

## Executive Summary

### Description of the School

**Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?**

Clayton High School is located in the City of Clayton, six miles west of St. Louis and has served its community for 106 years. Combining a bustling downtown with quiet, secure residential neighborhoods, Clayton is the seat of St. Louis County. With a population of around 15,000 residents, it is also home to Forbes and Fortune 500 headquarters.

#### **Students**

The student population of Clayton High School is quite diverse. Our resident student population accounts for approximately 76% of our total student population. Resident students reside within the city limits of Clayton and a portion of Richmond Heights. The School District of Clayton boundaries contain Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Fontbonne University and part of Washington University. Approximately 16% of our student body resides in the City of St. Louis and participates in the Voluntary Student Transfer Program. The remaining 8% of our student body comes to us from across the St. Louis region through a variety of avenues (children of faculty and staff, personal tuition, statutory tuition and tax credits).

There are currently 878 students enrolled at Clayton High School. Our demographic breakdown is:

White 65%

African American 18.7%

Asian 10.9%

Hispanic 3.3%

Indian 0.1%

#### **Staff**

Clayton High School is fortunate to have an exceptional, experienced faculty. 85 of our 92 (92%) faculty members have attained a Masters degree or higher while the average local (in Clayton) teaching experience is 11.6 years and the average total teaching experience is 16.8 years.

#### **Unique Features and Challenges**

A unique challenge for our high school is the expectation of our community to provide a rigorous educational experience that at least rivals if not surpasses that of any highly selective private school. This is balanced with an expectation to serve the needs of a broad diversity of

learners in a manner that individualizes learning for each student. Many of our parents are highly educated professionals who recognize the importance of education and maintain high expectations for the level of education their children receive.

### School's Purpose

**Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.**

As a community, the students, staff, parents and patrons of the School District of Clayton are united in our commitment to student learning. Our mission, vision and core values embody why we are here, what we want our students to become and the principles that guide our work.

#### **Mission Statement**

We inspire each student to love learning and embrace challenge within a rich and rigorous academic culture.

#### **Vision Statement**

We develop leaders who shape the world through independence, creativity and critical thinking.

#### **Core Values**

We model and promote

- **excellence** by challenging our students and ourselves to meet the highest expectations of our community.
- **trust** by building relationships based on integrity, mutual respect and open communication.
- **inclusiveness** by valuing individual differences and the contributions of a diverse student body and staff.
- **innovation** by encouraging ideas and practices that foster adaptability.
- **accountability** by aligning our actions and resources with our stated objectives and taking responsibility for the outcomes.

#### **Tagline**

Educate. Inspire. Empower.

Our school embodies its core value of **excellence** by:

- Program of Studies (<http://www.clayton.k12.mo.us/Page/12722>)
- Nineteen Advanced Placement Courses offered
- Clayton students took 511 AP exams the last year; 92% earned a 3, 4, or 5.

- Students in the Class of 2014 attended 94 different colleges and universities including many of the most highly selective schools in the country.
- Ninety-six percent of the Class of 2014 attended a 2 or 4 year post-secondary school.
- College matriculation data (<http://www.claytonschoools.net/Page/12804> 2013 Annual Report p. 18)
- ACT composite score of 25.7 (all students are tested)
- At least one student has earned a perfect score (36) on the ACT in 9 of the past 11 years with a total of 14 students who earned a perfect score over the past 11 years.
- In the Class of 2014, 10 students were recognized as Semifinalists in the National Merit Competition, 9 students went on to Finalists and two were winners of the scholarship. An additional 12 students earned Commended Student recognition.

Our school embodies its core value of **trust by building relationships**:

- 98% of students surveyed at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year reported they could identify a CHS teacher with whom they had a strong, positive relationship.
- Teacher student ratio of 11:1 compared to Missouri average of 18:1
- *Link Crew* is a program in which junior and senior students volunteer as mentors to help freshman students with the transition from grade school to high school.

Our school embodies its core value **inclusiveness** by:

- *Gifted Learner Program*
- *The Learning Center* is an educational resource center for all Clayton High School students, where they can have daily one-on-one contact with teachers in the subjects of English, Mathematics and Social Studies.
- *The St. Louis County Special School District* provides support to Clayton High School students diagnosed with special needs.
- *An Athletic Program* with a No-Cut policy at sub-Varsity levels and 27 athletic programs.
- *Arts Fair* is an annual event where Clayton students host over 300 Special School District Students from Litzinger and Neuwoehner schools for a day of arts, crafts, performances, games, and fun at Clayton High School. On a voluntary attendance day for the CHS students, over 75% of the student body volunteers to be a part of this event.
- A vibrant *Activities Program* with 65 unique clubs.

- Clayton High School offers an extensive variety of *elective courses* that would not typically be found in a school our size. These offerings include: Forensic Science, Housing and Interior Design, Rock Climbing, Digital Graphics and Sports and Entertainment Marketing.
- Prolific *Performing Arts* programs with opportunities that encompass courses and ensembles such as Piano, Theory, Guitar, Music Technology, Pep Band, Jazz Band, Buskers, Band, Choir, Orchestra, Theater, Tri-M Music Honor Society, Show Choir, Thespians, Fall Play, Broadway Musical, Student-Run Musical and Senior Showcase.

Our school embodies its core value of **innovation** by:

- *Project Lead the Way* curriculum in Career and Technology Education and Science departments.
- State-of-art *Greenhouse* for student learning and research.
- *The CHS Robotics Club* competed in the FIRST Robotics World Championship at the Edward Jones Dome; an impressive feat for only a second year team.
- The *CHS Rocketry Club* had a top 10 finish in the National Rocketry Competition (out of 750 teams nationwide).
- *The Works* is an award-winning and student run literary/arts magazine.
- *Art Program* based upon Studio Thinking Model, concentrating not just on building artistic skill but developing an understanding of the studio process and developing critical thinking skills. The Studio Thinking Model comes out of a Harvard Project Zero program.

Our school embodies its core value of **accountability** by:

Clayton High School employs a *zero based budgeting* approach that promotes transparency and helps ensure that our financial resources are in alignment with building and District priorities.

## Notable Achievement and Areas of Improvement

**Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.**

### **Notable achievement:**

Eighty percent of Clayton High School Students earned advanced or proficient on EOC exams compared to 60% statewide.

Standard & Poor's Ratings Services reaffirmed the District's AAA bond rating following a review of the District's finances. AAA is the highest rating available for public school districts, and Clayton is one of only four districts in Missouri to maintain an AAA rating.

Clayton High School was ranked 179 out of the top 2,000 high schools in the country and 20th in the Midwest on *Newsweek* and *The Daily Beast's* list of Best High Schools in America. *U.S. News and World Report's* list of Best High Schools for STEM scored CHS as 76 out of the top 500 high schools in the country for its focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). *U.S. News and World Report's* 2014 list of Best High Schools ranks Clayton High School as the 244th best high school in the United States and the 2nd best high school in Missouri. The website *Niche* ranked Clayton High School the best high school in Missouri for 2015.

Clayton High School joined the ranks of a select few high schools in the state to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The LEED® Silver building addition at CHS was completed in 2011 following the Clayton community's approval of the \$51 million Proposition S bond issue in 2009.

In 2014, two Clayton High School students won scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Program. Nine students were named Finalists, while one student earned the distinction of Semifinalist and 12 students were named Commended Students.

### **Areas of Improvement (over last three years):**

A committee of community members, staff and administrators conducted a comprehensive review of District expenditures and helped to shape recommendations for budget reductions. This collaborative process led to the approval of \$1.6 million in permanent reductions to the 2013–2014 school year budget. These reductions, combined with the \$935,000 reduced from the 2012–2013 budget, will provide the District with additional financial stability, allowing it to remain above its 18% fund balance goal for an additional year and a half.

Over the past three years students have self reported whether they have a meaningful relationship with an adult at Clayton High School. During that time we have increased the percentage of students reporting a meaningful relationship with an adult in the building from 90.7% to 98.3%.

In August of 2011 we completed a \$40 million addition and renovation of educational space that increased the square footage of the main building by almost 40%. The addition added a new journalism lab, culinary arts lab, fashion design studio, pre-engineering lab, greenhouse and several new classrooms. The renovation included a complete redesign of all the science classrooms and laboratory spaces. These state of the art facilities have greatly enhanced an already outstanding academic experience for our students.

### **Areas of Improvement next three years**

#### **CHS SIP Goals**

1. To increase student skills in students on the brink of proficiency as identified by EOC and EXPLORE exams.
2. Articulation of a School Wide Shared Instructional Model
3. Every student will have meaningful, positive relationships with adults and peers.

(The comprehensive CHS SIP can be downloaded from the assurances sections of ASSIST.)

#### **Evaluation System**

In response to changes in the Missouri model for teacher evaluation, the School District of Clayton will spend 2014-15 in self study and revision of our model. The Evaluation Cadre has the responsibility of creating a new model containing a system for rating performance as well as providing for professional growth and development. Use of the new model will begin with the 2015-16 school year.