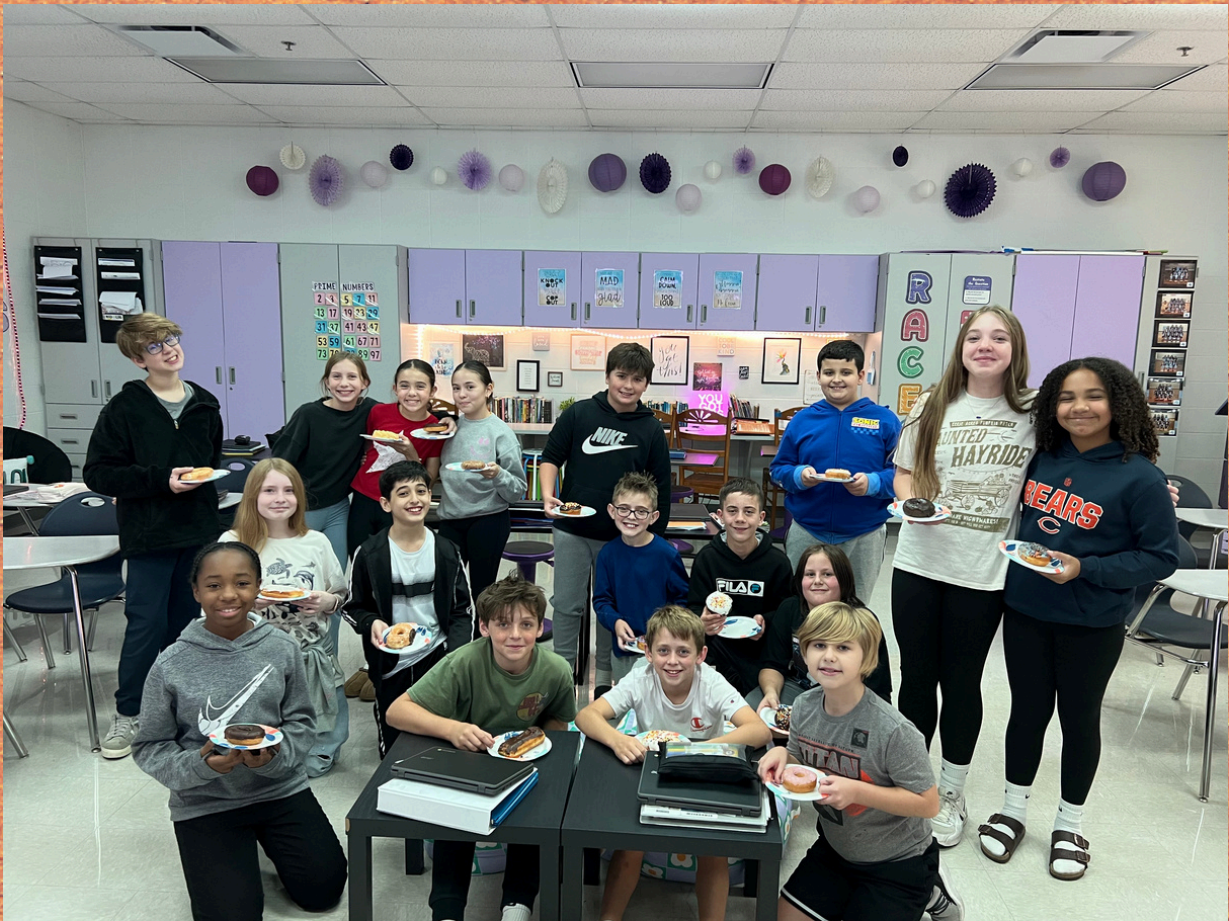


Clark Middle School

Newsletter

November, 2025



Mrs. Castle and Mrs. Hudi's 6th graders were locked in on possessive nouns — and their hard work paid off in the sweetest way possible! Every single student earned a 100%, and they celebrated with a well-deserved donut party!

Way to go, 6th grade — you own those possessive nouns!

FROM PRINCIPAL GRABER...



Happy November! First, Thanks! I know that I mention this so often when writing the newsletter or sending out a Parent Square message, but I truly mean it. The parents at CMS are outstanding! We have a great group of students who are doing their very best each day they come to school. From our students who attend the structured learning classrooms to the mild disabilities and severe profound classrooms to those students who have a learning disability to our regular education and high ability students, we are fortunate! So, thank you! In addition, thank you to our staff who continue to strive each day to provide lessons that are enriching and challenging. With Thanksgiving just around the corner, I am thankful for so many things, but having the ability to work with your child and the CMS staff daily is truly amazing.

November brings many activities around CMS. Please make sure to check out the school website for more information on the daily happenings. Additional information can be found under the announcement section. Many of the clubs and groups are meeting on a regular basis, so please check out the dates so your child can be an active participant at school. We love it when the kids are involved.

Our first round of ILEARN checkpoint tests will occur on November 4 and 6. If possible, please have your child in attendance during the testing windows. Our goal is to administer the tests from 9:00-10:00 on the scheduled days. If your child is absent, make up tests will take place the following week.

Our PTO is actively working with the students and staff. Thank you for your support this year. It means a lot to the staff and students.

School attendance is a critical part when it comes to student learning. As you are aware, the state has distributed guidance concerning what is excused, non-excused, etc. Our goal at CMS is to have at least a 97% attendance rate. With this goal in mind, we need your child at school every day. Naturally, when they are sick, no, we do not want them to come to school, as they will not be able to put forth their best effort. Help us reach our goal by achieving a 97% attendance rate this school year.

As the seasons are changing, so does the weather. Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather. Yes, I know... middle school students have a mind of their own. It is 20 degrees outside and they want to wear a pair of shorts or a t-shirt. All I can ask is that you try as a parent. The local Tri Kappa Sorority provided CMS with a generous donation to help students that need a winter coat or jacket, gloves and/or a hat so if you have a need, please let me know. Feel free to email me at sgrab@lcscmail.com and we will take care of the request. Moreover, for those parents that I see in the car line---I will continue to have a daily laugh with you when you are dropping off your child in shorts and/or a t-shirt. "Gotta love middle school!"

Until next month, stay safe and have a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family,

Mr. Graber, Principal



7TH AND 8TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL RECAP!

- | <u>7th Grade Team</u> | <u>8th Grade Team</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Summer Hayes | 2 Bella Bluett |
| 3 Londyn Jackson | 6 Ellie Colburn |
| 4 Mia Pervan | 7 Reagan Cox |
| 10 Ava Brann | 9 Aleah Gineris |
| 11 Natalia Cordova | 12 Maci Goeringer |
| 14 Audri Villegas | 8 Ava Hulverson |
| 15 Elina Ranich | 22 Avery Konicki |
| 16 Paige Oszust | 20 Lia Kostopoulos |
| 18 Emilee Habas | 17 Sofia Pritchard |
| 19 Isla Sullivan | 21 Alaina Schmidt |
| 23 Hanna Lane | 13 Brittany Usher |
| 27 Brooklyn Chmielewski | 5 Maeve Vartabedian |



The volleyball season was a fantastic journey filled with growth, teamwork, and plenty of fun! Throughout the season, players learned key volleyball skills and improved their overall volleyball IQ. They practiced hard at every game and drill, showing great dedication and improving with each match. Beyond the skills, the team developed strong bonds, supporting each other on and off the court. Most importantly, they embraced the spirit of the game, enjoying every moment, and celebrating their progress together. It was truly a season of learning, hard work, and great memories!



Clark NJHS Updates

The Clark National Junior Honor Society will be pre-selling BEARY GRATEFUL GRAMS November 10th through 14th. For the bargain price of \$1.00, students can send a kind message and a bag of Albanese Gummy Bears (3.5 oz) to themselves or a friend. All orders will be delivered before Thanksgiving break. The proceeds of the sale will buy toys and games for Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn.



Also, be sure to stop by the 21st Annual Saint John CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK display located at Prairie West Park along 93rd Avenue starting Friday, November 28, 2025 through January 1, 2026. Look for the Clark tree sponsored and decorated by our own Clark NJHS.

Best Buddies had a blast celebrating fall with a variety of fun activities, including Head, Shoulders, Knees, Pumpkin, witch hat ring toss, hot corn on the cob, bowling, and more festive games!



Hello CMS Families,

The first quarter flew by and we are now entering November!



I wanted to take a moment and highlight the importance of consistent school attendance. Consistent attendance is vital for student success and academic growth. Students who come to school regularly stay on track with lessons, score higher on state tests like ILEARN, and develop positive habits that carry into adulthood. On the other hand, students with poor or inconsistent attendance often fall behind in their academics and gaps in their learning form.

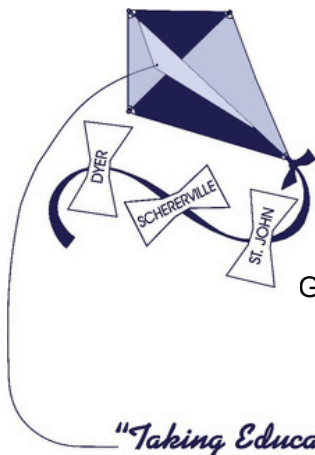
Please remember to call the CMS office if your student(s) will not be in attendance. Not calling in creates an “unexcused” absence. Per state law, an attendance conference is required if a student accumulates five “unexcused” absences. Doctors notes are also helpful to avoid any confusion with attendance. If a student accumulates ten or more “unexcused” absences, that student will be reported to Juvenile Justice Services.

The State of Indiana expects 94% attendance from all students, which equates to ten or few absences throughout the year. If there is an ongoing medical issue, please communicate to CMS. We are here to help.

Thank you for your time. Let’s continue to have a strong school year!

Mr. Stablein





GRANTS AWARDED TO LAKE CENTRAL TEACHERS

Grant Round #63 was completed on October 20th when we awarded 16 grants totaling \$10,038.26. Click [here](#) to see details about the grants. We are thrilled to be able to support our teachers!

"Taking Education to New Heights"



Front Row: Dawn Czarnik, Kate Perschon, Sidney Hudi, Allison Castle, Tracey Caposey, Jennifer Miller
 Back Row (standing): Melody Wolff, Susan Popa, Randi Lollis, Colleen Rock, Crystal Lippie, Caryn Cruz, ~~Melanie Venturelli~~, Julie Walker, Courtney Leonhardt, Kristy Bashara, Sheri Venturelli, Julie Wiejak of Purdue University Northwest, Mike Seljan, and Mark Sperling of Indiana University Northwest School of Education.



PLEDGE FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to all LCSC teachers, administrators, and staff who are participating in the Pledge for Education payroll deduction program for the 2025-26 school year!

Elana Arens	Jennifer Frazier	Jennifer Gescheidler-Kandalec	Kristy Graff-Bashara	Rebecca Gromala	Lisa Groszek	Letitia Gustas	Robert Gustas	Beth Hall	Nichole Hay	Cheryl Hobby	Janeke Holden	Ralph Holden	Nicholas Karin	Brian Kissinger	Joseph Kruzan	Lindsay Kruzan	Rob James	Cynthia Lale (Scrivener)	Tiffani Lindzy	Nicole Littrell	Joanne Madarasz-Pratt	Nesa Malino	Ginger Marinkovich	Mercedes Martinez	Julie Moore	Jenny Novosel	Sheila Novotny	Shelly Ores	Alison Petralia	Kari Regan	Dana Rund	Jeff Sandor	Misty Scheuneman	Justin Schranz	Michelle Snow	Joseph Stanisz	Victoria Thompson	Rachel Underwood	Carla VanDerNoord	Sheri Venturelli	Larry Veracco	Michelle Vogt	Laura Waszak (Layman)	Christine Zeldenrust	Jennifer Zollman (Miller)
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FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK!](#)

Stay up-to-date on LCEF news, grant highlights, events, Partners in Education spotlights, donor shout-outs, volunteer needs, and more! Click here and follow us!

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeCentralEF/>

For more information or to support the Lake Central Education Foundation, visit lakecentralef.org or contact admin@lakecentralef.org or (219) 682-8917.

COUNSELORS CORNER

MR. BISCAN

MISS JACOBS

MS. VAIL

Body Safety Presentation

Mrs. Sara Hoyt of social services agency Dunebrook Inc., spoke with our 5th and 6th graders about the importance of body safety/safe adults. Each presentation was a little different, yet age-appropriate, and gave a clear message to reach out to a trusted/safe adult if ever faced with an uncomfortable or unsafe situation. Our Clark students did a great job of participating and listening attentively to this important information. Mrs. Hoyt will be speaking with the 7th graders on November 12th and the 8th graders on November 13th.

Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week was October 28th-31st. Students did a great job participating in the different themed dress up days. The top 4 participating advisory classes received a special prize of earbuds. All students received a pencil with a drug-free message.

Dates to Remember...

November 7 - Veteran's Day Program

November 11 - Early Dismissal

November 26- 28 - Thanksgiving Break

MAKE TIME STAND STILL



ORDER A YEARBOOK



HAL E CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL
USE OUR ORDER NUMBER WHEN YOU LOG ON:

12888



YEARBOOKORDERCENTER.COM



QUESTIONS? CONTACT: KAREN SULEK • KSULEK@LCSCMAIL.COM •

NOVEMBER

Clark Middle School

PTO Board

MESSAGE

Happy November! As we head into this season of gratitude, the PTO wants to thank all our families for your support and involvement. We're so thankful for our amazing school community! Stay tuned for details and ways to get involved!



REMINDER



- PTO Meeting 11/10 @ 3:45pm
- Fives Guys Fundraiser 19th
- Thanksgiving break from November 26th to November 30th.

SHOUT OUT!



Thank you to all our families who donated mints for our students taking the I Learn Checkpoint Testing! It is much appreciated!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 30th-
Midwest Fundraiser
1-3pm

January 13th
McTeacher Night @
McDonalds

CONTACT US



clarkmiddleschoolptoboard@gmail.com

FIVE GUYS[®] BURGERS and FRIES

Clark Middle School PTO

Needs your support! Please join us on:
November 19, 2025
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

at the following location:
1575 US Hwy 41, Schererville, IN 46375

FIVE GUYS WILL DONATE 20% OF FUNDRAISER SALES + ADDITIONAL \$1 FOR EVERY MILKSHAKE

WHEN YOU PURCHASE A GIFT CARD DURING OUR OCTOBER - DECEMBER FUNDRAISERS, 50% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED TO SUPPORT YOUR CAUSE

Please present this flyer or identify yourself as part of the fundraiser at time of purchase in order for your transaction to count. Thank you for supporting our cause.



Understanding Absences

Exempt vs. Excused vs. Unexcused

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

Exempt	Excused	Unexcused
<p>Pre-Arranged Exempt Absences per Indiana Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page for General Assembly • Election Day Worker • Court Witness • IN National Guard Active Duty • Civil Air Patrol • Educationally related non-classroom activity as defined in IC 20-33-2-17.5 • Exhibiting/participating in state fair 	<p>An excused absence occurs when a parent or guardian chooses to keep their student home in the student's best interest.</p> <p>Acceptable reasons include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illness (parent verified) • Verified medical visit (note must be returned within 1 week or absence will be unexcused) • School sends the student home sick • Professional appointments (medical, dental, legal) • Death in the family • Religious holiday • Military connected families' absences related to deployment <p>A parent/guardian must notify the school <u>on the day of the absence.</u></p>	<p>Students should have ZERO unexcused absences</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>If a student accumulates 5 unexcused absences within a 9 week grading period, an attendance meeting will be held, as required by law.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>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.</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**.

The **Clark Holiday Sale** starts today! **Save 20% sitewide.** What a perfect holiday gift for kids.

Get them things that you didn't get at the back-to-school sale—at 20% off! Baseball caps, hoodies, quarter zips...from the brands your family wants... Under Armour and more.

https://1stplacespiritwear.com/schools/IN/St%20John/Clark+Middle+School/collection_detail.html

Or click on the picture below!

Holiday Sale
Gifts For **KIDS**

20% OFF
SITEWIDE

DELIVERY BY **GUARANTEED** DEC. 23RD **SHOP NOW**

FREE Shipping On Orders Over \$75
SHOP AT: 1STPLACE.SALE/107077

1ST PLACE Spiritwear

The advertisement features a festive background with a string of colorful Christmas lights (red, green, yellow, blue) and white snowflakes. In the center, there are two pieces of spiritwear: a light blue t-shirt and a black hoodie, both featuring the 'Clark Coyotes' logo. The t-shirt has 'CLARK' in large black letters above 'Coyotes' in a script font, with a coyote head logo in the middle. The hoodie has 'Clark' in a script font above 'COYOTES' in large block letters, with a coyote head logo below. The text '20% OFF SITEWIDE' is prominently displayed in red and black. A red banner at the bottom contains the shipping offer and the shop URL. The '1ST PLACE Spiritwear' logo is in the bottom right corner, featuring a hand icon pointing up.