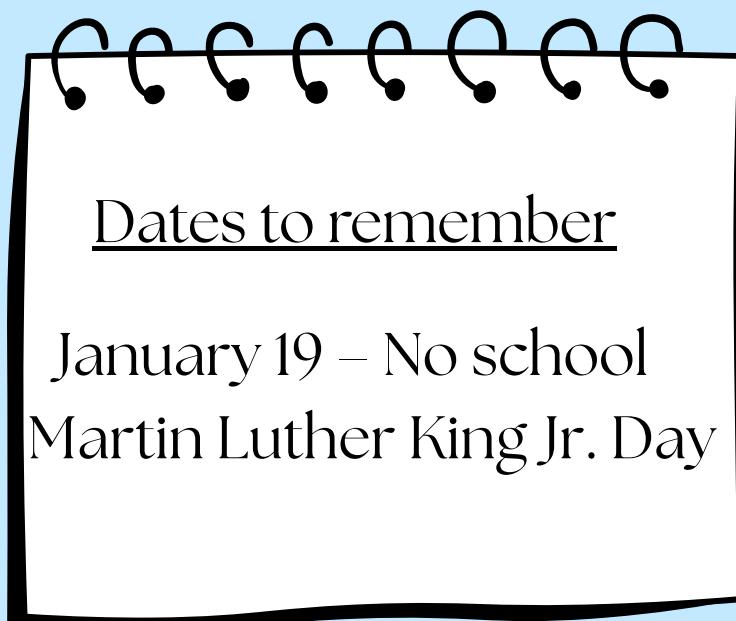


# CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



★ *Happy New Year* ★  
2026 ★



# FROM PRINCIPAL GRABER...



Happy Second Semester....I hope everyone had a great holiday season!

As we prepare for the upcoming semester, I encourage you to continue to keep communication lines open with your child's teachers in regard to any academic concerns. Our approach at CMS is that all staff members are expected to respond to your concerns within a 24 hour period. If you feel that you need to have a meeting with the teacher to discuss a concern, please let us know.

Second semester is busy with 8th grade scheduling, upcoming ILEARN checkpoint tests 2 and 3 and the ILEARN summative test in April. In addition, students in grades 5-7 will be selecting their special (full year for band-choir OR the rotation.) The rotation is one semester of PE, Art, Digital Citizenship, and PLTW. Please make sure to check the school website daily for announcements regarding the events and deadlines.

The winter season can be a bit dicey so please consider the following situations:

1. If a 2-hour delay takes place, what will my child do? Do I have an alternate plan?  
Where will they go until school starts AND what if the delay turns into a cancellation? Do I have a plan?
2. If an early dismissal occurs, what are my plans?
3. Is my child dressed appropriately for the weather (warm jacket, boots, etc.)?
4. Does my child have access to the house in case of an early release?

Please plan to have an emergency plan just in case.

With the ending of the holiday season, many students have received a new piece of technology called a "cell phone." While cell phones are a good thing, we seem to deal with many unfortunate issues with the devices. We ask all parents to refrain from sending cell phones to school; however, if a child brings one to school, it must remain in the locker area or in the backpack. If there is an emergency, the administration will be contacting you via the Parent Square messaging system. In addition, students should not be using their cell phones to text you, asking you to bring them lunch, or pick them up because they do not feel good. If your child is not feeling good, then they need to stop by and see the nurse who will then contact you. We have many situations where a parent shows up to school and states that my child texted me and told me to pick him/her up due to illness. Please remind your child to follow proper procedures. We appreciate your help in this area.

The enrollment at CMS continues to grow daily. Over the holiday break, we enrolled five new students. It is great to see the new students at CMS and we look forward to working with them at Clark. Thanks to the CMS students for assisting and making the new students feel welcome. It is awesome to see the students finding someone to sit with at lunch on day one. Coming to a new school can be very difficult for children and I appreciate the help that our CMS students provide to make them feel welcome. Later this month, in conjunction with Sandy Hook Promise, the CMS students will embark on a new lunch program called "No One Sits Alone."

The purpose of this program is to encourage students to get to know one another, open the dialogue to communicate with each other or make a new friend. We are looking forward to this day.

Thanks to YOU as parents and guardians, for your support of CMS in so many ways prior to the holidays!

Until next month, stay safe.

# Checking in with Mr. Stablein...

Hello Clark Families,



It is hard to believe it is already the second semester! We have a lot of exciting things going on here at CMS, and this part of the year is sure to fly by!

I have a few friendly reminders regarding student attendance. Please remember to call-in and verify your student's absence so we can adjust Skyward accurately. If no one calls, the absence is considered unexcused. At five unexcused absences, an attendance meeting has to take place per state law. Also, as we are in cold and flu season, doctor's notes are always appreciated to excuse an absence.

Finally, I wanted to remind everyone that the best way to stay on top of your student's grades is Skyward. Canvas is a great resource to see what is happening in the classroom. If you have any concerns about grades, please reach out to your child's teacher for more information.

As always, if you need anything from the main office, please reach out.





## Counselors' Corner

Mr. Biscan

Miss Jacobs

Ms. Vail

### Coming Soon--Scheduling 8th Grade Students for High School Classes

As we move into February and March, the counselors will be working with all 8th grade students to talk about high school and help create their Freshman schedules. A specific date for a presentation to all 8th graders will be determined soon. The middle school counselors will touch on topics such as graduation requirements and earning credits, what a day at Lake Central High School might look like, and what classes should be taken Freshman year. Stay tuned for additional information!

### The Role of the School Counselor

If you would like to better understand our role as counselors in the school, please check out this digital presentation: [Role of a School Counselor](#)

# Understanding Absences

Excused vs. Parent/Guardian Verified vs. Unexcused

**State of Indiana Attendance Expectation: 94% (10 or fewer days missed per year)**

Excused	Parent/Guardian Verified	Unexcused
<p><b>Parent/Guardian notifies school on the day of the absence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Illness verified with a physician statement dated at the time of the visit/illness<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Note must be returned within 1 week or absence will be unexcused</li></ul></li><li>• Death in the family</li><li>• School sends the child home sick (if due to fever, the following day will also be excused)</li></ul> <p><b>Pre-Arranged Excused Absences/Exempt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Page for General Assembly</li><li>• Election Day Worker</li><li>• Court Witness</li><li>• IN National Guard Active Duty</li><li>• Civil Air Patrol</li><li>• Educationally related non-classroom activity as defined in IC 20-33-2-17.5</li><li>• Professional appointments (medical, dental, legal) when students return with an authorized, dated statement</li><li>• Observation of a religious holiday</li><li>• Maternity</li><li>• Military connected families' absences related to deployment</li><li>• Exhibiting/participating in state fair</li></ul>	<p><b>Parent/Guardian notifies school on the day of the absence</b></p> <p><b>4 days per semester are allowed, or as approved by a building administrator</b> *any day beyond 4 will be unexcused</p> <p>A Parent/Guardian Verified absence is defined as a parent/guardian's choice to keep their child home due to the child being ill without a doctor's note</p>	<p><b>Students should have ZERO unexcused absences</b></p> <p>An unexcused absence is defined as any absence not covered under the definition of excused absence, any absence beyond 4 parent/guardian verified per semester, or a non-verified absence (failure to notify the school of an absence within 24 hours).</p> <p><b>Unexcused absences include vacations and absences due to sports or other activities.</b></p>

## Repercussions

In addition to all building provisions in the student handbook:

If a student accumulates 5 unexcused absences within a 9 week grading period, an attendance meeting will be held, as required by law. All absences are monitored and disciplinary action may result.

Lake Central will refer students to Juvenile Justice Services upon reaching 10 unexcused absences from school OR when the student has been absent for any reason for 18 days during the school year, as required by law.



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*All information visit [www.aftsSVT.com](http://www.aftsSVT.com)*

**You can help our school earn FREE classroom equipment and supplies!**

*Courtesy Of*

**Strack & Van Til**  
food market

- Shop at Strack & Van Til Food Market and save receipts
- Receipts must be dated between September 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026
- Please drop off your receipts in our collection box at school by April 8, 2026.