



CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Principal's Newsletter

April 24, 2023 | [claytonschools.net/chs](https://claytonschools.net/chs)

*"No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere."*

—Sheryl Crow



## From the Principal



### From The Principal

The recent security-related events of the past two weeks can be unsettling for students, staff and families, and they are a constant reminder of the importance of our collective responsibility for our security at CHS. One takeaway from these events has been the clear importance of students speaking up when they see something concerning. In each case, students immediately found an adult in the building and they reported what they saw, which allowed the adults in the building to address the situation promptly. This has been a key tenet in all of my communications with students and staff. Thank you for all you do to help us instill this responsibility in our students.

Strong positive relationships form the basis of everything that we do in education. With this in mind we began asking students to identify trusted adults that they would feel comfortable going to if they had a problem or issue and they needed assistance. We began tracking this information over 10 years ago (when I became principal of CHS) by simply asking students to identify their trusted adults and logging this information in a spreadsheet. Likewise, we ask faculty to identify students with whom they feel they have strong, positive relationships. We took a break from this activity during COVID but continued to ask related questions in the Panorama survey, which is administered twice a year. We revived the activity earlier this year, and while the logistics of getting a complete data set took a little more time than we anticipated, we were able to create a complete list of trusted adults for each student (if they identified any). This information has allowed us to help students by leveraging their relationships with trusted adults in the building, and it has allowed us to focus extra attention on students who do not identify any adults in the building.

It is interesting to note that the positive response rate is much higher when students are asked to identify specific individuals whom they trust compared with the more general (yes/no) Panorama questions. We share these data with our staff in multiple ways. First, teachers receive a list of students who identified them as their trusted adult. Second, we share the list of students who did not identify a trusted adult at CHS with all faculty members so that we can make extra efforts at

promoting positive relationships with those students. We are also able to cross-reference the Panorama responses with this data set to get a more complete picture of relationships in the building. Finally, we have created a master spreadsheet document that contains all student and teacher responses. This information has been shared with the CHS administrative team and the CHS counselors to support our daily work with students. These data are a valuable resource and extremely important to our work as we strive to make CHS “a place for everyone.”

Finally, it is a bit hard to believe that we are in the midst of fourth quarter and Graduation is just over a month away. For me, this time of year always seems a bit frenetic as we move from one event to another. We hosted an outstanding Prom last week at the Starlight Room of the Chase Park Plaza. The CHS Awards Ceremony will be this Tuesday night. AP exams begin next week with senior week events a few weeks away. It is a busy time but also a really exciting time for many of our students. I hope to see you at one of the festivities soon.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan



## Mark Your Calendar



### Important Dates

**April 25** - Awards Ceremony

**April 28** - No School

**May 15-19** - Senior Week/Senior Send-off

**May 25** - Graduation

**May 29** - Memorial Day - No School

**June 1** - Last Day of School

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### Awards Ceremony

CHS will host our annual Awards Ceremony on April 25, 2023, at 7:00 pm. All CHS students are invited to attend. Parents will be notified directly if their child will be receiving an award at the ceremony.

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### Senior Week Events

**Monday, May 15th - Friday, May 19th - Senior Week**

- Senior Finals will be held May 15-17
- Make-up finals will be May 18
- Seniors will celebrate their accomplishments through fun dress-up days and activities. Senior banners will be displayed at the Globe Entrance of the school on Wednesday, May 17th.

### Thursday, May 18th - Senior Cap & Gown and Send Off

- Seniors will pick up cap & gowns in the auditorium between 12:00-3:00 pm, and can also participate in the Senior Final Walk in the halls of CHS at 2:30.
- Prior to May 18th, students may return books and pay fines as usual in Room 8. All fines must be paid and books returned prior to picking up the cap & gown.
- On May 18th starting at 11:00, students may go to the CHS Bookstore (Rm 19) to pay fines and/or return books, once books are returned and any fines are paid, students will be given a pass to pick up their cap & gown in the auditorium.
- For questions regarding cap & gown, please contact: Tanya Brooks at [tanyabrooks@claytonschoools.net](mailto:tanyabrooks@claytonschoools.net)

### Friday, May 19th - Senior Parade @ 6:00 pm

- The senior parade will begin at CHS at 6:00 pm and end at Gay Field
  - Students are encouraged to wear cap and gown and decorate their vehicles.
  - Families can decide whether they would like to drive their students in the parade or let students drive themselves.
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## 2023 Graduation

### Thursday, May 25 - Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal

- CHS graduation rehearsal will take place at 10:00 am at Chaifetz Arena. **This is a mandatory event for Seniors.**

### Thursday, May 25 - Graduation

- CHS graduation will take place at Chaifetz Arena on Thursday, May 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm.
- There is no limit on the number of people who can attend but we do ask that families carpool if possible.
- For questions regarding graduation, please contact: Tanya Brooks at [tanyabrooks@claytonschoools.net](mailto:tanyabrooks@claytonschoools.net)



## Parent Corner



### Parent Teacher Conference Survey Reminder

Thank you to everyone who participated in parent-teacher conferences. Conferences play an important role in maintaining a strong connection between school and home. As we strive to ensure that conferences are structured in a way to meet everyone's needs, we want to hear your perspective on the purpose of these conferences.

For those of you who attended an in person or virtual conference, this is a reminder to please take a few minutes to complete the survey for secondary (WMS and CHS) families. For those of you who were not able to attend conferences, this is your invitation to share your thoughts on past experiences and how we can make the experience even better. Your feedback will help us better understand how we can improve parent-teacher conferences to meet your needs and expectations.

As you take a minute to share your thoughts, please reflect back on your experiences with parent teacher conferences over the past few years and share your thoughts not only on their purpose but also about what you find valuable about them and what changes we could implement to make them even better. To do this, I'm inviting you to participate in a ThoughtExchange. This valuable tool is different from other surveys because not only lets you share your thoughts but also allows you to weigh in on what others are thinking.

[Please click here to share your thoughts about parent-teacher conferences.](#)

### How Thoughtexchange Works

Once you are done reviewing the introduction page please click participate at the bottom of your screen to navigate to the main page of the exchange. You will be able to share your thoughts then read the thoughts of other participants and assign stars to show how important each thought is to you. You will discover the top thoughts in the conversation and will be able to provide additional thoughts during the open forum.

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### Open PTO Positions

Thank you to Bryan Lawrence for serving as the PTO Co-President for the past two years. The open officer positions for the next school year are Co-President, Secretary and Communications. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions. There are also several open opportunities to volunteer on committees. For example, two people are needed to lead Staff Appreciation next year. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated! If you are interested, please let me know or contact Suzy Ogé at [CHSPTO@claytonschoools.net](mailto:CHSPTO@claytonschoools.net)

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### PTO Meeting Dates

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

- May 1

## Celebrating Our Students

### DECA State Results and International Qualifiers

Thirty of our students represented Clayton at the DECA State Career Development Conference.

The following students were recognized as finalists in their respective events:

- Alex Slen: 1st place, Business Services; 1st place, event exam
- Saisha Bhutani, Aanya Singh: Top 8, Innovation Plan
- David Liang: Top 8, Entrepreneurship





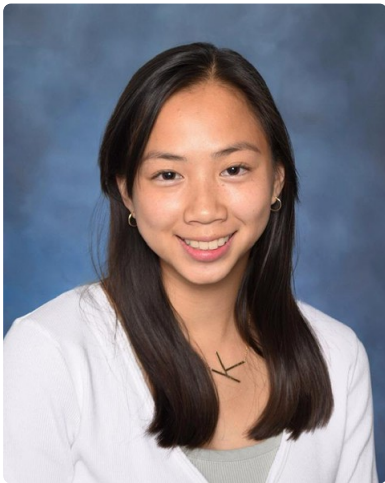
- Paige Conrad, Maci Klaus: 6th place, Financial Services Team
- Casey Chu, Saahil Doshi: Top 8, Integrated Marketing Campaign Product
- Adelaide Pollock: Top 8, Integrated Marketing Campaign Product
- Jiajia Mao, Helen Yi: Top 8, Integrated Marketing Campaign Service

The following students have qualified for the DECA International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida:

- Isra Kayani, Ayden Simckes: 3rd place, Business Law and Ethics Team
- Henry Lee: 4th place, Principles of Finance
- Julia Mann, Addie Whitesell: 4th place, Business Solutions Project
- Ben Koster, Shiv Patel: 2nd place, Sports and Entertainment Operations Research

Please congratulate our ICDC qualifiers, finalists, and ALL competitors if you have the opportunity. They were incredible ambassadors for DECA and Clayton.

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### Senior Selected For State Academic Honor

High School Senior **Katherine De la Paz** of Clayton High School has been selected for the 2023 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program that honors 100 of Missouri's top academic students in the graduating class of 2023. Missouri Scholars 100 is a program sponsored by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Schools nominate candidates for this statewide recognition based primarily on numerous criteria including the student's grade point average and ACT or SAT scores. Each student nominated must first meet the criteria of an "Academic Decathlon," which included ten "events" designed to ensure the

student's academic strength. The student must have a minimum GPA of 3.750, a minimum ACT score of 29, or a minimum SAT score of 1,280, be ranked in the upper ten percent of the class and take high-level courses in Mathematics, Science, and English and Foreign Language. The student must also have excellent attendance, be an exemplary school citizen, and be involved in the school activity program.

Clark Mershon, Executive Director of the principals' association, said, "The Missouri Scholars 100 Program is one of the premier academic recognition programs in the country. It is truly a celebration of learning. Students selected for this program have taken a rigorous course of study and maintained the highest academic standards. The Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals wants to celebrate the achievement and success of these students and their schools." You can learn more about the organization by visiting their website [here](#).

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### CHS Mock Trial Team Placed Second in State

After 15 hours of tense litigation, the CHS Mock Trial team placed 2nd in the state by a 2-1 vote. Congratulations to **Enoch Lai, Charlotte Meyers, Charles Rubin, Esther Wang, Ivy Reed, Alice**

**Wang, and Marina Hagedorn!** Included in the photo is the presiding Judge W. Brent Powell of the Missouri Supreme Court.



### Missouri Seal of Biliteracy Honorees 2023

The Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who have studied and attained proficiency in two or more languages by high school graduation.

The CHS World Languages and Cultures Department is pleased to announce that 35 seniors earned the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy this year in six languages. Of that group, nine students earned the Distinguished Seal of Biliteracy and two students earned the Seal

of Biliteracy in two different languages.

#### Distinguished Seal of Biliteracy

Damian Boric (Bosnian), Tiancheng Fan (Chinese), Elena Cuille (French), Seraphina Corbo, (Spanish) Sofia Mutis (Spanish), Ismael Robles-Razzaq (Spanish), Aitana Rosas Linhard (Spanish), Claudia Taylor (Spanish), Elaine Yoo (Spanish)

#### Seal of Biliteracy

Esther Wang (Chinese & French), Carola Vaqueiro (French & Spanish) Kylen Crews (French), Isabelle Cross (French), Hannah Do (French), Zoe Early (French), Madeleine Foersterling (French), Bek Handzic-Smith (French), Ariana Kroeger (French), Ivy Reed (French), Sava Tamanaha (French), Claire Taussig (French), Alice Wang (French), Iris Park (Korean) Elliot Kennedy (Latin), Enoch Lai (Latin) Scott McCary (Latin), Susanna Boeyink (Spanish), Amaya Everett (Spanish), Zoey Hall (Spanish), Abigail Hoelscher (Spanish), Avanel Mallon (Spanish), Ana Mitreva (Spanish), Wilson Stahl (Spanish), Graham Zucker (Spanish), Jayne Zavala (Spanish)

### J-Day at University of Missouri

Journalism, publications and yearbook students attended [Missouri Interscholastic Journalism Association's](#) J-Day at the University of Missouri. During this event, students also received overall critiques and individual awards.

Clayton High School's students earned several Best of Shows. These included **Alex Slen** for News Feature, **Andrew Thompson** and **Beacan Mottl** for Radio/Podcast Talk Show, **Lily Kleinhenz** for Portrait Photography, **Alex Cohen** for Online Sports Package, **Wendy Stephens** for Sports Reaction Photography, **JiaLi Deck** for Editorial/Op-Ed Writing, **Charlie Meyers** for Online Feature Package, and **Alex Cohen** and **Caitlin Kuhlmann** for Online Breaking News.

All Missouri ratings were earned by **Ivy Slen** and **Alex Slen** for News Feature Writing, and **Wilson Stahl** and **Sofia Mutis** for Radio/Podcast Talk Show.

Also, superior ratings were awarded to the staff for Online Feature Package and News Feature Writing, **Sophia Klein** for Sports Photography, **Lily Kleinhenz** for Student Life/Organization Photography, and **JiaLi Deck** for Online Feature Package.

**Ivy Reed** earned an Excellent rating for News Feature Writing, and **Owen Wohl** earned an Honorable Mention for a Sports Feature/Reaction Photo.

## CHS News



### All-In Clayton: Weekend and Party Guide

As prom and graduation season approaches, parents can help reduce underage drinking and its consequences by providing adequate supervision. Know where your child is, who they're with, and what the plans are. Use our [Weekend and Party Guide](#) to help you.



### All In Clayton Blog - The Myth of Protective Drinking

While many parents may think that allowing their teens and their teens' friends to drink at home under adult supervision keeps kids safe and leads to healthier attitudes about drinking, the truth is that there are serious negative consequences for both parents and teens. [Read the full blog here.](#)

## District News



### 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.

### Social Emotional Learning Surveys Coming Up

- Building our social-emotional learning skills continues to be the District goal. 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 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.

#### **Missouri Medicaid Renewals Start April 1st:**

- Beginning this Saturday, April 1, 2023, the Family Support Division will be starting annual renewals for MO HealthNet (Missouri Medicaid). What you need to do:
  - First, Update your address if you have moved. This can be done going [online](#), visiting a [local resource center](#), or calling 855-373-4636.
  - Second, watch for a letter in the mail. Renewal letters should come between April 2023-April 2024. You will need to follow the instructions on the letter you receive to complete the process.
- Families that do not update their address & receive/respond to the renewal letter will be dropped from Medicaid and will need to re-apply. More information can be found [here](#). If you have any questions regarding Medicaid Enrollment, please contact the [Legal Services of Eastern MO Connecting Kids to Coverage Program](#).

#### **Summer Opportunity for 9th-11th grade students**

- Missouri State University is offering a [Bears Teach Boot Camp](#) for freshman, sophomores and juniors from school districts around the state of Missouri to students who are interested in the teaching profession to address the teacher shortage. This is a summer immersion program on campus June 12-16, 2023. It is a free program and the application deadline is May 1, 2023 for students to apply. Student Activities include:
  - Stay in one of the residence halls and eat at the dining halls.
  - Participate in ACT Boot Camp.
  - Engage in mini-workshops identifying potential scholarships, writing admission and scholarship essays, financial aid and student support systems available through Missouri State University.
  - Enjoy swimming in the lazy river, rock climbing in the Foster Rec Center.
  - Explore Springfield, Missouri by attending a Springfield Cardinals Game and other events.





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.

