



August 20, 2021 | [claytonschools.net](https://claytonschools.net)

### **Top Three Things in this Issue:**

Back To School Message From Dr. Patel

WMS Awarded as a Missouri Gold Star School

2021 New Family Orientations

### **From the Superintendent**

Click on the image below for a back to school message from **Dr. Nisha Patel**.



### **Cameron Poole Named Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer**



New year. New Title. Same important work. **Cameron Poole** has been promoted to Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer. His work reflects the priority the District continues to place on equity, diversity and inclusion work. Congratulations, Cameron!

## WMS Awarded as a Missouri Gold Star School



The [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education \(DESE\)](#) has announced eight Missouri Gold Star Schools for 2021 and Wydown Middle School is one of them.

The program, which aligns with the national Blue Ribbon Schools program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes schools for

outstanding academic achievement or schools that perform at high levels while serving a significant proportion of disadvantaged students.

[Read more from our Featured News article here.](#)

## CHS Students Shine as Research Scientists



**Jiabei Han** and **Yiyun Xu**, students at Clayton High School, were accepted into the Students and Teachers as Research Scientists (STARS) program from the University of Missouri in St. Louis (UMSL). They were two of 36 students in the 2021 STARS class. The program ran from June 7 to July 16.

As a part of the program, students spend their program creating a research paper on a scientific topic of their choice. Each student was assigned a professional mentor. Throughout the six weeks, they researched their topics as well as participated in activities and lectures. STARS offered daily lectures from professors on topics based on knowledge from their respective fields. In addition,

college admission counselors met with students with tips on how to apply to college. To accommodate the current conditions, UMSL included remote/online work to replace on-campus work for the program. [Learn more here.](#)

### **CHS New Student Orientation**



Clayton High School freshmen completed orientation on Thursday, August 19 for the 2021-2022 school year. Students enjoyed getting to know their teachers and classmates while preparing for the new year. [Click here to view photos from that day.](#)

### **2021 New Family Orientations**



Elementary schools across our district held "New Family Orientation" and "Meet the Teacher" events all this week to introduce new students and their families to their teachers, staff members, and fellow students. [Click here to view photos from that day.](#)

### **PAC.ED Information**



We advocate 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.

PAC.ED helps families:

- Network and communicate with other families.
- By providing support for families, including access to relevant information, training, and emotional support.
- Improve communication and partnership between SSD and the District.
- Collaborate with the School District of Clayton, Special School District of St. Louis County (SSD), and their Boards of Education, as well as parent teacher groups, school councils, and other organizations for the betterment of education, equity, and inclusion in the District.
- Create a positive awareness and understanding of students with disabilities.

Check out this month's [PAC.ED Events & Information](#). We have wonderful activities, events and programs planned for the 2021/2022 school year!

You can make a difference today by [making a donation](#) and/or [volunteering](#) to support the vital work of the PAC.ED!

### **CHS Graduate Gives Back to GLN**



Jackson Gardner (shown in middle), Clayton high school graduate and Eagle Scout of Troop 21 of Clayton, built a mobile gardening station for students in Mary Karen Engel's class and other Glenridge elementary students.

When Mary Karen Engel (shown on left), second grade teacher, needed a mobile gardening station for kindergarten

through second-grade students, she reached out to Troop 21 of Clayton. Jackson Gardner, a CHS graduate and Eagle Scout, worked with Glenridge's science specialist, Brendan Kearney (shown on right), and Principal, Beth Scott, to propose his project. He supplied and donated all of the materials used to build the station. Glenridge students will appreciate this for years to come and recall the generous spirit of Jackson, whose name is plated on the cart.

### **2021 New Teacher Induction**

More than three dozen new teachers started New Teacher Induction on Monday, Aug. 9. They were welcomed with a week full of professional development, orientation, and opportunities to connect with new and returning staff and others. Teachers took on fun challenges during the week including Quick Quiz Trade, Cup-Stacking, and even an Egg Dash Challenge. They also learned about the District's mission, vision and core values and our strategic plan. Members from the administrative team visited to connect with the group and help them feel more at home. [View the photos from the week here.](#)





## **The Equity Corner**

Recently I was reading an article about marathon running. I'm unsure how I came across an article on marathon running as I'll never run one, but it was very interesting and reminded me of our work in providing educational equity for all our students. With equity being such a hot topic, and push by a lot of districts, this summary fit perfectly - *Marathon running around the world is at an all-time high, with seemingly everyone signing up for, or thinking about signing up for, this iconic distance wherever you turn. This means more people than ever are looking to find out about what a marathon is really like to run.*

This is important because we want to make sure that equity in our district isn't just a trend. I have the confidence that it is not. Our strategic plan adopted last year (through 2023) is predominantly focused around equity and the well-being of all our students. Professional development within the district revolves around our strategic plan in ensuring a personalized, individualized, and differentiated learning experience for each student. In June, our Board of Education passed Policy ACIB: Educational Equity, forever cementing equity as a staple within our district. Educational equity isn't a trend in the School District of Clayton, it is here to stay.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Our Equity Work Summed Up as Preparation for a Marathon](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on Twitter [@CP\\_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!

[Cameron Poole](#)

## **Board Brief**

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Aug. 18 Board of Education meeting. Administrators updated the Board on the District's safety and cybersecurity efforts as well as the various safety improvements that have been under construction this summer at several Clayton schools.

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, Sept. 1**. The Board will start the evening in a joint electronic meeting with the Clayton Board of Aldermen at 6:30 p.m. to receive an update on the Center of Clayton. Immediately following the joint meeting, the BOE will hold its regular meeting in person at the Administrative Center. The tentative agenda includes approval of the budget for the Center of Clayton and recognizing the CHS students who are members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

## **Nutritional Notes**

*From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.*



It's easy to get busy with day to day tasks and forget to plan for snacks and meal times. Prevent running to the store while hungry or settling for an unhealthy snack by following these tips:

- **Snack Prep:** Prepare healthy snacks once a week for the week ahead. Portion fruit, trail mixes, and other nutrient dense items for easy access.
- **Smart Shopping:** Shop after eating a meal when you are full. Store a snack for on the go such as protein bars, fruit bars, and cheese sticks.
- **Mindful Eating:** Try eating snacks and meals with no distractions. Eating while watching television or talking on the phone can distract you. This can lead to oversnacking because one is not focused on how the food is making them feel.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Drink a cup of water before meals can help one feel more full.

## **Focus On: Returning to Learn In Person**

The transition from online learning to in-person learning can be an overwhelming experience. Students are returning to their classrooms and many are even starting school in person for the first time since the pandemic began. On the bright side, there are a lot of factors within our control to ensure our students start the year off right. Parents can follow these tips below to learn more:

- **Create a daily structured schedule.** Setting routines in place can help students know what to expect and can find comfort in a routine.
- **Make sure there is open and clear communication between your students, teachers, and yourself.**

- Connect with other parents or guardians of students virtually through phone, email and other forms of communications to establish positive relationships and maintain a strong community.
- Make sure you take care of your own mental and physical health as well as helping your students.

[Learn more in this article from the CDC.](#)

## **Clayton 101: Newest Edition Available**

The 2021-2022 edition of the Clayton 101, the District's handbook is here to help you. Everything you need to know about school and more is included in this publication. [You can find the new edition here.](#)

## **Calendar**

Aug. 23 - First Day of Fall Semester

Aug. 27 - Early Release @ 1:00 p.m.

Aug. 31 - WMS Open House @ 7:00 p.m.

**Sept. 1 - Joint BOA/BOE Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.**

**Sept. 1 - Regular BOE Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.**

Sept. 2 - CHS Open House @ 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 3 - No School for Students: Professional Development Day

Sept. 3 - Next issue of eNews

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