



The Coyote Howling

The Official Clark Middle School Parent Newsletter

Spring 2017

From the Desk of Principal Graber

Happy March....wow! It is amazing how quickly the 2016-2017 school year is going. As we look back at the past couple months, I want to say "Thank you" for your continued support as we work together as a team...parents, students, community stakeholders, and staff working with a common goal...educating the students of the future. THANK YOU!

In February, approximately 62 randomly selected 8th students took the NAEP test. NAEP is the National Assessment of Educational Progress and monitors what U.S. students know and can do in key subject areas at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Since 1969, NAEP has provided U.S. educators and the public with reliable profiles of student achievement. Thank you to those students who participated with NAEP assessment.

During the last week of February and the first week of March, students participated in round 1 of the ISTEP tests. Students took the test during a 2 hour delay schedule and completed it in 3 days. Thank you for having your children at school during the testing window. As we prepared for the testing sessions, staff wore ISTEP shirts to show their support for the students as they entered into the testing sessions...see the LC website for photos. Also, all students were encouraged to "GET READY TO WIN THE ISTEP" with a fun spirit week designed with different themed days. Tuesday, February 21st was "music day" and students wore their favorite band shirt to school; Wednesday, February 22nd was "movie day" and students became the STAR of the ISTEP by wearing their favorite shirt; Thursday was PJ day...all students kept calm during the test, and Friday was set aside as Squad day...squad don't split. Let's TEAM up and win the ISTEP! Thanks to all who supported the ISTEP spirit week!

March is Disability Awareness Month and the theme this year is "**I'm not your inspiration.**" The purpose of the theme this year is to show that people with disabilities are people first. The month long campaign demonstrates that people with disabilities are not inspiring or brave just because they have a disability but they are OUR STUDENTS, co-workers, classmates, and neighbors who want to be fully included in our community, just like everyone one. Please help CMS support this endeavor as we try daily to empower ALL students to do their best regardless of their disability. CMS is extremely proud of our students with disabilities. Help us celebrate Disabilities Awareness Month.

Parents of 8th grade students have been busy meeting in the cafeteria as they begin planning for the 8th grade dance. If you are interested in helping or making a donation, please contact the office and we can connect you with the chairpersons for the dance. The chairpersons are Mrs. Glasgow and Mrs. Snodgrass. Thank you for your help, commitment, and dedication to making the 8th grade dance a success. Please check the announcements on the school website for upcoming meetings, donations needed, etc.

Currently, master scheduling is underway for the 8th grade students with their high school schedules as well as for grades 5-7. If you have any questions pertaining to the 2017-2018 school year, please contact me at CMS.

Until next newsletter, stay safe...

From the Desk of Mr. Stanisz, Assistant Principal

Bring on spring! I am sure everyone is ready to get outside and enjoy some warmer weather here in the region! We recently completed the 7th & 8th Grade Girls Basketball seasons. Congratulations to our 7th Grade Girls for their LMSAC Championship! Congratulations to both teams on their seasons and continued dedication as student-athletes.

We recently completed our paper/pencil ISTEP test. We are continuing to prepare the students for the second round of ISTEP testing that will take place in late April. This portion of the test will be computer based. The students will be using Chrome Books and computer labs in the building for testing. We appreciate your hard work and effort with having your children in school during the testing windows. Thank you for your continued support in these areas.

Be mindful of our new safety drills and language that we are using in our buildings. We continue to run drills with our local authorities to allow them to become familiar with our building. An email was sent to all parents regarding this standard response protocol for students and teachers through the I Love U Guys Foundation.

Thanks for your help when dropping your children off by door J on the south side; however, please be mindful of the following issues: (1) please make sure that you remain in the car line and do not allow your child to exit the vehicle until they are motioned out or told verbally to unload. (2) If you are parking your car, please use a proper parking spot and do not pullout into oncoming traffic or stop in the middle of the row. (3) The handicapped parking spots are needed for our students with disabilities and we appreciate your help in keeping those spots available. (4) If you are escorting your child to door J, please use the cross-walk located by the three orange cones. Thank you for your help in this matter!

Have you signed up for Twitter? Twitter is gathering support from parents and students around the school. To sign up, go to www.twitter.com or download the app to your Smartphone and create a username. You can follow us at @Clark_coyotes for news and information regarding CMS.

Stay warm out there!!!

Lake Central School Corporation Mission Statement

The mission of the Lake Central School Corporation, as a family, community, and school partnership is to ensure that each student becomes a self-directed learner and a contributing responsible citizen through an instructional delivery system that engages students in achieving their personal best.

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success

Short Stops



Waiting patiently

Does your child expect everything to happen *now*? If a friend doesn't call back immediately or his teacher hasn't graded his project yet, encourage him to come up with possible explanations. Maybe his friend is at a movie or the teacher has 100 assignments to grade. Thinking reasonably can help him be patient.

DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that most tweens would like to talk more with their parents about schoolwork. Ask your child to share what she's learning in her classes. Be specific: "What kind of math problems did you do today?" or "Tell me about the science experiment you did in lab today."

Family meals

Eating together gives parents and children a chance to chat about the day's events. It also strengthens family relationships. Whether you have time to cook or are picking up carryout on the way home from work, try to sit around the table and enjoy each other's company while you eat.

Worth quoting

"The time is always right to do what is right." *Martin Luther King Jr.*

Just for fun

Q: When does Friday come before Thursday?

A: In the dictionary!



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Hints for homework

Amy has her evening planned. She'll do her math homework before dinner, then follow up dessert with English and science. Afterward, she can unwind from a busy day.

Sound impossible? It's not. Help your middle grader make homework go like clockwork with these strategies.

Think it through

Before your youngster begins, have her make a to-do list. *Example:* write a poem, read a history chapter, solve 10 math problems.

Then, suggest that she number the tasks, from toughest to easiest, and start with the hard stuff. This "save the easiest for last" strategy will help her finish on a high note, perhaps inspiring her to get in some extra studying.

Think about time

Ask your child to consider different time slots she can use to get work done. For instance, maybe she could set aside a weekend morning or Sunday night.



Also, some middle graders have time during study period or after lunch to tackle homework. Encourage your child to complete one assignment at school each day. The more she does then, the more time she'll have for fun later.

Think positive

Help your middle grader see homework as a chance to prove her independence by getting her work done on time and doing it by herself.

Boost her confidence by telling her, "Homework gives you a chance to show all that you know." And give her a thumbs-up when she does just that. 👍

Be there!

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

- Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your youngster needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.

- Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can't, try to arrange them for lunchtime.

- It will be easier for your child to get up on time for school if he has had at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure he puts away electronic devices so he isn't tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games. 👍

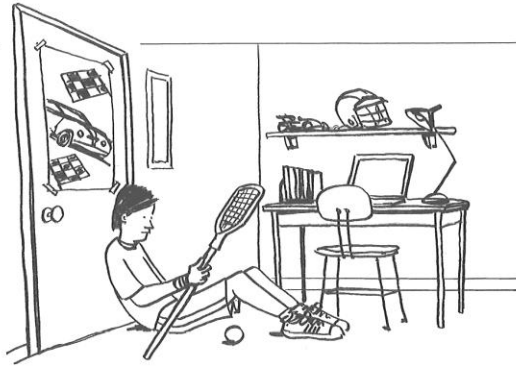


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Emotions in the middle

Moody, private, self-conscious...if this sounds like your tween, you're not alone. At this age, his body and emotions are changing rapidly. Here are ways to help him cope.

Managing moods. Physical growth and worries about friends, sports, and schoolwork can cause moodiness. Let your child know you're available to talk. A quiet statement, such as "I remember what it feels like not to be asked to join a team," can invite him to open up about what's bothering him.



Finding privacy. It's natural for your middle grader to want some time to himself. He might close his bedroom door or walk outside to take a phone call, for example. Show him that you respect his growing need for privacy by giving him space.

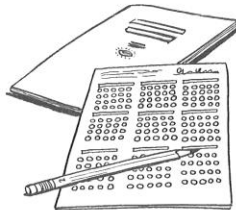
Fitting in. Many middle graders feel self-conscious. Being part of a group of people who share his interests can help your youngster focus on his strengths and feel more confident. Encourage him to participate in at least one activity (basketball team, student government, math club). 👍



Prepared for standardized tests

Does your middle schooler have state tests coming up? Review these strategies before testing begins:

■ Knowing how to approach different kinds of questions will help her score higher. For instance, on multiple-choice sections, she could cover up the answers while she reads the question. If the answer she thought of is listed and the other options don't make more sense, she can be pretty confident she's right.



■ Have your child find out whether she'll lose points for wrong answers. If not, it's best to guess. Also, if scrap paper is allowed, she can use it to work out problems and to keep her place on the answer sheet. 👍

Parent to Parent

More nonfiction reading

My son, Kevin, reads mostly fiction, but his language arts teacher said the class will read lots of nonfiction this year. The reason, she said, is to prepare students for high school, college, and careers, where "informational text" is important.

The teacher suggested a few ways to help at home. First, she said, we could leave the newspaper out and mention articles about topics that affect him. For instance, I pointed out stories on road construction where he rides his bike and on festivals we might attend.

Also, the teacher said to encourage our son to read nonfiction books about things he's interested in. The next time I went to the library, I brought home books about car racing and a biography of one of Kevin's favorite drivers. I was happy to see him reading one rather than watching TV the other night!

He even asked to go to the library to get a book about another driver. And when we were there, he picked up a few books on speed records and breaking the sound barrier. 👍



Q & A

Bully-proof your child

Q I've heard bullying peaks in middle school. How can I make sure my daughter isn't a target?

A There is no way to guarantee a child will never be bullied. But there are things you can do to help.

Since bullies are less likely to pick on someone who has friends, encourage her to get to know other students. Suggest that she join a club, and have her invite classmates over. Not only is there safety in

numbers, but having friends will build her self-esteem, which in turn can discourage bullies from targeting her.

Also, talk to your daughter about bullying. Tell her that if she is bullied or sees someone else being bullied, she should seek help immediately from an adult, whether it's you, a teacher, an administrator, or a coach. Let her know that she's not expected to handle this problem alone. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Paws for a Cause

Students from Clark Middle School attended the Alsip ATTR “**Heart 2 Heart Rescue Event**” on February 12, 2017. Students sold hot chocolate, raffle tickets and did miscellaneous jobs for the rescue organization. GREAT JOB KIDS!!



Language Arts News

AR Field Trip

The Language Arts AR field trip will take place on May 16th (for 5th and 6th graders) and May 17 (for 7th and 8th graders) at Jak's Warehouse. Students who meet 100% of their AR goals for the first three grading periods will be allowed to attend. The cost of the trip will be \$25 and includes unlimited attractions, a \$10 arcade game card, plus two slices of pizza and a drink.

Attention students and parents!

There is still time to buy your 2017 Clark Yearbook! This year's book features an exciting superhero theme and includes tons of pictures! Don't miss out on a chance to own a piece of Clark history! Purchase yours today for \$35. Order forms are available in the office.

2017 Yearbook:

The 8th grade video yearbook will be ready by mid-May. This year's video yearbook is looking spectacular and features new special effects! We have hundreds of pictures and video clips that will highlight the 8th graders last year at Clark. Pre-orders will be accepted starting in late March. More info to follow...

Social Studies News

Congratulations!

Clark 8th grader... **Declan Gallagher** for qualifying for the 2017, National Geographic State Geography Bee. Declan score put him in the top 100 middle school students in the state and he will be representing Clark at the State Geography Bee in Indianapolis. **Great job Declan! Go Coyotes!**

Clark Theater

The Clark Theater Guild is excited to announce that it will be performing the first ever musical! The musical will be Cinderella! The performance dates will be April 20, 21, and 22. All shows begin at 6pm. There will also be a 2pm matinee performance on April 22. Tickets are \$5. The cast and crew of about 40 students are really excited for everyone to come and see their show. Directing the musical will be Mr. Gustas, along with Mrs. Arroyo and Mrs. Mielcarek. Hope to see many of you there!

Math Department

Teachers have been working quite rigorously getting ready for the first round of ISTEP. Homerooms have done practice math problems, and then the student's math teachers have gone over them a second time. Math vocabulary words commonly used on ISTEP have been hung around the building. Students are not only seeing the words, but are also able to read the definitions and how the words are used in questions they might see on the ISTEP test.

If students need extra help in math class, students can come into tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Tutoring is open for any student. As a reminder, tutoring does start at 8. It is important the students bring questions or work that needs to be reviewed when coming to tutoring.



Students in Ms. Chandler's class baked bread as a part of their Life Skills class.



Clark Middle School's Science Photo Contest: Let's Talk About the Weather!



Kailee Pearson's winning photo

The eighth grade science department at Clark Middle School held a STEM Photo contest to help support Lake Central High School electives (photography) as well as incorporate STEM activities into the classrooms. Clark science teachers had students enter the contest so they could make real-world observations and showcase their inner photographer. This contest was inspired by the amateur photo “assignments” held by National Geographic magazine, which encourage the everyday reader to explore and photograph the world around them.

Students were asked to submit a photograph that reflected the subject of weather. The staff hoped that it gave students the opportunity to be creative and even think outside of the box. Any photograph that exemplifies weather was accepted and considered for an award. The three eighth grade science teachers chose one winner from each class and together decided on one “Best in Show” weather photography champion.

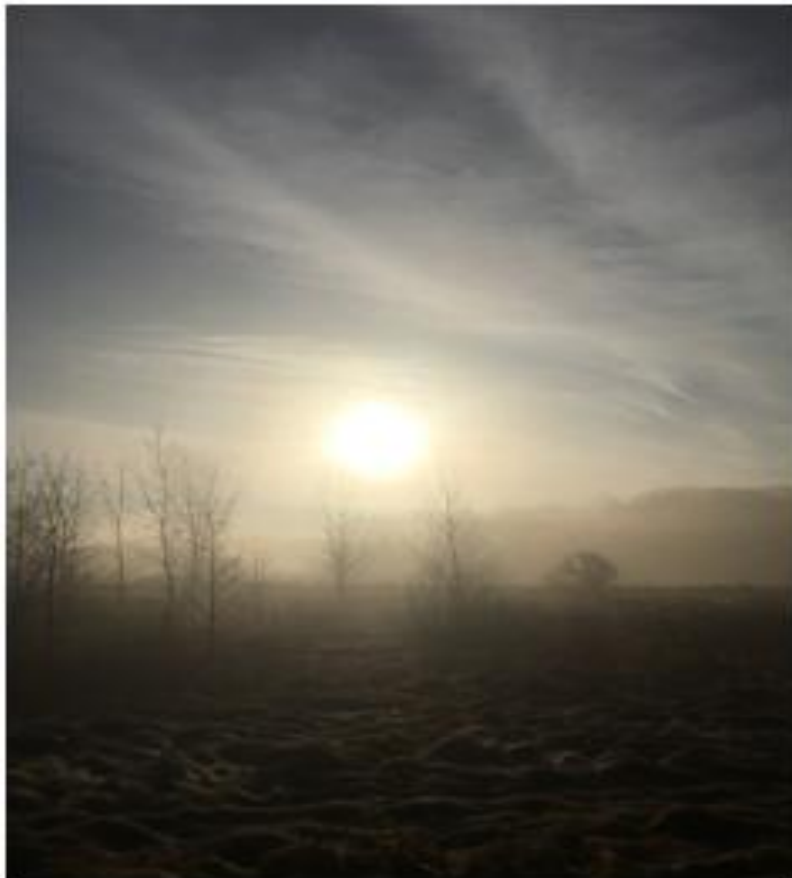
The winners from Mrs. Cooper’s classes included Sydney De Jong, Emma Mysliwiec, and Emma Kritenbrink. The top student photographers from Mrs. Tobias’ classes were Nick Hayes and Rebecca Villarreal . Finally, Aurora Sparks, Kailee Pearson, Jacob Hartley, Alekzandr Rhody, and Leilany Pena produced the winning photos from Mrs. Guzman’s classes. For Best in Show, the champions were: second runner-up, Sydney DeJong; first runner-up, Jacob Hartley; and, the Best in Show award went to Kailee Pearson! All three photos are featured in this article and will also be sent to WGN for a chance to be aired on their weather segment.

Congratulations to our winners!



Photograph by Jacob Hartley, "Three Seasons".

Below is Sydney DeJong's second runner-up sunset photo.



Guidance Office/Counseling

The guidance department has been busy this quarter meeting with the 8th grade about high school scheduling. A large group meeting was held on February 7th and 8th graders were given an in depth look at what classes they would be scheduling for their freshman year. The counselors will continue to assist 8th grade students who have not completed the online scheduling in Skyward. The last day to make changes will be March 24th. In February, Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Churilla presented a Bullying seminar to the 7th and 8th grade PE/Health classes, and 6th graders will take part in the program during March. The end of February into early March included ISTEP testing for grades 5-8, and the counselors assisted with various aspects of the testing and organization of testing. In January, a breakfast was held for all students who achieved straight A's for the first semester and all students were recognized with a certificate.

As a reminder, this is the time of year to make sure any 7th or 8th grade students who are eligible get signed up for the **21st Century Scholars Program**. You may check out the information for the 21st Century program at the following website. There are **income eligibility guidelines** that are available under the parent tab on the website, and the parents must complete the application for their child. Any interested 8th grader must be enrolled by **June 30th, 2017** to be considered. Additional information is listed below:

THE SCHOLARSHIP

Earning the 21st Century Scholarship provides students up to four years of undergraduate tuition* at any participating public college or university in Indiana. If you attend a private college, the state will award an amount comparable to that of a four-year public college. If you attend a participating proprietary (for-profit) school, the state will award a tuition scholarship equal to that of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana.

**The scholarship amount may be reduced depending on the availability of funds and the availability of the student's family to contribute to college.*

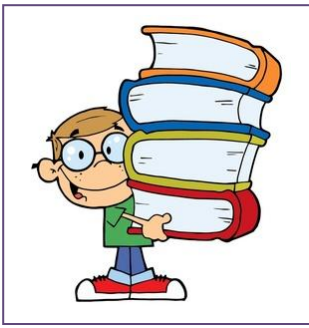
As a 21st Century Scholar, not only do you earn a scholarship, you get step-by-step help to make sure you succeed in college. Plus, once you get to college, 21st Century Scholars receive support to finish their degrees.

SCHOLAR SUCCESS PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Scholar Success Program includes activities that will help you stay on track for college and career success. Each grade level has three activities to complete. Scholars can complete the specific steps for their grade level and track their progress using Scholar Track. **Here, you can see all 12 requirements Scholars must complete during high school to receive their 21st Century Scholarship.**

Please check out additional information at this website and instructions for enrolling.

21st century scholar: <http://www.in.gov/21stcenturyscholars/2376.htm>



"Elect To Read" **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

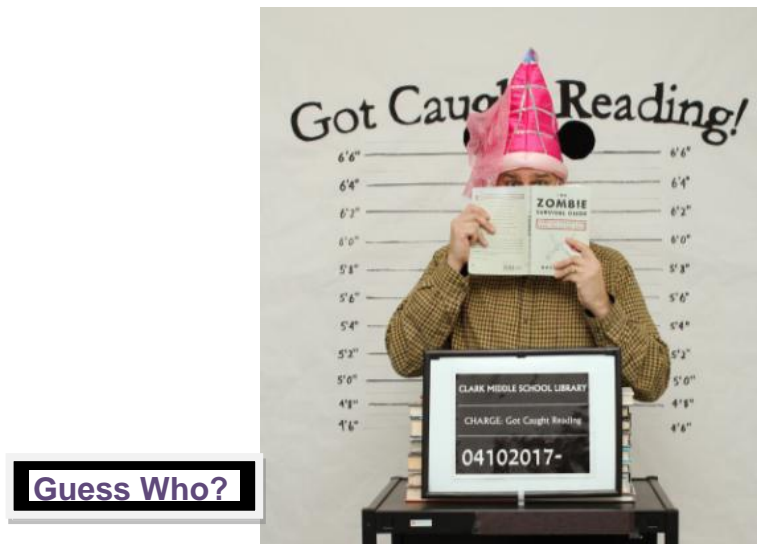
The **Young Hoosier Book Award Reading Contest** ends on March 15th. Three students read all twenty YHBA nominees and earned \$25 Barnes & Noble gift cards. Eight other students won autographed books, mystery book bags and signed Jennifer Nielsen books/shirts. Participation was high this year – congratulations to all students who earned AR points!

National Library Week Monday April 10th – 13th

To celebrate National Library Week, there will be craft activities in the library each day from 8:00AM – 8:40AM. There will also be three contests!

Our annual **Bookmark Contest** is open to students and staff to create artwork for the theme: "Libraries Change Lives & Communities". The winning design will be printed in color, laminated and distributed during the month of May. One winner will be chosen.

The **"Got Caught Reading"** contest features staff posing for mug shots holding their favorite book. There were many clever disguises! Thanks to all sixty-five staff members who participated. Everyone can enter and try and figure out who's who. Prizes awarded for most correct answers. Pictures will be posted in the library.



Our final contest is a project to benefit our own CMS Paws for a Cause Club. For the **Pet's Caught Reading Photo Contest**, take a photo of any animal reading. Be creative! Print an 8 1/2 x 11 B&W or color copy of your picture. A computer printed, paper copy is sufficient. Multiple entries will be accepted. Attach your picture to an entry form and drop it off in the CMS office by Friday, April 7th. There is a \$1.00 entry fee and all money is donated to Paws for a Cause. Winners will be chosen by staff & student votes ending April 13th. Twelve prizes will be awarded and winners will be announced Wednesday, April 19th.



Reminders!

Daily Announcements:

Announcements are posted daily on the website. Check them out at: <http://clark.lcsc.us> stay up to date on all the events and activities!

Attendance:

Don't forget to call the school office at 365-9203 by 9:00 a.m. whenever your student is going to be absent. If your student is going to the doctor or dentist please have them bring in a slip for verification from the doctor/dentist. PLEASE don't forget to leave your child's NAME when calling them off.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- *Spring Break - 3/27-3/31*
- *Easter Break - 4/14*
- *Memorial Day - 5/29*
- *Last day of school- 5/30*

5 Tips for make the move from **Middle** School to **HIGH** School:

- **Become a Time Management Ninja:** High school is all about managing your time. Students need to balance academics, extracurricular activities and their social life.
- **Big Projects? Start Small:** Your child may find that they have more long term assignments such as a research paper or essay assigned in Oct. but due in Nov. It's easy to procrastinate and then find your child in a panic. Help them map out a plan to complete a little at a time.
- **It All Counts:** If your child is planning on going to college, their freshman GPA will go on their college transcript. Make sure your child is taking the right mix of classes. Make an appointment with the guidance counselor to ensure your child is on the right track.
- **Homework Heaven:** Experts generally agree that students should get about 10 minutes of homework per grade level. That's 90 minutes of homework for your 9th grader! Encourage your child to take breaks every 20-30 minutes. That's a great time to check their phone, get a snack and stretch. They'll complain less and be more productive.
- **Celebrate:** We're big believers in celebrating your academic success! A great biology grade, finished essay or a week of completed homework assignments deserves some recognition. Come up with something that works for your family so that your child feels appreciated!

<http://blog.tutor.com/2013/08/high-school-transition/>