Volume 6 | Issue 1 February 2023



Why Wait to be Great?

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO BE GREAT TODAY?

Dear Clay Nation,

Happy 2023! I hope everyone is staying warm and safe and have enjoyed seeing the snow these last couple weeks. It is hard to believe that we have started February and have passed the midpoint of this school year. Reflecting back on the first semester, we have a lot to be proud of and highlight. Each month I have the opportunity of writing the newsletter and update everyone on all the wonderful things that happen at Clay Middle School. Since coming back in January we have started our transition events from 5th to 6th grade and from 8th to 9th grade. At the middle school level, we are unique in that we have two different transition programs going on at the same time. We are transitioning our eighth graders to ninth grade in high school, as we are also transitioning our fifth graders to sixth grade and getting them ready and exposed to Clay Middle School.

I would like to welcome any new student and family to Clay that moved in at semester. Welcome to the

Clay Nation! We are so happy to have your family 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:

- Hamilton County Coat Drive
- Adopt a Family Holiday Drive
- Carmel Clay Schools Green Team Recycled Lights Donation Drive.

...continued on the next page

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, **Principal**Catherine Gahl, **Assistant Principal**Mark Smith, **Assistant Principal**John Corcoran, **Athletic/Activities Director**



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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

continues

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

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.

January has been a busy month thus far with events for both our 5th and 8th transition programs which have been well underway. Our 5th grade activity nights have been awesome. We have really enjoyed getting to know all of our 5th grade students and their families. Students have been coming 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. We are so excited to welcome to welcome our 5th graders to the Clay Nation.

On the other hand, as we are planning for the arrival this fall of our 5th graders and their parents, we are also in the process of working with Carmel High School to have high school transition events. Transition for our 8th graders will be happening this month so please look out for more information from Carmel High School administration. 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. With one semester left in middle school we could not be prouder of our 8th graders and the leadership they have shown. **Finish Strong!!**

Clay Highlights

This week is National Counseling Week - We would like to take a moment to thank our amazing Clay Student Services Team for all they do for both our students and staff at Clay Middle School. Thank you Mrs. Naas, Mrs. Janson, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Coats, Mrs. Grogg and Mrs. Baker-Banninga for the care, support and compassion you show to all of our students and staff at Clay.

Thank you Coaches! - I would like to take a moment to

say thank you to all of our winter sports coaches who give their time to coach, mentor and lead our young student-athletes in wonderful manner. We appreciate your leadership and your positive approach towards sportsmanship, effort and teamwork.

Congratulations Mrs. Pote! – On Monday January 30th Mrs. Pote was recognized at our Carmel Clay School Board meeting for being awarded the 2023 Bandmaster of the Year. This is a highly prestigious award given to only one recipient per year regardless of middle school or high school. This is a three-year vetting process and this award is based on the accomplishments of the individual over the course of their career. My best analogy would be receiving the MVP award at the All-Star game.

ISSMA Solo and Ensemble: Wind/Percussion/String - We would like to recognize any of our performing arts students that are participating and will be participating in ISSMA through January and February. We support them as they will perform at the state level competitions. J

CCS School Board Appreciation Week – During the month of January we took time to recognize our wonderful CCS School Board. Thank you for all the time, dedication and commitment that you give to Carmel Clay Schools. We appreciate you!!

Culture of Care Week – During the week of January 27th – February 3rd we celebrated Culture of Care Week. Research shows that having positive connections with others can greatly improve someone's mental health. Even one positive interaction each day can help brighten someone's mood. During this week of mental health awareness Clay Middle School, along with Carmel Clay Schools had spirit days each day to bring awareness to mental health. The students and staff both enjoyed dressing up in neon day, pajama day, mix and match day, wear green day, and Clay spirit wear to show unity. Thank you to your Clay Student Services Department for all their help with organizing a fun, yet meaningful week to help bring awareness to mental health.

Clay Athletics – Thank you to all of our coaches, student athletes, parents and greater Clay community for your ongoing support with our athletic programs. We appreciate all your help in order for us to give our student athletes the best experience possible. THE CLAY WAY!

I challenge all Clay Trojans to ask ourselves ... "What have we done to be Great today?" As we help other find their greatness, we are reminded that by working 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 a brand-new year and what 2023 will bring for the Clay Nation.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 2023 AHEAD!

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby, Principal

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

February Dates

February 15..... National School Resource Officer Day

February 17..... PTO Meeting

February 20..... President's Day Holiday-No School

February 22..... Late Start

March Dates

March 8..... Late Start

March 13-17 Food Service Staff Week (National Nutrition Month)

March 10 3rd Quarter Ends

March 15 6th and 7th Grade Band Mid-Year Concert

March 17 PTO Meeting

March 17 Band ISSMA Organizational Contest (7-11 a.m.)

March 17 Orchestra ISSMA Organizational Contest (4-10 p.m.)
March 18 Band and Orchestra ISSMA Organizational Contest

March 22 Late Start

March 31- April 7... SPRING BREAK

CLAY ATHLETICS

http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics

Please refer to the school website for sports updates, times and dates at the link below.

As we are transitioning from our winter sports to our spring sports
please refer to our school website for latest updates. We welcome you
and anyone in the Clay Nation to come out and support our student
athletes and their athletic teams. ONWARD TO VICTORY CLAY!



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FROM THE CAFETERIA

Second semester is in full swing! I can't believe we're in 2023...the end of the school year will be here before we know it!

Staffing continues to be a concern for Carmel Clay Schools Food Service. Be advised that we may have to alter our menu depending on product availability and/or staffing issues on any given day. Please know that we will continue to do our very best to offer tasty, healthy meals for our students every day!

If you or anyone you know is interested in working in any of our kitchens, please fill out an application on-line. The hours and schedule are fantastic for anyone, but especially if you have children who attend Carmel Clay Schools! Whether you're looking for a 5-day a week position or would just like to get out of the house 2 or 3 days a week, please consider applying!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact me...
I'm happy to help!

Amy Glover, Café Manager (317)844-7251 x6755 aglover@ccs.k12.in.us



CRU

Meetings: Every Thursday morning at 7:30 in the LGI room

The first meeting will be Thursday September 8th

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

FOOD SERVICES IS HIRING!

Clay Middle School has two positions available in Food Services

- Hours are while children are in school!
- Professional & team-oriented environment
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 - Opportunities for advancement
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Apply Today!

www.applitrack.com/ccs/onlineapp





MATHCOUNTS

Congratulations to the following students who qualified through the school competition in December to represent Clay Middle School at the Central Indiana Chapter MathCounts Competition on February 11th.

Eighth graders:

Grant Mu, Alex Cheng, Rebecca Li, Ranie Yang, and Minah Paek

Seventh graders:

Rodion Zuban, Jonathon Zhu, Andrew Lee, and Saket Susant

Sixth graders:

Hrishabh Bhowmik and Chris Cheng

Please wish them luck!



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CARMEL'S DISTRICT ART SHOW

Carmel's District Art Show is at the Carmel Library. The show begins February 2 – February 28. We would like to congratulate the following students representing Clay Middle School this year at the Art Show!

Katelyn Ashburner Kavya Garg Bonnie Rogers
Arianna Nayeri Lauren Goedde Max Walkey
Lyla Meurer Lily Jacobsen Erica Lai
Olivia Zangrilli Claira Keller Olive Read

SUCCESS

THE GREEN SCENE

The Holiday Lights Recycling Drive was a huge success! Our Clay families collected close to 300 pounds of lights.

Members of the Green Team helped to weigh and load the lights and then they were delivered to the high school.

Technology Recyclers will collect all the lights and will take care of the recycling process.







Is your child realizing their potential in math? Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show an alarming decline in math scores nationwide¹ – clear evidence of the toll the pandemic has taken on students. But there's plenty of time to turn things around with personalized math instruction at Mathnasium. A customized learning plan will focus on what your child needs to improve their math skills and build their confidence for the rest of the school year! National Assessment of Educational Progress

Contact Us

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Mathnasium of Carmel
317-846-MATH (6284) • mathnasium.com/carmel
Located in front of Market District





FROM STUDENT SERVICES



7th and 8th Grade Scheduling

Counselors will meet with current 6th and 7th grade students during the month of February to complete the course selection process for the 2023-2024 school year.

Students will be provided detailed instructions to enter initial course request during Core+ on February 2, 2023. Counselors will then be meeting 1:1 with students the week of February 6, 2023.

We hope to answer all questions during this process and through our scheduling modules Student Services Canvas page. The PowerSchool Class Registration system will remain open for students to make changes to requests until March 1.

After March 1, you may email a counselor directly with questions or requests to make a change to initial course requests.

- Mrs Naas All 6th, Teams 7-2 (Atlas) & 7-3 (Apollo)
- Mrs. Janson Team 7-1 Poseidon

School Counselors: Helping Students Dream Big

February 6th - 10th is National School Counselors Week! The purpose of National School Counselors week is to highlight the impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for the future.

Monday:

Role of a
School Counselor

Tuesday:

Guidance Counselor vs. School Counselor

Wednesday:

School Counselors & Discipline

Thursday:

Indiana College & Career Resource

Friday:

Follow Clay
Student Services'
Canvas Page

We are honored to serve our students, families, and staff here at Clay Middle School and are grateful to work in such a terrific school and community!









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21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

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

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

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

CULTURE OF CARE WEEK

A Flicker of Hope - Shining a Light on Mental Health
Clay Middle School will be participating in CCS Culture of Care
Week on 1/30/23-2/4/23

To increase mental health awareness we will participate in dress up days, core+ lessons and school wide activities.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In seventh and eighth grade Social Studies classes, students will have the opportunity to consider the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and write an essay based on this quote from MLK: "We must develop and maintain the capacity to forgive. He who is devoid of the power to forgive is devoid of the power to love. There is some good in the worst of us and some evil in the best of us. When we discover this, we are less prone to hate out enemies." The essay contest is sponsored by the Indiana Association of School Principals and Ball State University. Social Studies teachers will gather the best five essays per team at the school level. From there, five total essays will move on to the essay contest. The first round is due by February 10th. Students will need to see their current Social Studies teacher for more details.



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WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

February 1ST, 2023

World Read Aloud Day is a global event meant to bring people together through shared stories and reading experiences. Every year critically acclaimed middle grade author Kate Messner compiles a list of authors who GIVE (for free!) 15-minute virtual author visits to schools around the world. The author presentations include a brief introduction, a short read aloud from one of their books, as well as, recommendations of other authors' books, followed by a short Q and A. As in years past, Clay will be celebrating WRAD by participating in 10 selected virtual author visits throughout the day. Continue the celebration by reading a book with your child or listening to an audiobook together! (Yes, even middle school students enjoy read alouds!)



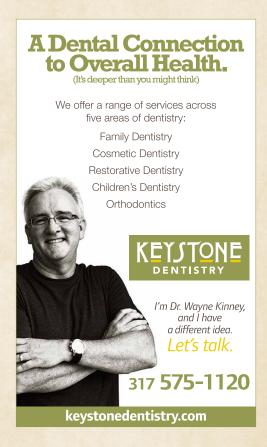














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LESSONS

HCCTA Spring Tennis Lessons – Ages 4 to Adult

Hamilton County Community Tennis Association (HCCTA) offers tennis classes for all abilities. HCCTA's Carmel tennis classes are taught by Shelly Wild. Shelly was credited by the USPTA (United States Professional Tennis Association) with a P1 certification in 1989 and is an Elite USPTA Professional.

Spring Class Location & Dates

- Tuesdays at Creekside Middle School 4/11 to 5/23 (7 classes)
- Sundays at Carmel High School 4/16 to 5/21 (6 classes)

To register and view all class information, go to: hccta.org → lessons → spring session

CONTACT-QUESTIONS: Maggie Petersen at 317/501-9145 or hcctatennis@gmail.com





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

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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.comwhere 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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CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SERIES

Clay Middle School February 22, 2023 (6pm - 7:30pm)

Creekside Middle School March 15, 2023 (6pm - 7:30pm)

EXPEDITION

MINI-SESSIONS

BASED ON OUR POPULAR COMMUNITY PROGRAM, JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS.

Reach the Community Relations Office:

communications@ccs.k12.in.us www.ccs.k12.in.us/services/community-relations 317-844-9961





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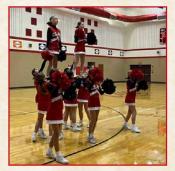






























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