

# February

## Clark Middle School Newsletter

### *Reminder...*

February 16 - No School  
President's Day

### *And...*

Check the Lost & Found  
or office for any missing  
items.

**ATTENTION!  
PLEASE!**

Any 6th, 7th or 8th grade girl or  
boy interested in joining the track  
team, there will be a callout  
meeting during advisory in the  
gym on February 17th



## FROM PRINCIPAL GRABER...

Happy February!

I hope that you are staying warm, as this weather has been quite interesting. Thank you for your continued support as we ventured into eLearning this past month. I appreciate your cooperation and assistance with the students remaining at home, as the teachers continued to educate your child through the technology aspect. Please make sure that you have a contingency plan for your child(ren) in case of a 2 hour delay, a cancellation or an early release. Thanks!



During the last week of January, the students were busy with ILEARN Checkpoint # 2 tests. The checkpoint tests are required by the Indiana Department of Education. We have one more set of checkpoint tests #3, which will take place in March. The summative ILEARN tests will take place during the testing window from April 13-May 8. More information will be forthcoming on the actual start date for CMS.

Our students of the month for the first semester had a great time at the bowling alley during the last week of January. Great job to the students that were selected as Students of the Month. Our second semester trip will be to Zig-e's fun center, located close to LCHS. This trip will take place sometime in May. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS to all students.

CELEBRATION....on February 4/5, CMS will celebrate all students that had straight "A's" for the first semester with a free breakfast and raffle gift cards to Amazon. CMS is very proud of the 232 students that earned straight "A's". Hard work and effort do pay off! Keep up the great job.

Communication continues to be the focal point when it comes to your child and keeping up with their daily assignments and tasks. As a reminder, if you have a question or concern about your child's grades or effort, please reach out to the teachers first for clarification on the issue. If you feel a conference is necessary, don't hesitate to contact your child's school counselor for assistance. Thanks again for your support. Until next month, stay safe and warm.

Mr. Graber



# CHECKING IN WITH MR. STABLEIN



Welcome to February!

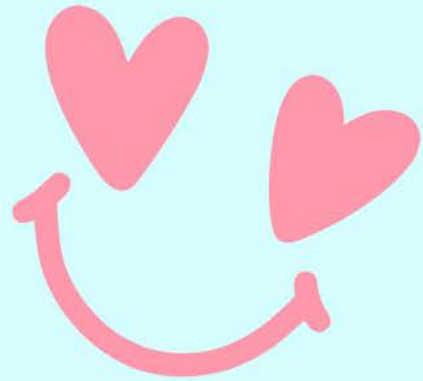
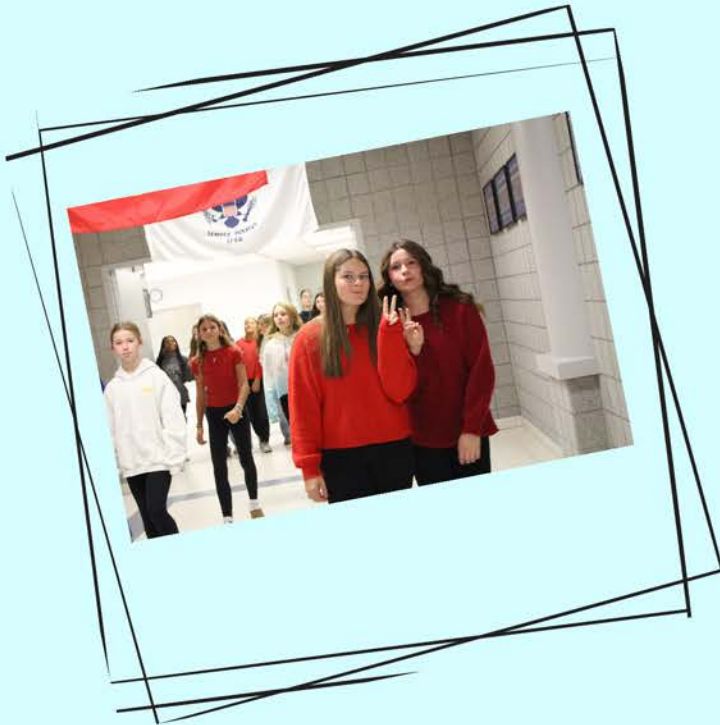
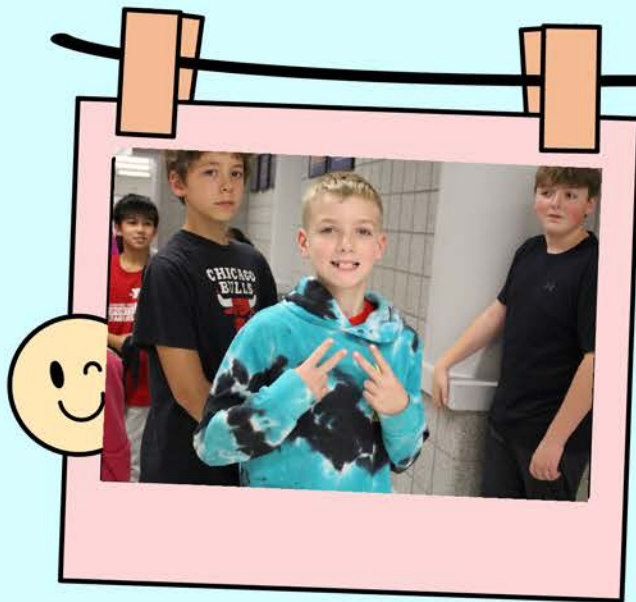
It is hard to believe we are in the middle of the third quarter already!

Just a couple of items from me as we head towards March.

Please continue checking your child's grades on a regular basis. We do not want to see anyone fall behind at this point in the quarter. We have many extracurricular activities happening now (basketball, clubs, theatre, band/choir groups) that require students to be academically eligible and maintain their grades through the duration of the season/year. If your child is struggling in class, please reach out to that teacher for guidance and ways to help. Tutoring is also going on every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00-8:30.

We are also in the midst of cold/flu season, and we have a number of CMS students who are sick and unable to attend school. We certainly do not want children coming to school not feeling well. Please remember to call CMS and report that your child will not be in school. So far, the number of "unexcused" absences (meaning no one called the student off) is significantly less than prior school years. Finally, if you do take your child into the doctor, please ask for a note and bring that to the office.

Thank you to everyone! Let's continue having a strong year!







## CHOIR NEWS

Congratulations to our Clark Choir students for their exceptional musicianship at the ISSMA Solo and Ensemble competition! Every Clark student earned gold ratings for their performances.

The following students competed in ISSMA Solo and Ensemble this year:

Bre Anthony  
Emily Arroyo  
Simona Azmy  
Alex Banis  
Ella Brandon  
Lily Boldus  
Maya Chatat  
Cecilia Flores  
Gwen Hankins

Emma Hogan  
Brianna Hubbard  
Manreet Kaur  
Kyla Koedyke  
Olivia Kozak  
Sofia Munoz  
Lena Neth  
Madison Oakes  
Phoibe Pavell

Lauren Pompy  
Autumn Prince  
Alina Rodriguez  
Megan Russell  
Keely Tiljak  
Emmaline Turley  
Claire Vinson  
Maggie White  
George Ziadat

5th Grade Choir starts up again this month on Wednesday, February 18th at 8am!

Swing Choir starts up again this month on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:50am!

Join us for our CMS Music Department Mattress Fundraiser on Sunday, February 15th from 11am-5pm in the Clark Gym! This event is open to the public, and every purchase benefits our choir and band students. The proceeds raised by our choir students will be used as scholarships for our 2027 trip to Memphis, TN!

Our ISSMA Family Concert will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 7pm in the Clark Gymnasium. This concert is only for 6th, 7th and 8th grade choir students.

# Counselors' Corner

*Mr. Biscan*

*Miss Jacobs*

*Ms. Vail*

## **Planning for High School**

February brings exciting times for our 8th grade students as they begin to plan their transition to high school! The counselors will be meeting with all 8th graders on Thursday, February 12th, to talk about high school expectations including diploma requirements, GPA, and choosing elective classes, to name a few. Information will be distributed to all 8th graders at this presentation. Part of those handouts will be the Freshman Year Scheduling Planner sheet, which will need to be completed, signed by a parent/guardian, and returned to school on Thursday, February 19th, when the counselors will again meet with the 8th grade students to assist them as they enter their class requests for freshman year into Skyward.

We strongly encourage parents/guardians to talk with their child about best class choices for high school. If parents/guardians have questions about high school scheduling, please feel free to contact your child's school counselor.

## **Straight A Breakfast**

On Wednesday, February 4th, a breakfast was served for 5th and 6th grade students with straight A's from the first semester. On Thursday, February 5th, a breakfast was served for 7th and 8th grade students with straight A's from the first semester. All students were awarded with a certificate for their accomplishment. Great work students!!

## **Kindness Week**

From January 26th-30th, Clark Middle School held the Great Kindness Challenge. During the week of the Great Kindness Challenge, Clark staff were on the lookout for students going above and beyond to be kind to others, or simply do a kind act. Students who are "caught" showing kindness will be recognized and awarded small prizes.





A huge congratulations goes out to the nine Clark students who placed in the TOP 10 of the 2025 Patriots Pen essay contest.

Each year, 6-8 grade students can submit an essay to the VFW Post 717, in St. John, for a chance to show their patriotism and earn these prestigious awards. This year's prompt was, "How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?".

Mr. Bolz, Ms. Gleason, and Mrs. Castle led the region in award winners. Thank you for adding this amazing project to the classroom!

## CONGRATULATIONS!



- BRENDAN RAMIREZ AND VIOLET HANSON HAVE BEEN ADVANCED TO THE DISTRICT COMPETITION!
- OVER 100 AREA STUDENTS ENTERED THE CONTEST.

- A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO LAKE CENTRAL'S SANDY MORGAN AND THE VFW FOR MAKING THIS EVENT HAPPEN!





# Understanding Absences

Exempt vs. Excused vs. Unexcused

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

Exempt	Excused	Unexcused
<p><b>Pre-Arranged Exempt Absences per Indiana Code:</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>• Exhibiting/participating in state fair</li> </ul>	<p><b>An excused absence occurs when a parent or guardian chooses to keep their student home in the student's best interest.</b></p> <p>Acceptable reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Illness (parent verified)</li> <li>• Verified medical visit (note must be returned within 1 week or absence will be unexcused)</li> <li>• School sends the student home sick</li> <li>• Professional appointments (medical, dental, legal)</li> <li>• Death in the family</li> <li>• Religious holiday</li> <li>• Military connected families' absences related to deployment</li> </ul> <p>A parent/guardian must notify the school <u>on the day of the absence</u>.</p>	<p><b>Students should have ZERO unexcused absences</b></p> <p>An unexcused absence is any absence that is not classified as exempt, excused, or is not verified within 24 hours of an absence (i.e. the school was not notified in time).</p> <p><b>If a student accumulates 5 unexcused absences within a 9 week grading period, an attendance meeting will be held, as required by law.</b></p> <p><b>A student who accumulates 10 or more unexcused absences is considered <u>habitually truant</u> and will be referred to juvenile services in accordance with Indiana Code 20-33-2-25.</b></p>
<p><b>A student who misses 10% or more of the school year for any reason (18 days) is considered <u>chronically absent</u> by the state of Indiana. After 18 total absences, all absences beyond that will be marked as unexcused.</b></p>		

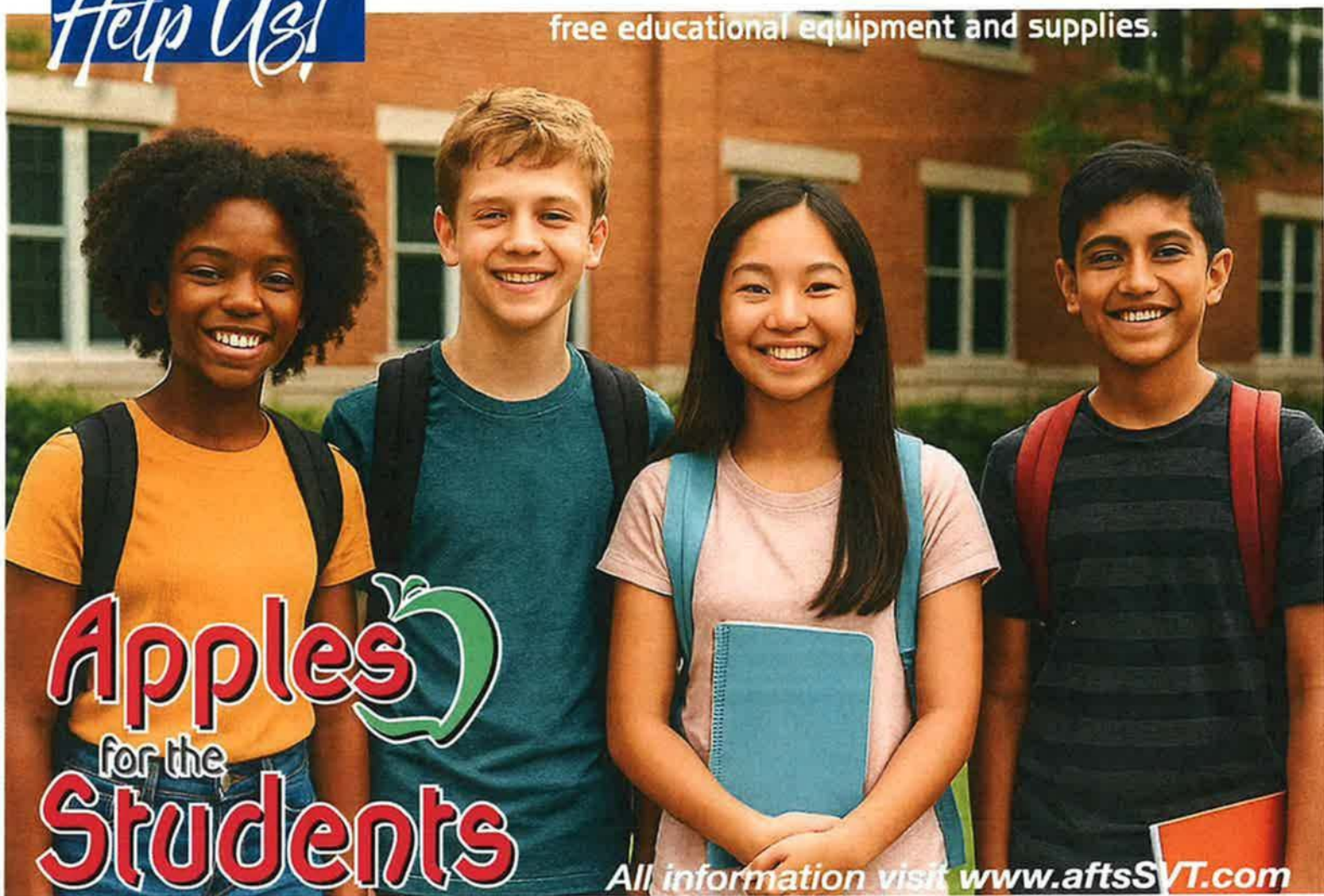


**MISS A DAY,  
MISS A LOT.**  
*Attendance Matters*



*Help Us!*

free educational equipment and supplies.



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

*Courtesy Of*



- 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**.