



CLAYTON  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Principal's Newsletter

October 21, 2024 | [claytonschools.net/chs](https://claytonschools.net/chs)

"Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall."

- F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby



## From the Principal



### From The Principal

With the arrival of cooler temperatures, it finally feels like fall. Fall has always been my favorite season and I really enjoy getting outside this time of year. Admittedly, I'm not a fan of St. Louis summers, so the change in seasons always brightens my mood. I look forward to the fall colors and the traditions that go along with Halloween and Thanksgiving. I hope you and your family are able to enjoy the season as much as my family does.

Thank you to everyone who participated in Parent-Teacher Conferences last week. We had outstanding attendance as usual and it was great to see so many familiar faces at the in-person evening on Tuesday. This event is one of our best opportunities to connect on a personal level with our families, and it allows us to strengthen our partnerships with parents as we work to provide an outstanding experience for students. I think it is important to remind everyone that we are here to support you and your students. This partnership should not be isolated to these few evenings, and we hope that you will continue to reach out as needed throughout the year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out for assistance.

Last week also marked the end of the first quarter. Hopefully, it was a good one for your student. If your child's grades weren't quite as high as you would like, don't fret as first quarter grades are only "indicator" grades and do not appear on transcripts. There is still time for improvement. Speaking of the first quarter, all in all, it has been a really great start to the year. This year has overwhelmingly seemed the most normal (whatever that is) since COVID. Our new cell phone and attendance practices have resulted in higher levels of classroom engagement and more regular

daily attendance. We are looking forward to keeping our positive momentum going for the rest of the year.

The School District of Clayton is currently working on a Long Range Facilities Plan to create a 10+ year plan to identify our facilities' needs in support of our current and future educational programming. These efforts are being directed by District and building-level committees that are working to identify priorities and opportunities at each level of the District. As part of this work, we are hosting community forums at each building to obtain feedback from stakeholders. With this in mind, the Clayton High School community forum will be held at CHS on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at 6:30 pm. We would love for you to come out and provide feedback on the progress of the building committee as we work to continue the tradition of excellence at CHS.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky

## Upcoming Events



### Important Dates

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

**October 23** - Picture Retakes

**October 24-26** - FALL PLAY: 12 Angry Jurors

**October 29** - Club Picture Day

**November 4** - Winter Sports Start

**November 5** - No School/ Staff Profession Learning

**November 27-29** - Thanksgiving Break

**December 9-13** - Wellness Week

**December 18-20** - First Semester Exams

**December 23-Jan 3** - Winter Break

**January 6** - Second Semester Begins

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### District Calendar

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

### Daily Start and End Times

School hours will begin at 8:15 a.m. and will end at 3:05 p.m. View the bell schedules below.

- [24-25 Bell Schedules](#)





## Seal of Biliteracy

Sign up is underway for the Missouri Seal of Biliteracy, which recognizes students who have attained proficiency in two or more languages before high school graduation. Some students have already taken standardized tests that provide proof of proficiency. Other students who apply will take a standardized test later in the year to assess their proficiency levels. Seniors who are proficient in English and at least one other language can apply in their World Languages classes or may contact Ms. Caspari in Room 137.



Students who are proficient in languages not taught at CHS are also encouraged to apply. Interested seniors should complete [this Google Form](#) to apply. The deadline for students to apply is November 8th. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Elizabeth Caspari at [elizabethcaspari@claytonschoools.net](mailto:elizabethcaspari@claytonschoools.net) or 314-854-6683.

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## AP Exams for this school year

All students planning to take an AP exam this spring should login to [Total Registration](#) in order to register and pay for exams.

**The Deadline for regular registration for ALL 2025 AP exams is November 2, 2024.** Registrations will be processed through Nov 9th with a late fee.

Please reach out to Carolyn Blair with any questions.

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## LEAD: The Cultural Leadership Experience

### 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 leaders and changemakers within their communities. We do this through immersive learning, leadership development, and empathy building rooted in the strengths and oppressions 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 Fellowship

**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 2-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](mailto:JBrok@leadstl.org)

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### **PreventEd's Teen Institute**

Since 1980, PreventEd has led Teen Institute (TI). It's a powerful camp that equips high school students to prevent substance misuse among their peers and communities while also cultivating leadership skills. Teen Institute 2024 is November 21-24 at Wyman Center in Eureka, MO. For more information, please contact Grace DeClue or Ali Stambaugh or call us at 314.962.3456.

Teen Institute costs \$50 per student to attend, but scholarships are available. Registration is available below until November 1st.

Want to know what you'll learn? Teen Institute...

- Provides up-to-date information regarding the consequences of alcohol and other drug use and misuse.
- Develops an understanding of prevention.
- Teaches leadership and programming strategies.
- Motivates participants to implement and/or enhance prevention programs in their schools and communities.
- Over the years, TI graduates have created ongoing and very powerful change for themselves, their friends, their schools and communities.

Registration: <https://prevented.org/event/ti-2024/>

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➔ **HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENT JOURNALISTS**

- ✓ Write a check to Clayton High School.
- ✓ In the memo section, share the check for subscription, sponsorship, or ad
- ✓ Send check to: Laura Chisholm, Clayton High School, #1 Mark Twain Drive, Clayton, MO 63105

☎ Call us for more info  
**314-854-6668**

🌐 [CHSGlobe.com](https://CHSGlobe.com)  
✉ [mstahlheber27@claytonschoools.net](mailto:mstahlheber27@claytonschoools.net)

## Celebrating Our Students

### Brooke Lytle: member of the Federal Reserve Student Board of Directors

Brooke Lytle was selected to be a member of the Federal Reserve Student Board of Directors. Students across the area with a unique interest in economic development. We further our understanding of the U.S. economy to better guide future financial decisions.



### Lavanya Mani featured in the New York Times

In September, Lavanya Mani was one of two teenagers quoted in a the New York Times Article: [Teens, How Are You Informing Yourself and Others About the Election?](#)

### Zoe Baldwin Winner of St. Louis Philharmonic Young Artist Solo Competition



Congratulations to CHS sophomore Zoe Baldwin, who was recently named the winner of the St. Louis Philharmonic Young Artist Solo Competition! Zoe will perform the Mendelssohn Violin Concerto with the Philharmonic on November 15th at 7:30 p.m. in Purser Auditorium.

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## **Congrats to CHS Choir Students!**

We're pleased to announce that the following students successfully auditioned into the 2024 St. Louis All Suburban Choirs:

### **SATB Chorus**

Sofia Cousins - Soprano  
Keira Hoisington - Soprano  
Lily Schaumburg - Soprano  
Sydney Hellwig - Alto  
Ivy Liao - Alto  
Sophia Zhang - Alto  
Duncan Barbour - Tenor  
Fletcher Kraus - Tenor  
Finn Barber - Bass  
Derek Crisp - Bass  
Brody Mitchell - Bass

### **SSAA Chorus**

Eleanor Ahn - Soprano  
Maria Sokhn - Alto  
Annika Van Dyken - Alto

### **Missouri All-State Choir Audition Qualifiers (top 20 in section for St. Louis area)**

Sofia Cousins - Soprano  
Keira Hoisington - Soprano  
Ivy Liao - Alto  
Sophia Zhang - Alto  
Duncan Barbour - Tenor  
Finn Barber - Bass  
Derek Crisp - Bass



## 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



- November 6
- December 4
- January 8
- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7

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



## Parent Coffee

Please save the dates and join Dr. Gutchewsky for casual conversations at our Parent Coffee Gatherings at 9:00 a.m. on September 27, December 6 (date change), February 21 and April 25.

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

## Funds for Excellence Fundraising

Our annual Funds for Excellence fundraising campaign is under way! Your donation will help provide faculty/staff appreciation meals and snacks, fund innovative faculty/staff special projects, and support Parent Connections social and informational gatherings. Plus, donate any amount by October 31 and you'll be entered into a raffle to win one of five [Clayton-branded sweatshirts](#), your choice of size/color/logo!

[CLICK HERE](#) to donate today!

## PTO's Upcoming events:

Parent & Faculty Book Club, 10/28, 6 pm, CHS library: Learning to Disagree by John Inazu  
November PTO Meeting, 11/6, 12 pm, Center of Clayton Meeting Room C and Zoom  
Freshman Parent Connections social, 11/7, 5:30-7:30 pm, C.J. Muggs  
Sophomore Parent Connections social, 11/13, 6-8 pm, Clayton Winehouse

Learn more about the PTO, including Funds for Excellence details, past faculty special project awards, meeting minutes, and upcoming events [here!](#)

## District News

### Long Range Facility Management Plan Community Forums

The district is looking for your input. Please join us for one of the community forums available in November.

#### Wednesday, November 6th

Captain, 4:00 PM or Clayton High School, 6:30 PM

#### Thursday, November 7th

Glenridge, 4:00 PM or Wydown, 6:00 PM

#### Tuesday, November 12th

Family Center, 2:30 PM or Meramac, 4:00 PM

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### 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).



### Navigating the Partnership: Understanding SSD & Clayton Collaboration

Join us for an informative session that explores the unique and updated partnership agreement between the School District of Clayton and the Special School District (SSD). This presentation will cover the history, current state, and how parents can effectively navigate the dual-district system to support their child's educational needs. Please send your questions, requests for a zoom link and RSVP to [paced@claytonschoools.net](mailto:paced@claytonschoools.net).

**Tuesday, October 22**



## Student Mock Elections:

The School District of Clayton will be holding student mock elections, an opportunity for students to engage in civic learning. This activity is intended to foster an understanding of the electoral process and promote active participation in the democratic process. If you want to learn more about the District's student mock elections, please [click here](#) to read more.

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## 2024 Holiday Assistance

The social work department is coordinating holiday meals and gift assistance for District families this holiday season. If you would like to receive food items and a grocery gift card for a holiday meal before Thanksgiving break and/or information regarding additional assistance in December, please sign up using this link by Friday, October 25: [2024 Holiday Assistance Sign-Up](#).

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## Annual Clayton Turkey Trot is back on Thanksgiving Day!

No registration required. Please bring non perishable food items or personal hygiene items to benefit the School District of Clayton's district-wide food pantry! Don't forget to bring some cash - CHS student organizations will be selling water, coffee and breakfast treats. See the flier for more information. See You

There!



## 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.