



February 26, 2021 | [claytonschools.net](http://claytonschools.net)

## Top Three Things in this Issue:

[2021 National Merit Scholarship Finalists Named](#)  
[Parents as Teachers Virtual Events](#)  
[Synchronous Remote Learning Dates](#)

## COVID-19 Update

### Keeping Others Healthy and In School

A few of our recent exposures have come from individuals who have been at school with symptoms for multiple days. Had these individuals stayed home when their symptoms started, they would have prevented dozens of other students and staff from having to be quarantined. Staff and students should not come to school/work when they are sick. The three most important things to keep in mind:

- Stay home if you are experiencing symptoms.
- Stay home if you have been exposed to (or live with) someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Stay home if someone in your home has symptoms **AND** is awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test.

Many parents, students and staff have questions about what to do when they learn they are connected in some way to a positive case of COVID-19, whether it's at school, at work or at home. The District has [developed this helpful guide](#) to help understand what you should do when you, your family or a classmate/coworker are exposed or around someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

### Contact Tracing and Safety Procedures

Since we began tracking COVID-related positive cases and quarantines back in August, we have logged 139 positive cases and 740 related quarantines among students and staff. Even with all that, we have only one likely case of in-school transmission of COVID-19 among students. **We feel confident about the safety measures and steps our students and staff follow in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 while at school.** These include wearing face coverings at all times, practicing good hand hygiene, implementing physical distancing in classrooms to the greatest extent possible and circulating through the school in a way that minimizes interactions. Along with most other area school districts, our contact tracing data and positivity rates among students and staff support the fact that our current measures are working.

## 2021 National Merit Scholarship Finalists Named

Congratulations to these CHS students who have been named 2021 National Merit Scholarship Finalists:

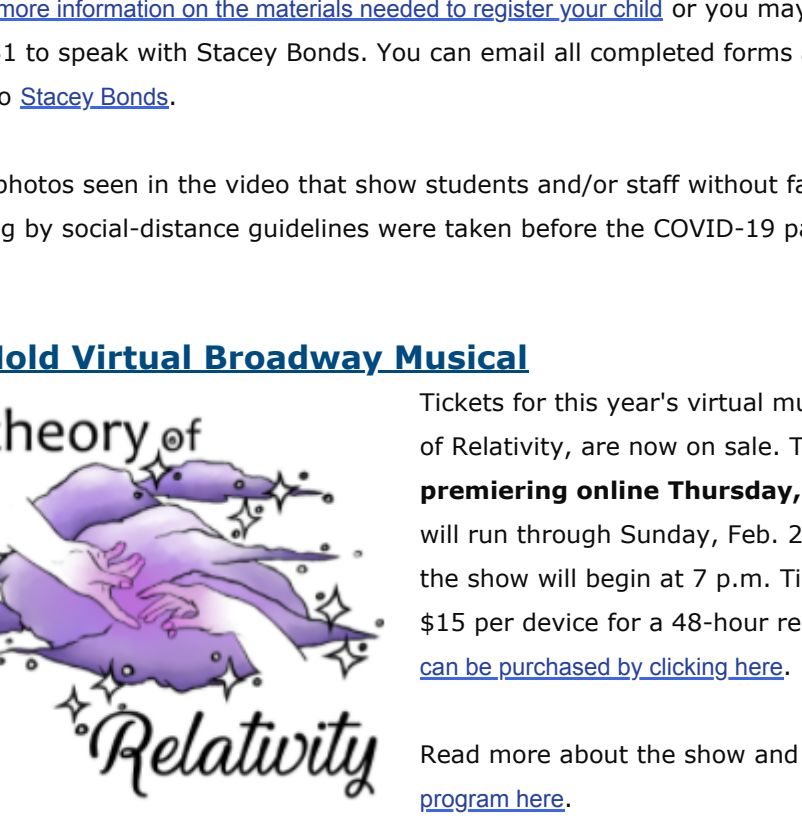
- **Koray S. Akduman**
- **Luka S. Bassnett**
- **Madeline Blatt**
- **Pablo J. Buitrago**
- **Josephine E. Gillette**
- **Jack L. Hansell**
- **Grace N. Homann**
- **Danika Li**
- **William C. Redington**
- **Saida C. Robles-Razzaq**

In February, about 15,000 Semifinalists advanced to Finalist standing. Within the Finalist group, winners are chosen for the Merit Scholarship based on their abilities, skills and accomplishments. About 7,500 finalists will be selected to receive a Merit Scholarship in between the beginning of March and mid-June.

## Kindergarten Enrollment Underway

Do you have a child or children entering Kindergarten in the School District of Clayton for the 2021-2022 academic year? Enrollment began on Monday, Feb. 22 and will be ongoing. Tune in and watch the video below to learn more about:

- the daily schedule and routines
- the Kindergarten curriculum
- ways to stay involved in your child's learning
- tips from experienced teachers



*\*Click on the image above to view the full video.\**

[Click here for more information on the materials needed to register your child](#) or you may call 314.854.6031 to speak with Stacey Bonds. You can email all completed forms and copies of documents to [Stacey Bonds](#).

**NOTE:** Any photos seen in the video that show students and/or staff without face coverings or not abiding by social-distance guidelines were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

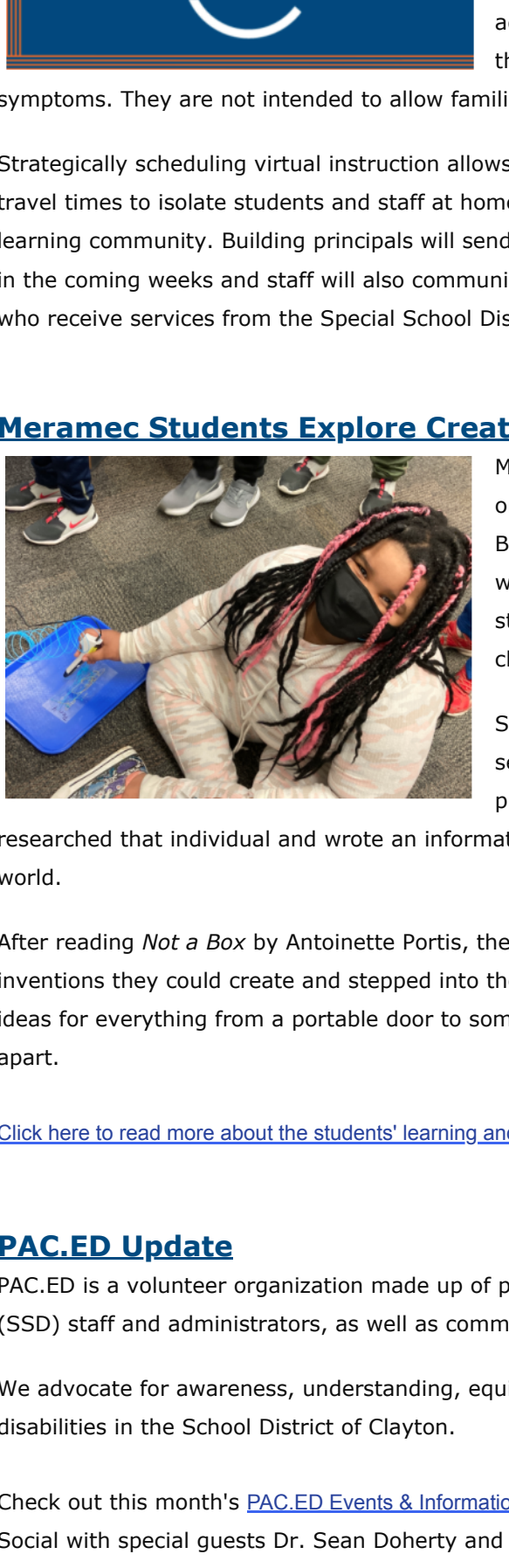
## CHS to Hold Virtual Broadway Musical



Tickets for this year's virtual musical, Theory of Relativity, are now on sale. The show is **premiering online Thursday, Feb. 25** and will run through Sunday, Feb. 28. Each night the show will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per device for a 48-hour rental. [Tickets can be purchased by clicking here.](#)

Read more about the show and [view the program here.](#)

## Grab n' Go Meal Service



The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Service is still available to all families of students who are Learning@Home.

Meals are distributed from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. on Mondays at the front entrance of Clayton High School.

Upcoming meal service dates for March are outlined below:

- Monday, March 1
- Monday, March 8
- Monday, March 15

**Service during Spring Break will be on Monday, March 22 from 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at CHS for all students.**

Regular service will resume on Monday, March 29 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. for students Learning@Home even though this is a synchronous remote learning day.

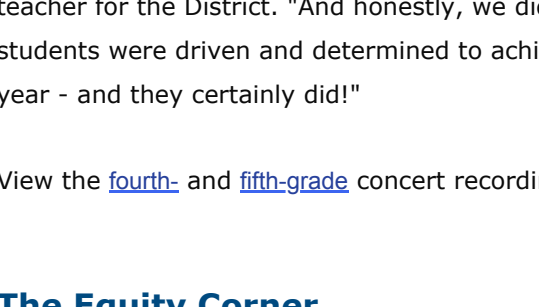
## Parents as Teachers Sponsors Upcoming Events

Clayton School District's [Parents as Teachers](#) program is sponsoring two virtual events for families with young children. Please click each event below to register.

- [March 10: Story Time Wednesday](#)
- [March 13: Sensory Play for Preschoolers](#)

These virtual events are free and available to all Clayton families.

## Synchronous Remote Learning: March 29-30

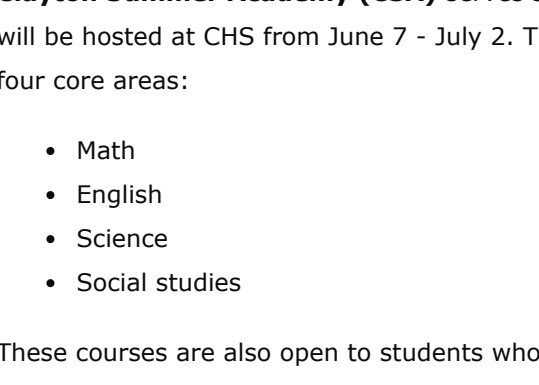


After Spring Break, students and teachers will return to **two days of synchronous Remote Learning March 29 - 30.** In-person learning, for students who have chosen to learn at school, will resume on Wednesday, March 31.

Potential exposures outside of our school community put us and others at risk. These calendar changes are designed to provide members of our school community with additional time to self-isolate and monitor themselves for potential COVID-19 symptoms. They are not intended to allow families to extend their travel.

Strategically scheduling virtual instruction allows us to create a window after typically high travel times to isolate students and staff at home and prevent COVID-19 spread in our learning community. Building principals will send schedule details to students and families in the coming weeks and staff will also communicate how these days will look for students who receive services from the Special School District.

## Meramec Students Explore Creative Learning



Meramec Elementary third graders focused on creative learning through the "Not a Box" project in Mrs. Bruns' class. Students were able to create new ideas using the steps of design-thinking, learned in Science class, to plan out box inventions.

Students discussed creativity and how they see themselves identifying and solving problems. They each chose an inventor, researched that individual and wrote an informational paper about their contributions to the world.

After reading *Not a Box* by Antoinette Portis, these learners brainstormed ideas for inventions they could create and stepped into the shoes of an inventor. They came up with ideas for everything from a portable door to something that would keep desks six feet apart.

[Click here to read more about the students' learning and to view photos.](#)

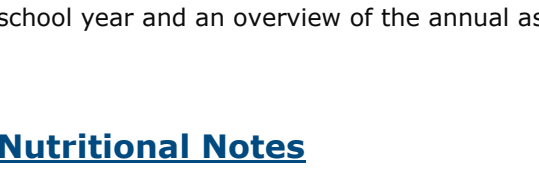
## PAC.ED Update

PAC.ED is a volunteer organization made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members.

We advocate for awareness, understanding, equity, and inclusion of and for all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton.

Check out this month's [PAC.ED Events & Information](#). Register for the next Parent Networking Social with special guests Dr. Sean Doherty and incoming Superintendent, Dr. Nisha Patel, SSD Summer Resource Fair, the next PAC.ED meeting and more.

## Captain Strings Students Debut Winter Concerts on YouTube



Captain Elementary's fourth- and fifth-grade strings students didn't let COVID-19 stop their Winter Orchestra Concert. Both masked and socially-distanced, these students performed as they would have pre-pandemic.

The fourth grade strings class performed a few selections from their Suzuki 1 Book and fifth graders performed selections from Ralph Matesky's "Learn to Play in the Orchestra."

Both groups highlighted an advanced piece during their performance, selected fourth grade students performed "Perpetual Motion" and selected fifth graders performed "La Chasse."

"It is quite remarkable that these students were able to achieve so much in one year considering the circumstances due to COVID-19," said Monica Holy, Instrumental/Strings teacher for the District. "And honestly, we didn't hold back very much this year. These students were driven and determined to achieve just as much as in any other orchestra year - and they certainly did!"

View the [fourth-](#) and [fifth-grade](#) concert recordings through the links provided.

## The Equity Corner

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." This quote by Nelson Mandela reminds us, as educators, that we bear a great responsibility. Our students and families need us to dismantle systemic racial barriers which impede their success, while also cultivating a passion for their learning.*

On Friday, Feb. 12, the District began a district-wide 14-Day Racial Equity Challenge. The challenge consisted of engagement in cohort learning about racial equity, justice and systems through:

- Reading;
- Watching;
- Listening; and
- Connecting to a variety of resources related to racial literacy.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[14-Day Racial Equity Challenge Recap](#)" on the District website and be sure to follow the District's equity work on [Twitter @CP\\_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!

[Cameron Poole](#)

## Summer Programs 2021

**Clayton Summer Academy (CSA)** serves students entering grades nine through 12 and will be hosted at CHS from June 7 - July 2. The program offers credit recovery classes in four core areas:

- Math
- English
- Science
- Social studies

These courses are also open to students who would like to develop their academic skills in these areas. In addition, credit acquisition classes will be available in:

- American Government
- Personal Finance
- Physical Education
- Health

**Wydown Summer Academy (WSA)** will take place at CHS June 10 - July 8 and serves selected students going into sixth through eighth grades. The program will meet in the morning and focus on developing students' leadership skills, understanding of equity and fundamental literacy and math skills through project based learning experiences. Additional details are forthcoming.

**Elementary Summer Academy (ESA)** will take place at Meramec Elementary School June 10 - July 8. Students will have the opportunity to deepen their learning in math and literacy as they delve into project-based learning. Student recommendations for ESA will be shared at Parent-Teacher Conferences and also emailed on Friday, March 19. All applications must be submitted by Friday, April 16.

Please visit the [District website](#) or contact your student's counselor for questions and registration information.

## Staff and Student Achievements

**CHS graduates** from the Class of 2020, **Nicholas Lenz** and **Leah Levenson**, were awarded \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships last spring. The District did not receive the opportunity to recognize these two seniors before they graduated last May but wanted to ensure they were acknowledged for this great academic honor.

Special School District (SSD) paraprofessional **Dee Pliakos** won the SSD Building Block Award for her outstanding skill and dedication to students.

**CHS Senior Julia Bautz** was awarded a \$1,000 Thespians Technical Scholarship at this year's Virtual Missouri State Thespian Conference.

## Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Feb. 24 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education discussed legislation that impacts public schools, approved revisions to the 2020-2021 budget and approved the Memo of Understanding between the District and Annie's Hope to provide counseling and interventions to students in the District.

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, March 31, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes a look at the District's projected enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year and an overview of the annual assessment report.

## Nutritional Notes





Successfully managing our food intake through portion control can take the stress out of eating and also alleviate the feeling of "good" and "bad" foods.

There are a number of ways to help control our portions without breaking out the food scale.

- **Use your plate as a guide:** Use smaller plates so it looks fuller even though it's smaller. When dividing your plate up, think about making 1/2 of the plate vegetables, 1/4 of the plate protein, 1/4 of the plate complex carbohydrates and limit your high fats to about 1/2 of a tablespoon.
- **Your hands can help measure out portions:** The palm of your hand is a perfect serving of high protein foods like steak and chicken. A fist measures about 1 cup of your complex carbohydrates like rice or potatoes and your thumb is perfect for measuring the high fat foods like butter or oil.
- **When getting takeout, put your food onto a plate or bowl so you can see it:** Eating out of to-go containers can cause overeating. It's much easier to disregard the portions and just keep eating when you can't get a good look at what you're consuming. This also helps with overeating out of boredom or simply because the food is right in front of you.

## Focus On: Staying Productive Until Spring

The dark days of winter will soon come to a close. As March is now just a few days away, warmer temperatures are on the horizon. Until we begin experiencing consistent spring-like days, it's critical for us to [remain productive on a regular basis](#). Here are a few tips:

- Set **exciting goals** for the coming warmer months.
- Spend **time outside** on sunny days, even if it's chilly.
- Take **mental health** days to reboot.
- Try **journaling or blogging**.
- Add **more omega-3's** such as chia seeds, walnuts or flax seeds into your diet.

## Calendar

March 1 - Due Date to change 4th Quarter Learning Option

March 5 - Sixth Grade WMS Course Selection Forms Due to Elementary School Offices

March 8 - WMS Virtual PTO Meeting @ 9 a.m.

March 11 - CPT Virtual PTO Meeting @ 7 p.m.

March 11 - GLN Science Fair Projects Due

March 11 - GLN Virtual PTO Meeting @ 2 p.m.

March 12 - No School PK-12 / Conference Prep / Grading Day

**March 12 - Next issue of eNews**

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