

HELLO
January

Clark Middle School January Edition 2021



Happy 2022! I hope the year is off to a great start for you. As we continue working with your child(ren) at CMS, I want to say “Thanks” for your dedication and hard work. As the saying goes, it takes a community to raise a child. These days, I would have to agree that it takes almost everyone around to do their part in raising kids, so “Thanks” for your support, dedication, and effort as we continue to move forward with the school year.

As more and more kids are becoming sick, I ask you to please keep your child home if they are not feeling well. Unfortunately, there are a lot of “bugs” going around and we prefer to have your child at school when they are feeling their very best. If your child comes to the nurse and is experiencing symptoms of illness, please have a plan so that they can be picked up from school due to their illness.

Since returning in early January, Officer Nick Stamate, SRO, has been meeting with all of the students in grades 5-8 and presenting on a topic called “vaping and social media.” The students indicated that it was very helpful and informative. Naturally, our goal is to make sure that students understand the dangers of vaping and inappropriate use of social media. Unfortunately, the Mondays at school for administration seem to deal with problems that occurred over the weekend due to inappropriate social media use from Snapchat, Whispr, Instagram, Twitter, Tumblr and TikTok. Earlier this year, I sent home a flier in regard to the common issues that we were seeing with the different apps. Please review it if necessary.

Scheduling for grades 5-7 will be taking place over the next few months. For most students there aren’t many choices; however, if your child has decided to join either band/choir OR has decided to drop from band/choir, we need to know. Information/schedule slips will be passed out to the students within the next few weeks. If your child has a question, please have them stop by the main office and see their guidance counselor.

Scheduling for the 8th grade students for LCHS will be taking place very soon. On January 20, parents are encouraged to attend the high school for an 8th grade parent night. It starts at 5:00 and runs until 7:30. Information about the high school and scheduling will be discussed at the sessions as well as information coming forth from the CMS counselors.

Coming soon....in April and May will be the required state assessment called “ILEARN, IAM, and ISPROUT.” Most of the students at CMS will be taking the ILEARN and/or IAM tests. The test window is from April 18- May 13. More information will be coming soon but if possible, please try and have your child present on testing days so we do not have to take additional time and do make-up tests. The testing sessions will take place first thing in the morning so make sure your child has a great breakfast, an awesome night of rest, and are ready to test.

Breakfast and lunches are free for all students. Students that arrive in the morning prior to the 8:37 bell, can report to the café and obtain a breakfast. Students that arrive via the bus can also pick up a breakfast of their choice from the breakfast cart outside the main office area on the north side of the building. Students are able to choose cereal, milk, donuts, and/or pop tarts.

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Thanks to the PTO and other parents for your support with cases of water. It's great to see the support from the CMS families especially when there is a need at school. If you can donate a case of water, please drop it off at the main office area. Kleenex's are also in need for many classrooms. If able to help out, Thank you!

With the cold weather, please remind your child to dress appropriately for the weather. Shorts and T-shirts are probably not what I would consider appropriate clothing due to the extreme cold. Thanks to one of our staff members, several students stopped by the main office last week and picked up hats and gloves. Within a couple of periods, the gloves and hats were all gone.

Personally, I am looking forward to 2022. On our first day back on January 4, I challenged the students to let others see "2022-the best in you." So, let's take the initiative and do for others; don't expect things in return for helping, do because you care, and finally, look out for each other in many ways. We can get through this but it will take each of us to do our part. Until next month, stay safe and warm.

Principal Graber



A message from Officer Stamate:

I hope all of you are well and had a wonderful holiday season! I wanted to share with you that I had the opportunity to speak with all of the students here at Clark recently and provided them with instructional information on the dangers of Vaping and Social Media and Gaming safety awareness. The students were great and had some really good questions and information! If you have any questions or concerns regarding social media and or online gaming, you can email me or call me here at Clark Middle School. A good website for parents and guardians regarding social media safety for students is smartsocial.com. They have wonderful tips and information and are constantly updating new trends and apps. Also, I would like to thank you for your patience during the winter season in regards to before and after school traffic. Please be aware of the crosswalk areas for a lot of student traffic for the safety of all of our students. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Thank you all for your time and have a wonderful day!



Notes from Mr Stablein

On January 14, Clark staff participated in Stop the Bleed Training.

The purpose of the program is to prepare everyday people to stop bleeding quickly and correctly until emergency responders arrive. A bleeding injury can happen anywhere, especially in a school setting. In the training, teachers gained the ability to recognize life-threatening bleeding and act quickly and effectively to control bleeding once they learned three quick techniques.

A small group of teachers were the first participants. The hope is for the program to grow to every teacher at CMS.

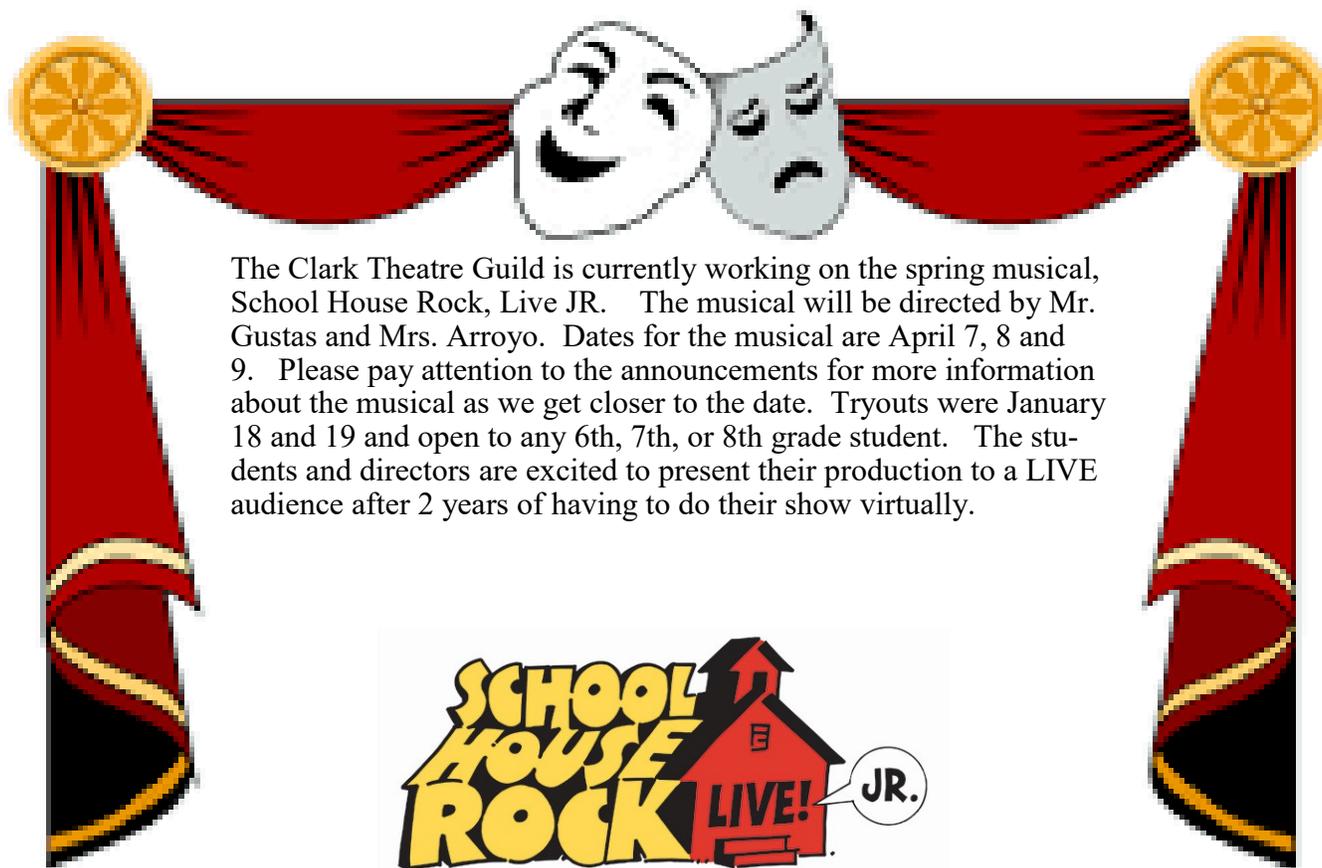
More information on the program can be found at <https://www.stopthebleed.org/>

In other school safety news, the Clark administration team has been working in tandem with the LC Corporation Safety Committee on emergency preparedness buckets. What is the purpose of these buckets and what are they used for?

Essentially, the idea came from Officer Kissinger, SRO at Kahler. The purpose of the bucket is to keep essential supplies should students/staff be in a prolonged lockdown situation. Items that will be in the buckets include blankets, paper towels, garbage bags, etc.

We will be looking to put a bucket in every classroom as well as areas such as food service, maintenance, nurse's office, etc. Our total number will be 87 buckets.

More information will be provided later.



Library News

Tina Genovese, Media Specialist



Happy New Year to all!

With the new year comes a brand new program to all LC students K-8 called Beanstack! Beanstack is a web application used to track independent reading time and help build a culture of reading in school and at home. It's an easy tool for teachers and parents to help students track reading and stay motivated, as well as to provide insights about reading habits. Students will be able to use their Chromebooks to access this system.

Beanstack is based on milestone badging for reading and/or activity goals. As students read, they earn virtual badges. Teachers have the ability to log reading time for all their students, for instance if they are working on a class novel. Students can log their independent reading themselves. LC Libraries has partnered with Beanstack to build a tool that is unique to our students.

Another feature in Beanstack is Challenges that are created for students. Currently, students can participate in the Principal's Challenge. Here at Clark, Mr. Graber has selected 6 books for students to read. As students read and log these books, they will earn online badges for their accomplishments. There is also the Superintendent's Challenge, where Dr. Veracco has selected books to challenge students to read. These books can be found in the Clark Library, or students can use Overdrive, our on-line book system to access these books.

As students and teachers get more acclimated to Beanstack, the tool will be utilized more with other challenges and activities. Teachers will also have the ability to create challenges within their classrooms with only their specific students.

We hope you all check out this new and exciting tool offered by LC Libraries.

Clark School Counselors

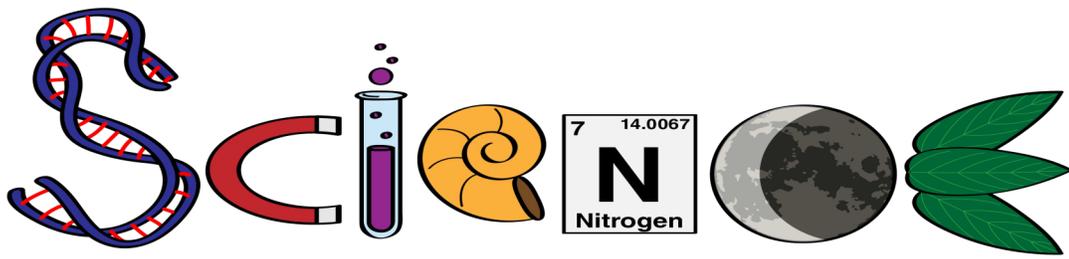
With the start of the second semester, Clark welcomed several new students who have recently moved to the school district. The counselors spent time assisting the students as they acclimated to Clark, by helping them with email, Canvas, chromebooks, and lockers. We also assisted the students in navigating their schedule, the school building, and finding new friends to sit with at lunch.

LCHS will hold a **parent night** for incoming freshmen on January 20th, starting at 6:00 p.m. All parents of 8th graders are encouraged to attend. There will be an "Extra" event starting at 5:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium, which will relay information regarding college planning, financial aid information, and the scholarship search. Information for summer POOL and PE classes can be found on the Clark website, and the sign up for the lottery begins on Monday, January 24th at 9:00 AM. Summer PE and POOL are the only summer classes incoming freshmen are permitted to participate in.

The middle school counselors will hold meetings with the 8th grade students on February 3rd and 4th during their Language Arts classes. We will review all information pertaining to high school scheduling and classes that are required for 9th grade. In mid February, the counselors will meet again with the 8th graders during Language Arts to review the online registration process, and assist with any additional questions they may have regarding HS scheduling.

During the week of January 24th, Clark MS, along with Grimmer and Kahler, will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge. There will be special activities happening during advisory, and students who are "caught" being kind will be recognized by their teachers, and have an opportunity to be part of a raffle for various prizes.

The counselors are always ready to assist any student who needs support with personal issues, academic concerns, or other concerns that may arise.

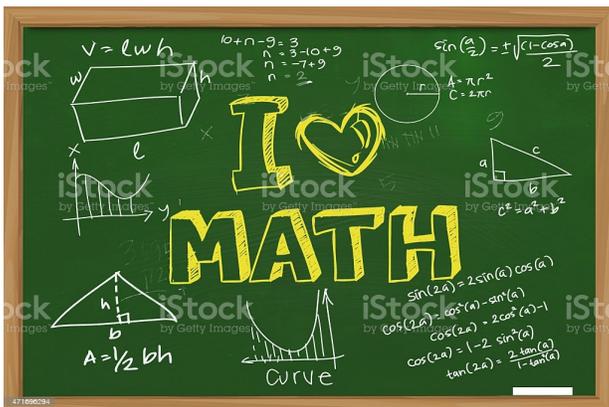


7th grade Science:

There are fun labs and activities this month. We are working with invisible ink, reading a play and writing stories about the day in the life of a drop of water. We are also mapping out cloud types on paper and researching our most interesting storms. We are looking forward to a great start to second semester with our 7th grade students!

The 6th grade Science:

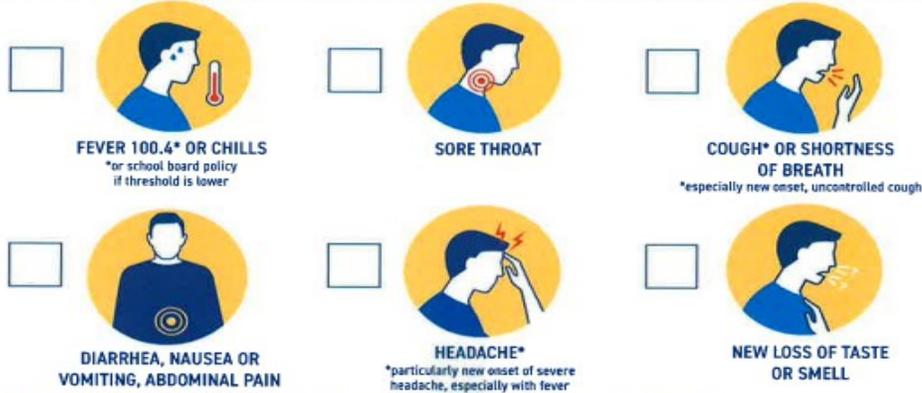
Students ended their first semester with studying the Solar System. They have discovered how seasons occur according to the earth's tilt and revolution around the sun. They also have been able to identify the 8 phases of the moon and completed a moon phase activity using oreos to show the different phases of the moon. They really enjoyed this one...who doesn't LOVE OREOS? Second semester, we will be covering the inner and outer planets of our beautiful solar system. Is there water on Mars? Can Saturn support life? What is that Giant Red Spot on Jupiter?? These are a few of the questions we will be answering this year!



The Math Counts team has been meeting twice a week practicing their math skills and solving problems individually and as teams. We are looking forward to our first practice competition at Valparaiso University on February 2nd. The state meet is scheduled online February 17th with our top 10 individuals competing. Good Luck to all of our Math Counts team members.

COVID-19 Screening for Parents

Every morning before you send your child to school please check for signs of illness:



**May present with more than one symptom. This list does not include all possible symptoms.*

- 1 Does your child have any sign of illness above?
 - 2 Was your child in close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) with anyone confirmed with COVID-19?
 - 3 If the answer is **YES** to any of the questions, **DO NOT** send your student to school. Instead, get your child tested for COVID-19 and isolate them until their test result is received.
 - 4 Please keep your student home until they meet the criteria to return to school.
- If your child has trouble breathing, chest pain, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake or bluish lips or face.* **CALL 911!**



State mandated vision testing will be conducted on February 9-11 and February 15-16 for 5th and 8th graders. If your child does not pass the test, you will receive a notice by mail. If you wish to opt your child out of testing, please contact nursing office at (219) 365-9203 ext. 7115

Did you know?

Announcements are posted daily on the website. Check us out at:

<http://clark.lcsc.us>

MAKE US A FAVORITE!!



Substitute Teachers Needed for Lake Central School Corp

Elementary schools, Middle schools, and Lake Central High School

Subs must be 21 years of age or older, pass a background check, and must have completed a minimum of 30 college credit hours. For more information:

Visit www.lcsc.us

Administration>Human Resources