



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

February 27, 2023 | claytonschools.net/chs

"In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."

—Thurgood Marshall



From the Principal



From The Principal

Now that warmer weather is upon us, spring sports begin this week as our winter sports teams finish their seasons. While I am partial to colder weather, it is always nice to get outside again to watch our teams compete. For me, it seems like once spring sports begin, the semester accelerates quickly with one major event coming on top of the next all the way to the end of the year. Graduation will be here before we know it.

Speaking of events this Wednesday (3/1) we will administer the College Board PSAT/SAT series exams to all of our 9th-11th graders while hosting a day of service for the seniors. This is the first time we have tried to do all of these things on the same day. We are administering all three exams on the same day to avoid three different special daily schedules while limiting the disruption to classroom instruction to one day. We have also been looking for a day that the seniors could do a day of service, and since we need the seniors out of the building in order to have enough proctors and classroom space, this seemed like the perfect opportunity. The following tests will be administered:

PSAT 9- 9th Grade

PSAT 10- 10th Grade

SAT- 11th Grade

Once a student has completed their assigned testing session, they will be dismissed for the day. Seniors have registered for one of ten different community service opportunities throughout the St. Louis area. Please see the email from Ms. Young for more information. Once the seniors complete their service commitment, they will also be dismissed for the day (we expect the community service activity will finish around noon). There will be no regular classes offered on Wednesday. Lunch will be available for all students in the Commons and all buses will operate at their normal times.

This week parent-teacher conference sign ups will begin. Please watch your email for a link to register for conferences. The sign up window will open on Thursday (3/2) at 7 am and will close Thursday evening (3/9) at midnight. Virtual (online) conferences will be offered on Monday(3/13) and Tuesday(3/14) evening while in-person conferences will be offered **only** on Wednesday (3/15). While our teachers always enjoy connecting with parents, please note that they do not have enough time slots to accommodate a conference for every student on their caseload. This is not typically much of an issue in the spring but in the interest of prioritizing families of students who would especially benefit from a meeting, we would like to remind parents that they should not feel obligated to register for a conference if things are going well for their student and they do not have any questions or concerns. While we would never want to discourage a parent from registering for a conference, we want to "give permission" not to register for a conference if you do not feel it is necessary for your student. As always, please feel free to reach out to teachers via email or phone if you would like to connect.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan



Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

February 27 - Spring Sports Begin

March 10 - No School/Staff Workday

March 13 & 14 - Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences

March 15 - In-person Parent Teacher Conferences

March 17 - Early Release day

March 20-24 - Spring Break

April 7 - No School

April 14 - Parent Coffee

April 15 - Prom

Parent Corner

Spring 2023 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Clayton High School's Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held:

- **Monday, March 13 from 3:30-8:30 pm (Virtual Only)**
- **Tuesday, March 14 from 3:30-8:30 pm (Virtual Only)**
- **Wednesday, March 15, from 3:30-7:30 pm (In-Person)**

Conference registration will go live on March 2 at 7:00 am. The link for sign-ups will be posted on the CHS website and emailed to all parents at 7:00 am on March 2nd. Registration will close at

midnight on March 9th. You will need to know your student's teachers in order to sign up. Your student's schedule can be found in PowerSchool.

PTO Thank You

The PTO Staff Appreciation chairs Heather Wohl and Liz Chung are grateful to their wonderful volunteers who helped make the CHS Staff Holiday Luncheon and Fall Conference Dinner a success.

Thank you to Derek Deaver of [Three Kings Public House](#) and [Casa de Tres Reyes](#) who provided salads for the staff End of Year Luncheon last year and the Holiday Luncheon.

Thank you to our dessert providers for the Holiday Luncheon: Melissa Baum, Danijela Boric, Michelle Cissna, Susan Craig, Krystle Disney, Amy & Nathan Fields, Jessica Graetz, Komo Gursahani, Sophia Hayes, Jamie Helmkamp, Lisa Holwitt, Kelley Karandjeff, Sadaf Kanyani, Brendan Kearney, Carol Lebovic, Robin Leonard, Min Liu, Rocio Millavega, Tina Murtha, Silvia Mutis, Darcy Nayler, Kunthearath Nhek-Morrissey, Gertrude Pannirselvam, Tony Plein, Amy Quinlisk, Susie Rubin, Julie Sandler, Jenny Shu, Elizabeth Smith, Jane Sweeney, Toni Thomas, Tammy Wagner, Fudong Wang, Emily Whitney, Amy Wilson, Alan Wolf, Julie Yin, Jeff Zacks, Lili Zhou, Heather Wohl, Liz Chung.

Also, a belated big thank you to those who volunteered to provide a homemade meal of soups/stews and bread for the staff Fall Conference dinner: Jessica Graetz, Emily Kirk, Min Liu, Emily Zou, Kate Leary, Amy Wilson, Johnelle Lamarque, Caroline Day, Paya Payal, Melissa Scolaro, Tyler Stallings, Rahul Chadda, Joanna Dinsmore, Tara Hoisington, Bryan Lawrence, Silvia Mutis, Susie Rubin, Kui Yang, Julie Yin, Jeff Zacks, NancyClare Morgan, Michelle Cissna, Emily Cohen, Krystle Disney, Darcy Nayler, Barbara Ottolino, Laura Pierson, Tricia Salyer, Robyn Slen, Tammy Wagner, Kris Yoon, Emily Whitney, Allison Thomason, April Kim, Kathi Leicester, Jenny Shu, Maria Sparks, Kelli McGill.

PTO Meeting Dates

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

- March 6
- April 3
- May 1



Parent Coffee

Join us for the next Parent Coffee at 9:00 a.m. on April 14th. Dr. Gutchewsky looks forward to visiting with parents for casual conversations. Coffee and danishes will be provided.

American Mathematics Contest

In November, we had 150+ students participate in the American Mathematics Contest (AMC). We had several students score exceptionally well. Additionally, we had three students meet the requirements for the next level of the contest sequence which consists of a three hour, 15 question exam. Please congratulate the following students:

- Andrew Wang
 - Nate Brown
 - Charlie Rubin
-

National Honor Society

Being inducted into the National Honor Society is one of the highest awards bestowed by the faculty of Clayton High School. Membership is a special honor because the selection process goes beyond academic performance as it recognizes character, leadership and service to others. On January 9th we inducted 43 Seniors. [Click here to view the names.](#)

Missouri Scholars Academy Nomination

Each Year, CHS is invited to nominate 3 students to attend the Missouri Scholars Academy at the University of Missouri. This Academy, a three-week residential program for 330 of Missouri's academically gifted students, allows students to participate in a specially-designed curriculum with interdisciplinary courses, a variety of stimulating extracurricular activities and a unique learning community. Scholar Participants are selected based on GPA, two student essays and two letters of recommendation. Congratulations to the three finalists from CHS!

- Donna Do
 - Allyson Ord
 - Vimal Buckley
-

DECA District 8 Competition

During the recent DECA Competition, CHS had almost 60 students represented. This event marked the most district competitors and state qualifiers Clayton has ever had! Over half of the students qualified for the State Career Development Conference and will represent Clayton and District 8 in Kansas City from March 12th-14th.



Congratulations to **Saisha Bhutani, Paige Conrad, Casey Chu, Hannah Do, Saahil Doshi, Isra Kayani, Maci Klaus, Ben Koster, Eva Krauss, Henry Lee, David Liang, Jiajia Mao, Ella MacDonald, Julia Mann, Ava Marsden, Beacan Mottl, Shiv Patel, Adelaide Pollock, Simone Sah, Ayden Simches, Aanya Singh, Alex Slen, Ivy Slen, Kathryn Smith, Zack Srenco, Libby Truong, Mahika Vanukuru, Addison Whitesell, Robin Wong** and **Helen Yi**.



Young Artists' Showcase

Congratulations to the following CHS Art students who had their artwork accepted into the 2023 Young Artists' Showcase at the Saint Louis Artists' Guild: **Ana Mitreva, Isaac Levine, Zachary Millner, Stella Bishop, and Andrea Nutt**.

Over 350 pieces were entered into the show from area high schools and only 140 were accepted. The work will remain on display at the Artists' Guild until March 25.

In addition, Zachary's piece titled, "Uhh...is there a different extinguisher anywhere?", won the top prize in the show!

We also have several students whose artwork was accepted into the High School Art Exhibition at SIUE. Those students are **Zachary Millner, Sophia Simanowitz, and JiaLi Deck**. Awards for that show will be presented at the end of March.



Ana Mitreva - 12th Grade



Andrea Nutt - 12th Grade



Zach Millner - 12th Grade

Prospective Catalyst (CAPS) Student & Parent Night

Ready to experience education like never before? The Catalyst is an innovative, advanced, entrepreneurial approach to learning that is designed to give high school students hands-on, real-world experiences. Check out our [promo video here](#).

Applications for the 2023-24 school are now OPEN. Make sure to apply NO LATER than March 1st!

Additional information can be found below as well as on our website: TheCatalystSTL.com



Screenagers Under The Influence: Vaping, Drugs and Alcohol in the Digital Age

Join us on March 1, 7pm, at Wydown Middle School.

The third feature documentary in the Screenagers trilogy explores how our tech revolution has impacted teens' views and behaviors

around alcohol, vaping, cannabis, and other substances and what parents, schools, and teens can do to support healthy decision makings, such as harm reduction education, restorative practices, and improved family communication. Adults and youth grade 6+ are welcome.



Get your FREE tickets for this screening: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/screenagers-under-the-influence-vaping-drugs-and-alcohol-in-the-digital-tickets-492056322707>



Legal Cannabis: What Parents Need to Know

Missouri's new recreational cannabis law went into effect in December 2022, making it legal for anyone older than 21 to buy, possess, deliver, use, manufacture, and sell cannabis in the state. The new law will impact our youth and our communities. [Here is what parents need to know.](#)

The Scoop on Community Resources

CHS would like to welcome our new social work Intern, Mia Knowles. Check out her bio below.

"My name is Mia Knowles and I am a current Masters of Social Work student at the University of Missouri with a concentration in Clinical Social Work. I was born and raised in St. Louis and went to



SLU for my undergrad in social work! I was a cheerleader for all four years that I attended SLU and loved every minute of it. Some of my favorite hobbies include exploring the city, shopping and hanging out with my dog, Winnie! I'm extremely excited to have this opportunity to intern with the School District of Clayton and look forward to meeting everyone!"

District News



Have you recently moved, changed your address, or moved into a transitional living situation?

Please contact the Office of Student Services at 314-854-6023 to ensure the District has your most current address and contact information. Your child may be eligible for services through the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Is your contact information up to date?

The parent/guardian contact information in PowerSchool is the basis for all communication sent to families throughout the school year. It's also used to update the District's online Buzz Books. Ensuring that your email and phone numbers are correct in PowerSchool is an essential step toward staying in the loop. Here is a [checklist and video](#) that shows you how to access contact information for your student to update it and indicate who in your household should be receiving communication.

On-Site COVID Testing and Vaccines DISCONTINUED

Visionary Vaccine Services has discontinued its partnership with the District and will no longer be offering on-site testing and vaccination services on Tuesdays. Parents, students or staff can still access COVID testing and vaccines through their primary care provider, [Walgreens](#), [CVS](#) or the [St. Louis County Department of Health](#).

Join us For A Celebration of Black Achievement

Join Clayton alums, current students, parents, families and staff for the [2023 Celebration of Black Achievement](#) at **6:30 p.m. on Feb. 27 in the Clayton High School Auditorium**. The event will feature performances from current students and a panel discussion featuring Black alums. The program will also recognize Mohamed "Mvstermind" Austin ('09) and Kovel ('02) and Ashley ('04) Walker as part of an inaugural Black Alumni Spotlight, featuring Black alumni whose unique stories are an inspiration to the Clayton community.



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.

