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"Make a difference about something other than yourselves." Toni Morrison

From The Principal

Dear CHS Students and Families:

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to enjoy some well deserved time away from Clayton High School. The summer seemed to fly by for Kim, Michael and me. Michael played a lot of baseball and lacrosse this summer, and his tournaments took us to Chicago and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. For our "real" family vacation we spent a week at a house on Lake Michigan and then finished our summer with a week of hiking, fishing and biking in Breckenridge, Colorado. It was a relaxing way to spend some time before jumping back into the activity of the new school year.

One of the things I really appreciate about my career in education is the opportunity to begin anew each academic year. Ever since I started my teaching career almost 25 years ago, I have endeavored to make each new year better than the previous year. August is always an exciting time because it brings the promise of a new academic year and the opportunity to make it an even better year for kids. I am looking forward to having the students back in the building, and I hope you are looking forward to the opportunities and possibilities that lie ahead.

We have hired several new faculty and staff this year and also have some new faculty members who are new to CHS but are veterans of the District. This summer I had the opportunity to spend a lot of time with our new Assistant Principal, Dr. Regina Moore, and I have really enjoyed getting to know her better. I appreciate her thoughtful perspective and I think her willingness to ask "Why?" is going to be helpful in pushing the thinking of our administrative team and our building. Steve Hutson and T'Shon Young are already making some changes in Athletics which have invigorated the department and the community. Each of our core departments is welcoming at least one new faculty member. We have assembled a great team and I am really looking forward to our work together. I am energized by the potential of our new hires and am excited to utilize the skills of our returning staff in their new roles.

Our two ongoing building goals center on our work to promote mental wellness and equity at CHS. As a result of this work and student feedback, we made a few changes to our daily schedule. Some of the themes identified by students were the seemingly frenetic pace of the day that prevented them from using their locker or the restroom. They also expressed a desire to have building-wide conversations. This year we made the following changes to our schedule:

- Passing periods will now be five minutes instead of four.
- We have added a 15-minute period (Greyhound Time) between periods two and three which will allow students an opportunity to check in with their teachers, grab a snack, go to their locker, take a walk, etc.
- On the last Wednesday of each month (starting in September) we will be adding a 30-minute period (Clayton Conversations) for student-led building wide conversations. Topics will be selected by a group of students and faculty.

It will be interesting to pilot these changes as we examine a larger schedule change in 2020-2021. We will do this in conjunction with a significant change to the yearly calendar (State mandated) which could have a significant impact on our work (daily start/end times, finals date, etc...) next year. This is a great opportunity to do something really innovative that is great for kids. Stay tuned!

With Greyhound Pride,
Dan Gutchewsky

PTO News

PTO Mailing

You should have received an important mailing from the PTO. Please take some time to look over this packet of information to see how you can get involved with the Clayton High School PTO. Forms included in this packet are due back to CHS as soon as possible.

PTO Meeting

The first PTO meeting is Monday, Aug. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS Library. We hope you see you there. To learn more about the CHS PTO, [click here](#).

2019-2020 Online Forms Due

All forms for the upcoming high school year are available in PowerSchool under the Ecollect tab that is located in the left hand column. (Please do not use Internet Explorer when completing Ecollect forms.)

Athletic Forms, Physicals (required for athletics) and Immunizations must be completed and turned in to the Athletic Office prior to Fall Sports.

All questions regarding Ecollect forms should be directed to Debbie Dornfeld at debradornfeld@claytonschools.net.

For PowerSchool account activation questions contact Lois Stiegemeier at 314-854-6629.

Important Dates

First Day of 2019-2020 School Year

The first day of the 2019-2020 school year is Tuesday, Aug. 13. Classes begin at 8:15 a.m. with dismissal at 3:05 p.m.

Freshman Parent Night

As a part of our Open House, we will be hosting our Freshman Parent Night on Tuesday, Aug. 20, from 6-7 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium. Freshman schedules will be available starting at 5:30 p.m. in the lobby.

CHS PTO Open House

Please join us for our CHS Open House on Tuesday, Aug. 20. Freshman Parent Night begins at 6 p.m. followed by the Open House at 7 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teachers and administrators, become familiar with their schedule, meet other parents and join the CHS PTO. The PTO will be there to welcome parents and hand out Buzz Books. We look forward to seeing you there.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Fall CHS parent-teacher conferences will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 16, and Thursday, Oct. 17. Appointments required. More details to come.

Incident Weather Make-Up Days

If the District falls below the state minimum of 174 days, April 10 and May 29 become make-up days.

Save the Date - Graduation 2020

Graduation will be held on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at Chaifetz Arena.

CHS Welcomes New Faculty

The faculty and staff have been hard at work preparing for the students' return, and we are very excited to welcome the following outstanding educators and support staff to the CHS faculty:

Assistant Principal – Dr. Regina Moore
Social Studies – Shauna Aningo
Social Studies – Danielle DuHadway
Social Studies – Amy Doyle
Math – Daniel Dorsey
Math – Michelle Kondracki
Vocal/Choir – Joseph Schoen
Science Biomed PLTW – Brad Buck
Counseling Admin Asst – Fay Orr
English/Learning Center – Claire Miller
English – Raychelle Martin
English – Dana Augustine
Spanish – Angie Guzman
Technology Intern – John Niles
Department Assistant – Laura Chisholm
Nurse – TBD

Current Staff/New Positions:

Athletic Director – Steve Hutson
Coordinator of Athletics and Activities – T'Shon Young
Spanish – Micah Johnson
Counseling Admin Asst – Jill Cowin
Instructional Coach (Secondary) – Janet Crews
PE/Health – Buddy Sodemann
Chinese – Patrick Mullen
French – Christine Darling

New Bell Schedule For The 2019-2020 School Year

The 2019-2020 school year will have a new bell schedule. Our first bell will still ring at 8:10 a.m., with classes beginning at 8:15 a.m. and dismissing at 3:05 p.m. Passing periods will now be 5 minutes with an extended Greyhound Time between second and third periods. [Click here](#) to view the bell schedules.

CHS Educational Equity Back To School Social

The Clayton High School Administrative Team and Equity Committee invites CHS African American students and their families to join them for lunch at our inaugural Back to School Social on Sunday, Aug. 11, from 1-3 p.m. at Shaw Park's Enterprise Holdings Pavilion. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks will be served. We are looking forward to this event and hope to see you there.

TI-Nspire CX Graphing Calculator

At Clayton High School, a graphing calculator is a vital part of every student's mathematics education. With the implementation of our new curriculum we are striving to use the latest calculator technology in all freshman and sophomore classes. This means that classroom calculator activities will be done using the TI-Nspire CX graphing calculator. Your student needs to have access to a graphing calculator, both during class and elsewhere for homework. Ideally this would mean that every student would have an Nspire CX. We are committed to having at least shared access to these calculators in the classroom. While in the process of ordering calculators for classroom use our vendor has extended us the opportunity to purchase student calculators at a discount price of \$133.95. [Click here](#) for more information and to print the order form. Contact [Barb Dobbert](#) with any questions.

How To Apply For Free and Reduced Price School Meals

Children need healthy meals to learn. The School District of Clayton offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast costs \$2; lunch costs \$3 for elementary and \$3.25 for secondary. Your child may qualify for free or reduced priced meals. Reduced price is \$.30 for breakfast and \$.40 for lunch. Please [click here](#) for more information. You may also receive a hard copy of this information by contacting the main office at 314-854-6600.

Important Information For Seniors From The Counseling Department

Welcome back! With the beginning of the new school year, seniors are welcome to set up a follow-up meeting with your college counselor through their counseling calendar. Calendars will be open after the first week of the start of school.

Last name beginning with A through H:

Ms. Carolyn Blair at carolynblair.youcanbook.me

Last name beginning with I through Z:

Ms. Mary Anne Modzelewski at modz.youcanbook.me

[Click here](#) to read more important information from your counselor.

Calendar

[View CHS' upcoming events and activities.](#)

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