



*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,

At Clay we work very hard to focus on school culture and build a culture that is focused on greatness. During the month of February, we have been highlighting our greatness in several ways.

How do we continue to build the Clay culture? We do it TOGETHER. During this challenging year please know that we could not have gotten this far without the support of you as parents. Thank you for your continued support and compliance to Covid guidelines as you enter our building and attend any athletic events.

### **Clay Highlights:**

#### **February 1 - 5 National School Counseling Week**

Thank you to our hard-working and committed Clay Student Services Team. It was awesome to recognize all of them for all they do for our students and staff.

#### **February 8 - 12 Elementary Scheduling**

January and February are typically very busy months for our elementary school activity nights at Clay, but due to Covid this year we have had to cancel these evenings. In February, our counselors worked hard to schedule all of our incoming 5th graders. They made visits to all our feeder elementary schools. We are so excited to welcome all our future Clay Trojans. We are hopeful that this spring we will be able to create an experience for our fifth graders and their families at Clay Middle School. More information will be forthcoming.

#### **Thank You to Our Winter Student Athletes**

Thank you to all of our student athletes that have been competing this winter and are currently finishing their seasons. Our Clay wrestling team and eighth grade girls' basketball team will be going into the Hamilton County tournaments this week. As the principal at Clay, I have been proud to see our athletes and teams competing in a very impressive manner. They are truly modeling greatness in both times of victory and defeat, and I think I

...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...*

can speak for our staff when I say, that we are all proud of them. I would like to send a special thank you out to Mr. John Corcoran, Clay Activities and Athletic Director. Through his leadership and guidance, our coaches and athletes have continued to follow Covid guidelines in order to ensure that we are able to compete and have a sports season. Parents, I would like to thank you for always cooperating and adhering to our school Covid guidelines. We greatly appreciate it.

### Spring Sports are Right Around the Corner

Call out meetings for Clay spring sports are starting to occur. Our spring sports options are 7th and 8th grade softball, 7th and 8th grade baseball and 6th, 7th and 8th grade track and field. For more information please feel free to visit our website at [www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics/](http://www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics/).

### ONWARD TO VICTORY CLAY!

#### Clay Spring Musical

Thank you to Mrs. Miranda Susie for organizing our Spring Clay musical, the Lion King Jr. A special thank you also goes out to Mr. Patrick Anderson for helping with the backstage crew and all the set up. I have been impressed with our students who are currently putting in extra time to prepare for this awesome musical.

#### Clay Teachers - Spotlight on Success (Thank you for living out the Clay Way!)

- CCS Kudos to Ryan Newman
- CCS Kudos to Elizabeth Herman
- CCS Kudos to Britney Coats

#### Congratulations to the following Clay Teachers who received classroom grants from the Carmel Education Foundation.

- Erin Mayer
- Gina Potter
- Ryan Snyder

Thank you for all you continue to do to help our students reach their GREATNESS!

### Important Dates

#### March

March 10	Late Start
March 12	3rd Quarter Ends
March 15	4th Quarter Starts
March 15-19	Food Service Week

*(Thank you to our Clay cafeteria staff!)*

March 18	Grades Due
March 19	PTO Meeting
March 24	Late Start

#### Performing Arts Dates – ISSMA

March 18	ISSMA - Bands/Choirs/Orchestras
March 19	ISSMA - Bands/Choirs/Orchestras

#### April

April 2-9, 2021	Spring Break
April 12-16, 2021	National Library Week
April 26, 2021	Administrative Professionals Day

I challenge all Clay Trojans to help us continue to **Build a Legacy of Greatness** and together we will take Clay Middle School even greater heights. As principal, I believe it is my position to help provide vision, leadership, oversight, safety and the best instruction every student that attends Clay Middle School. I truly realize success cannot be accomplished without an active school community taking Clay Middle School in the direction of continuous success and excellence. I am happy to announce that the Clay Nation is alive and well.

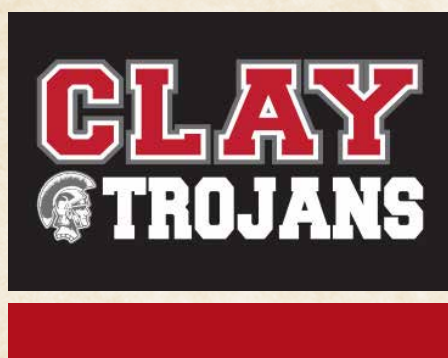
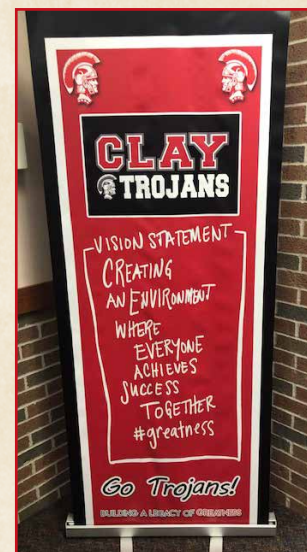
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Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby  
Principal





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## THE GREEN SCENE

The Team Atlas Green Team recently participated in a community Earth Hour art contest. Students learned about energy conservation and things they could do at school and home to save energy.

They then designed artwork for the contest.



This year's theme was saving energy to care for our beautiful blue planet. Our team narrowed the entries down to 20 and from there, chose our top 10 to continue in the Earth Hour Contest. Congratulations to our top 10 finalists!

Hannah W., Ella D., Josie A., Carley H., Lauren B., Samantha B., Hannah S., Audrey B., Ryan W. and Alec A.

Top entries will be exhibited from Earth Hour (Mar 27th) to Earth Day (April 22nd) at various locations around town. On May 2nd, Mayor Brainard will recognize top winners. Good luck to all!

## TOP FIVE ESSAYISTS MOVING ONWARD!

Appreciation to all students who wrote an essay about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the IASP essay competition.

The Indiana Association of School Principals offers this essay competition to all 6 - 12 grade students in the state of Indiana. Each year on the third Monday of January we celebrate the life and the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students are asked to write their essay based on this MLK quote: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

### Judging parameters include:

- Content/Development: addresses quote, responds to three stated questions, organization, evidence to support position
- Language & Mechanics: sentence structure, word choice, grammar
- Awards will be presented in two age groups: grades 6 - 8 and grades 9 - 12

Congratulations to the following students who submitted the top five essays and will move to the next level of the competition:

Mara M - Team Revolutionaries - Mr. Carr

Noah J - Team Poseidon - Mr. Snyder

Anoushka J - Team Atlas - Mr. Stewart

Lilah W - Team Atlas - Mr. Stewart

Belle G - Team Atlas - Mr. Stewart



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## WAY TO GO MATHCOUNTS COMPETITION TEAM

We are proud of the following students who competed virtually in the Indianapolis Mathcounts Chapter Competition on February 5. They put forth many hours of practice and hard work to get to this point. The eighth grade students competing were Alex S., Eesha S., Eric H., Grace Z., Michael Q., Vibhi C., and William Z. Seventh graders participating were Jacky C. and Jennifer H.. Sixth graders were Alex C., Eddy Z., Ellen R., Grant M., Ranie Y., and Vardaan G. We wish the best to our eighth graders as they will continue on to the high school next year and look forward to next year's group as they competed very well.

The top 20% of all competitors will continue on to the Chapter Invitational at 7:00 pm on February 25.

Clay is honored to be represented by Jennifer H. who only missed one problem (5th place), Michael Q. (11th place), William Z. (20th place), Alex S. (28th place) in the Invitational. Please wish them luck when you see them!

## FROM THE CAFETERIA

The Hybrid Learners Meal Program is FREE and available to ALL STUDENTS this school year! This program provides 2 full days of breakfast and lunch meals for at-home learning days. Breakfast includes a breakfast entrée, 2 fruit servings and a milk. Lunch includes a lunch entrée, one fruit serving, two vegetable servings and a milk. Meal bags are sent home with students at the end of the first in-person day of their cohort rotation. These Hybrid Meals are FREE of charge, just like complete breakfasts and lunches on a regular in-person day.

For more information go to the Parent portal on the Carmel Clay Schools website. Click on Lunch Tools and then the Hybrid Learners Meal Program tab.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity!

As always, don't hesitate to call or email with any questions...I'm happy to help!

Amy Glover, Café Manager

317-844-7251 x6755

aglover@ccs.k12.in.us

**ATTENTION  
CURRENT 8<sup>th</sup> GRADERS  
AT CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## STILL INTERESTED IN GOING TO WASHINGTON DC!

There are still some openings for students who wish to go on the 8th grade trip to Washington DC over Memorial Day weekend. (May 29th-31st) If you are interested, please call 1-800-900-1776 and register by March 31st at the absolute latest. Please send any other questions to Mr. Carr at Clay Middle School. (ccarr1@ccs.k12.in.us)



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## 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS

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 support 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](mailto:gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us).



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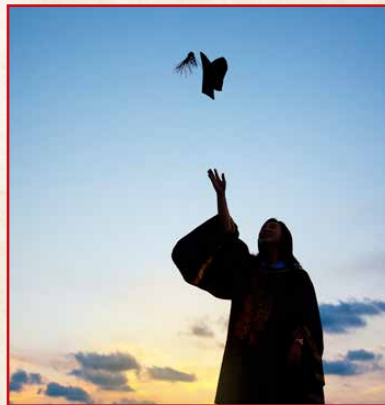
## CLAY CULTURE OF CARE

Clay celebrated Culture of Care during the month of February. Students and Staff nominated others for kind acts, dressed in casual wear to promote self-care and shared great opportunities to spread kindness and to increase strong mental health.

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## HIGH SCHOOL

If your 8th grade student is planning to attend a school other than Carmel High School for their 2021-2022 freshman school year, you must complete our [withdrawal form](#).

This form can also be found on Clay Middle School's home webpage. Follow the link at the bottom of the page to 'Student Services' and then select 'Current Students' to fill out the [withdrawal form](#) and return to our office.

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The yearbook is created during Mr. Williams' 7th and 8th grade yearbook classes. Books will be finished mid-March and delivered in May. The yearbook is \$40.

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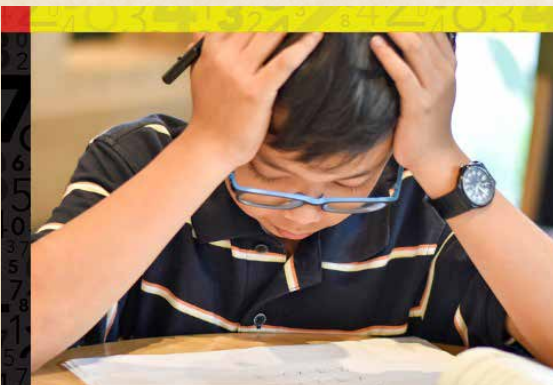
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Clay Middle participates in AmazonSmile donation program! A portion of your purchases will be directly donated back to Clay Middle at no cost to you. Please click on the unique link below to be taken to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/) 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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For up to date information, announcements, events and school happenings, please view the Weekly Announcements on our website or at the link below. Also, follow us on twitter @claytrojans.

[Weekly Announcements](#)

## ✓ 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

If you are picking up your child early, please call the Main Office (317-844-7251) when you are on your way and we will call for your child to meet you in the office for you to sign out.

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## AVID SPOTLIGHT

7th grade AVID students are attending virtual fieldtrips of their chosen universities. Along with a campus tour, students are researching what the university has to offer them surrounding their goals and interests. AVID students have gained vast knowledge as it relates to college terminology, which has been extremely beneficial in exploring their college online and understanding the qualifications necessary to apply. Students will be sharing their findings by presenting to their classmates, using a college banner they create as their visual aid.

Students in AVID 8 recently interviewed area professionals about their career paths during class zoom sessions. Students and professionals were clustered in groups based on mutual interest and experience

in a career field. Questions like, "How do you define success?" and "What was the biggest stumbling block in your career path" were common in the session. The interview session was a culminating activity for the 8th graders after completing a career project where students researched a career of interest, made a website, and gave a speech to their class about their findings.





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# 10 *Building a Legacy of Greatness!*

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

## 7TH & 8TH GRADE SCHEDULING

Counselors met with current 6th and 7th grade students during the month of February to complete the course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year.

If you have questions, please feel free to email your child's counselor directly. Current 6th grade students can contact Mrs. Janson and Mrs. Naas will be the contact for 7th grade. Detailed information about our course offerings can be found under [modules](#) on the [Clay Student Services Canvas Page](#).

**COURSE  
SELECTION  
INFORMATION**



## CLAY PERFORMING ARTS TEACHERS ZOOM WITH 5TH GRADE MUSIC CLASSES

During the week of February 1st, Mr. Frizzi and Mrs. Pote had zoom meetings with the 5th grade music classes at Mohawk Trails, Prairie Trace, Forest Dale, Woodbrook and Cherry Tree Elementary Schools. The zoom meetings were to inform the current 5th graders about their opportunities in the Clay Performing Arts program. Students also learned about how to sign up for 6th grade performing arts and what it means to be a part of this award winning program.

All the 5th grade students were a fantastic audience and it was a pleasure to get to meet with them. The Clay Performing Arts Staff would like to thank Mr. McBride, Mr. Poticha, Mrs. Gallinant, Mrs. Ratner and Mrs. Moody for allowing us into their classrooms through zoom.

We can't wait to meet these wonderful students in person when instrument try-ons take place later this spring.



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