



CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Principal's Newsletter

February 13, 2025 | [claytonschools.net/chs](https://claytonschools.net/chs)

"We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."  
— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Speech given at the National Cathedral, March 31, 1968.



## From the Principal



### From The Principal

Whenever I get frustrated with the state of the country, or for that matter the world, I remember this quote and it gives me hope. In February we take time to celebrate Black History and I always make a point to reflect on the contributions of so many amazing African-American leaders in the history of our country. I especially love the thoughtful words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Each year around this time of year I like to take some time to reflect on the progress we have made to help realize his dream, while also recognizing that we still have much work to do. I prefer to stay optimistic in my world view and embrace the positive whenever possible. Admittedly, it has been a little more challenging to stay positive of late, but I am confident that we are a resilient nation. In the course of my professional interactions with various school stakeholders, I always try to keep in mind that we generally want the same things for our students and school, but we have differences in how we approach these common goals. (A long time mentor of mine, Ms. Maryann Goldberg, taught me this years ago and it has guided my practice ever since.) I think the same can be said for our country. While we may disagree on the path, ultimately we all want what we believe are good things for the country, even if the vision varies. By embracing the common, we can work together to realize Dr. King's dream because I believe that ultimately the arc he referenced does bend toward justice....

A couple weeks ago I had the distinct pleasure of introducing the CHS Symphonic Orchestra performance at the MMEA (Missouri Music Educators Association) Convention. They performed one of my all-time favorite pieces, "Adagio For Strings" by Barber, and it was amazing. The piece is so powerful and nuanced that it is not approachable for many high school orchestras, but our group absolutely nailed it. A couple of music educators from other Districts came up to tell me

that it was the best high school orchestra performance they had ever seen. Congratulations to our students, Orchestra Director Daniel Henderson, and all of the orchestra teachers on the outstanding performance!

Also last Thursday, I attended the CHS musical production of *Les Miserables* with my wife and my mom. There was a large crowd with many faculty, staff and families in attendance. This production is a personal favorite and I know the musical quite well, so I had very high expectations. The show was amazing! We were all blown away by the talent on display. From the actors/singers, the pit orchestra, the set and technical design, it was all first rate. Congrats to Mallory Duncan (New CHS Drama Teacher/Director and CHS graduate) and company on the outstanding production! CHS theater is in very good hands and I look forward to a very bright future. As a side note, I learned that *Les Mis* was the last show that Mallory performed in as a student at CHS, so her journey has come full circle.

I have been around our performing arts groups for so long that I sometimes forget how fortunate we are to have such talented performers and instructors guiding our students to do amazing things. The time and resources devoted to these opportunities for our students are a testament to the values of the community. Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support of the arts at CHS that enrich the lives of so many and our community as a whole.

Finally, we are in the midst of student course registration for next year and should finish up in the next few weeks. Once we have the registrations complete we will determine staffing levels and start building the master schedule. We should have the master schedule completed by early April, at which time counselors will conduct meetings with each student to resolve any conflicts that arise. This timeline allows us to address any schedule issues before students leave for the summer. If you have any questions or concerns, please do hesitate to reach out to your child's counselor for assistance.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

## Upcoming Events



### Important Dates

- February 14** - No School/Professional Learning Day
- February 17** - President's Day - No School
- February 21** - Parent Coffee
- February 21** - Trivia Night Fundraiser
- February 24** - Celebration of Black Achievement
- March 7** - No School/Teacher Work Day
- March 12** - Parent-Teacher Conferences (in-person night)
- March 10-14** - Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 14** - Early Release Day
- March 17-21** - Spring Break



**April 8** - No School/Professional Learning Day

**April 18** - No School/Teacher Conference Comp Day

**April 26** - Prom

**May 1** - Awards Ceremony

### District Calendar

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

## CHS News

### Parent Teacher Conferences

#### Spring Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held the week of March 10-14th. **Registration for conferences will begin on February 24th and end on March 7th.** Please mark your calendars for the dates below. More information will be shared in the following weeks.

- Monday, March 10, from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Virtual Only)
- Tuesday, March 11, from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Virtual Only)
- Wednesday, March 12, from 3:30-7:30 p.m. (In-Person)
- Thursday, March 13, from 3:30-8:30 p.m. (Virtual Only)
- Friday, March 14, from 1:15-3:15 p.m. (Virtual Only)



### Trivia Night Fundraiser

Gather your friends, coworkers, and family to form a team of 8 and compete for victory on Friday, February 21! All proceeds support the Junior class and Prom 2025. [Check out this flyer for more details.](#)

### Join us For A Celebration of Black Achievement

Join Clayton alums, current students, parents, families and staff for the [2025 Celebration of Black Achievement](#) at **6:30 p.m. on Feb. 24 in the Clayton High School Auditorium.** The event will feature performances from current students and CHS alums. The program will also recognize Dr. Samantha March ('03) and Roy Jefferson ('05) as honorees of the 2025 Black Alumni Spotlight, which features Black alumni whose unique stories are an inspiration to the Clayton community.



## Celebrating Our Students



### Celebrating Excellence in Student Journalism: Kyra's SNO Best of SNO Award

We are thrilled to announce that Kyra has earned the prestigious SNO Best of SNO award, a remarkable achievement that highlights her exceptional talent in news writing. This national honor recognizes the top 11% of student journalists worldwide, and Kyra's dedication and hard work have placed her among the best.

What makes this achievement even more impressive is that Kyra received the award for her very first story—a testament to her skill and creativity. Her outstanding journalism has set a high bar for

aspiring writers, and we are incredibly proud of her success. We look forward to supporting her as she continues to excel in her journalistic endeavors!

## 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 12-1 pm. Below are the planned meeting dates.

- March 5
- April 2
- May 7



Check out more that our PTO is doing [here!](#)



**Parent Coffee**

9 AM - 10:30 AM  
at CHS Library

27th September  
6th December  
21st February  
25th April

## 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 21 and April 25.

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

## District News



**TRIVIA NIGHT**

*Save*

**The Date**

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21st, ~6 PM

*A 2025 prom fundraiser*

SIGNUPS and MORE INFO  
AFTER BREAK

Mark your calendar for this event perfect for adult and highschooler competition - start forming your table of 8 and asking your friends! There will be a raffle for many wonderful prizes.

**See you there!**

*Junior class officers*

## Buzz Books

School Buzz Books have been updated for this school year 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](mailto:communications@claytonschoools.net).



## 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.

