

CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Fall 2021—Volume 13 Issue 2

From the Desk of Principal: Scott Graber

Greeting Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your support and help this year as we recently finished our first nine-week grading period. As a reminder, we do not print report cards but they are available on Skyward. If you have a question, please make sure to check with the teacher first, followed by your child's guidance counselor and then an administrator if needed. It is my expectation in regard to communication that all staff respond to you within a 24 hour time frame. If you have a concern or question in regard to communication, please let me know.

The 1st nine-weeks were challenging for us as we continued to mask up daily, use hand sanitizer, and provide water bottles due to COVID precautions. In addition, the social media site "Tik Tok" created numerous problems for us in regard to school vandalism. Please be aware that the Tik Tok problems were occurring across the nation and not just at CMS. As principal, I was very clear to our students that these types of behaviors would not be tolerated at Clark and consequences would be addressed for the students involved. As a result of the issues, Officer Nick Stamate created an informational page on some of the more frequent types of social media that middle/high school tend to visit or engage in. In many issues, students have "vaults" on their phone where they might hide sites from the parents. From one parent to another, please take time and read the information that was provided by Officer Stamate. I have had many parents reach out to me and indicate that they had "no idea" what their child was doing—so moral of the story, check your child's social media account and ask them about hidden sites or vaults.

As the fall season and winter time approaches, please check and make sure that your child has the necessary items for winter. Over the past years, many students come to school improperly dressed for the weather. If an emergency situation arises and we were forced to go outside in the cold, students need to be prepared with proper dress. In addition to not only dressing for fall and winter, parents are reminded that students are not allowed to wear jeans with holes above the knees, midriff showing, or pants sagging. All shirts, tops and blouses must have sleeves. Students that are not following the dress code will need to call home for different clothes.

The 8th grade students took the PSAT on Wednesday, October 13. Once the results are final, we will be in contact with you. The 8th grade students will meet with the administration and go over the scores and what they mean once we receive them from the College Board. Reports will be made available to the parents.

Parent drop off in the morning by Door J....Parents, as a reminder, the first hour begins at 8:47 which means that all students need to be in their first hour class when the bell sounds. Students that arrive after the 8:47 bell are considered "tardy" if they do not have a note from a doctor or appointment. Please check the agenda book for consequences due to tardiness. Once students receive 5 unexcused absences, a referral to the Truancy Diversion Program could result.

Is your child struggling in class? If so, please have them come to tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:30. All teaching staff members are available in their classrooms to assist. Door J opens at 8:00. On Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the interior doors open at 8:15.

Until next month, stay safe! Feel free to contact me if you have a problem or concern and I will do my best to resolve the school related issue for you. Sgrabber@lcschools.com or 219-365-9203 ext. 7104.

Mr. Graber





Greetings from the Clark Middle School counseling staff! The school year is off to a busy start. We would like to welcome Mrs. Debra Clayton, our new school service provider (SSP). She replaced SSP, Steven Aguilera, who took a school counselor position at LCHS.

During the month of September, the counselors met with the 5th graders and presented a lesson in Dealing with Bullies, and what to do when they encounter a difficult situation. Middle school is a time of change for students as they meet new friends and deal with new challenges, and all students are encouraged to seek out help from their counselor if a problem occurs. The Second Step advisory lessons during November will address Bullying and Harassment for grades 6-8.

Clark welcomed approximately 75 new students to start the school year by hosting a New Student Breakfast on September 10th. Students enjoyed a delicious breakfast provided by the school food service staff, played "get to know you" bingo, and received some small prizes for participating. Students were also encouraged to interact with new students in their grade level.

During the week of September 27th, students were provided activities during advisory to learn more about College Go Week. The state of Indiana provides an online magazine for each grade level that helps students begin to think about goal setting, career exploration, and skills needed for trade school and higher level education. For more information please visit the website:

<https://learnmoreindiana.org/2021-learn-more-indiana-magazines/> Students also designed a pennant with a favorite college or career interest.

The 8th graders took the PSAT on October 13th, which is a practice version of the SAT, one of two exams some colleges use for admission purposes. The test is designed to measure their ability to understand and process elements of reading, writing and mathematics. If students try their best, it also gives counselors and teachers some data as to academic areas of strength and where improvement is needed. When students receive their PSAT results, they can link to the Khan Academy, which provides free, online academic assistance.

Red Ribbon week began on October 25th for Clark Middle School students. There will be lessons during advisory on the dangers of e-cigarettes, vaping, and other drug and alcohol abuse. All students will receive a bookmark with the Red Ribbon theme "Be Happy, Be Brave, Be Drug Free!"

Seventh and eighth grade students will be introduced to a program called Naviance during their digital citizenship classes. They will take part in activities designed to assist them in becoming more familiar with their learning styles, career interests, and setting personal academic goals for the future.

Please remember that the counselors are available to assist with any questions or concerns that may arise. Tutoring is available from the classroom teachers on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. if your child should need extra academic assistance. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any concerns regarding social emotional adjustment or academic progress.

Erica Churilla ~ School Counselor
Karen Bowman ~ School Counselor
Sharon Vail ~ School Counselor

Deb Clayton~ School Service Provider
Ray Clayton ~ School Service Provider

Notes from Mrs. Beach, Assistant Principal:

It seems like just yesterday we had open building day, now here we are with a quarter of the year finished. Students have adjusted well to all the changes and are doing a great job wearing masks and social distancing when possible.

It is getting dark earlier and many students are walking or riding their bikes to and from school. If your child is a walker or bike rider, please encourage them to cross busy streets where a crossing guard is present.

The fall sports are quickly winding down. The girls Cross Country had an undefeated season!! Way to go girls!! Congratulations to all the coaches and players for a successful season.

Please keep in mind, tutoring is offered every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00am. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to receive additional help or make-up missing work.

Did your child come home without their glasses, jacket, lunch box or water bottle? Did they misplace a book? If so, please have them check the lost and found located just outside the main office by door A.

Before you know it, the holiday season will be here. I truly hope everyone stays safe and healthy!!

From the desk of Mr. Stablein, Assistant Principal:
Hello everyone!

Welcome back to school! Hard to believe we are already through October!

For those of you who do not know me, my name is Ryan Stablein. This is my first year as Assistant Principal at Clark. Prior to this year, I was a Dean at Clark, Grimmer, Peifer, and Watson. I also taught ELA at Clark and Grimmer. I am excited to be back in this capacity! It is awesome to see so many familiar faces again!

Just a few friendly reminders as we head into the fall/winter:

1. Please remind your students who ride the bus to pay attention at dismissal. We have had numerous students miss their bus due to playing on Chromebooks, running around, etc.
2. We have started our monthly safety drills. We have already conducted our fire, lockdown, and severe weather drill. These drills are important should an actual situation occur. We will continue to conduct our fire and lockdown drills monthly.
3. Grade checks have started as well. We check grades every three weeks to determine extracurricular eligibility. Two or more F's will get a student on the probation list.
4. Finally, do you tweet? If so, you can follow CMS on Twitter @ Clark_Coyotes

Thank you for everything you do. I look forward to a great year! If you need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out. My email is rstablei@lcschools.com. You can also reach me at 365-9203 ext. 7105.

Sincerely,
Ryan Stablein

Clark Annual Veterans Day Program

**In other
news...**

On November 11th, our school will be presenting a virtual Veteran's Day ceremony. Unfortunately, we are still unable to meet in person. However, honoring and celebrating the achievements and sacrifices of our nation's veterans is too important for us to skip this ceremony all together. We hope this virtual celebration will be a blessing to you and your family, and if you served or are serving, please accept our gratitude!

The video will be published on YouTube on the Clark Music channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmwrtLjW4250odkF3XaYRxA>) You can also follow the band on twitter @ClarkSchoolBand for an update when the video is available. Feel free to email Mark Walton (mwalton@lcscmail.com) if you have any issues finding the video on or after Veteran's Day.

Lake Central High School Field House Open for Walking on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

St John, IN - October 21, 2021

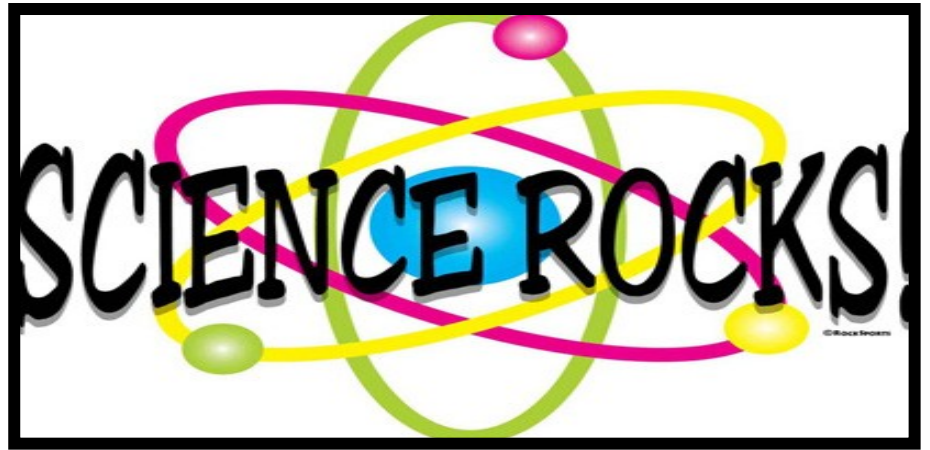
Lake Central School Corporation will permit access to the field house for walking on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM from November 15, 2021 through April 13, 2022. There will be no walking during winter break (resuming on 1/8/22), spring break (resuming on 3/28/22) or any school holidays. Due to lack of available space, there will also be no walking on 1/19/22.

Additional times may be made available depending on the popularity of this community exercise opportunity.

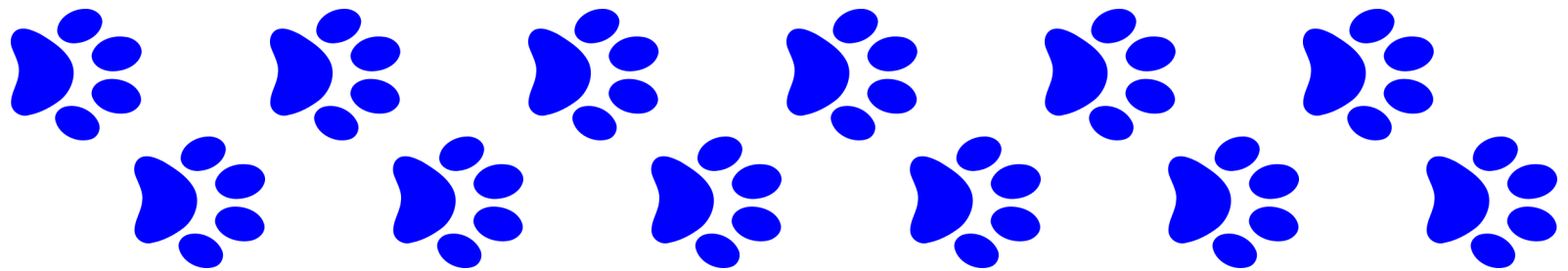
Visitors should park in the front of the school near the pool and enter through Door C, turn right, and sign in prior to entering the field house. Walkers will be asked to sign an injury waiver upon entering the facility for the first time.

Do you need to know when school is in session or when you have school events for the 2021-2022 school year? Please check out the LCSC website at www.lcsc.us and look for the **Academic Calendar** link on the lower left side or open the **Full Lake Central School Corporation calendar**.

**All the information you need is at
your fingertips!!**



The 7th grade Science students have been studying Earth's systems during the first quarter. They created journals of the "Journey to the Center of the Earth" and Earth's Layers models to represent each layer inside our planet. The kids were extremely creative and had fun learning about our the earth system. Students are looking forward to cracking open their own geodes beginning second quarter when we begin studying rocks and minerals that are found on earth. It's been a great start to our 2021 school year!



Social Studies

The school year is in full swing with the first nine weeks already behind us. The social studies classes are gearing up for Veteran's Day and the Holidays by getting involved in an oral history project involving an American Veteran. More information will be forthcoming but if you have questions please contact Mr. Jason Putman at jputman@lcscmail.com

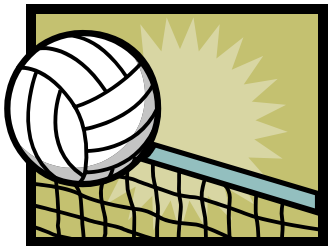
Parent Volunteers:

Anytime you volunteer, you MUST have a current limited criminal history check on file and a copy of your drivers license. There is NO cost to you for the history check. Stop by the main office today to fill yours out! Background checks must be completed at least 2 weeks prior to attending any event. At this time, all volunteers are required to provide a negative Covid test taken within 36 hours of the event.



The 8th grade Clark Volleyball team had a great season. All the girls on the team made great improvement throughout the season. The girls always worked together and had positive words of encouragement when their teammates needed it. The girls started the season by taking first at the Lake Central Invitational. They continued their success throughout the season and ended with a conference record of 4-2. At the conference tournament they made it into the finals and fought hard, but lost to Kahler in 3 sets. The entire team played fantastic! We can't wait to watch them play at the high school next year!

The team was made up of Ella Mazur, Sidney Skripac, Cara Somenzi, Bianca Dukes, Avery Cummings, Keira Anderson, Lilly Barth, Madison Wojciechowski, Emily Shimala, Brooklyn Barth, Emily Franos, Addison Powers and coached by Mrs. Hudi.



CLARK VOLLEYBALL

Clark 7th grade volleyball had an amazing season. They started out by winning the Lake Central Invitational with no trouble! Then they continued their success throughout the season. The team went undefeated in their conference beating all teams in 2 sets. The team is made up of some incredibly talented young ladies who work hard, support one another, and always try their best. At the conference tournament the team made it to the finals with ease and beat Munster in 2 sets! These girls are unstoppable! We can't wait to watch them grow and continue to develop next season! The team was made up of Reagan Graham, Aleena Navarro, Mariah Datulo, Lauren Labadie, Andie Schultz, Kate Murphy, Tessa Dobrovits, Cora McCall, Kailey Skurka, Carolyn Archer, Leilani Taylor, Leah Velazquez and coached by Ms. Gleason.



Ecoteens: Trick or Trash

Did you know that it is estimated that each year 600 million pounds of candy are consumed in the U.S. during the Halloween season? The materials used for candy packaging are difficult to recycle with the vast majority ending up in landfills as well as the waterways and oceans. Want to help? This Halloween season collect the wrappers from the candy you and your family consume and bring them to the "Trick or Trash" box in the Main Office.

FALL BREAK COVERAGE IS BACK

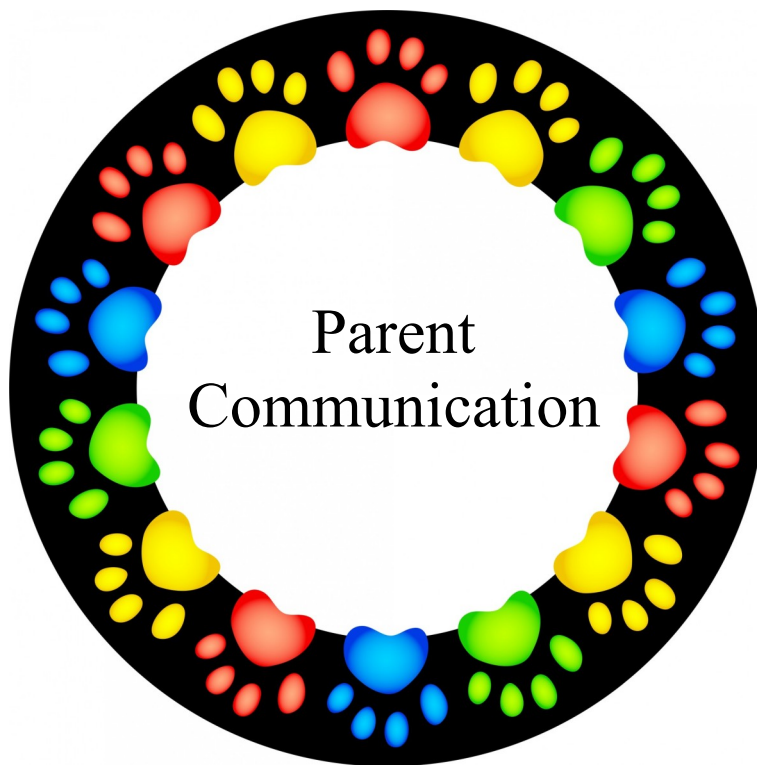
The Adventure Club

Friday, October 29 and Monday, November 1
All Registered Lake Central Elementary and
Middle School Students Welcome!

Peifer Elementary
1824 Cline Ave.
Schererville, IN.
Door E
6:30am - 6:00pm

Bring your own Lunch.
Adventure Club will provide snacks, juice and water.

Lots of Fun coming your way!
See your Site Coordinator for more information, or
call 219-865-6283



Hiring Bus Drivers

The LCSC is currently in need of bus drivers. No experience is needed. The district will provide paid CDL training. Sub bus drivers start at \$19.50 per hour. A benefit package is available to drivers on a contract. Apply online at <https://lcsc.us/administrators/human-resources/>. Questions can be directed to Chuck Strebar at cstrebar@lcscmail.com.

Students are not allowed to enter the building before 8:15 am unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Door A will not be unlocked until 8:30 am. Walkers/ bikers need to walk around to Door J (south entrance) if arriving before 8:30 AM.

Did you know?

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

<http://clark.lcsc.us>

MAKE US A
FAVORITE!!

Need to pick your child up
during the school day?
Remember to send a note to
the office in order to receive
a pass out of class.



NJHS has begun painting windows in the building for Fall and volunteering for events at Lake Central High School and the Saint John Parks Department. We will also be helping with a Cereal Food Drive the week of November 8th through 12th. There will be a grade level competition. Students can bring in a box of cereal during that week that will be donated to a local food pantry.



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

Contact Kathy Pedersen (219-558-2788) with any other questions pertaining to steps to becoming a substitute teacher for LCSC or for information about subbing at the elementary and middle schools.

IN Substitute Permit: \$100 Daily Rate

IN Teaching License: \$110 Daily Rate

Perm Subs/Retired LC Teachers: \$120 Daily Rate

We will work with your availability and school preferences. Make some extra cash for the holidays!

Elementary School Subs work 7:50 am - 2:50 pm

Middle School Subs work 8:30 am - 3:45 pm

Lake Central High School Subs work 7:00 am - 2:10 pm

For information about subbing at Lake Central High School

Contact Jackie Huppenthal: 219-558-2730.

October 2021

Hello Lake Central 5th Grade Families,

We have some exciting news! Your child is scheduled to participate in high ability testing on Tuesday, December 7th. The Cognitive Abilities Test™ (CogAT®) is an online multiple-choice test administered to all K, 2nd, and 5th grade students. CogAT is designed to measure a child's academic aptitude and gifted abilities through a battery of verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal test items.

About CogAT

- *CogAT* measures students' **learned reasoning abilities** in the three areas most closely related to success in school:
- The **Verbal Battery** measures students' abilities to reason with words and concepts. These reasoning abilities play an important role in reading comprehension, critical thinking, writing, and virtually all verbal learning tasks.
- The **Quantitative Battery** measures students' abilities to reason with quantitative symbols and concepts. These reasoning skills are significantly related to problem solving in mathematics and other disciplines.
- The **Nonverbal Battery** measures students' abilities to reason with geometric shapes and figures. To perform successfully, students must accurately implement strategies for solving novel problems.
- The three separate batteries provide a broad perspective on each student's learned reasoning abilities, identifying cognitive strengths and weaknesses.
- Each subtest includes practice questions to help students become familiar with the content and format of the subtests. These practice questions help students gain familiarity with the item formats and how to complete the different reasoning tasks.
- Students read each question and the answer choices and then mark their answers by filling in a circle on an answer sheet. Each subtest takes 10 minutes.

How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help

- You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:
- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days. Reschedule appointments and other out-of-school time on non-testing days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.

Score reporting and how we use test results

Your child's school will receive test scores in a few weeks. These scores will indicate how your student performed on the test compared with students across the nation who are either the same age or in the same grade. Your child's scores will be mailed to you. Discuss the test results with your student in a positive way by pointing out his or her strengths.

The results will indicate whether a child qualifies for services in our high ability classes. A student can qualify for services in:

- Reading/English Language Arts (ELA) & Math
- Reading/English Language Arts (ELA) only
- Math only
- Neither area

Score	<u>Subject</u> What does it mean?
96th percentile or above	Reading/ELA and/or Math Student will be placed in high ability program for 2022-23
88th-95th percentile	Reading/ELA and/or Math Student will participate in additional testing to further determine proper placement
87th percentile or below	Reading/ELA and/or Math Student will remain in the general education setting.

Please note, if your child is currently receiving services from our high ability program, he or she will not be retested for the subject(s) in which they've already qualified.

Thank you for encouraging and supporting your child during testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yolanda Bracey
Director of Primary Education/High Ability Coordinator