



Paving Our Path To Greatness

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

As the season is changing, we have seen rain, sun, clouds, cold, warmth, and our first snow fall of the season all in the last couple weeks. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is this week and we are well underway into 2nd quarter. As we reflect over the first four months of school, we without a doubt have had many challenges that we have had to work through, but we also have much to celebrate and be grateful for.

For example, I would like to take a moment to recognize all of our veterans and the sacrifices they made to our country. This month took time to recognize our veterans on Veterans Day. A special thank you goes out to all of our servicemen and servicewomen who are currently serving in our military or have served in our military to ensure our freedoms. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Clay GREATNESS

Clay PTO is amazing! As an entire Clay Nation, we are so fortunate to have great parental involvement and support and for that reason, Clay Middle School

was able to meet its fundraising goals for the 2021-2022 school year. As principal of Clay Middle School, I speak on behalf of our entire administrative team and teaching staff when I say thank you. Please know we cannot begin to thank you enough for your time, effort, volunteerism and contributions to Clay Middle School. We are looking forward to all the ways these generous PTO contributions help to offer and support new opportunities to our students and staff with various classroom activities and lessons.

Clay Performing Arts Concerts - Throughout the months of October and November, we have experienced some incredible concerts by our 6th, 7th and 8th grade bands, choirs and orchestras. The time and dedication that our students put into their performances under the leadership of Mr. Frizzi, Mrs. Pote, Mr. Grifa and Mrs. Susie does not go unnoticed or unrecognized. (We appreciate all of you for the work you do!)

...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...*

2021 Ghosts and Goblins

Spirit Award - Congratulations to Clay Middle School on winning the 2021 Ghosts and Goblins 5K/2K run and walk participation award. Clay Middle School was going for its 9th straight highest participation award among our middle schools. This is an unprecedented run by Clay that we have been able to achieve only because of our awesome families, students and staff that make up the Clay Nation.

Clay Athletics - A huge thank you goes out to our Fall athletic coaches - football, cross country, volleyball, cheerleading and tennis. The Clay Way was always on display when our student athletes competed and I could not be prouder of our athletes and coaches for representing Clay at the highest level. Best of luck to all of our winter sports that are now underway. If you have not had an opportunity to come out and see our Clay Trojan athletic teams in action, I encourage you to attend any of our winter sports events. **ONWARD TO VICTORY CLAY!**

Fall Musical (Frozen Jr.)

- This past weekend Clay Middle School put on Frozen Jr. as our fall musical for our community. We had four sold out shows that packed our auditorium starting with our understudy show on Thursday night and finishing with our final show Saturday night. The amount of support from our

Clay families for this musical was truly unbelievable given that this was the first show in almost two years that we were able to have a full auditorium due to Covid.

Clay Spell Bowl Team

- Congratulations to our Clay Spell Bowl Team on receiving a 2nd place finish in the 2021 Hamilton County competition to advance to the state level competition at Purdue University two weeks ago. They finished with an impressive 5th place finish for the state of Indiana. Great job to our team and a special thanks to Mrs. Smiley for all of her leadership.

Clay Book Fair

- Clay started the month of November with our Clay Book Fair. A great deal of time and effort went into this event and a special thank you goes out to Mrs. Swartzendruber, our Clay media center specialist for all of her organization and also Mrs. Carole FitzGerald. Thank you to any of our parent volunteers that helped to make this year's book fair a big success and to any student / family that purchased items at the and continued to promote the love for reading.

CCS Young Artist Award

winner - Congratulations to 7th grader Jackson Harris on receiving the CCS Young Artist Award. Jackson's art work will be on display at Carmel Clay Schools Educational Service Center for all the community to see. We are proud of you Jackson!

MASK UPDATES

Masks are required during the school day

Just a quick reminder to all families to please send your student(s) with back up masks in their backpacks. We will most certainly give your child a mask if they need one, but we are running low on our supply of disposable masks. If your child repeatedly comes to school without a mask, you could potentially be contacted by the school and asked to drop off a mask to school.

Mask policy for extracurricular events

This message was sent out on Thursday, November 11, 2021 to all CCS families by our superintendent Dr. Beresford.

Dear Carmel Clay Schools Community,

*Today, we are announcing that face masks will be optional during **after-school extracurricular activities** beginning today, November 11, 2021.*

Masks must still be worn during the school day.

Current guidance from the Indiana State Department of Health does not require students wearing masks to be quarantined. This is important to keep our students in school. This change in the mask policy only applies to optional after-school activities.

This updated mask policy at extracurricular events is consistent with policies at public venues throughout the state. When traveling outside the district to events, CCS students and staff should adhere to masking policies at those locations.

We are hopeful and optimistic that protocols will continue to be relaxed as we approach the second semester. We will continue to monitor our local data and work with state and county health officials to ensure the safety of our students and staff while adhering to legally required contact tracing and quarantine guidelines.

It's hard to believe we have 24 school days until winter break. We are thankful for your continued cooperation and support.

*Thank you,
Dr. Beresford*

We appreciate all of your support regarding our Carmel Clay School mask policy.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

Lost and Found

Reminder to have your child please check lost and found outside the cafeteria area. We currently have a large amount of clothes, water bottles, and even library books that need to be claimed. The holiday seasons are coming up quickly and if we still have these items left when we leave for holiday break on December 17th, we will donate all items to a chosen charity as we have done in the past. There are so many wonderful community programs that help to support families during these times and with Covid-19 we know that it has possibly made it even harder on families.

I challenge all Clay Trojans to continue to **"Pave Our Path to Greatness"**. Together we will take Clay Middle School to even greater heights if we continue to work together. 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 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.

Have a restful and relaxing Thanksgiving break everyone.

Reminder to follow us on Twitter
@ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness

GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,
Todd A. Crosby
Principal

**PAVING OUR PATH
TO GREATNESS**



IMPORTANT DATES

November

November 19th & 20th Clay Musical Performances

November 24th-26th Thanksgiving Break

December

Wednesday, December 1st Late Start

Wednesday, December 15th... Workout
Wednesday
(Staff Fitness Day)

Friday, December 17th 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester Ends

December 20th-January 3rd... Winter Break (students return January 4th)

Have a great holiday break everyone!

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November 8th-12th

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STUDENT SERVICES CANVAS PAGE



Clay Middle School's Student Services Canvas page serves to provide social emotional lessons, resources, and department contact information. Students wishing to sign up to meet with a counselor or social worker should do so through the [CONTACT US](#) link. Parents/guardians can also find links to [RESOURCES](#) including a variety of community links under [FAMILY RESOURCES](#).

Students should have accepted an invitation to the Clay Student Services Canvas page at the start of the year. Parents set to be observers can then view the page.



AVID SPOTLIGHT

7th grade avid students have started fully participating in tutorials and are currently writing a memoir piece as we address the writing part of the AVID curriculum. Students also engaged in a Socratic seminar regarding the positive and negative effects of social media on a person's mental well-being. 8th grade AVID students are participating in tutorials and writing about a passion of theirs. The writing will be followed by sharing a passion speech with their peers. After which, students will begin writing an argumentative piece.

The AVID program is gearing up to recruit our 6th and 7th graders who are interested in applying for next year. In Core plus this week, 6th and 7th grade students will see a slide show sharing details of the program and complete a google form to indicate their interest. Current 7th grade AVID students are automatically enrolled in 8th grade AVID and do not have to reapply.



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FORUM CREDIT UNION EDUCATOR GRANT

Allison Martin was the recipient of a Forum Credit Union Educator Grant. The \$2,000 grant will allow her to start a gardening program with 8th graders on Team Revolutionaries. The students will learn about propagating indoor plants and will also start flowers and vegetables from seed this winter. Students will select their seeds, then plant and grow them until May. Once it's warm enough outside, students will be able to plant their seedlings at home. There are incredible benefits to growing plants indoors. Plus, students will have their own flowers and vegetables for the rest of the year! If you have expertise in this area, please contact Miss Martin about the possibility of sharing your knowledge with the students in this group.

FROM THE CAFETERIA

Since the amazing free meal waiver from the USDA has been in place the students are really learning what makes a "complete" meal! It's great to see the kids making sure they have all the necessary components for a complete lunch on their tray.

Clay also serves breakfast every morning which is covered under the free meal waiver. In order for a breakfast to qualify as "complete" and therefore free of charge, a student must choose at least any one of our entrée choices (BeneFit Bars, Whole Grain PopTarts, Cereal, Whole Grain Breakfast Rolls) along with at least one fruit choice (canned, fresh or juice). Your student may have as much as one entrée, 2 fruits, and a milk as their complete breakfast meal. What a time-saver for your busy morning!

As a reminder, we are encouraging ALL payments be done through EZSchoolPay.com. We only accept cash payments through one of our serving lines (Line 4). Our goal is to become paperless, thus avoiding any unnecessary contact. We appreciate your cooperation!

One more thing...we will be serving our Annual Holiday Meal on Tuesday, Nov. 16th! The menu will include Turkey & Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Corn Muffin Flats, Cranberry Jello and Ice Cream for dessert along with our regular selection of fruits and fresh veggies, PBJs, Hummus Plate and Garden Salads. Sounds delicious, doesn't it? (Please make note that we will not be serving Chicken Rice Bowl on that day.)

As always, please don't hesitate to call or email me with any questions or concerns!

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

STAFF FAVORITE THINGS

We are so thankful for the wonderful staff at Clay! Our PTO teacher appreciation committee has assembled a list of our staff member's favorite things to help with knowing the best ways to treat each of our staff members. View the full list here:

[Staff Favorite Things](#)

Also, help us show our appreciation for our Clay teachers and entire staff by sending an email or small note of thanks!



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Register Now For High School Indoor Soccer Leagues!

- **Winter Session 1** runs from November to January
- **Winter Session 2** runs from January to March

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CARMEL CLAY SCHOOLS PRESENTS

School to Heart to Home



A Social-Emotional Workshop Series! Presenters will provide information on CCS activities and initiatives involving character development and emotional intelligence, as well as, provide information and resources to caregivers of students K-12.

October 18th (6-8 pm) CCS and SEL: An Introduction
(Virtual)

November 3rd (5:30-7:30 pm) Intro to Conscious Discipline
at CCS Educational Services Center (5201 E. Main Street)

January 18th (5:00-7:00 pm) Part II: Conscious Discipline
at CCS Educational Services Center (5201 E. Main Street)

February-May Workshops will be Released by January 2022



Workshops will be provided in-person or utilizing a virtual platform. To Register, utilize the QR Code or [Click this Link](#)



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STUDENT SERVICES

Clay Middle School Student Services Department promotes the academic, social, emotional, and career development of all students. Our Student Services staff serve as advocates for students while collaborating with parents, staff, and the community to assist students in reaching their full potential. Each student has a school counselor and school social worker assigned to them.

2021-2022 STUDENT SERVICES STAFF

<p>► Holly Baker Banninga Administrative Assistant</p>	<p>► Kelli Grogg, Ed.S., NCSP School Psychologist</p>
<p>► Michelle Janson, PhD Counselor - All 7th Grade 6th Grade Teams 6-2 & 6-3</p>	<p>► Erin Naas Counselor - All 8th Grade 6th Grade Team 6-1</p>
<p>► Gina Potter, LCSW Social Worker - All 7th Grade 6th Grade Teams 6-2 & 6-3</p>	<p>► Britney Coats, LCSW Social Worker - All 8th Grade 6th Grade Team 6-1</p>

SAFESITTER CLASSES

Register for a 1-day class! Choose from:

September 25, 2021 · October 2, 2021 · October 30, 2021
December 4, 2021 · January 8, 2022 · February 5, 2022 · March 5, 2022

Noon - 5:30 pm

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Carmel, IN

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Class fee is \$65.

Pre-registration is required at least one week in advance. To register, call 317.460.5792 or email kfreer@carmel.in.gov. Register early as classes fill quickly!

CALL 317.460.5792
EMAIL kfreer@carmel.in.gov
VISIT www.carmel.in.gov



Disney FROZEN JR.



DISNEY FROZEN JR

Congratulations to the cast and crew of Frozen Jr. on an amazing Fall musical this past weekend. Clay had nearly all four shows sold out and it was such a pleasure to see our students performing in front of live audiences again. We could not be prouder of every student that helped make this year's musical a huge success. A huge THANK YOU goes out to Mrs. Susie and Mr. Anderson on all their hard work to coordinate this musical. Lastly, to all of our parents that helped by giving of their time and effort, we appreciate all of you.



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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 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.

NEW FAMILIES

If you have not submitted your second proof of residence (a GAS or ELECTRIC bill) please bring in a current copy to the office, or scan and email Holly Baker Banninga at hbakerba@ccs.k12.in.us.



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**

Everyone needs a helping hand — so don't be afraid to reach out!

Services available:

- In the school
- Through Video in Person appointments
- At our Carmel clinic:
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 - (317) 574-0055



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BURNT TOAST TALKS

**Is your child
struggling to come
to school? Has their
anxiety increased in
social situations?**

Teens with social anxiety have a very sensitive smoke detector and their stress responses turn on even at the smell of burnt toast. We have a group starting up called "Burnt Toast Talks" focusing on teen social anxiety. We will be spending 9 weeks in *The Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook* for Teens by Jennifer Shannon, LMFT. We will work on improving relationships, reducing worry about what others think, reducing embarrassing thoughts and speaking confidently. The skills learned in this group will also translate to other forms of anxiety! If your student is interested in joining please contact Gina Potter, LCSW by Dec. 1st at gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us.



HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ART CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations goes out to Madison Bowser, one of our amazing Clay 6th graders who was one of the winners from across Carmel Clay Schools to have won the Latinx and Hispanic Heritage Month Art Contest.

Awesome job Madison!



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Clay Middle participates in AmazonSmile donation program! A portion of your purchases will be directly donated

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THE GREEN SCENE

The Team Atlas Green Team participated in Rubicon's **Trick or Trash** campaign.

Students brought in Halloween candy wrappers and we shipped them off to the company to be recycled and used to make other products.

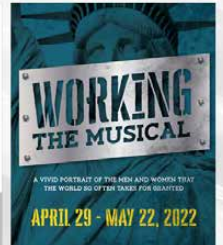


HOLIDAY LIGHTS

It is not too early to begin thinking about our Holiday Lights Recycling Initiative! We will be collecting and recycling old holiday light strands beginning after Thanksgiving Break. This is a community-wide event that Clay is excited to take part in each year.



Welcome Back for Our
2021-2022 SEASON



For more information
and to purchase tickets,
visit atistage.org.

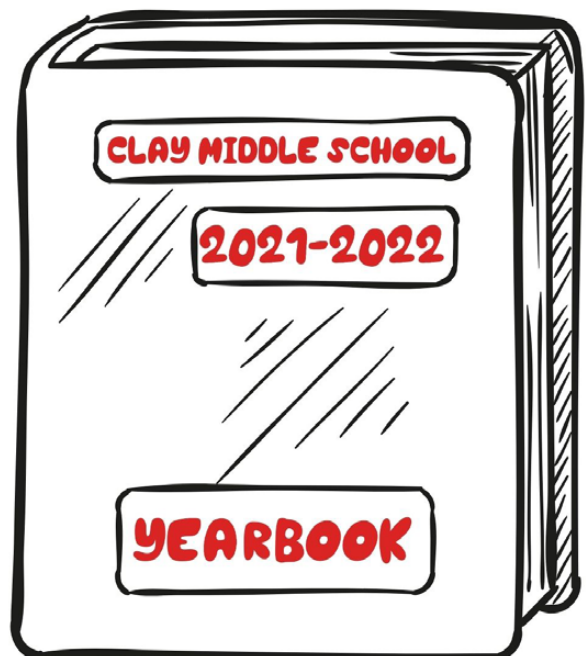
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12 Paving Our Path To Greatness

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

2021-22 VETERAN'S ESSAY CONTEST

Each year the City of Carmel hosts an essay contest for grades 6 – 12 and a poster contest for students in grades K-5, in order to honor, remember, & celebrate our Veterans.

This year's theme was "Freedom is never free".

While many entries were submitted, the following students were team/classroom winners in their grade:

- Myers (Titans): Liam H, Isla H-R, Parker D, Ashlyn M, Nicholas R
- Anderson (Justice): Story H, Colin P, Camryn Lazard, Lauren G, and Rodion Z
- McGuckin (Avengers): Azraf A, Emma P, Ava J
- R. Snyder (Poseidon): Rebecca L, Alex R-P, Grace D, and Bryson H
- Wasemann (Poseidon): Eddie Z & Vera G
- Patane (Apollo): Natalie S & Joya De P
- Stewart (Atlas): Barrie T, Annabel P, and Madison F
- Duncan (Legends): Ayushi B
- Giles (Visionaries): Hillary Y, Alex W, Stori B, Arya G, and Oliv W

*Special congratulations to **Liam H from Team Titans (Myers)** for being selected as a city-wide sixth grade winner.*

Liam has been invited to read his essay at the Veterans Day Ceremony. The event will be held at noon on Wednesday, November 10th at the Tarkington Theater. Liam will also receive a \$100 gift card, courtesy of Indiana Members Credit Union.

Additional congratulations to the following students who were selected as Honorable Mention: **Parker D (Titans); Annabel P (Atlas); and Alex W (Visionaries).**



Station Work and Field Trip Spirit Day



8th Grade Field Trip to Northview for Disc Golf and Gaga Ball



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS MRS. COATS & MRS. POTTER

Dear Parents and Families,

We want to ensure all students have the necessary resources to inspire greatness. If your family is in need of assistance throughout the year please contact your child's School Social Worker or complete our Family Resource Assessment <https://goo.gl/forms/QN5wQQCNl6iKxYa43>.

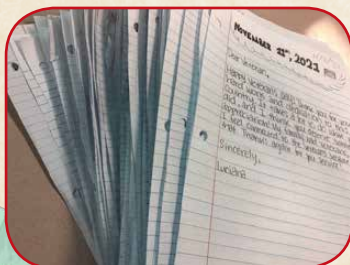
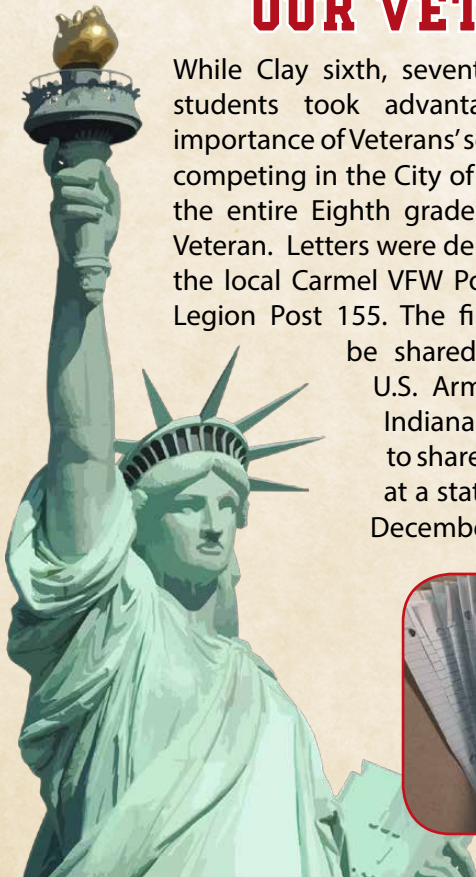
Carmel Kids Coats Giveaways will take place on October 30th, November 6th, and November 13th from 9am-12pm.

Registration to participate in the coat giveaway has ended, however, if you are still in need of a coat, please contact Clay's social workers, Gina Potter (gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us) or Britney Coats (bcoats@ccs.k12.in.us).

Holiday and food assistance for Thanksgiving and Christmas is offered through the Good Samaritan Network. Please call them at (317) 842-2603, x 200, or visit <https://www.gsnlive.org/holiday-assistance> for more information and to apply.

THANK YOU TO OUR VETERANS

While Clay sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students took advantage of sharing the importance of Veterans' service to our nation by competing in the City of Carmel Essay contest, the entire Eighth grade wrote to an Indiana Veteran. Letters were delivered on Thursday to the local Carmel VFW Post 10003 and Carmel Legion Post 155. The final set of letters will be shared with Richard Leirer, U.S. Army (Retired) and VFW Indiana District 6 Commander, to share with Indiana Veterans at a state-wide conference, in December.



ABOUT OUR ADMINISTRATORS



Todd Crosby, *Principal*

27 years in public education (12 years of teaching and coaching at both middle school and high school levels and now starting my 15th year as an administrator) I have been in Carmel Clay Schools (CCS) for 10 years; starting my 10th year as principal at Clay Middle School. My favorite thing about Clay is the people (from the students to the adults). We have worked hard to build a culture of GREATNESS that our students, parents and staff can be proud of. We are so lucky to have a strong school community with the Clay Nation. I take great pride in being the principal at Clay and continuing to learn something new every day from our students and staff as we all strive to live out the Clay Way. ONWARD TO VICTORY CLAY!



Brooke Cole, *Assistant Principal*

18 years in education. I've been in CCS for 13 years; starting my 4th year at Clay. My favorite thing about Clay is the school culture and family. It always brings me joy to be around students and staff who live out the Clay Way and show respect, responsibility, are ready to learn and full of Clay pride.



John Corcoran, *Athletic Director*

This is my 19th year in education. I've been at Clay Middle School for 18 years. My favorite thing about Clay is the positive educational and extra-curricular environment. I am extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to watch students perform in the activities they love.



Mark Smith, *Assistant Principal*

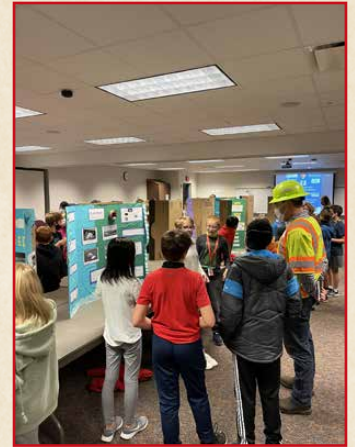
This year is my 34th year in Carmel Clay Schools and 28th at Clay Middle School. It is a joy to be part of a school community where parents are actively involved and seeking to build partnerships with the schools—this truly gives us the best chance to help students find success. I love that we have an experienced and devoted staff that goes above and beyond in helping to provide for our students. I'm looking forward to a great year.

14 Paving Our Path To Greatness

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

6TH GRADE SCIENCE STUDENTS FIGHTING INVASIVE SPECIES OF INDIANA

"Everywhere we look, there are species damaging our natural ecosystems both now, and as we look into the future." 6th grade science students at Clay were tasked with coming up with creative solutions for solving these ecological problems. Students presented to members of the 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 DNR (Department of Natural Resources), Purdue University, Indiana-Illinois Sea Grant, Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation, INDOT (Indiana Department of Transportation), SICIM (Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management), HIP (Hamilton Co. Invasives Partnership), Hamilton Soil and Water Conservation District, and NRCS / USDA (National Resources Conservation Service).

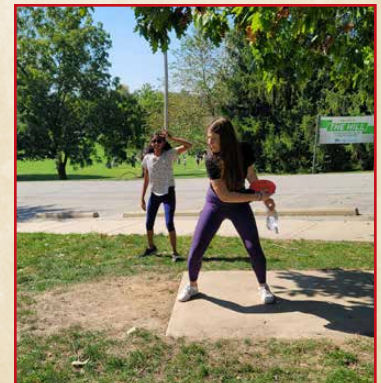


Mental and Emotional Health: In-class Station Work



Mental Health Panel- 8th Grade Health

Disc Golf





Thank you
Dr. Beresford
for bringing
Jim Dandy
to Clay.



Clay
Educare
fun!!



Congratulations to
6th grader Liam Horan
on winning the City of
Carmel Veterans Day
Essay Contest. We are
proud of you Liam!



Happy
birthday
Mr. Appleton!!



Congratulations to our
2021 Carmel Education
Foundation grant
winners. (Mrs. Russo,
Mr. Britcher, Mrs. Niese,
Mr. Simon)



Thank
you to our
amazing
Clay PTO!



Clay Fall concerts -
thank you to Mrs. Pote,
Mr. Frizzi, Mrs. Susie and
Mr. Frizzi. Incredible job
to all our 6th, 7th and
8th grade students.

16 Paving Our Path To Greatness

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



Congratulations to our Clay Middle School Spell Bowl team on getting 2nd place at the Hamilton County Competition.

Clays Spell Bowl team qualified for the Indiana State tournament held at Purdue University and finished with an impressive 5th place finish.

Clay
Friendship
Circles

