



Believe in Your Greatness

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

CLAY NATION NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Clay Nation,

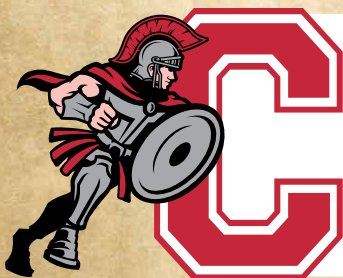
I hope everyone is enjoying a restful and relaxing Fall Break! As we have reached the end of the first quarter, I feel we have gotten off to a great start. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, **"Believe in Your Greatness"** is our school theme for the 2023-2024 school year and during this first quarter of school our students, staff, and parent volunteers have been working very hard to ensure that Clay's greatness is shared. GREAT JOB EVERYONE!

We have witnessed greatness both inside and outside of the classroom from both our students and staff during this first quarter. As we strive to be the best middle school not only in Indiana, but across the country, it is through our constant reflection that we continue to get better and grow together as a school community. I am very pleased to see staff members collaborating with each other on ways to differentiate lessons so that we challenge all of our students at the highest level to excel, while reaching our students that may be struggling as well. Our new staff members are doing an amazing job as they seek support from their colleagues and our school

administration. They come each and every day with a growth mindset and look to help our students, and most importantly care for our students. This year we have started a Clay New Teacher Academy that is facilitated by existing Clay teachers helping our new staff members with support and mentorship. These supports in addition to our department chairpersons, team leaders and our Clay administrative team, we believe will help to retain our teachers and make them feel supported as they enter the teaching profession.

I was recently interviewed by one of our student editors and they asked me what I felt was one of the most important things any school needs. I immediately responded "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 most of all based on this example appear to be taking an even more active role at Clay Middle School to "Believe in Their Greatness". The Clay Way, which includes **"Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn, Be Full of Pride"** are the four pillars leading to a positive

...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...*

culture at Clay Middle School. Clay Middle School has a proven reputation of being an outstanding school with a constant commitment to exemplary education. We are all responsible for fostering a growth mindset in our young people and young leaders. We are collectively responsible for challenging them to be the best version of who they can be. 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 in our jobs daily to make a difference in the lives of our students, our staff, and our greater Carmel community.

Since coming back to school in August I am so happy to see so many of our students helping each other and living out the **Clay Way**. I have really enjoyed the energy our students bring to school each day and the enthusiasm they have for learning. So, I want to thank you as parents for your support in ensuring that your child(s) are ready to learn each and every day. Please know that your effort does not go unnoticed or unrecognized (WE APPRECIATE YOU!)

As I have always stated to you as principal of Clay Middle School, 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. As principal, I am reminded almost daily 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 thank you very much for all of your support!

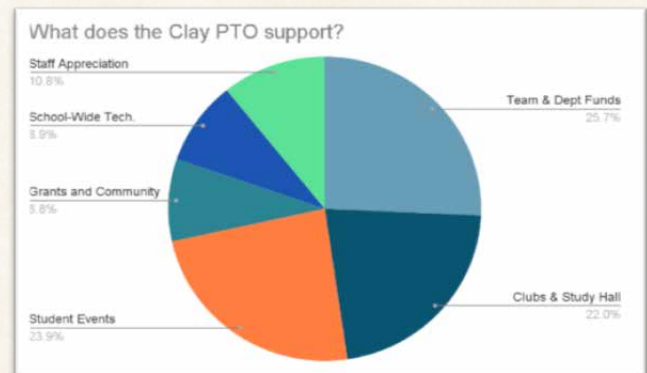
CLAY HIGHLIGHTS

Sports Updates – As our Fall sports season starts to wrap up, we would once again like to thank the athletes and coaches who worked hard throughout the fall season. Your time and efforts are very much appreciated. Congratulations to our tennis, football, volleyball, cross country, and cheerleading squads as they are concluding or have concluded their Fall sports seasons. Thank you for always representing Clay Middle School with great sportsmanship. THE CLAY WAY!!

Onward to Victory Clay!!

Clay PTO – Thank you to everyone that has donated to our 2023 -2024 Champions of Clay fundraiser. **As we near the end of our fundraising efforts, we have reached over 90% of our goal, but we are about \$4,000 short of our**

original goal. If you are one of the families at Clay that have not given to our school fundraiser, we would ask that you please consider helping us achieve our goal so we can provide so many varied opportunities to both our students and teachers. Every donation and contribution counts, and go right back into our school. We really appreciate all of your support. Thank you to our Clay PTO for all you do for the Clay Nation. From the volunteers who come in and help in our lunch room to the treats provided on Tuesday Treats to the help provided when we have field trips and events at school. I think we can all agree we are very lucky at Clay to have such a supportive PTO. You all are truly awesome!!

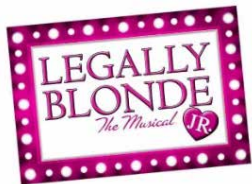


Clay MLL Family Night - Clay hosted a special evening for the families of our multi-language learners on September 14th, 2023. The evening began with dinner in our cafeteria and opening remarks offered in both English and Spanish by Mrs. Gahl, assistant principal. During the event, families were provided a translator and had opportunities to learn about community resources available to them. Clay staff also led workshops on our educational platforms- Canvas and PowerSchool. Members of our MLL team of support at Clay, along with district coordinator Mrs. Betsy Howard, also facilitated a session for parents to explain the WIDA ACCESS test and scoring—a test that is used to rate an MLL's English proficiency. While parents and guardians were attending informational sessions, MLL students and siblings enjoyed a time to play games with peers and visit stations showcasing the variety of elective classes available to them at Clay Middle School. At the close of the evening, families returned to the cafeteria for a raffle, sponsored by the Clay PTO. Raffle giveaways included experiences at Birdie's Miniature Golf, Pinheads Bowling, Carmel Ice Stadium, FLIX movie theater, and Urban Air Trampoline Park. The PTO also raffled off six baskets with all a family would need to have a fun game night together!



Clay Middle School recognizes the importance of connecting with our MLL families and are grateful for all of the support from our community as we continue to foster relationships.

Clay Fall Musical – This year Clay's Fall Musical will be Legally Blonde Jr. Our performance dates are Friday November 16th and Saturday November 17th at 7:00 p.m. There will also be dress rehearsal for under-study performances on Thursday November 15th at 7 p.m.



Tickets will go on sale after Fall Break.

As parents / guardians of Clay students, you are an important part of our success as a school and we would like to recognize all your hard work and effort in placing a high importance level on your child's education.

I am happy to announce that the **Clay Nation** is alive and well.

I would like to challenge all Clay Trojans to continue to **"Believe in Your Greatness"** and together we will take the Clay Nation to even greater heights. Your continued support is appreciated and recognized.

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness

GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby
Principal



IMPORTANT DATES ON PAGE 12

Carmel Clay Schools Needs Substitutes

Like many companies and organizations across the country, Carmel Clay Schools faces unique challenges due to labor shortages. We continue to remain well-staffed with teachers and full-time employees; however, we are in dire need of substitutes.

With more than 1,000 teachers throughout the district, absences due to personal or family illnesses, well-deserved personal days off, and professional development are expected. However, with fewer substitutes available, schools' resources are stretched thin.

If you have ever thought about joining the team at CCS, please consider the following:

- Substitutes can work part-time and select their availability. We are happy to try and accommodate your schedule for partial shifts if needed due to conflicts.
- While we hope substitutes are willing to work wherever needed, subbing is a great way to stay involved with your child's school.
- We offer training! If you are new to substituting or a little nervous to get started, don't worry! Every substitute and new staff member has required onboarding and training before heading into the classroom.
- Especially this year, it is so important to keep our students' learning environments consistent. Join our team and help us avoid any disruptions due to staffing shortages.

Please use Job #4105 (under substitutes) when applying. If you have any questions about becoming a substitute [please email Kelli Hackett](#).



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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!

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.

2023-2024 Student Services Staff

► Holly Baker-Banninga Administrative Assistant	► Kymberle Roberts School Psychologist
► LeeAnn Wischmeyer ► Michelle Janson Counselors All 6th Grade 8th Grade Teams 8-1, 8-2	► Erin Naas Counselor All 7th Grade 8th Grade Team 8-3
► Gina Potter, MSW Social Worker All 6th Grade 8th Grade Teams 8-1, 8-2	► Britney Coats, MSW Social Worker All 7th Grade 8th Grade Team 8-3

NEW FAMILIES

If you have not submitted your two proofs of residency (1. A purchase agreement, closing documents, deed, lease, mortgage document, property tax statement, AND 2. A gas or electric utility bill-other utilities are not accepted) please bring in a current copy to the office or scan and email Holly Baker Banninga at hbakerba@ccs.k12.in.us.

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

Classes begin August 14th!
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www.radiancedance.org

Radiance Dance Students benefit from:

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- small class sizes/limit 8
- performance opportunities
- affordability

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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 (Open 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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BACK TO SCHOOL

During these first weeks of school, our Student Services staff is taking time to introduce ourselves and check in with students. Students can request a meeting with their counselor or social worker through their PowerSchool Account.

If your student is experiencing a time of adjustment, know that they are not alone. Middle school is a great opportunity for students to meet new people, develop independence and responsibility, and begin to consider future goals but it can also be a difficult time, as there are a lot of changes. In our roles, the Clay Student Services staff is here to help students consider and develop skills to navigate middle school.

Click [HERE](#) for a few tips for a successful start to middle school!

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

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/QN5wQQCNI6iKxYa43>

Online Free and Reduced Meal Application



Free and Reduced Meal Application

is available Online.

Please remember this must be completed every year.

If there are any questions please contact our Social Workers!

Mrs. Coats & Mrs. Potter



The Ghosts and Goblins 5K/2K is a fun, family event that will take place **Saturday, Oct. 21st at 9:00AM** at Carmel High School. Participants can dress in costume (optional) and walk or run together to show school spirit. This event is presented by the [Carmel Education Foundation](#), which provides scholarships and education grants to students and teachers throughout our district. [Click here to register at GhostsAndGoblinsRun.com.](#)



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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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SOCIAL STUDIES

Clay 8th graders invaded Washington, D.C... all 8th graders were given the opportunity to write an essay about "why monuments are important" in preparation for the Washington, D.C. trip over Labor Day weekend. Two essay winners were selected to lay the wreath at the Changing of the Guard ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. Congratulations to Story Hughes and Rodion Zuban.

In addition to Arlington Cemetery, 8th graders visited the Mt. Vernon home of George Washington and were able to visit Washington's tomb and the Cemetery of the Enslaved. Clay students read about four men and women who served our nation by serving our first President and were buried at the Enslaved Cemetery. Thank you to the following participants: Anthony Dinh, Bella Dowell, Annika Jonah, Brody Lloyd, Grant VanNahmen, and Henry White.

All students - 6th, 7th, and 8th grade - are invited to participate in the City of Carmel's Veterans Essay contest. This year's theme is "United We Stand" and should be approximately 300 words. Students need to check with their Social Studies teacher about additional requirements. All essays are due by Monday, October 3rd at 330.

FROM THE CAFETERIA

The school year is in full swing and so are our student's appetites! The kids seem to really enjoy our menu this semester.

We would like to ask that you help make sure your student brings their ID with them every single day. It's amazing how much quicker we can get the kids through our serving lines when they scan their card. As I'm sure you can imagine, the noise level in the cafeteria is elevated and trying to listen to a student say/spell their name so the cashier can find their lunch account can be challenging at best. ID cards are required in several places in the building, so if our kids can form the habit of carrying them daily things would progress much more quickly and efficiently. Any help that you can give would be much appreciated!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns...I'm happy to help!

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

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TEXT "@CRUCLAY" TO 81010 FOR UP-TO-DATE
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CANVAS

We encourage parents as observers on our [Student Services Canvas](#) page as we will share a great variety of information here throughout the year. This will include family resources, middle school tips and strategies for success, scheduling and transition information and more.



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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



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Clay Nation,

I would like to first and foremost thank you for your continued professionalism and courtesy towards our front office administrative assistants (Mrs. Rodriguez and Mrs. Boyce) as you enter and exit our building each day. Please know that we value customer service and always appreciate your support as parents.



Each afternoon, school busses begin arriving on our property around 3:00 p.m. which provides additional challenges in our west parking lot. While We understand that this time frame cannot always be avoided and things come up, **we are reaching out to request that you do your best to avoid picking up students or dropping off items (including food for sports teams) between 3:00-3:35 p.m.** We appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Once again, please know how much we value you as a school community and how much we appreciate your support for Clay Middle School.

Have a good day.
Mr. Crosby, Principal



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9

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.

At 75% our own Mr. Crosby will be taking pies in the face during all of the lunch periods and at 100% we will provide a fun treat for all students in Core Plus.

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

\$7,674 TO OUR GOAL

PLEASE DONATE!



GOAL \$35,000

WE ARE **ALMOST THERE!**

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10

Believe in Your Greatness

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

COATS FOR KIDS



If you or someone you know is interested in receiving coats for the winter. Hamilton County Coats for Kids is a non-profit offering free coats, socks and underwear for youth 19 and under. Please complete this form prior to 10/1/23.

Si tú o alguien que conoces está interesado en recibir abrigos para el invierno. Hamilton County Coats for Kids es una organización sin fines de lucro que ofrece abrigos, calcetines y ropa interior gratuitos para jóvenes menores de 19 años. Complete este formulario antes del 1 de octubre.

To register CCS children, click this link:

<https://forms.gle/2jTonmSqKq7mrC759>

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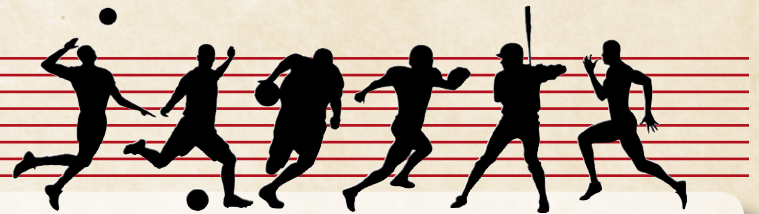
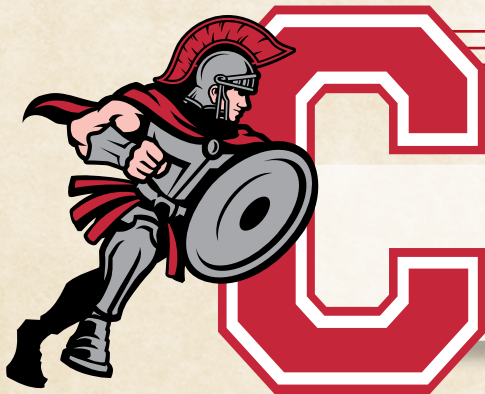
For more information, contact Kelli Hackett at khackett@ccsk12.in.us or (317) 844-9961.



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11

Carmel Clay Schools Operating Referendum

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CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL



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Carmel Symphony Orchestra



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12 Believe in Your Greatness

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



Believe in Your Greatness IMPORTANT DATES

October Dates

OCTOBER		
October 2, 2023	Picture Retake Day	
October 2-6, 2023	School Custodian & Maintenance Staff Week	
October 2-6, 2023	College Go Week	
October 3, 2023	7th Grade Fall Choir Concert	6:00-7:00 PM
October 3, 2023	6th Grade Fall Choir Concert	6:45-7:45 PM
October 3, 2023	8th Grade Fall Choir Concert	7:30-8:30 PM
October 4, 2023	Late Start	
October 6, 2023	1st Quarter Ends	
October 9-13, 2023	Fall Break	
October 16-20, 2023	National School Bus Safety Week	
October 16, 2023	National Boss Day	
October 18, 2023	Late Start	
October 20, 2023	PTO Meeting	
October 21, 2023	Ghost & Goblins 5k/2k Run/Walk (CHS)	8:00:00 AM pre race, 9:00 AM Races start
October 23-27	Red Ribbon Week	
10/24/2023	8th Grade Orchestra Festival at the Palladium	1:00-2:00 PM
October 26, 2023	7th Grade Symphonic Band Concert	6-7 PM
October 26, 2023	7th Grade Orchestra Fall Concert	6-7 PM
October 26, 2023	7th Concert Band & 8th Wind Ensemble Concert	7:30-8:30 PM

November Dates

NOVEMBER		
November 1, 2023	Late Start	
November 6-10	Book Fair Week	
November 15	Education Support Professionals Day	
November 15, 2023	Late Start	
November 16-17, 2023	Musical Performance	7:00 PM
November 17, 2023	PTO Meeting	
November 18, 2023	Musical Performance	2:00 PM and 7:00 PM
November 22-24, 2023	Thanksgiving Break	
November 29, 2023	Late Start	

JOIN IN THE CLAY TRADITION

Since Carmel Education Foundation started Ghosts and Goblins 5k/2k run and walk, Clay Middle School has won the Most Participation Award 11 years in a row.



Clay Nation - Let's make it 12 in a row!

ONLY 12 DAYS LEFT TO SIGN UP!

GO TO:

<https://www.ghostsandgoblinsrun.com/Race/Info/IN/Carmel/GhostsandGoblins>





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