



CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

August/September Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

Volleyball (10/5)
@5p.m.

Cross Country
(10/5) @5p.m.

Football (10/7)
@6p.m.

Volleyball
(10/8)
@5p.m.

Picture Retakes
(10/12)

8th Grade PSAT
(10/14)

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS

New teachers are a given for any school. This year though, Clark Middle School has plenty of new teachers! This is also a very strange time to be starting a new job. With the effects of COVID-19 still hitting the nation, this is going to be a strange year.

"[The students are] doing really great. You can tell that they wanted to choose this option [e-learning] because they're putting in the work to be successful. You get to learn about them and know about them, but it's so weird because you never, physically, get to meet them," Ms. Kendall Bonick, Fifth Grade, said.

From what I've seen from each new teacher, they're so positive and they care about their students. The new teachers include: Ms. Bonick, Fifth Grade, Ms. Losito, Reading Specialist, Ms. Mesko, Seventh Grade English Language Arts, Ms. Panozzo, Fifth Grade, Ms. Ptaszek, Fifth Grade, Ms. Strehlau, Fifth Grade, Ms. Szymaszek, Fifth Grade, and Ms. Bridgeman, Art. We also have Ms. Genovese filling in for Ms. Snyder, and Ms. Jorsch, Nurse.

"Honestly, [COVID-19] just made me be more careful and more conscious of what I'm doing. But it still hasn't stopped me making sure that I'm giving the kids everything that they're needed to get throughout the day. I have a mask on, I sanitize everything, but I still make sure that they're learning what needs to be taught and helping them when I have to," Ms. Brandi Panozzo, Fifth Grade, said.

THE LAKE CENTRAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION PROVIDES THE LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION WITH GRANT 53

WRITTEN BY: BRENNA SEALY



The Lake Central Education Foundation provided the corporation with Grant Round 53 on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020. This was a \$5,000 grant for purchasing PPE supplies for each school. Co-President Mrs. Susan Schweitzer expanded on why this grant was given.

"We decided that with COVID-19 and everything changing, teachers are not going to have time to spare to write a grant. We decided the best thing we could do to help teachers would be to provide money. We gave \$5,000 to the Lake Central School Corporation who in turn purchased PPE for teachers," Schweitzer said.

In these unprecedented times of COVID-19, this grant has provided each classroom with hand sanitizer and a disinfectant spray. The generous donation from the LCEF has made it possible for a safer learning environment for all students.

"We raise funds so we can enhance innovative educational opportunities for the students through partnerships with teachers, educators, community members, businesses and the greater community," Schweitzer said.

The money from the foundation that goes toward grants comes mainly from fundraising. The main source of funds last year was the Bureau of Motor Vehicle Education License Plates, Amazon (smile.amazon.com), community member/business contributions and LCSC staff donations due to big in-person fundraisers being canceled due to COVID-19.

Any additional information regarding the LCEF and the support of your student's learning, visit their website at lakecentralef.org.

The teachers and staff of the Lake Central School Corporation appreciate the contribution of the Lake Central Education Foundation with the awarding of Grant 53.

SPECIALS WITH A TWIST

Due to Covid-19, many specials are being affected in how they are participated in. With so many restrictions like masks and a six-feet perimeter around each student, specials are getting creative.

In Choir, there are two sections of seats. While the sopranos sing, the altos do class work on their chromebooks. Then, they switch.

In Band, there are different types of instrument masks. Each instrument has a "mask" so that the student's germs don't spread throughout the classroom.

In Computers, students use chromebooks as much as possible to limit sharing.

In Art, every student has their own baggie of everyday supplies. They also have table kits per period to limit sharing. The strangest change is not turning physical work in. They take pictures and turn them in to Canvas to limit sharing.

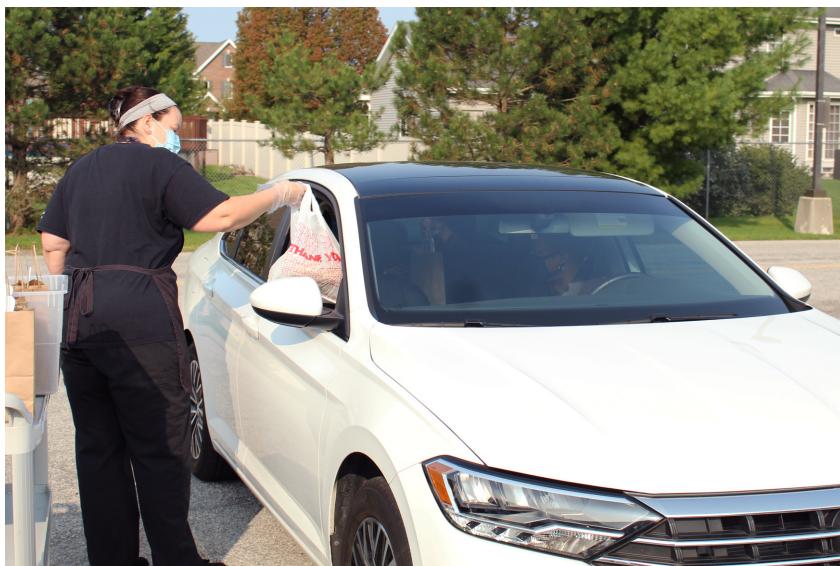
In Tech, students use individual parts bins as much as possible and use chromebooks to replace paper.

In Gym, students do not use locker rooms anymore. They store their book bags behind the bleachers. They no longer jog to warm up because of social distancing. They go outside and sanitize as much as possible.



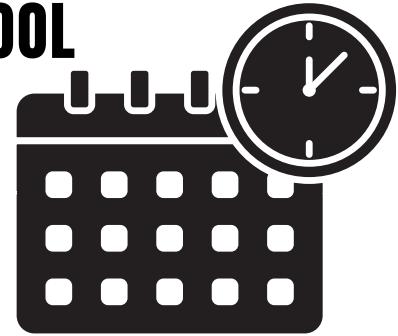
NEW STUDENT BREAKFAST

Wednesday, September 16th, was the morning of the New Student Breakfast. The Clark principals and kitchen staff put together a breakfast for the new students of every grade to welcome them to the building. They even had a pick up section for e-learners by door D.



SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES CHANGES TO SCHOOL SCHEDULE

WRITTEN BY: BRENNNA SEALY



Decided by a unanimous vote from the present school board, beginning the week of Oct. 14, students of the Lake Central School Corporation will be released 90 minutes early every Wednesday. This change is being put in place to allow teachers additional time to plan and prepare lessons for both online and in-person students.

"We don't take cutting out instructional time lightly. In most cases, we wouldn't do it, but we just recognize we've got a lot of [teachers] that are struggling a lot and so in the short term at least, we'd give them some time to work with their peers," Dr. Larry Veracco, superintendent, said.

Teachers will be able to use this time to learn to use the new forms of technology that are needed in the classroom as well as transferring lessons online. The extra 90 minutes is hoped to allow pressure to be relieved.

"I think that they are applying a lot of pressure to themselves and it can make the job a lot tougher than it maybe has to be but we really just want to try to take the pressure off and we figure the middle of the week is a good time to do that. [The teachers] can fill that gap with whatever they need the most," Veracco said.

The concerns regarding parents being unable to watch their children will be taken care of through the adventure club. Bus services will also remain available.

"We're going to look at bringing the adventure club in a little earlier for the elementary kids to see what the demand is but we should be able to satisfy some of the demand with the adventure club," Veracco said.

This time is intended to better the student's education and the mental health of teachers. Teachers will have more time to do whatever is needed in order to adapt to school during COVID-19 and create the best learning environment possible for students.

CAN-DO COYOTES

Every month, teachers send in students who have gone above and beyond expectations.



Kasey Barron [8th Grade] is kind all the time! She volunteered to sing the national anthem last minute and helps others!



Ana Makowski [8th Grade] is a leader in class. She helps other students and leads class discussions.



Gavin Faulkner [7th Grade] has gone out of his way to help classmates during class.



Abigayle Mills [7th Grade] assisted a classmate in a wheel-chair to lunch and helped them through the lunchline.



Tegan Tripp [7th Grade] won a chalk-drawing contest she entered for Chicago Sun Times!

MEET THE PR INTERN



Dear Clark Middle Schoolers and Parents,

Hi! My name's Alyssa and I'm the PR Intern for Clark Middle School. I'm so excited to get the opportunity to do this with such an awesome school. I'm a senior at Lake Central High School and have been in Publications for two years. This is my first year doing PR. I want to be a teacher when I grow up and this gives me an awesome opportunity to hang out with middle schoolers. I hope you guys have a great year! I can't wait to be there for all of it.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Klimowski

UPDATE

All Lake Central Middle Schools will no longer be operating on a Blue/White schedule. We returned to the traditional schedule.

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