



# *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 are quickly approach the end of the first quarter and Fall Break, we have gotten off to a great start. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, **Why Wait to be GREAT?** is our theme for the school year. Since school started back in August our students, staff, and parent volunteers have been working very hard to ensure that Clay's greatness is recognized and celebrated. These first few weeks we have witnessed greatness both inside and outside of the classroom. Setting goals for the 2022-2023 school year began with having a vision of where we want to continue to go. As we look to be the best middle school we can, we continue to get better each and every day. I am very pleased in the first few weeks of school to witness staff members collaborating with each other on ways to differentiate lessons to challenge and meet the needs all of our students. Our new staff members have been great additions to our Clay family. They are being supported by their colleagues, mentors and administrators as they get settled in here at Clay. I am also happy to witness many of our students

helping each other to live out the Clay Way. One of our students asked me in an interview recently, what I felt was one of the most important things a school needs. I responded immediately "an identity, a solid school culture where the focus is on PEOPLE". Clay students are showing leadership and seeking out the opportunities for growth, enrichment and appear to be taking an even more active role at Clay Middle School to get involved and make the most of their middle school experience. Students and faculty are not waiting to be great; they are making the most of each day. The Clay Way, which includes **"Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn, Be Full of Pride"** and these are the four pillars that our positive culture here at Clay Middle School are built around. Clay Middle School has a proven reputation of being an outstanding school with a constant commitment to exemplary education.

Thank you to all of our parents for attending our 2022-2023 6th, 7th and 8th grade open houses. Our

...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...*

open houses had great turnouts and we appreciate all the support. The teams of teachers have really done a nice job of making this evening meaningful for our Clay families in all three grade levels in regards to the information parents receive. It is events like this that allow us as a school to continue to foster good relationships and better support our students as they have started their middle school journey. As parents / guardians of Clay students, you are an important part of our success and we would like to recognize all your hard work and effort in placing a high importance level on your child's education. This element of our community support helps our Clay culture focus on our students and their social and emotional well-being as well as the academic element.

As principal at Clay I know we all have a responsibility to foster young leaders and to challenge them. I feel very strongly that when your son or daughter shares their greatness with others, we all grow. As I always try to mention each month, HOW we do our jobs is just as important as WHAT we do daily to make a difference in the lives of our students, our staff, and our greater Carmel community.

### Clay Highlights – “Why Wait to be GREAT?”

- **College Go Week** – Thank you to our Student Services Department for organizing a week of events for our students and staff. We ended the week with a wonderful staff tailgate in the RED ZONE at Clay.
- **Clay Trojan Trot** - Our 8th annual Clay Trojan Trot was Saturday September 10th, 2022. This event was brought back after taking a two years absence due to the Covid pandemic. We had approximately 250 runners, walkers, and volunteers that participated on this great east side community event. Special thanks go out to the Trojan Trot sponsors whose donations help to make this community race a reality. Thank you also to all the Clay staff, parents,

and volunteers who generously gave their time to ensure that our Trojan Trot was successful. Last, but most certainly not least, we would like to give special thanks to Mr. John Corcoran (Clay AD) for all his efforts in organizing such a great community event.

- **Sports Updates** – As our Fall sports season starts to wrap up, we would once again like to thank the athletes and coaches who are helping to mold and shape our young people into leaders. To our coaches, please know your time and effort is very much appreciated. Good luck to tennis, football, volleyball, cross country, and cheerleading as they prepare for tournament time. **Onward to Victory Clay!!**
- **Clay Performing Arts** - Please join us for one of our Fall concerts in band, choir or orchestra coming up in October and November.
- **Clay PTO** – Thank you for all you do for the Clay Nation. I think we can all agree we are very lucky at Clay to have such a supportive PTO. You are truly awesome!!

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.

I would like to challenge all Clay Trojans to not wait to be great and together we will take the Clay Nation to even greater heights. Thank you for your continued support.

**Reminder to follow us on Twitter**  
**@ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness**

**GO TROJANS!**

Sincerely,  
 Todd A. Crosby  
 Principal







## IMPORTANT DATES

### September

September 26-30 ..... Custodial Appreciation Week

### October

October 4..... 7th grade Choir Concert (6 p.m.)

October 4..... 6th Grade Choir Concert (6:30 p.m.)

October 4..... 8th Grade Choir Concert (7:30 p.m.)

October 5..... Late Start

October 12 ..... 1st Quarter Ends

October 13-14 ..... Fall Break

October 17-21 ..... National School Bus Safety Week

October 18 ..... 8th Grade Orchestra Festival (7 p.m.)

October 19 ..... Late Start

October 22 ..... Ghosts and Goblins (9 a.m.)

October 24-28 ..... Red Ribbon Week

October 27 ..... 7th Grade Band Concert (6 p.m.)

October 27 ..... 7th Grade Orchestra Fall Concert (6 p.m.)

October 27 ..... 7th and 8th Band Symphonic & Wind Ensemble Concert (7:30 p.m.)

## THE CLAY WAY CLAY "SHOUT OUTS"

*Thank you for all you do to make Clay GREAT.*

### THE DREAM TEAM!

Jennifer Pletcher ..... Clay Middle School Treasurer / Principal's Administrative Assistant

Amy Glover ..... Clay Middle School Cafeteria Manager

Michelle Hagemann .. Clay Middle School Front Office Administrative Assistant

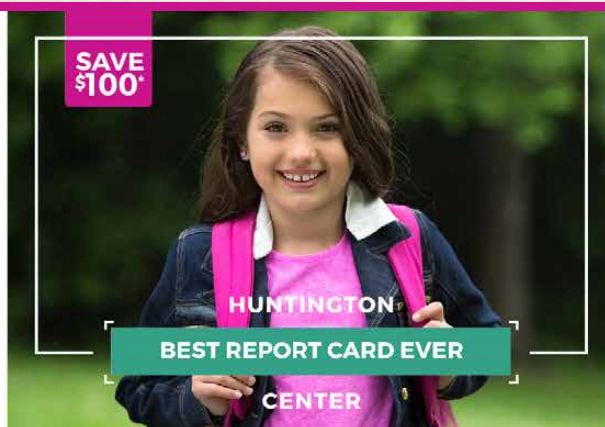
Ken Marton ..... Clay Middle School Head Custodian

Julie Dickson ..... Clay Middle School Nurse

Jared Kempson ..... Clay Middle School (Sub Nurse)

Holly Baker Banninga . Clay Middle School Student / Services Administrative Assistant

Celeste Rodriguez .... Clay Middle School Front Office Administrative Assistant



# \$100 OFF

**Personalized Attention. Proven Results.**

*"The academic skills and education he has received could not have been better, but, more importantly, the increase in self-reliance, attitude, happiness and self-worth simply cannot be measured or accurately described in words"*

- Mary J.



## TAKE THAT REPORT CARD FROM "OKAY" TO "OUTSTANDING"

### Make your next report card the best yet!

Huntington has helped students K-12 improve their grades, academic skills, and confidence since 1977.

### THE HUNTINGTON ADVANTAGE

- Thorough academic evaluations
- Proven programs tailored to each student's needs
- Individualized instruction from highly qualified teachers

### TUTORING

Reading - Writing - Math - Study Skills  
Spelling - Vocabulary - Phonics

Algebra - Geometry - Trigonometry - Pre-Calculus  
Calculus - Earth Science - Biology - Chemistry - Physics

### TEST PREP

SAT - PSAT/NMSQT - ACT - Advanced Placement (AP)  
State Tests - HSPT - ISEE - GED

### Carmel

2440 E. 146th Street, Carmel,  
IN 46033



# 317-571-8700

[www.huntingtonhelps.com/center/carmel](http://www.huntingtonhelps.com/center/carmel)



## CRU

**Meetings:** Every Thursday morning at 7:30 in the LGI room.

The first meeting was Thursday, September 8th.

**All are welcome!** There will be donuts & drinks. Listen to the announcements and join the remind - text 81010 - @cruclay.

**LOMAN**



EYE CARE

Dr. Angela Berghoff  
Owner/Optommetrist  
Dr. Keith Miloshoff  
Associate Optometrist

EYEGASSES  
CONTACT LENSES  
RED EYES / INJURIES  
DRY EYE  
EYE DISEASES

630 3rd Ave. SW  
Carmel, IN 46032  
**317-844-7474**  
[lomaneyecare.com](http://lomaneyecare.com)

## 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.

### 2022-2023 Student Services Staff

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



**CARTWRIGHT**  
COUNSELING

**SUPPORT • GROWTH • HEALING**

Providing counseling services to children, adolescents, adults and families

**You're not alone.**  
Reach out today and let us help you through this.

[www.cartwrightcounseling.com](http://www.cartwrightcounseling.com)  
[abby@cartwrightcounseling.com](mailto:abby@cartwrightcounseling.com)

317-401-9919  
136 S. 9th St. Noblesville, IN

*Committed to Building...*  
**Beautiful Smiles!**

With special training in craniofacial, surgical, and special care orthodontics, the team at Hallmark Orthodontics is committed to you!

**Complimentary Exam & Consultation!**

**Carmel & Shelbyville IN**  
**317-574-0612**



[hallmarkorthodontics.com](http://hallmarkorthodontics.com)

**Noblesville & Elwood IN**  
**317-773-5515**





## FROM THE PTO

TEXT TO DONATE  
TO CLAY PTO!

We are only at 80% of our goal and still need parent donations to Champions of Clay fundraiser--100% of the proceeds go back to our students and staff! Donations of \$50 per student are recommended, and donations of any amount are appreciated! Text "GIVECLAY" to 44-321 or donate via this PayPal link: <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/pto-clm/fundraising/>.



If your employer offers a corporate match, contact PTO Treasurer Karen Wolf at [clayptotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:clayptotreasurer@gmail.com).

Sign up to donate to our "Tuesday Treats" teacher appreciation at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaba92fa4fc1-clay1/>.

For regular updates, follow Clay PTO on Facebook and Twitter @ClayPTO!

## YEARBOOK

### Reserve Your Copy of the 2023 yearbook!



**\$35**

Use job no.  
8522

\*created by Mr. Williams' yearbook classes!

## WYLDLIFE

**2nd Tuesdays @ Clay**  
After school until 5  
9.13 / 10.11 / 11.8 / 12.13

**Pancakes @ Mercy Road**  
Late Starts // 7:50AM  
(starting in September!)

Follow us on IG @carmelwyldlife  
and sign up for Remind by texting  
@carmelw119 to 81010

## WYLDLIFE

**Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of every month  
after school until 5:00 in the LGI room.

The first meeting was  
Tuesday, September 6th.

**All are welcome!** There will be snacks.  
Listen to the announcements for themes or  
follow us on Instagram @carmelwyldlife.

Also, every late start, free pancakes served  
at 7:50 at Mercy Road Church:  
2381 Pointe Pkwy.

CLUB PILATES<sup>®</sup>

EXPERIENCE CLUB PILATES WITH A

### Free Intro Class

CLUB PILATES DOWNTOWN INDY 317.643.5330	CLUB PILATES FISHERS 317.863.9470
CLUB PILATES CARMEL 317.565.4828	CLUB PILATES ZIONSVILLE 317.572.8704
CLUB PILATES NORTH INDY 317.927.8750	clubpilates.com



**OFF *The* WALL  
SPORTS**

**(317) 580-5900 | [offthewallsports.net](http://offthewallsports.net)**

**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](http://offthewallsports.net)



**image360<sup>®</sup>**

Graphics > Signage > Displays

**317.222.5665**

WALL MURALS	FEATHER FLAGS	VINYL DECALS
EVENT DISPLAYS	BANNERS	POSTERS
VEHICLE GRAPHICS	YARD SIGNS	MAGNETS

9541 Valparaiso Court, Indianapolis, IN 46268  
[info@image360indynw.com](mailto:info@image360indynw.com)  
[www.image360indynw.com](http://www.image360indynw.com)



# Why Wait to be Great?

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



Hoffman Benefit Services, Inc.

*Simplifying Health Care*

*If you are an employer with 20 or more employees seeking employee benefits like health insurance, give us a call. We can help.*

Providing quality benefit solutions for business owners for 20+ years

Bob Hoffman, RHU, MSM  
President  
(317) 863-2859  
www.hbsionline.com



## RED RIBBON WEEK

Clay Middle School will be celebrating Red Ribbon Week the week of October 24th. Red Ribbon Week is an opportunity for students to celebrate and recognize the importance of making positive, healthy choices and staying drug and alcohol free. This year's theme is "Celebrate Life. Live Drug Free".



Brent T. Garrison, DDS, MSD  
Robert P. Alderman, DMD  
Patrick S. Kelly, DDS

(317) 841-1100  
www.neomsindy.com

Dental Implants    Oral Pathology  
Bone Grafting    Platelet Rich  
Wisdom Teeth    Plasma  
Facial Trauma    Exposure of  
Extractions    Impacted Teeth

9860 Westpoint Dr. #100  
Indianapolis, IN 46256



## FROM THE CAFETERIA

I've had several parents call this year asking what types of items their student is purchasing. You can use EZSchoolPay.com to add funds to your student's lunch account AND monitor their lunch purchases as well. All items are listed individually including a la carte/snack items. Please take the time to check your student's lunch account. It's a great way to encourage your student to make good healthy choices! As a reminder, if you'd like to set a Daily Spending Limit on your student's account, please contact me.

Also, in an effort to move our kids quickly through the lunch line we need your help. Please be sure your student brings their ID card with them to lunch OR help them to memorize their student ID number. We have a lot of kids that we're trying to move through the lunch line so they have plenty of time to relax and enjoy their lunch. Scanning their ID card is the quickest way to get through, but they can also enter their ID number on the scanner pad. As a reminder, the ID number your student has will remain theirs during the entirety of their time at Carmel Clay Schools. We appreciate your help!



As always, let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Amy Glover, Café Manager


(317)844-7251 x6755 | aglover@ccs.k12.in.us



**Mi Hacienda**  
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

PHONE 317-810-1219  
CALL OR FAX 317-564-4913  
819 West Carmel Dr.  
Carmel, IN 46032





The Math Learning Center

Mathnasium of Carmel 317-846-MATH (6284)  
located at 116th & Illinois in front of Market District

[mathnasium.com/carmel](http://mathnasium.com/carmel)

MATHNASIUM  
@home





## THE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

November 7th-11th  
Clay Media Center

**We Need Volunteers!**  
Scan the QR code to sign up!



©2022 Scholastic Inc. All rights reserved. ™ and © 2007-2022, Wimpy Kid, Inc.



**For both preventive & urgent care needs of your pets**

**OFFICES**

14069 Mundy Drive  
Fishers, IN 46038  
(317) 572-7557

Mon, Thu & Fri 9AM-11PM  
Tue & Wed 4PM-11PM  
Sat 9AM-8PM Sun 9AM-6PM

1374 S Rangeline Rd  
Carmel, IN 46032  
(317) 516-0707

Mon, Thu & Fri 4PM-11PM  
Tue & Wed CLOSED  
Sat 10AM-6PM Sun 10AM-6PM

admin@vetcheckpucc.com www.vetcheckpucc.com

**WALK-INS FOR PET URGENT CARE /IMMEDIATE CARE ARE WELCOME!!**



## A Dental Connection to Overall Health.

(It's deeper than you might think)

We offer a range of services across five areas of dentistry:

- Family Dentistry
- Cosmetic Dentistry
- Restorative Dentistry
- Children's Dentistry
- Orthodontics



**KEYSTONE  
DENTISTRY**

I'm Dr. Wayne Kinney,  
and I have  
a different idea.  
*Let's talk.*

**317 575-1120**

keystonedentistry.com

**Bub's Burgers and Ice Cream**  
Carmel | Bloomington | Zionsville

**Bub's Burgers...fast casual**  
Westfield



Mmmmm Bub's..... Real food.

"Fresh, never frozen ground chuck, seasoned with homemade seasoning, served on our secret Bub's recipe bun, which is baked fresh every day, then delivered with excellent service."

Order online at:

**www.bubsburgers.com**





# Why Wait to be Great?

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



**CARMEL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**  
JANNA HYMES ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

*Experience the Exceptional*

Details about our  
**2022-23 SEASON**  
available now at  
**CarmelSymphony.org**

THE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



THE PALLADIUM

## SCIENCE

The past few weeks, 7th grade science has been making and revising our solar ovens, and last Thursday/Friday we cooked and ate some s'mores! Our last week of the unit, we will be reflecting on what we've learned and writing conclusions about how successful our ovens were, based on the temperature data we took.



**ERIN CONNELL**  
Managing Partner  
SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS

**CATHERINE MICHAEL**  
Managing Partner  
SELECTED TO SUPER LAWYERS

Connell Michael Kerr, LLP is a full service family law firm dedicated to serving our clients with zealous advocacy and compassion. We assist clients in a variety of family law matters including prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, divorce, child support and custody disputes, property division, surrogacy and reproductive law, as well as personal injury and education law matters. Our dedicated team of attorneys is focused on providing clients outstanding advocacy and comprehensive legal advice even in the most complex circumstances. Conveniently located in Carmel, our family law office serves clients throughout central Indiana.











## 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](mailto: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](mailto:hbakerba@ccs.k12.in.us).

## WAYS TO BENEFIT CLAY

**FREE and EASY way to raise money for our school:** By signing up with the following link, Kroger will donate a portion of your shopping trips (when you use your Kroger Rewards card) directly to Clay Middle.



<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

**School code is #RK877 for 'Clay Middle School'.**  
Sign up now!



Clay Middle participates in AmazonSmile donation program! A portion of your purchases will be directly donated back to Clay Middle at no cost to you. Please click on the unique link below to be taken to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/) where you will be automatically asked to support "Clay Middle School PTO". Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/>.

en to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/) where you will be automatically asked to support "Clay Middle School PTO". Our unique charity link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374823/>.

**THE LORA REYNOLDS TEAM**  
Weichert | Success

CALL US ANYTIME WITH ANY REAL ESTATE QUESTIONS OR WHEN YOU ARE READY TO BUY OR SELL!

(317) 496-6291  
[www.soldindiana.com](http://www.soldindiana.com)

Lora Reynolds

One of the Top Real Estate Teams serving Indianapolis, Carmel, Westfield, Noblesville, Fishers, Greenwood, Avon, New Palestine, Greenfield and all surrounding areas



**CARMEL.ROADSTARDRIVING.COM**

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND SCHEDULING ARE NOW AVAILABLE

**ENROLL NOW!**

Online Course  
Behind the Wheel Training

Lots of open drive times available.  
Schedule online today!

**\$25 OFF**  
online or classroom courses  
use coupon code: drive2022

Largest drivers education school in Indiana

**317-366-8497** 1033 West Main Street | Carmel, IN 46033 | [carmel@roadstardriving.com](mailto:carmel@roadstardriving.com)





## THE GREEN SCENE

Members of the Team Atlas Green Team helped to get our boxes ready to ship to the M.O.R.E. Foundation Group. Thanks to all who donated! Each pair of gently used athletic shoes contributes to the funding of their ongoing reforestation projects and keeps the shoes out of landfills. To learn more about this group, visit them at [morefoundantiongroup.org](http://morefoundantiongroup.org).

## SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies students have been offered an opportunity in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade to participate in the City of Carmel's Veterans essay contest. The theme is "Saluting our heroes" and should be approximately 300 words. Please seek out your Social Studies teacher with questions or needs in regards to this opportunity. All essays are due NO LATER than 3:30 PM on October 5th for all students.

## 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.

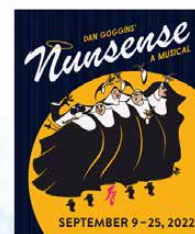
## College GO!

## COLLEGE GO WEEK

Clay celebrates College Go Week September 19th-23rd. The purpose behind College Go Week is simple: to encourage students to plan for college and their futures. During College Go Week, we promote college exploration through themed activities throughout the week!

Parents of middle school students are encouraged to discuss college and post-secondary opportunities with their children. Visit Indiana's college and career connection at [Learn More Indiana](http://Learn More Indiana) to research information related to college preparation including resources related to costs, savings, scholarships and financial aid. It's never too early to start preparing for the future!

## Join Us for Our 2022-2023 SEASON!



actors theatre  
of indiana

**BROADWAY**  
in your backyard!

To purchase tickets, visit the **Center's Fifth Third Bank Box Office** at the Palladium, call **317.843.3800** or visit **[atistage.org](http://atistage.org)**.



**WELCOME TO THE CLAY NATION OFFICER VANTREESE!**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Clay School Resource Officer. As we have been in transition over these last few weeks, you may have seen Officer VanTreeese subbing in our school a couple days.

We are delighted to welcome him to our Clay family and we look forward to working closely with him each and every day to ensure that he not only transitions well to Clay Middle, but that we continue to keep safety our number one priority for both our students and staff.



Officer Dustin VanTreeese (AKA Officer VT) has been with the Carmel Police Department since 2017. Prior to being employed by Carmel he was employed with the City of Lawrence Police department as a road officer for two years as well as the Marion County Sheriff's Office for seven years where he worked as an instructor and ran the McGruff the Crime Dog program.

Since with the Carmel Police Department he has worked as a Field Training Officer (FTO), a Field Evidence Technician (FET) and is part of the CPD SWAT team.

He is married with two children and in his free time enjoys the outdoors, playing hockey and attempting to golf.

Officer Dustin VanTreeese  
Email

School Site: Clay Middle School





