



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

April 1, 2025 | claytonschools.net/chs

"When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest."

— Ernest Hemingway, [A Moveable Feast](#)



From the Principal



From The Principal

Welcome to April! It is finally beginning to feel like spring. I hope everyone had a restful break and is ready for the final push of the academic year. In the Gutchewsky household, our break was lowkey as my wife was sick for most of the break and my son was with friends in Florida. We were able to get caught up on house projects, movies and some TV shows we had been wanting to watch. My sister and nieces came into town for the last part of the break, and we were able to do a couple of family outings to Union Station and the St. Louis Aquarium. It is always fun to spend time with them and it was a nice respite before the stress of fourth quarter.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spring Parent-Teacher conferences a few weeks ago. We had a solid turnout with in-person conferences continuing to be slightly more popular than online conferences. Spring conferences are always a bit lighter in attendance as our senior parents begin to separate from us and focus on the next chapter of their student's life. It was still great to see so many of you on Wednesday night. I know that our teachers really enjoy connecting with families and we appreciate you taking the time to partner with us to help your children.

As we begin the fourth quarter, I compartmentalize my mindset and schedule according to events. At this time of year it is one event right after another, all the way to the end of the semester. We have SAT/PSAT testing, State testing, Student Run Musical, Prom, Awards Ceremony, AP Testing, Senior Send Off, Graduation and Finals. All of these events are important in different ways and they contribute to the excitement (and stress) of the end of the year. It is hard to believe that our seniors have less than two months left of their high school careers. Summer will be here before

we know it, and soon we will be sending them off to their post-CHS adventures. We hope you will join us at many of the end of year celebrations and events. See you soon!

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

Upcoming Events



Important Dates

April 8 - No School/Professional Learning Day

April 18 - No School/Teacher Conference Comp Day

April 26 - Prom

April 28 - Senior Skip Day

May 1 - Award Ceremony

May 15 - Seniors' Last Day of Classes

May 16 - Cap and Gown Pickup

May 19 - Senior Send-off

May 22 - Graduation

May 26 - Memorial Day/No School

May 28-30 - Final Exams



District Calendar

Check out the [District Calendar](#) to view all upcoming events at Clayton High School and around the District!

CHS News



Help Us Celebrate the Class of 2025!

Dear Parents & Guardians of Graduating Seniors,

The *Globe* student newspaper is preparing a special graduation edition to honor the Class of 2025! As part of this issue, every senior has been invited to participate in an interview.

We encourage you to check in with your senior to see if they've taken part. While we have reached out to all 221 graduating students, we are still awaiting responses from many. Your support will help us ensure every senior is included in this special tribute.

The deadline for submissions is **April 11**. To make participation easy, we've attached a QR code linking directly to the survey—perfect in case previous emails were overlooked.

Thank you for helping us create a memorable keepsake for the Class of 2025!

Free Peer Tutoring Available Through National Honor Society

We are pleased to announce that our National Honor Society members are once again offering free peer tutoring in MATH, SCIENCE, and WORLD LANGUAGES for the current semester.

Program Benefits: Students who have participated in our peer tutoring program in previous years have experienced notable improvements in their academic performance. Many have seen significant grade increases and, equally important, have developed greater confidence in subjects they once found challenging.

Program Details: Our NHS students volunteer their time and expertise to help their peers succeed. To ensure the program runs smoothly for everyone involved:

- Your child will be paired with one tutor, who will coordinate tutoring sessions with your child.
- On average, your child will have one tutoring session per week.
- As best they can, tutors will be communicating with your child's teacher to make sessions as effective as possible.
- Tutoring sessions will be held during Greyhound Time.
- **IMPORTANT-** Your student is encouraged to take ownership of their learning by attending all scheduled sessions. Our tutors will do their best to encourage your child to attend tutoring sessions, but ultimately it is your child's responsibility to attend tutoring sessions.
- Students who do not regularly attend tutoring will be dropped.
- **IMPORTANT-** Families may NOT reach out to tutors directly. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Carroll Lehnhoff-Bell, one of the NHS faculty advisors.

To register your student for this opportunity, please complete the [online form](#).



LEAD STL
The Cultural Leadership Fellowship
Transforming students into the civic leaders and changemakers of tomorrow!

Who Should Join:

- 10th and 11th graders (2025-2026) passionate about social change

Benefits:

- Develop leadership skills
- Increase cultural awareness through field trips and incredible speakers
- Build cross-cultural relationships with other students across STL region
- Travel through the East Coast & South on our 2-week Transformational Journey

Apply Today!
Visit leadstl.org or scan the QR code to the right to apply!

LEADSTL.org STL INFO@LEADSTL.org 314.354.8226



Cultural Leadership Apps are Open!

The Organization

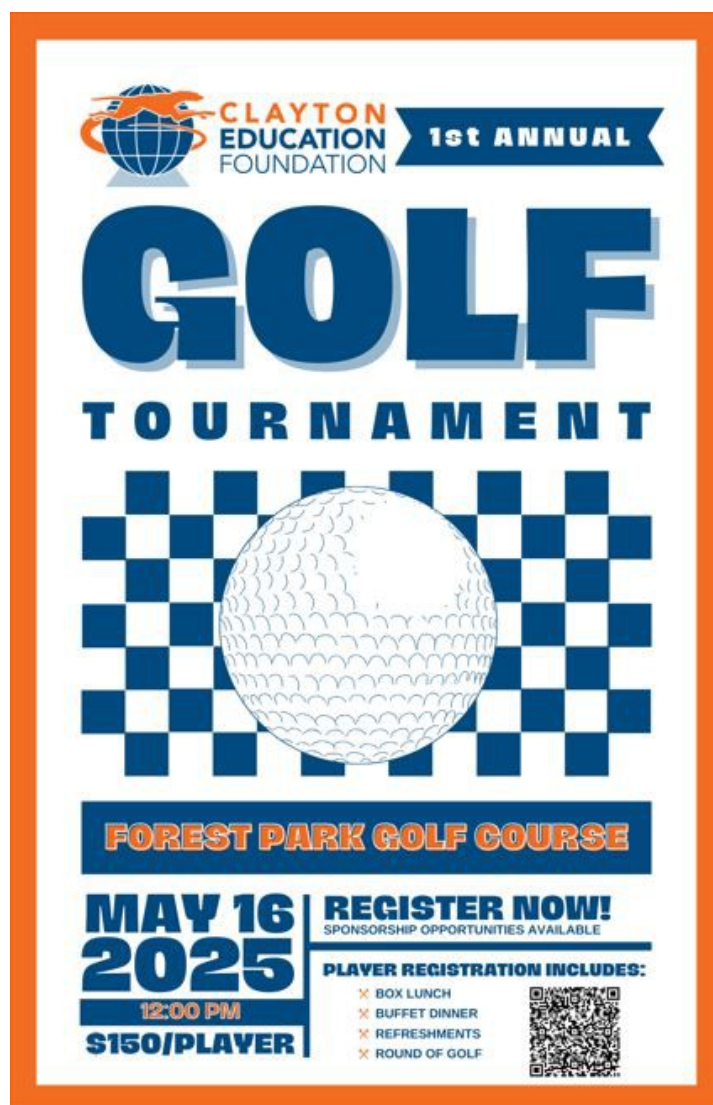
LEAD STL is a local student leadership organization committed to developing high school, middle school, and college-aged students from across Greater St. Louis into leaders and changemakers within their communities. We do this through immersive learning, leadership development, and empathy building rooted in the Black and Jewish experiences, using them as frameworks through which to explore many other identities and communities. Students don't have to be Black and/or Jewish to participate in programming as we value a diversity of voices and backgrounds in all of our programming. Students are trained how to have tough but

important conversations with each other about racism, antisemitism, homophobia, and many other forms of inequities and injustices so they can benefit their schools and communities.

The Program

Cultural Leadership is a year-long fellowship for Sophomores and Juniors starting December '25 where students meet monthly on Sunday afternoons in locations across the St. Louis region to talk about issues important to them, develop leadership skills, and build meaningful relationships with each other. Additionally, students participate in three overnight retreats in St. Louis and embark on a 2-week Transformational Journey in June where they travel across the East Coast and South, visiting sites and meeting with individuals significant to Black and Jewish history and culture as well as social change movements.

Students can [apply online](#) here or use the QR code on the flyer.



Dear CHS Parents and Guardians,

Did you know that 1 out of 2 Clayton High School students said there is little to no risk in smoking cannabis once or twice a week?



(Missouri State Survey 2022). In reality, even 1-2 uses of THC, the primary psychoactive component in cannabis, can cause changes in brain development and function.

Cannabis – commonly called weed – is now legal for recreational use in Missouri, and there's a lot to talk about. Misinformation about cannabis is prevalent.

Join CHS Wellness Center and All-In Clayton Coalition on Monday, April 7 at 6:00 PM, via Zoom for IN THE WEEDS, a cannabis education conversation presented by PreventEd. We will share the facts about cannabis use and legalization, dispel myths, and start conversations that support prevention. To register, CLICK [HERE](#) or scan the QR code on the attached flyer.

We look forward to meeting with you online on April 7th!

Jennifer McKeown
Wellness Coordinator, Clayton High School

Chellie McLellan
Behavioral Wellness and All In Coalition Specialist

The flyer features a background image of three students smiling and looking at a notebook. Overlaid on this is a large blue circle containing the event title and date. To the right of the circle is a white box with the PreventEd logo and a message about sharing facts. At the bottom left, there is a QR code and a registration link.

CHS Wellness Center **ALL in CLAYTON COALITION**
HELPING YOUTH MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES

IN THE WEEDS

Cannabis education conversation
for parents and caregivers

**April 7th, 2025
6:00 PM
Zoom**

Interested? Register by
scanning the QR code or
clicking [here](#)

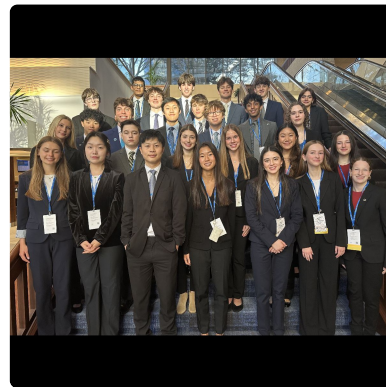
Presentation by **PreventEd**

We're sharing the **facts**
about cannabis use
and legalization to
dispel myths, start
conversations and –
ultimately – **prevent**
harm.

Celebrating Our Students

Clayton DECA Excels at State Conference

Twenty-eight Clayton students recently competed at the DECA State Career Development Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, showcasing professionalism and breaking school records.



Top Achievements:

- **1st Place:** Sam Thompson (Principles of Entrepreneurship), Eli Emmenegger (Sports and Entertainment Marketing)
- **2nd Place:** Raghav Mani (Entrepreneurship), Isabella Kotets & Izzy Cuddihee (Start-up Business Plan), Ema Stojicevic & Giselle Hausladen (Sports and Entertainment Operations Research)
- **3rd Place:** Multiple teams in Hospitality, Integrated Marketing, and Sports Marketing
- **4th & 5th Place:** Dante Zou (Automotive Services Marketing), Andrew Wang & Nicholas Helmering (Buying & Merchandising)
- **Top 10 Finishers:** Several students in Innovation, Hotel Management, Human Resources, and Marketing categories

Next Stop: Internationals!

Fifteen students have qualified for the **International Career Development Conference** in Orlando, Florida, from April 25th-30th. Congratulations to all!

Check out event photos below and on our [Clayton DECA Instagram](#) to see our students in action!

Clayton Team Ties 1st Place in World Quest Competition

Congratulations to the Clayton High School team of Yehia Said, Caleb Park, Cesarine Cross, and Rayna Everett for their outstanding victory in the *World Quest Competition*! Sponsored by the World Affairs Council and St. Louis University, this prestigious event challenged students from over 50 public and private schools to showcase their knowledge of global affairs, international trade, and current events.

After four months of intense preparation—reading over a hundred articles on geopolitics and world issues—the Clayton team demonstrated their expertise by answering eight rounds of difficult questions. Their hard work and dedication paid off with a well-earned *first-place tie*!

We are incredibly proud of these students for their commitment to global awareness and academic excellence. Congratulations again on this remarkable achievement!



HOSA-Hounds Shine at State Leadership Conference

Our **HOSA-Hounds** made an impressive debut at the **HOSA State Leadership Conference** in Rolla, MO! In our chapter's first year, **ten students** qualified for state, and **six placed in the top five**, earning a spot at the **international competition this summer**!

Congratulations to:

- **Olivia Lu (Freshman)** – 2nd, *World Health & Disparities in Healthcare*
- **Elise Waheed (Freshman)** – 2nd, *Epidemiology*
- **Ashley Ngo (Junior)** – 1st, *Medical Law and Ethics*
- **Athena Kyrychenko (Junior)** – 3rd, *Veterinary Medicine*
- **Anneliese Nguyen (Junior)** – 2nd, *Extemporaneous Writing – Health Policy*
- **Kei Handzic-Smith (Sophomore)** – Top 5, *Sports Medicine*

Additionally, we extend a **huge congratulations** to our **state qualifiers** who competed with dedication and skill:

- **Audrey Zych (Junior)** – *Pharmacology*
- **Hannah Yoon (Senior)** – *Nutrition*
- **Donna Do (Senior)** – *Dental Terminology*
- **Addy Poudel (Sophomore)** – *Medical Law and Ethics*

We are incredibly proud of our **HOSA-Hounds** and their impressive achievements.

RoboHounds Headed to the World Championship!

As we headed into spring break, our **Clayton RoboHounds** had an incredible run at the **St. Louis Regional at Chaifetz Arena!** After a strong performance at both the **Arkansas Regional** and the **STL Regional**, **Team 4500** has officially qualified for the **FIRST Robotics World Championship**, where they will compete against top teams from around the globe.

This year's robot is truly impressive, and our team's hard work and dedication have paid off in a big way. **Please join us in congratulating our talented students on this amazing achievement!**

Current RoboHounds Stats:

🏆 **STL Regional Record:** 13-2-0

🏆 **Overall Record:** 23-7-0

🏆 **Missouri Ranking:** #3 out of 67 teams

🏆 **USA Ranking:** #104 out of 2,938 teams

🏆 **World Ranking:** #128 out of 3,705 teams

A **special thank you to Rob Laux** for chaperoning and traveling with the team to Arkansas—your support is greatly appreciated!

We can't wait to see what the **World Championship** holds for our RoboHounds. Check out the match video from the St Louis: [Match 68](#) - against Ladue - Team 4330.

Stay tuned for updates!



Budget Gap: 48 Hours Left to Donate

Thank you to everyone who has already given to the CHS PTO fund. We could not provide the support for our teachers, staff, students, and special projects without your generosity and attention.

However, only 15% of families have participated so far, and we need an additional \$12,000 in order to fund the projects and events we've committed to this year.



Remember, we are 100% funded by Clayton families; your donation underwrites the vital programs the CHS PTO supports throughout the 2024-25 school year, including the special projects proposed by our teachers -- the PTO's ability to fund their creative and innovative ideas will enhance our students' learning and well-being in the classroom and beyond. Your donation also facilitates community events for students, staff, and our parent community. Finally, a donation to the CHS PTO Clayton Cares fund equips our social workers to extend a safety net and provide essentials for our students and families in times of need.

Please note: You will receive a tax receipt along with your payment confirmation. As the PTO is a 501c3, donations are fully tax-deductible and eligible for [employer matching programs](#). Checks can be dropped off or sent to Clayton High School PTO, #1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, MO 63105. If you aren't sure if you've donated yet this school year, email PTO Treasurer, John Holmes. To give online, follow [this link](#), click the button below, or scan the QR code above.

We will set next year's budget and event goals on **April 2, 2025**, so please give today.

Thank you,
Jena Schaumburg and Joanna Dinsmore
CHS Co-PTO Presidents

Make your annual donation to the PTO here.

PTO Meeting Dates

CHS PTO will hold monthly meetings at the **Center of Clayton - Meeting Room C** on the first Wednesday of the month from **12-1 pm**. Below are the planned meeting dates.

- April 2
- May 7



Check out more that our PTO is doing [here!](#)

Parent Coffee



Please save the dates and join Dr. Gutchewsky for casual conversations at our Parent Coffee Gatherings at 9:00 a.m. on February 21 and April 25.

Please [RSVP here](#) if you would like to attend.

District News



Buzz Books

School Buzz Books have been updated for this school year and are now available online. The District has once again partnered with Membership Toolkit to create online directories for each of our schools that are secure, easy to use and free to District families. [Find instructions and a link to your school's buzz book on the website.](#) If you are having trouble accessing the Buzz Book, please drop us a line at communications@claytonschools.net.



CHS Principal's Newsletter



The Principal's Newsletter is sent to CHS families and staff who have subscribed or have provided an email address on the student information form or via Powerschool.