



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

April 22, 2024 | claytonschools.net/chs

"The sun was warm but the wind was chill / You know how it is with an April day / When the sun is out and the wind is still / You're one month on in the middle of May."

— Robert Frost



From the Principal



From The Principal

This time of year is always a busy time at CHS. Last week was a particularly busy week at Clayton High School as we hosted our Clayton Hall of Fame/Distinguished Educator Induction Gala and our annual Junior/Senior Prom. All of the events went really well, and it was very inspiring to hear all of the inductees share their life experiences and how they were shaped by the Clayton community. Friday was a particularly emotional evening as inductees described the impact that Clayton teachers made in their lives with some of the stories going back over 50 years. The evening really exemplifies what an amazing educational community this is, and it made me feel very proud to carry on this legacy.

Prom went really well and we hosted over 350 students for dinner and dancing at The Smith (Motorcycle Museum in Grand Center) for an elegant evening. The kids looked great and everyone appeared to have a good time. Also, there were no disciplinary incidents, which is even better. It was exhausting but fun to be a part of two great evenings.

With the spring also comes a significant amount of standardized testing. Next week we will begin our required Missouri End of Course Exams in Algebra, English II, Government, Personal Finance and Biology. These exams will be administered within the respective courses. Then in just over two weeks we will begin AP exams, which will be administered May 6-17. Please have your student reach out to their teacher or counselor if they have any questions regarding the administration of specific exams.

Finally, to close out the month of April we will host our National Honor Society Induction ceremony in the CHS Auditorium on April 30 at 5:30pm. Following the NHS Induction, we will host our annual CHS Awards Ceremony at 7pm in the Auditorium as well. This is a great night as we get to honor the amazing accomplishments of our incredible students. We hope you will join us!

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan

Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

April 26 - No School

April 30 - Awards Ceremony

May 6-10 - AP Testing

May 16 - Seniors' Last Day in Class

May 17 - Senior Send-off/ Cap and Gown pick-up

May 23 - Graduation

May 30 - Last Day of School

Upcoming Events



Awards Ceremony

CHS will host our annual Awards Ceremony on April 30, 2024, 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.



District Calendar

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

Senior Week Events

Monday, May 13th - Friday, May 17th - Senior Week

- Senior Finals will be held May 14-16
- Make-up finals will be on May 17
- Seniors will celebrate their accomplishments through fun dress-up days and activities.

Friday, May 17th - Senior Cap & Gown Pick Up and Send Off

- Seniors will pick up cap & gowns in the auditorium between 11:00-3:00 pm, and can also participate in the Senior Final Walk in the halls of their elementary school at 2:30. They will arrive back at CHS at 3:00.
- Starting May 13th, Seniors may return books and pay fines as usual in Room 8. Chromebooks may be returned to the Tech Department in the Library. Athletic Items are returned to the Athletic Office. All fines must be paid and items must be returned before picking up the cap & gown. Seniors who return all items and fees may receive a FAST PASS and skip the line on May 17th and go straight to the auditorium to pick up their cap and gown.
- On May 17th starting at 10:00, Seniors may pay fines and/or return books in the CTE Wing across from the Shop (Room 36). Once all items 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@claytonschools.net

Friday, May 17th - 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.

Graduation 2024

Thursday, May 23 - Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal

- CHS graduation rehearsal will take place at 10:00 am at Chaifetz Arena. This is a mandatory event for Seniors.
- **Attending rehearsal is mandatory for students to participate in the Graduation ceremony.**

Thursday, May 23 - Graduation

- CHS graduation will take place at Chaifetz Arena on Thursday, May 23, 2023, at 6:00 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm. **Graduates need to arrive at 5:00 pm to prepare for the processional.**
- 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@claytonschools.net



Celebrating Our Students



CHS Student Invited To Congress

Recently, **I'ron Bell**, a Junior at CHS, was accepted to attend the National Student Leadership Congress. This gathering, happening over the summer in Washington D.C. and hosted by the Council for Opportunity in Education, brings students from all over the United States together to find innovative solutions to today's societal issues. Attendees engage in student leadership activities, a mock-congress session and have a chance to meet their local representatives. Congratulations, I'ron on this amazing opportunity!



CHS Worldquest Team Wins 4th Place

Congratulations to Caleb Parker, Yehia Said, Rayna Everett and Cesarine Cross for finishing in 4th place at WorldQuest on February 28th, at St Louis University! WorldQuest is an academic competition that tests high school students' knowledge of international affairs. They competed in categories such as NATO, AI, Demographics in Africa, Women in Diplomacy, Green Europe, etc. Over 50 teams were competing from public and private schools around the area.

CHS Art News

The CHS Art Department has had a very exciting few weeks!

In February, they participated in the annual High School Exhibition at SIUE. Stella Bishop, JiaLi Deck, Lindie Nielsen and Sophia Simanowitz all had work accepted into the exhibition.



On March 1st, they attended the opening reception for the [2024 Young Artists' Showcase](#) at the St. Louis Artists' Guild. Stella

Bishop, Elisa Falsafi, Rad Fulstone, Lindie Nielsen, Josephine Manning, and Sophia Simanowitz all had work accepted into this highly competitive show. **Rad Fulstone was awarded an Honorable Mention** for his piece and **Sophia Simanowitz received the top award, The Frannie Weinstock award, which includes a \$1000 scholarship to pursue Art at the college level.** This is the second year in a row that a CHS Senior has received this award!

We were also notified last week that JiaLi Deck's piece, *The Best*, was chosen by our Missouri state senator, Karla May, to represent our senatorial district in the annual MO Senate Art Exhibit at the capitol building in Jefferson City.

[View the students' artwork here.](#)

2024 DECA State Results and International Qualifiers

Another DECA State Career Development Conference is in the books! Thirty-two of our AMAZING Clayton students traveled to Kansas City to represent our chapter and school district.



Here are the results:

Beacan Mottl - Finalist, Automotive Services

Addie Pollock*, Ivy Slen* - 6th place, Business Law and Ethics Team

Addie Poudel*, Megan Tai* - 2nd place, Buying and Merchandising Operations Research*

Saisha Bhutani, Aanya Singh - Finalist, Innovation Plan

Raghav Mani* - 2nd place, Entrepreneurship AND top test taker

Hansini Mahajan*, Maddie Wu - 2nd place, Start-up Business Plan

Henry Lee*, Ken Tseng* - 3rd place, Financial Services Team

Ben Koster*, Shiv Patel* - 4th place, Hospitality and Tourism Operations Research

Julia Mann, Addy Whitesell - Finalist, Integrated Marketing Campaign - Event

Remi Cuille, John Yoo - Finalist, Integrated Marketing Campaign - Product

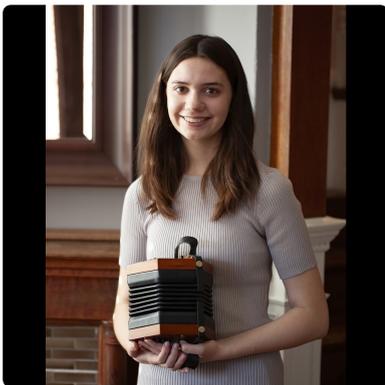
Maya Chakrabarty*, Isabela MoronCousins* - Finalist, Integrated Marketing Campaign - Service
AND top test taker for Maya

Rachel VanRhein - Finalist, Principles of Finance AND top test taker

Leo Zhu* - 2nd place, Principles of Marketing AND top test taker

*indicates those students that will represent Clayton at the DECA International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California from April 26th-May 1st. Thirteen total...yet another record!!!

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



Bill Verdier Irish Music Scholarship Award Winner

We are excited and proud to announce the 2024 winner of the **Bill Verdier Irish Music Scholarship** award. Congratulations to [Stella Bishop](#), a talented and accomplished young concertina player from St. Louis, Missouri.

Stella told us she first discovered her love for Irish traditional music at age 8, when she was old enough to choose the instrument she wanted to study and chose the concertina. She has studied at [St. Louis Irish Arts](#), led classes for younger concertina students, attended local sessions, Tionols, and Fleadhs in St. Louis and beyond; in 2023 she competed in the Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Mullingar, Ireland. "As I become a more mature musician, I am ready to take my music to the next level ... to increase my repertoire list and knowledge of the concertina, to pass on the knowledge I learn to my students and other members of my community. I hope to continue sharing Irish culture in America and this event will help me do so."

Clayton Scored Big at the State Chess Tournament!

Our Clayton Chess Teams competed on behalf of our District in the Missouri State Chess Championship on Saturday March 16th. This was the first time in more than 20 years that we represented the District with every school and in every section! Every one of our teams placed in the Top 10 in the State. [Check out the State Championship Results here!](#)

U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Semi-Finalist

Congratulations to Charlie Rubin who has been named a semi-finalist for the 2024 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. He is one among 625 students who were selected from a pool of over 6,000 candidates. It is a great honor and a wonderful accomplishment to reach the semifinalist phase. Clayton High School is proud to have Charlie represent our school in such a prestigious program and we wish him great success in the final selection phase!



Parent Corner



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:

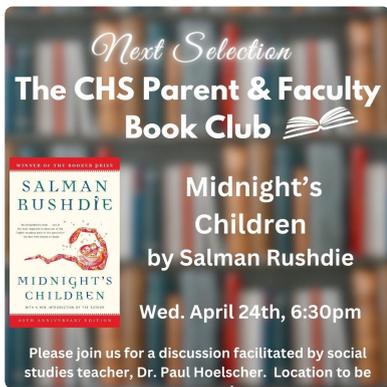
- May 1
-

PTO Events

April 25 - Freshman Parent Q&A with CHS College Counselors - from 6 - 7 pm in CHS Library

May 1 - All Parent Happy Hour sponsored by the PTO - from 5 - 7p at the Clayton Winehouse

- [Here's the signup for the Happy Hour](#)
-



PTO-Staff Book Club, Tuesday, May 7th 6:30pm

Our third book for this year's theme of Magical Realism in World Literature is Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie.

Covering the independence of India and the partition with Pakistan, this novel is a fascinating family saga and an astonishing evocation of a vast land and its people—a brilliant incarnation of the universal human comedy. Forty years after its publication,

Midnight's Children stands apart as both an epochal work of fiction and a brilliant performance by one of the great literary voices of our time.

CHS News

LEAD STL

The Organization

LEAD STL is a local student leadership and social change organization committed to developing high school, middle school, and college-aged students from across Greater St. Louis into civic leaders and changemakers in their communities. We do this through immersive learning, leadership development, and empathy building through the lenses of the Black and Jewish experiences, using them as frameworks through which to explore many other identities and communities. Students don't have to be Black and/or Jewish to participate in programming as we value a diversity of voices and backgrounds in all of our programming. Students are trained how to have hard conversations with each other about racism, antisemitism, homophobia, and many other forms of inequities and injustices so they can benefit their schools and communities.

Cultural Leadership High School Program

Cultural Leadership is a year-long experience for Sophomores and Juniors starting December '24 where students meet monthly on Sunday afternoons in locations across the St. Louis area, engaging in three overnight retreats in St. Louis, and embark on a 3-week Transformational Journey in June across the East Coast and South where they visit sites and meet with individuals significant to Black and Jewish history and culture as well as social justice movements.

Program Fee

LEAD STL is committed to ensuring that all families are able to participate in programming, including working with families to remove any financial barriers. We operate on a Sliding Scale Equity System to make sure every family is contributing equitably based on their ability to do so.

Please reach out to Director of Core Programming Jeremy Brok with any questions you might have or to set up a time to talk: JBrok@leadstl.org

Leadership Experience

Transforming students into the civic leaders and changemakers of tomorrow!

Who Should Join:

- 10th and 11th graders passionate about social change

Benefits:

- Develop leadership skills
- Increase cultural awareness through field trips, and incredible speakers
- Build cross-cultural relationships
- Travel across the Southern and Eastern US on our 21-day transformational journey.

Applications Open April 1!



Clayton Education Foundation Senior Survey

Our communications department is going to be sending the survey to all the seniors as graduation approaches. This year they will ask for the students non-Clayton email address at the beginning of the survey in the hopes more students fill in their email address. If a student provides this email they will be entered into a drawing to win one of five \$100 gift cards.

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 spring you will receive more detailed information from Drew Spiegel within the next few weeks.

Important Immunization Information and Reminder

Please be aware that all 2024-2025 12th grade students are required to submit proof that a meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) has been received after the age of 16. This vaccine protects against the bacteria that causes meningitis. It is often administered at the well child check-up after your student has turned 16.

Documentation regarding this vaccination is required to attend 12th grade and to be eligible to start fall sports.

Your student can receive this vaccine from your regular healthcare provider, any of the St. Louis County Department of Public Health locations and most pharmacies.

If you have any questions regarding your student's immunization status please contact the school nurse.

Lisa McDade BA BS RN

lisamcdade@claytonschools.net

314-854-6606 Direct

314-854-6734 Fax

CHS Seniors and Senior Families

The District has started their new social media feature to recognize seniors' plans for attending college, trade school, serving in the military, or a career for which they've been preparing. This new feature will be open until the end of the school year for any senior who wants to participate.

Parents and guardians of senior students, or seniors themselves, are invited to submit their information for recognition. Here are the items needed:

- Student name
- Student's plans for next year
- Student photo (wearing spirit wear of their college, trade school, or branch of military OR a senior photo, headshot, or school photos from the 2023-2024 school year)

Please complete our [Profile of a Clayton Graduate - Submission Form](#). All seniors will be recognized in the order they are received. We want to give as many seniors the recognition they deserve!

Clayton Summer Academy

Clayton Summer Academy registration is now open. Clayton Summer Academy offers Credit Recovery and Credit Aquisition Classes. The programs take place June 3 - June 28 from 8:15 - 11:30 a.m. at Clayton High School. Click [HERE](#) to review the Clayton Summer Academy brochure and to register for either Credit Recovery and Credit Aquisition Classes. **The early deadline for summer registration to guarantee your spot in a class is Friday, March 15.**

District News

Math and Literacy Assessments

At the end 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 monitor student progress over time. Any questions you have related to mathematics assessments can be directed to the building math specialist/math teacher.
 - **Literacy:** In literacy, we also administer assessments to students in Kindergarten through high school to help inform instructional decisions. Any questions you have related to literacy assessment can be directed to the building reading specialist.
-

Social Emotional Learning Surveys Coming Up

Building our social-emotional learning skills continues to be a 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. If you have any questions about the SEL survey, please don't hesitate to contact your child's counselor or building social worker.



PAC.ED

PAC.ED advocates for awareness, understanding, equity and inclusion of and for all students with disabilities in the School District of Clayton. PAC.ED is a volunteer organization made up of families, Clayton, and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members. To learn more about Clayton PAC.ED and its mission [Click HERE](#).

The School District of Clayton, families, and the community have enjoyed a strong and active PAC.ED for the past 13+ years. Please consider being a part of that legacy by representing your school for the 2024/2025 School Year! Transition Orientation & Planning for the 2024/2025 school year is underway! For more information on being a Building Representative, Clayton PAC.ED and its mission, click [HERE](#). If you are interested or have any questions, please email us at paced@claytonschools.net. Megan Lenihan, Clayton PACED, President 2024/2025



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.

