



November 24, 2020 | claytonschools.net/chs

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

John F. Kennedy

From the Principal

This week marks the completion of our first two weeks of in-person learning since last March. Overall, I feel as though the transition has gone really well. It was exciting to see students in classrooms and hallways again. Having students in the building brings a new energy to the campus even though classes and daily procedures look different. I appreciate how quickly students have adapted to and embraced the new procedures. Our success and ability to offer in-person learning options will ultimately be determined by their adherence to the new procedures and social distancing guidelines. Thank you for your support of these guidelines both inside and outside the school. By embracing these practices we will help ensure that in-person learning remains a viable option for CHS.

Today you should have received an email regarding your student's learning options for third quarter. Please read the email carefully and respond if you would like to make a change to the learning preference. We will continue to offer the Learn@Home option for third quarter as well as the in-person model. Remember that you are always welcome to move from in-person learning to Learn@Home but once the deadline passes we will not be able to accommodate any movement from Learn@Home to in-person learning. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact an administrator.

This week we published the assessment schedule for the final weeks of the semester (see below). In light of the unusual circumstances and changing instructional models this semester, we will not be switching to a traditional finals schedule this semester. We will also eliminate the expectation that each class gives a final exam at the end of the semester. This change does not preclude a teacher from giving an assessment in the final weeks of the semester, but we wanted to maximize instructional days while creating the opportunity for assessments without overloading students on the final days of the semester. Specific details of any assessments will be shared by teachers if they choose to give an assessment and they will be administered during regularly scheduled class time. Teachers have also been reminded to pay special attention to their assessment design to mitigate any unfair advantages the different settings may provide.

As we approach the Thanksgiving break, I just want to say how thankful I am for each of you. The circumstances of the last nine months have challenged our creativity and our ability to adapt to new models of instruction. Sometimes it seems like we spend most of our time creating plans and alternate plans as we continually prepare for various contingencies. I have been incredibly impressed with the persistence and creativity of our faculty and staff as they continue to deliver outstanding educational experiences for our students regardless of their location. I appreciate all of our families for your support and your flexibility as we navigate these circumstances together. On behalf of the entire administrative team, thank you. I hope that even though Thanksgiving gatherings may look different this year, you will be able to spend time with loved ones and step away from school for a few days for a well-deserved break.

I hope you and your family have a relaxing and healthy Thanksgiving!

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

Upcoming Daily Schedule:

[CHS Schedule](#)

Assessment Schedule:

In order to maximize instructional time we will not be requiring teachers to administer a final exam during first semester, and we will not be moving to a special schedule. While this does not preclude a teacher from giving some sort of assessment near the end of the semester, it must meet the following criteria:

- 1) It must be administered on the department designated days.
- 2) It must be completed within the assigned 45 minute period.
- 3) It must be able to be taken by online students.

This schedule will remain the same regardless of whether we are in-person or remote during this time. [SCHEDULE - PRINTABLE](#)

Dec 10 /Thur A	Dec 11 /Fri B	Dec 14 /Mon A	Dec 15 /Tues B	Dec 16 /Wed A	Dec 17 /Thur B	Dec 18 /Fri A	Dec 21 /Mon B - REMOTE	Dec 22 /Tues A - REMOTE
Assessments: English		Assessments: Social Studies Math		Assessments: Science World Language		A Day	Health /PE CTE Fine Arts	Health /PE CTE Fine Arts

Information from District...

- Updating Your Free/Reduced Lunch Status - Have you turned in your Free/Reduced Lunch application for 2020-2021? Even though meals are currently free to all students, District records must reflect the families who are eligible for free or reduced price meals. If your application has expired or your economic situation has changed, complete [the Free/Reduced Meal Application here](#). Questions? Contact Michelle Fohey at (314) 854-6641 or [contact her via email](#).
- Second Quarter Calendar Changes - As we look ahead toward Thanksgiving and Winter Break, we know that many people may be making plans to travel or spend time with close family and friends. Potential exposures outside of our school community put us and others at risk. We are scheduling synchronous remote learning days for all PK-12 students around Thanksgiving Break and Winter Break to provide students and teachers additional time to isolate before and after each break:
 - Nov. 23/24 - Synchronous Remote Learning before Thanksgiving Break
 - Nov. 30/Dec. 1 - Synchronous Remote Learning after Thanksgiving Break
 - Dec. 21/22 - Synchronous Remote Learning before Winter Break
 - These calendar changes are designed to provide members of our school community with additional time to self-isolate and monitor themselves for potential COVID-19 symptoms and are not intended to allow families to extend their travel. Strategically scheduling virtual instruction allows us to create a window before and after typically high travel times to isolate students and staff at home and prevent COVID-19 spread in our learning community.
- The School District of Clayton is always seeking high quality applicants for substitute teachers. If you or someone you know may be interested in substitute teaching in our schools, please submit an application on our website. Here is a [substitute flyer](#) with our 2020-2021 rates of pay.
- Special School District's [Let's Talk](#) Invitation - Special School District (SSD) has an open invitation for families to let them know what's going well, offer suggestions, submit concerns or make general comments. Visit [SSD's Let's Talk site](#) to share your thoughts.
- Family Gatherings/Travel for the Winter Holidays - As we get ready for Thanksgiving Break, please consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your family and friends safe and minimize the spread of illness once classes resume after the break. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a [number of considerations for how your holiday plans can be modified](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe. The most recent guidelines recommend limiting holiday gatherings to those within your household and avoiding travel. Precautions and safety measures do make a difference and will give us the best chance of continuing to offer in-person learning. To keep our schools open, it will require all of us working together and taking the necessary precautions. Please continue to be diligent about following safety protocols, including mask-wearing, physical distancing and staying home when sick.
 - Current CDC [Guidelines for Travel During the COVID-19](#) Pandemic state that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. If you do make the decision travel, take these actions to protect others from getting sick after you return:
 - When around others, [stay at least 6 feet](#) (about 2 arms' length) from other people who are not from your household. It is important to do this everywhere, both indoors and outdoors.
 - Wear a [mask](#) to keep your nose and mouth covered when you are outside of your home.
 - [Wash your hands](#) often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
 - Monitor your health and look for [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Take your temperature if you feel sick.
- Grab n' Go Meal Service: Remaining Dates - The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Meal Service has limited days left in 2020. Grab n' Go meal bags are currently available every Monday for our students participating in the Learn@Home option. This is a drive up service so please pull up to the curb and let the volunteers know how many children (age 0 - 17) live in your household. One meal bag per child will be brought out to your car. Each bag will contain six breakfast meals and six lunches for the week. Mark your calendars for these remaining 2020 dates for meal service:
 - Monday, Nov. 30
 - Monday, Dec. 7
 - Monday, Dec. 14
 - Monday, Dec. 21*

* On this date only, service times will run from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

