



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

November 20, 2023 | claytonschools.net/chs

"We should just be thankful for being together. I think that's what they mean by Thanksgiving, Charlie Brown."

— Marcie, *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving*



From the Principal



From The Principal

Last weekend CHS hosted our annual Fall Classic Speech and Debate Tournament. This is a long standing CHS tradition and it is always one of the larger tournaments in the area. This event is a huge logistical undertaking with teams traveling from across the state in order to participate. Congratulations to Ms. Zustiak and the speech and debate students for another outstanding tournament. The tournament went really well and their planning and hard work were evident. This tournament would not be possible without the tremendous support we receive throughout the community. Thank you to everyone who helped judge, volunteered their time or donated food. It certainly takes a village and we could not have done it without you.

The end of the semester comes with final exams, projects and papers. Our faculty and staff will be working with students to prepare them in the coming weeks to help reduce the stress and anxiety that can accompany finals. As we approach the end of the semester, please be mindful of the stress level of your children. Some level of stress is normal, but it is important that we help provide students with strategies and outlets for managing this stress. Please know that we are here to partner with you in support of your student. Do not hesitate to reach out to teachers, counselors or administrators if you need assistance. By working together we can ensure that students have the support they need to have a positive end of the semester.

Finally, it is hard for me to believe that we are past the halfway point of November. I have always enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. Growing up in Kirkwood, the annual Turkey Day football game between Kirkwood and Webster Groves and all of the accompanying events were a really fun time. When I got to high school I played in three of the football games and the game was central to many of our family celebrations. As an adult, I look forward to Thanksgiving break because it is one of the longest breaks of the school year we have as administrators. Since winter sports are not fully competing yet, we don't have any sports supervision over the Thanksgiving weekend,

which allows us to take a real break over the five days (as opposed to the basketball supervision we do over winter break). The time away from work is much appreciated and I am looking forward to spending dedicated time with family. I wish all of you a great break. If you are traveling, I hope your journey is an easy one. If you are staying local, I hope you get time to unwind and spend time with loved ones. Please know that I am thankful for each of you, and it certainly makes me feel grateful to serve in a community that is so vested in the success of our students and school. I hope you and your family have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

With Greyhound Pride,
Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

November 22-24 - Thanksgiving Break

December 18-20 - First Semester Exams

December 21- January 1 - Winter Break

January 3 - Second Semester Classes Begin

January 10 - 8th Grade Curriculum Night

January 12 - No School/Professional Learning Day

January 15 - No School

Upcoming Events



Final Exam Schedule

First semester final exams will take place December 18-20. You can view the [Final Exam Schedule](#) on our website.

District Calendar

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

Celebrating Our Students

Youth in Philanthropy Award Presented to Sam Abeles

CHS Freshman, Sam Abeles, accepted the Youth in Philanthropy Award given out by the Association of Fundraising Professionals - St. Louis Chapter.

Sam has been helping his community for over a decade. He started in preschool, where he and his brother held lemonade stands every



summer and donated all of the proceeds to the National Council of Jewish Women, UNICEF, and Pedal the Cause. Sam continues to fundraise for Pedal the Cause, having raised more than eight thousand dollars for cancer research.



CHS Senior Awarded NROTC Scholarship

CHS Senior Rachel Chung was awarded a 4-year NROTC naval scholarship of \$200,000. Only a small group of students in the area received scholarships and hers was one of the largest. Way to go, Rachel!

CHS Junior Wins National Championship

Over the summer CHS Junior Hannah Taylor teamed up with her best friend to win a national championship in beach volleyball in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Click [here](#) to watch the story.



St. Louis All-Suburban Music Ensembles

Congratulations to our band, choir and orchestra students for their acceptance into the St. Louis All-Suburban Music Ensembles!

St. Louis All-Suburban Honor Choir

Finn Barber, Duncan Barbour, Evelyn Bishop, Derek Crisp, Sydney Hellwig, Keira Hoisington, Ayla Lutzeler, Ayla Martin, Brody Mitchell, Sofia Moron-Cousins, Lily Schaumburg, Annika Van Dyken, Sophia Zhang

Missouri All-State Choir

Duncan Barbour, Derek Crisp

Missouri All-State Sight Singing Bee

Keira Hoisington

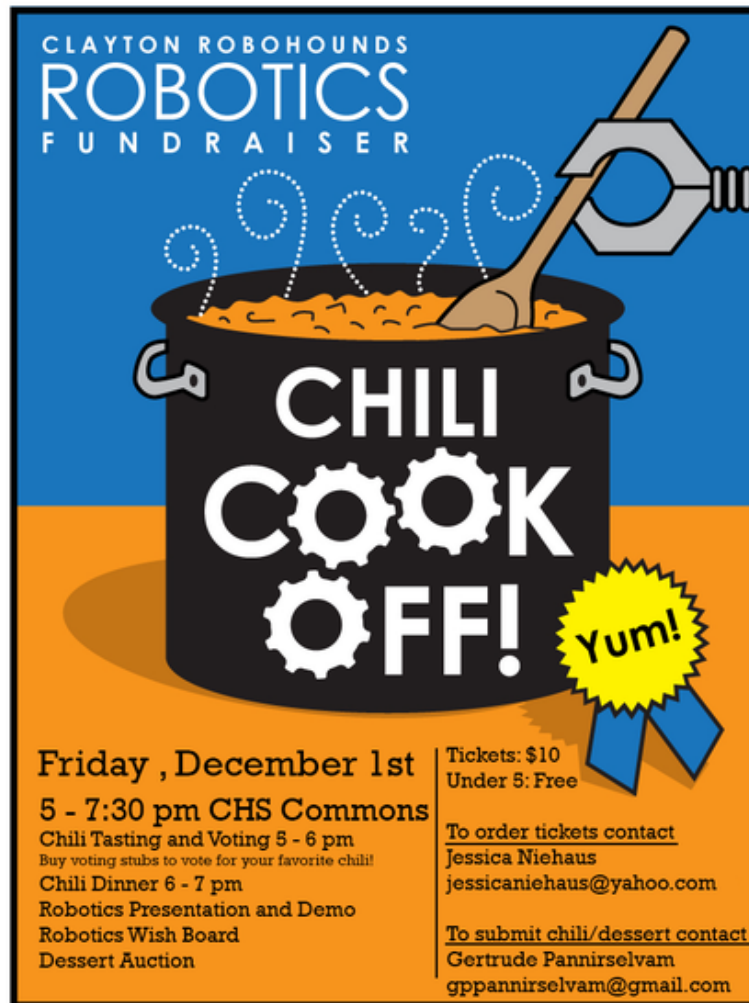
All-Suburban Band

Rachel Chung - Flute, Olivia Fine - Flute alternate, Ellie Cohn - Clarinet alternate, Rosie Ragland - Bass Clarinet (first chair!), Stella Plein - Tuba, Shrey Vedantham - Percussion, Elias Lai - Percussion

All-Suburban Orchestra

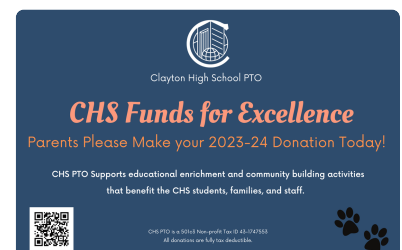
Mariana Gordon - viola, David Wharton - violin, Sophia He - violin, Donna Do - cello alternate

Parent Corner



Reminder to make your one time donation to the Clayton High School PTO for the 2023-24 school year

The PTO donation process is simplified this year. The options are streamlined so that your one-time donation to Funds for Excellence will be allocated to all of the budgeted programs. In addition, the Clayton Cares donation option remains available to support CHS students and families in a situation of financial need to cover necessities. [Here's the link](#). If you prefer to pay by check, please mail to Clayton High School PTO #1 Mark Twain Circle Clayton, MO, 63105. We appreciate your donation!



Parent Coffee

Please save the dates and join Dr. Gutchewsky for casual conversations at our Parent Coffee Gatherings at 9:00 a.m. on December 8, February 23 and April 19.



Please RSVP [here](#) if you would like to attend.

PTO Meeting Dates

CHS PTO will hold monthly meetings at the **Center of Clayton - Meeting Room C** on the first Wednesday of the month from 12:00-1:00 pm. Below are the planned meeting dates.



PTO Meeting Dates:

- Dec 6
- Jan 3
- Feb 7
- Mar 6
- April 3
- May 1

CHS News



Dear Clayton Greyhound Community,

On behalf of the Brentwood Eagle community, I want to send our sincere gratitude for welcoming us into the football co-op this year. The support from everyone was so instrumental in making this season a major success. It was an incredible experience to join forces with the Clayton football family this season and we look forward to contributing to and maintaining, the high standard of football that was achieved this year. The dedication you showed week in and week out to both the players of Clayton and Brentwood was inspiring and we look forward to building on the foundation of success together. Thank you once again for your warm hospitality and for embracing us as part of the Clayton football community. We are excited about what we have built and getting right back to another district championship in 2024, but this time taking home the 1st Place title.

Thank you,
Coach Robin

Associate Head Coach

Brain Awareness: Potential and Pitfalls

Tuesday, November 28, 6-7p on Zoom.

FAANS Neurological Surgeon Paul H. Young, M.D., will focus on the most important structures of the human brain involved in decision-making, its incredible and nearly unlimited potential, and the pitfalls that can limit that potential in the adolescent. Click [here](#) for more information.

This event is FREE, but registration is required:

<https://allincoalition.com/2023/09/12/brain-awareness-potential-and-pitfalls/>



About the presenter: A native St. Louisan, Paul Henry Young received his undergraduate and medical training at St. Louis University. He completed his internship at UCLA – Harbor General Hospital in Los Angeles and his residency in neurosurgery at St. Louis University. Dr. Young studied Microneurosurgery at the University of Zurich, Switzerland under Professor M. Gazi Yasargil, recognized internationally as neurosurgeon of the century. Young is the Founder and long-time Director of the Microsurgery and Brain Research Institute of St. Louis, as well as a member of over 30 international medical associations. Recipient of over 50 honors and awards, including the American Medical Association Physician Recognition Award, GSHSHE Achievement Award for Outstanding Contribution to Healthcare Education and Training, and Best Doctors in America Award, Young has become a sought-after lecturer, an invited speaker at nearly 300 international lectures. He is an extensively published medical scholar, with contributions appearing in 35 international medical journals and 18 books. He currently holds the position of Clinical Professor of Neurosurgery at the Center for Anatomical Science and Education at St. Louis University.

globe.

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Our high school news magazine, The Globe, is a hub of young talent and innovative ideas. Don't miss out on the excitement -

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District News



2023 Clayton Turkey Trot

The 2023 Clayton Turkey Trot is set for 9 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23, 2023). 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.](#)



Get Free COVID-19 Tests

Every U.S. household can order **4 more free COVID-19 self-tests**. Self-tests (also called at-home tests and over-the-counter tests) are one of several tools that protect you and others by reducing the chances of spreading COVID-19. Self-tests can be taken at home or anywhere, are easy to use, and produce rapid results.

You can place an order in a few different ways:

- Online at COVIDTests.gov
- By calling 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 1-888-720-7489)
- By calling or emailing the Disability Information and Access Line (DIAL) at 1-888-677-1199 or DIAL@usaginganddisability.org (for people with disabilities)

Missouri Assessment Program (MAP)

The Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) is the State's standardized assessment program that provides information on a student's progress toward the Missouri Learning Standards. The State of Missouri requires all public school districts to administer End-of-Course (EOC) exams in Algebra I, English II, Biology, and Government prior to high school graduation. Districts are required to administer these specific assessments at the time that credit is awarded for the course content. If your child will be taking one or more of the required exams this winter you will receive more detailed information from Drew Spiegel within the next few weeks.



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.

