



Believe in Your Greatness

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

The season is definitely changing as winter is right around the corner. As we are well into 2nd quarter, it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving will be here before we know it. As we reflect over the first three 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 for our country. This month we will take 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!**

I would be remised if I didn't take time to thank our teachers for their service to the education profession. Clay staff members are truly heroes behind the scenes. Due to their commitment and partnership with you as parents, we have had a very successful

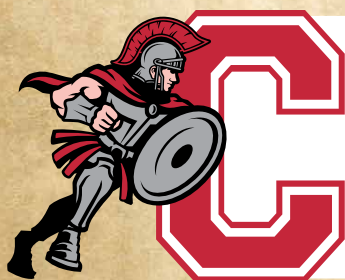
first three months of school. I want to thank all of our teachers and support staff for the amazing job they are all doing and the pride they take in their work. As principal, I realize it takes all of us working together to make things happen. I have been so impressed with how they always do their job in such a kind, thorough and professional manner. I hope as a Clay Nation you will join me in thanking each of them for all the great work they do here at Clay Middle School.

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 is so close to meeting our fundraising goal for the 2023-2024 school year. Currently we have met about 93% of our goal, but you still have one more chance to donate to Champions of Clay.

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 do

...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...*

what we do at Clay Middle School without our amazing Clay PTO. We thank you 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 Celebrates Red Ribbon Week – During the month of October, Clay Middle School celebrated Red Ribbon Week. A special thank you goes out to our staff and students who dressed up all week with particular spirit days to promote **“saying NO to drugs and alcohol – BE DRUG FREE!”**. Thank you also to our Clay Student Services Department for helping to organize this fun and meaningful week.

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!) Through the month of October, we had our 8th Grade Orchestra Festival at the Palladium and our students got to play together on stage with other students from both Creekside and Carmel Middle Schools in front of a packed house. Later that week on October 26th our Clay Band and Orchestra in grades 6th, 7th and 8th had a wonderful performance from our symphonic band, wind ensemble band and orchestra.

2023 Ghosts and Goblins 5K/2K Run and Walk - Congratulations to Clay Middle School on having yet another awesome turnout for the annual Ghosts and Goblins 5K/2K run and walk. Clay Middle School has always strived to support this great community event by having the highest participation award among our middle schools. This year was no exception and Clay Nation did not disappoint - thank you to everyone that attended and participated in this event. A HUGE THANK YOU GOES TO ALL 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 (Legally Blonde, Jr) – On November 16th, 17th and 18th Clay Middle School will put on our annual fall musical for our community. This year's chosen musical is Legally Blonde, Jr and it looks to be a great one! Our Clay families have always shown a great deal of support for our cast, crew and directors for this musical and it is truly unbelievable to see all of the hard work come full circle on the performance nights.

Clay Spell Bowl Team - Congratulations to our Clay Spell Bowl Team on receiving a 3rd place finish in the 2023 Hamilton County competition. They will now have a possibility to advance to the state level competition at Purdue University coming up later this month. Great job to our team and a special thanks to Mrs. Gretchen Sasser and Mr. Ryan Snyder for all of their coaching and leadership.

Clay Book Fair - Clay started the month of November with our Clay Book Fair. A great deal of time and effort always goes into this event and a special thank you goes out to Mrs. Stephanie Swartzendruber, our Clay media center specialist for all of her organization and also Mrs. Carole FitzGerald. Thank you to any of our parent volunteers who plan on helping out to make this year book fair a big success and also to any student / family that purchases items that continue to promote the love for reading.

2023 Clay NJHS Induction Ceremony – On October 19th, Clay Middle School held their annual Clay NJHS Induction Ceremony where they had approximately 150 students inducted into the National Junior Honors Society. This organization was created in 1929 focusing around the five qualities of scholarship, leadership, service, character and citizenship. This was a wonderful event for our students who fulfilled their NJHS requirements were recognized in front of a packed auditorium of families. A special thank you to both our Clay NJHS Sponsors (Mrs. Laura Ward and Ms. Lisa Baker), in addition to our Clay Administration (Mr. Todd Crosby, Mrs. Catherine Gahl, Mr. Mark Smith and Mr. John Corcoran). **Congratulations students on a job well done!**

CCS Young Artist Award Winner – Congratulations to 8th grader Madison Bowser on receiving the CCS Young Artist Award. Madison will be recognized at the Carmel Clay Schools - School Board Meeting on November 13th and Madison's art work will be on display at Carmel Clay Schools Educational Service Center for all the community to see. We are very proud of you Madison!



Welcome back to Clay, Mrs. Fuller!



Our newest teacher, Ellie Fuller, didn't need a tour or a complete staff introduction on her first day at Clay Middle School.

Her former principal and assistant principal, Mr. Crosby and Mr. Smith, hired her. Her former 6th-grade humanities teacher, Mrs. Speidel, is now her teammate on Avengers! Mrs. Nass was her former school counselor, Mr. Stewart was her social studies teacher, and Mrs. Giles was her 8th grade ELA teacher.

Beyond celebrating her homecoming to Carmel Clay Schools, Ellie is an excellent example of the teacher pipeline that allows us to keep our best and brightest in our community. As the nation faces a teacher shortage, enthusiastic and

passionate teachers like Ellie have countless options on where to teach, and we are proud that she sought a position in her hometown.

Knowing she wanted to be a teacher, Ellie took advantage of Carmel High School's education career classes and was a cadet teacher at her alma maters, Prairie Trace and Clay. At Indiana University, she again returned to CCS to student teach.

"I am thrilled to be coming home to Carmel to teach 6th grade math," said Ellie. "I like to joke that I peaked in middle school, but my three years at Clay were my favorite growing up." As a cheerleader, softball player, and CHS Dance Marathon participant, we are excited for Ellie to spread her school spirit at Clay Middle School.

We are confident that one day in the future, Mrs. Fuller will complete the cycle and welcome one of her former students into the teaching profession and back to Carmel.

Thank you to so many of our staff members that work behind the scenes to ensure that Clay

continues....

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *continues...*

Middle School functions effectively and efficiently. Allow me to recognize them.

THE DREAM TEAM!

Jen Pletcher – Clay Middle School Treasurer / Administrative Assistant

Amy Glover – Clay Middle School Cafeteria Manager

Celeste Rodriguez - Clay Middle School Front Office
Administrative Assistant

Deanna Boyce – Clay Middle School Front Office
Administrative Assistant

Ken Marton – Clay Middle School Head Custodian

Julie Dickson – Clay Middle School Nurse

Regan Gross – Clay Middle School Nurse

Holly Baker-Banninga - Student Services
Administrative Assistant

As principal, I challenge all Clay Trojans to continue to **"Believe in Your 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

CARMEL
CLAY SCHOOLS



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE

Carmel Clay Schools Operating Referendum

REGISTER TO VOTE BY
OCTOBER 10

LEARN MORE!
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ON THE CCS
WEBSITE

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



Radiance (Dance Company)



Radiance Dance Company is a professional contemporary ballet company committed to glorifying God through artistry.

Class Pricing and Schedule 2023-2024

Monday
1-3pm Company Class
3:00-4:30pm Contemporary Ballet, Level A (\$80)
4:30-5pm Beginning Tap (\$50 or \$25 w/ Level A)
5-6pm Level C (\$80)
Tuesday
12-12:30pm Creative Movement (\$60)
1-3pm Company Class
3:00-4pm Intermediate Tap (\$50 or \$25 w/ Level B)
4-5pm Contemporary Ballet, Level B (\$80)
5-6pm Yoga/Combo Class w/ Trunks (\$40)
Wednesday
1-3pm Company Class
3:00-4:30pm Contemporary Ballet, Level A
4:30-5pm Beginning Tap
5-6pm Level C
Thursday
12-12:30pm Creative Movement
1-3pm Company Class
3:00-4pm Intermediate Tap
4-5pm Contemporary Ballet, Level B
Friday
Reserved for private lessons and rehearsals

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IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

NOVEMBER

November 6-10, 2023	Book Fair Week	
November 15, 2023	Education Support Professionals Day	
November 15, 2023	Late Start	
November 16-17, 2023	Musical Performance	7:00PM
November 17, 2023	PTO Meeting	
November 18, 2023	Musical Performance	2:00PM and 7:00PM
November 22-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Break	
November 29, 2023	Late Start	

DECEMBER

December 5, 2023	6th Grade Band Debut Concert	6-7 PM
December 5, 2023	6th Grade Orchestra Debut Concert	7:30-8:30 PM
December 13, 2023	Late Start	
December 14, 2023	6th, 7th, 8th Grade Winter Choir Concert	6:00-8:30 PM
December 15, 2023	PTO Meeting	
December 21, 2023	End of 2nd Quarter/End of Semester	
December 22	Teacher Work Day	
December 22-January 5	Winter Break	

FROM PTO

General Board Meeting

Clay families are invited to attend -
November 17th 1:30-2:30pm

Next Tuesday Treat Date

November 7th

November Kroger Raffle - November 1st-30th

Follow us on social media for a chance to participate
and win a \$50 Kroger gift card.

Instagram @claytrojanspto

Facebook @Clay Middle School PTO

Volunteering

We would love for you to volunteer! If you are interested, please fill out the form (QR code) if you have not already. We will be reaching out as opportunities arise.



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Owner/Optommetrist

Dr. Keith Miloschoff
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SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM

Clay Speech & Debate Team Opens Season with a Victory in South Bend!

The 2023 Speech & Debate season opened about a month earlier than usual for our Clay students, yet they did not perform like they were behind or unprepared. At the Stanley Clark Invitational, Clay took home first place honors in the ten team field, with 76 points, over St Vincent's (Ft Wayne, 72) and Westfield (65).



Clay had 26 competitive spots in the field, with 19 of them receiving placement ribbons. Top three finishers in their categories were:

Moki N. - 3rd

Kavin M. - 2nd

Kavin M. - 2nd

Sawyer H. - 2nd

Clarissa W. & Emelyn W. - 2nd

Clarissa P. - 1st

Sophie S. & Avika J. - 2nd

Ellie W. & Anika V. - 2nd

Caroline M. - 2nd

Elena C. - 2nd

Anna M. - 1st

These kids have been working to get ready for this season since the beginning of September, so it was a testament to their hard work and dedication to be able to perform so well right away.

This is the first of 5-7 events in the season, with November's schedule including trips to Westfield (Nov 11) and Logansport (Nov 18). The kids will also have chances to compete in Fort Wayne and Bloomington in December, at a minimum!



Great job, Clay Speech & Debaters!

CMYC DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT

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Clay Media Center
November 6th-10th
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- Winter Session 1 runs from November to January
- Winter Session 2 runs from January to March

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SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies students had the opportunity to honor all Veterans in the annual City of Carmel Veterans essay contest. Sixth through Eighth grade students submitted three-hundred-word essays on the theme "Veterans unite us".

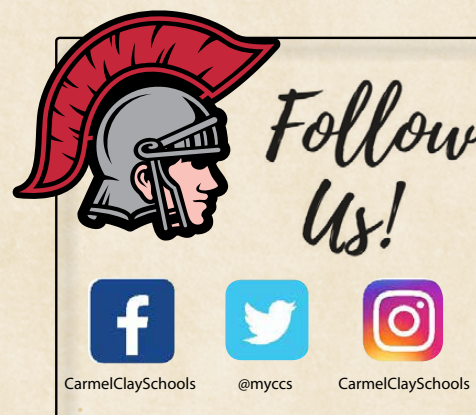
The essayists' work will be judged by local veterans and one winner will be selected from all entries. These students will be invited to read their essay out loud to all in attendance at the City of Carmel Veterans ceremony on Thursday, November 9th.

Classroom winners included the following:

Anderson (Justice) - Michael S, Kayla A, Sophia P, Jacob D, and Jackson I
 McGuckin (Avengers) - Delaney Y, Jackson D, Neve S, Harmony P, and David B
 Myers (Titans) - George M, Maitrey D, Jasmine K, Nora S, and Olivia H
 Patane (Apollo) - Vihann I, Abby S, Asia W
 R Snyder (Poseidon) - Karis L, Henry V, Hrishabh B, Aryan D, and Kasey K
 Wasemann (Poseidon) - Sophie S and Kelly G
 Stewart (Atlas) - Fernanda C, Lita P, Asa M, Grayson M, and Kinsley M
 Carr (Revolutionaries) - Megan P, Leah D, Addison N, Sofia B, and Braxton A
 Gafkjen (Legends) - Leen A-M, Charlie K, Julian R, Brittany Z, Eric C, Caterina C, Grant V, Mia S, Knox L, and Cate F
 Giles (Visionaries) - Nick S, Sarvesh N, Jonathan Z, Story H, Margo H, Henry K, Rodion Z, and Colin P

VETERANS DAY ESSAY CONTEST

Karis L. was selected as the city-wide winner for the 7th Grade Veterans Day Essay Contest. She will be invited to read her essay at the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 9th in Carmel. ***Congratulations Karis!***



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CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

HOME OF THE TROJANS



CHAMPIONS OF CLAY

The Champions of Clay Annual Donation Campaign is the **ONLY PTO fundraiser** for the entire school year. The funds raised help enrich every child's education and 100% of the funds stay at Clay to support the school.

Because of the amazing generosity of the Clay Community we were able to hit our big goal of \$35,000 last year! We are hoping to do it again! To do so, we are asking for a minimum donation of \$50/student to make that happen! All donations are tax deductible.

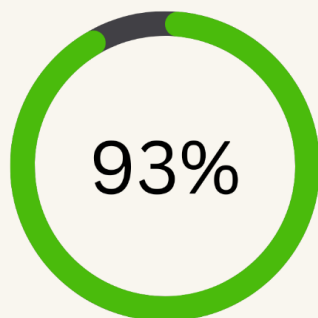
DONATE ONE OF THREE WAYS:

1. Donate online [here](#)
2. ****NEW**** Text GIVECLAY to 44-321 (Credit Card, Apple Pay, and ACH (check/debit) are accepted!)
3. Send a check into the school office written out to Clay Middle School PTO and marked for the pledge drive.

We **also accept employee matching**, if your employer matches donations to schools, as well as financial gifts from extended family members.

CHAMPIONS OF CLAY

A HUGE THANK YOU TO
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10 Believe in Your Greatness

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



LEGALLY BLONDE, JR!

Get your tickets for this year's school musical, Legally Blonde, Jr! Tickets go on sale November 1!

We will have **4 performances**.

- **Understudy Cast:** Thursday, Nov 16 at 7PM. Purchase tickets [HERE](#)
- **Primary Cast:** Friday, Nov 17 at 7PM. Purchase tickets [HERE](#).
- **Understudy Cast:** Saturday, Nov 18 at 2PM. Purchase tickets [HERE](#).
- **Primary Cast:** Saturday, Nov 18 at 7PM. Purchase tickets [HERE](#).

All Performances will be In-Person.

Tickets are \$5 each

Tickets can be purchased online or at the door. Students can also purchase tickets at lunch starting Nov 13.

We hope to see you & your family there!

BECOME A PART OF THE TROJAN FAMILY TODAY!



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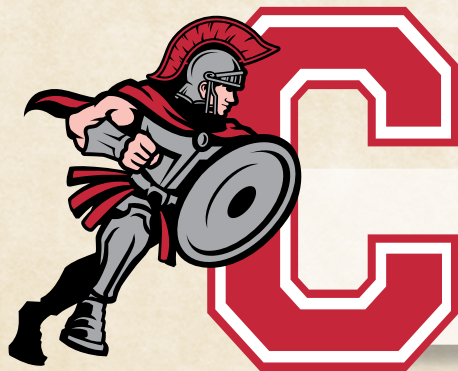
For more information, contact Kelli Hackett at khackett@ccs.k12.in.us or (317) 844-9961.



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11

WELLNESS

The beginning of quarter 2 saw the 7th grade Physical Education classes starting a new fitness regimen. The daily warm up is centered on ESPN stations specific to an individual sport. Students will partake in 1 station per day in the Bob Weber Gym. As a group, they read, understand, plan, then participate. The exciting aspect is that station number one is the future ESPN TV commentators. They are on the mic and have a script, but can also do live interviews on the spot. Fun yet educational!



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PERFORMING ARTS



THE GREEN SCENE

The Team Atlas Green Team partnered with Rubicon to participate in their Trick or Trash campaign. Clay students were encouraged to bring in their used Halloween candy wrappers and place them in the designated box, rather than throw them in the trash.

Once the box was filled with wrappers, it was shipped back to Rubicon where they turn the wrappers into small plastic pellets and use them to make other plastic products.



BICENTENNIAL

As Hamilton County celebrates its Bicentennial, 8th grade students at Clay learned about The Great Squirrel Stampede of 1822! It rained squirrels in the hallways at Clay as students competed in three categories to create their best version of the little creature: Most Creative; Squirreliest; and Most Realistic. Students brought their "A game"!

Carr (Revolutionaries):

Most Creative: Robert "Cash" Metz

Most Realistic: (mystery artist)

Squirreliest: Weston Farmer

Gafkjen (Legends):

Most Creative: Hala P, Jaci P, Lauren G, Bella D, Cate F, Sophia F

Most Realistic: Celeste L, Eric C, Madison B, Maddie M

Squirreliest: Blair B, Aenea W, Harper C, Emu L

Giles (Visionaries):

Most Creative: Ellie W, Will S, Victoria I, and Victoria R

Most Realistic: Sarvesh N, Kavya G, Elise Q, and Delaney H

Squirreliest: Jaqueline R, Anthony D, Savannah J, and Tian Z

And MANY honorable mentions...almost as many as there were squirrels in 1822! The next step in judging was a round of secret judges at Clay (who were sworn in as unbiased and certified squirrel experts) to name the winners and recipients of the Golden Acorns in Clay's Great Squirrel Stampede or 2023!



And the vote is in...
congratulations to the finalists!

Most Creative goes to...Jacie P

2nd place - Halina P

3rd place - Cate F

Squirreliest goes to... Jacqueline R

2nd place - Emu L

3rd place - Aenea W

Most Realistic goes to...Madison B

2nd place - Sarvesh N

3rd place - Kavya G



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OCTOBER WAS DIGITAL SAFETY MONTH

Learn four things you can do to protect yourself, your family, and our school community against cybercrime.

In October, we participate in Digital Safety (Cybersecurity) Awareness Month, focusing on the importance of staying as safe as possible in our ever-connected world. We believe fostering a safe online environment is crucial for our students, parents, and community members. This month, we're proud to join the nationwide effort to promote cybersecurity awareness and want to share four steps we can all take to increase our digital safety.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released these four recommendations:

1. TURN ON MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION (MFA)

Multifactor Authentication is your digital shield against unauthorized access. By enabling MFA, you add an extra layer of security to your online accounts. It's like having a second lock on your virtual front door. Take a few minutes to activate MFA on your email, social media, and other important accounts. It can make a world of difference in safeguarding your personal information.

2. USE STRONG, UNIQUE PASSWORDS

It's easy to fall into the trap of using

the same password across multiple sites, but this habit can be a ticking time bomb. Creating strong, unique passwords for each online account is one of the most effective ways to prevent unauthorized access. Consider using a password manager to simplify the process and generate robust, uncrackable passwords.

3. THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Cybercriminals often use enticing links and email attachments to lure their victims into clicking. CISA's advice to "think before you click" is sage guidance. Always exercise caution when opening emails or visiting websites, especially if you weren't expecting them. If something seems suspicious, trust your instincts and avoid engaging with it.

4. UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE

Software updates are not just about adding new features; they often contain critical security patches. Failing to update your operating system, applications, and antivirus software can leave you vulnerable to cyber threats. Make it a routine to check for updates and apply them promptly to ensure that your digital fortress remains strong.

By following these recommendations, you'll greatly enhance your digital



safety. However, Digital Safety Month isn't just about protecting ourselves; it's about creating a safer online environment for our children and the entire community.

We encourage all parents and community members to engage in open discussions with our students about the importance of cybersecurity. Teach them about safe online behavior and remind them that their actions have real-world consequences. Together, we can create a culture of responsible digital citizenship.

Digital Safety Month is a call to action for our school community. Let's all commit to making our digital lives safer, not just this month, but throughout the year.



14 *Believe in Your Greatness*

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

