

January 15, 2021 | [claytonschools.net](http://claytonschools.net)

## Top Three Things in this Issue:

Superintendent Search Update Finalist Interviews

Parent Speaker Night

Upcoming Dates for Grab n' Go Meals

## Superintendent Message - Jan. 15, 2021

Dear Clayton Community,

Take a deep breath - then take the next step.

This is something I say to myself when faced with a difficult situation or decision. I also say it when I am feeling frustrated or emotionally spent. Over the last year, I've thought of that phrase often as I have faced new challenges, like so many of you. I have had to be intentional about recognizing when I feel emotionally hijacked, pausing - yet not stopping - to reset. Change and uncertainty can take a toll on our resilience and inhibit our ability to be aware of when we need to monitor our emotions or even our ability to "take the next step" when needed. It is important for us and our students to use one another to stay motivated - sharing feelings during difficult times and being brave enough to move forward.

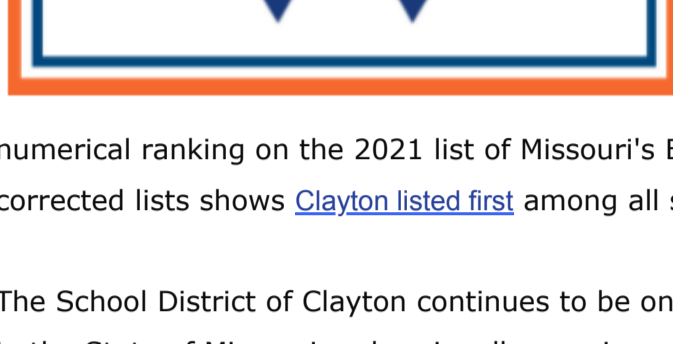
[Read Dr. Doherty's entire message here.](#)

## Superintendent Search Update Finalist Interviews

The Board of Education, along with groups of stakeholders (including students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators) interviewed finalists this week as part of the search for Clayton's next superintendent.

[McPherson & Jacobson](#), the search firm working with the District, is conducting a closed search, which means that the names of applicants and finalists will remain confidential throughout the search process. Details about the search process, including the timeline and a summary of the stakeholder feedback gathered during the search process, are [available online](#). The search, which has followed the timeline posted on the [District's website](#), is scheduled to conclude by the end of the month.

## Error in Niche Rankings

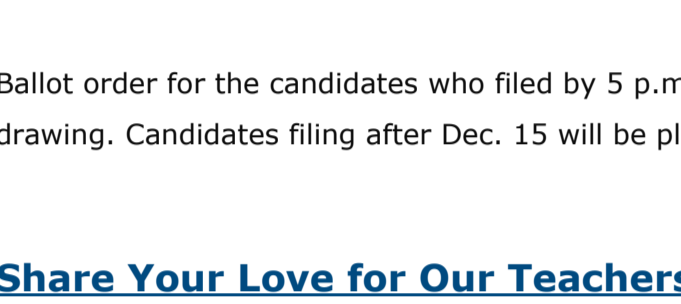


The School District of Clayton was accidentally omitted from the latest list by Niche.com ranking [Missouri's Best School Districts](#). When the District discovered the error it immediately contacted Niche. A manager for the school rankings website acknowledged an internal geocoding error had excluded the District from the list and "apologized deeply" for it.

The District's grades were restored but, since the rankings had already been published, Clayton will not be assigned a numerical ranking on the 2021 list of Missouri's Best School Districts even though the corrected lists shows [Clayton listed first](#) among all school districts in Missouri.

The School District of Clayton continues to be one of the highest-performing school districts in the State of Missouri and regionally, serving more than 2,600 students in grades PK-12.

## 2021 Board of Education Election Notice



Filing for the Board of Education Election is underway and will continue through **Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021, at 5 p.m.** All filings will take place at the Clayton Administrative Center located at [#2 Mark Twain Circle](#).

Except for the first and last day of filing, all filings will be taken by appointment only due to COVID-19. For an appointment, call 314-854-6017 or [email Sandy Menchella](#).

Ballot order for the candidates who filed by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15 were determined by random drawing. Candidates filing after Dec. 15 will be placed on the ballot in the order of filing.

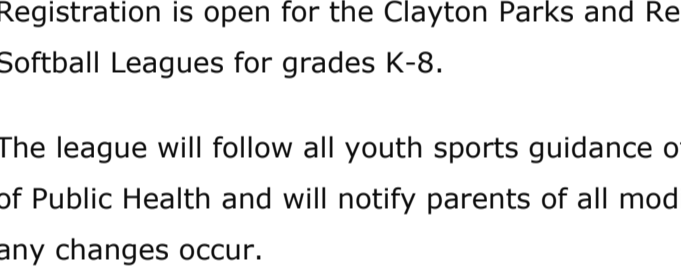
## Share Your Love for Our Teachers, Nurses and Staff

As the District is now past the half-way point of what has been a very different school year, it's a good time to show your appreciation for the teachers, school nurses, administrative assistants and other staff who have been our front-line heroes.

District staff has created an easy way for you to show your love with a custom ePostcard. All you need is the recipient's email address.

- [Find the email addresses here.](#)
- [Click on the ePostcard](#) of your choosing and include your own customized message.
- Click submit.

## Parent Speaker Night - Feb. 1



Mark your calendars for **Thursday, Feb. 11 from 7 p.m. until 8:15 p.m.** Dr. Tim Bono, a dynamic speaker and WASHU Psychology professor, will be joining the District again this year for its Parent Speaker Series (Sponsored by the District's Parent Education Program).

Dr. Bono will speak virtually on Feb. 11 for this parent night event, titled *Tools for Resilient Families in Turbulent Times*. He will share new tools from his research about what helps families stay resilient and growing through the turbulent times we are living in.

This virtual event is free but [registration is required](#). Any questions can be [emailed to Jani Holyan](#).

## Spring Youth Baseball/Softball Leagues Forming

Registration is open for the Clayton Parks and Recreation's spring 2021 Youth Baseball and Softball Leagues for grades K-8.

The league will follow all youth sports guidance offered by the St. Louis County Department of Public Health and will notify parents of all modifications before the first practice and as any changes occur.

Registration closes on Friday, Feb. 19. Practices will begin the weekend of Mar. 13 with games starting the weekend of Apr. 3. [Please click here for forms and additional information](#).

## Turning Literacy Work into Works of Art



*\*Please click on the image above to view the video.\**

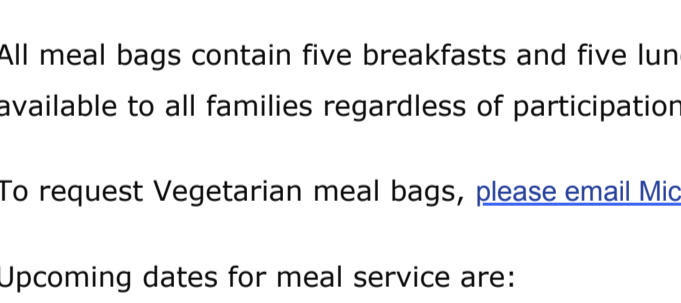
Glenridge fifth graders had a chance to explore some creative learning in literacy classes taught by Cara Barnes, Kacie Cline and Susannah Scotino.

The students have been reading nonfiction books as a class, in pairs and individually - mainly narrative nonfiction books that teach them information about history.

As they read, they selected a topic of history they were interested in learning more about. Each student had the flexibility to choose any topic they wanted as long as there was a history component to the topic.

Check out the [photos captured from their projects](#) and read more about their learning experiences.

## Grab n' Go Meal Service Schedule



The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Service will be available to all families of students participating in Learn@Home.

Meals are distributed from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the front entrance of Clayton High School. Distribution typically takes place on Mondays but is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 19 and

Tuesday, Feb. 15 in observance of holidays.

This is a drive-up service so please pull to the curb in front of Clayton High School and a volunteer will deliver meals to your car.

All meal bags contain five breakfasts and five lunches for the week. They are free and available to all families regardless of participation in the free and reduced lunch program.

To request Vegetarian meal bags, [please email Michelle Fohey](#).

Upcoming dates for meal service are:

- Monday, Jan. 11, 2021
- **Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021**
- Monday, Jan. 25, 2021
- Monday, Feb. 1, 2021
- Monday, Feb. 8, 2021
- **Tuesday, Feb.15, 2021**
- Monday, Feb. 22, 2021
- Monday, Mar. 1, 2021

## The Equity Corner

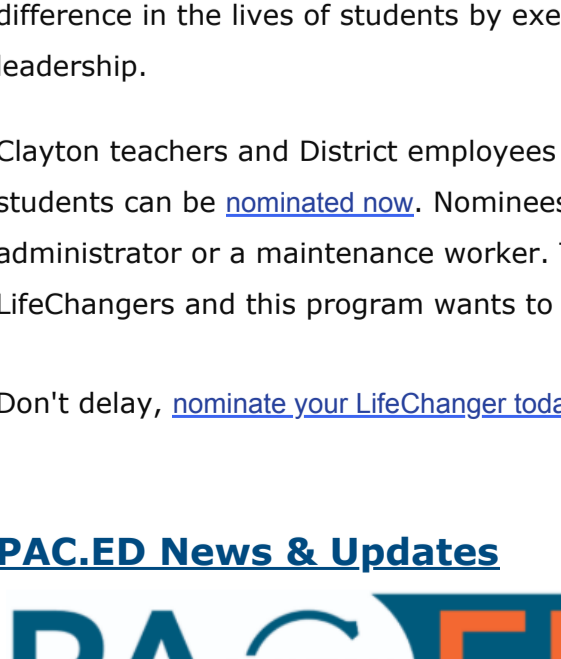
*I remember the month of August in 2014 very vividly. On that day, I believe, White America was introduced to Black America. Interestingly, that seems a bit odd, but it makes perfect sense. On August 9, 2014, Michael Brown, Jr., was fatally shot by Police Officer Darren Wilson. Since then, our country has not been the same.*

*The contentious relationship between Blacks and law enforcement, a reintroduction to "Strange Fruit," Black rage, Black anger, Black sorrow and the Black experience was plastered on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC and every other news outlet. For the first time in my lifetime, conversations about the Black experience were actually happening. The interesting thing about these conversations is that in acknowledging the Black experience, it forces Whites to think about their own experiences, and how they might have contributed to the Black experience.*

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Your Long-Lost Sibling](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on [Twitter @CP\\_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!  
[Cameron Poole](#)

## CHS Students Cut into Learning



Just before winter break, learning cut deep for some CHS Anatomy and Physiology students.

Classes dissected fetal pigs as a culminating project for the fall semester after spending the last few months learning about anatomical regions, organs and dissecting procedures.

These end-of-semester dissections provided students with an opportunity to apply their knowledge in a fun and interesting way. Lectures do great things for student learning but the hands-on exposure to various biological systems through dissection takes their learning to a new level.

Anatomy and Physiology students also dissect sharks, cats and body organs such as the brain and eyes. [Take a look at a few photos from their learning.](#)

## LifeChanger of the Year Nominations

[LifeChanger of the Year](#) is an annual program recognizing K-12 educators and school employees across the country. The program celebrates those who are making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence and leadership.

Clayton teachers and District employees who inspire us and go above and beyond for their students can be [nominated now](#). Nominees can range from a physical education teacher to an administrator or a maintenance worker. These educators and school employees are LifeChangers and this program wants to honor them.

Don't delay, [nominate your LifeChanger today](#).

## PAC.ED News & Updates



PAC.ED is the Parent Advisory Council of Children with Educational Diversity. It is a volunteer organization made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members. PAC.ED helps parents:

- Network and communicate with other parents.
- Provide support for parents including access to relevant information, training and emotional support.
- Collaborate with parent-teacher groups, school councils and other organizations for the betterment of education, equity, and inclusion in the District.
- Improve communication and partnership between SSD and the District.
- Create a positive awareness and understanding of students with disabilities.

Check out this month's [PAC.ED Events & Information](#). Register for the next Parent Networking Social, see Inclusive School Week Contest deadlines extended, next PAC.ED meeting and more

## [Staff and Student Achievements](#)

**Cameron Poole**, the District's Director of Equity and Inclusion, was recently featured in the *St. Louis Business Journal*. The article focuses on his role in furthering the District's commitment to becoming an equitable and anti-racist community. [Click here to read the subscription-only article](#).

## [Board Brief](#)

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Dec. 16 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board recognized the CHS National Merit Scholars, passed a resolution honoring Inclusive Schools Week and approved the District's annual independent audit.

Following each meeting of the Board of Education, The Board Brief is your source for details on Board discussions, actions and items of interest to Clayton students, staff and residents.

The Board's next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes policy review and approval, budget planning and an equity update.

## [Nutritional Notes](#)

*From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.*



New Year's Resolutions always seem to die off after the first few weeks. Making smart resolutions can help keep you motivated and more likely to keep going.

A SMART goal is one that is specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely. Below are a few nutrition goals you can achieve using the SMART

criteria:

- **Eat more whole foods:** Start by slowly adding in one whole food like fruit or vegetables each day for a week. After a few weeks evaluate your compliance then increase your intake to two whole foods each day. This can help lead to attainable goals that become a part of your lifestyle.
- **Sugary drinks:** If you typically drink three sodas or other sugary beverages per day, start by cutting back to having only two and dropping down to three times per week. Again, over time, you can slowly eliminate these beverages to only a few times each week.
- **Eating out/Getting takeout:** This can be a large culprit of extra calories. Start by putting a number on the meals you will consume from fast food and dining outside the home per week. Try to eliminate one of these outings per week so that over time you decrease the amount of outside dining trips.

## [Focus On: Avoiding the Winter Blues](#)

This past year was incredibly demanding and stressful, and while we are all hopeful for a brighter 2021, these [tips to avoid the winter blues](#) may help you and your family get off to a good start.

- **Light Therapy:** Give yourself every opportunity for daylight such as placing exercise equipment or your work area near a window.
- **Recreate that Summer Feeling:** Use a white noise machine of ocean sounds and birds singing, as well as floral and citrus fragrances to help uplift your mood.
- **Healthy Foods:** Fruits and veggies of deep green or orange, like broccoli, kale, and carrots, have nutrients that promote better mood and total health.
- **Keep Active:** On cold, dark days, it can be hard to pull yourself out of bed, but it's important to keep moving and remain active.
- **Treat Yourself:** Instead of feeling "trapped" inside, make a list of things you enjoy and find ways to engage in those activities.

## [Calendar](#)

Jan. 15 - No School PK-12 / Professional Learning Day

Jan. 16 - Annual Diversity Recruitment & Networking Fair | Zoom Event @ 8 a.m.

Jan. 18 - No School PK-12 / District Closed / MLK Jr. Day

**Jan. 27 - Electronic Board of Education Meeting @ 7 p.m.**

**Jan. 19 - Next issue of eNews**

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