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Top Three Things in this Issue:

A Place for Everyone

Missouri DESE Commissioner Visits and Awards WMS

CHS 2021 Graduate wins SASSP Scholarship

From the Superintendent - A Place for Everyone

Dear Clayton Family,

It is an honor to write to you today and share that we had an amazing start to our school year! Our first week welcoming students back to our schools was incredible. Even though I have experienced many “first days” throughout my career in education, it’s still easy to get swept up in the excitement and energy that’s created when students return to our buildings. We had even more excitement this week when we welcomed Missouri’s Commissioner of Education, several members of the Missouri State Board of Education and two of our legislators to Clayton to recognize Wydown Middle School for being named one of Missouri’s eight Gold Star Schools. This is the second year in a row (CHS received the award last year) and third time since 2015 that we have had a school receive this prestigious honor. Wydown is now up for consideration to be named a National Blue Ribbon School.

Even though we are just finishing our second week of school, we are already working to ensure the goals in our strategic plan are reflected in our teaching, learning and interactions with all of our students. We want Clayton to be a place for everyone to grow as learners in head and heart. Ensuring our schools are—and feel like—a place for everyone is especially important. There’s a reason why it’s the first goal in our strategic plan: there is a

positive correlation between a sense of belonging and academic achievement. Students who feel like they belong learn more effectively than those who don't feel a sense of belonging. Celebrating our students' different cultures and identities, and ensuring they are reflected in our schools and the overall Clayton experience, is an important part of that.

One way we can ensure our District feels like a place for everyone is to build an awareness of the different cultures, faiths and celebrations that our students and their families experience. Creating a place for everyone means using windows, so students can see and learn about the cultures and traditions of others, and mirrors, so students can see their own diversity and culture reflected in the stories we tell. And letting our students tell those stories, in their own voices, provides a unique perspective. This week marks the first installment of our "A Place for Everyone" video series where students will tell their stories about their cultures, faiths and celebrations. With the month of September holding a number of significant days for our Jewish families, we thought hearing from one of our CHS students about what the High Holidays mean for them and what they want us to know about their experiences would be a thoughtful way to begin this series.



Click on the image above see a video from **Dr. Nisha Patel**.

Shana Tova to all the members of our community who are celebrating this month. I hope you have a happy and prosperous new year, and thank you, to our entire Clayton community, for everything you do to help make our schools a place for everyone.

Nisha Patel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Missouri Education Commissioner Honors WMS



Dr. Margie Vandeven, the Commissioner of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), along with other officials visited Wydown Middle School (WMS) to congratulate and award WMS for being one of eight schools in Missouri to be named a Missouri Gold Star School for 2021. Also in attendance were Missouri State Board of Education Vice President,

O. Victor Lenz, Jr., Ph.D.; Missouri State Board of Education member, Pamela Westbrook-Hodge; Missouri State Representative, Ian Mackey; Missouri State Senator, Brian Williams; and Missouri DESE Area Supervisor, Craig Larson. From the District, Superintendent, Dr. Nisha Patel; BOE President, Amy Rubin; BOE Vice President, Gary Pierson; BOE Secretary, Stacy Siwak; and BOE Director, Joe Miller, were also present. [More information about the visit and the award can be viewed here.](#)

2021 CHS Graduate Wins SASSP Scholarship



Jaleeyah Davis, a 2021 graduate of Clayton High School (CHS), received the St. Louis region of the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals Educator of the Year Scholarship (SASSP). She was an active member of the Black Student Union during her time at CHS. She plans to major in Psychology and minor in business at Alabama State. She hopes

to one day become a family therapist and open her own mental health facility.

Cameron Poole, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer for the District, won educator of the year for the SASSP. The winner of the award is provided with a scholarship to give to a student of their choice. Poole wanted to choose a hardworking and successful student who has had to overcome adversity. Poole met with Dr. Regina Moore, CHS Assistant Principal, to help him select someone and Davis was the perfect choice. Congratulations to Jaleeyah and we wish her the best of luck on her journey! [Learn more about her story here.](#)

CHS Senior Chosen for Bank Student Board of Directors

CHS Senior Gabriela Madriz has been selected for the Student Board of Directors for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. She is one of 28 high school seniors selected from the



St. Louis area. On the board, students learn about how the Federal Reserve works and the world of finance. She is looking to study economics in the future. [Learn more about the Student Board.](#)

CPT Teacher Selected as the MOSHAPE Teacher of the Year



Keith Baker, a Physical Education Teacher at Captain Elementary School, has been awarded the Missouri Society of Health & Physical Educators (MOSHAPE) District Teacher of the Year Award for 2021 for the St. Louis district.

The mission of MOSHAPE is to “support, encourage, and provide assistance to promote programs in health, leisure,

and movement-related activities for the enrichment of human life.” As a MOSHAPE Teacher of the Year nominee, Baker went through a rigorous application process and the selection committee was impressed by his experience and supporting letters. He was awarded to be recognized across Missouri for his role as an educator and knowledge of the field of physical education and health. Baker, who has been teaching for 21 years in the District, will be honored for his award during the 2021 MOSHAPE convention held at The Lodge of Four Seasons in Lake Ozark, Missouri, on Nov. 13. [Learn more about his award here.](#)

PAC.ED Information



We advocate for awareness, understanding, equity, and inclusion of and for all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton. PAC.ED is a volunteer organization made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members.

PAC.ED helps families:

- Network and communicate with other families.
- By providing support for families, including access to relevant information, training, and emotional support.
- Improve communication and partnership between SSD and the District.
- Collaborate with the School District of Clayton, Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD), and their Boards of Education, as well as parent teacher groups, school councils, and other organizations for the betterment of education, equity, and inclusion in the District.
- Create a positive awareness and understanding of students with disabilities.

Check out this month's [PAC.ED Events & Information](#). We have wonderful activities, events and programs planned for the 2021/2022 school year!

You can make a difference today by [making a donation](#) and/or [volunteering](#) to support the vital work of the PAC.ED!

The Equity Corner

We often “talk” about equity work a lot. For example, where the inequities lie, strategies for dealing with inequities, and what happens when we ignore them. Our Professional Development offers strategies, rich discussion, and self-reflection, but what does the work actually look like in real time? Below is an email I received last week from a teacher who is doing awesome work with our kiddos. The email is a prime example of what we mean by humanizing a student, understanding their perspective, and tailoring our approach based on their humanity and perspective. It is equity work, personified.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[The Good Work Personified](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on Twitter [@CP_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!

[Cameron Poole](#)

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Sept. 1 Board of Education meeting. The Board held its annual joint meeting with the Clayton Board of Aldermen to review the budget for the Center of Clayton and recognize the members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

Following each meeting of the Board of Education, The Board Brief is your source for details on Board discussions, actions and items of interest to Clayton students, staff and residents.

The Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Sept. 29**. The Board will hold the District's annual tax rate hearing to set the 2021 tax rate and receive an update

on Clayton's equity and inclusion work.

Nutritional Notes

Guest writer: Heidi Knuckles, Dietetic Intern, Fontbonne University Dietetic Program



In the process of learning about diet, it is important to learn about what minerals your body needs to function properly. Learn more about two of the most important minerals below:

Calcium

Did you know that calcium is the most abundant mineral in the body? It makes up 39% of the minerals used in the body. Most people know that calcium is important for our teeth and bones, which is especially important during rapid years of growth such as adolescent years. However, calcium is important for other functions as well. Calcium also plays a role in heart muscle function. You can find calcium in dark leafy vegetables like broccoli, kale, mustard greens, and collards. You can increase your calcium intake by choosing food items that are fortified with, or have added, calcium. Other food sources include milk and cheeses. To avoid calcium deficiency, make sure to eat a well-balanced meal including green leafy vegetables and dairy.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus is the second most essential mineral needed in the body. What does our body need phosphorus? Just like calcium, phosphorus is primarily used and found in bones and teeth. Additionally, phosphorus is used in our cells for energy. This energy is important for growth and repair of our body's cells and tissues. Food sources include eggs, meat, fish, and poultry. Phosphorus is also found in legumes, nuts, grains, and milk.

Focus On: How to Encourage Better Study Habits

The new school year has begun! Students are anxious to start on the right track and this past year has been a transformative experience. Get back to the basics of what builds good study habits with these tips:

- **Routine:** Establishing a schedule with enough time for studying, rest, and other activities can create structure and reduce anxiety.

- **Health:** Getting enough sleep and eating a healthy diet are key to a student's health. These are some of the most important years to build healthy habits that can last a lifetime.
- **Reduce Distractions:** Limiting time spent on a phone, computer, or video games can help students stay focused while creating time to enjoy these activities.

[Find out more tips to assist your student in their studies here.](#)

All in Clayton Coalition Meeting



The All In Clayton Coalition is hosting their first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. To find out how to join and learn more please email [Kim Sherony](#) for more information.

Calendar

Sept. 6 - No School - Labor Day

Sept. 7 - 9 - WMS Fall Play Auditions

Sept. 7 - 8 - CHS Fall Play Auditions

Sept. 8 - 15 - GLN Virtual Book Fair

Sept. 9 - Elementary Curriculum Night 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 10 - 11 - GLN Read-A-Thon Begins

Sept. 13 - CHS PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 14 - MER PTO Meeting 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 14 - WMS Chorus and Chamber Choir Concert 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 14 - FC Open House 7:00 p.m.

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