



May 13, 2021 | [claytonschools.net/chs](https://claytonschools.net/chs)

**"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do."**

— Pele

### **From the Principal**

Wow! It is hard to believe that Graduation is two weeks away. Admittedly there were times this year when it seemed like the end of the academic year would never arrive and now that it is near, there doesn't seem to be enough time to wrap everything up. May is always a really busy month and this year is no exception. We are doing double duty as we work to bring one academic year to close while making preparations for next year. Our sports teams are entering their respective playoff runs, our performing arts programs are hosting their final performances in creative ways, and AP exams will continue into next month. We are continuing to run COVID vaccine clinics for our students (ages 16 and up) and we will be hosting additional clinics for our students aged 12 and up. All of this is occurring while teachers and students are working hard to complete courses as we take time to honor our seniors with our traditional end of the year events.

Our seniors have certainly been through some challenging times these past 14 months. While the Class of 2020 had fourth quarter disrupted, the Class of 2021 had the fourth quarter of their junior year and all of senior year disrupted. This year and this class will be remembered for a variety of reasons, but I will certainly remember them for their perseverance and commitment to CHS in the face of tremendous adversity. A couple of weeks ago we hosted a Drive-In Movie Night for our seniors in the Stuber parking lot. It

was a beautiful night and approximately 75 seniors attended. At the event I was chatting with one of the class sponsors and she noted that events like this made her happy because they were closer to a normal year senior experience. I couldn't agree more. This was the first social event in quite some time where the vibe was reminiscent of pre-COVID times. Chatting with the kids in a social setting (masked, of course) and seeing them interact with one another at school in a relaxed way was really great. I am looking forward to senior week next week and all of the end-of-year events as we celebrate our seniors together. The senior week events listed below are all family friendly, and as long as we are responsible with COVID protocols, we can celebrate these events as a community. I hope that you and your family will join us at one or more of the events as a show of support for the class of 2021. Thank you seniors and congratulations on a job well done.

Finally, with the end of the semester comes exams and final assessments. In an effort to maximize our instructional time this semester, we will not be modifying the daily schedule to accommodate exams. Teachers may give a final assessment in the final days of the semester but there is no expectation or requirement that an exam be given. If a teacher chooses to give a final exam, teachers will notify students of the schedule and it will be given within the time frame of their regular class time. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to your student's teachers.

See you at Graduation!

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

## **Senior Events**

### **Monday, May 17th - Friday, May 21st - Senior Week**

- Seniors will celebrate their accomplishments through fun dress up days and activities. Senior banners will be on display at the Globe Entrance of the school on Wednesday, May 19th.

### **Friday, May 21st - Senior Cap & Gown and Send Off**

- Seniors will pick up cap & gowns in the auditorium between 12:00-3:00pm, and can also participate in the Senior Final Walk in the halls of CHS at 2:30

- Prior to May 21st, students may return books and pay fines as usual in Room 8. All fines must be paid and books returned prior to picking up cap & gown
- On May 21st between 12:00-3:00, if students have need to pay fines and/or return books, they will do so at the CHS bookstore (room 19) before picking up cap & gown; once books are returned and any fines are paid, students will be given a pass to then pick up their cap & gown
- For questions regarding cap & gown, please contact: Terri Halsey at [terrihalsey@claytonschools.net](mailto:terrihalsey@claytonschools.net)

### **Friday, May 21st - Senior Parade @ 6:00 pm**

- The senior parade will begin at CHS at 6:00pm and end at Gay Field
- [MAP OF PARADE ROUTE](#)
- Students are encouraged to wear cap and gown and decorate their vehicles.
- Families can decide whether they would like to drive their students in the parade or let students drive themselves.

### **Graduation Update**

CHS graduation will take place at **PowerPlex on Thursday, May 27th beginning at 7:00 pm.**

- **Students will arrive at 6:00 pm and park at the Ice Zone area**
- The ceremony will last until approximately 8:30
- The ceremony will be simulcast on FM 98.7
- The ceremony will be streamed live and the link will be provided to families prior to graduation
- There is no limit on the number of people who can attend but we do ask that families carpool if possible
- There will be food trucks at PowerPlex during the evening and families may leave their vehicles and move about the parking area according to their personal comfort level.

This is the same location we used last year to rave reviews from our students and families. It provides a really festive experience while creating our best option for safety and social distancing. I've included their promotional event video below to give parents a general idea of the PowerPlex setup.

For questions regarding graduation, please contact:

- [PowerPlex Video](#)
- [Location Map](#)

## **Final Exams**

In order to conserve as much instructional time as possible, we will not be changing to a finals schedule for the final days of class. Teachers may choose to give a final exam during their regularly scheduled class time but there is no formal expectation to do so. Teachers will make students aware if they are going to have a final exam. If a student does have exams and there are 3 or more exams on the same day, they should reach out to their teachers who will work with the student to test during office hours or contact the grade level administrator for assistance.

## **Celebrating our Students**

Congratulations to all of our award recipients this year at our annual **CHS Awards Ceremony**. The ceremony was presented virtually this year and is posted on the CHS website at the link below:

- [Awards Ceremony Video](#)
- [Ceremony Program](#)

### **Congratulations also to the following students:**

**Koray Akduman** on his selection as a U.S. Presidential Scholars for 2021. He is one of only 625 semifinalists to advance to the final round of the competition.

**Morgan Nettles** who signed her National Letter of Intent on May 12th to play basketball at McKendree University.

**Daena Talavera** made history when she finished seventh overall in the women's cadet division in the Junior-Cadet World Championships on April 7, in Cairo, Egypt. Talavera, a Junior at CHS, topped her pool play with a 5-0 record to claim fifth seed going to the tournaments' knockout stage.

For the full article: [Sports News /Talavera Impresses in World Junior/Cadet Meet](#)

**Missouri All-State Bands 2021** - these students participated in a rigorous audition process and are some of the best of the best.

- Asher Gunn
- Anand Mysorekar
- Jonah Feinstein
- Thomas Gustafson
- Reed Gunn
- Bek Handzic-Smith
- Enoch Lai
- Scott McCary

**National Speech & Debate Association** - the following students qualified to compete against other top students in the national tournament which will be held June 13 - 19, 2021.

- Charlie Rubin & JiaLi Deck (Duo Interpretation)
- Miguel Buitrago & Zach Wang (Policy Debate)
- Eliot Blackmoore (Lincoln Douglas Debate)
- Camilla Meyers (Informative Speaking)

**Catalyst Big Pitch** was a tremendous success this year and was able to give out almost \$14,000 worth of prize money to six very deserving student run businesses.

Here is the link to the event in case you missed it: <https://youtu.be/M3o2i12UBOQ>

**CHS Dance Marathon** - seniors **Abigail Mann and James Marsden**, as well as their Executive Committee, were able to raise over \$22,000 with the CHS Dance Marathon. 100% of the funds will go directly to local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. The goal of [Dance Marathon](#) is to have a series of small fundraising activities throughout the course of the year, which then culminate in a Dance Marathon.

**CHS Yearbook Student Staff** spreads received 4 All Missouri ratings and 3 superior ratings in the Missouri Interscholastic Press Association state contest. Congratulations to the following students for their work to make our yearbook so incredible.

- Cavan Helmering
- Amy Ma
- Annie Xiao
- Lily Kleinhenz

- Sophie Klein
- Olivia Zindel
- Courtney Lewis
- Hannah Moon
- Olivia Zindel
- Esther Wang
- Angel Wirthlin
- Kathleen Ko

**Clayton's ACES (Academic Challenge in Engineering and Science) Team** for winning first place in the 2021 interstate competition.

- Koray Akduman
- Luka Bassnett
- Tudor Belean
- Pablo Buitrago
- Jiabei Han
- Stasia Kroeger
- Rachel Liang
- Ethan Nussinov
- Matteo Sanderson
- Tanner Sharon
- Joey Sparks
- Sarah Taylor
- Suchir Tumuluru
- Lana Xu

Individuals with top 5 scores:

- Chemistry
  - 1st - Lana Xu
  - 2nd - Koray Akduman
  - 3rd - Jiabei Han
  - 4th - Sarah Taylor, Tudor Belean, Stasia Kroeger (tied)
- Computer Science
  - 2nd - Ethan Nussinov
  - 3rd - Tanner Sharon
- Engineering Graphics
  - 4th - Matteo Sanderson
- Math

- 5th Place - Lana Xu
- Physics
  - 2nd - Luka Bassnett
  - 4th - Pablo Buitrago

**Focus St. Louis Youth Leadership** - congratulations to our students who graduated from the 2021 Cohort of the program. They explored regional health, criminal justice system, effects of discrimination, poverty, and social responsibility, among other topics. They worked with kids throughout the region on ideas to tackle these problems which face many of the residents of the St. Louis area. The group held discussions on how they, as future leaders, could be the driving forces for change and what a united St Louis could look like.

- Gabrielle Thomas
- Jessie Wang
- Eric Lyttle
- Thomas Gustafson

### **Information from District...**

**Clayton Summer Academy (CSA)** - Clayton Summer Academy will offer credit recovery classes in 4 core areas - Math, English, Science and Social studies. These courses will also be open to students who would like to develop their academic skills in these areas to help with their courses for next year. In addition, credit acquisition classes will be available in American Government, Personal Finance, PE and Health. The dates for all courses are June 7 - July 2. [Click here for information about CSA](#) or contact your student's counselor for more questions and registration information.

- 9th Grade [Tobie Smith](#)
- 10th Grade [Jacelyn Cole](#)
- 11th Grade [Homer Turner](#)

**Revised Quarantine Guidelines** - The Saint Louis County Department of Public Health has revised its isolation and quarantine order to be consistent with the latest CDC guidance. As of March 15, those who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 will need to be quarantined for 10 days, as opposed to 14, after exposure. After 10 days,

assuming the individual has no symptoms, they are free to end quarantine. Here are some important details:

- The final day of exposure to an infectious case is considered Day 0 (for household contacts, this is their release-from-isolation date), with the following day considered Day 1.
- Close contacts must now quarantine through 11:59 PM on Day 10, and are released as of 12:00 AM on Day 11.
- Close contacts should continue to self-monitor for symptoms through Day 14. If any symptoms develop, the person should return home immediately and seek testing

**Vaccinated Individuals and Quarantines** - The St. Louis County Department of Public Health has updated their quarantine guidance for individuals who have received the COVID-19 vaccine. A Vaccinated person who knows they have been exposed to COVID-19 and may be a close contact, does not have to quarantine if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- The vaccinated person is fully vaccinated – it has been 14 days since the person received their second dose of a two-dose series or 14 days following receipt of a one dose of a single dose vaccine;
- The vaccinated person received the last dose of the vaccine within three months of the exposure; and
- The vaccinated person has remained asymptomatic since exposure.

Staff and students who are identified as close contact of an exposure to COVID-19 will not be required to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated and symptom-free. If an individual shows evidence of the vaccine (their vaccination card), they will not be required to quarantine. If they do not show evidence of vaccination or choose not to, they will still be required to quarantine for ten days. You are considered fully vaccinated after two weeks of receiving either your first Johnson & Johnson vaccine or two weeks after your second Moderna or Pfizer vaccine.

**Face Coverings Still Required** - Face coverings are still required at all Clayton schools (indoors and outdoors) regardless of whether you have been vaccinated. Many of our students are not vaccinated or even qualify to be vaccinated and therefore are susceptible to infection.



**You Give Us Hope - Our Board of Education, Superintendents, Principal,  
and Parents all encouraged us to better our world.**

As fourth-grade students, we realized we couldn't really make an impact without educating, inspiring, and empowering you to partner with us to support Hope for Haiti. We create, package, and market two premium products, soaps and candles, under the brand names "Hope" Soap and "Light the Night" candles.

All revenue from sales of soaps and candles covers our supplies and funds clean water, education, healthcare, and economic development for students and adults in rural Haiti.

Learn how this platinum-rated charity maximizes your support at [hopeforhaiti.com](http://hopeforhaiti.com).

Our products are all-natural, plant-based, and known allergen-free. Purchase status is updated by text. Receipts are emailed. Pickup is at the North Employee Entrance of Meramec Elementary School. (If you would like us to add purchaser-paid delivery, please add that to the comments section of our website.) Products are available now!

Partner with us at: [hope-soap-fundraiser.square.site](http://hope-soap-fundraiser.square.site)

- [Hope Soap Infomercial \(2 min\)](#)
- [Hope Soap Infomercial \(5 min\)](#)

Our eCommerce website, where we sell the soap, is at: [Hope Soap & Candles](#)



**CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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