



CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Principal's Newsletter

May 22, 2024 | [claytonschoools.net/chs](https://claytonschoools.net/chs)

"What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."  
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



## From the Principal



### From The Principal

Last week we said goodbye to seniors as they completed their classes and spent their last day together on Friday at Senior Sendoff. Senior Sendoff is always a fun day as the seniors spend the day together visiting their elementary schools, playing in a kickball tournament (by elementary school), watching the senior video, picking up caps and gowns, and ending the day with the senior parade and senior sunset. We started the senior sunset tradition a few years ago and it has been a great event. The senior class watches the sunrise together on the first day of their senior year and they watch the sunset together on the last day of their high school career. These events are bittersweet as we celebrate our seniors but recognize that it is time to say goodbye. This class has persevered despite having a very challenging high school experience. These seniors were in eighth grade when COVID hit and they were doing school from home after spring break of 2020. They did not return to a full year of regular in-person school again until their sophomore year. Yet despite these interruptions and challenges, they have done great things at CHS and they will be moving on to bigger and better things after Graduation. I am truly very proud of all of them and I look forward to seeing where they end up in life.

Speaking of Graduation, we will be graduating 239 seniors on Thursday night (5/23) at 6pm at Chaifetz Arena (SLU campus). This is always an outstanding evening where we come together as an educational community to celebrate these young people. We recognize that their accomplishments are the result of so many people, and it would not happen without the amazing partnership between the faculty, staff and families throughout our District. We hope that you can

join us for this event. Tickets are not required and there will be plenty of room. Thank you all for your ongoing support of CHS and our students.

Next week marks the end of our academic year and we conclude the semester with an adjusted [schedule for finals](#). This can be a stressful time of year for students. Please pay a little extra attention to your student over the next two weeks. Our goal is for all students to manage their stress in healthy ways as they prepare for final exams. The CHS Wellness Center will be coordinating various stress relief activities and events throughout the week. If you sense that your student may need some extra assistance, please reach out to your student's counselor or administrator and we will be happy to help.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dan

## Mark Your Calendar



### Important Dates

**May 23** - Graduation

**May 27** - Memorial Day

**May 28-30** - Final Exams

**May 30** - Last Day of School

## Upcoming Events



### District Calendar

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



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## 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.**

- 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](mailto:tanyabrooks@claytonschools.net)

## Celebrating Our Students



### Mayor's Youth Cabinet

Ave' March has been selected to be a member of the Mayor's Youth Cabinet. She went through a rigorous application and interview process with the St. Louis City Mayor's Office. As a member of the MYC, she will have the opportunity to engage in local government, amplify youth voices, foster volunteerism, and enhance civic education. Her role as a representative for the youth of St. Louis is crucial to efforts in creating positive change and building a brighter future for our city.

In addition, Ave' is participating in the University of Missouri-Extension, Youth Empowerment Program, this is a leadership program that meets monthly. She is using the skills and knowledge from the academic and social experiences in the School District of Clayton to make an impact in her community.

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### President's Volunteer Service Award

Congratulations to Ella Edler, who has earned the President's Volunteer Service Award for her service during the 2023 year through the National Charity League. The National Charity League is a mother-daughter volunteer organization that provides service and support to more than 25 nonprofits throughout the St. Louis region, and a progressive Leadership Development program for the girls throughout their years of service.



Ella is a Bronze Recipient. This award is given to volunteers age 11-15 with between 50-74 hours of service and volunteers age 16-25 with between 100-174 hours of service. She has shown outstanding commitment to the St. Louis community, and we are so proud of her accomplishments.

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### FLAM's Excellence in World Languages Study Award



CHS Student Audrey Aranha has been selected as the recipient of the *Excellence in World Languages Study Award for High School Students* by the Foreign Language Association of Missouri (FLAM) Board. This award recognizes a high school junior or senior who “exhibits superior performance in the world language class.” We are so proud of your language proficiency in English, Hindi, Konkani, and Spanish!

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## 7th Annual National Community Service Awards

Congratulations Talin Bhatt, class of 2027, for being recognized for community service impact and being an inspiration for other students to get involved in their community. The **7th Annual National Community Service Awards** connects student service activities and impact to the UN Global Goals. This year they have additional recognition for students working toward a world of Zero Hunger and Zero Waste.



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## MSHSAA Solo and Ensemble

Several CHS students traveled to Columbia, MO on April 25th to participate in the MSHSAA State solo and ensemble festival. We are proud of our students and their accomplishments!

Congratulations to the following students.

### **Band**

#### Gold

Rachel Chung - Flute Solo

Ellie Cohn - Clarinet Solo

Isadora Dolan - Clarinet Solo

Shuren Griffin - Clarinet Solo

Ruben Haroutounian - Flute Solo

Elias Lai - Mallet Solo

Kush McDowell - Snare Drum Solo

Brody Mitchell - Tenor Saxophone Solo

Shrey Vedantham - Snare Drum Solo

Lorenzo Buitrago, Isadora Dolan, Rosie Ragland, Martin Sabbagh - Clarinet Quartet

Chuck Doll, Brady Fogle, Lincoln Schaumburg, Asher Stitzel, Eric Zhou - Brass Quintet

Kian Egthesady, Logan Huyette, Elias Lai, Raghav Mani, Kush McDowell, SShrey Vedantham - Percussion Ensemble  
I'Ron Bell, Rachel Chung, Jonah Elias, Sam McDonough - Woodwind Quartet

### Silver

Brady Fogle - Euphonium Solo  
Logan Huyette - Timpani Solo  
Kate Kubat, Asher Stitzel, Eric Zhou - Trumpet Trio

### **Orchestra**

#### Gold

Haowen (Will) Liu - Violin Solo and String Quartet  
Sadie Ulrich - Viola Solo  
Zoe Baldwin - String Quartet  
Sylvia Kennedy - String Quartet  
Katherine Nguyen - String Quartet

#### Silver

Isabella (Pearl) Keough - Cello Solo  
Luke Jeans - Violin duet  
Amelia Henderson - Violin duet  
Mariana Gordon - Viola Solo

### **Choir**

#### Gold

Finn Barber - SATB Quartet  
Zemira Chatman - Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble  
Derek Crisp - Vocal Solo and SATB Quartet  
Keira Hoisington - Vocal Solo and SSA Trio  
Amelia Lewis - Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble  
Ayla Lutzeler - SSA Trio  
Ayla Martin - Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble  
Elle (Parker) McGill - SATB Quartet and SSA Trio  
Lily Schaumburg - Vocal Solo and SATB Quartet  
Audrey Schulz - Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble  
Maria Sokhn - Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble  
Ava Wilkinson - Miscellaneous Vocal Ensemble  
Sophia Zhang - Vocal Solo

#### Silver

Finn Barber - TTB Trio  
Duncan Barbour - TTB Trio  
Derek Crisp - TTB Trio  
Sofia Cousins - Vocal Solo  
Annika Van Dyken - Vocal Solo

## Parent Corner



### Clayton Parent Summer Book Club - The Anxious Generation

Are you struggling to determine the best ways to manage your children's screen time, tech devices, or online lives? Would you like to explore recent research and generate ideas on how to navigate it all with other Clayton parents? If so, join us for a district-wide Clayton Parent Book Club to discuss Jonathan Haidt's widely acclaimed [\*The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness\*](#). For details & RSVP: [Clayton Parent Book Club Sign-Up Genius](#). For questions, concerns, or suggestions, contact [genevievecaffrey@gmail.com](mailto:genevievecaffrey@gmail.com).

## CHS News



### 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





# Meet and Greet

with



Incoming SSD Clayton Partner District Director  
**Johnicka Turner**

**Wed May 29th**  
**8:30-10am**  
**Admin Building**

Future Meet and Greet Opportunities:

6/27 and 8/7 Times TBD

Questions/RSVP

[paced@claytonschools.net](mailto:paced@claytonschools.net)



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## Families of Students with IEPs

We'd love to know how things went for you and your family during second semester. Please take our anonymous survey [here](#). The results will be used to monitor our progress in improving our families' overall experience, especially as it relates to students receiving services, and identify any future changes. The survey will be available through June 1, 2024. *If you have more than one child with an IEP, please complete the survey based on your experience for your oldest child.*



### 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](#).

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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](mailto:paced@claytonschools.net). Megan Lenihan, Clayton PACED, President 2024/2025



**Sign Up Now!**  
**Building Representatives**  
**2024/2025 School Year**



## 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.