



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

October 21, 2025 | claytonschools.net/chs

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*



From the Principal



From The Principal

It finally feels like fall has arrived. Standing in front of the building each morning as I greet students, I get to experience the weather changes daily and yesterday I wore a jacket for the first time this year. Fall has always been my favorite season since I was a child. I truly enjoy being outside at this time of year and celebrating all the fall traditions that accompany the season. It makes me happy to know that cooler temps are finally here.

Speaking of fall, thank you for your participation in our annual fall Parent Teacher Conferences last week. We had a robust turnout as usual, and it was great to see so many of you in the building last Wednesday. We have continued the practice of providing online and in-person options for conferences, and signups indicate that there is a desire for both formats. (As an aside, the signup data indicates a slight preference for in-person conferences.) Thank you for your willingness to partner with us in support of your students. This partnership is one of the many things that make CHS a special place, and your attendance at conferences is a tangible sign of your support.

Last week, Craig Sucher (Science Teacher) and I were invited to join approximately 45 state legislators at their annual Education Retreat conducted by the Hunt Institute in Columbia, Missouri. It was a very interesting event as we were part of a panel and roundtable discussions answering questions from the state legislators from a practitioner's perspective. Not surprisingly, the legislators have a wide variety of opinions on the solutions to the problems educators face. They discussed testing, open enrollment, equity, the role of AI, and possible solutions to the teacher shortage. I was encouraged by what appeared to be a sincere focus on what educators need to

help students across the state. I appreciated being able to share an educator's perspective while cultivating relationships with the decision makers in our state. The conversations were affirming of the work we are doing at CHS (and the District) and it is clear that Clayton is well respected for the quality of education we provide. Hopefully, we can serve as an ongoing resource for the legislators and use these relationships to help influence the decisions that impact our work with students.

Finally, I'd like to put in a plug this week for our theater department as they will perform our Fall Play, [Small Mouth Sounds](#), on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. They always do an amazing job and I hear they have outdone themselves again! Come check it out!

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

Upcoming Events

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
CLAYTON

Key Dates for the 2025–2026 School Year

October 22 – Sophomore Challenge

November 4 – No School for Students/Professional Learning Day

November 26-28 – Thanksgiving Break

December 8-12 - Wellness Week

December 17-19 – First Semester Finals

December 22-January 2 – Winter Break

January 5 - Second Semester Begins



District Calendar

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

CHS News



Religious Holidays

Throughout the school year, many religious holidays will impact the school experience of different students in different ways. As we work as a District to continue to be "A Place for Everyone," we want to honor these holidays and help individual students have the least impact on their learning. Throughout the year, we will encourage our teachers to partner with families to ensure they are able to honor their family traditions while missing minimal work/learning opportunities. Please reach out to your child's teachers if there is important information you'd like to share.

Seal of Biliteracy Sign-Ups – Deadline Oct. 22

All seniors are required to complete the Seal of Biliteracy form—whether or not they plan to pursue the Seal—by **Wednesday, October 22nd**. The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who demonstrate proficiency in English and another language, with official recognition on their diploma and transcript.



There are two levels of the award based on proficiency:

Missouri Seal of Biliteracy
Distinguished Missouri Seal of Biliteracy

Benefits Include:

- Academic Recognition**
(college credit opportunities)
- Career Opportunities**
(career / resumé building)
- Cultural Appreciation**
(linguistic & cultural value)



bit.ly/25_26SealofBiliteracy

Caring for Head and Heart Parent Series

Please join us on **Thursday, October 30th from 7:00 - 8:00 PM** for a Zoom presentation on online gambling by Jeremiah Weinstock, PhD, ABPP, Professor of Psychology, Saint Louis University

Audience: Parents and caregivers of students in the School District of Clayton

Purpose:

To educate families about the fast-growing, ever-changing world of online gambling and its potential risks for young people. Parents will gain insight into the ways gambling is reaching youth through apps, games, and social media—and learn strategies to protect and guide their children.

What's the Deal with Online Gambling?

The Landscape of Online Gambling and What it Means for your Kids

Thursday, October 30, 2025
7:00 - 8:00 PM
Zoom Event

Presented by
Jeremiah Weinstock, PhD, ABPP
Professor of Psychology, Saint Louis University



Copy & paste the following link into your browser or scan the QR code to register for the Zoom Event:

<https://forms.gle/pXL9uGZf8ayC598>



Signing up indicates an interest in attending the virtual presentation on October 30th from 7pm-8pm. We will email those who have signed up reminders of the event with a Zoom link and a recording of the presentation after its completion. Link: <https://forms.gle/jotL9iuCZF8qnC598>

CHS Theatre Company Presents...

Tickets are now on sale for the CHS Theatre Company's fall productions!

🎭 **Small Mouth Sounds** — October 23–25 at 7:00 p.m. and October 25 at 2:00 p.m.

🎭 **Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind (30 Plays in 60 Minutes)** — November 5–7 at 7:00 p.m. and November 7 at 4:30 p.m.

Secure your seats today — purchase tickets [HERE](#).



30 Neo-Futurist Plays from

TOO MUCH LIGHT MAKES THE BABY GO BLIND

(30 Plays in 60 Minutes)

Wednesday
November 5
7 PM

Thursday
November 6
7 PM

Friday
November 7
4:30 & 7 PM

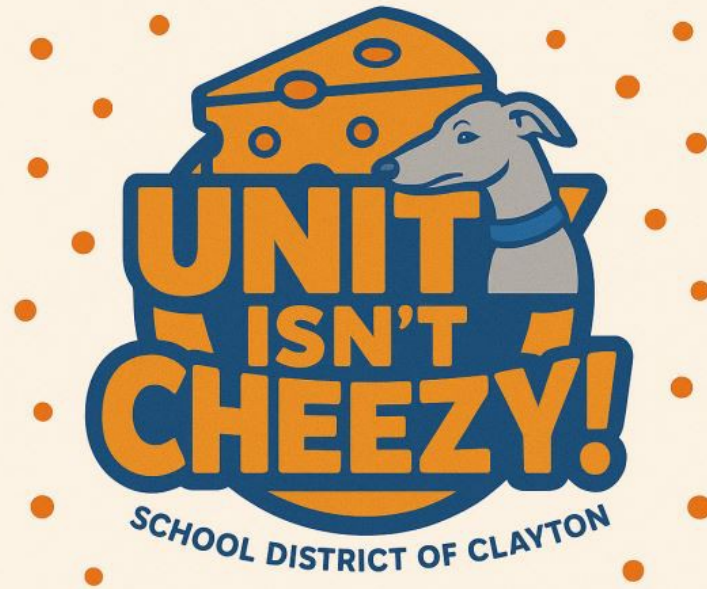
TICKETS
claytonhs.booktix.com



Clayton High School
Black Box Theatre

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.
(www.playscripts.com)

**Wear Orange
on October 22!**



**Join the SCHOOL DISTRICT OF CLAYTON
as we promote kindness, acceptance,
and inclusion.**

"Unity Isn't Cheezy!"



Antisemitism Workshop

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Sunday
October 26, 2025
10 am-12 pm or 1-3 pm

Jewish Federation
12 Millstone Campus Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63146

Lunch served from 12-1 pm

Join the Federation and JCRC as Ilay and Iddo from Israeli Spirit conduct workshop sessions that help high school students recognize and effectively respond to modern antisemitism, while also strengthening their confidence and pride in their Jewish identity.



Ilay Noimark and Iddo Cabiri have lived in both Israel and the United States, giving them a unique perspective on Israeli advocacy. With backgrounds in public speaking, leadership, and debate, they are committed to equipping the next generation with the tools to effectively respond to antisemitism.

Free of charge. Limited space available. RSVP by 10/23.

Questions? Contact
CWachtel@JFedSTL.org.

REGISTER NOW



Jewish
Federation
of St. Louis



Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis



ISRAELI
SPIRIT
CIVIL ADVOCACY CENTER

Celebrating Our Students

Parent Corner



PTO Meeting Dates

CHS PTO will hold monthly meetings at the Center of Clayton - Meeting Room C on the second Wednesday of the month from 12-1 pm. Below are the planned meeting dates.

- Oct 8
- Nov 12
- Dec 10
- Jan 14
- Feb 11
- Mar 11
- Apr 8
- May 13





CHS Parent Coffee

Join Dr. Gutchewsky for the next **CHS Parent Coffee Gathering** on **Friday, December 12, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** in the **Orchestra Room**. This session will feature **Ms. Jenni Todd, Head of Counseling at CHS**, as a special guest.

We invite parents and guardians to enjoy light refreshments and engaging conversation about the CHS experience. We look forward to seeing you there.

District News



Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

On October 22nd, all eleventh grade students will take the online PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) standardized assessment. Students will need to bring their District provisioned Chromebook to school to use during the administration of the assessment. The PSAT/NMSQT is a part of the SAT Suite of assessments that all Clayton High School students participate in. This assessment is used nationally to determine candidates for the National Merit Scholarship program as well as other scholarship programs. The PSAT/NMSQT, this year is a computer administered assessment in reading, writing, and math. Please contact Drew Spiegel with any questions.

Parent Survey

Starting this week, randomly selected Clayton residents may receive a phone call asking for their thoughts on projects to modernize the District's schools and athletic facilities. The brief survey, which is part of the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan, will help shape priorities for the future. Missed the call? All parents are welcome to share their input by completing this [online survey](#).

Title I Update

Title I is a federal program providing funds to school districts and schools with high percentages of children who are considered disadvantaged. Its overall purpose is to ensure all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and assessments. Our building will be receiving Title I funds in 2025-2026.

The School District of Clayton is required to inform you of information that you, according to the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-95), have the right to know. Upon your request, the School District of Clayton is required to provide to you in a timely manner, the following information:

- Whether your student's teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- Whether your student's teacher is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

In addition to the information that parents may request, a building receiving Title I.A funds must provide to each individual parent:

- Information on the level of achievement and academic growth of your student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under Title I.A.
- Timely notice that your student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who has not met applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

You're Invited: Oct. 21 Community Engagement Forum

Join us for our second Community Engagement Forum to learn more about the District's vision to modernize its schools and athletic facilities, and to share your input to help guide future planning.

The forum will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at Clayton High School.

[Watch this video to learn more](#), and please help spread the word to friends and neighbors. This is a valuable opportunity for our community to come together and build a plan to modernize our schools

DPH is providing influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations to people age 6 months and older.

Vaccines are available at all three of our health centers

- John C Murphy Clinic: 6121 North Hanley Rd., Berkeley, MO 63134; 314-615-0500
- North Central Community Health Center: 4000 Jennings Station Rd., Pine Lawn, MO 63121; 314-615-9700
- South County Health Center: 4580 S. Lindbergh Blvd., Sunset Hills, MO 63127; 314-615-0400

No appointment is needed.

- Walk-in immunization hours: 830-1030AM and 1-3PM

Vaccines will be provided at no cost to the patient, although insurance will be billed when available.

If you have questions, contact any DPH health center at the numbers above.

Smart but Scattered: Community Book Study Series

The School District of Clayton and Ladue School District invite all parents, educators, and community members to join a four-part virtual book study based on *Smart but Scattered: The Revolutionary Executive Skills Approach to Helping Kids Reach Their Potential* (Second Edition) by Peg Dawson, Richard Guare, and Colin Guare.



The series kicks off with Dr. David Kaufman, a neuropsychologist and national expert on executive functioning skills, who will lead the opening session. Participants will explore strategies to help children and teens strengthen attention, organization, and self-regulation at home, school, and in the community.

The first session will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 6–7 p.m. via Zoom, with additional sessions to follow throughout the fall.

Visit the book study [website](#) to learn more, or [click here](#) to register.

Join Us for the Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Trot!

Thursday, Nov. 27 | 8:30 a.m. | Acorn Park - Wydown Blvd.

Bring your family and friends to this fun, free event benefiting the School District of Clayton's Food Pantry. No registration is required—just show up and enjoy the morning! To help support families in need, please bring **nonperishable food items** and **personal hygiene products** for donation. For questions, please contact Alison Hoette at alisonhoette@gmail.com

For questions pertaining to the newsletter, email:
aricagonzalez@claytonschools.net



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.

