



Building a Legacy of Greatness!

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

The last time you received our newsletter, we were approaching the holiday season and reflecting back on an awesome 2019. As 2020 is well underway and we are almost one month back, I am delighted as principal to talk about all the great things going on at Clay. Before I get too far into the newsletter, I hope all of you had a restful and relaxing holiday break.

Since returning back to school on January 7th, our faculty, staff and students have been hard at work carrying on goals that they started at the beginning of the school year in August, but also setting some new year's resolutions and goals for 2020. I would like to welcome any new families to Clay that moved in at semester. We are so happy to have you at Clay and please do not hesitate to contact our Clay PTO for our new family / parent group. Our Clay PTO is such a great resource as you are getting acclimated to the Carmel community and Clay Middle School. For more information please go to: <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/pto-clm/new-families/>.

As we left for holiday break we were highlighting so many wonderful things that our students and teachers were doing to pay it forward and help others. Some notable examples of the **Clay Way** being lived out were:

- SRA Canned Food Drive
- Hamilton County Coat Drive
- Team Avengers Make-A-Wish Campaign
- Adopt a Family Holiday Drive
- Team Apollo Wheeler Mission Community Service Project (blankets for homeless population)
- Carmel Clay Schools Green Team Recycled Lights Donation Drive.

THANK YOU TEACHERS FOR EMPOWERING OUR STUDENTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD BEYOND CLAY!

...continued on the next page

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, Principal
Brooke Cole, Assistant Principal
Mark Smith, Assistant Principal
Mike Wilpolt, Athletic 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...*

Perhaps what I am most proud as the principal of Clay Middle School is that we are developing the whole student, both in and out of the classroom. As parents you should feel very proud of the children you are raising. It is through these examples that our students are learning to give back to others and look at their education as a life experience. The impact they are having on others at an early age is something that cannot be underestimated or under appreciated. So, thank you for all you do to support Clay and help to ensure that your child is ready to learn each and every day and give their very best knowing that it will be recognized. We truly appreciate it and as a school we value your partnership.

As our Clay AVID program continues to grow and expand, another highlight was our AVID Parent Information Night. Back on December 3rd, 2019 Clay hosted a Clay AVID Parent Information Night. This evening was intended to give parents information on our AVID program and it was very well attended. Thank you to all parents that attended this evening. Special thanks go out to all of our AVID teachers, Mrs. Catherine Gahl, Mrs. Liz Wegner and Mr. Mark Smith for their leadership of the Clay AVID program.

January has been a busy month thus far with events for both our 5th and 8th transition programs well underway. For example, Clay has been busy hosting three out of our four feeder elementary schools for our elementary activity nights which are part of our 5th grade transition program for to Clay. The 5th grade students come over and enjoy an evening at Clay by meeting Clay staff and students, eating pizza, getting a t-shirt, taking building tours, joining in cheers with our Clay cheerleaders and attending a sporting event where they get to enjoy our pep session playing, along with some great concessions. An opportunity that will be coming up on Tuesday, January 28th will be our 5th grade parent information and performing arts tonight. This will be a great opportunity for our new 5th grade families that will be coming in next year to begin to get information about middle school life and scheduling details for next year. We will be discussing with parents what middle school life is like and what their children can anticipate. We look forward to seeing you there!

OUR 5TH GRADERS HAVE DONE AN AWESOME JOB ON THESE NIGHTS. WE ARE SO EXCITED TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE CLAY NATION!

On the other hand, as we are bringing in 5th graders and their parents we are also in the process of working with Carmel High

School to have high school transition events. Only after being back a week, our 8th graders got an opportunity back on January 13th to attend Carmel High School's Academic information and transition night where they got to see all that is available in high school from scheduling details to clubs and organizations to extracurricular offerings. Once February starts, our 8th graders will also begin the process of high school scheduling and essentially begin looking ahead to their four-year experience in high school.

Looking ahead to February, I would like to wish the best of luck to our performing arts department as they go into their ISSMA competition season. Thank you to Mr. Frizzi, Mrs. Pote, Mr. Grifa, and Ms. Fiechter for all their hard work preparing our students for their competitions. I would also like to take a moment to say thank you to all of our winter sports coaches who have given of their time to coach, mentor and lead our students in model manner. We appreciate your leadership and your positive approach towards sportsmanship, effort and teamwork.

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. I am happy to announce that the Clay Nation is alive and well.

Being the best at getting better is not easy work, but with your help as parents and the hard work of our teachers and students we are excited about what 2020 will bring for the Clay Nation. **THANK YOU FOR AN AWESOME 2019 - WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 2020 AHEAD!**

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans

#ClayGreatness

GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby, *Principal*

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY

January 27.....WIDA Family Night, 6:00-7:15
 January 28.....5th grade - Parent information/student
 Performing Arts Night
 January 28..... Woodbrook Activity Night

FEBRUARY

- **Times TBD for ISSMA Competitions** – Please look for information forthcoming from our Clay Performing Arts Department

February 1..... ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest
 February 4, 6 & 8..... Choir & Instrument Try Ons (Times TBD)
 February 3-7.....National School Counseling Week (Clay
 Counselor Visits Elementary Schools)
 February 17..... No School - President's Day
 February 18.....Clay hosts - Carmel Clay Schools (CCS)
 Expedition
 February 21......PTO Meeting
 February 8..... ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest
 February 22..... ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest
 February 29..... ISSMA State Solo & Ensemble Contest

MARCH

March 9-13..... Food Service Recognition Week
 March 13......3rd Quarter Ends
 March 17......6th Grade Band Concert
 March 20......PTO Meeting

NEW FACES TO CLAY

Mr. Mike Wilpolt

Mr. Wilpolt started on January 7th 2020 as Clay's new Activities / Athletic Director and he has been hard at work. Mike immediately rolled up his sleeves and started to work aside our staff working with our coaches, student athletes, club sponsors, teaching staff and our administrative team on a daily basis.

THANK YOU MR. WILPOLT – WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU AT CLAY. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

Ms. Lauren Fiechter

Ms. Fiechter started back in December before leaving for holiday break. She has taken over responsibilities for Mrs. Susie who went on maternity leave. Shortly after starting, Ms. Fiechter conducted our annual Clay holiday choir concert and did a great job. She has been hard at work getting our choir for its upcoming ISSMA competitions. Thank you for all your commitment to our students and their success.

THANK YOU MS. FIECHTER – WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU AT CLAY. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!



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AVID SPOTLIGHT

AVID students are beginning their units on college and career exploration here at Clay Middle School. Students will take part in Socratic seminars, in class, as a strategy to discuss their post-graduation options. Further, students will become very familiar with college lingo and discover differences among many colleges and universities.

As students begin to visualize what their own journey may look like, they will get an authentic college experience when they visit the campuses of U Indy and IUPUI later this semester!

AVID students are certainly advancing in their own college preparatory skills and learning all that college has to offer them.

The culminating project of the career unit will include a day for the students to interview adults in their current fields about their professional journey. If you are interested in participating in this interview opportunity, especially if you represent a unique field or have taken an alternate career path, please fill out an interest form at <https://tinyurl.com/ut23kh9> and you will be contacted by our AVID teachers.

NWEA READING & MATH GROWTH

6th, 7th and 8th grade students took the NWEA Reading and Math Growth tests the week of January 13, 2020. The results from these tests provide teachers with information to help them deliver appropriate content for each student and determine each student's academic growth over time. You will receive your child's test data through secure document delivery by February 11, 2020.

Clay Middle School's Storytelling Project:
Listening is an Act of Love

Wednesday, February 26th
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
throughout the School Hallway

You're Invited!
The 7th Grade students have come together to create visual work for a spectacular Language and Arts celebration. Every student has their own project framed and on display.
You don't want to miss this event!

Gifts for the Family
You can proudly display your child's framed work in your home or office. You may also order a COLOR REPRODUCTION at the event. A framed reproduction of your child's work is an amazing, personalized gift for grandparents, friends or other family members.

Ways to Purchase
Attend the school's Storytelling Project event and purchase the framing package for your child's visual work.

Framed Visual Work: \$25.00
payable by **Cash or Check** (to PTO)



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COMMUNICATIONS

Please forward this email to other parents you know and encourage them to sign up for PTO email updates at:

- <https://goo.gl/FQ5ue6/>

Also, follow us on Facebook at 'Clay Middle PTO' and on Twitter at '@ClayPTO'.

More information about Clay Middle PTO can be found at:

- <http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/pto/>



MATHCOUNTS

Thank you to all of the students who participated in the school MathCounts competition on Wednesday, January 8th. You did a great job and we were very impressed! Congratulations to the following students who have made Clay's MathCounts team. These students will represent Clay in the chapter competition in February:

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| Charles D. | Michael Q. |
| Jennifer H. | Alex S. |
| Eric H. | Eddie S. |
| Alan H. | William Z. |
| Colton H. | Grace Z. |

SAFESITTER

Designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting.

The instructor-led class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. Students even get to use manikins to practice rescue skills like choking rescue and CPR!



Register for a 1-day class! Choose from:

December 7, 2019 · January 25, 2020 · February 8, 2020
March 7, 2020 · April 25, 2020 · May 30, 2020 · June 13, 2020

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Carmel Fire Department Headquarters
2 Civic Square · Carmel, IN 46032

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Class fee is \$60. Students should bring a sack lunch.

Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. To register, call 317.571.4245 or email kfreer@carmel.in.gov. Register early as classes fill quickly!

CALL 317.571.4245
EMAIL kfreer@carmel.in.gov
VISIT www.carmel.in.gov



 **Attendance**

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**
- Pre-Arranged Early Dismissals**



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WIDA FAMILY NIGHT

We welcome parents and
children of all ages

6PM-7:15PM
MONDAY, JANUARY
27TH

WIDA INFO NIGHT WAS A SUCCESS!

Clay would like to thank all the students and their families that attended this wonderful event last evening to learn more information about WIDA. Special thanks goes out to Mrs. Cole, our assistant principal and Josh Lowe our CCS middle school ENL coordinator for all their time, preparation and planning. Special thanks also goes out to the following Clay staff members that helped assist our families throughout the evening and helped to make this a great event for our Clay community.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| • Mrs. Mehl | Mr. Kish | Mr. Ellington | (6th grade) |
| • Mrs. McCourt | Mrs. Cooke | | (7th grade) |
| • Mrs. Tilbury | Mrs. Giles | Mr. Kleman | (8th grade) |
| • Mrs. Vanhoorde | Mrs. Selear | Mrs. Morgan | |
| • Mrs. Naas | Mr. Lowe | Mr. Smith | Mr. Crosby |

AUGGIE THERAPY DOG

Dear Clay Families,

We are excited to share with you that we will soon be welcoming a therapy dog named Auggie to Clay Middle School. Auggie is a highly trained, 1 ½ year old male Sheepadoodle who is certified through **The Alliance of Therapy Dogs** and the **AKC Canine Good Citizen program**. His handlers are Clay Middle School Counselor Erin Naas and Special Education Department Chair Jeff Naas.

Research on the addition of therapy dogs in schools has shown to have many benefits for students. In adolescents, the use of a therapy dog is known to decrease anxiety, improve self-esteem, improve communication skills and increase overall academic achievement.

Clay families can learn more about Auggie's qualifications, protocols and student interaction guidelines [here](#).

We look forward to introducing Auggie to our students and staff through various meet and greet sessions when he begins January 27th.

Sincerely,
Todd Crosby, Principal



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SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

The Social Studies department recently offered 8th grade students an opportunity to enter the local National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Horseshoe chapter's national essay contest.



Students were asked to identify that 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower at Plymouth Rock. Students were asked to research that voyage and then write from the perspective of a traveler on that voyage, using factual history as a basis for their essay.

Shaheer R., of Team Visionaries, has recently been named the Hamilton County essay contest winner.

Shaheer will be recognized by the chapter at the Good Citizens Recognition Tea held in February. He will share his essay with attendees and receive a certificate of congratulations. His essay will move on to the state level competition with potential for being judged at the national competition.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 with the simple mission of promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism. This nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education consists of over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the world. These vibrant, active women are the heart of the organization.

8TH GRADE TRIP

For those who have students that are CURRENT 7th GRADERS at CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL and will be attending CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL next year as an 8th grader in good standing can now register for the 2020 8th grade Washington D.C. trip. Secure your spot as soon as possible!

- **Tour ID#: 35462002**
- Destination: Washington, D.C.
- Call Nation's Classroom at 1-800-900-1776 OR
- Contact Chad Carr at ccarr1@ccs.k12.in.us with any questions/concerns.

NEW FAMILIES

We have our very own Facebook Group Page- a great source of information and connecting with other new/newer families. Join us on Facebook -- simply search "Clay New Parents Group" in Carmel IN.



Save the Date

ALMOST LEAP DAY LUNCH at Cafe Patachou on Tuesday, February 28th at 11:30 am. (5790 E. Main Street, Carmel IN 46033). Please let us know if you are coming by Friday February 21st so that I can secure the proper size table and the restaurant can have proper staffing at realtorkarentullai@gmail.com.

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THE GREEN SCENE

The Green Team has once again partnered with Kroger to kick-off our **Plastic Grocery Bag Collection Drive**.

Beginning Monday, January 27th and running through Friday, February 14th, The Green Team will be collecting plastic grocery bags. Students bringing in 25 bags or more can see Mrs. Sanders for a reusable bag donated by our local Kroger store.

Collection boxes can be found in the 7th grade hallway.



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FROM THE CAFETERIA

You probably heard it from your own parents: Breakfast is the most important meal of the day!" But now you're the one saying it – to your sleepy, frazzled, grumpy kids who insist "I'm not hungry" as you try to get everyone fed and moving in the morning.

So Why Bother With Breakfast?

- Students who eat breakfast show improved attendance, behavior, and academic performance as well as decreased tardiness.
- Students who eat breakfast at school – closer to class and test-taking time – perform better on standardized tests than those who skip breakfast.
- Students who participate in school breakfast are more likely to consume fruit and milk at breakfast.
- Students who eat breakfast show improved cognitive function, attention, and memory.

Clay offers delicious breakfast choices every day! Daily we offer milk, fresh fruit, cereal, whole grain breakfast bars and whole grain breakfast buns. Each day we offer a different hot entrée such as a Biscuit Sandwich with bacon, egg and cheese, French



Toast Bites with Sausage, Pancake Sausage on a Stick and (new this semester) a Breakfast Bagel. A complete Breakfast Meal consists of an entrée, milk and a fruit and/or fruit juice for only \$1.35! What a great bargain!

Eating a healthy breakfast helps students stay focused, energized, and healthy. We'd love to help your student start their day full of the energy they'll need to have a great, productive day.

Start your day with breakfast at Clay!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please let me know...I'm happy to help!

Amy Glover, *Café Manager*
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Our unique charity link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823>

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!*

amazon smile



TOP OF THE NEWS

Thank you PTO parents!

Your PTO dollars are hard at work! We have been able to send ELA teachers to a one-of-a-kind conference, purchase a Clay MS tent to use during outdoor events, purchase some robotics equipment for the STEM lab, as well as offset some field trip costs. Your contributions DO make a huge difference for our students and staff and we appreciate all that you give!

Tuesday Treats

Tuesday Treats is back for 2020! See link below for opportunities in January and February:

- <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/8050e49adac23a13-tuesday4/17858385>



Bookstore (during Student Lunch periods)

January volunteer opportunities are available, click link below if interested:

- <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48a9ac2ba5fe3-january1>



SENSORY-FRIENDLY SKATE DAY

JAN 27 & FEB 24, 2020 4-6 P.M.

A sensory-friendly event for families, especially designed for children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder or any type of special need.

Free admission and skate rental for the entire family, 4-6 p.m. Wheelchairs are welcome on the ice and ice walker supports are available to share. Rink will be closed to the general public. Guardians must accompany on ice.



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 7th Grade Clay Winter Cheer



Clay Middle School @Clay... · 5d
 Welcome to the new members of Clay's Student Athletic Board!
[@ClayMSAthletics](#)



Steffy McCourt @Mrs... · 1/16/20
 Exciting PBL was launched in Honors English today. Driving question: How can you create an event for our friends and families that showcases and celebrates the stories acquired through our storytelling project? Stay tuned to find out how they answer it. 😊
[@mrslizwegner](#) [@myccs](#)



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CLAY NATION: WE WANT TO BE THE BEST AT GETTING BETTER