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Top Three Things in this Issue:

2022 National Merit Commended Students Recognized

District Highly Recognized in 2022 Niche Best Schools Rankings

Clayton Community Celebrates Homecoming 2021

From the Superintendent



Take a minute or two to watch this video message from our superintendent, **Dr. Nisha Patel**, and learn about some important things that have been happening in our schools.

District Maintains Rollback Of Residential Operating Rate

The School District of Clayton's Board of Education approved the 2021 tax rate at its Sept. 29 meeting. The residential rate will decrease from \$4.1527 to \$4.0373, while the commercial rate will increase slightly from \$4.7354 to \$4.7658. In keeping its promise made during the 2019 Prop E campaign, the residential operating rate includes a 15 cent voluntary rollback in order to only collect the additional revenue that was projected in the original request for an operating levy increase.

A "voluntary rollback" is a term used to describe the action taken by a taxing body such as a school district to not levy or charge the fully approved and taxpayer authorized tax rate.

Use the [online property tax calculator](#) to estimate the school portion of your property taxes.

Clayton Community Celebrates Homecoming 2021



Clayton students, parents, staff, alumni and community members took part in a spirited parade, football game and barbecue on Saturday, Sept. 25, in celebration of Homecoming 2021. The day began with a parade from Clayton High School to Gay Field featuring student and community floats and the CHS marching band. The parade was followed by a football game against

Principia High School. [See photos and learn more about the event here.](#)

2022 National Merit Commended Students Recognized



Sixteen students have been selected as 2022 National Merit Commended Students. They are being honored for their excellent performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®) and placing among the top 50,000 students in the competition. Although they will no longer be in the competition for the National Merit

Scholarships, we as a District are extremely proud of their academic achievements.

Congratulations to the following students (listed alphabetically by last name): **Jack Blase, Vivian Chen, Aaradhya Diwan, Jiabei Han, Sarah Heath, Pablo Kerschensteiner Soto, Kathleen Ko, Camilla Meyers, Madison Miller, Naveed Naemi, Natalie Noonan, Heidemarie Panzer, Jacob Strand, Sarah Taylor, Benjamin Torio, and Abigail Van Emden.** [Learn more about the program here.](#)

District Highly Recognized in 2022 Niche Best Schools Rankings

**2022
Niche
Rankings**



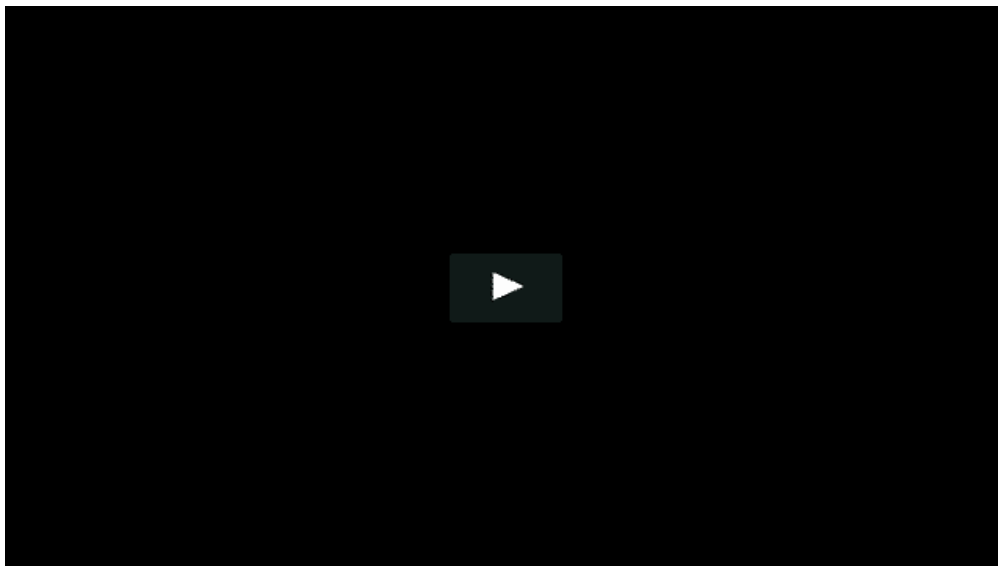
The 2022 Niche Best Schools rankings have been released. The District has been ranked as the second best school district in the state and as the 17th best district in the country. The District has also been ranked as the best place to teach in Missouri and the top district with the best teachers in Missouri.

View the other rankings below:

- Best Public High Schools - #2 in Missouri
- Best High Schools for STEM - Combined Private and Public School Ranking - #6 (Top-ranked public high school) in Missouri
- Best Public Middle Schools - #1 in Missouri
- Best Public Elementary Schools - 3 of the Top 4 in Missouri (#1 MER, #3 CPT, #4 GLN)

[Read more here.](#)

Wydown Middle School Named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School



Click the image above view to the video.

Wydown Middle School has been named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School and is one of only eight schools in the state to receive this honor. Wydown was nominated in the Exemplary High Performing Schools category. This is the second year in a row, and the

third time since 2016, that a Clayton school has been named a National Blue Ribbon School. WMS now joins a select list of schools, which already includes Clayton High School and Clayton's three elementary schools, across the country who have received this award more than once since the program began in 1982. View the video above and [learn more about the award here](#).

WMS Math Teacher Receives 2021 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award



Wydown Middle School Math Teacher Dave Powers is Clayton's 2021 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award recipient. Teachers are nominated by their peers with the winner being selected by a committee of Clayton's past Emerson Award recipients. [Learn more about his award and see photos here](#).

All In Clayton Coalition Information



The All In Clayton Coalition will be starting the Head and Series again this fall via Zoom. We are kicking off on Oct. 18 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. Join us for an evening with Dr. Tim Bono, Washington University professor, author and expert on health and happiness to learn about how adults can support

children growing up in a high-performance culture. This free virtual event is hosted by the Clayton Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the All In Clayton Coalition and the School District of Clayton. For more information, [see the poster here](#). [To register click here](#).

Don't forget the next All In Coalition Meeting is coming up on Tuesday, Oct. 5 from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. To register and receive the zoom link please email kimberlysherony@claytonschoools.net.

PAC.ED Information

PAC.ED advocates for awareness, understanding, equity and inclusion of and for all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton. PAC.ED is a volunteer organization made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as



community members. Check out the [Facebook](#) page to keep up-to-date on current PAC.ED events!

PAC.ED is launching "Project Sensory Box", a campaign to provide mindfulness kits and sensory boxes with supplies for students. The idea came about during lockdown when many families were scrambling to procure school supplies,

sensory items and other equipment supports for their students. To address the needs of those students and families, "Project Sensory Box" was born. [Learn more about the project on the website here.](#)

Upcoming events:

Saturday, Oct. 2 @ 5:00 p.m.

Parent Networking Social (In-Person and Outdoor Event @ the Whitlock residence). [Parents must register to attend.](#)

Friday, Oct. 8 @ 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

MO Disability & History Awareness Month - Intelligent Lives Screening/Panel Discussion (via Zoom). [Register here.](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 12th @ 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Clayton PAC.ED Meeting (via Zoom).

Make a difference today by [clicking and donating](#) and/or [clicking and volunteering](#) to support the vital work of the PAC.ED!

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Sept. 29 Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education held the District's annual tax rate hearing (see the related story in this issue of eNews), received an update on Goal One in the District's strategic plan and issued a proclamation recognizing October as Disability History and Awareness Month. 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 regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes an update on the District's partnership with the Special School District and the review of a number of policy updates.

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.



It can be difficult to identify natural sugar and added sugar on a nutrition label. Many companies have ditched using added sugar although high fructose corn syrup contains just as much sugar.

It is important to check the label to see if there is naturally occurring sugar or added sugar. The nutrition

label will list natural occurring sugars under total sugars and then list the amount of the total sugar that is coming from added sources. Natural occurring sugar such as lactose in milk and fructose in fruit are good sources of sugar and should be part of a well-balanced diet. The added sugar should be consumed in moderation. Ingredients to look for on a label that indicates added sugar are: invert sugar, malt syrup, rice syrup, molasses, corn syrup or sweetener.

Focus On: Parent-Teacher Conference Tips

Parent-teacher conferences are coming up. Here are a few tips from [Kid's Health](#) to prepare for the best conference possible:

Before the Conference:

- Review your child's recent grades on homework, tests, etc.
- Ask your child if there are any topics they'd like you to discuss.
- Bring questions and something to take notes in.

During the Conference:

- Exchange contact information with the teacher and figure out the best channels for communication.
- Focus on your child's learning and share any helpful details with the teacher.

After the Conference:

- Follow up and check in with the teacher on a regular basis your child's progress.
- Create a thank you note to show your appreciation for the teacher and the time they spent with you.

It is encouraged to also set up time with your children's teacher outside these conferences and check in regularly to talk about their academic progress.

Calendar

Oct. 7 - Tri-M Music Honors Society Induction Ceremony @ 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 13 - Virtual BOE Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Oct. 14 - 16 - CHS Fall Play @ 7 p.m.

Oct. 16 - CHS Fall Play @ 2 p.m.

Oct. 15 - No School for Students. Professional Learning for Teachers.

Oct. 15 - Next Issue of eNews

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