



CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Principal's Newsletter

October 3, 2022 | [claytonschools.net/chs](https://claytonschools.net/chs)

"And all at once, summer collapsed into fall."

-Oscar Wilde



## From the Principal



### From The Principal

We have had a great start to the school year. This year finally seems almost normal! Students and staff are adjusting well to the new schedule and the return of Greyhound Time has been very well received. I have witnessed several club meetings and numerous help sessions taking place during Greyhound Time in my walks around the building. Some students are taking advantage of the time by working out or playing basketball in the Center of Clayton, while other students are using this time for homework and getting help from teachers. At all the class meetings, we reinforced the important role of students in making the new schedule successful. This schedule (with 850 students free at the same time) would not work in every high school. We give students a lot of freedom and we expect them to use it appropriately. This schedule is really an overt sign of our trust in them and our expectation that they will do the right thing when presented with choices. Our hope is to always promote opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning by identifying their own needs and seeking support when necessary. I have been very proud of our students so far and look forward to their continued development in this area.

This week is Homecoming, which is always one of the most entertaining weeks of the year. This year is shaping up to be a good one. The events kicked off Sunday with the annual Brahleyball and Powderpuff tournaments. Both competitions were well attended and hotly contested. Ultimately the junior class won the Brahleyball (volleyball) tournament (the seniors finished last!!!) but the seniors redeemed themselves by winning the Powderpuff (flag football) tournament. I am looking forward to the class hallway decorations on Tuesday and dress-up days all week. Friday night we will have our annual Pep Rally/Spirit Games/Bonfire. Right now the weather is predicted to be dry and in the high 50s. Perfect bonfire weather! Saturday we will have our annual parade, alumni BBQ and football game. These are all family-friendly events, and they are great ways to celebrate our educational community. This is always a tremendous week and I hope you will consider bringing your family out to join us for some of the fun.

The festivities of the week conclude with the Homecoming dance at CHS on Saturday night at 8 pm. This is our biggest student social event of the year as we will have close to 700 students participating in the dance. One of the things that I really appreciate about the culture of CHS is the participation rate of our students in this dance. While some students bring a date, there is no expectation that this is the case. Many students attend with groups of friends, and they have a great time hanging out with classmates. I hope that your son or daughter is planning to attend because it is a fantastic display of the school community.

Finally, later this week we will be sending out information regarding Parent Teacher Conference sign-ups. CHS will be hosting conferences on Monday, October 17 from 3:30-7:30 pm (online only) and Tuesday, October 18 from 3:30-8:30 pm (in person and online). Conferences are an excellent way for us to cultivate deeper relationships with our families and they allow us to develop partnerships in support of our students. Thank you for your ongoing support of our endeavors, and we look forward to seeing all of you very soon.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan



## Mark Your Calendar



### Important Dates

**October 2** - Homecoming week

**October 7** - Friday Night Games and Bonfire

**October 8** - CHS Parade, HOCO Game, Homecoming Dance

**October 14** - No School/Staff PD

**October 17** - Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences

**October 18** - Parent/Teacher Conferences (In-Person)

**October 20** - Early Release - End of Quarter

**October 21** - No School/Staff PD

**November 8** - No School/Staff PD

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### Upcoming Events

#### Save the Date: Homecoming 2022, Oct. 8th

Homecoming Week will begin Sunday, Oct. 2nd with the tradition of the class Brawleyball and Powderpuff games. Students will compete throughout the week in different activities, themes and dress-up days for a chance to win the Golden Greyhound. The Friday Night Games and Bonfire are scheduled for Friday, Oct. 7th. The annual CHS parade, HOCO game and dance will all take place on Saturday, Oct. 8th. Please be on the lookout for more information from Mrs. T'Shon Young.

Homecoming: Keep it fun and safe!

The good news is that most Clayton students don't regularly drink alcohol or use drugs.

Unfortunately, Homecoming is a rite of passage for high school students that often involve alcohol

with pressure for those underage to drink. As you prepare for Homecoming, make sure that you are reviewing your expectations and rules to promote safety. [Read the All In Guide to a Safe & Fun Homecoming](#)

### **Parent Volunteer Opportunities at Homecoming**

Parent support is needed at the CHS Homecoming Dance on Saturday, Oct. 8th. Please consider volunteering for one of the following shifts:

- 4 parents for coat check from 7:30pm - 9pm
- 2 parents for coat check from 9pm - 10:30pm
- 2 parents for refreshments from 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Please [sign up here](#) and contact T'Shon Young with any questions at [tshonyoung@claytonschools.net](mailto:tshonyoung@claytonschools.net)

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## **Parent News**

### **Parent Conference Week**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held the week of October 17-21st. Below are the dates for virtual and in-person conferences.

- Monday, Oct 17, 3:30-7:30 (Virtual)
- Tuesday, Oct 18, 3:30-8:30 (In person)

Look for an email regarding sign-up and more information later this week.

### **Clayton High School Parent Book Study Options**

Dr. Sheila Powell-Walker, School Social Worker for Clayton High School, would be interested in engaging a group of interested parents in a book study. You may view the book titles and descriptions of the books [on this google form](#). If you are interested in this opportunity, please complete [the google form](#). The deadline to sign-up is October 7th.

If you have any questions or if you would like more information, please contact Dr. Sheila Powell-Walker at [sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net](mailto:sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net) or 314-854-6713.

### **Parent Coffee is back!**

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

### **PTO Meeting Dates**

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

- October 3
- November 7
- December 5
- January 9
- February 6
- March 6
- April 3
- May 1

### **PTO Donations**

Friendly reminder to please contribute to the Clayton High School PTO for the 2022-2023 school year. The CHS PTO supports educational enrichment and community-building activities that benefit the CHS students, families, and staff throughout the year. Your donation is fully tax-deductible, tax ID 43-1747553. You can either [pay online here](#) or send a check to Clayton High School PTO #1 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, MO 63105.

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## The Scoop on Community Resources

Greetings Greyhound Families!

I hope the 2022-2023 school year is off to an amazing start! Below you will find links to a couple of articles that may be of interest to you. I have also included links to a few community resources. As always, please reach out if I can be of assistance. 314-854-6713 or [sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net](mailto:sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net)

### Articles

<https://www.rootsofaction.com/family-meetings/>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/04/psychologist-shares-the-top-skill-that-sets-mentally-strong-kids-from-those-who-give-up-easily.html>

### Community Resources

<https://www.211.org/>

<https://www.operationfoodsearch.org/find-food/>

<https://bhrstl.org/>

<https://www.startherestl.org/>

Best!

Sheila Powell-Walker, BSW, Ed.D., PLPC  
District Social Worker (Secondary Schools)

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## Celebrating Our Students



Congratulations to CHS senior Anisha Jarang on being selected to the student board of directors for the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. The role will allow her to thoroughly understand the Reserve's role in the U.S. economy. Click [here](#) to read more.

### CHS Student Recognition



Congratulations to Kathryn Anzilotti for being selected to participate in the 2022-23 Special Education Foundation Fred Saigh Leadership Academy!

Three Clayton High School students successfully completed the 2022 Bridge Program Summer Academy. Congratulations to Bria Broussard, Skylar Jacobs and Christopher Pattin!

## Congratulations to our National Merit Semifinalists!

Fifteen CHS Seniors have been named as National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) Semifinalists in the Sixty-Eighth annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Nationally, less than one percent of all students make the cut to become semifinalists.

The 15 Semifinalists at CHS represent more than seven percent of the class of 2023. Over 16,000 Semifinalists were named this year. Congratulations to the following students (listed alphabetically by last name): **Ian Bennett, Katherine De La Paz, Hannah Do, Bek Handzic-Smith, Anisha Jarang, Ariana Kroeger, David Liang, Ken McAvoy, Scott A McCary, Ivy Reed, Ismael Robles-Razzaq, Samuel Rosenzweig, Alice Wang, Esther Wang and Elaine Yoo.**



These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships that will be offered next spring.

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## My School Bucks

MySchoolBucks School Store gives you convenient, 24/7 access to pay for school-related items. Getting started is a simple three-step process!

1. Download the app or visit the MySchoolBucks homepage and click on "Sign Up Free".
2. Create a user profile with your email address, establish a password, and set up your security questions.
3. Add a Student to your account using the student's name, date of birth, and/or student ID number.

Here are some steps on how to add funds to your student's lunch account. Click on the green "Make a Payment" button on your homepage. On the next page, you will be prompted to select a payment amount or you can add your own amount in the other field.

Click here to check out some [How-to Videos](#)

More questions? [Check out the FAQs](#)



## District News

### Buzz Books

School Buzz Books have been updated again and are now available online. The District has once again partnered with Membership Toolkit to create online directories for each of our schools that are secure, easy to use and free to District families. [Find instructions and a link to your school's buzz book on the website.](#) If you are having trouble accessing the Buzz Book, please drop us a line at [communications@claytonschools.net](mailto:communications@claytonschools.net).

## Make Sure Your Contact Info Is Correct

The parent/guardian contact information in PowerSchool is the basis for all communication sent to families throughout the school year. This year, that will include secure delivery of report cards and standardized test results. Ensuring that your email and phone numbers are correct in PowerSchool is an essential step towards 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.

## The Risks and Benefits of Digital Media

Need help balancing the risks and benefits of digital media use with your child or teen? Check out [this article from the American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

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## Math and Literacy Assessments

At the beginning of each school year, the School District of Clayton gives assessments in both math and literacy to gather data on students and inform instructional decisions.

- **Math:** In mathematics, students in kindergarten through high school take the NWEA-MAP one to three times a year. The purpose of this assessment is to provide teachers with reliable, instructionally useful data, which can be used to identify each student's optimal learning path and monitor student progress over time. Any questions you have related to mathematics assessments can be directed to the building math specialist.
- **Literacy:** In literacy, we also administer assessments early in the year to help inform instructional decisions. Additionally, in order to meet the requirements of state law (SB349) regarding literacy, a number of assessments are to be administered within the first thirty days of school that screen for dyslexia. While these screeners will not tell us if your child does or does not have dyslexia, they will provide valuable information to inform teachers' instruction. After screening occurs, we will contact you if we have concerns about your child's reading and what, if any, interventions or supports will be put into place. Any questions you have related to literacy assessments and/or any request for your fourth- through twelfth-grade child to be assessed can be directed to the literacy coach or reading specialists in your school. The state of Missouri requires the following:
  - All kindergarten through third-grade students must be screened for components of dyslexia.
  - Any student in fourth through twelfth grade may be screened for components of dyslexia at the request of parent(s) or teacher(s).
  - Schools will communicate with parents/guardians regarding any action plan created as a result of the dyslexia screening.

A more [comprehensive list of the assessments](#) used related to the required testing in literacy is available on our website.

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## MAP Grade Level Scores

Your child's MAP Grade-Level score reports from the Spring 2022 administration have been emailed via SchoolMessenger. The reports incorrectly listed the test date as Spring 2021. The test vendor has been contacted and confirmed that all score information listed on the report is accurate for the

Spring 2022 test administration. You will be prompted to enter a passcode to access the report. The passcode is your child's seven-digit ID number (the same number used for lunch accounts). If you do not know the ID number please contact your child's school.

If you did not receive your child's score report please ensure that your contact information is entered into PowerSchool correctly. You can reference this site for assistance with your account. In order to receive information such as these score reports, a contact must be listed as both Custody and Receives Mail. If you make these changes to your account and would like to receive a copy of your child's score report please email [assessment@claytonschools.net](mailto:assessment@claytonschools.net). Please include your child's name and current grade level in the email.

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## **Social Emotional Learning Surveys Coming Up**

Building our social-emotional learning skills is an important goal for our district this year. Over the next several weeks, students in Grades 3-12 will participate in several surveys to better understand these concepts and to reflect on how they perceive these skills in themselves. We will be asking for your child to reflect on their own mindsets and approaches to learning via an online survey they will be completing at school. The survey process should take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete. The survey content will ask students to self-reflect on school climate and environment, positive/challenging feelings, self efficacy, social awareness, self management, and supportive relationships.

We are asking that all of our students participate in the surveys, as their responses will provide invaluable insights into their experiences and how we can improve and adapt our district to their needs. The responses to these surveys are confidential. However, at times, some responses may warrant further follow up. If a student doesn't feel like they have enough information to answer a question, they will be able to skip the item altogether. We are partnering with a third-party vendor, Panorama Education, to support us in administering these surveys. If you have any questions about the SEL survey, please don't hesitate to contact your child's counselor or building social worker.

## **Trauma Informed Schools**

Students who have experienced trauma in their lives face a number of special challenges, and may need special support in order to be successful in school. The School District of Clayton participates in Missouri's Trauma Informed Schools initiative, and staff across the District have received training in how to identify and support students with traumatic experiences in their backgrounds. You can access Missouri's Trauma informed website at <https://dese.mo.gov/traumainformed>.

## **DuoDogs Touch Therapy Teams Coming Soon -**

The School District of Clayton is now a facility partner site with DuoDogs, an organization that connects dogs with people to make positive change in the community. Throughout the year, certified handler/dog teams will periodically visit district schools to support the social and emotional well-being of students and staff. Visits will take place in supervised spaces during recess/lunch periods. If you have questions, please contact your building principal or child's counselor. Read more about the [DuoDogs Touch Therapy Program here](#).

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## New Volunteer Requirements

In order to ensure we are complying with recent changes to state law, the School District of Clayton has an updated volunteer process. Due to the new statutory requirements, all volunteers that might be alone with students (including field trips), must complete the new background check requirements in order to volunteer in most situations. Any volunteer who has the potential to work alone with students must do the following:

1. Complete a [volunteer application](#)
2. Authorize the District to conduct a background check through the [Family Care Safety Registry](#). There is a \$15.25 fee to register with the Family Care Safety Registry. The District will cover this cost.
3. [Register](#) to have your fingerprints taken. There is a \$41.75 fee to run the fingerprint-based check and the processing time is generally 7-10 days. If the cost of the background check is a burden for your family at this time, please submit your receipt to Cindy Whitney at the Administrative Center.

Please contact Rachel Benz at 314.854.6000 if you have any questions.

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## Clayton Kid Zone is hiring for the 2022-2023 School year

We have positions in our afterschool program from two to five days a week working with students in our elementary schools. This is a fantastic opportunity for those wanting to make a difference in our Clayton community working in youth development. Positions offer flexibility, competitive wages, and a great team environment. Kid Zone also offers training and professional development for all staff throughout the year.

- Candidates must have reliable transportation to get to Captain, Glenridge, Meramec, and the Family Center (on Gay Ave).
  - Apply [here](#) today
  - Please contact Program Coordinator Tyler Kearns at [tylerkearns@claytonschoools.net](mailto:tylerkearns@claytonschoools.net) with questions
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## COVID Information

### 2022-2023 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

The Board approved the District's COVID plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Our [website has been updated](#) to reflect the changes. Here is the [presentation](#) that was share with the Board last Wednesday and a summary of the notable changes:

- The driving force behind any changes is the evolving public health guidance related to COVID-19 and the transition to managing it more as a communicable disease (think flu) than pandemic-level virus.
- We are starting the year as "mask-recommended" but without any thresholds in place that would trigger a building to transition to mask-required.
- Notable changes include discontinuing contact tracing, no longer excluding (quarantining) students or staff who are exposed to the virus (regardless of vaccination status) and lifting vaccine/testing requirements for staff as well as visitors, vendors and volunteers.



- Consistent with moving away from contact tracing, we are also discontinuing emails about positive cases in a class or building. We will be notifying families if we do have more than three positive cases in a classroom, which is consistent with our approach to other communicable diseases.
- We have improved the [COVID dashboard](#) to update (more or less) in real time. It now only shows positive cases in each school.
- As vaccines and testing continue to be one of the best mitigation strategies, we will be offering a [weekly clinic](#) (on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m.) to provide access to vaccines, boosters and testing for students, staff and families. (Details included below.)

### Same Day COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines

District students, parents, and staff can go to any of the locations listed below to receive a COVID-19 vaccine/booster or for walk-in COVID testing (for diagnostics, screening, and travel). No appointment is needed. This program is available through Visionary Vaccine Services (VVS) available through a partnership between the Clayton and Webster Groves school districts. Representatives from VVS will be doing the testing and individuals will receive a letter documenting the date of service, type of testing, and same-day test results.

Important details:

- Masks will be required.
- Bring identification and insurance card (insurance will be billed for the service).
- There are no fees for the uninsured.

Vaccines, boosters, rapid antigen and PCR testing will be available/accessible weekly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as follows:

- Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. in the Training Room at Clayton High School located at #1 Mark Twain Circle, 63105 (Enter building through the Greyhound Entrance. [Map and details here.](#))
- Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. at the Webster Groves School District Central Office Building located at 400 E. Lockwood Avenue, 63119

### New Bivalent COVID Booster Available

District students, parents, and staff can go to any of these [locations](#) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine/booster or for walk-in COVID testing (for diagnostics, screening, and travel). The clinic now offers the new bivalent COVID-19 booster. Vaccines, boosters, rapid antigen and PCR testing are available/accessible weekly on Tuesdays from 9-11 a.m. in the Training Room at Clayton High School located at #1 Mark Twain Circle, 63105 (Enter building through the Greyhound Entrance. [Map and details here.](#))



## 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.

