



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

Educate. Inspire. Empower.

August 4, 2022 | claytonschools.net/chs

"Education is not just about going to school and getting a degree. It's about widening your knowledge and absorbing the truth about life."

— [Shakuntala Devi](#)

From the Principal

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and productive summer and that you are ready for the new academic year. My family and I enjoyed some time away as we traveled to Nashville, Baltimore, Annapolis and Chicago for my son's lacrosse tournaments. His team did well and it was fun to watch him play some outstanding competition on the East Coast. We spent a week in a house on Chesapeake Bay in between tournaments, with a few families on his team, and it was wonderful. The dedicated time with family and friends was much appreciated, but it seemed to go by way too quickly.

Clayton High School has been a busy place this summer as we hosted summer school and many of our District level administrators as the District Office/BOE Building gets remodeled this summer. We also have construction of our own at CHS as the Library renovation project is proceeding nicely and we are finishing some safety and security improvements. The CHS Administrative Team gained a new member, as Buddy Sodemann was selected Interim Assistant Principal (Grades 9 and 12) after Dr. Danskey left to take a principalship in Scottsdale, Arizona. Dr. Moore and I have really enjoyed working with him this summer as we planned for the upcoming year. We are excited by his energy and positivity and look forward to the connections he is building with our students, teachers, and families.

Over the past two years, as we navigated various schedules and instructional models during the pandemic, we were able to try different structures with varying levels of success. In an attempt to learn from this experience, we engaged with students and teachers about the things that worked best. Based on this feedback we made some adjustments to our daily schedule for the 2022-23 school year.

[2022-23 Schedule](#)

The new schedule allows us to do the following:

- Creates a variety of block (80 minute) and non-block (40 min) classes during the week
- Creates a consistent number of class meetings for all periods each week
- Brings back Greyhound Time (Student Flex time/Office Hours) which is backed up to a building-wide common lunch period
- Restores science instructional time that was lost during the move to the block schedule
- Provides common planning time for teachers
- Allows students to take one more class than the pre-COVID schedule

What is Greyhound Time?

Greyhound Time is student flex time that is built into each "A" and "B" day and it adjoins the common building lunch period in the schedule. Generally this time will be student directed in that students will manage and choose how to best spend their time. During this time teachers will host office hours. Students may meet with teachers during this time for additional help, test/quiz retakes or English conferences. This time also provides a dedicated opportunity for student clubs and organizations to meet during the school day. Students may also use this time to work out at the Center of Clayton, do homework or simply have a break in their day. Occasionally, this time will be used for special events and class meetings.

Our faculty and staff will be returning soon and they are looking forward to getting the new academic year started. We look forward to strengthening our partnerships with our returning students and families, while cultivating new relationships with our families who are new to CHS. Please enjoy your last weeks of summer and we look forward to seeing you very soon.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan

Important Back To School Dates

August 13 - Student Schedules' Go Live

August 15 - First Day for Faculty/Staff

August 18 (8:00am-12:30pm) - Freshman Orientation

August 18 (1:00-2:00 p.m.) - New (to CHS) Student Orientation 10th-12th grades

August 22 - First Day for Students

August 31 - Fall Picture Day

Daily Start and End Times

School hours will begin at 8:15 a.m. and will end at 3:05 p.m. Just a reminder that our new end time is 3:05 p.m.

Fall Sports Begin August 8th

Fall Sports begin on August 8th. See [CHS Athletics Website](#) for team information.

All forms must be completed prior to the first practice.

[Physical Examination Form](#)

[MSHSAA Pre-Participation Documentation](#)

Save The Dates

August 18 (8:00 - 12:00 p.m.) - Freshman Orientation

Freshman Orientation will take place on Thursday, August 18 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Watch for an email from Ms. Young next week with more information.

August 18 - New (to CHS) Student Orientation 10th-12th Grades

New Student Orientation will take place on Thursday, August 18 from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. Watch for an email from Ms. Young next week with more information.

August 30 (6:00 - 7:00 p.m.) - Freshman Parent Night

Freshman Parent night will take place on Tuesday, August 30 at 6:00 p.m. in the CHS Auditorium immediately preceding Open House.

August 30 (7:00 p.m.) - Open House

Open House for all grades will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 30.

Homecoming Week - October 2 - 8

Homecoming Week is Sunday, Oct. 2nd - Saturday, Oct. 8th. Watch for an email from Ms. Young with more information.

Parent Coffee is back!

We are planning to restart Parent Coffees this year. Please save the dates and join Dr. Gutchewsky for casual conversations at our Parent Coffee Gatherings at 9:00 a.m. on September 23, December 9, February 24 and April 14.

Parent Conference Week

Parent teacher conferences will be held the week of October 17-21st. Look for an email regarding sign-up and more information in September.

2022-23 Finals Weeks

December 19th - 21st - First Semester Finals

May 30th - June 1st - Second Semester Finals

Graduation

May 25th (7:00 p.m.) - The 2023 Graduation will be held at the Chaifetz Arena.

View the District Calendar

Check out the [District Calendar](#) to view all upcoming events at Clayton High School and around the District!

PTO Meeting Dates

Join us for our monthly PTO meetings at 6:00 p.m. on the dates listed below:

August 29

October 3

November 7

December 5

January 9

February 6

March 6

April 3

May 1

Check out our [PTO website](#) for more parent resources!

Visitor Management System

Student safety is our top priority throughout the School District of Clayton. In the interest of student and staff safety, the District uses a visitor management system to check in all visitors to our buildings. It allows schools and buildings to produce visitor badges and electronically check all visitors against registered sex offender databases. All visitors will need to show a photo ID each time they enter a building. Visitors will receive a printed visitor badge to wear that includes a photo, their name, time, date, destination and purpose of visit. Thank you in advance for helping us use this extra step to keep our schools safe.

Missouri School Required Immunizations

Please see the Missouri school immunization requirements for the 2022-23 school year at the link below. Per Missouri state law and School District of Clayton Board of Education policy, all students must present documentation of up-to-date immunization status of

each immunization before attending school. Please be aware that a second meningococcal immunization is required before 12th grade unless the first dose was administered to a student who was 16 years of age or older, in which case only one dose is required. At least one dose must be given after 16 years of age. Additional information regarding medical and religious exemptions can be found on the attached link as well.

<https://health.mo.gov/living/wellness/immunizations/pdf/2023schoolrequirements.pdf>



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