



## *Paving Our Path To Greatness*

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

# CLAY NATION NEWS

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### HOW DO WE BUILD THE CLAY CULTURE? By highlighting GREATNESS

#### February 7-11 - National School Counseling Week

THANK YOU to our hard working and committed Student Services Team. It was awesome to recognize all of you do for our students and staff at Clay.

#### Elementary School Activity Nights at Clay

We had a great time over the last two months welcoming our 5th grade students and parents to Clay Middle School. We are very excited to begin helping them think about the transition to middle school from elementary school. **We look forward to seeing our 5th grade students and their families again on April 20th at our Spring Open House.**

#### ISSMA Solo and Ensemble: Wind/Percussion/ String Competition

#### ISSMA Solo Voice and Piano Competition

#### ISSMA Solo & Ensemble Band Competition

Our performing arts students have been performing throughout his past month at an extremely high level in orchestra, band and choir, where they received a Gold rating. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

**Thank you to our winter student athletes and coaches** – Thank you to all of our students that have been competing this winter and are currently finishing their seasons. Congratulations on great seasons by both our 7th grade and 8th grade boys' basketball teams as they finished their seasons in the beginning of February. Good luck to our 7th grade girls' basketball team as they compete in their invitational at Carmel Middle School on March 5th. Our Clay wrestling team and 8th grade girls' basketball team will be going into their Hamilton County tournaments this coming Saturday 4-12-22. A special thank you also goes out to our winter cheerleaders who do a remarkable job each game keeping our crowds and student section excited and full of pride to cheer on the Clay Trojans. I have

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### 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...*

been so proud as the principal at Clay to see our athletes and teams competing in a very impressive manner. They have truly modeled **GREATNESS** in both times of victory and defeat, and I think I can speak for our staff when I say that we are all proud of them! **THE CLAY WAY!**

Last, but certainly not least – to our entire student cheer block who came to so many sporting events this year and cheered their classmates on showing great school spirit. **INCREDIBLE JOB CLAY STUDENTS!!**

### Spring Sports - Right around the corner!

Call out meetings for Spring sports are starting to occur. Our spring sports options are Softball (7, 8), Baseball (7, 8), and Track and Field (6, 7, and 8). For more information please feel free to contact our Activities / Athletic Director, Mr. John Corcoran at jcorcoran@ccs.k12.in.us **OR** visit our new website at <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics>

### Clay Teachers - Spotlight on Success

Congratulations to the following Clay teachers who received spring grants from Carmel Education Foundation. Thank you CEF!



Lisa Baker	Clay Middle School	Classroom Library
Joshua Lowe	Clay Middle School	Family Hour
Hilary Machemer	Clay Middle School	Sensory Inclusion

### Clay AVID – AVID 8 Roadtrip Nation Interviews

This past week our 8th grade AVID students got a unique real-world experience to interview community and business leaders. **WE ARE SO PROUD OF OUR AVID STUDENT LEADERS.**

I challenge all Clay Trojans to continue to help us ***“Pave Our Path 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.

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness

### GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby, Principal

## ILEARN TESTING

### STATE STANDARDIZED TESTING HELPFUL REMINDERS



As we look to ahead in preparation to the new ILEARN test, here are a few things that you can do to help your child be as successful as possible.

### How can students get ready for ILEARN?

- **Be prepared** - Cramming for any test is never the best way to prepare. Keep up with your homework and ask your teachers for help when you need it.
- **Ask for help** - If you've had trouble with standardized testing in the past, ask a teacher, counselor or parent about extra help now.
- **Review** - Try to take it seriously when your teachers review important information that may help you feel more prepared.
- **Double-check your work** - Get in the habit now of double-checking your work and proofreading your answers on homework to be ready to find mistakes on test days.
- **Get plenty of sleep** - Go to bed a little earlier so you get a good night's sleep. Being well rested will give you an extra boost of energy.
- **Have a good breakfast** - Eating a healthy breakfast will help you perform better. Too much food can make you feel sleepy, so don't overdo it.
- **Take a break** - Get some exercise during your breaks or after school to keep your energy up.

### What can parents do to help students prepare for ILEARN testing?

- **Stay connected** - The best preparation is to provide consistent support for your child throughout his or her education.
- **Know what's expected** - Read information available at Indiana Department of Education (<https://www.doe.in.gov/>) so you know what

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your child should know and be able to do, reinforce these expectations at home and stay connected to your child's academic performance throughout the year.

- **Check grades** - Your son or daughter may say things are "fine" at school but don't stop checking Canvas, progress reports or, if available, your child's online grades or class progress.
- **Check Canvas / Team Newsletters for updates** - Teachers know how hard students are working, the quality of their homework and what areas need improvement.
- **Stay involved** - Nothing will have a bigger impact on your student's success than your involvement in his or her education. If your child is not studying at home, ask why, and double-check with teachers. It's tough to hold the line, but making sure your child does get the proper amount of rest and eat properly is important for academic success as well.
- **Ask for help** - Students who are struggling in a particular class may need extra help after school or with a tutor. Find out from your school where you can go for help and make sure your student gets the help he or she needs. Catching a problem area now can make a big difference.

Please feel free to contact the school if you have any major questions or concerns on how to best support your child.

Sincerely,  
Todd A. Crosby, *Principal*



WELCOME

## STUDENT SERVICES WELCOMES MRS. BELLAMY

Beginning Thursday, February 24th through Friday, April 29th, the Student Services Department will welcome Mrs. Lisa Bellamy to Clay. Mrs. Bellamy will serve as a school social worker, who will provide support to students/families on teams Titans (6-1), Legends (8-1), Revolutionaries (8-2), and Visionaries (8-3), while Mrs. Coats is out on maternity leave. Mrs. Bellamy can be reached by contacting Clay's front office at (317) 844-7251.

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## WITHDRAWALS

If your student is planning to attend a school other than Clay Middle or Carmel High School for their 2022-2023 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.

## SCHEDULING

Counselors met with students during the month of February to complete the course selection process for the 2022-2023 school year.

Final course requests are due to be entered in [PowerSchool](#) by March 1, 2022. If you have questions, please feel free to email your child's counselor directly.

[Mrs. Naas](#)

8th Grade All  
Team Titans

[Mrs. Janson](#)

7th Grade All  
Teams Avengers and Justice

Detailed information about scheduling and course offerings for 7th and 8th grade can be found under [modules](#) on the [Clay Student Services Canvas Page](#).

High School scheduling information including [CHS counselor contacts](#) can be found on the [CHS 8th Grade Transition Canvas](#) page. Any requests for changes to course requests should be emailed to the high school counselor by March 1, 2022.

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## Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month – commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history.

**YOU MUST NEVER  
BE FEARFUL ABOUT  
WHAT YOU ARE DOING  
WHEN IT IS RIGHT.**

Rosa Parks, First Lady of Civil Rights

## NATIONAL SCHOOL COUNSELING WEEK

February 7th-11th was National School Counselors Week! We would like to thank everyone for their kind words and efforts in making our Student Services Team feel very loved and appreciated!

Every student deserves a student services team to help with academic achievement strategies, managing emotions and applying interpersonal skills, and planning for postsecondary options. Students and school counselors are #BetterTogether.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the roles of our school counselors, social workers, and school psychologist!



## Women's History Month History-Evolution-Resilience

Featuring Dr. Ebony Griggs-Griffin

Register on the CCS Website at [www.ccs.k12.in.us](http://www.ccs.k12.in.us)

24

March  
4pm

Women's History Month is set aside to honor women's contributions and immeasurable impact. Dr. Ebony Griggs-Griffin will discuss the significance of these contributions, our evolution as women, and the importance of recognizing and celebrating our resilience.



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH BANNER COMPETITION



The banners should illustrate women who have made a positive mark on the world.

All banners must be created using a clean standard size twin bed sheet.

Entries may be individual or group projects however there will only be one prize for the winning entry. Entries will be judged on educational content, creativity & design.

Use paint, markers and other lightweight materials. DO NOT USE GLITTER or any item that may fall off your banner and/or injure someone.

Submissions must include name, grade, school, parent/guardian name and parent/guardian email address on the back of the bed sheet written legibly.

Submission of entry grants CCS permission to use and display the banner. Submissions may not be returned.

**DEADLINE TO ENTER IS MARCH 22, 2022 AT 4 PM. SUBMISSIONS MUST BE DROPPED OFF AT THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER AT 5201 E. MAIN ST. IN CARMEL.**



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- **Winter Session 2** runs from January to March

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CELEBRATING

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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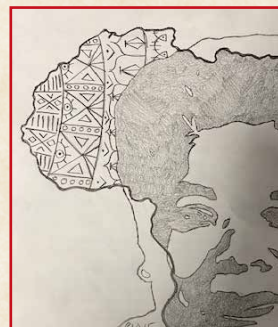


## ART CONTEST

In February, Carmel Clay Schools offered an opportunity for all currently enrolled students to submit art inspired by the theme "The positive impact that African-Americans have had in the United States" to celebrate Black History Month. Two Team Visionaries students (Team 8-3) were inspired to submit artwork for the contest. Way to go to students, Stori Brown and Anoushka Jena in representing Team Visionaries!



*Congratulations to Anoushka Jena being named the winner of the CCS BHM Art Contest!*



Anoushka Jena



Stori Brown

## CONNECTING WITH HISTORY

Thanks to Dr. Jakobi Williams, Professor of History at IU, for connecting history with IN state social studies standards, on Tuesday, February 22nd. This opportunity helped students and staff to understand more fully the African-American experience and its connections to history. Dr. Williams' presentation included information on the history of Africa, the Transatlantic slave trade, culture, and social justice. Each grade-level participated in a 20-30 minute presentation, as well as a brief Q&A session, led by Social Studies department chair, Liana Giles.



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## ESSAY CONTEST

Each year on the third Monday of January, we celebrate the life and the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a time for our nation to remember the injustices that Dr. King fought. He fought for the freedom, dignity, and equality of all races and people.

– Indiana Association of School Principals



Through Social Studies, students at Clay Middle School were offered the opportunity to write an essay based on a Dr. King quote, provided by the IASP. This year the quote was as follows: *Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction.*

Congratulations goes out to the following Clay students for participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. IASP essay contest.

- Team Poseidon (Mr. Snyder) – Annabelle P, Aubrey B, Rishiram C, **Rebecca L**
- Team Atlas (Mr. Stewart) – Lucille P, Avery K, Maija G, Madison F, **Annabel P, Barrie T**
- Team Apollo (Mr. Patane) - **Abigail M**
- Team Legends (Mr. Schultz) – Xaviea G
- Team Visionaries (Mrs. Giles) - Luci B, Nick L, **Mathias A**

Note: The highlighted students' essays were chosen to move forward and were sent to the IASP contest for judging as the contest only allows for the top five essays to be submitted from any one school.

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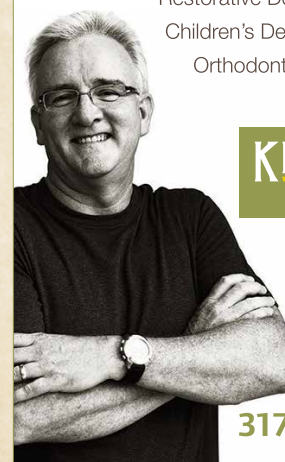
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## March is Greek American Heritage Month

Greek American Heritage Month, also known as Hellenic Heritage Month or Greek American History Month, coincides with the celebration of Greece's National Greek Independence Day on March 25th. Hellenism, originating from Ἑλλην (Éllēn, "a Greek"), is the emulation of ancient Greek culture, civilization, principles, and ideals, including humanism, reason, the pursuit of knowledge, the arts, moderation, and civic responsibility.



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## UPCOMING SPORTS



We are looking forward to warmer weather and spring sports at Clay. Students have the opportunity to try-out for 7th & 8th grade softball, 7th & 8th grade baseball or participate on the 6th, 7th & 8th grade boys & girls track and field teams. If your student(s) are interested in trying out or participating you will need to complete the new CCS Middle Schools sport registration process on the Register My Athlete website. All spring sports will start on **Monday, March 14th**.

### Head coaches contact information:

- 7th Grade Baseball - Landon Diehl - ldiehl1@ccs.k12.in.us
- 8th Grade Baseball - Derek Dial - ddial@ccs.k12.in.us
- 7th Grade Softball - Sarah Cocks - scock@ccs.k12.in.us
- 8th Grade Softball - Erin Nowlin - enowlin@ccs.k12.in.us
- 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Boys Track and Field - Scott Kenney - skenney@ccs.k12.in.us
- 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Girls Track and Field - Allison Martin - amartin3@ccs.k12.in.us

## Irish American Heritage Month

Irish-American Heritage Month is celebrated by proclamation of the President and Congress in the United States to honor the achievements and contributions of Irish immigrants and their descendants living in the United States. It was first celebrated in 1991.

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## TEACHER FEATURE

### STEVE STURGIS CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL



**Location:** Carmel, Indiana  
**Grade:** 6th

**Organization:** Clay Middle School  
**Subject:** Science

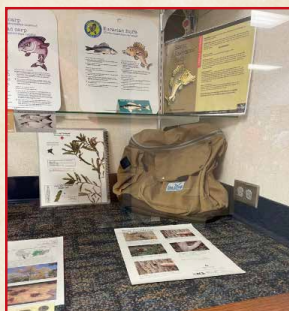
By supplementing his classroom materials with resources from Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant and the Center for Great Lakes Literacy, Steve Sturgis is able to incorporate Great Lakes science into his activities and lesson plans.

### WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO INFUSE GREAT LAKES TOPICS IN EDUCATION?

Invasive species pose a threat to our ecosystems, and our Great Lakes. My students are gaining an understanding of the fragility of those species we love to find in the Great Lakes and also how dangerous new invasive species would be if introduced to the Great Lakes.

### DESCRIBE ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCES OR ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE GREAT LAKES.

"Everywhere we look, there are species damaging our natural ecosystems both now, and as we look into the future." Sixth grade science students at Clay Middle School were tasked with coming up with creative solutions for solving these ecological problems. Students presented to members of the local scientific community who are on the front lines of Indiana's invasive species problems. Members of this professional audience included scientists from the following institutions: Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Purdue University, Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation, Indiana Department of Transportation, Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management, Hamilton County Invasives Partnership, Hamilton Soil and Water Conservation District, and USDA National Resources Conservation Service.



*Students speak about sea lamprey problems and solutions at a student-led Invasive Species Symposium at Clay Middle School. (Photo provided by Steve Sturgis)*

### WHAT TEACHING METHODS DO YOU USE TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN GREAT LAKES ACTIVITIES?

Project Based Learning or PBL. Creating projects centered around solving real problems creates a natural opportunity for students to learn curriculum in a more meaningful and engaging environment for learning.

### HOW HAVE YOU INVOLVED SCIENTISTS IN YOUR TEACHING?

At the end of our PBL study "Invasive Species, Can They Be Stopped?" students present their unique solutions to the invasive species problem to a professional panel that consists of members of agencies that work directly with invasive species in the local community.

### STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON GREAT LAKES STEWARDSHIP

"I had no idea how many invasive species Indiana had wrecking ecosystems. This project was a fun way to learn about a species and come up with a clever way that scientists could maybe use someday to stop these invaders." – Student at Clay Middle School

*Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant is a part of University of Illinois Extension and Purdue Extension.*

**Contact:** Steve Sturgis, [ssurgis@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:ssurgis@ccs.k12.in.us)

**Education and Student Engagement Coordinator:** Terri Hallesy

**Center for Great Lakes Literacy:**  
<https://www.cgll.org/teacherfeature/steve-sturgis/>



## IMPORTANT DATES



### MARCH

- March 1..... Food Service Recognition Day
- March 1..... Instrument Rental & Enrollment Night (Band & Orchestra)
- March 10 ..... End of 3rd Quarter
- March 16 ..... 6th Grade Band Concert
- March 18 ..... PTO Meeting
- March 18-19 ..... ISSMA Organizational Contest (Band/Orchestra/Choir)
- March 25 ..... Jazz Expressions Concert (*tentative*)
- March 28 ..... CCS School Board Meeting

### APRIL

- April 1-8 ..... Spring Break
- April 11-15..... National Library Week
- April 12..... Spring Sports Begin
- April 13..... Late Start
- April 19-22..... iLearn Testing
- April 20..... 5th-6th Grade Open House
- April 25-29..... iLearn Testing
- April 27..... Administrative Professionals Day
- April 27..... Late Start

## AUTHOR VISIT

All three CCS Middle Schools are excited to welcome K.A. Holt to present about how poetry is never boring! All 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to attend this author visit on March 28th at Carmel and Creekside and March 29th at Clay.

In this 45-minute presentation, K.A. Holt highlights the most popular questions kids often ask about writing and about her journey to becoming an author with a specific focus on her book *House Arrest*, a Young Hoosier Book Award nominee. She discusses the revision process and how and why she uses poetry to write her books. This presentation will be a great learning experience as students work on creative writing in ELA.

K.A. Holt will also offer a book signing time for students who are interested in purchasing any of her books. To preorder a book, please complete this [form](#) and have your student turn it in along with payment in ELA or the media center. All book order forms and money are due back by March 16th.



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).

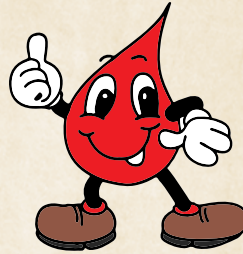
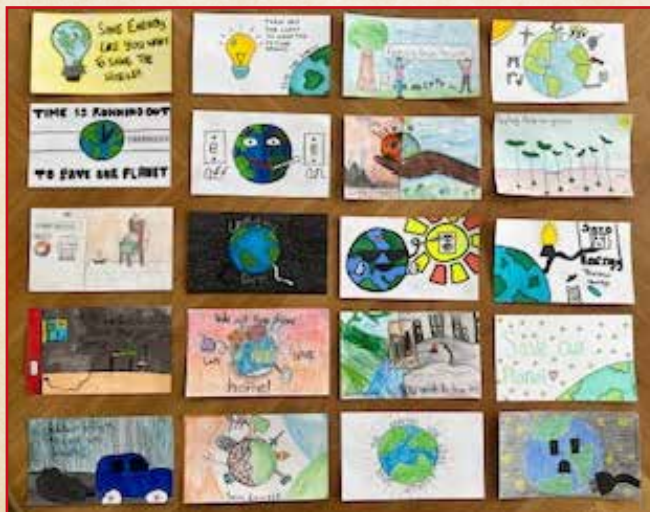


## TEAM ATLAS GREEN TEAM

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 40 and from there, chose our top 20 to continue in the Earth Hour Contest. Congratulations to our top 20 finalists! Good luck to all!

Top entries will be exhibited from Earth Hour (Mar 26th) to Earth Day (April 22nd) at various locations around town. On May 3rd, Mayor Brainard will recognize top winners.

Oliver Bassett	Maaiké Mora
Advaita Satishkumar	Kate Sterchi
Lucy Pike	Barrie Terman
Ellie Purvis	Charlotte Moser
Kayla Aba	Lucy Moore
Maija Gilhooly	Maya Loughmiller
Sydney Kern	Kai Gahl
Emery Simmonds	Jackson Harris
Issy Mastain	Vivi Portillo
Amy Blacker	Bentley Elsts



## THE BLOODMOBILE IS COMING TO CLAY!

On Tuesday, March 15 the bloodmobile will be at Clay accepting the gift of life from staff and community members. Because Clay students are ineligible to donate, they are encouraged to have community members make a donation in their names. Students who have a donation made in their name will receive a small gift of appreciation from Versiti Blood Center. If you wish to donate in a student's name, you will indicate that at the Bloodmobile when you arrive.

If you have questions about your eligibility to donate, please review the FAQs from Versiti Blood Center found at [www.versiti.org](http://www.versiti.org).

Please consider donating and use the link or QR code to schedule. There are no walk-up appointments.

[tinyurl.com/4ve3552d](http://tinyurl.com/4ve3552d)



If you have other questions, please contact drive organizer Sean McVey at [smcvey@ccs.k12.in.us](mailto:smcvey@ccs.k12.in.us).





# 14 Paving Our Path To Greatness

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



Tweets Tweets & replies Media Lik

Clay Middle School · 2/19/22 ...  
Congratulations to the Clay Robotics Team for their hard work in today's competition! These teams placed 4th & 8th out of 44 teams. Nice work Trojans!

