

CMS Parent Newsletter—July 2025

Happy summer! I hope this newsletter finds you enjoying your summer break. As we look to school starting in just a few weeks, I want to “Welcome” you to Clark Middle School—Home of the Coyotes! For our returning students, I hope that you have been enjoying the time away from school. For our incoming students, the halls of CMS await you with anticipation. The first student day is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13.

Here are some changes for the upcoming year concerning staff and teaching assignments:

Mrs. Davis moved from room 610 to room 709.

Mr. Schweitzer is teaching High Ability 7th grade science and regular eighth science in room 809.

Mrs. Ptaszek will be teaching 5th grade ELA and SS in room 500.

Mrs. Thompson is teaching 6th grade science in room 610.

Mrs. Young is teaching 8th grade math this year.

Mrs. Rodriguez will be teaching 7th grade math in room 800. Mrs. Rodriguez comes to us after working at Grimmer for the past several years.

Mrs. Brink is our new guidance secretary.

Mrs. Behrens is our new attendance secretary.

As we embark on a new year, I am confident that you will see your child challenged this year. One of the concerns that I face as principal is parents waiting to reach out to the staff or me if there is an issue. Please do not wait...if there is a problem or concern, please reach out to the teacher first, and then follow up with a counselor or an administrator. Many times, I hear the following statement from parents... “Oh, well, I didn’t want to bother you because I know you are busy.” Trust me; I would rather work with you to solve the problem than find out after an issue has been going on for several weeks. Feel free to contact your child’s teachers, guidance counselor or one of the administrators—we are here for you.

New this year...ATTENDANCE changes...please be aware of the new law (Senate Enrolled Act 482) regarding attendance, excused vs unexcused absences and the possibility of court-based planning or child services. The Central Office administration will send you information within the next few week regarding the new law on attendance. In reality, please have your child at school and ON TIME unless they are sick. Please attempt to take your vacation/time off when the students are not in school. I appreciate the effort.

Our daily schedule is from 8:47-3:40. Students are expected to be in class by the 8:47 bell. Door J, south side of the building is the main entrance area and is unlocked for students daily at 8:15. Breakfast is available daily in the cafeteria from 8:20-8:40 daily. Unfortunately, we will not have free breakfast Wednesdays this year.

Tutoring: Students are encouraged to attend free tutoring from their teachers from 8:00-8:30am. Tutoring will start after Labor Day and takes place on Tuesday and Thursday mornings before school. Students do NOT need to have a personal invitation to attend. All students are welcome to come to tutoring.

Chromebooks: Students will have access again this year to a chromebook. Students will be able to bring it home nightly but please make sure that, as a parent, you monitor what they are doing. Students will need to make sure that their chromebook is charged and ready for the next day at school. The use of the chromebook is for EDUCATIONAL purposes only. In addition, if a child damages their chromebook, i.e. breaking the screen, missing keys, writing or drawing on them, losing them, or breaking another student's chromebook, they could be charged. Student should not share a chrome book. Please encourage your child to be responsible for this educational device.

Cell phones: Cell phones are an excellent way of communicating or obtaining information; however, this year the legislature adopted Senate Bill 185, which bans the use of cell phones in schools. As a result, CMS will follow the law...students that have a medical need can use the cell phone for medical reasons. All other students should leave their cell phones at home. If brought to school, they MUST be kept in the locker and/or backpack during the day. If a student is caught with a cell phone on their person during the day, consequences will be assessed for violating the rules. If there is an emergency, one of the administrative staff will contact you using the Parent Square messaging system. Over the past years, we have found that students do not understand the dangers of being on a device, especially if they use certain apps such as Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat, Discord, etc. Parents, if your child is involved with another student regarding inappropriate activities outside of school, the parents have the right to contact the police department and file a report. The administration will be involved if the issue is affecting the educational welfare of the CMS students. In addition, our School Resource Officer, Officer Nick Stamate, will assist if necessary. So, in summary, please have your child leave their cell phone at home this year.

Backpacks: Backpacks are a great way for students to carry their belongings, but they need to remain in the student's locker. Students have 5 minutes to get to each class period, which is plenty of time. The expectation is that they should be in their assigned classroom prior to the bell sounding.

Medical information.... if your child has specific doctor's orders, please make sure that we have an updated copy of the orders PRIOR to school starting. If the doctor does NOT specify an order to be done at school, legally, we cannot do the treatment or honor a parent's request. Feel free to reach out to our school nurses, Mrs. Christina Gonzalez or Mrs. Laurie Danielson. In addition, if your child uses a cell phone to assist with the diabetic needs, please make sure the nurses have all necessary information.

If your child needs to have a water bottle with them due to medical reasons, please make sure that we have a doctor's note. Water fountains are available in the building OR the students can bring a water bottle and keep it in their locker.

SKYWARD REGISTRATION info... **ONLINE REGISTRATION is from July 28-August 1...** Parents...please make sure to fill out the enrollment/registration forms in their entirety. Emergency contacts need to be updated with accurate phone numbers in case your child needs to be picked up due to a health or disciplinary issue. If the person's name is not listed as a contact, we cannot release your child to them. Also, please provide updated court documents if there is a divorce or restraining order so that we can provide the best safety for your child.

Schedules: Student schedules will be available online beginning August 4^h at 9:00am. All schedule requests/changes are due by Friday, August 15. Students that have signed up for yearlong special classes (band/choir) must remain in the class for the entire year.

Picking up a student early from school: If you need to pick up your son or daughter early from school, please send a note with your child to the main office the morning of the appointment with the requested time to be picked up. The office secretary will write them a pass for approximately 5 minutes prior to your arrival time so they are ready for you. Once you arrive, please enter door J, press the button on the column and let the office know you are here for your child. Please sign your child out on the forms on the table.

--If you are picking your child up due to illness, please press the button on the column and let the office, know. The nursing staff will bring your child to you in the vestibule. You do not need to enter the office area. Please make sure to sign your child out on the forms on the table.

--If dropping off medication, please press the button on the column and request to go to the nurses' office to drop off medication. The secretary will allow you to enter the building and go to the nurses' office. Please have the appropriate medical forms completed.

Open building date: The CMS open building date is **August 7 from 10:00am until 6:00pm.** ***If students are not available to come to school on August 7, the building will be open on August 11 from 1-3 to walk around the building, etc.*** Please enter by using door J, south side main entrance area. During this time, students can check out their locker, walk the building, and go through their daily schedule. Decorating a locker is a big item for middle school students—so, let us embrace this time with the students in decorating BUT we ask that all decorations are adhered to the lockers with magnets and not tape...the tape tends to pull the paint off the lockers, which creates additional work for our custodial crew. Thanks in advance for helping in this area.

We will have some school supplies available for students...first come, first served.

If you do not have access to print your schedule prior to coming to CMS for the open building dates, please feel free to stop by the main office and obtain a copy. Also on August 7, the office staff, nurses, counselors and administrators will be available to assist you with any questions or drop off medications. Additionally, Mrs. Smith, our Athletic Director, will be available for parents and/or students that have questions about our athletic program or need to turn in athletic forms.

Open House is August 21 beginning at 6:00. You will rotate through your child's classes every 10 minutes. The purpose of Open House is for you to meet the staff and have them go over the expectations for this school year. Parking will be available on the north and south sides of the school. Please try to be on time—if you are late, you will miss pertinent information from your child's teachers about the upcoming year. If possible, we ask that your child remains at home; however, if you need to bring them with you to the Open House, please have them remain with you during the evening.

Picture Day: The school photographer will be at school on August 15th to take school pictures.

Please make sure to check the Lake Central School Corporation calendar regularly. **Here are the days that CMS will dismiss at 1:10 for Professional Development: September 9, October 14, November 11, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12.** If your child is a car-rider, please make sure that you are here to pick them up on time as all staff have mandatory meetings on the days listed.

PTO---our PTO is looking for individuals willing to be on the PTO board. At this point, all positions are open. If interested, please send me an email by August 4.

Over the next few weeks, please check out the school website for additional information regarding back to school information. The supply list is on the school website.

Communication is the key for success! Feel free to contact a member of the administrative team or a counselor if needed at the extensions listed below:

Mr. Graber, Principal, ext. 7104

Mrs. Beach, Asst. Principal, ext. 7103

Mr. Stablein, Asst. Principal, ext. 7105

Mrs. Churilla, School Counselor -----Last names "A-Har" ext. 7106

Ms. Vail, School Counselor -----Last names "Has-Pin" ext. 7107

Mr. Biscan, School Counselor -----Last names "Pio-Z" ext. 7112

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon! Go Coyotes!

Mr. Graber, Principal

sgrabber@lcscmail.com