the end of the 2022 school year, we wanted to make sure everyone is finishing strong with getting to school on time. The detailed information below will allow you to plan accordingly. Being at school on time is essential to your child's education and starting the day off on a positive and productive note is our goal for every Clay student. As we have done in the past, student tardies will be addressed as they accumulate. In the information below, it states specifically that if your child reaches a certain number of tardies, they will be subject to the school discipline.



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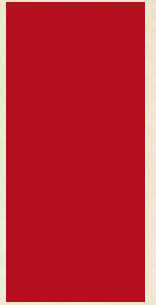
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