



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 approach the one-month mark of this new school year I have to say that we have gotten off to a great start. Students and staff are beginning to work into a routine. Upon reflection, I would like to thank all the families that attended 6th, 7th, and 8th grade open houses to begin this school year. We had great attendance and as I looked around during those evenings, I was reminded how fortunate we are to have such amazing parental support. So, thank you for supporting your child's education and Clay Middle school.

Why Wait to be GREAT? is our theme for the 2022-2023 school year. As principal, I can assure you that our staff is working hard to deliver the highest quality education to our students. In the first three weeks of school, I have witnessed students showing leadership and seeking out the opportunities for growth, enrichment, and most of all, involvement at Clay Middle School. Culture is built with people and our students are the backbone of our school when it comes to the school wide culture that is

developed and fostered. We will speak often of the **The Clay Way**, which includes *"Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Ready to Learn, Be Full of Pride."* It is on these four pillars that we will continue to build a positive culture at Clay Middle School.

We feel very strongly that when your son or daughter share their greatness with others, we all grow. One important point we must emphasize is 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. Clay Middle School has a proven reputation of being an outstanding school with a constant commitment to exemplary education. 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. Our team is very excited and extremely energized to lead Clay Middle School into another successful school year.

...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...

Clay Highlights - "Why Wait to be GREAT?"

Teamwork – Our staff and students are working together to live out our school vision and mission daily and we do so with a relentless pursuit towards excellence.

Clay Trojan Trot – The Trojan Trot is back! Our annual Clay Trojan Trot will be Saturday September 10th, 2022 @ 8:00 a.m. In the past, this community event has brought approximately 500-600 runners, walkers, and helpers to Clay. Trojan Trot sponsors helped to make this a reality so we most certainly would like to thank all of them for their generosity to Clay Middle School. Special thanks goes out John Corcoran (Clay Athletic / Activities Director) for all his efforts and our student leaders in organizing such a great community event. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK JOHN!

Sports Updates – Onward to Victory Clay!! Our Fall sports season has started and the athletes and coaches are working really hard. Good luck to tennis, football, volleyball, cross country, cheerleading. Our teams are competing at a high level and showing great sportsmanship in both victory and defeat.

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.

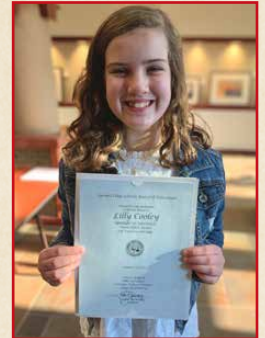
I would like to challenge all Clay Trojans to not wait to be GREAT, seek greatness and together we will take the Clay Nation to even greater heights. Thank you for your continued support.

Reminder to follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness

GO TROJANS!

Sincerely,

Todd A. Crosby
Principal



Lilly Cooley, 6th grade, was recognized at the school board meeting last night for winning the Dawn Hafeli Award For Youth Leadership. This is a national award and she has raised over \$160,000 for the Arthritis Foundation and Peyton Manning Children's Hospital.



CLAY ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES

John Corcoran – Clay Athletic / Activities Director

For more information on specific dates and times of all of our athletic events please visit our school website.

<https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics>

September Events

9-5 LABOR DAY – NO SCHOOL

9-10 Clay Trojan Trot (5k / 2k Family Run & Walk) 8:30 am

9-13 Clay Performing Arts Fundraiser Kick Off

9-20 Student and staff picture retakes

9-21 Clay AVID - Visit to Job Spark 9:00 am

Anti-Bullying Presentations are not open to the public – students convocation only

Anti-Bullying Presentations – All three grade levels will attend these presentations.



Auditions for our Clay Middle School Fall musical - Auditions for our Fall musical stage crew – are occurring now.

Thank you to all of the students, parents, and staff. Special thanks goes out to Mrs. Miranda Susie and Mr. Ryan Snyder) that have been working hard to deliver a first rate musical this Fall.

October Events

10-4 Clay Choir concerts
- 6:00 pm (7th grade)
- 6:30 pm (6th grade)
- 7:00 pm (8th grade)

10-6 National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) Induction Ceremony
6:00 pm

10-13, 10-14 . . . FALL BREAK

10-18 Clay Orchestra Festival
7:00 pm

10-27 Clay Band Concerts
- 6 pm (7th grade)
Clay Orchestra Fall Concert
- 6 pm (8th grade)
Clay Symphonic Band
Clay Wind Ensemble Concert
- 7:30 pm (7th and 8th grade)

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WE ARE HIRING!

Clay Middle School is hiring for two permanent substitute positions and two Special Education Resource IA positions. Please consider applying! Visit the Carmel Clay Schools website and click on the Careers tab for more information.

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FROM THE CLAY PTO

- We 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 (also see images attached below).
- If you'd like to be informed of parent volunteer opportunities throughout the year, please fill out this form: <https://tinyurl.com/2p94549c>
- Order your Clay spirit wear here: <https://tinyurl.com/44ux3rw5> We will be sending all orders home via backpack mail. Orders will be delivered to school approximately 3 weeks after the store's closing on September 9th.
- Click here to learn more about how to earn free money for our school just by shopping through the Kroger Rewards, Amazon Smile and Box Tops programs: <https://www.ccs.k12.in.us/pto-clm/fundraising>
- For regular updates, follow Clay PTO on Facebook and Twitter @ClayPTO!
- Sign up for "Tuesday Treats" and bring in goodies for our once-a-month treat day for Clay staff: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084eaba92fa4fc1-clay1>

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TO CLAY PTO!

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TO:

44-321

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Champions of Clay



- Provides Team enrichment funds
- Helps fund Clay Challenge, After School Study Hall, Technology for Teachers, 8th grade special events
- Funds the many after school student clubs
- Provides added support for Nurses Office, Media Center & Guidance/Student services
- Support of Professional Development
- Provides teacher & staff appreciation
- Funding teacher grant requests.... and more!



Annual Fundraiser for Clay Middle:
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- **Winter Session 2** runs from January to March

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FROM THE CAFETERIA

First of all, a big WELCOME BACK from the Cafeteria Staff here at Clay!

As I'm sure you're all aware the Free Meal Waiver has been discontinued so parents/guardians have to get back in the habit of paying for student lunches after a 2-year hiatus. A complete school lunch is \$2.80. A complete school lunch includes one entrée, one milk, one fruit and 1 or 2 vegetables. Your student does not have to take all of those components, but they must have an entrée along with one fruit or one vegetable choice for their lunch to be considered complete. If a student does not choose a fruit or vegetable all items chosen will be charged a la carte pricing.

You can check your students lunch account balance any time using EZSchoolPay.com. All you need is their student ID number. WE DO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO DEPOSIT FUNDS INTO LUNCH ACCOUNTS THROUGH EZSCHOOLPAY.COM! We are definitely trying to eliminate cash purchases and deposits as much as possible in an effort to avoid handling cash. If your student has their own money that they would like to use to make a purchase, please have them give that cash to you to deposit into their lunch account. Your help and cooperation with this are much appreciated!

If you would like to see a menu or an a la carte price list, please go to the Carmel Clay Schools website and click on "Parents" and "Lunch Tools". Go to the Middle School Menu tab and you can view our menu, a la carte price list and nutritional information.

If anyone is interested in working for CCS Food Services, please check out our flyer with information on how to apply! I personally have been part of the Food Service staff with Carmel Clay Schools for 26+ years and I can attest to the fact that it's a great place to work! The hours are perfect if you have students...we're done before the kiddos get off the bus and we have all the same holidays. I started working for CCS when my children were in the first and second grade...it was perfect!

As always, don't hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns you may have...I'm happy to help!



Amy Glover
Café Manager
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STAFF TESTIMONIALS

I love working in Food Services (12 years!) and will continue until I retire!
-Kusie

CCS has been the hidden gem in my life as a chef. I never knew there was more to Food Service than what I was exposed to as a culinarian until I came here. I felt the warmth and love in the room and instantly wanted to be a part of this team! We are a family instead of a group of colleagues. Thank You CCS Family!
-Danaell

The hours are great and the pay is outstanding! I've made some good friends over the past 5 years working in Food Services - the atmosphere is amazing!
-Mitzi

It is wonderful to have summers, winter break, and spring break off, same as the students! You don't take the job home with you at the end of the day - you are done! It's nice to be part of a district that cares about staff & students!
-Beth

I started working at CCS about 10 years ago and I love it here! I love the team-work aspect of the job where we all work together to make something that students really enjoy. I also love seeing and interacting with the students each day and meeting new people. It is a rewarding job and I'm glad to be part of it!
-Mervat

I am home around the same time as my children, enabling me to spend time with them after school. My greatest enjoyment is serving and being around kids, and specifically kids with special needs, putting a smile on their faces!
-Lula



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(starting in September!)

Follow us on IG @carmelwyldlife
and sign up for Remind by texting
@carmelwl19 to 81010

Meetings:

2nd Tuesday of every month after school until 5:00 in the LGL room

The first meeting will be 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 at 2381 Pointe Pkwy.



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CLUBS

** CLUBS WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER LABOR DAY. Students should listen for more information about club meetings closer to that time.

FROM THE CLINIC

Hello! My name is Julie Dickson (aka "Nurse Julie") and I'm excited for my 4th year at Clay! Thank you for entrusting me to care for your sweet kiddos. Their safety and well-being is my top priority. This year the Hamilton County Health Department would like us to stress the importance of routine vaccinations to prevent disease and illness. Every year immunizations are due for the State of Indiana upon the 20th day of school, and this year that date is September 7th. You may turn in immunization records to me via email or in person at school. It is okay to send records with your student to turn into the office or clinic at school. We do offer a religious exemption form for any/all vaccinations which can be found on our Clay website. Please click "Student Services" then "Nurse" and all information can be found under the "Immunization Information" tab. If you do not have immunizations completed by the 20th day of school, or your child has not yet turned 11, please contact me with the date

THE GREEN SCENE

The Team Atlas Green Team is collecting gently used athletic shoes to donate to the MORE Foundation Group now through the end of August!

There are just 3 easy steps to follow!

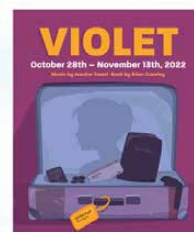
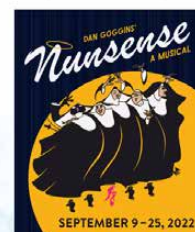
- Step 1** Donate your gently used athletic shoes by placing them in the collection boxes found in the 7th grade hallway and across from the main office.
- Step 2** Once the boxes are full, they are shipped for free!
- Step 3** Donating shoes keeps them out of landfills. The proceeds from the shoes help the MORE Foundation plant thousands of trees each year which offsets the carbon in the atmosphere and can help bring families out of poverty.

So please....

DONATE your athletic shoes today!!!

Visit morefoundationgroup.org for more information!

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AVID

AVID has gotten off to a great start in 2022! ~165 students have all organized their binders nicely with tabs and pencil pouches, so they're ready to tackle Quarter 1 with vigor! Next up: how to take and utilize effective note-taking strategies in all classes. Next month we'll begin our tutorial process with our tutors, who are all very excited to begin. 8th graders will be taking a field trip to the Indiana State Fairgrounds to visit JA JobSpark on 9/21, a wonderful opportunity to meet with industry professionals and explore career opportunities in their futures.



FROM 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**
School Psychologist
- **Michelle Janson**
Counselor
All 8th Grade
7th Grade Team 7-1
- **Erin Naas**
Counselor
All 6th Grade
7th Grade Teams 7-2 & 7-3
- **Gina Potter, MSW**
Student Services Coordinator
All 8th Grade
7th Grade Team 7-1
- **Britney Coats, MSW**
Student Services Coordinator
All 6th Grade
7th Grade Teams 7-2 & 7-3

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 our [Student Services Canvas](#) page. We encourage parents as observers on our Canvas page as this is a great way to see additional tips and strategies that we will share throughout the year.

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!

CRU

Meetings:

Every Thursday morning at 7:30 in the LGL room

The first meeting will be Thursday September 8th

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



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Lora Reynolds

NEW FAMILIES OF CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

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.

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

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 at <https://goo.gl/forms/QN5wQQCNI6iKxYa43>.

Free & Reduced Meal Application is available Online.

<http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/district/food-services/free-meals>

Online Free and Reduced Meal Application



Please remember this must be completed every year.

If there are any questions please contact our Social Workers!

Mrs. Coats & Mrs. Potter



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ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

Trojan Trot 5K Run/Walk

https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=137279

The 8th annual Clay Middle School 5K race is back. This fun filled event is open to Clay families, friends and its surrounding community. The 2022 Trojan Trot will take place on Saturday, September 10th @ Clay Middle School starting at 8:30am. The funds raised from the Trojan Trot are used to help support the extra-curricular and co-curricular clubs/teams at Clay Middle School. To register for this event please click this link - https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get_information.php?event_id=137279



*If you or your company are interested in sponsoring this great event please click this link (https://docs.google.com/document/d/18FCX-lqo_Hvx1i_0Cl-_8m2azxcVe0cnzuppyyWdB25o/edit?usp=sharing) and fill out the Sponsorship Request Form.

Clay Athletics Event Admission

Admission is charged for sporting events at Clay Middle School. A general admission ticket to a Clay sporting event costs \$5.00. All admission tickets must be purchased through Clay's GoFan page (<https://gofan.co/app/school/IN73123>). We offer a variety of All-Sports passes (Family, Adult & Student passes) All passes can be purchased on Clay's GoFan page. **Only Clay Middle School All-Sports passes will be accepted at Clay events.** Carmel Clay Schools does not offer a district wide pass. Passes for Carmel High School, Creekside Middle School or Carmel Middle School will not be accepted for Clay Middle School events

Yard Signs for Purchase

Back by popular demand! The Athletics Department is once again offering yard signs to promote your students participation on a sporting team. If you are interested in purchasing a yard sign follow this link to make your purchase - <https://cmsyardsign22.itemorder.com/shop/home/>. **Store will close on Friday, September 2, 2022.**

