

**FROM THE DESK
OF PRINCIPAL:
MR. GRABER**

CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

8915 West 93rd Ave. St. John

WINTER NEWSLETTER—2020-2021



Winter—Volume 12, Issue 3

Happy February,

I hope this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the winter season. It's amazing what a snowstorm can do to the roads, trees, etc. Anyway, I hope that you remain safe during this season.

As we continue during the pandemic, I want to encourage you to follow the guidelines established by the CDC and the local health department. At CMS, we continue to encourage the students to maintain a safe 6 foot distance, wear a mask, wash hands regularly, and sanitize often. The students and staff continue to do an excellent job in this area. Please remind your child before they leave home to make sure that they have a mask and a clear water bottle. For many students, we have been providing water to them throughout the day. If you can donate a case of water, we would appreciate it. I appreciate the staff and parents that have donated water already.

Parents, please check on your child and their grades and homework on a regular basis. Please remember that all students who are eLearning must show their face (no Avatar) and be online during the entire Google Meet, be on time for class, submit work as directed by their teachers, and make sure that they are participating appropriately. As I stated in a prior newsletter, students should be in an area that is conducive for school work (desk, table, etc), dressed appropriately, and refrain from eating food during the lessons. The eLearner should be participating as if they are at school, just a different location.

Parents, please remind your child that if they damage a school chrome book, they can be charged for the damages. Over the past month, we have had several students that brought a borrowed chrome book to the office claiming that it had been damaged at home, was dropped, or somehow the screen was broken. Please assist us in teaching responsibility to our CMS students.

The state mandated ILEARN (Indiana Learning Evaluation Assessment Readiness Network) test is currently scheduled from April 19 until May 14, 2021. Since all students are required to take the test, all eLearners will need to come to CMS to participate in the testing process as the state does not allow this test to be given remotely. All students are required to take a practice test in each subject prior to the actual administration of the test. More information will be coming soon in regard to the practice test and the actual testing schedule.

Master schedule for CMS is underway. Within the next month or so, students in grades 5-7 will be asked to choose their "special" classes for the 2021-2022 school year. As a reminder, students that decide to take Band or Choir must remain in that class for the entire school year. All other specials, i.e., physical education, PLTW, art, and digital citizenship are semester length courses. Students that opt for Band or Choir will also take the physical education and digital citizenship classes. If you have specific questions, please feel free to contact the guidance department:

Mrs. Erica Churilla.....last names A-Jone

Ms. Sharon Vail.....last names Jonf-Sens

Mrs. Karen Bowman.....last names Sent-Z

(Continued on page 2)

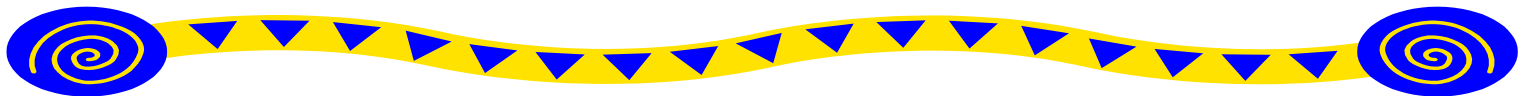


(Continued from page 1)

Once again, continue to keep communication lines open especially during the pandemic. If your child is sick, please keep them home. If they have been exposed to someone that has tested positive, please let us know as it might require us to quarantine students. For those students that have been quarantined, a special thanks to you for understanding and to your parents for their assistance during the pandemic. In addition, if your child is having difficulties in class or has a question about their grades, please contact their teacher first before calling the administration. If you have other questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school...219-365-9203, ext. 7104.

Until next month, stay safe and healthy.

Mr. Graber



Join Our **TEAM**



Looking to get involved at Clark? Our PTO is currently looking for new members . If you have any questions about becoming a member, please contact Karley Kutka at:

karley.kutka@sbcglobal.net

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 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 Assistant Principal, Mr. Stanisz



Welcome back and Happy New Year!

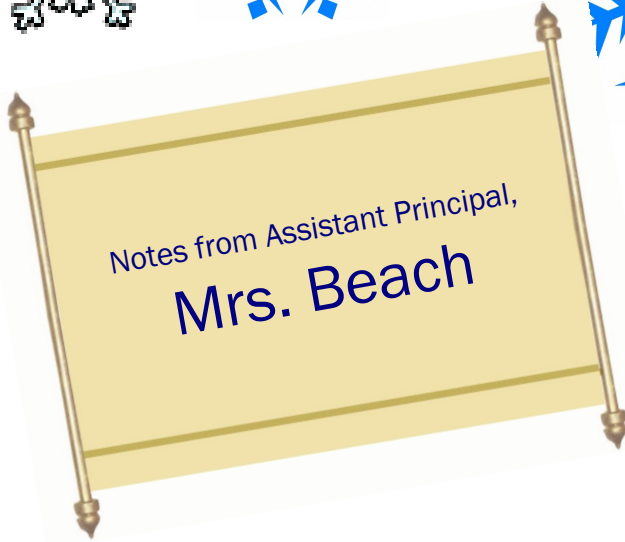
I hope that you had a safe and happy holiday season. Our 2020 Virtual Veterans' Day celebration was a success! Mr. Walton, Mrs. Arroyo and the students did an outstanding job of representing Clark Middle School. During these challenging times Mr. Walton and Mrs. Arroyo were able to get band and choir students, eLearning and in-person, to participate in the Veterans' Day event! I 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 pull out 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 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 Tuesday, February 23rd .

Stay warm out there!!!



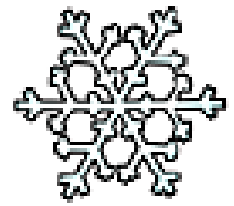
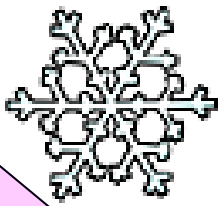
I want to thank all the parents, students and staff for their hard work and dedication as we navigated through first semester. Students have done a great job of wearing mask and maintaining social distancing when possible. Together we have overcome many obstacles and challenges to make 1st semester a success.

Indiana State Alternative test, I AM, testing window opens April 5th and closes May 14th. If your child is participating in this, test please encourage them to do their best and get plenty of rest.

Is your child missing their glasses, jacket, lunch box or water bottle? If so please have them check the lost and found located just outside the main office by door J. The table is full of missing items just waiting to be claimed.

Best of luck to all the athletes and coaches of winter sports!!

Hope everyone stays safe and Healthy!!



**The
Counselor's
Corner**

***A message from the Clark
counseling staff***

The 2nd semester has started and the guidance department has been busy preparing for several events. All 8th graders will meet with the counselors during their Language Arts classes on February 10th and 12th to discuss all the information pertaining to scheduling for 9th grade at Lake Central. The counselors will talk to them about the various diploma types and appropriate courses they can elect to take, along with all of the freshman required classes. The students will schedule on Skyward February 17th – 23rd, and the counselors can assist the students as needed. All of the required classes will be preloaded into Skyward. There is a virtual parent night video that is available on the Clark MS and LCHS website listed as **Incoming HS Freshman-Parent night**.

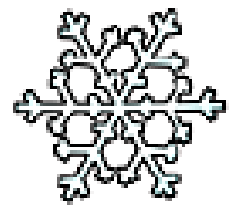
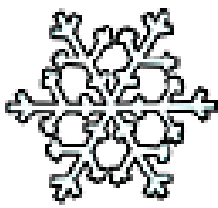
<https://lake-central.lcsc.us/virtual-parents-night/>

Our office is currently waiting for more information from the high school on summer Pool classes and when sign up for the lottery may happen.

All 6th, 7th and 8th graders were provided lessons and information on school bullying during advisory in late fall. The 5th grade took part in a bullying seminar that was led by the school counselors at the beginning of the school year.

Advisory lessons for all students have centered on dealing with emotions, ways to calm unhelpful thoughts, and learning strategies to manage emotions. Emphasis this year has focused on kindness, developing empathy for others, personal responsibility and goal setting.

Eighth graders currently in digital citizenship will use Naviance to research potential career interests, and 7th graders will utilize Naviance to better understand their personal learning styles, as well as begin to explore how their interests relate to future careers. The counselors will lead the students through the activities within the classroom setting.



A message from SRO, Officer Stamate



Hello Clark Parents! My name is Officer Nick Stamate and I am your Clark Middle School Resource Officer. With middle school students starting to explore technology and cell phones these days, I would like to share some information with you regarding the safety of your children. First, please remind your children who walk to and from school as well as car and bus riders, to pay attention to their surroundings and make calls and texts before they start walking. Texting and walking could be as dangerous as texting and driving. Second, for parents, there is a very helpful and useful app called **"Smart Social"**. This app will help keep parents and guardians informed on the latest app trends and how some apps could be very dangerous to your children. There are some very informative videos on Smart Social that I highly recommend you watching. You can download the app on your cell phone from Google Play store or the Apple app Store. Lastly, I want to congratulate your children on a successful first semester. Their resiliency in a trying year has been outstanding, very impressive, and heartwarming to witness on a day to day basis. If you ever have questions or concerns my door is always open. You can also reach me by phone (219)365-9203ext#7150 or at nstamate@lcsc.com. Thank you for your time.



Library News

By: Tina Genovese



Just a reminder to all eLearners. You can check books out from the CMS Library while you are at home. While this is not a requirement of e-Learners, we hope that many of the at-home students will take advantage of this great opportunity here at Clark Middle School.

Language Arts teachers have shared the link with all e-learners on their Canvas page. All the at-home students need to do is click the link (from their Canvas page, or it's listed below), fill in the necessary information and submit. An email will be sent to the parent and student's email address when books are ready for pick up in the vestibule of Door J at Clark.

Below is the link for e-Learners to check out books from CMS Library:

<https://forms.gle/D4sv8beFjSmFtm2D7>

Mark your calendars for our upcoming book fair -- **Follett Book eFair**. Since we were not able to schedule an in-person book fair this year, we will be holding an on-line book fair the weeks of March 1 - 12. Students, parents and teachers will have access to hundreds of books to purchase for your home libraries. In addition, CMS will earn great rewards for our school to purchase new titles for the Library. Book orders will be shipped to the school, which will save you money in shipping costs. Students in school will pick up their purchases from school when they arrive. Parents of eLearners will need to come into Clark to pick up their purchases. More information will be forthcoming soon!



The Clark Theatre Guild has started practicing again for the spring musical, *Peter Pan, Jr.* The cast and crew are quite excited to get back to work. It has been a year in the making since production had to be stopped last year due to the pandemic. The entire show had to be recast and start from scratch! As of right now, the production will be videotaped and only viewed through a video stream. Keep your eyes open for when this will be! Thank you to everyone for your support of theatre!

I'm a SCHOLAR 21st Century Scholars

Your child may be eligible for a college scholarship

Indiana's 21st Century Scholars program offers income-eligible Hoosier students up to four years of paid tuition at an eligible Indiana college or university after they graduate from high school, dependent upon financial need. In middle and high school, Scholars are connected to programs and resources to help them stay on track for college and career success. Once in college, Scholars receive support to complete their college degrees and connect to career opportunities. 7th and 8th grade Indiana students whose families meet income eligibility guidelines can apply to become a 21st Century Scholar. **Applications must be received by June 30 of the student's 8th grade year.**

WHAT'S EXPECTED

In return for keeping the Scholar Pledge and completing the Scholar Success Program throughout high school and college, the Commission for Higher Education commits to providing Scholars with up to four years of undergraduate tuition assistance at an eligible Indiana college, dependent on financial need. As a Scholar, you pledge to:

- ✓ Complete the Scholar Success Program, which includes activities at each grade level in high school to help you stay on track for college and career success.
- ✓ Graduate from a state-accredited high school with a minimum of a Core 40 diploma and a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- ✓ Not use illegal drugs, commit a crime or delinquent act, or consume alcohol before reaching the legal drinking age.
- ✓ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by April 15 as a high school senior and each year thereafter until you graduate from college.
- ✓ Apply to an eligible Indiana college as a high school senior, and enroll as a full-time student within one year of high school graduation.
- ✓ Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards established by my college.
- ✓ Complete 30 credit hours each year you are in college to stay on track toward earning your degree on time.

HOW TO APPLY

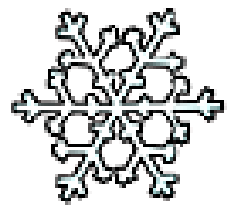
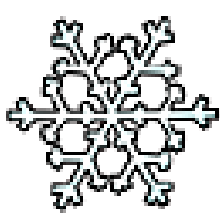
Apply online at Scholars.IN.gov. You will be asked to provide:

- Student's Social Security Number, date of birth and address.
- Parent or guardian's Social Security Number or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, if applicable.
- 2019 gross income amounts for **all members** of the household. If applying after December 31, 2020, use 2020 gross income.
- A valid email address (free email accounts are available at Yahoo.com, Gmail.com, Hotmail.com and Live.com).

INCOME GUIDELINES (2020-2021)

Household Size	Maximum Annual Income
2	\$31,894
3	\$40,182
4	\$48,470

*Add \$8,288 to the maximum income for each additional person



MOBILE MARKET



BY **foodbank**
OF NORTHWEST INDIANA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15
12 PM - 2 PM

Lake Central High School
8400 Wicker Avenue, St. John

First-come, first-served while supplies last.



ROOTED IN *Community*
Learn more at foodbanknwi.org



PARENT

COMMUNICATION



Do you need to know when school is in session or when you have school events for the 2020-2021 school year? Please check out the LCSC website at 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>

MAKE US A
FAVORITE!!



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.

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

UPcoming EVENTS

**PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEBRUARY 15, 2021
NO SCHOOL**

SPRING BREAK
MARCH 22—MARCH 26

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.

