



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

November 22, 2022 | claytonschools.net/chs

"Piglet noticed that even though he had a Very Small Heart, it could hold a rather large amount of Gratitude."

— A.A. Milne, [Winnie-the-Pooh](#)



From the Principal



From The Principal

A huge thank you goes to Kim Zustiak and the Speech and Debate crew for their work this weekend to revive the Clayton Fall Classic. Thank you to all who helped judge or help with logistics this weekend. We sent out a call to the community for judges and you certainly responded in kind; it definitely "takes a village" and the event went really well. We appreciate the tremendous community support. It was great to see the return of this Clayton tradition and it was fantastic to reconnect with so many familiar faces.

One of the things I like about Clayton High School is our size. My common mantra is, "We are big enough to have a robust set of course offerings and activities while being small enough to know our kids well." Creating a sense of belonging for all our students is crucial to the cultivation of a positive school climate. This work is central to our District and building goals. To this end, we revived the "Trusted Adult" exercise with our students. This week we asked students to complete a short Google form that asks them to identify a trusted adult at CHS whom they would go to if they had an issue or needed assistance. We always ask students to answer honestly, and we remind students that they may indicate "no one." If students answer that they are not connected to an adult at CHS, our promise to them is that we will work to change that. Once we collect this information, we will share it with teachers who were identified, and we will triangulate this with the Panorama (Social Emotional Learning) survey results.

Likewise, this week we shared a document with staff that lists every student (by grade level), and we asked staff to identify the students with whom they feel they have a strong positive relationship. Our hope is to have every student connected to an adult at CHS. This information will allow us to leverage positive relationships with students while giving extra attention to students who report that they do not feel connected to an adult. Thank you for your support of this important work as we work to ensure that CHS is a "place for everyone."

Finally, as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, I want to wish each of you a very happy Thanksgiving and a restful break. Please know that I am truly thankful for each of you and I am grateful for the support and friendship of so many families that I have had the pleasure of meeting and serving over the past 20-plus years. I hope that you are able to spend some time relaxing with family and friends before the final push of the semester.

Have a very happy Thanksgiving!

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan

Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

November 23-25 - Thanksgiving Break

December 5 - PTO Meeting

December 9 - Parent Coffee

December 22 -January 3 - Winter Break

Parent Corner

Parent Coffee is back!

Join us for the next Parent Coffee at 9:00 a.m. on December 9th in the CHS Library. 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:

- 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.

Security Updates

As we continue to review and modify our security precautions at CHS, we made a few changes that went into effect last week.

- Exterior doors will be locked before and during school hours. Previously, the doors were unlocked at 7:30 am and then locked around 8:20 am. Moving forward, **students and staff will need their IDs to access the doors** in the morning.
- The Link doors leading from the Center of Clayton to CHS (closest to the Family Center classrooms) will be locked during the day. A card reader has been installed and an **ID will be needed to unlock these doors**. The Stuber Gym doors will also be locked during the day.
- Starting after Thanksgiving Break, any student ID that has not been used in the past 30 days will be presumed lost and deactivated. Students can have their IDs reactivated or obtain a new ID by visiting the Technology help desk in the Library.

All In Clayton Coalition is Offering Free Viewing of "Don't Wait"

In celebration of Red Ribbon Week, All In Clayton Coalition is offering parents a chance to watch the award-winning substance use prevention film "DON'T WAIT" from October 23-November 25 for free using a promo code. [Information on the film and how to access it can be found here.](#)

To access the film:

1. Go to <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/dontwaitpromo>
2. Click on "Rent \$10.00"
3. You will be asked to log in or to create a Vimeo account by entering your name, email and password.
4. Enter the Promo Code: **ALLIN2022**



**Helping Our Children
Cultivate Resilience**
with Dr. Ilana R. Luft-Barrett
December 7, 6-7 pm on Zoom



Caring for Head and Heart Series

The School District of Clayton, in partnership with All In Clayton Coalition, invites you to join us for the Caring for Head and Heart Series.

The first event in our series is Helping Our Children Cultivate Resilience with Dr. Ilana R. Luft-Barrett on December 7, 6-7 pm on Zoom.

Resilience helps young people gain skills that help them deal with and manage challenging situations and circumstances in life. Dr. Luft-Barrett will review the benefits of promoting resilience, identify ways that parents can promote the development of resilience, and discuss

Hello Clayton High School Family!

<https://nami.org/Blogs/From-the-CEO/December-2021/The-Most-Difficult-Time-of-The-Year-Mental-Health-During-the-Holidays>

Dr. Powell-Walker
CHS School Social Worker
sheilapowellwalker@claytonschools.net"

A photograph of four young women with long hair, smiling and posing together in front of a brick building. The image is partially covered by a large orange triangle on the right side.

The following students are being commended in the National Merit Scholarship Program. These students are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance. Congratulations to: **Tiancheng Fan, Jackson Leonard, Oliver Pollock and Sava Tamanaha**

We are very happy to announce that The Globe is one of two schools in Missouri and one of 38 in the nation nominated for the [National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Award](#) this year! The Pacemaker is the top award given to overall high school publications nationally. “The Pacemaker is the association’s preeminent award,” Executive Director Laura Widmer said. “NSPA is honored to recognize the best of the best.”

Student editors were Shane LaGesse and Ella Cuneo (Class of 2022) and Ivy Reed (Class of 2023). In addition to demonstrating excellence in key areas including coverage, writing, editing, design and photography, the winning newspapers took risks and served as a strong voice for its student audience.

“With the pandemic still impacting schools across the country, many of the papers and magazines submitted for the competition were produced with student journalists working under very challenging situations,” Lundgren said. “The high-quality journalism these publications provided, against all odds, is remarkable.”

NSPA Pacemaker finalists were recognized and the Pacemaker winners were announced for the first time at the awards ceremony on Nov. 12, as part of [the JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention](#), in St. Louis.

District News



2022 Clayton Turkey Trot ... Save the Date!

The 2022 Clayton Turkey Trot is set for 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 24, 2022). This Family 5K Run/Walk is free and no registration is required. Please bring personal hygiene and food items to donate to the Clayton School District Food Pantry. [Click here for more information.](#)



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@claytonschoools.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 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.

Respiratory Virus Surge

We are seeing a significant rise in admissions driven by a surge in respiratory viruses like RSV. Our children's hospitals in the area are extremely busy and full as are children's hospitals around the country. We need help and support from everyone to mitigate the spread and to prevent respiratory infections. What we all can do:

- Get a flu shot—flu is here in Texas, DC and NYC—don't delay get your shot.
- Get a COVID booster--The COVID-19 bivalent booster for both Moderna and Pfizer are now available for individuals 5 years and older. This booster has the original strain and BA4/BA5 which have been the predominantly circulating virus this summer and fall. People are eligible for the booster 2 months after their primary series OR their last booster dose. We are seeing increase in COVID-19 in Europe so likely we will see an increase likely in the next few weeks.
- Wash hands and stay home when sick.
- Wear a mask- wearing masks will reduce the spread of rsv, influenza, COVID, and other respiratory viruses and keep students and staff in school.

Trauma Awareness Training - All In Clayton Coalition will host a shared learning opportunity from Alive & Well Communities on Tuesday, December 6, from 4-5 pm on Zoom. This presentation will equip participants to implement trauma-informed practices and policies, improve school and community climate and culture, and invoke transformational thinking regarding the presence of

trauma and the response to it. This opportunity is open to all Clayton community members and staff.

- Registration is required: [Register here](#)
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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.