



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

February 13, 2024 | claytonschools.net/chs

"In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends."

— Martin Luther King Jr.



From the Principal



From The Principal

February is always a busy time of year as we are in the midst of registration, staffing conversations and hiring for next year. Currently, we are wrapping up the student course registration process for next year and we will use this information to set staffing levels for next year. Once we establish our course staffing needs, we will begin to build the master schedule for next year. In response to feedback from students, parents, and staff, this year we made some timeline changes to our process by moving all of our events ahead by about a month. This change will allow us to complete the building of the master schedule by early April, which will allow our counselors to meet with each student and resolve any schedule conflicts before leaving for the summer. The new timeline will help alleviate some of the student and staff stress of resolving conflicts in August in the days before classes start. This adjustment will also allow us to be more flexible and responsive to any potential staffing changes. Ultimately, these changes will make the entire registration and scheduling process much more pleasant.

This time of year is exciting but also bittersweet as we begin hiring for next year to replace members of our staff who are retiring. They are currently finalizing the hiring process for the following positions (person retiring in parentheses): Secondary Instructional Coach (Janet Crews), AP Chemistry/Chemistry (Nathan Peck), Math (Barb Dobbert), Greyhound Alternative Program Director (Joyce Bell), and Secondary Band (Jennifer Shenberger). In the coming weeks, we will be posting for the following positions: Latin (Pamela Skinner) and Drama/Theater (Kelley Weber). We are very excited to add the talents of new educators to our community while at the same time sad to think about saying goodbye to amazing colleagues.

We are very excited to announce the opening of the CHS Wellness Center next week. This amazing resource is the result of over a year and a half of planning and preparation. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this a reality. The space is a converted book storeroom and it looks amazing. Our Wellness Coordinator (Jen McKeown) and our Wellness Outreach Specialist (Grace Sullentrup) have been working hard to put the finishing touches on the center in preparation for welcoming students on February 20th. The Wellness Center will help us meet students' mental wellness needs in various ways. It will provide a space for drop-in support during the day with trained mental health professionals, it will serve as a space for support groups, and it will also serve as a hub to connect students with community resources. We will be including a regular Wellness Center monthly update in future Principal's Newsletters to keep everyone updated on our work. We will also be hosting an Open House of the space during parent teacher conferences next month.

With Greyhound Pride,
Dr. Dan Gutchewsky



Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

February 16 - No School

February 19 - No School

March 8 - No School

March 12-14 - Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 18-22 - Spring Break

March 29 - No School

April 13 - Prom

April 26 - No School

April 30 - Awards Ceremony



Upcoming Events



Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held the week of March 11-16th. **Registration for conferences will begin on February 26th and end on March 8th.** Please mark your calendars for the dates below. More information will be shared in the following weeks.

- Monday, March 11, from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Virtual Only)
- Tuesday, March 12, from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Virtual Only)
- Wednesday, March 13, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. (In-Person)
- Thursday, March 14, from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Virtual Only)
- Friday, March 15, from 1:15-3:15 p.m. (Virtual Only)



District Calendar

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

Celebrating Our Students



DECA District Results 2024

On February 8th, almost 75 students represented Clayton at the DECA District 8 Competition. We are proud to announce that 32 qualified for the State Career Development Conference! They will represent Clayton and District 8 in Kansas City from March 3rd-5th. This event marked the most district competitors AND state qualifiers Clayton has ever had, beating records set last year.

CHS Student Entrepreneur

Check out one of our amazing junior students, Dorian Shelton! He is an entrepreneur that started Dee's Tees and More in 2022. He is also a member of the Young Biz Kidz, an organization dedicated to teaching financial literacy skills and fostering young entrepreneurs. He is now featured on billboards around the St. Louis area.



YMCA MLK Essay Scholarship winner

Congratulations to Liliana Boyd, a Clayton High School Senior who received first place in this year's YMCA MLK Essay Scholarship. Liliana shared excerpts of her essay at the 39th YMCA Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Breakfast on January 15th. To read more about Liliana and the celebration of King's legacy, check out this [article from KSDK](#).

CHS Student Chosen as MSHSAA Committee Member

Congratulations to CHS Senior Caidyn Tate for being chosen to represent Clayton on the Missouri State High School Activities Association's Student Advisory Committee. She is one of only four

students in the St. Louis Area to be selected. Way to go, Caidyn!



Parent Corner



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 23 and April 19.

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

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 12:00-1:00 pm. Below are the planned meeting dates.

PTO Meeting Dates:

- Mar 6
- April 3
- May 1



CHS News



CHS Wellness Center

We are looking forward to the opening of the new CHS Wellness Center on February 20th! The CHS Wellness Center is a welcoming and safe space on campus created for and with youth which will provide access to teen health and wellness support and services. The CHS Wellness Center will provide prevention and intervention, including one time, crisis, and ongoing support to students.

More information will be shared in many different ways with students, staff, and parents regarding our CHS Wellness Center Launch Week which will be held February 26th through March 1st. Stay tuned!

Clayton Summer Academy

Clayton Summer Academy registration is now open. Clayton Summer Academy offers Credit Recovery and Credit Acquisition Classes. The programs take place June 3 - June 28 from 8:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Clayton High School. Click [HERE](#) to review the Clayton Summer Academy brochure and to register for either Credit Recovery and Credit Acquisition Classes. **The early deadline for summer registration to guarantee your spot in a class is Friday, March 15.**

HONORS ENGLISH ONE PASSION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

Join us in celebrating all of
the amazing work these
students have done!



WHAT

Students have worked on passion research projects since January and would love the opportunity to present them to an authentic audience in an open house format.

WHEN

February 13th from 6pm - 8pm

WHERE

CHS Library

RSVP

Please RSVP by 2/5 online at tinyurl.com/englishfair

email daisretodaro, kathryncrooper, or melissagoddett @claytontschools.net with any questions!

Honors English Passion Project Open House

The Honors English I team is hosting an open house event for our parents on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the library at CHS. Please [RSVP](#) by Feb. 5. [Check out the flier](#) for more information! Join us in celebrating all of the amazing work these students have done!

Town Hall: Teen Talk

Join us for the 4th annual Town Hall: Teen Talk on Wednesday, February 21, 6-7pm on Zoom.

Hear from St. Louis-area teens on substance use, mental health, and how adults can support youth. Bring your questions for our teen panel featuring middle and high school students from across the region.

Host: Nicholas Sheppard, Clayton High School senior

Registration Required: <https://bit.ly/teentalk2024>

Know a 6-12th grader who would like to be on our teen panel? Email lilischliesser@claytontschools.net





Navigating the Haze: Understanding the Impact of High-Potency Cannabis on Today's Teens

In recent years, the landscape of cannabis use has undergone a significant transformation, with high-potency strains gaining popularity. As parents, it's crucial to be informed about how these potent forms of cannabis may be affecting our teenagers. In this blog post, we'll explore the impact of high-potency cannabis on

today's teens and discuss essential conversations and precautions that parents can take.

Read the full blog post: <https://allincoalition.com/2024/02/01/3416/>

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Hot Yoga Fundraiser

The Hot Yoga Fundraiser is led by a Clayton Parent and will take place on March 2nd from 2:00-3:00pm. Participants will need to create an account on the MINDBODY app to sign a waiver. If you would like to participate, please fill out google form linked here: <https://forms.gle/qRL2yuBcq6X9SKd6>. If you have any questions, please email jmann58@claytonschoools.net or awhitesell53@claytonschoools.net.

BUZZ FOR BUCKS

Help us raise \$10,000 before
our event to give Glossenger a
haircut. Scan the QR code to
donate



District News



ACCESS Assessment

In February, students who are receiving English language (EL) services will be taking the ACCESS assessment. The ACCESS assessment is a suite of English language proficiency (ELP) assessments that Missouri has selected to meet the requirement of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to annually assess students who are eligible for EL services. ACCESS allows educators, students, and families to monitor student progress in acquiring academic English in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing and is aligned with the WIDA English Language Development (ELD) Standards.

Students enrolled in Latin V will be participating in a standardized assessment called the ACTFL Latin Interpretive Reading Assessment (ALIRA). The ALIRA is a computer-adaptive assessment of a student's ability to read for comprehension and ratings are assigned according to the ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners

(https://www.actfl.org/uploads/files/general/ACTFLPerformance_Descriptors.pdf). The District uses the ALIRA as a reflective tool to inform instruction with individual students and groups of students as well as to review programming for students. If you have questions about the assessment please reach out to your child's World Language teacher

Students enrolled in Honors Advanced Spanish I, Honors Advanced Spanish II, Advanced French, and Chinese V will be participating in a standardized assessment called the Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL). The AAPPL is a computer-administered assessment that gathers information on students in the following domain areas: Interpersonal Listening/Speaking, Presentational Writing, Interpretive Reading, and Interpretive Listening, and ratings are assigned according to the ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners (https://www.actfl.org/uploads/files/general/ACTFLPerformance_Descriptors.pdf). The District uses the AAPPL as a reflective tool to inform instruction with individual students and groups of students as well as to review programming for students. If you have questions about the assessment please reach out to your child's World Language teacher.

Join us For A Celebration of Black Achievement

Join Clayton alums, current students, parents, families and staff for the [2024 Celebration of Black Achievement](#) at **6:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 in the Clayton High School Auditorium**. The event will feature performances from current students and CHS alums. The program will also recognize Tashara Earl ('07) and Martise Hill ('05) as honorees of the 2024 Black Alumni Spotlight, which features Black alumni whose unique stories are an inspiration to the Clayton community.

PAC.ED Family Navigation

Have you ever wished that there was a free "Concierge" type service to assist families and individuals with disabilities to navigate the system? Good news, there is! Please join PAC.ED on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm for a St. Louis County Family Navigation & Community Resources Presentation and Q&A Session via Zoom. [Click HERE](#) for more information and Zoom credentials.



Clayton PAC.ED Inclusion Awards and Visual Arts Contest

Submissions for the **Clayton PAC.ED Inclusion Awards and Visual Arts Contest** opened December 4 and close at midnight on March 1, 2024. Award recipients will be honored at the **Inclusion Awards Reception & Ceremony on Tuesday, April 2, 2024**. For more information on the **Inclusion Awards** click [HERE](#) and the **Visual Arts Contest** click [HERE](#).

The School District of Clayton, families and the community have enjoyed a strong and active PAC.ED for the past 13+ years. Please consider being a part of that legacy by representing your school for the 2024/2025 School Year! Transition Orientation & Planning for the 2024/2025 school year is underway! For more information on being a Building Representative, Clayton PAC.ED and its mission, click [HERE](#). If you are interested or have any questions, please email us at paced@claytonschoools.net.

Megan Lenihan, President 2024/2025

Christina Blankenship (Retiring President)



Sign Up Now!
Building Representatives
2024/2025 School Year



**Special School District
Parent Advisory Council
(SSD PAC)**

Special School District Parent Advisory Council

The mission of the Special School District (SSD) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to effectively collaborate with and advise its stakeholders to improve the educational, self-efficacy, and social outcomes of each student served by SSD. The SSD PAC is legislatively mandated and operates as a separate organization from the School District of Clayton PACED. However, due to the nature of the "dual district" structure that exists uniquely in St. Louis County, both organizations benefit from ongoing

engagement, support, and collaboration. It is common for members of the Clayton PACED to represent the School District of Clayton on the SSD PAC. For more information click [HERE](#) or contact Christina Blankenship, Clayton PACED President and SSD PAC Representative (voting member) cmblankenship@sbcglobal.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.