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Top Three Things in this Issue:

Sixteen CHS Seniors Announced as 2022 National Merit Semifinalists

CHS Science Teacher Earns 2021 Yale Educator award

All in Clayton Coalition Launches "Talk About It" Campaign

From the Superintendent

Dear Clayton Family -

Now that we've made it about halfway through the first quarter of the 2021-2022 school year, I want to check in and update you on how we are navigating another year with the COVID-19 pandemic. We started the year with a number of risk mitigation measures in place. These include requiring universal masking and maximizing physical distances in our schools, partnering with our families to keep students who have symptoms at home and encouraging a number of important health and safety practices.

Our health services staff continues to work daily to conduct contact tracing of all the cases of COVID-19 reported to us. We follow up regardless of whether a student or staff member is exposed at school or outside of school. (Incidentally, we just quarantined our first group of students due to in-school exposure. Everything else up to this point in the year has been from exposure outside of school.) Our parents have been outstanding partners in sharing information about symptoms, positive cases and exposure. This is so important in the work we are doing to keep students and staff healthy. Thank you!

Vaccines and universal masking continue to be the most effective prevention strategy in our schools. As I mentioned back in August, approximately 97 percent of our staff report

that they are vaccinated. Thanks to information shared by our families, we have also been able to get a sense of how many of our eligible students are vaccinated. On average, approximately 84 percent of our students in grades seven through twelve are vaccinated and we are already planning to offer more vaccine clinics for our younger students as soon as they are eligible.

Here are a few other important COVID-related reminders to keep on your radar:

- The latest COVID-19 case data for our staff and students can be found in the [dashboard on our website](#).
- Our [COVID-19 procedures and risk mitigation measures](#) are also posted on our website.
- Quarantines are slightly different for those identified as close contacts as compared to last year. [This chart helps explain our current procedures](#).
 - Generally, vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine.
 - Unvaccinated students who are close contacts will usually not have to quarantine if they are fully and correctly masked and other mitigation strategies are in place.
 - Unvaccinated staff identified as a close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period; with or without a mask) will be required to quarantine for 10 days.
- Our communication protocols (revised as of 09/17/2021) for COVID-19 cases in our schools this year will be as follows:
 - Positive cases will be logged and tracked (by school) on the District's data dashboard. When an elementary or Family Center student has been at school during their infectious period, we will send an all-school email to parents and staff.
 - All students and staff who are identified as close contacts (even if they are not required to quarantine) will be notified via email and phone call of the need to quarantine and/or monitor for symptoms.

We recognize that COVID-19 is still prevalent in our community but we remain optimistic about our efforts to keep our students and staff safe, healthy and learning/working at school. I want to thank our families for being excellent partners in this work. Even though this pandemic forces us to be ready to adapt at a moment's notice, our work, supported by our families and staff, is going a long way to keep students learning at school.


☐

Nisha Patel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Sixteen CHS Seniors Announced as 2022 National Merit Semifinalists



Sixteen CHS Seniors have been announced as 2022 National Merit Semifinalists for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC®) scholarship program. Nationally, less than one percent of all students make the cut to become semifinalists. The 16 semifinalists at CHS represent more than seven percent of the class of 2022. Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists in

the annual National Merit Scholarship Program were named this year. Congratulations to the following students (listed alphabetically by last name): **Mark Anzilotti, Tudor Belean, Madeline Brown, Miguel Buitrago, Tom Dupor, Thomas Gustafson, Kylee Kest, James Lenze, Jessie Lin, Gaby Madriz, Isaac Millians, Margaret Mooney, Alexander Pompian, Zachary Wang, Yiyun Xu, and Tobias Zaidman.**

The academically talented high school seniors who are named have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit scholarships worth more than \$30 million offered next spring.

[Learn more about the program here.](#)

CHS Science Teacher Earns 2021 Yale Educator award



CHS Science Teacher Nathan Peck is a recipient of the 2021 Yale Educator award sponsored by the Yale Office of Undergraduate Admissions. This award recognizes educators internationally who inspire their students to perform their best and ignite a passion for achieving excellence. Peck was one of 50 teachers chosen to receive this award out of 305 nominees from 38 states and 17

countries. [Learn more about why he was chosen and more about the award here.](#)

CHS Senior Forms Volunteer Young Scholars Tutoring Program

Jessie Lin, a CHS Senior, saw many students struggling with their studies during the pandemic as schools transitioned from in person to online learning. Some families were not able to provide the extra academic support their students needed to succeed due to



balancing many responsibilities during this difficult time. Lin decided to change this and formed a group of volunteer tutors called the Young Scholars Tutoring Program.

As a member of the [Asian American Civics Scholars \(AACS\)](#), Lin proposed to the group to start a free online tutoring program to assist students in the

community amidst the pandemic. Lin then reached out to other students from the District and others across the St. Louis area to act as volunteer tutors. [You can sign up for tutoring or to be a tutor here.](#)

[Learn more about the Young Scholars Tutoring Program and its current efforts here.](#)

All In Clayton Coalition Launches “Talk About It” Campaign



The All In Clayton Coalition knows it can be difficult to navigate conversations about preventing substance use with your children. The coalition decided to relaunch the “Talk About It” media campaign to inform and empower members of the community, especially parents, to have early and often conversations with their kids about the effects of alcohol and other drugs.

This campaign was created to start near homecoming week as the risk of students using alcohol and other drugs is elevated during this time. The coalition wants to encourage parents to check in with their kids to discuss the importance of safe celebrations.

Anyone interested in displaying a yard sign can email [Kim Sherony](#) with their address for free, contactless delivery.

The All In Clayton Coalition was formed to achieve community-level change in the area of reducing and preventing youth substance use in the Clayton community. Learn more about the [All In Clayton Coalition](#) and their mission on their website. [Read about this campaign here.](#) You can also follow them on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

WMS Spanish Class Learns as a Part of Acknowledging National Hispanic Heritage Month

Heather Puerto’s WMS Spanish Class learned about 21 Spanish-speaking countries as a part of a scavenger hunt. Students created posters with facts about important cultural figures,



historical events, and fun facts. [You can see more photos from the scavenger hunt here.](#)

Celebrate Homecoming with CHS



You're invited to celebrate Homecoming 2021! Gather your family and friends and join us for the weekend's festivities. Masks are encouraged at all Homecoming events.

Friday, Sept. 24:

- Homecoming Spirit Games, 7 p.m. at **Gay Field**
- Homecoming Bonfire, 8 p.m. in the lower parking lot at **Gay Field**

Saturday, Sept. 25:

- Homecoming Parade, 11 a.m. The parade begins at Clayton High School, proceeds to North Forsyth Boulevard and concludes at Gay Field, and will include giveaways and fun for the whole family.
- Homecoming Football Game, 12 p.m. Cheer on the Greyhounds as they take on Principia High School.
- Annual Alumni Homecoming BBQ, 12 p.m. The Clayton Education Foundation will host its annual BBQ for all alumni and their families along with current and past faculty and staff. [Click here for BBQ tickets/registration.](#)

2021 Wellness Committee Meetings

The School District of Clayton recognizes the physical, social and emotional well-being of our students, staff and parent body are all crucial elements of a student's academic success and lifelong health and wellness. The mission of the Wellness Committee is to promote the health and wellness of our students, staff and community through education and efforts. The upcoming meeting dates are below:

- Monday, Sept. 27 - 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Dec. 6 - 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, Feb. 7 - 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, May 9 - 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please contact [Mary Jo Gruber](#) or [Robyn Wiens](#) to receive the Zoom link and find out more information about the meetings.

AP Environmental Science Performs Biodiversity Survey



CHS students in Chuck Collis' AP Environmental Science class performed their biodiversity survey project. They recorded data within a section area of the ground about how much diversity of living species was present versus how much of each type of living species was present. [View more photos here.](#)

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.

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

October is Missouri Disability History & Awareness Month! Keep an eye out for more information [MDH&A Month events and activities](#).

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

The Equity Corner

One thing we learned as educators from the pandemic is the importance of our students' humanity and their social-emotional well-being. Equity talks went from discussion of standards, assessments, and skills, to remembering learners are emotional, sentient human beings who need love, belonging, and connection to thrive. At its core, education is people coming together to learn with and from one another. Physical proximity can help build relationships, but having it stripped away has pushed us to create more intentional spaces for students to connect with each other and their teachers.

As educators in the School District of Clayton, our focus has been on relationship-based pedagogy. In a relationship-based pedagogy, teachers must be reflexive about our place in a given context and receptive to the lived realities of our students. Relationship-based ideologies and practices help build healthy rapport and interactions with our learners.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[From Virtual to Relationship Based Learning](#)" 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 Sept. 1 Board of Education meeting. The Board held its annual joint meeting with the Clayton Board of Aldermen to review the budget for the Center of Clayton and recognize the members of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council.

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. 29**. The Board will hold the District's annual tax rate hearing to set the 2021 tax rate and receive an update on Clayton's equity and inclusion work.

Calendar

Sept. 24	Early Release Day
Sept. 24	Homecoming Spirit Games and Bonfire (see above)
Sept. 25.	Homecoming Parade, Football Game, and Alumni BBQ (see above)
Sept. 29	Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 1 GLN Read-A-Thon ends

Oct. 1 Next Edition of eNews

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