



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

December 12, 2023 | claytonschools.net/chs

"Cheers to a New Year and another chance for us to get it right."

– Oprah Winfrey



From the Principal



From The Principal

Friday night CHS hosted our annual Coaches vs. Cancer (Pink Out) fundraiser during all of our basketball games with Ladue. It was a very spirited evening and we had a packed house in Stuber. I think that may be the largest crowd we have had since before COVID. Our varsity girls team came away with a convincing win, while our boys team played hard but came up short. More importantly, we raised almost \$6000 for the American Cancer Society. Thanks to all the families, students and staff who came out to support this great event.

Next week we will conclude the first semester with three days of final exams. During Finals, we will be utilizing a special schedule ([Final Exam Schedule](#)) that builds in "flextime" between periods instead of having a single chunk of time in the middle of the day (Greyhound Time). For students who receive extra time, this flextime allows them to complete their exams in one sitting. It also allows students to have the opportunity to meet with teachers, study, or take a break between final exams. Please note the schedule for Wednesday (12/20) as most students will complete their finals by noon on this day.

As we conclude the semester, I would like to acknowledge the CHS PTO, who does so much to support our work at CHS. They provide thousands of dollars to support special projects throughout the school with the Funds for Excellence program, and they coordinate our Parent Connection events to cultivate relationships between the community and CHS. They also keep our faculty and staff well fed through our staff appreciation dinners and lunches. These are just a few of the many ways they support our work at CHS. Since COVID there has been a significant

decrease in the number of families paying their PTO dues and donating to the various causes they support. They cannot do this important work without your support. If you have already donated, thank you and we appreciate your generosity. If you have not donated, we ask that you consider donating this year. Any amount is appreciated and it will allow us to continue to offer many of the "extras" that make CHS such an amazing place to learn. Please use this [link](#) if you would like to make a donation. Thank you for your continued support.

Finally, as we approach the winter break and the end of the semester, I wish all of you a restful break surrounded by family and friends. I am looking forward to spending time with my family and taking a break from school for a few days. I say this each year, but I am truly grateful for all of you and the support you provide to make CHS special. From my family to yours, we wish you the happiest of holidays and a wonderful new year. See you in 2024!

With Greyhound Pride,
Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

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.

8th Grade Curriculum Night

Parents of incoming 9th graders, we invite you to join the high school faculty on **Wednesday, Jan. 10**, for our Incoming Ninth Grade Curriculum Night. Please note this event is for parents only.

The evening will begin with an informal meet and greet at 6:30 p.m. in the CHS Commons. Parents can meet the counselor and administrators of Clayton High School and have the opportunity to ask questions. Some CHS club sponsors and athletic coaches will also be present. At 7 p.m. parents will move into the auditorium for a welcome from the principal, followed by department curriculum presentations from 7:15-9 p.m.

District Calendar

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

Celebrating Our Students

UMSL Young Artists Competition

Congratulations to Senior violist Delia Zacks and Freshman violinist Zoe Baldwin! Delia was awarded Honorable Mention for her performance of Der Schwanendreher by Hindemith.

Zoe Baldwin was the winner of the competition with her performance of Saint-Saëns Concerto no. 3. As the winner, Zoe will be performing her concerto with the UMSL Orchestra in the spring. Zoe was also recently selected as the winner of the St. Louis Civic Orchestra Concerto Competition.

All-State Musicians

Several CHS students have been selected for the Missouri All-State ensembles. They will be rehearsing and performing at the 2024 Missouri Music Educators Conference in January.

All-State Band

Shrey Vedantham (12) - Fifth Chair Percussion, band and Elias Lai (9) - 2nd Alternate Percussion, band

All-State Orchestra

Rachel Chung (12) - First Chair Flute, Zoe Baldwin (9) - violin, Will Liu (9) - violin, Katherine Nguyen (10) - violin, Tyler He (10) - cello, Wayne Yu (10) - violin alternate and Max Zeng (10) - violin honorable mention.

All-State Choir

Duncan Barbour (11) and Derek Crisp (11)

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 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:

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

CHS News





Join Catalyst!

Catalyst is a program that immerses high school students in professional environments through an engaging curriculum. Catalyst classrooms are held off-site at businesses and learning is real-world, real-time and hands-on. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Catalyst is inviting you to join them for a Student and Parent informational night on January 31st, from 6:00-7:00 pm. If you are interested in attending, please complete the [Google Form](#). Applications to be a part of Catalyst for the 2024-25 school year are officially open! If you would like to apply for Catalyst, fill out the [Student Application](#) here. Applications are due by March 1st.

[Catalyst Year in Review](#)
[Informational Flyer](#)

globe.

Support Student Voices!

Our high school news magazine, The Globe, is a hub of young talent and innovative ideas. Don't miss out on the excitement - [subscribe now](#) and be part of the conversation. Help nurture the next generation of leaders and thinkers.



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)

Summer Work Experiences Program (SWEP)

If you were unable to attend the PAC.ED presentation about the SWEP program, Neighborhood Experiences program or Youth Summer Program, [click here](#) to view the recording. The SWEP application is now available and the deadline is February 5, 2024.

Clayton A La Carte Snack Program

All students have the option to purchase snacks a la carte and extra meals at the checkout line during lunch. As a parent, you have the option of setting an a la carte spending limit by day, week or to completely opt out of the program. Here is a list of [snack offerings, with pricing](#), and here is the necessary [permission form](#).

- **Please note:** all previous a la carte limits setup are still in place. If you would like to change them or remove them please fill out the permission form.

For more information on our a la carte smart snack program or spending limit options, please contact Octavio Pino at octaviopino@claytonschools.net or 314.854.6640.

Diversity Recruitment & Networking Fair

The School District of Clayton is partnering with Ladue School District to host our annual Diversity Recruitment & Networking Fair on Saturday, January 6, 2024. The event will be held at Clayton High School from 8:30-11:00 a.m. Participation in the event ensures an interview with each school district. Please text JOBFAIR to 52345 to secure an interview.

Clayton PAC.ED Inclusion Awards and Visual Arts Contest

Submissions for the **Clayton PAC.ED Inclusion Awards and Visual Arts Contest** opened December 4 and close at midnight on March 1, 2024. Award recipients will be honored at the **Inclusion Awards Reception & Ceremony on Tuesday, April 2, 2024**. For more information on the **Inclusion Awards** click [HERE](#) and the **Visual Arts Contest** click [HERE](#).

A Party for EVERYONE! A Celebration of Kindness & Inclusion

Clayton PAC.ED and [Grace Wolf Books](#) are proud to host **A Party for EVERYONE! A Celebration of Kindness & Inclusion on Sunday, January 21, 2024**. Clayton High School Senior and award-winning author, Grace Wolf, and her brother, illustrator Sam Gross, will be sharing the recent release of their second book **"May I Come to Your Party?"** Click [HERE](#) for more information and to make your reservation today!



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.