



Why Wait to be Great?

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

As we ended third quarter Friday and with spring break right around the corner, I am happy to report that our Clay students and staff are gearing up for our "final lap" of the school year. Our superintendent Dr. Beresford has said before that the school year can be viewed a lot like a race. We are well over the mid-way point of the school year and with third-quarter coming to an end, we will be in the final stretch of the school year once we get back from spring break. Having said that, the final lap can often times be the most difficult lap of the school year (race). Through the first three laps of the race, we have worked extremely hard to continue to build up our endurance and learn how to pace ourselves to best support our students and staff. Knowing that the final stretch can be the most difficult, our focus will remain positive to ensure that we bring motivation and effort to school each and every day to finish the school year strong. As I have often said to our students and staff, *"Don't count the days, make the days count"*. So, I ask that we

all approach the final stretch with the same positivity and energy that started the year with. As always, I would like to thank you as parents for all of your support to help our school and the Clay Nation - we truly appreciate all you do to help make Clay **GREAT**.

CLAY HIGHLIGHTS

THE CLAY WAY

- This time of year, is always a little busier because we begin to transition our 8th graders to high school, while transitioning and preparing our incoming 5th graders to be ready for middle school. We are looking forward to welcoming all of our 5th grade families to our Spring Open House coming up in April.
- Throughout the month of March our performing arts students and staff are very busy preparing for ISSMA (state competitions). Clay performing

...continued on the next page

ADMINISTRATION

Todd Crosby, Principal

Catherine Gahl, Assistant Principal

Mark Smith, Assistant Principal

John Corcoran, Athletic/Activities Director



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

arts department had an awesome month of February with ISSMA state solo and ensemble contests. Our students earned gold ratings as collective groups and our also brought were fortunate enough to bring home several individual accolades. This coming Saturday 3/11/23 Clay will be hosting a state wide ISSMA competition where our band, orchestra and choirs will be competing. I would like to say thank you to all of our students that have performed and are currently performing at a very high-level. In addition, would also like to thank our teachers who dedicate a great deal of their time and effort to help our students achieve their GREATNESS. **GOOD LUCK TROJANS!**

- During this past month Clay recognized our School Resource Officer VanTreese on National School Resource Officer Day. This is Officer VanTreese's first year at Clay and he has been doing an amazing job building relationships with student and staff. He continues to promote school safety and he uses every opportunity as a teachable moment for our student and staff in order to always keep school safety number one. **THANK YOU OFFICER VANTREESE!**
- It has been an awesome winter sports season. We officially ended our winter sport seasons on Saturday March 11th. Clay Wrestling wrestled in the Hamilton County tournament at Westfield, while our 7th grade girls' basketball team made history in the Hamilton County championship at Carmel Middle School. The game was on Saturday March 11th and the Clay Nation did not disappoint. We had an amazing energetic crowd that helped elevate our girls to pull off an undefeated season of 18-0, which has not been done at Clay since 1997 (26 years). I would also like to recognize our 8th grade girls' basketball team, our 7th grade boys and 8th grade boys' basketball teams on outstanding winter sports seasons as well as they recently ended their seasons. And last, but most certainly not least I would like to send a huge thank you out to all of the excellent support that our 7th and 8th grade girls cheerleading squads have shown throughout the winter sports seasons. They have been amazing!
- **Spring sports are right around the corner and we want to encourage any of our students who would like to get involved in a spring sport to get further information regarding track and field, softball or baseball please see the link below. Spring sports call out meetings will start as early as the week of March 13-17.**
<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics>
 Contact: Mr. Corcoran (Clay Activities & Athletics Director)

- We had the pleasure of recognizing our wonderful Student Services Department during the week of February 3-7. This week was National School Counseling Week. This department had themed week focused around KINDNESS where our student and our staff joined together to promote kindness. I would like to say thank you and reinforce to our families that the work being done within our Student Services Department, from our secretary to our guidance counselors to our social workers and our school psychologist makes such an impact on our students here at school. The services that this team provides by collaborating often with our teams of teachers is responsive and timely. This is critical as our students maneuver through their middle school years. Auggie, our Clay therapy dog, is in his third official year on the job and appears to be making such a wonderful impact on our students and staff as we continue to look for ways to service the whole child and address the social emotional needs of our students with effective learning and coping strategies. **Great teamwork everyone!**
- During the week of March 13-17, we will be celebrating our Clay Cafeteria Staff. We cannot thank them enough for all they do to help ensure that our students have healthy and nutritious meals each and every day. The pride, time and commitment that this group of people take in their job is quite remarkable. They come in each and every day and work hard and they care for our students. We want to say thank you to them and let them know how much we appreciate them. **Thank you for helping to make Clay Great!**

I believe in leadership focused on collaboration, teamwork, and a sense of empowerment and caring which leads to the development of strong student leaders, as well as teacher leaders throughout our building. Clay Middle School has a proven reputation of being an outstanding school with a constant commitment to exemplary education. Please remember that as parents you are also an important part of our success as a school and I would like to recognize your role as a parent and thank you for all your hard work and effort to support them through these transformative years.

I challenge all Clay Trojans to **be the best version of you that you can possibly be** and together we will take Clay Middle School to even greater heights. As principal, I

IMPORTANT DATES

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 that 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*



Building a Legacy of Greatness

MARCH		
March 8, 2023	Late Start	
March 13-17	Food Service Staff Week (National Nutrition Month)	
March 10, 2023	3rd Quarter Ends	
March 15, 2023	6th and 7th Grade Band Mid Year Concert	
March 17, 2023	PTO Meeting	
March 17, 2023	Band ISSMA Organizational Contest	7:00 AM-11:00 AM
March 17, 2023	Orchestra ISSMA Organizational Contest	4:00 PM-10:00 PM
March 18, 2023	Band and Orchestra ISSMA Organizational Contest	
March 22, 2023	Late Start	
March 31- April 7, 2023	Spring Break	

APRIL		
March 31-April 7, 2023	Spring Break	
April 3-7	National Assistant Principals Week	
April 10, 2023	Classes Resume	
April 11, 2023	Spring Sports Begin	
April 12, 2023	Late Start	
April 21, 2023	PTO Meeting	
April 24-28, 2023	National Library Week	
April 24-28, 2023	Administrative Professionals Day	
April 26, 2023	Late Start	
	5th Grade Open House	

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FROM STUDENT SERVICES

SCHEDULING

Counselors met with students during the month of February to complete the course selection process for the 2023-2024 school year.

Final course requests are due to be entered in **PowerSchool** by March 1, 2023. If you have questions, please feel free to email your child's counselor directly.

Mrs. Naas

6th Grade All
Team Atlas and Team Apollo

Mrs. Janson

8th Grade All
Team Poseidon

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 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, 2023.

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.

MATHLETES

Congratulations to all mathletes who competed in the Chapter Competition on Saturday, February 11th. 8th graders: Grant Mu, Rebecca Li, Alex Cheng, Ranie Yang, and Minah Paek, 7th graders: Rodion Zuban, Jonathan Zhu, Andrew Lee, Saket Susant, and Colin Phifer and 6th graders: Hrishabh Bhowmik and Christopher Cheng. The team of Grant Mu, Rebecca Li, Rodion Zuban and Hrishabh Bhowmik placed 4th in the team competition. They will advance to the state competition at Purdue University on March 11th. In addition, the following students were in the top 25% of all competitors in the individual competition and will also continue on to the state: Hrishabh Bhowmik, Grant Mu, Rodion Zuban, Jonathan Zhu, Alex Cheng, Rebecca Li and Christopher Cheng. Great job!



THE GREEN SCENE

Recently, our Green Team members designed art to be entered into the Earth Hour Art Competition sponsored by the Carmel Green Initiative. Top entries will move on in the competition and winners will be recognized by Mayor Brainard at the end of April.

These top entries will be displayed in various locations around town from March 25th through Earth Day, April 22nd.

Good luck to our top 20 participants!

Ryleigh Markus	Grayson Mills
Sophia Falk	Addie Sherrill
Kate Reeder	Mackenzie Dillon
Lily Ferguson-Wagstaffe	Caroline Ringenberg
Maddie Meyer	Adam Nolan
Elise Ison	Savannah Hindman
Olivia Podany	Clara Seebach
Celeste Lira	Harper Colton
Addie Nadeau	Bella Dowell
Cate Falkenstein	Ayane Kuramoto



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Monday
Contemporary Ballet A, 4-5pm (ages 5-6)
Beginning Tap, 5-5:30pm
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm (ages 12-13-14)

Tuesday
Creative Movement, 12pm (ages 3-5)
Contemporary Ballet B, 4-5pm (ages 8-9-14)
Intermediate Tap, 5-5:30pm
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

Wednesday
Creative Movement, 12pm
Contemporary Ballet A, 4-5pm
Beginning Tap, 5-5:30pm
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

Thursday
Creative Movement, 12pm
Contemporary Ballet B, 4-5pm
Intermediate Tap, 5-5:30pm
Contemporary Ballet C, 5:30-7:30pm

Friday
Boys' Combo Class with Tricks, 5-6pm (ages 8-14)

WASHINGTON DC TRIP

Reminder to all current 7th grade students:

Registration for the Washington DC trip is open. Please register ASAP to hold your spot. If you have questions, email Mr. Carr at ccarr1@ccs.k12.in.us.

FROM THE PTO

Our 8th Grade After School Celebration is Tuesday, May 23! We're looking for committee chairs for food, games, decorations, tickets/publicity and prizes! If you can help, send an email to Sarah Gray at: ClayPTO.16@gmail.com or send us a Private Message on the Clay PTO Facebook or Twitter pages!

We need parents to sign up to drop of "Tuesday Treats" for teacher appreciation in March, April and May: <http://ow.ly/a2bH50MZntL>



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.



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DONATE LIFE INDIANA

Thank you to Lynn Gagel of Donate Life Indiana for visiting Clay in mid-February. She shared information about organ donation, debunked myths and addressed student questions, all while making connections to the students' studies of genetics and chemistry.



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SOCIAL STUDIES

Earlier this year, students in 8th grade Social Studies classes were asked to consider the importance of Veterans by writing what it means to "salute our heroes" in the City of Carmel's annual Veteran's essay contest. All 8th grade students participated and only one classroom winner, per team was moved on to be judged by the city.

Over the years, student essays have been printed and shared with local VFW halls over Veteran's Day. This year, a special connection was made with the Department of Veteran Affairs in downtown Indianapolis. Not only were 8th grade essays shared with our local Veterans (through the VFW halls), but a large batch of essays made their way to Veterans both who work for the Department of Veterans Affairs, but also the Veterans they serve.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Director, Michael R. Stephens, along with other Veterans responded to the student essays. Veterans responded to the student essays via notes, cards, and short responses. While Veterans thanked our students for recognizing their sacrifices, most of the Veterans encouraged Clay students to work hard, stand up for what they believe in, and continue 'exhibiting the core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence'. Clay was also presented with a "Commander's Coin" as gratitude for 'selfless actions to recognize those who served'.

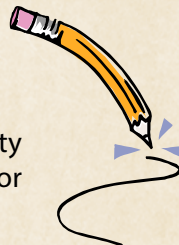


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ESSAY CONTEST

Seventh and Eighth grade students have been offered the opportunity to reflect on the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in time to honor his legacy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January.



Students were given the following quote by the Indiana Association of School Principals (IASP) and asked to create an essay addressing Dr. King's words:

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 our enemies.

Congratulations to the classroom and team winners listed below! Additional congratulations to the five highlighted names who were selected as Clay Middle School's TOP FIVE ESSAYISTS! These five winners will move on and represent Clay Middle School for the essay contest. The following students were selected as team winners and finalists:

Team 7-1 (Mr. Snyder) - Rodion Zuban and Ellie Wang

Team 7-2 (Mr. Stewart) - Isabella Ramsey and Megan Pike

Team 7-3 (Mr. Patane) - Madison Bowser and Thomas Kline

Team 8-1 (Mrs. Gafkjen) - Maurice Ashker, London Evans, Myra Pope, Liam Dorsey, and Ashton Lynch

Team 8-2 (Mr. Carr) - Akshita Mishra, Kayla Aba, Manha Islam, Annabel Pollert, and Eleanor Purvis

Team 8-3 (Mr. Wasemann) - Vardaan Goel and Cadence Yan

Team 8-3 (Mrs. Giles) - Aidan Gostomelsky, Fahed Badreddine, Shawn Feng, and Elia Lu

TENNIS

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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



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MR. STURGIS & MR. DIAL GO TO NASA'S JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Clay Middle School teachers Steve Sturgis and Derek Dial were awarded a scholarship from Indiana's Space Grant Consortium to attend the 2023 SEEC conference in Houston Texas at Space Center Houston! SEEC, or Space Exploration Educators Conference, is an annual conference held by NASA personnel and its goal is to "ignite" educators' passion for space exploration education. Attendees participated in curated sessions from educators and NASA experts while interacting with other teachers to learn and grow together.

This year's conference was tied to the on-going Artemis missions currently underway at NASA. With Artemis, NASA is leading the next steps to return humans to the Moon. NASA's Artemis program will apply the lessons learned from past missions and take the next giant leap: sending the first woman and person of color onto the surface of the moon. Mr. Dial and Mr. Sturgis were able to meet and hear from astronauts that expect to be returning to the moon in 2024! In addition to meeting current NASA astronauts, engineers, and administrators, Mr. Dial and Mr. Sturgis were also provided an opportunity to learn from teachers from around the world. Sturgis and Dial returned home with materials and lesson plans which will be shared with students and fellow science and technology teachers at Clay.



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CRU

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Thursday

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The first meeting will be
Thursday September 8th

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THE CARMEL FOOTBALL PROGRAM PRESENTS...

The Carmel Football Program will be providing some wonderful opportunities for students during the months of May, June, and July. More details about the exciting programs available below!

CARMEL FOOTBALL POWERSCHOOL CAMP

- This opportunity is for ALL current 7th and 8th graders
- May 9, 11, 16, & 18
- 6:00 - 7:00 PM
- CHS Weight Room – Enter CHS Door 17
- <https://gofan.co/app/events/926318?schoolId=IN362>

CARMEL FOOTBALL FRESHMAN TEAM CAMP

- This opportunity is for CURRENT 8th graders who will be ENTERING grade 9 next year
- 17 dates in June and July
- 1:30 – 6:30 PM on each day
- Prepares student athletes for the freshman football season
- <https://gofan.co/app/events/934920?schoolId=IN362>

GO TROJANS!



CARMEL



POWERSCHOOL CAMP

All current 7th and 8th graders interested in learning and executing the fundamentals of strength training and movement are welcome to attend. The primary weightlifting and movement techniques utilized at Carmel High School will be introduced.

DATES & TIMES

- Tues, May 9
- Thurs, May 11
- Tues, May 16
- Thurs, May 18
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM

LOCATION

- Carmel High School Weight Room
- Enter Door 17

REQUIRED

- T-Shirt & Shorts
- Athletic Shoes
- Water bottle with your name on it



REGISTER TODAY by scanning the QR code to the left or by clicking this link to our [REGISTRATION PAGE](#).

Please direct any questions to the Director of Football Operations, Chard Reid. You may email Coach Reid at rreid1@ccs.k12.in.us

CARMEL



FRESHMAN TEAM CAMP

The **Freshman Team Camp** is a unique opportunity for incoming prospective players during the summer prior to their freshman year. Geared toward preparing student-athletes for the freshman football season, campers will receive foundational instruction and develop a routine in preparation for the upcoming season. After initial orientations during the first week, campers will receive feedback and mentoring from varsity/freshman coaches and players. By the time this camp concludes, those that choose to continue on for the freshman season will be well prepared for success in 2023.

WHEN?

- Between 1:30 - 6:30 PM on:
- June 5, 6, 7, 8
 - June 12, 14, 15
 - June 19, 21, 22
 - June 26, 28, 29
 - July 17, 18, 19, 20

WHERE?

- Report each day to door 17 at CHS.
- Pick-up from Carmel Stadium (and turf fields located just NORTH of the Stadium).

REQUIRED ATTIRE:

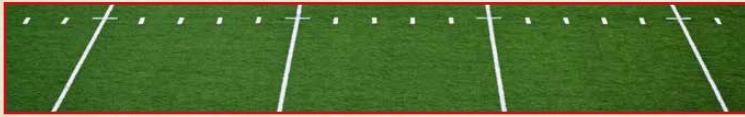
- Wear a T-shirt, shorts, long socks, cleats, and athletic shoes to every practice.
- A helmet, shoulder pads, and a practice jersey will be provided by the coaching staff.



REGISTER TODAY by scanning the QR code to the left or by clicking this link to our [REGISTRATION PAGE](#).

Students attend 17 sessions for \$100.

Please direct any questions to the Director of Football Operations, Chard Reid. You may email Coach Reid at rreid1@ccs.k12.in.us



CARMEL FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE CAMP

- This opportunity is for students who will be ENTERING Grades 5-8
- July 10 – 14
- 8:30 – 10:30 AM
- CHS Stadium
- Mirrors the approach of the CHS football program
- Daily team scrimmages
- <https://gofan.co/app/events/895541?schoolId=IN362>

CLAY STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Living out the "Clay Way" in our community

Congratulations to Ananya Yemme, one of our 8th grade Clay students who we spotlight this month for living out the "Clay Way" in our own community. Ananya is one of our amazing young leaders that chooses to make philanthropy a big part of her life. Ananya recently received the Presidential Service Award for the countless hours she puts in to help others. As a school, we would like to take time to express our delight at Ananya receiving this prestigious community service award from Mrs. Sue Finkam, a Carmel City Council member.

She also received the GOLD Presidential Service Volunteer Award for her contribution of 100+ hours of community service in various arenas, such as online tutoring for underprivileged children, working with council member Miles Nelson on the Save Soil Campaign and the Carmel Clay Parks Adopt-a-Park program, for both years. In addition, Councilman Miles Nelson also presented her with the Sewa Community Service Award in 2021.

CARMEL



2023 SUMMER FOOTBALL CAMPS

JULY 10-14, 2023

Youth Camp (Grades 1-4)

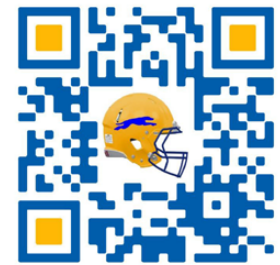
- No helmets & no pads
- Opportunity to play all positions
- Compete & play within grade level
- Aerial games played each day
- 10:45am – 12:30pm

Scrimmage Camp (Grades 5-8)

- Helmets & pads will be provided by middle schools & Carmel Dads' Club if student is part of their programs
- Great preparation for the upcoming competitive season
- 8:30am – 10:30am

Register by scanning the QR code below.

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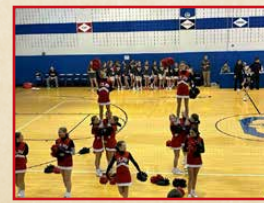


Thank you Ananya for continuing to display your Greatness. We are so proud of you for your kind heart and service to our community.

History Was Made!

Congratulations to our 7th Grade Girls Basketball Team on becoming 2023 Hamilton County Champions!

- This team set a record as the first team to ever win the 7th Grade Hamilton County Tournament (new format started this year)
- Team finished an amazing undefeated season going 18-0. This has not been done since 1997 (26 years ago).
- Special thanks go out to Coach Travis Ramsey and Coach Emily Roberts.
- Special thanks go out to our 7th grade cheerleaders and Coach Cherie Struve.



CLAY ROBOTICS TEAM

We would like to take time to recognize Mr. Brandon Crawford (Clay STEM Teacher) and Mr. John Corcoran (Clay Activities/Athletic Director) for all their hard work on helping to organize a first ever state robotics competition at Clay Middle School. This event happened on Saturday February 16th and it was an amazing turnout for our first time ever doing this event. Clay Middle School welcomed 60 + robotics teams at both the elementary and middle school levels. The day was filled with so many students from so many schools getting an opportunity to participate, collaborate and problem solve with their coaches and teammates. This was truly an awesome event that could not have happened without the vision of Mr. Crawford, Mr. Corcoran's assistance as Clay's Activities Director, our robotics parents, our Clay PTO and our Clay administrative team.

As a result of events like this, and other robotics qualifying events around the state of Indiana, we have several of our Clay Robotics Team members that have qualified for state with the hopes of qualifying for the Robotics World Competition in Dallas, TX.

Congratulations to the following students who qualified for the state tournament at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday March 25th (all day).

State Finalists:

Isaac Bailey

Luke Bailey

Simon Brickel

Will Corcoran

Liam Dorsey

Aaron Rozmaryn

Vaibhav Sanaji

Raj Sangolli

Will Shipman

Zakary Wasik

Cameron Wilson

Eddy Zhu

