



CLAYTON
HIGH SCHOOL

Principal's Newsletter

September 16, 2024 | claytonschools.net/chs

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt



From the Principal



From The Principal

We have had a really great start to the new academic year. The first few weeks of school have gone really smoothly and this was the best opening week I can remember in recent years (definitely since COVID). Students and staff seemed to settle into a routine faster than normal and it seemed like we had been in session for weeks instead of days. As the administrative team visited classrooms, we observed students who were actively engaged with teachers who were clearly excited to be back doing what they do best. There were so many great things going on outside the classroom, too. The class meetings were fully attended and students were engaged. In the Activities Fair, Stuber Gym was full of our clubs and organizations, and the vibe was electric! The inaugural Compass (Link Crew- freshman advisory program) Popsicles in the Quad event was well received, and I saw a lot of smiles on students' faces as they debriefed their first week of high school. Open House was an overwhelming success as well, and it was great to have an opportunity to connect (or reconnect) with so many of our families. It has been a really great start to the year.

Each year as we return to school I always think of my personal "to do" list and calendar as a series of events. In the summer, I plan for New Teacher Induction, then Welcome Back Week, the return of students, class meetings, Open House, the first PD day etc... Once we finish one event, my attention moves on to the next. With all of these events behind us, I feel like we can really shift our attention to the routine of school with a sole focus on teaching and learning. The initial feedback on the changes we made this year in regards to the use of electronic devices phones and the attendance policy have been positive. Anecdotally, teachers and students are reporting consistent compliance

with the new electronic device expectations, more consistent enforcement and very few incidents involving devices. We are looking forward to maintaining this momentum throughout the year.

Finally, I want to say thank you all for your support of our students and each other as we continue to maintain a safe environment at CHS. As you probably know, there was a threatening social media post that circulated last Friday that included Clayton (and numerous other schools). We worked (and continue to work) with law enforcement to investigate the threat. While the initial investigation indicates that the threat does not appear credible, we remain vigilant in ensuring the safety of everyone in our school community. I truly appreciate all of the students, teachers and parents who came forward to notify us when they saw the post. It was reassuring to me that in addition to the people in our local community, I received calls and emails from people across the region who were not connected to Clayton but felt an obligation to ensure that we were aware of the post. While upsetting, I do think this issue continues to reinforce the importance of knowing our students well and creating an environment that emphasizes the collective responsibility we all have for the safety of our community. As I tell the students in class meetings every year, there are numerous safety precautions that we have in place, but none are as effective or powerful as almost 1000 sets of eyes and ears watching out for each other.

With Greyhound Pride,

Dr. Dan Gutchewsky



Mark Your Calendar



Important Dates

September 20 - No School

September 29 - Brawley Ball & Powder Puff Game

October 4- Homecoming Pep Rally & Bonfire (Gay Field)

October 5- Homecoming Parade and Football Game (Gay Field)

October 5- Homecoming Dance

October 11- No School/ Teacher Work Day

October 14-17 - Parent Teacher conferences

October 16- PSAT/NMSQT

October 16- Sophomore Challenge

October 17 - Early Release Day

October 18 - No School/ Teacher Conference Comp Day

October 24-26- FALL PLAY: 12 Angry Jurors

November 4- Winter Sports Start



Upcoming Events



Homecoming Week - September 30-October 5

- Homecoming Week begins Sunday, Sept. 30th, and continues through Saturday, Oct. 5th. Watch for an email from Ms. Young with more information.



Parent Conference Week - October 14-17th

- Parent-teacher conferences will be held the week of October 14-17th. Our in-person conference night will take place on October 15th. Look for an email regarding sign-up and more information later .

District Calendar

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

CHS Back-to-School Information

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](#)

2024-2025 Student Planner

Check out the [2023-24 Student Planner](#) for more detailed information on a variety of topics!



Attendance Policy FAQs

Thank you to everyone for following our new [Attendance Policy](#) guidelines. We have compiled a list of frequently asked questions and we have provided answers to each question in an FAQ document. Please click here to access the [FAQ document](#). We are hopeful that this document will clarify some of the more commonly asked questions. Please feel free to reach out to any of the CHS administrators if you have any additional questions.

Cap and Gown Orders

During the senior class meeting on August 22nd, your student was given a Graduation packet from Jostens to order their cap and gown, and other graduation memorabilia. If your senior has not placed their order, you may call Jostens to order at 636-230-7350, or they can see Mrs. Brooks in the main office to fill out the order form.

Deadline to turn into Mrs. Brooks is Friday, **September 27th**. The Graduation Center website will go live Thursday, October 1st. The orders received on September 27th are placed as a group order. Orders placed through the website are individual and will be subject to higher rental fee for the cap and gown and shipping.

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.



MOSHAPE Teacher of the Year

Missouri Society of Health & Physical Education has named Clayton High School's Sarah Gietschier-Hartman Health Teacher of the Year!

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



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/>

➔ **2024**

➔ **SUBSCRIPTION**

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- ✓ Approximately \$2000/issue to produce
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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
✉ mstahlheber27@claytonschoools.net

Celebrating Our Students



NPR Podcast: Gen Z and media literacy

On August 13th, Charlie Meyers and Alyah Hopper were on the podcast, *St Louis on the Air*, to talk about media literacy education. For more information or to listen the podast, visit the [NPR website](#).

Congratulations to our 2025 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists!

CHS is proud to annouce our 2025 National Merit Semifinalist! Congratulations to the following students:

- Nathaniel Brown, Vimal Buckley, Derek Crisp, Donna Do, Aaron Duan, Kian Eghtesady, Jynx Falk, Joseph Gabel, Logan Huyette, Bethany Lai, Hansini Mahajan, Mohini Mahajan, Lavanya Mani, Analee Miller, Bryan Murphy, Saaleh Poovathumkadavil, Yehia Said, and Emma Wilson.

These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,250 National Merit Scholarships. Over 1.3 million high school juniors entered the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®). This served as an initial screen of program entrants. The nationwide pool of Semifinalists, representing less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors, includes the highest-scoring entrants in each state. National Merit Scholarship winners of 2025 will be announced in four nationwide news releases beginning in April and concluding in July.

2025 Chalkfest STL

On Saturday, September 7th, Mrs. Chavarin and several CHS Art Students worked to beautify our community by participating in Chalkfest STL. Evelyn Bishop, Adelai Chisholm, Zoe Shook, Audrey Simanowitz, and Tessa Palermo collaborated on a column design inspired by Andy Warhol. Bean Calsyn also participated at another location and created her own Campbells Soup Can. Their work can be seen at the intersection of Brentwood Blvd. and Forest Park Parkway.



Adelai Chisholm, Evelyn Bishop, Audry Simanowitz, and Tessa Palermo



Bean Calsyn's Warhol inspired Soup Can



Evelyn Bishop, Adelai Chisholm, Zoe Shook and Audrey Simanowitz

Parent Corner

PTO Meeting Dates

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.

- October 2
- 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 13, February 21 and April 25.

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

District News



Social Emotional Learning Surveys Coming Up

Building our social-emotional learning skills continues to be part of the District's strategic plan. 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.

Students' responses provide us with invaluable insights into their experiences and how we can improve and adapt our programs to their needs. The responses to these surveys are confidential. 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 or concerns about the SEL surveys, please don't hesitate to contact your child's counselor or building principal.

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

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.



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.

