



# CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

8915 West 93rd Ave. St. John  
WINTER NEWSLETTER—2020



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Happy New Year and Happy 2020! I hope you had a wonderful holiday with friends and family. As we begin a new decade, I am excited to see what this semester will bring for us at CMS. We have a great group of students, supportive parents and a wonderful staff who are ready and willing to become part of your team. Please partner with us this year as we strive for success. All students have different ability levels so let's work together and challenge your child(ren) so that they can get the best education.

Communication between all stakeholders continues to be one of the most important facets in the success of the child. Please let the staff, guidance counselors or administration know your child is having some concerns at home, school, etc. Teamwork is critical as we work to come up with the best possible plan for your child. At this age, parents should be seeing students bring homework home almost nightly, except for Friday (however, some may have work on Friday or over the weekend). Please take time nightly and go over CANVAS with your child. Check and see what assignments have been given or when the next test is so that you can "chunk" your study time and not have to "cram" for the exam.

Parents....with the changes in weather, please make sure to check and see what your child is wearing to school. During the colder parts of October, we had students that were wearing shorts and short sleeved shirts to school. If we would happen to have an emergency situation and the students would need to be outside for a period of time, it is critical that all students have a jacket at school. Jeans are not allowed to have holes above the knees and all students must wear shirts that have their shoulders covered. Please help us by helping your child with appropriate clothing.

Cell phones seemed to be a big holiday gift item. As a reminder, cell phones are not allowed out during the day at school. They must be kept in the locker and turned off. Students have been warned that if cell phones are observed, they may be collected and parents might be asked to come and pick them up at the end of the day. We do not need students' texting their parents if they are sick, etc. as we have procedures in place for this to happen, i.e., school nurse. If there was an emergency situation, you would be notified by one of the administrator via the school Alert Now messaging system. Students with ear buds and/or air pods need to keep them in the locker.

For 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents, your child received their PSAT scores on January 10<sup>th</sup> in a meeting that I conducted with them in the LGI room. Information was provided to them about how the PSAT works, what the scores mean, and how they can receive more information in regard to their complete document. I reminded ALL students that this semester is critical as we begin to do high school scheduling with the CMS counselors. Students need to be putting forth their best effort in all classes.

On January 29, CMS will be hosting a STRAIGHT "A" breakfast for students in the cafeteria. Current numbers indicate that almost 220 students will be invited and celebrated. GREAT job by all of the students who maintained STRAIGHT "A's". We are proud of you and your efforts. Keep it up!

In late March and early April, all students will begin the practice component for the upcoming ILEARN state test. The state requires that all students take a practice test in all of the subtests for the ILEARN test. Therefore, 5<sup>th</sup> grade will take practice tests in ELA, math, and SS. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will take practice tests in ELA, math, and science. 7/8 grade students will ONLY take practice tests in ELA and math. The actual test is scheduled for April 20-May 15. If at all possible, please make sure to have your child present at the start of the school day. We will be operating on a couple different schedules (which will be posted on the school website). If you must schedule a doctor or other appointment, please try and do so after 12:00pm. Your help would be greatly appreciated as students cannot go on to the next test until all parts of the prior test are completed. This year, the state has recommended that schools not test for more than 1 hour per day, so we need your child in attendance daily.

Criminal history background checks...if you want to volunteer at CMS, please make sure that you have a background check completed. With the new system, it may take approximately 3 weeks to get your background check completed and returned to us. If we do not have a background check and you show up to volunteer, we will not be allowed to have you volunteer. 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents...plan ahead for field day, etc.

Parents...if interested, I am looking for some help for our end of year cook-out/fun time in the sun day. Our cook-out is planned for May 15. Our goal is to have all students eat outside and enjoy a wonderful grilled hamburger or hot dog, etc. Last year we had several sport stations set up so the kids could enjoy some fun time after they ate their lunch. If you are interested, please make sure that you have a completed background check on file and send me an email ([sgraber@lcschool.com](mailto:sgraber@lcschool.com)) and I will put you on the list. I appreciate your cooperation and help in advance.

Until next time, stay safe.

Principal Scott Graber

From the Desk of Mr. Stanisz, Assistant Principal....

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope that you had a safe and happy holiday season.

Our 2019 Veterans' Day celebration was a success! The students did a great job of representing Clark Middle School during the celebration. We had an extremely large turnout of veterans to celebrate with their families, as well. I personally want to thank all the students, staff, parents, and veterans for your overwhelming support for our celebration. It would not be possible if it weren't for your support! Veterans, we thank you for keeping our country safe and free!

Thanks for your help when dropping your children off by door J on the south side; however, please be mindful of the following issues: (1) Please make sure that you remain in the car line and do not allow your child to exit the vehicle until they pass the unloading sign we have placed on the sidewalk. (2) If you are parking your car, please use a proper parking spot and do not pullout into oncoming traffic if you are parked in the front row. (3) The handicapped parking spots are needed for our students with disabilities and we appreciate your help in keeping those spots available. (4) When escorting your child to door J, please use the cross-walk located by the three orange cones. Thank you for your help in this matter!

Have you signed up for Twitter? Twitter is gathering support from parents and students around the school. To sign up, go to [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) or download the app to your Smartphone and create a username. You can follow us at @Clark\_coyotes for news and information regarding CMS. Clark Middle School club/group members will be taking pictures on Thursday, January 23rd .

Stay warm out there!!!

The Lake Central School Corporation is looking for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals to help with special needs students.

Please go to the main website: [www.lcsc.us](http://www.lcsc.us) under : Administration>Human Resources.

Scroll down and click on *Steps to Substitute Requirements*. The document will explain the steps needed to become a substitute in the corporation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Central Office at 365-8507.



**From the desk of Mrs. Beach, Assistant Principal:**

**With the start of second semester, student in the Special Education Applied Skills classes are preparing for the 3rd Annual Unified Game Day.**

**The event is designed to unify special needs students and their peers on the same to team to participate in sporting events. This year Clark anticipates sending 40 athletes to participate in both track and field events. Unified Game Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13 with the rain date on May 14. The event will take place on the track at Lake Central High School. Please come out and cheer on the Coyotes!!**

**Indiana State Alternative test, I AM, testing window opens April 6<sup>th</sup> and closes May 15<sup>th</sup>. If your child is participating in this test please encourage them to do their best and get plenty of rest.**

**Just a reminder tutoring is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00am. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to receive additional help or make up work.**

**I want to thank all the parents, students and staff for their hard work in making the first semester a success!!**

I would like to take this time to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Nick Stamate and I am your School Resource Officer here at Clark Middle School. I have been a Police Officer in St. John for 19 years.

I am a 1st class patrolman and have certifications in several areas. First and foremost, I graduated from the School Resource Officer School in October 2019. Also I am a Close Quarter Combat and Defensive Tactics instructor. I am a certified crime scene evidence technician as well as a certified field training Officer. I have worked with the schools my entire career as a Police Officer working special events and other activities. In the early 2000's, I was the night operations supervisor for Lake Central High School.

I have always enjoyed working with the schools and students and am honored to represent Clark Middle School as your School Resource Officer. My **TOP PRIORITY** is student safety here at Clark. There are 5 School Resource Officers in the Lake Central School Corporation. We work together constantly to find ways to enhance and promote student safety. In the near future, your child will participate in several programs including vape awareness, drug awareness, walking and bicycle safety and the dangers of social media.

Throughout my day here at Clark I spend time with the students during lunch and in the hallways during passing period. My goal is to build a positive atmosphere here at Clark and to mentor the students into making positive choices that will affect their future. We also do fun things from time to time like the donut challenge and rewarding good behavior and good deeds. I have an open door policy here at Clark and welcome any of you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> semester has started and the guidance department has been busy preparing for several events. All 8<sup>th</sup> graders will meet with the counselors during their social studies classes on February 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss all the information pertaining to scheduling for 9<sup>th</sup> grade at Lake Central High School. The counselors will talk to them about the various diploma types and appropriate courses they can elect to take, along with all the freshman required classes. The students will schedule on Skyward February 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. The counselors will assist students in the computer lab here at Clark on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Parents should also login with their student at home that week to review course selections. All of the required classes will be pre-loaded into Skyward.

Parents can opt to sign their student up for the **SUMMER POOL and PE** classes that are offered at LC, and selection for the classes will take place through a **lottery system**. A Google form link is available on the **LCHS website beginning Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 a.m. through Friday, Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m.** Parents will be notified by email Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> if their child was selected for summer Pool or PE. **This information is also posted on the LC and Clark website.**

The **Straight “A” Breakfast** will be held during 1<sup>st</sup> period on January 29<sup>th</sup>. All students making A’s for the first semester will be invited. We look forward to celebrating this accomplishment with the students!

The 8<sup>th</sup> graders in digital communications classes have had the opportunity to do career exploration via interest inventories in NAVIANCE. This information is very useful for the students as they move into high school and formulate plans for their graduation pathway and future goals. Students in digital communications 2<sup>nd</sup> semester will complete the NAVIANCE inventories by the end of January.

In November the counselors presented an informational session on **Child Abuse** to all grades. Students will continue to participate in Bullying seminars during Health/PE second semester, which is also facilitated by the counseling department.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s counselor with any questions or concerns. We are here to help!

## The Counselor’s Corner

### “The Effects of Vaping and Addiction” Presentation for Parents & Teens

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Wilbur Wright Middle School Arena (8650 Columbia Avenue)

Vaping rates have skyrocketed among teens. The Center for Disease Control has reported over 2,400 hospitalized cases of lung injuries and 52 deaths associated with vaping.

This presentation will provide information for parents and teens:

- The health risks associated with e-cigarette and tobacco use
- Recognizing different e-cigarette devices
- How nicotine is addictive and harmful to the brain
- What parents need to know
- Legal and school issues for minors
- How we can all help

The presenters will include Laura Arent, Franciscan Health Tobacco Specialist, and Irene Boone-Phillips, Program Coordinator for the Lake County Community Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Coalition.

The presentation is being hosted by the Munster Police Department’s Community Policing Unit and the Choice Community Council of Munster. For more information, please contact D.A.R.E. Officer James Ghrist at 219-836-6639 or [jghrist@munster.org](mailto:jghrist@munster.org).



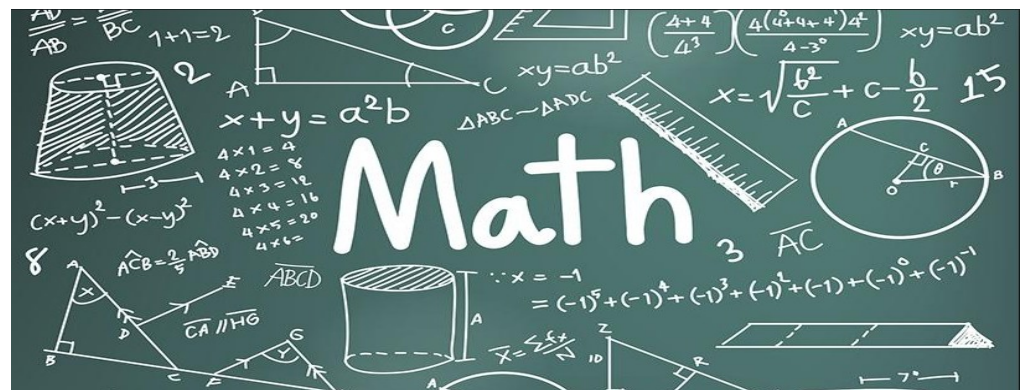




## From the Social Studies Department:

A special thanks to all of the Clark Middle School students for participating in the United States Navy's *adopt-a-sailor* holiday card program. Thanksgiving/Holiday cards were made for newly enlisted sailors at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center north of Chicago, Illinois.

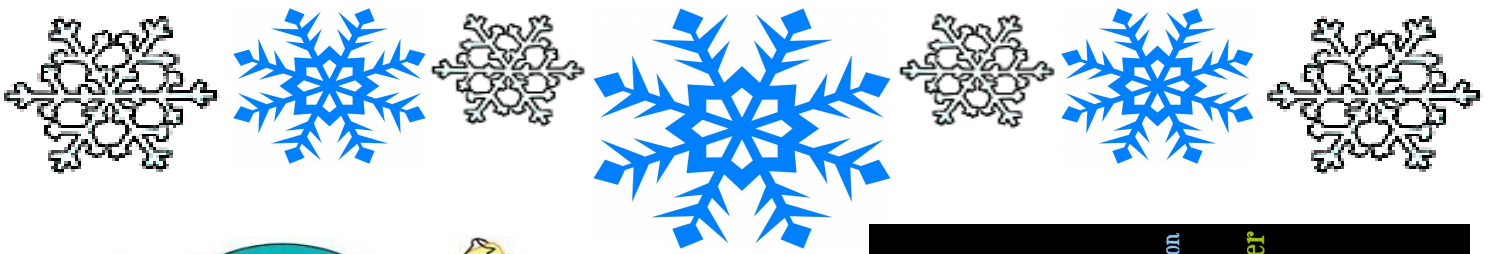
Just a reminder that January is National Geographic Geography Bee season. Clark's social studies students will compete to represent Clark in the state bee in Indianapolis. 8th grader and returning champion Leo LaVoie looks to defend his school championship from last year. The state bee will take place the last week of March at IUPUI and is sponsored by National Geographic.



## From the Math department

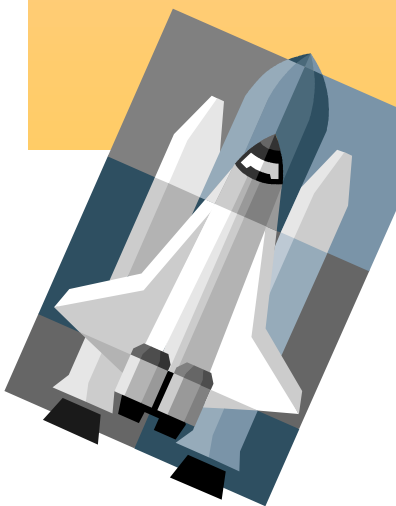
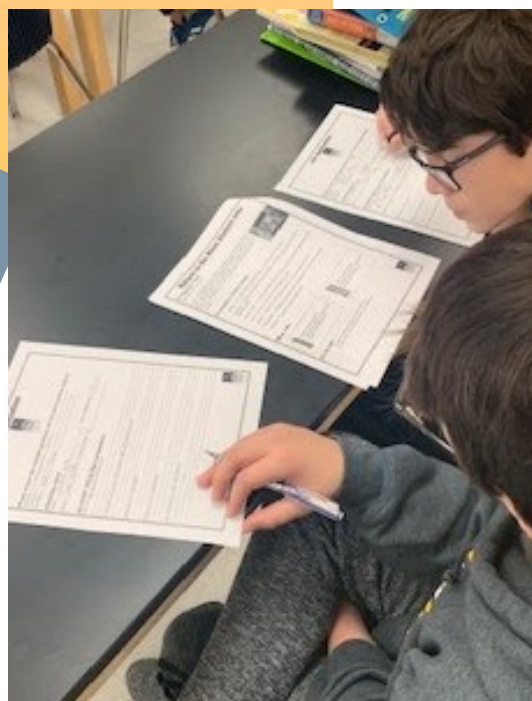
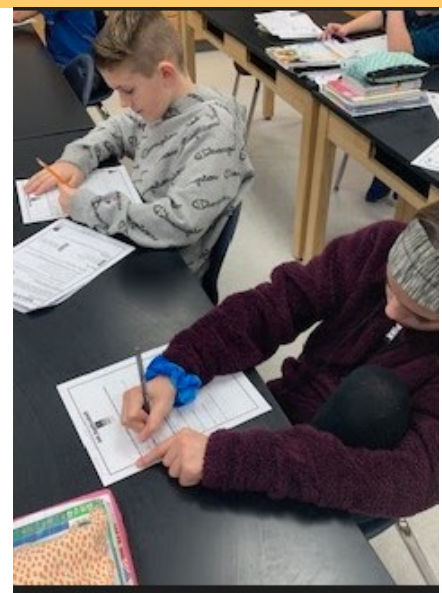
As with first semester, the math department has been quite busy. One of the biggest areas we will be concentrating on is ILEARN, the state test Clark will be giving in the spring. Our students did quite well last year, and we hope that trend continues this year. The teachers have already been preparing for the test, and will continue until the test takes place. Hopefully with the extra practice, our students will do quite well.

Please remember that tutoring is offered to any student on Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8 AM. Also, students can see their teachers for extra help Tuesdays and Wednesdays during advisory. We ask that students come prepared and ready to go over whatever is needed. If any parent has questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact your student's teacher. We look forward to a great second semester!



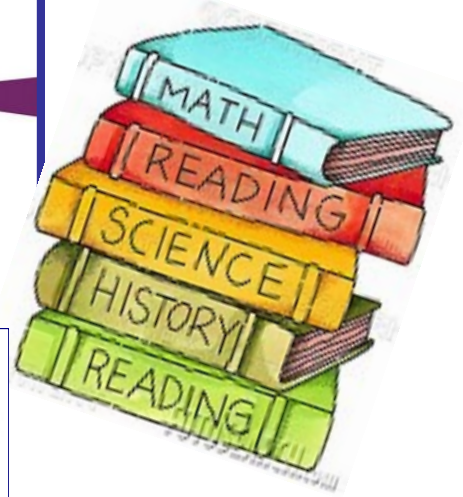
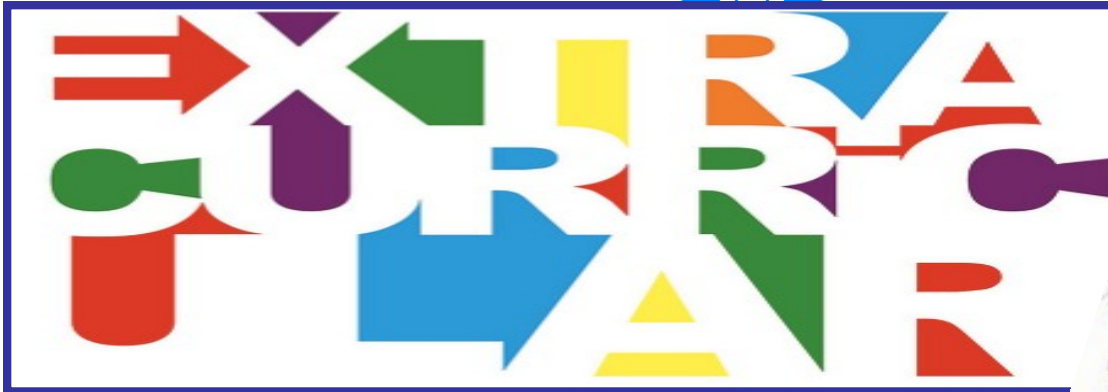
6th grade students are beginning to prepare for the Challenger Center field trip in February where they will experience the “Return to the Moon” mission. Students are required to fill out job applications for the various jobs that are available on the trip and then interview for the job they have applied for. Students will then be assigned jobs and begin working with their team members on research and task activities to prepare them for what they will experience when they go on the mission to be successful.

This year's AR field trip will be to the Lynwood Sports Center for roller skating. Students who earned 100% or more of their AR goal for the first, second, and third grading period will be invited to attend. The trip date, cost, and other additional details will be announced at a later date.









### MATH COUNTS

Clark Math Counts students will be participating in the annual Calumet Regional Competition on February 5, 2020 at Valparaiso University.

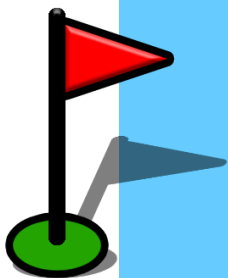
We are hoping for a return trip to the State Competition at Purdue University -- Good Luck Math Counts participants!



# Math

" PAWSOME " job to the Paws for a Cause group on raising over \$200 worth of pet supplies to be donated to Cache Creek! The winter pet supply drive will help the local shelter care for the animals while they await finding their " forever home " !

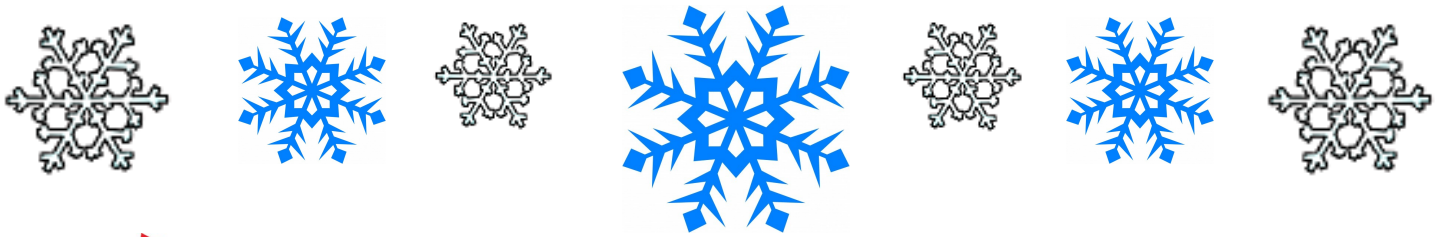
Thank you to all who donated!



The Lake Central Golf Tournament Prep Camp will be open to all students in grades 6-8 beginning in late March. This is a 6 week camp where students learn and/or fine tune their fundamentals in golf.

Students will participate in actual play twice a week for 6 weeks at a local golf course, Two coaches, as well as several members of the Lake Central High School golf team will be on sight helping the students develop the skills they need to improve their course play. Please contact Mr. Andy Gurnak ( [agurnak@lcscmail.com](mailto:agurnak@lcscmail.com) ), Mrs. Kerry Cooper ( [kcooper@lcscmail.com](mailto:kcooper@lcscmail.com) ) or Mr. Josh Wierzba ( [jwierzba@lcscmail.com](mailto:jwierzba@lcscmail.com) ) for information on registration. This golf camp is limited to the first 25 students from Grimmer, Kahler, and Clark that sign up!





# UPcoming EVENTS



**8th Grade Dance Parent Meeting**  
February 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the cafeteria  
Parents WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Come out to the 8th grade dance meeting to help with a variety of tasks needed to make this years' dance AMAZING!!!

**VALENTINE PARTY!!!**  
Students in grades 5, 6, and 7 are invited to join us for a Valentine's Day Party. Student Council will be hosting the event on Thursday, February 13th from 3:45-5:30. Join us for music, snacks and fun! More information will be announced as we get closer. Check the Daily Announcements on the Clark website for future details!



**PRESIDENT'S DAY  
FEBRUARY 17, 2020  
NO SCHOOL**

**SPRING BREAK**  
MARCH 23—MARCH 27, 2020

**CHOIR CONCERT**  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

**BAND CONCERT**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020





# PARENT COMMUNICATION



## WE NEED YOU



Are you interested in participating in fun school functions? Do you enjoy being an active part of your child's school? Clark is looking to add new members to our PTO! Meeting dates will be announced soon so please contact Karley Kutka at [karley.kutka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karley.kutka@sbcglobal.net) for full details. You can also stop in the office and let us know you are interested. We look forward to hearing from you!

Do you need to know when school is in session or when you have school events for the 2019-2020 school year? Please check out the LCSC website at [www.lcsc.us](http://www.lcsc.us) and look for the Academic Calendar link on the lower left side or open the Full Lake Central School Corporation calendar. **All the information you need at your fingertips!!**

### Did you know?


Announcements are posted daily on the website. Check us out at:

<http://clark.lcsc.us>

Students are not allowed to enter the building before 8:00 a.m. unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Door A will not be unlocked until 8:30 a.m. Walkers/bikers need to walk around to Door J (south entrance) if arriving before 8:30 a.m.



### WELCOME TO TWITTER, CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL



CMS is officially on the Twitter wire! What is Twitter, you ask? Twitter is a social network site set up for parents, students, and staff for news and information. We will be providing information regarding all the happenings around the middle school and important dates to remember. We WILL NOT be responding to questions on the twitter line as it is used strictly for information only. You can set up a twitter account by visiting [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com).

THIS IS NOT MANDATORY! It is just another helpful tool for those of you that access your cell phones on a regular basis. @Clark\_coyotes

### Lake Central High School Field House Open for Walking on Monday and Wednesday Evenings

Lake Central School Corporation will permit access to the field house for walking on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM from November 4, 2019 through March 20, 2020. There will be no walking during winter break. Walking will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

### Need to pick your child up during the school day?

Remember to send a note to the office in order to receive a pass out of class.