



HOME OF THE COYOTES

LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL CORPORATION

Clark Middle School

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Phone: (219) 365-9203 Fax: (219) 365-9348

Mr. Scott Graber
Principal

Mrs. Kim Beach
Assistant Principal

Mr. Ryan Stablein
Assistant Principal

Mr. Jacob Biscan
School Counselor

Mrs. Erica Churilla
School Counselor

Ms. Sharon Vail
School Counselor

Mrs. Debra Clayton
School Service Provider

Dear Parents,

Your student has expressed interest in becoming involved with Best Buddies at Clark Middle School! Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501© (3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

What to Expect

Best Buddies' Friendship Programs offer opportunities for students with and without IDD to come together and build meaningful connections while creating a more inclusive school community. Within a Best Buddies chapter, students are invited to participate in monthly group activities and can choose to be matched in one-to-one friendships between students with and without disabilities. These 'buddy pairs' spend time together and communicate – over phone/text, social media, or in school – at least once a week and are encouraged to spend time together twice per month – during school, at a chapter event, or in the community. Though community-based activities are not required, we encourage buddy pairs to connect outside of school in order to form deeper, more meaningful connections. The Best Buddies chapter also offers a variety of inclusive leadership opportunities with officer roles focused on planning meaningful events, building social connections, and spreading the mission of Best Buddies across its school and community.

While there is no cost to join a Best Buddies Chapter, some activities may require a fee to participate. Most are offered free of charge or are paid for through chapter fundraising efforts or financial support of the school administration. Monthly activities may take place during school hours, in the evenings or on weekends based on student availability. The chapter officer team and advisors will determine the times and frequency of meetings and events.

How to Join


All students must complete a membership application to participate in Best Buddies. The form collects contact information as well as parent/caregiver consent for participation. The membership application is available online at bestbuddies.org/join.

Learn More

To find out more about Best Buddies, please visit bestbuddies.org/bbu. There you will find an online resource library which provides a wealth of information about our mission and programs. Thank you for supporting your student's participation in building a kind and inclusive culture at Clark Middle School!

Staff Advisors: The following CMS staff will be assisting as advisors for the Best Buddies at CMS: Mrs. Adams, Ms. Bissias, Mrs. Hudi, Mrs. Mesko, Mrs. Maniel, Ms. Szymaszek, Mr. Brander and Mr. Graber. Please feel free to reach out to any of these staff if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Scott Graber, Principal

Welcome to Best Buddies Hal E Clark Chapter

We are so excited to have Best Buddies at Clark Middle School! We have planned some fun events for the upcoming year and look forward to having you in our club. Please do your best to attend all events and spend time with your buddy. If you have any questions or concerns you can reach out to any of the sponsors for support.

Monthly Events

November 15, 2023 3:45-4:30- Meet & Greet and Thanksgiving Craft

November 15, 2023 4:30-4:45- Parent Meeting (Learn expectations/ meet buddies parent)

December 13, 2023 3:45-4:30- Holiday Party and Zig-E's at School

January 17, 2024 3:45-4:30- Karaoke Night

February 7, 2024 3:45-4:30- Valentine's Craft

February 14, 2024 (During advisory)- Valentine Distribution

March 13, 2024 3:45-4:30- St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt

April 10, 2024 3:45-4:30- Make Banners for Best Buddies 5K walk and Special Olympics Unified Game Day

May 2, 2024 during school- Special Olympics Unified Game Day

Hal E Clark Sponsors

Ms. Adams madams@lcscmail.com

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Mr. Brandner mbrandne@lcscmail.com

Mr. Graber sgraber@lcscmail.com

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