

# Clark Middle School

Newsletter  
September 2025





Happy September! It is hard to believe that we have been in school for almost 3 weeks. I must admit the school year seems to be flying. Anyway, “thank you” as parents, for an awesome start with your kids. They are doing great. Thank you teachers and staff for your hard work so far as well.

Over the past three weeks, the students have been engaged in a lot of learning opportunities. The classrooms are a buzz with excitement, some nervousness, and some baseline data testing. Also, the administrative team met with all grade levels in the gym during the first week of school to go over some basic rules and expectation for the year. In addition, all of our safety drills were reviewed and practiced—thank you Mr. Stablein for your assistance with the drills.

Parents that are dropping their child(ren) off in the morning by door J, south side of the building, please be prepared as we like to have students exit their vehicles 5-6 cars at a time. For those that have been in the car line, you know that it can be quite lengthy. It is our goal to move the line as quickly as possible but in a safe manner. Once you see Officer Nick or myself waving you to release and exit from your vehicle, please do...this makes the line move much quicker. For pick up in the afternoon, students can meet their parents in the parking lot, but they need to use the crosswalk for safety purposes. Thanks in advance for your help.

Our Open House was held on August 21 to a full house. Thank you parents for attending. If you were not able to attend, please reach out to the teacher for information that you might have missed. It was great to see the parents who attended and to meet our new 5th grade parents as well. Welcome!

September brings our first ½ early release for professional development for the staff. CMS students will be dismissed at 1:10 on September 9, so plan for your child. For additional early release days, please check the corporation calendar, which is on the LC website.

Our new counselor, Ms. Amanda Jacobs, is replacing Mrs. Churilla who took a position in another school district. For those of you with last names of “A-Har” she will be your child’s school counselor. Feel free to reach out to her with any concerns or issues that might need to be addressed.

Several clubs and groups will be starting very soon with call out meetings. I encourage ALL parents to check the school announcements where information is posted regarding events at CMS. Throughout the year, clubs or groups might be conducting fundraisers. Please know that I do not expect you to participate in all fundraisers, but if you can support maybe one or two that would be awesome. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Until next month, stay safe.

Mr. Graber

## ✓ CHECKING IN WITH Mr. Stablein....

Hello and welcome back to school!

Summer flew by fast! We are all currently getting back into the rhythm of the school year.

Just a few reminders for the year. By now, you have likely seen the new attendance policy that was sent out earlier in the summer on ParentSquare. Indiana expects 94% attendance from all students, which equates to 10 or fewer missed days per year. If your student is going to be absent, please remember to call the school to report the absence so it is not mark as “unexcused.”

With regards to academics, tutoring will be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays after Labor Day. It is open to ALL students-there is no invite like in elementary school. I would also like to encourage students to utilize academic assistance time in their Advisory period. This is time built-in to the school day where they can see teachers in subjects where they may need some extra help.

Finally, fall sports are in full-swing. With that comes certain expectations with grades. We check grades every three weeks. Students with two or more F’s are not eligible to participate.

Again, welcome back! I am looking forward to another great year!

Mr. Stablein  
Assistant Principal

# Counselor's Corner

Miss Jacobs

Ms. Vail

Mr. Biscan

## **Counselor Duties and Assignments**

The Clark School Counseling Department is excited for another school year! We are happy to answer any questions you or your child may have about anything, whether it be schedules, tips on how to improve academically, conflict resolution, or anything in between. We are also more than willing to speak with students about any personal social-emotional issues that may be going on. Our job is to help, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you or your child need anything at all! Our assignments are as follows:

Amanda Jacobs: Last names A - Har

Sharon Vail: Last names Has - Pin

Jacob Biscan: Last names Pio - Z

## **5th Grade Presentations**

The counselors went into 5th grade Advisory classes August 22nd and 26th to give a short presentation on what their job duties are and how students can contact their counselor if they need any assistance. We look forward to working with our 5th graders for the next 4 years at Clark!

## **New Student Breakfast**

The counseling team hosted the annual New Student Breakfast for all new students at Clark on Thursday, August 28th. Students enjoyed some delicious food and played a few fun games to give them a warm welcome! We hope our new students have felt welcome and are settling in nicely at CMS.

## **5th grade Bullying Presentation**

The counselors will be giving a bullying presentation to all 5th grade students at some point in September or early October. Dates have not been set yet. The counselors will cover things like the definition of bullying, the different types of bullying, and how to help yourself if you are involved in some kind of bullying incident or have witnessed an incident.

## **The Role of the School Counselor**

If you would like to better understand our role as counselors in the school, please check out this digital presentation: [Role of a School Counselor](#)

# Notes from Officer Nick...

Hello Clark Coyote Parents! It has been a great start to the new School year. I wanted to thank all of you for your patience with traffic in the morning and afternoon. Please remember, we finish everyday by 4:00pm give or take a few minutes. So please remain patient and **DRIVE SLOW** in the school parking lot and on W. 93rd avenue. Please stop at all crosswalk signs unless a school administrator, crossing guard or Police wave you on. Let's keep all of these kiddos safe this year!! Remind your child/children to refrain from cell phone use and ear buds/headphones while walking to and from school and on the bus. This is a huge distraction for student's safety. Myself and school staff talked with students last week in regards to their safety walking to and from school. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at any time. My information is on the Clark website. Stay safe and have an awesome week!

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## Nurses' Station



We are currently in the process of planning for state mandated vision (5th and 8th grades) and hearing screens (7th grade) with dates TBD. Additionally, all new students to the district will get screened if applicable.

More info on dates to come via Parent Square. If you would like to opt your child out of a vision/hearing screen please notify the nurse's office. Thank you!





DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Jennifer McCormick  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

*Working Together for Student Success*

**FYI**

## How Sick is Too Sick?

This information sheet is designed to be used as general guidance.  
If you have a medical question, please consult your physician.

Symptom	Send to School	Keep at Home
<b>Fever</b>	During the past 24 hours, the student's temperature has been below 100 degrees and no fever reducing medication has been taken.	During the past 24 hours, the student's temperature has been more than 100 degrees.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	During the past 24 hours, no more than one watery stool has occurred.	During the past 24 hours, more than one watery stool has occurred.
<b>Vomiting</b>	During the past 24 hours, no vomiting has occurred.	During the past 24 hours, vomiting has occurred.
<b>Eyes</b>	Eyes may be itchy, but are not red, crusty, or draining.	Eyes are pink, draining, crusty, itching, painful, sensitive to light, or student has vision changes.
<b>Cough/Runny Nose</b>	Slight cough or runny nose, but no fever, and the student is able to cover cough, blow nose, and wash hands.	Symptoms are severe enough that the student is unable to learn. The student has a fever, or is unable to cover cough, blow nose, or wash hands.
<b>Rash</b>	Rash is not draining or spreading. The student does not have a fever, and symptoms of itching are not severe enough to impede learning.	Rash is bothersome and distracting. The student has a fever or severe itching, or rash is spreading or draining.
<b>Asthma</b>	Symptoms are well controlled and the student knows when to contact a school adult for assistance or the student has an asthma action plan on file at the school and is following the plan.	Symptoms are not well controlled. The student is not able to recognize when he/she needs assistance, and no asthma action plan is on file at the school.

### For More Information, Contact:

Deanna Paddack, Chief Nurse Consultant, Indiana State Department of Health, [dpaddack@isdh.IN.gov](mailto:dpaddack@isdh.IN.gov)

Jolene Bracale, Student Health Services Specialist, Indiana Department of Education,  
[JBracale@doe.in.gov](mailto:JBracale@doe.in.gov)

Lisa Truitt, State Attendance Officer, Indiana Department of Education, [LTruitt1@doe.in.gov](mailto:LTruitt1@doe.in.gov)



# Help Us!

Save your Register Receipts for our school so we can earn free educational equipment and supplies.



## Apples for the Students

All information visit [www.aftsSVT.com](http://www.aftsSVT.com)

# You can help our school earn **FREE** classroom equipment and supplies!

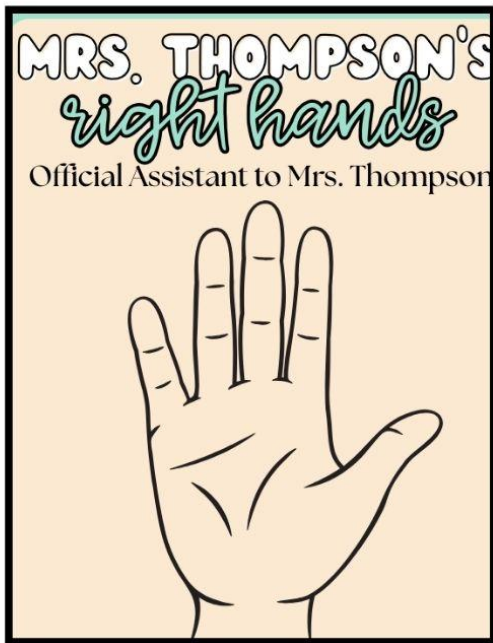
Courtesy Of



- 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.

# MRS. THOMPSON'S "RIGHT HANDS"

SHE'S LITERALLY JUST A LEFT-HANDED TEACHER LOOKING FOR HELP



## JOB DESCRIPTION

Mrs. Thompson seeks enthusiastic Classroom Teacher Assistants, her "Right Hands," to set up lab activities, distribute papers, clean up, and welcome students. Benefits include direct exposure to educational experiences, skill development in social interaction and multitasking, making this role perfect for those passionate about education and organization.



## CLASSROOM GREETERS


A classroom greeter is a student who welcomes classmates, creating a warm and inclusive atmosphere by greeting them by name and offering compliments. This role enhances social skills through polite communication and active listening, fostering empathy, confidence, and meaningful relationships. By promoting belonging and respect, greeters contribute significantly to a supportive learning environment.



# Understanding Absences

Excused vs. Parent/Guardian Verified vs. Unexcused

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

Excused	Parent/Guardian Verified	Unexcused
<p><b>Parent/Guardian notifies school on the day of the absence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Illness verified with a physician statement dated at the time of the visit/illness                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note must be returned within 1 week or absence will be unexcused</li> </ul> </li> <li>Death in the family</li> <li>School sends the child home sick (if due to fever, the following day will also be excused)</li> </ul> <p><b>Pre-Arranged Excused Absences/Exempt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Page for General Assembly</li> <li>Election Day Worker</li> <li>Court Witness</li> <li>IN National Guard Active Duty</li> <li>Civil Air Patrol</li> <li>Educationally related non-classroom activity as defined in IC 20-33-2-17.5</li> <li>Professional appointments (medical, dental, legal) when students return with an authorized, dated statement</li> <li>Observation of a religious holiday</li> <li>Maternity</li> <li>Military connected families' absences related to deployment</li> <li>Exhibiting/participating in state fair</li> </ul>	<p><b>Parent/Guardian notifies school on the day of the absence</b></p> <p><b>4 days per semester are allowed, or as approved by a building administrator</b>                      *any day beyond 4 will be unexcused</p> <p>A Parent/Guardian Verified absence is defined as a parent/guardian's choice to keep their child home due to the child being ill without a doctor's note</p>	<p><b>Students should have ZERO unexcused absences</b></p> <p>An unexcused absence is defined as any absence not covered under the definition of excused absence, any absence beyond 4 parent/guardian verified per semester, or a non-verified absence (failure to notify the school of an absence within 24 hours).</p> <p><b>Unexcused absences include vacations and absences due to sports or other activities.</b></p>
<p><b>Repercussions</b></p> <p>In addition to all building provisions in the student handbook:</p> <p>If a student accumulates 5 <u>unexcused</u> absences within a 9 week grading period, an attendance meeting will be held, as required by law. All absences are monitored and disciplinary action may result.</p> <p>Lake Central will refer students to Juvenile Justice Services upon reaching <u>10 unexcused absences</u> from school OR when the student has been <u>absent for any reason for 18 days during the school year</u>, as required by law.</p>		
<div>  <p><b>MISS A DAY, MISS A LOT.</b> <i>Attendance Matters</i></p> </div>		