



# CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

November/December Edition

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Break  
Dec. 21- Jan. 1

Martin Luther  
King Jr. Day  
(No School)  
Jan. 18

## IMPORTANT

Unfortunately, all Lake  
Central schools will be  
switching to e-learning  
Jan. 4 to Jan. 8.

## MS. GENOVESE: LIBRARIAN



Ms. Tina Genovese, Librarian, had been a paraprofessional at Clark for four years. With Mrs. Snyder on leave at the beginning of Genovese's fifth year, she was asked to fill-in as the school librarian.

"This is my fifth year at Clark, but it's my first year in the library. I was a paraprofessional. It allowed me to meet the teachers because I was in different classes every year. [I would] get to know the students, just the different grades and how students were as they progressed through their grades. I feel like I'm a little more well-rounded at Clark because I was a para first," Genovese said.

Genovese would bounce from room-to-room and help students. However, she did spend some time in the library.

"I'm a librarian now. Mrs. Snyder, who was the librarian here, took the leave this year. So I filled in for her. I look at it as an opportunity. Occasionally, when I was a para and there might've been times where I didn't have a class or I had twenty minutes, I was assigned to the library," Genovese said.

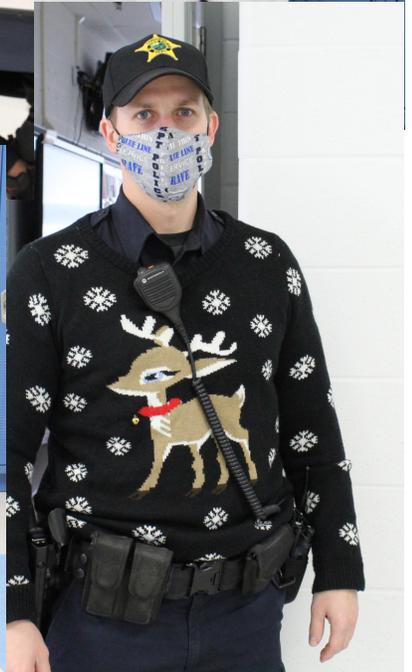
Genovese believes that her time as a paraprofessional helps her with her role as a librarian. She also believes that her connection with each student is different than the role she was in before her switch to the library.

"When I was in the classroom as a para, you're there for specific students who need specific help with if they have an IEP [Individual Education Plan], but you're also there to help the teacher with behavior and just help the entire student body in the classroom. I feel like when I was in the para role, the kids looked at me more as a disciplinarian. Here,



## SPIRIT WEEK

Monday (12/14) - Holiday Headgear  
 Tuesday (12/15) - Ugly Holiday Sweater Day  
 Wednesday (12/16) - It's Cold Outside  
 Thursday (12/17) - Winter/Holiday Pajamas  
 Friday (12/18) - Holiday Head-to-Toe



# SUPPORTING THE STUDENTS: LAKE CENTRAL ADOPTS FREE LUNCH POLICY

by: Tiffanie Richerme, Senior

At the start of the school year, the USDA granted all Indiana schools sufficient funds to provide free breakfast and lunch to all students, whether they qualify for free and reduced lunch or not. This initiative is intended to support families during COVID-19, as financial struggles have risen since the pandemic struck.

“Typically, students have to qualify for free and reduced lunch based on financial need. However, this year, due to the pandemic, the USDA granted waivers to states, and Indiana adopted the waiver at the beginning of the school year (mid-September). Free meals at the schools began mid-September and will last until the funding from the USDA runs out,” Mr. Sean Begley, Principal, said.

Since starting the program, administrators have noticed an increase in students who typically buy lunch rather than bring their own. According to Begley, this response could be due to the fact that more families are in need of financial support as a result of the pandemic.

“There is a growing concern of students not receiving regular meals due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many more families are in financial need due to the pandemic, and this is a way to ensure students are being fed. We are now serving 1,000 lunches a day [as of Oct. 15], which is about half of the in-person learners, so there has been a sharp rise in students getting lunch since this program started,” Begley said.

Lake Central will continue providing free lunches through Dec. 18. For Begley, the biggest concern is ensuring students can focus on their education without worrying about meals.

“We want students to have meals [so] that hunger is not an issue to their learning. These are unprecedented times with the pandemic. Many families are struggling with employment, and this is a program to help during this very tough time,” Begley said.

# VETERAN'S DAY VIRTUAL CONCERT

On Nov. 11, the Veteran's Day Virtual Celebration was posted on YouTube. The students in band individually recorded their parts, then the students in choir recorded their singing in small groups with masks. Then, they layered the sound over a video of them playing or singing in class to create the final video.

## BEFORE BREAK



Mr. Brandner's class played Family Feud



Ms. Harstad's class built gingerbread houses



Ms. Panozzo's class made holiday cards

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