

# The Colonial

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## Clay English Teacher, Mr. Matthew Pawlak, Set to Retire

BY SION SHEPLEY '19

After 31 years of teaching, 15 of which were spent inside of Clay High School, English teacher Mr. Matthew Pawlak is retiring on March 7.

Pawlak received his bachelor's degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1986 and his master's degree from Valparaiso in 1990, the year he also contracted Multiple Sclerosis, which is the reason for his use of a wheelchair and the reason for his retirement.

English was always the subject that he wanted to teach,

"I had an English teacher in high school who was excellent and I wanted to be like him," Pawlak stated.

In addition to the regular English classes, Pawlak also teaches ACP (Advanced College Project). How ACP works is that a student could take Pawlak's class, along with several other ACP classes that are offered in Clay, and receive college credits from Indiana University. These credits are transferable to over 500 schools throughout the United States. According to the Indiana University website, "An ACP student is registered in an IU college course and a college grade is entered onto the student's permanent college transcript upon course completion." Pawlak is a big fan of this program sharing that, "A kid can get out of high school with maybe 10-20 college credits."

Pawlak has been teaching ACP for the past 10 years.



*Pawlak (pictured above) has been teaching for 31 years, 15 of which have been at Clay. He has been teaching ACP for a total of 10 years.*

Photo by Kyla Andrews

ACP aside, there are some improvements that Pawlak would like to see made in the future. He does not feel that 8th graders entering high school are prepared enough in terms of writing.

"Even though we don't speak the best language, that's okay. But when it comes to writing, you have to be precise," Pawlak claimed.

He would also like to see the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet brought up in attention at Clay.

"That (the arts) needs to be set in the front of our school."

Turns out, Pawlak meant that both figuratively and literally, as he brought up the idea of an Arts Fair of sorts at the beginning of August, maybe a couple of weeks before the school year were to begin. He envisioned a large set up on the lawn outside of the English hallway exit, with performances and art projects abundant all across the grass. This could not only promote the arts at Clay, but even promote Clay as a whole by showing all that this school has to offer.

When reminiscing on his time at Clay, Pawlak mentioned something that he found very important and something that he could tie in to his life.

"There are a lot of students in this school who would be great teachers. And those students are the ones who get in trouble. I was a clown in class. I've done things (to succeed in school) that kids have never even thought of."

Pawlak went on to mention that the reason that the trouble making students would be good teachers is because they would notice these things more often than those who were good in school.

Pawlak hates disorganization and he constantly knows what his near future will hold. One thing is for certain though, he will always be a Clay Colonial.

# Editor's Note

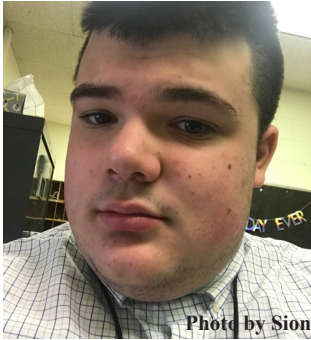


Photo by Sion Shepley

Hey Colonials! Thanks once again for taking the time to read the paper. We work so hard on these and it feels awesome when that is recognized. If you are interested in joining this motley crew, please inform your counselor when scheduling for classes next year. This class is a great way to improve your skills while writing about what you enjoy. This is also a great class if you are a social butterfly or are looking to improve your social skills. This is an exciting time for newspaper here at Clay and I have no doubt that this will continue next year.

Sion Shepley '19

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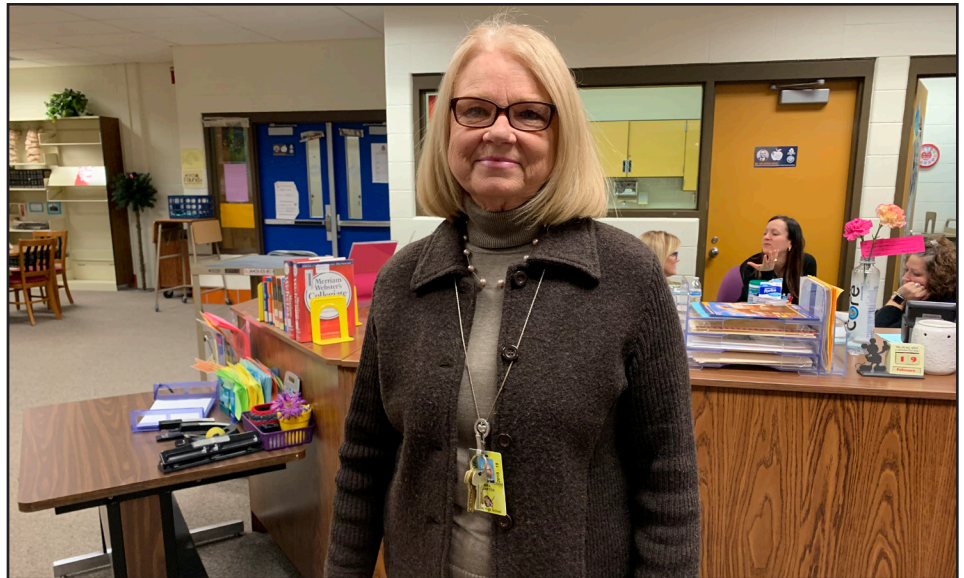
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# Counselor's Corner: Your Future is Calling are You Prepared?



BY MRS. MARCIA WARTER

February is Career and Technical Education (CTE) month so I am excited to be writing about the department. Our CTE programs are helping to preparing students, for high wage, high skilled and high demand careers. It is our desire to serve the students needs while providing a high quality and balanced education for the academic achievement and career preparation for all. Students will gain the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to succeed in postsecondary education and in career opportunities.

We offer many diverse programs here at SBCSC. All of the programs offer dual credits (high school and college credits) or certifications. The list of courses comprises wonderful opportunities for students who want to accept the challenge. Available classes include the following:

Architecture Drafting and Design I & II  
Audio/Video Production I & II (Radio & Television)  
Automotive Technology I & II  
Aviation Flight & Aviation Operations  
Computer Tech Support (Yr. 1) & Networking (Yr. 2)  
Construction Technology I & II  
Cosmetology I & II  
Criminal Justice I & II  
Culinary I & Advanced Culinary (Yr. 2)  
Dental Careers I & II  
Graphic Design (Yr. 1)/Interactive Media (Yr. 2)  
Early Childhood Education I & II

Education Professions I & II  
Emergency Medical Technology (Year 2 of HSE)  
Engineering and Technology Magnet (RHS)  
Entrepreneurship and New Ventures  
Fire & Rescue I & II  
Health Career Medical Magnet (WHS)  
Health Science Education I  
Health Science Education II Nursing (CNA)  
Health Science Education II Pharmacy  
Hospitality Management I & II  
Human and Social Services I & II  
Precision Machine Technology I & II  
Sport & Entertainment Marketing  
Welding Technology I & II

All students have the opportunity to choose a magnet in 8th grade and attend the high school where the magnet is taught. A difference between the Magnet Programs and the CTE programs is that the students don't apply for CTE classes until they are sophomores or juniors.

Our programs listed here are all three hour classes offered in several different locations. Most are housed in our SBCSC high schools but a few are out in the community.

The only way to take these programs is to apply and be accepted. This process started in November when presentations

COUNSELORS CORNER CONTINUED ON PAGE 3.



were made to all 10th grade English classes. At that time, the students were encouraged to talk to their family and explore their options as they relate to their interests. They were also told that the Career Resource Specialist door is open and they could come to the guidance to talk to me at any time.

I mentioned that students can earn college credits and certifications in the CTE programs and this is absolutely possible. Some of them require an exam to qualify, some don't. To earn the certifications most-require a test after the class.

An additional benefit is that the college credits and the first certification tests are paid for by the CTE department. Another benefit when taking CTE classes is that students can earn a Technical Honors diploma by earning dual credit or a certification. We have students that have earned both an Academic Honors Diploma and a Technical Honors Diploma. Becoming a member of the National Technical Honor Society in either their junior or senior year is another possibility when taking CTE courses.

We have accepted student in all of our programs for next year, but there is still room in some of the classes.

If you are interested or have questions talk to me, Mrs. Warter, in guidance. If you are interested please fill out an application on enrolltrack.

You can apply at <https://southbend.enrolltrack.com>. We are there for you and your future.



# Ask A Colonial... What's your favorite winter activity?



**Breanna Mendenhall, 11**  
"Nothing, I stay myself inside."



**Leilani Pacis, 9**  
"Staying indoors."



**Jarod Vandezande, 11**  
"Summoning the gods of winter to freeze the lands."



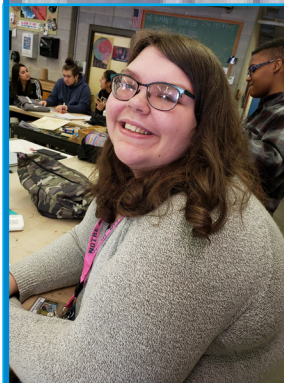
**Mr. Romans, art teacher**  
"I suppose like to ski and walk my dog- he likes it in the winter."



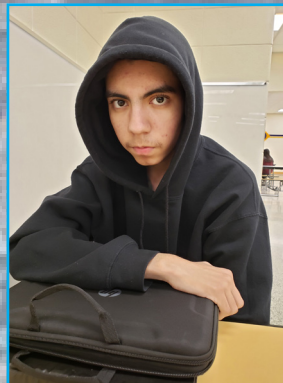
**Gaby Pacheco, 9**  
"Toboggan."



**Reagan Lippert, 9**  
"Sledding."



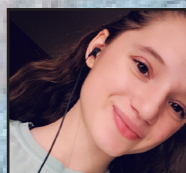
**Danielle Bower, 9**  
"Sledding."



**Gabbie Lyczynski, 9**  
"Skiing."



**Jose Martinez, 9**  
"Nothing, I like staying inside."





# 2019: THE YEAR OF ANIMATED SEQUELS

BY SION SHEPLEY '19

2019 is chocked full of sequels to famed animated movies. These include Pixar's *Toy Story 4*, Disney's *Frozen II*, Illumination's *The Secret Life of Pets 2*, and our subjects for this issue: Warner Bros' *The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part* and Dreamworks' *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*.



**The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part**

I, like many, am a huge fan of *The LEGO Movie*. I think it is an imaginative, entertaining, and even surprisingly heartwarming journey. The second film is more of the same, though maybe not as effective as the original.

After the apocalypse of the LEGO world by the DUPLO's at the end of the movie, our favorite plastic characters have to toughen up and be prepared for anything. The only one who still believes everything is awesome is Emmett (Chris Pratt). That all changes when strangers from a far off world come and capture the majority of the heroes from the first film. Now it's up to Emmett and another mysterious hero named Rex (also Chris Pratt) to save the heroes from the clutches of the not-evil Queen Watevra Wa'Nabi (Tiffany Haddish).

Keep in mind I am going to have to spoil the first movie to discuss this film, because there are details from that film that

are very important to discuss when talking about this movie.

*The LEGO Movie* has a twist in that it all takes place (mostly) in the mind of a child, and the message of the movie is a boy connecting with his father. The second film uses this same approach, but through a different conflict... the boy and his sister. While this story is done well, it does lead to probably my biggest issue with the film, it has two great stories that are being combined into one and that makes the film kind of clunky.

See, in addition to the storyline of the brother-sister dynamic, they also include a story about the boy growing up and trying to be more tough. Both of these are great ideas, since *The LEGO Movies* are basically the *Toy Story* movies if they were metaphors. They take the same concept, but unlike *Toy Story* where the human emotions are actually happening to those characters, the LEGOs are symbolizing the emotions of the humans. Even though the ideas are good, I felt like they should have saved the one about growing up for another film. This doesn't hinder this film much though, it's still wildly entertaining.

Even though I said that the story was clunky, it still benefits from having Phil Lord and Christopher Miller (the people behind *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs*, *21 Jump Street*, and *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*) coming back to write the film. *The LEGO Movie 2* is very very funny. There were moments that had me in hysterics.

The animation is amazing. I always admire how nearly everything looks exactly like LEGOs. The texture work is phenomenal. I also loved the animation around the Queen. She is a character that can transform into literally any form. This character must have been an animator's dream, and she even has song sequences that can show the skills of the animators. She's a ton of fun to watch.

Overall, I loved *The LEGO Movie 2*. It's not nearly as crisp or as polished as the first film was, but it's not a downgrade by any means. I would love to watch this film again and I think that everything is remaining awesome.

**Score: 87/100**



**How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World**

My relationship with the *How to Train Your Dragon* series is kind of complicated. While I liked the first one, I actually did not get into it as much as everyone else. Why? I'm not sure, but that all changed when I watched it again in preparation for the latest film. Now, I completely realize what an amazing film that is and why so many have considered it a seminal part of their childhood. Despite the large length of time it took me to come around to the first movie, I have always loved the second film. It does everything a sequel should do, the characters evolve, the story evolves, the stakes get higher, it's just a great movie and I personally like it even more than the first. Having two great movies preceding puts a lot of pressure on the latest film, *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World*. Did it deliver? Absolutely.

Hiccup (Jay Baruchel) has been going around saving dragons and bringing them back to Berk. However, the island is becoming overpopulated due to all of the dragons that are living there. Despite this, Hiccup loves having the dragons living with them and does not want anything to change. That all changes when a dangerous new villain named Grimmel (F. Murray Abraham) seeks to capture the dragons and kill Hiccup's Night Fury, Toothless, and his

new mate that he has come across. Now it's up to Hiccup to find the mysterious Hidden World, where the citizens and the dragons of Berk can be safe.

The same things that work in the other two films are perfectly kept in place here. These characters are all so likable and they keep growing as people as the films go on. This film may also have the best villain of the entire series. Not only because he has a great actor behind his voice, but also because of his motivation. While Grimmel's motives for his actions are not the most sympathetic, they are creepy. He loves the thrill of the hunt, and he serves an interesting purpose in basically being what Hiccup would have become if he had killed Toothless in the first movie. That's a very smart juxtaposition and I actually think it worked out better here than in the second film, where they tried something similar.

Hiccup's journey in this film is also

fully realized, he is not the same character he was in the first film. He has to learn to adapt to difficult circumstances and listen to what others say. Again, these are what good sequels should do and these films do that perfectly.

This may be Dreamworks' best looking animated film to date. The colors are vibrant and the designs of both the world and especially the dragons are all so unique and so stylized. These movies are also stellar when it comes to visual storytelling, as the relationship with Toothless and his new girlfriend is all told through visuals and they are not only very funny, but they are also stunning.

Obviously, this movie has to wrap up one of the most successful animated trilogies of all time, and fortunately, the ending is absolutely perfect. Without giving anything away (though the trailers do), this is precisely how this series should have

ended. It's not a 100% happy ending, almost taking a shot at modern day society, but it still resonates emotionally and you will need to bring your tissues. I cried.

Overall, *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* was a perfect ending to a great trilogy. Is it my favorite of the three? In all honesty, if I had to pick one it would probably be this one. That's because it has a lot of cliches that I like seeing in films and they just felt the most fun. But this series can and should be viewed as one long movie. None of them are rehashes, they're just one long epic animated fantasy. They are a blast.

**Score: 98/100**



## Next Up For Clay Theatre:



Auditions next week Tuesday 3/5 and Wednesday 3/6 from 4 until around 5:30-6

Callbacks will be Thursday 3/7

Special preparation of audition material on Monday 3/4 from 5:30-7:30



# Rambling thru March 2019 AD Skies: The View from Clay

Highlighting the North Star and the Asterism That Directs You to It



By: Mr. Sweeney

March sees a New Moon on the 6th, followed by a Waxing Crescent, a 1st Quarter Moon on the 14th, followed by a Waxing Gibbous, a Full Moon on the 20th, followed by a Waning Gibbous and a 3rd Quarter Moon on the 28th, followed by a Waning Crescent. March's Full Moon was called the Worm Moon because as the increasingly higher Sun increasingly warmed the soil, earthworms became increasingly active and their castings (excrement) began to appear. The Moon will be at Apogee (farthest from Earth during March) on the 4th and at Perigee (closest to Earth during March) on the 19th. No Super Moon this month since lunar perigee doesn't coincide with Full lunar phase. Daylight length continues to increase and darkness length continues to decrease.

But overall the amount of darkness is greater than the amount of daylight until daylight and darkness become equal in length on March 17th. Beginning on March 18th the amount daylight will be greater than the amount of darkness. On March 1st the Sun will rise about 7:20am and set about 6:34pm. EDT begins at 2:00am on the 10th. Please set your clocks ahead 1 hour. Thus, on the 31st, the Sun will rise about 7:29am and set about 8:09pm. Remember that there was a 1 hour adjustment in local time on the 10th. The season of Spring begins with the Vernal Equinox on the March 20th at 5:58pm. This is when the Sun is overhead at the equator and rises due east and sets due west. The noon Sun continues to get higher and noon shadows continue to get shorter. Your March morning stars prior to sunrise will be, from east to west, Venus, Saturn and Jupiter. Your March evening star following sunset will be Mars. Your March nighttime significant constellations and their accompanying stars, visible from sunset to sunrise will be Scorpius with Antares, Leo with Regulus, Gemini with Castor and Pollux and Orion with Betelgeuse and Rigel, in that order from

that order from east to west. Don't forget the North Star Polaris and the Big and Little Dippers in your northern sky. The Big Dipper is an asterism. An asterism is a star pattern within a star pattern, or a constellation within a constellation. The two stars in the front edge of the Big Dipper's bowl "point" to the North Star, Polaris. The wobble of the Earth on its axis, called precession, will cause Polaris to shine directly above the Earth's North Pole in the year 2100. One complete counterclockwise wobble occurs about every 25,800 years. If you could put Polaris and the Sun side by side, Polaris would be about 45 times wider and about 2,000 times brighter than our Sun. The speed of light is 186,000 miles per second. The Sun, 4.5 billion years old, is 93 million miles distant from the Earth. Thus, it takes sunlight 8.3 minutes to reach the Earth. This means that the Sun is at a distance of 8.3 light-minutes from the Earth. Polaris, about 70 million years old, is about 445 light-years from Earth. So tonight we see Polaris as it was 445 years ago because it takes 445 years for light from Polaris to reach our eyes, just like we see our Sun as it was 8.3 minutes ago. Remember, light-years and light-minutes are a measure of distance, not time.



# Fundraising: It's a Snap

BY SOPHIE RIDENOUR '20

Snap Raise Fundraising is a social media run fundraising for groups such as athletes, bands, and leadership or youth groups. It's easy and gets more free time to the groups than other fundraising. All you have to do, is share the website on social media, email, or text and just wait for family and friends to donate.

"I like the ease of Snap. In our fundraising experience, people don't want to buy items, they would rather their money go directly to the program," said Mrs. Meghan Beard.

When you sign up for the fundraising you pick prizes that you receive after so many people donate to you. Snap Raise

Fundraising reduces the time of fundraising and making it easier to raise money.

"It is our mission to support youth coaches and educators in their goal to empower the leaders of tomorrow," according to the Snap Raise website.

Clay High School theater departments used Snap Raise for *Cinderella*. "I felt people were more receptive to it. I also like that you can use social media to get people to donate. We raised the most money from this fundraiser," said Beard. "Snap Raise is the ease to fundraising with social media being so big in life today."

Snap Raise has more people coming back instead of pursuing other more tradi-

tional fundraisers. "I will definitely use this again," said Mrs. Beard.

The Juniors at Clay used Snap Raise for prom fundraising. After four weeks of fundraising they raised \$2,000. "I like this fundraiser because once the site is set up and the emails are sent, we just sit back and watch the funds come in," said Mr. Greg Harris the junior sponsor.

Snap Raise Fundraising is a great way to raise money for working parents and students who don't have the time to sell product to raise money. To have a successful fundraising the group has to be interactive and reach out to family and friends.

## Is the Live-Action Aladdin Genie Terrifying?

BY OWEN CONYERS '20

If you've been looking through Disney's upcoming films, you've likely heard of the new live-action *Aladdin*. But despite its popularity and its place as one of the most searched for upcoming movies on IMDb, not all of the press is positive. As one might expect with a movie like this, it's definitely not without controversy. A few Disney fans complained about Disney supposedly pumping out relatively cheap live-action films this year or blatantly capitalizing on the success of their live-action *Beauty and the Beast*. However, many fans have been talking about one particular problem---the genie looks genuinely creepy.

On February 10, 2019, Disney released a trailer for *Aladdin*, which has a pretty promising start. In the short trailer, you can see some passable CG and some nice looking set design. The parade scene looks passable too, with crowds of actors all given a diverse set of costumes and buildings that look much more real

compared to the CG backgrounds in the rest of the trailer. However, once Aladdin rubs the lamp, we're introduced to the character that shocked the internet: Will Smith's portrayal of the genie. While it's not insultingly bad (or the worst CG we've ever seen), fans have criticized its laziness and poor design. Compared to *Avengers: Infinity War*, which was released last year by a company that Disney owns (Marvel), the design of the genie looks lazy and kind of creepy---especially compared to Thanos from *Infinity War*.

While many fans may agree that this new version of the genie isn't well done, it's hard to pin down what exactly about the design is creepy. Some fans have claimed it's because of Will Smith's uncanny smile added to a shirtless CG genie. But the exact reason seems to be subjective and likely varies from person to person.

Junior Noah Watts said, "I do believe that the new *Aladdin* trailer shows serious promise, but the CGI for Will Smith's

genie could use some serious work, as is somewhat disturbing to look at, despite the friendly message the trailer is trying to send."

However, while some students judged the quality of the genie's CGI, some students had mixed opinions about whether or not the genie is creepy-looking.

"I don't necessarily think Will Smith playing the part of the genie is creepy, it's something different and I feel like he just looks like a big Smurf. Personally, I think they should've picked someone different to play the role as well," said junior McKayla Noecker

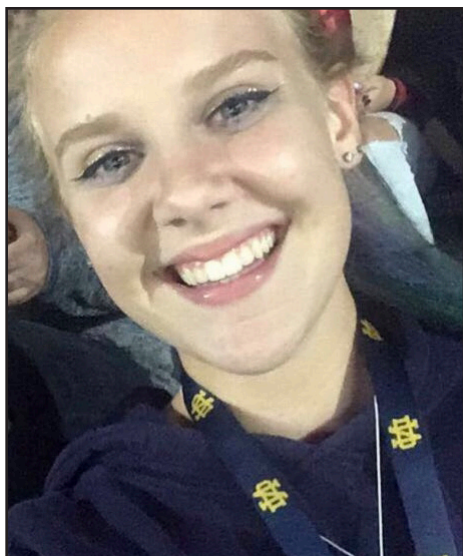
Junior Zachary Wilkeson said, "I think that Will Smith will do a spectacular job of portraying the role of genie, that being said he is just a little scary."

In the end, most of us can agree that Disney's live-action genie could use some work. And unfortunately, with the film likely very close to completion at the moment, there might not be enough time to improve the CG. While the genie's appearance will most likely not affect the box office earnings of *Aladdin*, some fans have pointed out Disney's cheapness and poor choices when it comes to the genie as well as other factors like other special effects and casting. So while Disney may be saving money by making cheaper live-action films, consumers noticing these decisions could make or break Disney's new live-action remakes---Will Smith genie potentially being the straw that broke the camel's back. But if you're interested in seeing Disney's *Aladdin*, be sure to check it out when it's released in theatres on May 24, 2019.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BY SOPHIE RIDENOUR '20



**K**yra McDonald is currently ranked third in the junior class. She has been a student at Clay since her freshman year and previously went to La-Salle Academy. Kyra is involved in theater and dance while also keeping her grades up. She is a part of the Clay's Visual and Performing Arts Magnet in the dance strand. The community is Kyra's favorite part of being a Clay Colonial. Kyra says her strength is managing her time with school, dance, and theater.

"I do a lot of homework. I have a hard time staying with my classes just like everybody else though, so I have had to learn how to manage my time," said Kyra McDonald.

The time and dedication it takes to be one of the highest in the class is impressive. Her biggest influences at Clay would have to be Mrs. Jene Hartman social studies teacher or Mrs. Susan Groves, English teacher. Kyra said, "I feel proud of myself. I have worked hard." She should feel this way after so hard for this long already.

Kyra's future plans are planning to go Purdue University to become a Veterinarian. The students at Clay High School are very thankful to have Kyra McDonald as one of their Clay Colonials!



Nathan Flesh is currently ranked fourth in the junior class. He has been at Clay since his freshman year and he previously went to Corpus Christi, St. Pius, Montessori at Edison Lakes, and Good Shepherd Montessori School. While being at Clay Nathan is an active member of the

magnet program and has participated in many shows. His favorite part of being at Clay is the people. The students are fun to work with and the teachers make hard days worth it.

"It's a lot of pressure, I always want to maintain my rank or move up if I can," said Nathan when asked how it feels to be one of the highest in the class. "I have dyslexia so it has always been a struggle for me so I'm always giving 110% when getting stuff done," said Nathan when talking about work to achieve this. His biggest influences at Clay have been Social Studies teacher Mrs. Jene Hartman because she's been like a mom, and English teacher Mrs. Susan Groves, and teacher/librarian Ms. Angie Bitner for being his fun aunts.

Nathan's future plans are to go to Chicago and work at the Second City Comedy Club and eventually move to New York or Los Angeles to pursue comedy full-time. The students at Clay High School are very thankful to have Nathan Flesh as one of their Clay Colonials!



Photos by Sion Shepley and Kyra McDonald





*Left to Right: Lila Beard, Mrs. Meghan Beard, Lucy Beard*

BY KYLA ANDREWS '20

**F**ive teachers at Clay have so much school spirit, they even enrolled their kids here! "The biggest struggle is remembering that teenagers do not like their parents to meddle in their business," according to Mrs. Jené Hartman, a faculty member and mother of two Clay students.

Hartman feels "more connected to [her son's] lives than [she] would if they were any other place." Hartman has the ability to get to know the people who influence her kids, Noah and Maxx, on a daily basis. She believes the advantage is getting to see them every day.

Mrs. Meghan Beard, Clay Magnet Coordinator and mother of two Clay students, agrees that the disadvantages are for the kids. "[Lucy and Lila] will tell you it is a pain having their mom always around." Beard continues, "I also think people think they have special privileges because they are my children. That is absolutely not true." Despite the disadvantages, Mrs. Beard says she loves having her girls here.

Most teachers agree that seeing their kids every day is the advantage. Mr. Jay Love, art teacher and father to four Clay students, says he "enjoys getting to drive [his] kids to school on a daily basis." Love continues, "We're a blended family. Austin and Makayla are freshmen, Caleb is a junior, and Alexis is the senior Class VP."

# TEACHERS and *Their* Children

**"We're a blended family."**

Love continues, "I do enjoy having my children in school with me teaching here." He believes it is much easier than it was a few years ago. "I had one child here, two at Clay Middle, one at Darden, and one at Perley."

Teaching at Clay High School is an extreme pleasure for Mr. Ginzer, Plato Teacher and father to a Clay Student. Ginzer says, "The struggles of having [Macey] at my school are more on him than me. He is most likely held to a higher standard like I was." Despite the struggles Macey faces, Mr. Ginzer "wouldn't have it any other way." Mr. Ginzer is happy that he attends this school.

According to Mr. Timothy Appleby, AP Language Arts teacher and father to a Clay student, an advantage and disadvantage of having a child at school is "getting to know his or her child's teachers and colleagues on a more intimate level." Mr.

Appleby feels that "one concern with having your child attend the same school where the parent teaches is that at times the student feels that he or she carries the parent's baggage." Despite everything, Mr. Appleby "would not have sent [his] daughter to any other school. In my opinion, as a teacher and a parent, Clay High School is the best high school in the South Bend Community School Corporation."



*Left to Right: Maxx Szucs, Mrs. Jene Hartman, Noah Szucs*

**"As a teacher and a parent, Clay High School is the best high school in the South Bend Community School Corporation."**