



September 2015

Clay Middle School 5150 E. 126th Street | Carmel, Indiana 46033-9747 P 844.7251 | F 571.4020 | www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/home

Todd Crosby, Principal | Mark Smith, Assistant Principal John Corcoran, Athletic Director | Lori Katz, Assistant Principal

#### Dear Clay Nation,

First of all, I would like to thank our students, staff, and greater Clay community for making these first three weeks of school year outstanding. We have gotten off to a great start and have been working collectively and collaboratively with our new teaming model. As teams within our new block schedule teachers have been having discussions regarding aligning curriculum and instruction, effective communication, and student



needs. As you can imagine, making Clay the best it can be is hard work and our staff has been working diligently to make your child's experience the best possible. In our fourth year together as an administrative team, we feel Clay's best years are yet to come. The foundation of greatness that has been built at Clay continues to bring a synergy that is all about people working, learning, and leading TOGETHER at Clay Middle School. We believe that our philosophy provides a clear vision and mission for our school to thrive and be successful at reaching all levels of learners. I am proud to report that our culture truly exemplifies excellence and GREATNESS. In these first three weeks there has been evidence of students and staff seeking greatness all around us.

#### Clay Highlights—"Seeking Greatness" (2015 Theme)

Welcome Back Faculty and Staff—Our staff had an amazing opening day where we welcome teaming back to the middle schools in Carmel. Teachers enjoyed the time with their teams and were able to look ahead of being able to work with their where they were given opportunities to share, collaborate, and work together towards setting goals for the 2015-2016 school year.

Welcome to Clay Middle School—This year we welcomed over 400 6th graders to Clay as part of the Clay Nation.

Clay Open Houses—We had successful 6th, 7th, and 8th Open Houses where our parents had a chance to meet their son or daughter's teachers, meet the academic teams and elective teachers, and walk the building experiencing the life of a middle school student through our new block schedule. THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT!

If You Build It, They Will Come—We continue to provide expanded options for our students to become leaders. The greatest resource we have are our students, and we continue to place a strong emphasis on developing young leaders at Clay. THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR STUDENT LEADERS WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME TO WORK REGISTRATION AND OPEN HOUSES!

What Does It Mean to Be a Clay Trojan?—We organized three school wide convocations for our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes where we spent time with all of our students talking through what it really means to "Seek Greatness". The response has been wonderful and it is remarkable to see the impact of true pride among our student body and faculty and staff.

Clay PTO—Thank you to our Clay PTO for all you do for our school. Have you ever wondered what the Clay PTO Supports? Please take a look at the "Top 10 Reasons to Donate to Clay PTO". If you would like to donate, please go to the Clay PTO website at <a href="http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/pto">http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/pto</a>. Also on the website is a PTO calendar and listing of current events, as well as information on volunteer opportunities. Remember to "Like" Clay's PTO Facebook page; it's a great way to stay connected. The first PTO General Meeting will be held on September 11 at 1:30pm. Hope to see you all there.

I would like to encourage everyone to go to our school website for updated team webpages and the latest news. It has truly been a TEAM effort by to always keep communication as a top priority. As we look to start this school year on a positive note, I would also like to invite everyone to come out and see a performing arts concert or a sporting event at Clay and share in the excitement as we celebrate GREATNESS for yet another school year. As I have mentioned in the past, I truly realize that success cannot be accomplished without a TEAM effort from so many people within our school and throughout our community. 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.

The **Clay Nation** is off to a great start for the 2015-2016 school year. Thank you for your continued support.

Follow us on Twitter @ClayTrojans #ClayGreatness

#### **GO TROJANS!**

Sincerely, Todd A. Crosby, Principal



#### SEPTEMBER EVENTS

JEI TEITIDI	E11 E 1 E111 5	
9/2	8th Grade Football vs Noblesville MS	
	Tennis vs Creekside	5:00РМ
9/3	Clay Challenge	8:00-10:00АМ
	(school-wide event for staff & students only)	
9/9	8th Grade Football vs Carmel MS	
	Tennis vs Carmel MS	5:00РМ
9/10-12	Hamilton County Band Festival	
9/12	3rd Annual Trojan Trot	8:00AM
	(A great event for the entire family)	
9/14-19	Custodial and Maintenance Recognition Week	
9/15	8th Grade Football vs Noblesville West	5:00РМ
	7/8th Grade Volleyball vs Creekside MS	5:00РМ
9/16	Best Buddies Meeting	3:15-4:00РМ
9/17	Tennis vs Fishers Jr. High	5:00РМ
9/17-19	Hamilton County Band Festival	
9/21	7/8th Grade Volleyball vs Noblesville West	5:00РМ
9/23	7th Grade Football vs Hamilton SE Jr. High	5:00РМ
9/24	Global Connections Club	3:15-4:00рм
9/26	Cross Country at Bearcat Invitational (Fall Creek Valley)	9:00-11:00АМ
9/28	Make Up Picture Day	Lunch Hours
	Team Picture Day	Core Plus
9/29	7th Grade Football vs Creekside	5:00рм



Clay Athletics welcomes over 290 student athletes to their fall sporting teams. This fall student athletes will participate in 6th, 7th, & 8th grade cross country, 7th & 8th grade fall cheerleading, 7th & 8th grade football, 7th & 8th grade volleyball, and 6th, 7th, & 8th tennis.

Clay Middle School invites you to the 3rd Annual Trojan Trot, a 5K Walk/Run. This fun-filled event is open to Clay families, friends and its surrounding community.

The money raised from this event supports the athletic, enrichment and extracurricular programs and clubs at Clay Middle School. Our students are given the opportunity to participate on 36 athletic teams and enjoy over 25 clubs ranging from Best Buddies to Global Connections and Academic Bowl. So, come out and have some fun and support your school!

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2015

**Location:** Clay Middle School

Time: 8:00am Warm-up | 8:30am Race

Registration information: <a href="https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\_information.php?event\_id=121155">https://secure.getmeregistered.com/get\_information.php?event\_id=121155</a>



#### ATTENTION PARENTS WHO CARPOOL

If you choose to use the carpool lane, please do not drop students off prior to 7:30AM. The building will not open until 7:30AM.

#### FROM OFFICER DEWALD

Parents it's been a great start here at Clay Middle School! As some of you have noticed, we have changed the way we run the carpool line this year. If you have not seen the map yet please check out the following link <a href="http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/uploads/news/0000/2861/Student\_Drop-Off\_Instructions.pdf">http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/uploads/news/0000/2861/Student\_Drop-Off\_Instructions.pdf</a>

So far the change has been running very smoothly! It has helped with the back-ups on 126th Street and allows the busses to get through without passing cars. Some of you have asked why we don't just put another officer at the east end to help with traffic. The bottom line is that it is too costly to supply another officer at that location. This cost would be on top of the current cost of supplying a bus to every Carmel Clay student.

Thank you to all of our carpool parents for making this a smooth transition!

Officer Greg Dewald School Resource Officer Clay Middle School Carmel Police Department 317-697-9501 gdewald@carmel.in.gov

## PICTURE MAKE UP DAY: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

Any student who would like to have their picture retaken or weren't here at registration and need to get their picture taken can do so on Monday, September 28th. Pictures will be taken during the student's lunch hour. Students wanting to get their pictures taken will need to ask to be excused and go to the auditorium to have their picture taken.

## TEAM PICTURE DAY: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

All instructional teams will have their pictures taken during Core plus time. Look for more information to follow about ordering a team picture.

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT THE CLAY PTO SUPPORTS?

Please take a look at the "Top 10 Reasons to Join Clay PTO". If you would like to donate, please go to the Clay PTO website at <a href="http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/pto">http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/pto</a>. On the website is a PTO calendar and listing of current events, as well as information on volunteer opportunities via a form. Also, don't forget to "Like" Clay's PTO Facebook Page—it's a great way to stay connected.

The first PTO General Meeting will be held on September 11 at 1:30PM. Hope to see you all soon.

## CLAY TUESDAY TREATS—FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER

Will you help treat the teachers this year? Could you help once a month, once a semester or once this school year?

Please send your treat to the school office (drop-off or send with your student) by 9AM. Send an amount that would serve 15. Please make sure your container/plate is completely disposable. Send the snack in the container it was purchased in or if you make something homemade, use a throw-away paper plate, bowl, etc. Suggestions include but are not limited to:

fruit tray bagels
bag of oranges bagels
bananas crackers and hum-

crackers and num

vegetables & dip mus

nuts donut holes snack mix cheese spread pretzel rods cookies chips and salsa candy

Questions? Contact Molly Fisher at mollywfisher@gmail.com.

http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E49A-DAC23A13-clay1/17858385

#### OTIS SPUNKMEYER DELIVERY DAY

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 3:30-6:30<sub>PM</sub>

Come pick up your tasty items!

Please note: Students can NOT take items home on the bus!! If you have any questions or concerns, please email Jen Pletcher at pletchjl@gmail.com.

# TOP 10: Reasons to Join Clay PTO

### Where does your money go?

M	Teacher Enrichment	25%
	(Math, LA, Science, Nurse and Guidance)	23 70
V	After School Clubs	12%
V	After School Study Hall(Instruction for students after school)	<b>11.7</b> %
V	Principals Discretionary	<b>9.5</b> %
V	Fifth Grade Transition(Fifth Grade welcoming events)	<b>8.8</b> %
V	Student Recognition(Rewards for Clay Way and Eighth Grade Festival)	<b>8.4</b> %
V	Grants for Teachers	<b>5.9</b> %
V	Professional Development(Training for Teachers)	<b>5.9</b> %
V	Staff Appreciation(Rewards, luncheons for teachers)	<b>5.9</b> %
V	Other(Other Contributions, Accounting and Banking Fees)	6 <b>.9</b> %

#### **NEW CREW STUDENT EVENTS**

**September 9th:** New Parent Coffee @ 9:00. Parents will be able to ask question about clay, talk face-2-face with counseling staff, and leave a note in their student's locker.

**September 15th:** 8th grade Football Game @ 5:00. Students are invited to attend this football game with other new crew mentors to cheer on Clay.

**September 30th:** Ice Cream Party During Core+. Students will be invited to come eat ice cream, play games and have fun.

#### **CLAY VOLLEYBALL**

Volleyball tryouts were amazing with over 40 7th graders and 25 8th graders...it was a tough decision! Coach Kleman and Coach Giles want to thank every girl who tried out for taking a risk and going for it!

Congratulations to the following ladies who will represent Trojan Volleyball this season:

7th grade		
Kayla Gaerte		
Jaci Scherb6		
Olivia Wertz11		
Chloe Stansifer12		
Hannah Baer19		
Erin Toomey22		
Gabi Kleinert24		
Taylor Holforty28		
Hannah Dickson29		
Isabelle Woodward 31		
Sophia Gaumer32		
Isabel Hicks33		
Coach Kleman		

8th grade	
Grace Ziegelle	.2
Anne Lesure	.3
Maya Henderson	.4
Olivia McCall	.7
Emily Deldar	.8
Guinee Robbins	.9
Caroline Wells1	0
Kelise Twyner1	3
Mia Holtzman1	4
Gabby Smith1	6
Megan Hastings 1	8
Davia Poythress2	21
Coach Giles	



Come check out a volleyball match by checking out our schedule at <a href="http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics/schedules">http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/athletics/schedules</a>

## CLAY STUDENTS HAVE CHECKED OUT 2,000 BOOKS IN 9 DAYS!



**Welcome Back!** Mrs. FitzGerald and I have enjoyed seeing all of the returning and new students and are looking forward to a great year! Over the summer we added new books, new displays, new contests (including prizes) and spaces. If you have any questions regarding our media center policies please see our website.

We are continuing our YHBA (Young Hoosier Book Award) contest and will draw readers' names for monthly prizes. See the middle grades' list for 2015-2016 nominees. We also have other contests that promote literacy throughout the year and students who participate can also be eligible for prizes or opportunities to share their work and creativity.

#### **NEW THIS YEAR: Clay Makerspace**

We are very excited to announce the opening of the **Clay Makerspace**. The makerspace is a lab/classroom area where students can create, design, investigate and explore through making. The space is attached to the media center but accessible to all classroom teachers and their students. The space is currently set up in four stations: Coding, Fashion Design, Building and Robotics. Students are not limited to these stations, however, so

if making and creating is involved the **Makerspace** is a perfect place for them! Through generous donations from our PTO and the Clay community we now have several kits focused on: robotics, building and engineering, circuits and programming. We also have four sewing machines and thanks to **First Makerspace** we will have a 3D printer (coming soon!) for the 2015-2016 school year. Last but certainly not least we have also developed a Makerspace Club, meeting once a week from 3:10-4:10PM. The club programming will include making, demonstrations by experts and guest speakers. Please remind students listen to a.m. announcements for the first meeting information.

We couldn't do any of this without our awesome Clay Community and PTO. Our media center volunteers are vital to the programs we are able to offer our students so a HUGE thank you to them and to our volunteer organizer, Marcia Ruderman claymediavolunteer@gmail.com.

#### **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR: DEC. 7-11**

Read On!

Stephanie Swartzendruber, Media Specialist

#### **CLAY STUDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT**



Brought to you by your Clay Student Services Department http://www1.ccs.k12.in.us/clm/Counseling

#### **Guidance Services:**

Clay Middle School Student Services Department promotes the academic, social, emotional, and career development of all students. The counseling program is preventive, proactive, and reactive. Our counselors serve as advocates for the students while collaborating with parents, staff, and the community to assist students in reaching their full potential. Each student has a counselor and student services coordinator or school social worker assigned to them.

#### **Counseling Services:**

Counseling services are offered to all students both individually and in groups. These services are designed to address the academic, social, emotional, and developmental needs of students. Students are frequently seen for peer issues, anxiety and anger management, problem solving, and coping skills.

#### Coordination:

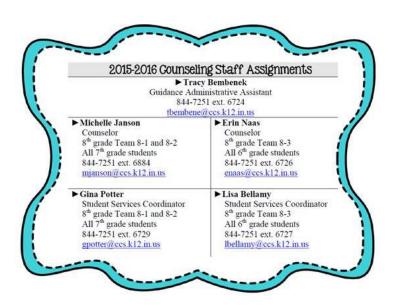
The Student Services Team coordinates a variety of special programs within the school. These may include social and emotional learning lessons, peer helper and conflict mediation programs, long-term educational program planning, and guiding students in their prospective career choices and other decision-making for the future.

#### **Consultation:**

An important part of the Counselor or Student Services Coordinator role is consultation. We collaborate with parents, faculty, other school staff, and community agencies in order to best meet the individual needs of all students.

#### **Classroom Counseling, Push-In Services:**

Student Services Coordinators and Counselors conduct a variety of classroom lessons throughout the year in order to provide students with information relevant to their needs or concerns. These lessons focus on students' social and emotional learning and may include study skills, career exploration, decision-making skills, and future educational planning.





Conquering the homework routine is a matter of determining what works best for your family. I know that this can be an evolving and ever-changing battle. Here is a favorite back to school tip, creating a homework station!

A homework station keeps everything your student needs contained in one place and it is easily moved out of the way when needed.

Start with a file box or folder where you keep important papers; things to be signed, math reference sheets, study guides or class resources. The rest of the station has a variety of items, including pencils, pens, highlighters, erasers, and sticky notes. Supplies should be applicable for students of all ages. Remember to keep enough for siblings to share and restock as needed!



We're excited to start the 2015-16 school year with some tasty new menu items for our students!

This year we're pleased to offer a new Chicken Rice Bowl with Ling's Orange Chicken and Ling's Teriyaki chicken. We also serve a Chicken Caesar Wrap, a Chicken Tender Wrap and a Chicken & Bacon Ranch Wrap along with a variety of Sub Sandwich options. Be sure and check the menu (posted online) to find out when these new items are available!

Also, a reminder of our Charging Policy: Secondary students may charge up to 1 meal. We encourage parents to check

their student's lunch account frequently. You may use <a href="https://www.mypaymentsplus.com">www.mypaymentsplus.com</a> to monitor your child's lunch account and also have the option of using their account to make online prepayments, check student purchases and search transactions. You may also set up your account to receive low balance email notifications. All of these options are available at NO CHARGE. As always, feel free to contact me at any time with any questions or concerns and I'll be happy to help!

Thank you, Amy Glover, Café Manager (317) 844-7251 X6755 | aglover@ccs.k12.in.us

#### NEW CLAY COUNSELOR: MICHELLE JANSON

Hello! My name is Michelle Janson and I am the new counselor here at Clay Middle School. I have been working as a counselor since 2010 and have experience in the elementary, middle, and high school levels. In 2007, I graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelor's in Secondary Education, Psychology, and Child Development and Family Studies. Following that, I attended Indiana University, graduating with a Master's degree from their School Counseling Program in 2009. In my free time, I love relaxing with family and friends, traveling everywhere and anywhere, shopping for unique items or antiques, inventing and attending a group that supports/funds new



entrepreneurs, and training our dog, Ginger Mango, to become a therapy dog. I also enjoy running, volunteering, and simply experiencing and enjoying all that life has to offer.

I am beyond thrilled to be a part of the Clay Family and am greatly looking forward to working with you and your student(s) in this incredibly fulfilling role as their counselor. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 317-844-7251 ext. 6884 or via email at mjanson@ccs.k12.in.us. Thank you for your time and here's to a year full of learning, growth, and success!

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Mr. John Harrold** for receiving an appreciation award from the Carmel Education Foundation for being recognized on doing great work at Clay Middle School. John is an instructional assistant at Clay Middle School and does an amazing job in our Life Skills area. We would like to thank him for all he does to always put the well-being of our students first. **Thank you Mr. Harrold and keep up the good work!** 





#### WELCOME TO CLAY MIDDLE SCHOOL

As principal of Clay Middle School, I would like to take a moment to introduce to you some new additions to our Clay family. We are delighted to welcome the following people to our staff for the 2015-2016 school year. As we look to build for the future, we are excited to welcome these new faces and I ask you to join me in welcoming our new faces as they transition into their new positions and look to "SEEK GREATNESS".

Let's make the 2015 -2016 school year the best yet!

#### New Faces at Clay—"Seeking Greatness"

Deby Gastineau	6th Grade Resource Teacher (filling in for Madeline Gill)			
Sara Mart	Spanish (½ time here and ½ time at Creekside Middle)			
Caitlin Engel	7th Grade Wellness			
Sydnee Willoughby	8th Grade Wellness			
Carey Anderson	DVP (½ time here and ½ time at Carmel Middle)			
Michelle Janson	Guidance Counselor			
	Psychologist (½ time here and ½ time at Carmel Middle)			
Shelby Zeller	7th & 8th Grade Resource Teacher			
Katie Gray	6th Grade Language Arts7th Grade Social Studies			
Ryan Snyder	7th Grade Social Studies			
Jeff Naas	Department Chair, Special Education			
Katie Reel	Digital Learning			
Instructional Assistants				
Phillip Buffington	Resource IA			
Nick Calcamggio	Life Skills IA			
Emily Berry	Resource IA Life Skills IA Resource IA			

#### LAASYA MAMIDIPALLI

My name is Laasya Mamidipalli and I am the Youth Leader for the Goodbye Plastics projects. For both projects I received a funding from **Carmel Green Teens**, a Micro-Grant program, to discourage the use of plastics and to promote reusing to benefit the environment.

I began my project Goodbye Plastics when I was in elementary school, in which I reduced the amount of plastic bags out into our landfills by offering students a money incentive to bring in plastic bags put into our landfills by completing that. My mentor who is also the Green Teens founder, Lauren Gibson really inspired me when she shared with me that she is going to Stanford. She is continuing her environmental research around the world and recently did an environment project on the campus of Stanford University where she attends college. Wanting to follow in her footsteps, I decided to do a second project which helped save many plastic bottles from being released into the environment. I received another grant from Carmel Green Teens and with their help and the strong support given from my principal and teachers at Clay Middle School I was able to collect over 400 plastic bottles that would have otherwise been thrown away. My grant allowed me to give out aluminum BPA free bottles to those who took a pledge.

Over the summer there was water refilling station installed at Clay Middle School that so many students and staff have been using and are enjoying. So far we have saved several hundred water bottles in the first three weeks of this new school year.





## HELPFUL TIPS FROM THE CLINIC

Welcome back Clay Nation! A few things...

- As we head into the new school year, it is important to know my primary goal is to keep students in class as much as possible. At this level of learning missing too much class time starts to be detrimental to the students learning, and progress in the class. Please go over with your student when may be an appropriate time to visit the clinic: first aid, emergencies, medications, sickness. I will allow students to rest for a short amount of time in the clinic if needed. School policy states that students must go home when they have a fever above 100°. Other than a fever, students may be sent home only at the discretion of the nurse and parents.
- If you haven't already turned in updated immunization records please do so ASAP. New students please send me a copy of all vaccines up to this point. Incoming 6th graders need to have Tetanus, and Meningitis vaccines. I will be sending out letters to those who I still need forms. Let's try and make that a short list.
- All students should eat a healthy breakfast prior to school. Some students
  don't have lunch until later in the afternoon, and they get very hungry. If
  this is the case, sending a granola bar or healthy snack with them in their
  backpack may be a good idea.
- I would love to have volunteers come help do some filing and help with paper work throughout the year. Please send me an email if you are interested.
- A few things regarding cell phone use:
  - Students must come through the clinic to go home ill from school. If the student calls or texts a parent to come get them from their cell phone the front office will direct them to go to the clinic before going home. This is to protect the other students here at Clay and prevent from the spread of communicable disease.
  - If a student comes to the clinic and feels like he/she can't go back to
    class and needs to lay down and rest, he/she will be asked to put their
    cell phone in a basket on my desk. My thought is if the student is too ill
    to be in class and needs to rest they truly need to REST and not be on
    their phones.

Thanks! Looking forward to a safe, and healthy year Alison Young, RN, BSN, Clay Middle School Nurse



One of our main concerns at Clay is always the safety, health, and wellbeing of our students, and we believe hydration is an important part of keeping them healthy. In the past, the policy at Clay has been water bottles are only allowed in class if the student has a medical reason and a doctor's note. Starting this year we will allow water bottles in class that are ONLY filled with WATER. It will be up to the teacher's discretion to take the water bottle from the student if it becomes a distraction in class.



#### **TEAM JUSTICE**

Team Justice students have had a blast getting to know each other since school has started. Not only have we been hard at work starting on our curriculums in each core class, but we also have taken some time during Core+ to work as a team to create our identity within Clay Nation. On the first Wednesday of school, we played some games outside while enjoying popsicles. We soon realized how important it was to communicate with each other! We also have created and named superheroes to be a part of our Justice League as well as designed potential team shields as symbols for our team. We are looking forward to a great year on Team Justice!

Jenny Kovach, Team Justice

#### **TEAM REVOLUTIONARIES**

Thank you to all that attended the Parent Open House! It was great to share our curriculum, expectations, and excitement with everyone. As part of the new Core + time, the students have been engaged in some REVOLUTIONARY team building! Please feel free to visit our team website:

http://teamrevolutionaries.weebly.com/

Susie Fulp, Team Revolutionaries



#### PTO FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

#### **BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

This is an easy way to support our school! Look for 'Box Tops for Education' labels on General Mills products. Simply clip the labels and send them to the school office. Please place them in a baggie and include the number of Box Tops you are sending.

#### **TARGET & MEIJER GUEST CARD**

Target & Meijer will donate a percentage of all purchases made on their 'Red Card' to Clay Middle School. Simply select Clay as your school of choice when applying for or using your 'Red Card'.





