PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Selieve in your

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

Dear Clay Nation,

I hope everyone is staying warm and safe through these winter months. It is hard to believe that we are well into February and have passed the midpoint of this school year. Each month I have the opportunity of writing the newsletter and updating everyone in the Clay Nation on all the wonderful things happening at Clay Middle School. Every month I am quickly reminded that it takes all people working together to accomplish GREAT things, so thank you for your support as parents and always being an active school community.

As we approach the middle of February, it is hard to believe that we will be closing up our winter sports seasons at Clay in the next three weeks. I would like to thank all the winter sports teams for representing Clay with class. Thank you to 7th and 8th grade boys and girls' basketball teams, our wrestling team and our cheerleading squads for all the time and effort they put into building young confident student athletes that compete and show great sportsmanship. Each year I am more and more impressed with our student athletes and grateful for the leadership provided by our coaches and Activities / Athletic Director John Corcoran. All of you make us very proud to be a Clay Trojan.

I would also like to welcome any new student and family to Clay that may have 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.

Link for New Families to Clay For more information please go to: https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/pto-clm/new-families/.

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

...continued on the next page



ADMINISTRATION

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

5150 E. 126th Street | Carmel, IN 46033 | Tel. 317-844-7251

FINDING THE POWER OF OUR OUR STUDENTS... OUR PARENTS... AND OUR COMMUNITY **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE** continues...

Believe in your Greatness

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 all of our 5th graders from Prairie Trace Elementary, Cherry Tree Elementary, Woodbrook Elementary and Mohawk Trails Elementary to the Clay Nation. We are looking forward to seeing all of these new students and their families at our Clay Spring Open House.

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. During February our 8th graders have started the high school scheduling process and has essentially begun 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

National School Counseling Week

During the month of January we took time to recognize our amazing

Clay Student Services Department. Thank you for all the time, dedication and commitment that you give to Clay Middle School and Carmel Clay Schools.



We would like to take a moment to thank our school counselors, school social workers, school psychologist and our amazing Student Services administrative assistant.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO - WE APPRECIATE YOU!!

Mrs. Naas, Mrs. Janson, Mrs. Coats, Mrs. Potter, Mrs. Wischmeyer, Ms. Roberts, Mrs. Baker-Banninga, and Ms. Lyon

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 to Clay MathCounts Team

Congratulations to all the Clay Mathletes that participated in the MathCounts Chapter competition on Saturday, February 11th.

8th graders: Rodion Zuban, Jonathan Zhu, Colin Phifer, Saket Susant, and Andrew Lee and <u>7th graders:</u> Hrishabh Bhowmik, Chris Cheng, Kevin Chen, Minghan Hu, Angie Li, Xavier Tsai, and Luke Zhang.

- We are proud of their hard work! Clay's team of Hrishabh Bhowmik, Chris Cheng, Jonathan Zhu, and Rodion Zuban placed 4th out of 12 schools and will be moving on to the State Competition on March 9th at Rose Hulman.
- In the individual competition, special congratulations to Hrishabh Bhowmik who placed 2nd overall out of 120 competitors and 3rd place in the countdown round.
- Also placing in the top 25% of all competitors was Rodion Zuban, Saket Susant, Chris Cheng, Andrew Lee, and Jonathon Zhu.

Great job everyone!

Clay Robotics Team

Congratulations to our Clay Robotics Teams that have been working very hard and competing this past month in competitions with the hopes of qualifying for the state tournament held at Lucas Oil Stadium later in March. This coming Saturday February 17th, Clay is hosting its second competition of the year at Clay Middle School. There will be over 60 teams from across the state competing. We welcome everyone to come out to watch and cheer on our Carmel teams! A special thank you goes out to Mr. Brandon Crawford (Clay Robotics Coach) for giving our students this amazing opportunity to display their skills and achieve their **GREATNESS!**

Congratulations to the following students on team 2529H who



Jameson Prujett,

Palmer Scholl, Alex

Herzog, Coach

Crawford

(not pictured:

Henry Harrison)

RIBOTTCO

secured their state ticket after winning the competition at St Thomas Aquinas during the tournament already hosted by Apogee Schools.



Alden Pope, Henry Correll, Maren McClatchy, Ronon Gitman, and Ryan Podany (not pictured: Crosby Long)

Front Row: Henry Correll, Alex Herzog, Palmer Scholl, Jameson Pruiett Back Row: Ronan Gitman, Hrishabh Bhomik, Simon Brickel, Aaron Rozmaryn, Chris Cheng, and Coach Crawford



ISSMA Solo & 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. (Due to the large number of student participants, we are unable to list student names)

Clay Pep Band

A huge thank you goes out to Mrs. Pote and Mr. Grifa on for organizing and running our Clay Pep Band for all of our 5th grade activity nights. Awesome job pep band!

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 February 26th-March 1st we celebrated Culture of Care Week at Clay Middle School and throughout Carmel Clay Schools. We will be celebrating the theme/book of the week is "The Power of Yeti" and the overall goal is to encourage building compassion and care for self and others. Each day will come with a specific theme, spirit wear, and various activities. 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. Thank you to our Clay Student Services Department for all their help with organizing a fun, yet meaningful week to help bring awareness to mental health.

Clay Hosts 5th Grade Information Night & Performing Arts Demonstration Concert

We are very excited about welcoming our incoming 6th graders next year as part of the "Clay Nation". Finish the year strong and we will see you soon. Incoming 6th Grade Student Parent Meeting & Performing Arts Demonstration Concert was back on February 28th from 6:30-8:00 pm and was a huge success. Thank you to all parents for coming to this event and for your support!

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!**

National School Resource Officer Day

February 15th is National School Resource Officer Day. Thank you to Officer VanTreese for all you do to keep Clay Middle School safe for both our students and staff. We appreciate you and all the amazing work you do each and every day to foster such a positive relationship and experience for our students. Keep up the good work!

I challenge all Clay Trojans to *Believe in Your Greatness*. As we help other find their greatness, we are reminded that by working together we will take Clay Middle School to even

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE continues...

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.

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans

#ClayGreatness

GO TROJANS!

Sincerely, Todd A. Crosby, Principal

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES February Dates

FEBRUARY		
February 15, 2023	National School Resource Officer Day	
February 16, 2024	PTO Meeting	
February 19, 2024	President's Day Holiday-No School	
February 21, 2024	Late Start	

March Dates

Late Start
Food Service Staff Week (National Nutrition Month)
Mid Year Band Concert-7th Concert Band and 6th Grade
3rd Quarter Ends
PTO Meeting
Orchestra ISSMA Organization Contest - Grades 6-8
Orchestra ISSMA Organization Contest - Grades 6-8
Choir ISSMA Organzation Contest - All Grades
Late Start

CLAY ATHLETICS

Please refer to the school website for sports updates, times and dates at the link below. http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics

As we are transitioning from our winter sports 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!**

Fusico H



TAYLOR SWIFT CLUB

Thank you SO MUCH to all the students, Swiftie parents, and Clay staff who have helped make the Taylor Swift Club so successful. We have had as many as 60 kids at a meeting. The club has attracted an amazing group of kids who have made this club an amazing way for kids to show school pride, make friends, and have fun. We are excited for another great Swift-mester.

Shout out to 7th grade Swiftie, Aubrey Ashton, who submitted a Carmel Education Foundation grant with me. She had the awesome idea to have Taylor Swift Club members make bracelets for incoming 6th graders to promote Clay clubs and spread kindness. We were awarded the grant and will start making "Clay" bracelets in the upcoming months (at club).

The Taylor Swift Club meets every Wednesday in room 703 until 4:20.

~ Michelle Doyle

If you would like to support the Taylor Swift Club, please visit the wish list QR code pictured. I will continue to add items as needed. Thank you so much for your support.







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CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Clay Classic News now has an online presence! Check out the new website that features articles, the latest episodes of our CCN broadcast, and links to our radio broadcast stories. All content is created by Mr. Williams' journalism students!

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We visit past years and celebrate THIS year!

Books are \$45 and you can purchase them at www.yearbookordercenter.com



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SOCIAL STUDIES

Every fall, Clay Middle School students are asked to consider the importance of Veterans (throughout Social Studies classes) as we prepare to honor Veterans through the City of Carmel's Veterans essay contest.

Students are then encouraged to print their essays so they might be shared through the local VFW halls, Indy Honor Flights "Roll call", and the Department of Veterans Affairs in downtown Indianapolis.

Most recently, students received letters back from Veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs, thanking them for acknowledging the sacrifices Veterans have made and the tribute that Clay Middle students are making by taking time to address Veterans across Indiana.

Director and Assistant Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Michael Stephens and Abner Concepcion, respectively, both sent thank you letters as well as a "Commander's Coin" as a token of gratitude to Clay Middle School students. Clay's Eighth grade students should be proud of their selfless actions in recognizing those who are and have served.



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 2024-2025 school year. COURSE SELECTION INFORMATION

Students will be provided detailed instructions to enter initial course requests during Core+ the week of February 5, 2024. Counselors will then be meeting with students the week of February 12, 2024.

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.

- <u>Mrs Naas</u> All 7th to 8th Grade Questions
- Mrs. Janson All 6th to 7th Grade Questions





National School Counseling Week School Counselors: Helping Students Dream Big

February 5th-9th 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: <u>Role of a School Counselor</u> Tuesday: <u>Guidance Counselor vs. School Counselor</u> Wednesday: <u>School Counselors & Discipline</u> Thursday: <u>Indiana College & Career Resource</u> Friday: <u>Follow Clay Student Services' Canvas Page</u>

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!







The 21st Century Scholars Program provides income-eligible 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 <u>GPotter@ccs.k12.in.us</u>.

Culture of Care Week

Theme: The Power of Yeti

Clay Middle School celebrated CCS Culture of Care Week from February 26-March 1

To increase mental health awareness students participated in dress up days, core+ lessons and school wide activities.

Courageous Conversation

Feb. 6

Black History:

So much to celebrate!







Women's History: Next Level Leadership, Local Area Leaders

Sessions are held on Zoom at 12 noon

REGISTER NOW FOR COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS A district-wide event that is open to the community!







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CLAY

ATHLETICS

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL CLINIC February 13 7:00-9:00 PM

and February 27 7:00-9:00 PM

This is a wonderful opportunity for middle school athletes to get intentional instruction from the Carmel High School Coaching staff and players. Instruction will be direct and specific to softball. Players will learn drills to help them improve their game. We will work on offense and defense as well as pitching.

> Please arrive 15 minutes early for check-in. Enter at Door 17.

Contact Stephanie Kleiner with questions skleiner@ccs.k12.in.us.

Middle School Softball Clinic Sign-Up Link





For more information, please go to: https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics

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FROM THE PTO

Save the Date for the 8th Grade Celebration:

Attention 8th Grade Families: SAVE THE DATE

8th Grade Celebration May 21, 2024 6:00-8:30 PM at Clay Middle School

Join your fellow Trojans to celebrate the end of middle school with food, games, prizes, and a live DJ! More information available soon!

Link for the MLL Speaker Interest Form: MLL Speaker Interest Form

Link for general volunteer sign-up: Clay Volunteer Form 2023-24

Tuesday Treats Sign-Up QR Code:



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THE GREEN SCENE

Members of the Team Atlas Green Team helped to gather, weigh, and load the strands of holiday lights collected during our annual recycling drive.

Clay families were able to donate 125 pounds of lights to be recycled by Technology Recyclers. What a fantastic success!

Thanks to all who were able to contribute and who made a switch to more energy-efficient LED lighting.







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CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL























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THE CLAY WAY Be Respectful Be Responsible Be Ready to Learn Be Full of Pride







