



CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Principal's Newsletter

December 16, 2022 | [claytonschools.net/chs](https://claytonschools.net/chs)

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something." - [Neil Gaiman](#)



## From the Principal



### From The Principal

Next week we begin finals at CHS. We will be shifting to a special schedule to accommodate exams Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week (see below). This can be a stressful time for students and staff. We, as a school community, have been very deliberate in helping students prepare for finals while also providing fun opportunities for stress relief. If your student is feeling overwhelmed, please know that we are here to support them. If students have more than three exams on the same day, they may request to take one of their exams during a different period. If this is the case, please have your student contact their grade level principal for assistance (Dr. Regina Moore -10th and 11th/ Mr. Buddy Sodemann 9th and 12th). We are here to help and we are eager to partner with you to ensure that all students have a successful end of the semester. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's counselor or administrator if you have any questions.

As we approach the end of the semester, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your support of Clayton High School and your commitment to the educational experiences we are able to provide students. We are fortunate to be a part of a community that is so vested in education and we are truly grateful for each of you. We wish all of you a restful break and a very happy holiday season. I am looking very forward to a little time away from school and spending some time with my family. My sister and nieces will be visiting for a few days and spending time with them is always a highlight of our break. I look forward to watching a little CHS basketball and maybe sneaking in a day of hiking and fishing with my son. I hope you have a wonderful break.

If you are traveling, we wish you safe travels. If you are staying local, we hope you enjoy time with family and friends. From my family to yours, we wish you a happy, healthy holiday season and a wonderful new year. See you in 2023!

With Greyhound Pride,

# Mark Your Calendar



## Important Dates

- December 22-January 3** - Winter Break
- January 4** - Students Return
- January 11** - 8th Grade Curriculum Night
- January 13** - No School/Staff PD
- January 16** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School

## Parent Corner

### Final Exam Schedule

First Semester final exams will be taking place Dec 19-21st. You can view the [Final Exam Schedule](#) on our website or below.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Finals Schedule 2022-2023

	Monday Dec 19	Tuesday Dec 20	Wednesday Dec 21	Thursday Dec 22	Friday Dec 23
8:15 - 9:40	Period 1 Final/Class	Period 4 Final/Class	Period 7 Final/Class	<b>NO SCHOOL</b>	
9:40 - 10:25	<i>Flex</i>	<i>Flex</i>	<i>Flex</i>		
10:30 - 11:55	Period 2 Final/Class	Period 5 Final/Class	Period 8 Final/Class		
11:55 - 12:55	<i>Flex/Lunch</i>	<i>Flex/Lunch</i>	<i>Flex/Lunch</i>		
1:00 - 2:25	Period 3 Final/Class	Period 6 Final/Class	Class Ends at 11:55		
2:25 - 3:05	<i>Flex</i>	<i>Flex</i>			

**NO SCHOOL** - Monday, December 26 through Monday, January 2

**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS** - Tuesday, January 3

**SCHOOL RESUMES** - Wednesday, January 4 with a C Day

### January Schedule

Students will return to classes on Jan 4th. Click here to view the first week of the [January Schedule](#).

### PTO Meeting Dates

PTO meetings will be held at 6:00 pm in The Commons on the following dates:

- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1

### **PTO Donations**

Friendly reminder to please contribute to the Clayton High School PTO for the 2022-2023 school year. The CHS PTO supports educational enrichment and community-building activities that benefit the CHS students, families, and staff throughout the year. Your donation is fully tax-deductible, tax ID 43-1747553. You can either [pay online here](#) or send a check to Clayton High School PTO #1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, MO 63105.

### **All In Clayton Coalition Parent Survey**

All In Clayton Coalition is conducting a parent survey to help guide our work to keep Clayton youth safe from substance misuse. Parents or guardians of Clayton students in grades 6-12 are invited to take our survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated as we seek to understand the values, attitudes, and norms around substance use in our community. You can take the survey here:

<https://forms.gle/J8tziB7D9j2rtkYXA>



**JOIN US!**

**PROSPECTIVE CATALYST (CAPS)**  
**STUDENT AND PARENT NIGHT**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROGRAM AND HEAR  
FROM CURRENT CATALYST ASSOCIATES!**

**JANUARY 31ST**  
**6:00-7:00PM**  
543 HANLEY IND. CT.  
BRENTWOOD, MO. 63144

**RSVP BY 1/27:**  
**[bit.ly/CatalystProspectiveMemberNight](https://bit.ly/CatalystProspectiveMemberNight)**



**Prospective Catalyst (CAPS) Student & Parent Night**

Catalyst is a program that immerses high school students in professional environments through an engaging curriculum. Catalyst classrooms are held off-site at businesses and learning is real-world, real-time and hands-on. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Catalyst is inviting you to join them for a Student and Parent informational night on January 31st, from 6:00-7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please complete the [Google Form](#).

If you would like to apply for Catalyst, fill out the [Student Application](#) here. Applications are due by March 1st.

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## DECA Fundraiser

This holiday season buy gifts that support a small business and CHS DECA students. DECA is a club at Clayton that encourages the development of business and leadership skills through academic conferences and competitions. DECA has been lucky to work with Exactly Zero, an all-natural, handmade bath and beauty care company. With items purchased through this specific link below, a portion of sales will come back to DECA. The money raised helps provide incentives for student participation, and reduces costs for students who advance in the competition. Thank you in advance for any support! Click here to order items from [Exactly Zero](#). If you have any questions, feel free to contact [jmann58@claytonschoools.net](mailto:jmann58@claytonschoools.net)

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## Creating Safe and Joyful Holiday Celebrations

The widespread availability of alcohol at holiday parties gives our youth many opportunities to sneak alcohol when no one is looking or convince a relative to let them enjoy “just one” alcoholic beverage. And some parents may be more inclined to let their teenagers have an alcoholic drink to share in a family toast, or otherwise share in the “holiday spirits.” So, you might ask, where is the harm in that?

[Read All In's latest blog post.](#)

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## 27 Things Students SHOULD be Doing on Social Media

Julie Smith, author of *Master the Media*

January 23, 6-7 pm on Zoom



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This is a fast, engaging and realistic description of what students SHOULD be doing online. Parents will leave with a greater understanding of how digital citizenship needs to go beyond "being nice online" to include app design, addiction, research, self-tracking, smishing, verification skills (and a long list of others).

#### **Registration required:**

<https://claytonschoools-net.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0lfuihrjwqG9U3HBwCadIS32XQGEfUQnK4>

#### **About the Presenter:**

Julie Smith has been teaching media literacy since 1997 and is the author of "Master the Media: How Teaching Media Literacy Can Save our Plugged-In World" as well as "Wake Them Up: Supercharging Engagement in Your College Classroom".

Julie is a faculty member of the School of Communications of Webster University and the co-host of the "What the Media" podcast with KMOX Radio. Having presented to teachers, students and parents in twenty states and fourteen countries she is a well-sought-after expert on media-related issues.

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### The Scoop on Community Resources

Hello Clayton High School Family!

Reaching out to share a timely article that encourages us to set boundaries and consider our own well-being.

<https://nami.org/Blogs/From-the-CEO/December-2021/The-Most-Difficult-Time-of-The-Year-Mental-Health-During-the-Holidays>

As always, please let me know if I can be of assistance to you and your family!

Dr. Powell-Walker  
CHS School Social Worker  
[sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net](mailto:sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net)"

## District News



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### **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.