

November 20, 2020 | claytonschools.net

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Superintendent Update - Nov. 20, 2020

Dear Clayton Community,

We have had all of our in-person learning students back in our buildings for two weeks. While it hasn't been without challenges, it's been so good to see our schools alive with students who are engaged in learning. The students in our buildings who I have talked with appreciate the opportunity to learn with their peers (even though everyone is wearing a face covering and six feet apart).

We continue to look very closely at the positive cases and impacts of quarantines within our schools. Our contact tracing of students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 has not shown any evidence of in-school transmission of the virus. This data indicates that our risk mitigation efforts and quarantine procedures are having their intended effect. However, it's still going to take all of us to be vigilant to keep in-person learning in place at our schools.

One of the most important things we can do as a learning community is to stay home when we are sick or experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms. Making the responsible choice can have a tremendous impact on everyone around you. Choosing to come to school or work with COVID-19 symptoms can lead to those around you being placed in quarantine when it could have otherwise been avoided. The number of students and staff who were quarantined this week could have been significantly reduced if individuals recognized symptoms and chose to stay home. [This video from some of our seniors at CHS reinforces that message.](#)

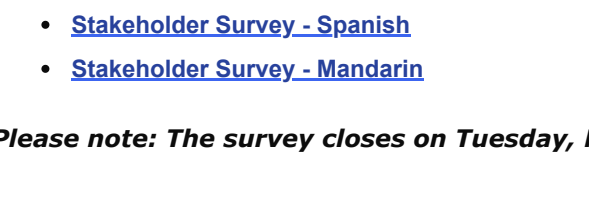
As many of our families get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving, I ask all of us to be mindful of the choices we will make next week. There are countless recommendations about how to celebrate the upcoming holidays safely and things to consider before traveling. We have also included [some information](#) on our website and in this week's edition of eNews. This pandemic has and will cause us all to make some difficult personal choices. Please be mindful how your choices can impact you and others.

All my best to you and your families for a safe, restful and peaceful Thanksgiving.

Sean N. Doherty

Superintendent

You're Invited to Share Your Thoughts



When Superintendent Sean Doherty announced his intention to retire from the School District of Clayton at the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the Board of Education committed to conducting a national search for Clayton's next superintendent. An important part of the search process is hearing what the Clayton community is looking for in its next superintendent.

In addition to meeting with a variety of stakeholder groups, the search firm McPherson & Jacobson L.L.C. is soliciting input from the broader Clayton community about the District's next superintendent. All of the input gathered from the virtual stakeholder meetings and online survey will be shared with the Board of Education to help inform the search process.

Please click on one of the links below to share your input:

- [Stakeholder Survey - English](#)
- [Stakeholder Survey - Spanish](#)
- [Stakeholder Survey - Mandarin](#)

Please note: The survey closes on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Updates and a timeline for the search are posted at claytonschools.net/superintendentsearch.

Family Gatherings/Travel for the Holidays

As we get ready for Thanksgiving Break, please consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your family and friends safe and minimize the spread of illness once classes resume after the break.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offers a [number of considerations for how your holiday plans can be modified](#) to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families and communities healthy and safe.

The most recent guidelines recommend limiting holiday gatherings to those within your household and avoiding travel. Precautions and safety measures do make a difference and will give us the best chance of continuing to offer in-person learning. To keep our schools open, it will require all of us working together and taking the necessary precautions. Please continue to be diligent about following safety protocols, including mask-wearing, physical distancing and staying home when sick.

Current CDC [Guidelines for Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) state that travel increases your chance of getting and spreading COVID-19. If you do make the decision to travel, take these actions to protect others from getting sick after you return:

- When around others, [stay at least 6 feet](#) (about 2 arms' length) from other people who are not from your household. It is important to do this everywhere, both indoors and outdoors.
- Wear a [mask](#) to keep your nose and mouth covered when you are outside of your home.
- [Wash your hands](#) often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Monitor your health and look for [symptoms of COVID-19](#). Take your temperature if you feel sick.

Board of Education Election Notice



Filing for the Board of Education Election will begin on **Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020, at 8 a.m.** and 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 due to COVID-19. For an appointment, call 314-854-6017 or [email Sandy Menchella](#).

Ballot order for all candidates who file by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15 will be determined by random drawing. Candidates filing after Dec. 15 will be placed on the ballot in the order of filing. Appointments for filing will not occur or be accepted on days the District office is closed due to inclement weather, the COVID-19 pandemic or on the following dates:
Dec. 23, 2020 through Jan. 4, 2021 and Jan. 18, 2021

Candidates must wear a face covering and observe the District's mitigation measures at the time of filing.

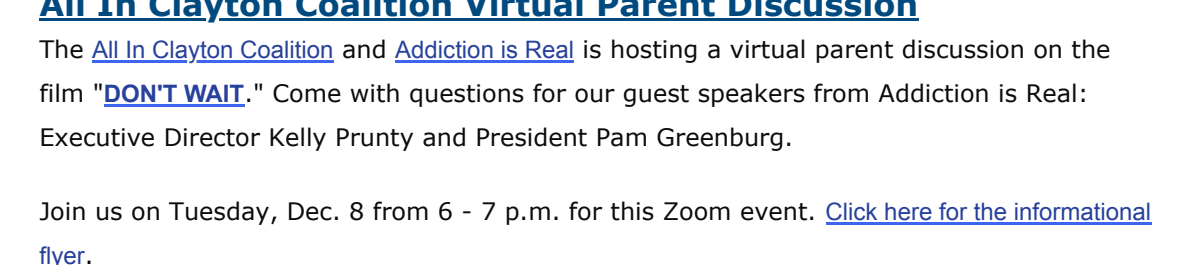
The terms of Vice President Amy Rubin and Treasurer Jason Wilson expire in April 2021. Two directors will be elected on April 6, 2021.

Get Together to Stay Together

Now that all of our students have returned to in-person learning, we need to work together to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission in a way that will sustain in-person learning over time.

In order for us to stay in school, all of us need to take care of each other and be accountable for our actions. We agree with these CHS seniors. We'd much rather see our students in person than on a screen.

Click on the image below to watch this brief video.



PAC.ED News

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](#).

The CARES Act Makes More Donations Deductible

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act includes up to a \$300 charitable donation deduction per taxpayer, whether they itemize or not. Only money given to tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations, like the [Clayton Education Foundation](#), counts toward the \$300 limit.

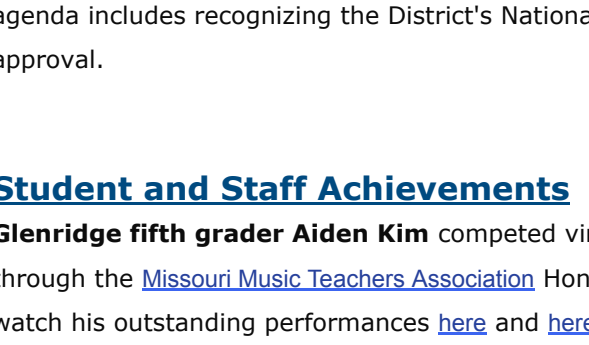
Donated stock, furniture, clothes or other goods and services are not eligible nor are donations to donor-advised funds.

In addition, individuals may elect to deduct donations up to 100 percent of 2020 adjusted gross income. Corporations may deduct up to 25 percent of taxable income.

It's easy to donate to the Clayton Education Foundation, you can do so [online](#) or by mailing a check to [#2 Mark Twain Circle, Clayton, MO 63105](#). Please make all checks payable to **Clayton Education Foundation**.

Please consult your tax advisor for complete details and to verify your eligibility.

Grab n' Go Meal Service



The School District of Clayton's Grab n' Go Meal Meal Service has limited days left in 2020.

Grab n' Go meal bags are currently available every Monday for our students participating in the **Learn@Home option**. Since all students will be learning from home on Monday, Nov. 23 through Tuesday, Dec. 1, the District is

expanding its service next week.

Please note: On Monday, Nov. 23, Grab n' Go meals will be available to **all families in the District** from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the front entrance of Clayton High School. This is a drive up service so please pull up to the curb and let the volunteers know how many children (age 0 - 17) live in your household. One meal bag per child will be brought out to your car. Each bag will contain six breakfast meals and six lunches for the week.

Mark your calendars for these remaining 2020 dates for meal service:

- Monday, Nov. 23*
- Monday, Nov. 30
- Monday, Dec. 7
- Monday, Dec. 14
- Monday, Dec. 21*

*** On these dates only, service times will run from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

All In Clayton Coalition Virtual Parent Discussion

The [All In Clayton Coalition](#) and [Addiction is Real](#) is hosting a virtual parent discussion on the film **"DON'T WAIT."** Come with questions for our guest speakers from Addiction is Real: Executive Director Kelly Prunty and President Pam Greenburg.

Join us on Tuesday, Dec. 8 from 6 - 7 p.m. for this Zoom event. [Click here for the informational flyer](#).

Even if you didn't have a chance to watch the film, you can still join the conversation and leave feeling empowered to educate and set boundaries with your kids on substance use.

The next meeting for All In is Tuesday, Dec. 1 from 4 - 5 p.m. via Zoom. Please [email Kim Shernoy](#) for the link and more information.

Equity & Inclusion Update

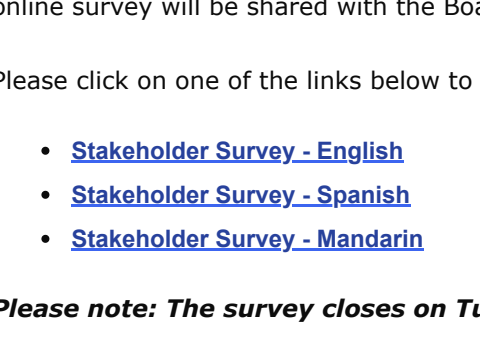
The District's Equity Committee is taking shape and will be meeting for the first time in the next couple of weeks. Great work is on the horizon for the School District of Clayton.

Check out the latest edition of [The Equity Corner](#) where we talk about the importance of empowering "Equity Change Agents" and why that will be the focal point of the committee. Also, don't forget to follow our equity work on [Twitter @CP_EdEquity](#).

Take Care!

[Cameron Poole](#)

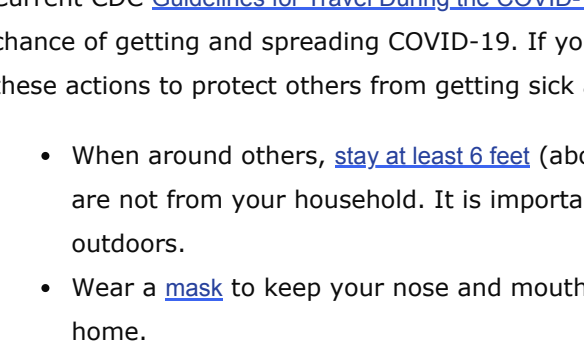
SSD Staff and Community Award Nominations



It is important to recognize those who go above and beyond with their work. Special School District (SSD) has a long history of celebrating outstanding teachers, paraprofessionals, community members and other SSD employees who stand out for their tremendous work in helping our students succeed.

Each spring, the District honors these individuals with a number of awards. [Nominations](#) are being accepted until Friday, Dec. 18 for the [SSD Salutes awards](#). These annual awards honor staff and community members who go above and beyond in their work to support SSD's mission and values.

WMS Seventh Grader Featured in St. Louis Magazine



WMS seventh grader Noni Murphy and her mom, Julie, are featured in [St. Louis Magazine](#) for launching their own newspaper, the Westmoreland Weekly, to keep Clayton residents connected during the pandemic.

On Sunday mornings, Noni delivered the paper to more than 20 Clayton residents in her neighborhood.

Noni came to the idea that a newspaper for their neighborhood would be a great way to keep everyone connected and Julie was right by her side as she too missed the support system that disappeared because of COVID-19.

[Read the entire St. Louis Magazine article here](#).

Photo courtesy of Carmen Troesser, St. Louis Magazine

Board Brief

Review the latest edition of [The Board Brief](#) from the Nov. 11 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board approved the District's new strategic plan, reviewed policy updates, discussed building safety plans and gender neutral bathrooms.

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, Dec. 16, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes recognizing the District's National Merit students and policy review and approval.

Student and Staff Achievements

Glenridge fifth grader Aiden Kim competed virtually in the State Piano Competition through the [Missouri Music Teachers Association](#) Honors Auditions and won first place. You can watch his outstanding performances [here](#) and [here](#). Kim also won second place for String-Cello.

The Globe has been named an [NSPA Pacemaker finalist](#) for the 2019-2020 school year. The National Scholastic Press Association has named 60 scholastic student newspapers, newsmagazines and specialty magazines as finalists in its prestigious Pacemaker competition. The Globe's [Pandemic issue](#) is a finalist in the national [COVID-19 Coverage](#) category and **CHS sophomore Ivy Reed** is a finalist in two national individual categories:

- [Sport Story of the Year](#) for her piece on [Missouri legislation on transgender athletes](#).
- [Her portfolio](#) as [Writer of the Year](#).

CHS senior Kameron-Khari Williams has been selected for [The College Board National African American Recognition Program](#). He earned this recognition because of his remarkable academic achievements and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT.

Nutritional Notes

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.



Trying to think of a simple, inexpensive, healthy ingredient to your meals this fall? Think about beans. They boast a number of health benefits and as the weather cools off they are a great addition to many recipes, making meals a bit heartier.

Beans are packed with protein and fiber, while low in fat. The recommended daily

intake of fiber is 25 to 38 grams per day and beans typically have anywhere from 8 to 15 grams per serving. Fiber is found to help keep us regular, protect against high cholesterol, high blood pressure and other digestive illnesses.

Beans can be added to soups, pureed to add thickness, added to increase texture and even roasted to add a crispiness to your recipes. Some other beans to try that you may not typically think of are chickpeas and lentils.

Focus On: Staying Productive this Thanksgiving

These next several weeks can feel like a personal and professional whirlwind. Distractions are everywhere and it feels like there are a million loose ends to finish up before the end of the year.

Fortunately, [there are a few ways](#) you can be more productive and focused during the holiday season. Getting more work done in less time can help you to enjoy the holiday season more, take a look at these few tips:

- Don't take your work home.
- Take a few days off.
- Keep a "do not forget list".
- Set time limits for specific tasks.
- Take care of your body and soul.

Calendar

Nov. 23 - Grab n' Go Meals Available for All District Families @ 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Nov. 23-34 - Remote Synchronous Learning PK-12 and SSD Students

Nov. 25 - No School PK-12/Teacher Conference Comp Day

Nov. 26-27 - District Closed: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30-Dec. 1 - Remote Synchronous Learning PK-12 and SSD Students

Dec. 4 - Next issue of eNews

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