



Believe in Your Greatness

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

As we approach the holiday break, we want to take a moment to reflect on the busy and exciting events that have filled our fall semester at Clay Middle School. October and November have been full of celebrations, performances, and community involvement, and we are thankful for the support of our students, staff, and families.

CLAY HIGHLIGHTS

Performing Arts Spotlight

Our talented students in choir, band, and orchestra have been hard at work this fall, showcasing their incredible skills in several performances. The **fall concerts** have been a huge success, with students filling the auditorium with beautiful music. We are proud of their hard work and dedication! Our **Orchestra Festival** at the Palladium was a particularly memorable event, with a fantastic crowd in attendance to support our students. The commitment and passion these students have for the arts are truly inspiring!

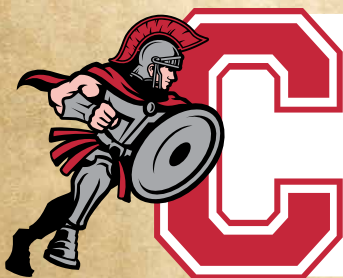
Clay Musical – Anastasia

A special thank you goes out to the entire cast and crew of Anastasia. With nearly four sold out shows from Thursday through Saturday, Clay Middle School administration could not be prouder of all the time, effort, and dedication that went into this amazing musical. Our students did an incredible job from behind the scenes to the spotlight. A huge shout out goes to Mrs. Miranda Susie, Mr. Ryan Snyder, Mr. Evan Snyder, and Mr. Todd Stewart. And of course, last but not most certainly not least, all of our parents that helped pull this off. Thank you to everyone who made this musical a huge success!

Clay Young Artist Award Winner

Avni Bhati (Clay 7th grader) was recognized at the Carmel Clay Schools school board meeting for winning the Young Artist Award for CCS. Her artwork will be on display at ESC for the next 6 months. We could not be prouder of Avni, along with all of our art students, and the high-quality work that is produced in Mrs. Leslie Ward and Mrs. Kirsten Fleming's art classes. Congratulation Avni!

...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...*

City of Carmel Veteran's Day Essay Winners

Congratulations to two of our Clay students for winning the 2024 City of Carmel Veteran's Day Essay Contest for their respected grade levels.

Elizabeth Waddell (Clay 6th grader)

Claire Moeller (Clay 8th grader)

These two young leaders read their essays at the program this past Friday at the Tarkington Theatre in downtown Carmel. A huge thank you goes out to all of our Social Studies teachers and our Social Studies DC (Mrs. Liana Giles) who always help to engage and support our students with this great event. It was a wonderful program thanking all our veterans who have served our great country.

Carmel Education Foundation Ghosts & Goblins Run/Walk

The **Carmel Education Foundation Ghosts & Goblins 5 K Run/2 K Walk** event was a fun and spirited way to kick off the season, with many Clay Middle School students, staff, and families participating in this incredible fundraiser supporting Carmel Clay Schools. It was a great opportunity to support the Foundation, get active, and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this exciting community event. The Clay Nation turned out once again with great pride and enthusiasm. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Celebrating Our Clay Staff

Over the last two months, we have taken time to recognize and celebrate the hard work of several important groups within our school. In **School Custodian & Maintenance Staff Week**, we showed our appreciation for the dedication of our custodians and maintenance workers who keep our school clean and in top shape. We also celebrated **National School Bus Safety Week**, where we reminded students of the importance of safety while riding the bus. A big thank you goes to our school bus drivers for keeping our students safe every day. On **Education Support Professionals Day**, we recognized the invaluable contributions of our educational support staff, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our students' learning and well-being. Please know how much we appreciate all you do you Clay.

Book Fair Success

A huge thank you to **Mrs. Swartzendruber**, our Clay Media Center Specialist, for her outstanding work in organizing our **amazing 2024 Clay Book Fair**. The event was a big hit, with students excited to find new books and learn about reading opportunities. We also want to extend a special thank you to all of our parent volunteers who helped make this event possible. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Winter Sports Season

Our **Boys Basketball** teams and **winter cheerleaders** have kicked off their seasons, and we're excited to see them represent Clay Middle School with dedication, energy, and sportsmanship. As the season progresses, we encourage our student-athletes to continue demonstrating **high character** both on and off the court. We look forward to an exciting winter season ahead!

I challenge all Clay Trojans to **create 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 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.

As we head into the holiday break, we want to express our gratitude to all of our Clay Middle School families for their continued support and involvement. We hope you have a restful and enjoyable holiday season filled with family, friends, and gratitude.

Happy Holidays!

Reminder to follow us on Twitter
@ClayTrojans + #ClayGreatness

GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,
Todd A. Crosby, Principal





3

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

DECEMBER		
December 2, 2024	6th Grade Band Debut Concert	6-7 PM
December 2, 2024	6th Grade Orchestra Debut Concert	7:30-8:30 PM
December 4, 2024	Late Start	
December 10, 2024	7th/8th Orchestra Concert	7:00 PM
December 16-17, 2024	6th, 7th, 8th Grade Winter Choir Concert	6:00-8:30 PM
December 19, 2024	End of 2nd Quarter/End of Semester	
December 20	Teacher Work Day	
December 23-January 3	Winter Break	
JANUARY		
January 6, 2025	Teacher Work Day	
January 6-10	School Board Recognition Week	
January 7, 2025	Classes Resume	
January 8, 2025	Late Start	
January 13, 2025	B48 emic Transition Night @ CHS 8th and 9th Grade	
January 17, 2025	Education Support Professionals Day	
January 20, 2025	No School- Martin Luther King Jr. Day	
January 22, 2025	Late Start	



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THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING, THE BOOK FAIR IS COMING!

Nov. 4th-8th

November is one of our favorite times of the year because we get to surround ourselves with the sights, sounds, scents and feel of the Scholastic Book Fair! Students will visit with their Language Arts classes and are welcome to continue shopping during all of their lunches and briefly before and after school. Proceeds from the book fair go directly to media center programs, author visits, audiobooks, makerspace resources and student prizes contests and activities.

For online shopping starting Nov. 1-14 and eWallet access see our homepage at:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/claymiddleschool>

Benefits of eWallet:

- Set up with your credit card (similar to lunch accounts)
- Safer alternative than sending cash or checks
- Spending limits can be set and only charged for what is purchased
- For more information on eWallet please view the how-to video at our fair homepage above



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Create a **Book Fair eWallet** for cash-free shopping.

Convenient and secure, eWallet lets your child choose books they want to read.

Plus, you can share your eWallet link so friends and family can help your child find even more to read. **Unspent funds from a past Fair?** To transfer them to this Fair, log in to your Scholastic account and create a new eWallet—then your previous balance will be available to transfer as an eGift Card.

When you fund an eWallet, you can also contribute to **Share the Fair**, the giving program that **benefits kids in your school** who need help buying new books.



Create account



Add funds



Share link



Your child shops

Visit our school's Book Fair homepage to get started:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bf/claymiddleschool>

MEDIA CENTER HAPPENINGS

If your child is looking for ways to participate at Clay and loves to read, encourage them to join any of the activities below. Students should listen to announcements and check the club boards for specific information about each activity. Students can see Mrs. Swartzendruber with questions.

- Lunch and Listen-Bi-weekly
- 7th Grade Book Club-Core+ Tuesdays
- Battle of the Books-Monthly
- Media Center Contests-Monthly
- Scholastic Book Fair-Nov. 4-8

Your story starts
HERE



#ScholasticBookFairs

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Be true to your
SHELF



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.



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STUDENT SERVICES

2024-2025 Student Services Staff

Holly Baker Banninga
Administrative Assistant

Kym Roberts
School Psychologist

Michelle Janson
Counselor
All 7th Grade
6th Grade Teams 6-2 & 6-3

Erin Naas
Counselor
All 8th Grade
6th Grade Team 6-1

Gina Potter, MSW
Student Services
Coordinator
All 7th Grade
6th Grade Teams 6-2 & 6-3

Britney Coats, MSW
Student Services
Coordinator
All 8th Grade
6th Grade Team 6-1



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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

To ensure your spot in either session, register early!

Located: 1423 Chase Court | Carmel, IN 46032 | offthewallsports.net



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

THE GREEN SCENE

Our annual shoe drive was a huge success! Our school was able to fill two boxes with over 100 pairs of gently used athletic shoes.

The shoes have been shipped and the proceeds will go to *The M.O.R.E Foundation Group* to support their reforestation efforts.

Thanks to all who donated!
-The Green Scene



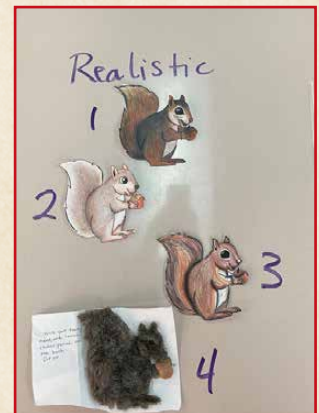
SQUIRREL STAMPEDE

Eighth graders at Clay got "SQUIRRELY" about the Squirrel Stampede of 1822!

Students learned about the Stampede of 1822/23 and were given the task of creating a squirrel to compete in one of three categories: Squirreliest; Most Creative; and Most Realistic.

The results were nutty! Thanks to all who participated and congratulations to the following winners:

- **Squirreliest:** Charley N; Regan S; Kendall V; and Annabelle P
- **Most Creative:** Grayson B; Evelyn M; Luke Z; Georgia U
- **Realistic:** Sophie S; Delilah G; Julio C; Max L



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Clay Middle
Creekside Middle



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Have a question about Carmel Cru? Please contact us:

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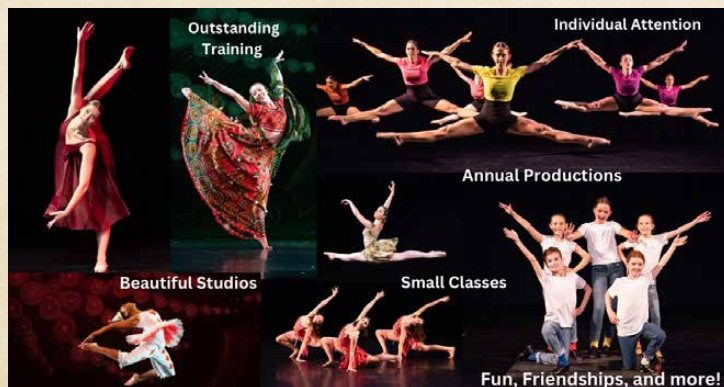


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HAPPY VETERAN'S DAY

Congratulations to two of our Clay students for winning the 2024 City of Carmel Veteran's Day Essay Contest for their respected grade levels.

Elizabeth Waddell (Clay 6th grader)

Claire Moeller (Clay 8th grader)

These two young leaders read their essays at the program this past Friday at the Tarkington Theatre in downtown Carmel.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our Social Studies teachers and our Social Studies DC (Liana Giles) who always help to engage and support our students with this great event. It was a wonderful program thanking all our veterans who have served our great country.

Below are some of the photos taken from that day. If you get a chance to tell these two young leaders congratulations, I am sure they would greatly appreciate it.



This is where kids come to catch up and get ahead in math.



Is your child realizing their potential in math? Results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress show an alarming decline in math scores nationwide¹ – clear evidence of the toll the pandemic has taken on students. But there's plenty of time to turn things around with personalized math instruction at Mathnasium. A customized learning plan will focus on what your child needs to improve their math skills and build their confidence for the rest of the school year! ¹National Assessment of Educational Progress

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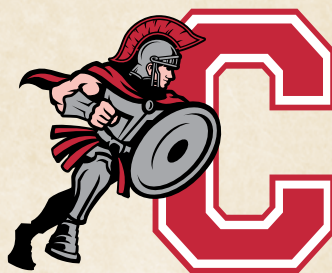
Located in front of Market District





9

CLAY GREATNESS



YOUNG ARTIST RECOGNITION

Congratulation Avni!



Avni Bhati (Clay 7th grader) was recognized at the Carmel clay Schools school board meeting for winning the Young Artist Award. Her artwork will be on display at ESC for the next 6 months.

We could not be more proud of Avni, along with all of our art students, and the high quality work that is produced in Mrs. Leslie Ward and Mrs. Kirsten Fleming's art classes.

If you see Avni in school, please tell her congratulations!!

CLAY GREATNESS!

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MATHCOUNTS

Attention all 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Students:

MATHCOUNTS Meeting Dates

First Semester Schedule

Thursday, October 24 — First meeting 3:30pm in LGI

***No meeting October 31 due to Halloween!

Thursday, November 7 – 3:30pm in LGI

Thursday, November 14 – 3:30pm in TBD (listen to announcements)

Thursday, November 21 – 3:30pm in LGI

***No meeting November 28 due to Thanksgiving!

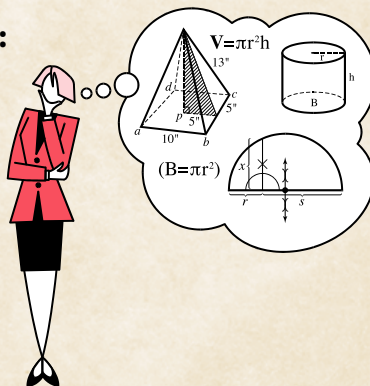
Thursday, December 5 – 3:30pm in TBD (listen to announcements)

Thursday, December 12 – **3:30-5:00pm School Competition** in LGI

* Bring a pencil and calculator (personal snack optional). See Mrs. Grace (room 622) or Mrs. Arnold (room 721) for the materials if you cannot attend a meeting.

There is not a strict attendance policy first semester and all are welcome. **Please make sure that students have a ride home at 4:45.**

We will have the school competition on Thursday, December 12 after school from 3:30-5:00 and that will be mandatory. The top 12 competitors will continue on with MathCounts practice and competitions during semester 2.



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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

Mrs. Coats and Mrs. Potter

Dear Parents and Families,

Carmel Kids Coats Giveaways will take place on Saturday, November 9th at Carmel United Methodist Church from 9AM- 2PM, located at 621 S. Rangeline Rd. Please register to participate in the coat giveaway at this link - <https://kidscoats.org/appointments>.



Holiday and food assistance for Thanksgiving and Christmas is offered through the Good Samaritan Network. Please complete the application online.

<https://www.gsnlive.org/holiday-assistance> for more information and to apply for assistance by December 3rd.



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 who are financially eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch will automatically be enrolled.

If your student meets the income guidelines for Free and Reduced lunch but does not use this resource, you will need to apply online between your students 7th and 8th grade. Please visit <https://learnmoreindiana.org/scholars/how-to-enroll/> to learn more and apply!

If you have any questions please contact Gina Potter, LCSW at gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us.

**6TH GRADE
FRIENDSHIP
GROUP**
JANUARY 2025
MEET WEEKLY
DURING
CORE+

Email: gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us to sign up your student!

January 2025 - We will begin a 6th grade friendship and social skills group. This group will meet during Core+. Focusing on skills for finding and keeping healthy friendships as well as conflict resolutions skills.

Please email Gina Potter, LCSW, gpotter@ccs.k12.in.us, if you are interested in signing your student up for this group.

BECOME A PART OF THE CLAY NATION

winter
SUPPORT STAFF HIRING EVENT
JANUARY 6, 2025 3:00 - 5:00 PM
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER
5201 E. MAIN ST. CARMEL IN 46033
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ON-SITE INTERVIEWS AND APPLICATIONS.

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---------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------

WWW.CCS.K12.IN.US/CAREERS



THE CLAY WAY

Be Respectful

Be Responsible

Be Ready to Learn

Be Full of Pride

12 Believe in Your Greatness

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FROM THE P T O



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13

