



# The Coyote Howling

The Official Clark Middle School Parent Newsletter

8915 West 93<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, St. John, IN 46373

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## Lake Central School Corporation Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake Central School Corporation, as a family, community, and school partnership is to ensure that each student becomes a self-directed learner and a contributing responsible citizen through an instructional delivery system that engages students in achieving their personal best.

### FROM THE DESK OF PRINCIPAL, SCOTT GRABER

Wow! It is amazing how quickly the year is passing. Before you know it, we will be celebrating the end of another successful school year. As second semester begins, I want to thank you for your continued support during the first semester. The students did an excellent job with their grades, the staff did an excellent job with presenting the information, and you, as the parents, did a great job keeping the students in school.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome several new students to Clark. Over the past few weeks, our enrollment has continued to grow as we welcomed students from Illinois, Nevada, Texas and from Indiana cities of Gary, Merrillville, East Chicago, and Carmel. WELCOME to Clark!

For the second semester many changes will occur at Clark. Beginning Feb 1-18, advanced placement applications will be available on the website, in the Clark office, and in your child's classroom regarding placement

into advanced courses for the fall. **It is IMPERATIVE that the application be returned to Clark by February 18 if you want your child considered for the advanced classes.** February 18th is the FINAL deadline for students and parents to complete the application process. After this date, students will not be able to petition for an advanced class at Clark. The following courses will be available:

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Adv. Math, Adv. Language Arts

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Adv. Math, Adv. Language Arts, Adv. Science

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Adv. Math, Adv. Language Arts, Adv. Social Studies, Adv. Science

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Adv. Math, Adv. Language Arts, Adv. Social Studies & Adv. Science (Integrated Chemistry & Physics)

\*\*In all grades, Clark will continue to offer the Merit program.

\*\*Advanced Social Studies (grade 6) will be offered for the 2011-2012 school year.

One of the goals for the administration and staff for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester is to continue to work on communication. It is our expectation that if you, as a parent, have a

concern, please contact the teacher first, followed by the administration, if you feel the problem has not been resolved. Additionally, it is our expectation that all staff respond to your concerns in a timely manner (please give us 24 hours to either respond in writing or make phone contact). If you find that you need immediate attention, please make sure to contact the administrative team; Mr. Graber, Mr. Newton, Mr. Johnson, Mrs. Kammer, and Ms. Raber. We will do our best to answer your questions as promptly as possible.

ISTEP+ test is just around the corner. The first session of the ISTEP+ test will occur the first week of March. Please make sure to have your child in school every day if possible. Our testing window is March 1-10. This year the state has "blessed" Clark and other LC schools with completing some additional booklets for data collection. YIPPEE! I guess that is the par for being a GREAT school. In regard to the ISTEP+ test, we will operate on a normal daily schedule during the time frame. An internal schedule will be created to accommodate for the testing (normally we change the master time schedule and test from 9:00-11:00 daily). Therefore, it is CRITICAL that your child is at school and ready to test by 8:45. Quality sleep, a good breakfast, and a positive attitude towards taking the test will alleviate some of the concerns regarding the test. It is our goal to demonstrate our competency on the state test as this becomes a critical component of evaluating how we are doing as a school. The ISTEP+ test is only one of four factors that lead to a 4 Star School rating. Yes, this is our goal as a staff. Please realize that since we are only two years in the making, our scores regarding 4 Star School status will not be available for another year due to the collection of baseline data. However, this does not preclude us as a school from doing our very best on the test.

A special thank you to the Weather Watcher Club and students who raised money for Haiti during lunch hours. The kids carried buckets around and collected loose change. If you would like to assist and make a donation, please contact the school or drop

it off in the main office. Donations will be collected through Feb.12.

On December 18, the Clark students and staff celebrated "Winter Hat/Holiday Hat Day" as we collected money for HonorFlightChicago. The purpose of this organization is to send Veteran's to the WWII memorial in Washington, D. C. The cost of sending one veteran is approximately \$500.00. Thanks to an anonymous parent who matched the Clark donation, Clark Middle School will be sending two veterans to Washington, D.C. later this summer. Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful event. Clark is proud of our veterans and their service to our country.

As I mentioned earlier, Clark is a very busy place. Since Clark is the home of many special education programs, I am asking for your help in regard to dropping off and/or picking up your children from school. Please do NOT park in the handicapped spaces. It is very difficult for our handicapped students who are dropped off to walk across the parking lot when they should be able to be dropped off by the curb OR in a handicapped reserved parking spot. I ask you to be considerate as we work together for all of our students that attend Clark.

Until next month ...stay safe.



### **GUIDANCE NEWS** **5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

The fifth grade students met with the counselors at the end of January to discuss selection of specials. Students have an opportunity to sign up for Band, Choir, or Chimes. These courses are yearlong courses. If students are not interesting in taking one of these yearlong courses, students will then be assigned a rotation of specials including Technology, Computers, FACS and Consumer Sciences.

All fifth grade students will be administered a math and English exam in the month of May. The test results will be used as criteria, along with other data, to determine eligibility for Advanced Language Arts 6 and Advanced Math 6. Final decisions regarding acceptance will not be made until spring ISTEP scores are made available this summer.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

The Freshmen Guidance counselors met with the eighth grade students at the end of January to select courses for the following year. Parents are reminded to sign the duplicate copy and return it to Clark's main office as soon as possible.

A keyboarding placement test is being offered to interested eighth grade students desiring to test out of the Digital Communications Tools I course (Computer Keyboarding Course). This class is required by Lake Central High School as entrance into more advanced computer application courses. Testing dates are Wednesday, March 10th from 4-6PM and Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 9-11AM. The deadline is February 10th. See Ms. Raber in Guidance for more information and an application.

***8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in Honors English 9 are required to complete an application. Applications can be picked up in the main office. The deadline is Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. The application is lengthy, so allow ample time to complete it.***

### ADVANCED CLASSES

**Any 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, or 7<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in applying for advanced classes need to pick up an Advanced Application form from their English teacher or the main office. Forms will be available February 1-18. All forms need to be returned to the guidance counselors no later than Thursday, February 18th. Final decisions regarding acceptance will not be made until spring ISTEP scores are made available this summer.**

### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOLAR APPLICATION

Applications were mailed home in mid-January to students in grades 6, 7, and 8 who qualified for state aide. It is vital that applications are mailed back to the state no later than June 30 of your child's 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. After that date, your 8<sup>th</sup> grade child will no longer be eligible for the program. We highly suggest you complete the application as soon as possible to start receiving the benefits the program offers. Please call Guidance if you have any questions.

### UPCOMING GUIDANCE EVENTS

#### ISTEP DATES

ISTEP dates are set for the week of March 1-10 and April 26 through May 5. Due to the importance of these tests, we encourage all students to get a good night's rest and be present for the duration of testing time. Parents can visit the Department of Education link: <http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/publications.html> to review past ISTEP test samples to help prepare your child.

#### 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITIONAL MEETING

There will be an informational parent meeting Wed., May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM to discuss the transition from 5<sup>th</sup> grade into 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FRESHMEN TOUR

The eighth graders will be touring the freshmen center in early May. Stay tuned for the specific day.



#### NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Now that the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> nine weeks is here, applications for new members will be out soon. Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade who have a cumulative grade point average of a 3.33 will be receiving applications. In order to become a member of the Clark chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, members must complete the application and then be selected by a faculty committee. Just getting the application doesn't guarantee membership.

Students must have at least two in-school and two out-of-school activities and answer an essay. An induction ceremony will take place for those that make the honor society sometime before Spring Break. Any questions about what is considered an in-school activity can be answered by checking the agenda book for all school activities or contacting Mr. Gustas at Clark.

Our current members have been busy working the concession stand at all the boys' basketball games and will begin working the girls' games. They also helped organize a hat and glove tree at Christmas, where all hats and gloves collected were given to those in the area who were in need. Members are reminded that their twelve service hours will be due by the first of May. These service hours must include at least three in-school and three out-of school hours.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

Student Council raised over \$500 for families in need at their latest movie night. Thank you to all who participated! An upcoming event will be the selling of Valentine's Day suckers. A variety of flavors will be available for a \$1.00 a piece. Students will also be able to attach a message to a sucker to send to a friend, teacher, or take home to a family member. Student Council is in the process of coming up with a variety of ideas to support Haiti. The most recent idea is that students make a donation and receive a bracelet made by a student council member. Stay tuned for official Haiti support details!

### **MATH & ENGLISH TUTORING**

Attention all parents! This is a reminder that the math and English tutoring lab programs have been cancelled starting second semester, January 19, 2010.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS NEWS**

In an effort to improve consistency in grading practices from sixth to eighth grades, the Language Arts Department has adopted a new system of weighting our grades for the second semester. This change will **not** affect how you as a parent see your child's grades on RDS. Teachers will continue to record scores for homework,

class work, tests, and quizzes. Weighting grades **will** affect how final grades are calculated by assigning each category of work a percentage of that final grade. The new weighting system will be as follows:

#### ***English:***

Class work - 10%

Homework - 10%

Grammar Assessments - 30%

Writing Assessments - 50%

#### ***Literature:***

Class work - 10%

Homework - 15%

Reading Assessments - 35%

Vocabulary Assessments - 20%

Accelerated Reader - 20%

It is our hope that final grades will be a more accurate reflection of how well your child has progressed in each of the primary facets of the language arts program. Please be aware that we strongly value independent reading as one of those facets; your child's progress towards a quarterly goal in the Accelerated Reader (AR) program will count as 20 percent of his or her final grade in literature. To check on your child's progress in AR or to get help in preparing your child for grammar, writing, or vocabulary assessments, please visit the language arts page on the Clark website!



### **GIRLS TRACK TRYOUTS**

A call out meeting will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> during SRT. Tryouts for girls track team will be held on March 15 & 16 after school until 5PM. Girls that make the team will have a team meeting after school March 18<sup>th</sup> for thirty minutes. If you plan on trying out, make sure that you have a physical form turned in to the nurse before tryouts start.



### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball

Day	Date	VS	Place	Time
T	1/26	Taft MS (A,B)	Clark MS	5PM
R	1/28	St. John Evangelist	Clark MS	6PM
S	1/30	@ Ben Franklin MS (A,B)	Ben Franklin MS	9:30AM
T	2/2	Pierce MS (A only)	Clark MS	6PM
R	2/4	@ Lowell MS	Lowell MS	5PM
T	2/9	@Col. Wheeler MS (A,B)	Col. John WheelerMS	5PM
W	2/10	Grimmer MS (A only)	Clark MS	6:30PM
W	2/17	@Kahler MS (A only)	Kahler MS	6PM
S	2/20	@Willowcreek MS (A)	Willowcreek	9:45AM
T	2/23	@Lake Station Edison (A only)	Lake Station MS	6PM
R	2/25	@Highland MS (A only)	Highland MS	6PM
S	2/27	Grimmer B Tourney	Clark MS	9AM
M	3/1	@Wilbur Wright (A only)	Wilbur Wright MS	6PM
W	3/3	Griffith MS (A only)	Clark MS	6PM
R	3/4	@LMSAC Tourney	LMSAC Tourney	TBA
M	3/8	Fegely MS (A,B)	Clark MS	5PM

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball

Day	Date	VS	Place	Time
T	1/26	@Taft MS (A,B)	Taft MS	5PM
R	1/28	St. John Evangelist	Clark MS	5Pm
S	1/30	Benjamin Franklin MS (A,B)	Clark MS	9:30AM
T	2/2	Pierce MS (A only)	Clark MS	5PM
R	2/4	Lowell MS (A,B)	Clark MS	5PM
S	2/6	@Willowcreek MS (A Tourney)	Willowcreek	8:30AM
T	2/9	Col. John Wheeler MS (A,B)	Clark MS	5PM
W	2/10	Grimmer MS (A only)	Clark MS	5:30PM
W	2/17	@Kahler MS (A only)	Kahler MS	5PM
T	2/23	@Lake Station Edison (A only)	Lake Station MS	5PM
R	2/25	@Highland MS (A only)	Highland MS	5PM
S	2/27	@B Tourney Grimmer	GrimmerMS	9AM
M	3/1	@Wilbur Wright (A only)	Wilbur Wright MS	5PM
W	3/3	Griffith MS (A only)	Clark MS	5PM
R	3/4	@LMSAC Tourney	LMSAC Tourney	5PM
M	3/8	@Fegely MS (A,B)	Fegely MS	5PM

### LOST AND FOUND

Please remind your child to check the lost and found for any missing items. We are accumulating another large collection. If the items are not claimed they will be donated to charity at Spring Break.



### REMINDERS TO PARENTS

If your child will have a change in transportation for the day, please write a note or call the office by 3:00PM. Student pick up is at Door J in the back (south) side of the building.

### Parent Meetings

Parents, please do not go to classrooms in the morning to meet with a teacher unless you have a meeting scheduled. If you have a meeting set up you will still need to check in at the office for a visitor's pass.

### Student Schedules

Please help your child keep track of his/her schedule. Students were given new schedules at the beginning of the semester in January. Make sure their schedules are stapled in agenda books and make extra copies to keep at home.

### 2 Hour Delay Schedule

On a two hour delay schedule you will receive an Alert Now phone call from Central Office. The buses will run their regular routes but will start picking up students two hours later than normal pick up time. And, breakfast will **not** be served in the café on days with a late start.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

### **February**

- 2/1 LC School Board Mtg/Freshman LGI  
7:30PM
- 2/4 Dollars for Scholars Penny Wars 2/4-  
2/10
- 2/6 Corporation Science Fair Grades 4-12  
LCHS Café 9AM – Noon  
ISSMA District Contest (Instrumental)
- 2/12 Lincoln's Birthday/ Winter Break – No  
School
- 2/15 President's Day/Winter Break – No  
School
- 2/16 School Resumes
- 2/18 Band booster Meeting 6:30PM
- 2/22 Washington's Birthday  
PTO Meeting 6:30PM

### **March**

- 3/1 LC School Board Mtg/Freshman LGI  
7:30PM  
ISTEP+ Part 1 3/1-3/10
- 3/11 Choir Concert 7PM
- 3/12 Pep Assembly
- 3/14 Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Change Clocks 1 hour ahead
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day  
Band Concert 7PM
- 3/18 Band Booster Meeting 6:30PM
- 3/19 End 3<sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks
- 3/20 Spring Begins
- 3/22-3/28 Spring Break – No School
- 3/29 School Resumes  
PTO Meeting 6:30PM

### **April**

- 4/2 Good Friday – No School
- 4/4 Easter Sunday
- 4/5 School Resumes  
LC School Board Mtg/Freshmen LGI  
7:30PM
- 4/6 Report Cards



## **YEARBOOK**

The Yearbook Committee is still looking for any photos you have of school events, field trips, etc. Please upload photos to [www.hjeshare.com](http://www.hjeshare.com) and enter code 7005922.



## **WASHINGTON D.C. TRIP**

Space is still available if anyone interested in joining the trip to Washington D.C. from October 28-30, 2010. For further information please contact Roxann Whitcombe at X604.



## **CLARK WEBSITE**

Please check daily announcements and other important information on the Clark website at <http://clark.us/index.php>.

*Think Spring*

