

December 18, 2020 | claytonschools.net

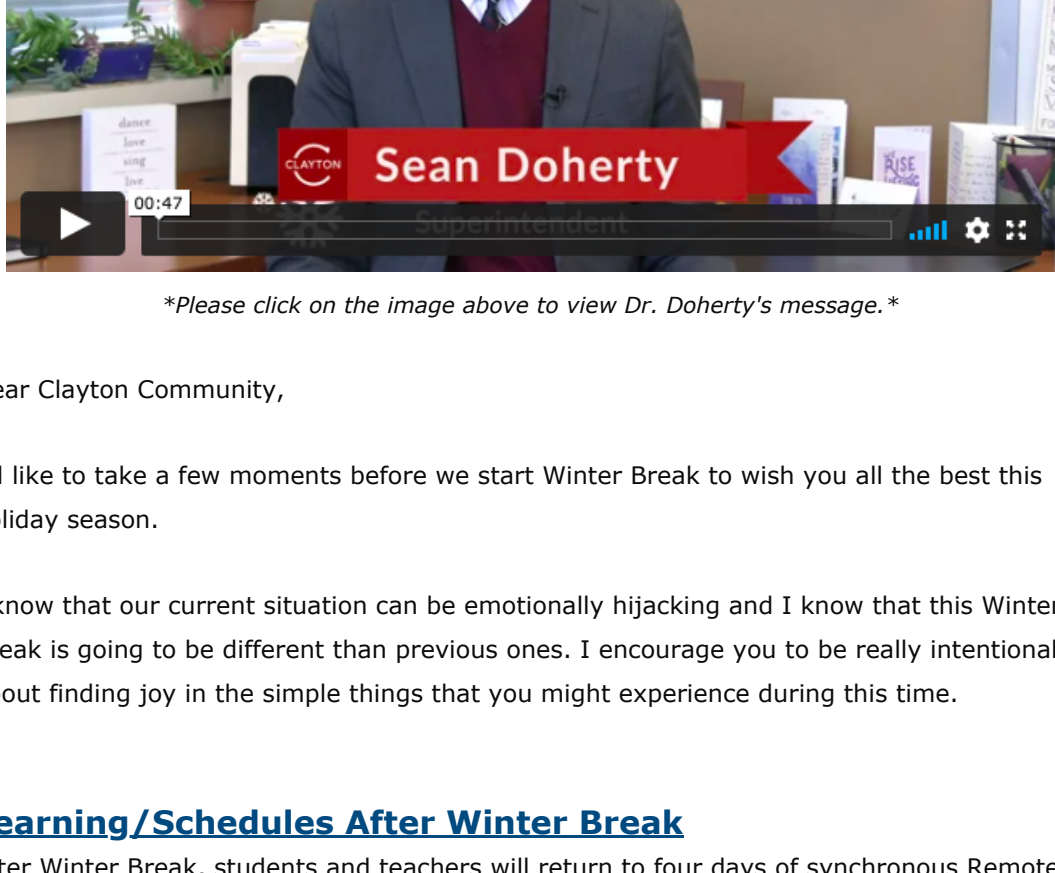
Top Three Things in this Issue:

[Learning/Schedules After Winter Break](#)

[Children for Charity](#)

[Board of Education Election Notice](#)

Superintendent Message - Dec. 18, 2020



Please click on the image above to view Dr. Doherty's message.

Dear Clayton Community,

I'd like to take a few moments before we start Winter Break to wish you all the best this holiday season.

I know that our current situation can be emotionally hijacking and I know that this Winter Break is going to be different than previous ones. I encourage you to be really intentional about finding joy in the simple things that you might experience during this time.

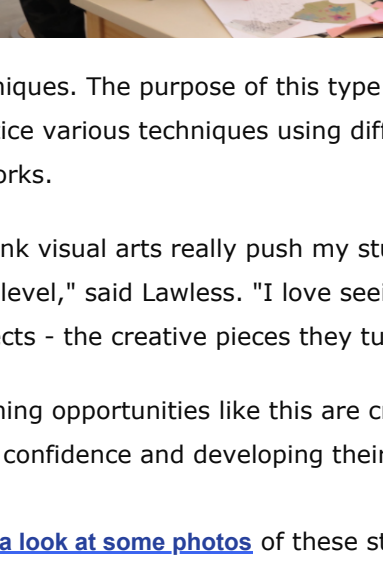
Learning/Schedules After Winter Break

After Winter Break, students and teachers will return to four days of synchronous Remote Learning from Jan. 5 - Jan. 8, 2021. In-person learning, for students who have chosen to learn at school, will resume on Monday, Jan. 11. Upcoming synchronous Remote Learning dates are noted below:

- Dec. 21/22 – Synchronous Remote Learning before Winter Break
- Jan. 5-8 – Synchronous Remote Learning after Winter Break
- Jan. 11 – In-Person Learning Resumes

When classes resume after Winter Break, schools will follow the same schedules they are currently following, with in-person elementary students attending every day and in-person middle and high school students following the same hybrid schedule that has been in place since Nov. 9. Students who are Learning at Home will continue with their selected option.

Children for Charity



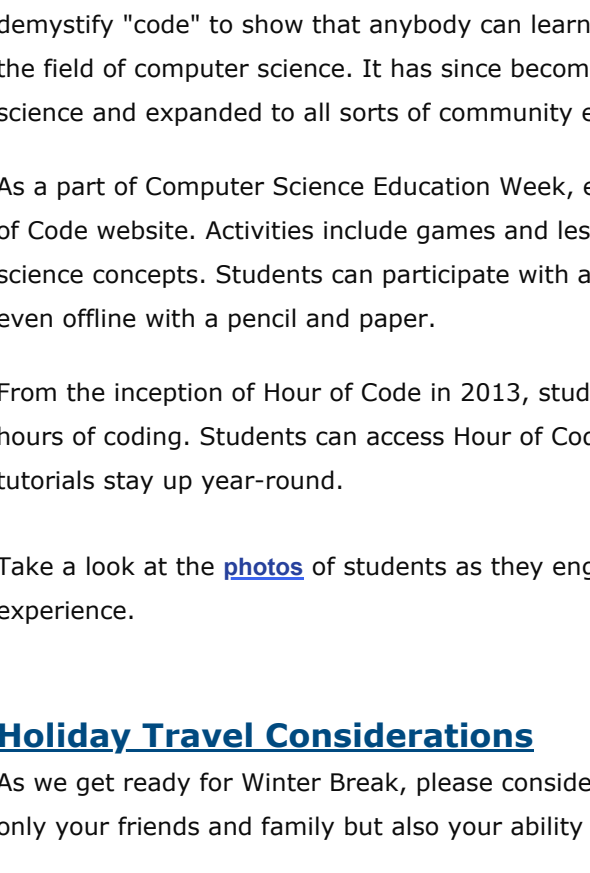
Children for Charity (CFC) is a nonprofit organization founded by two Clayton High School seniors, **Anna Walsh** and **AJ Ackerburg**. The goal of this charity is to get younger students in Clayton involved in volunteer work outside of their community.

Clayton kids grow up living in a bubble and most of them are unaware of what many other communities look like. Younger students need opportunities to experience the world outside of the Clayton community.

Once COVID-19 subsides, CFC will provide transportation for volunteers, Children for Charity group leaders, to and from volunteer sites. With this opportunity, younger students living in Clayton will develop a deeper understanding of how fortunate they are and gain qualities of empathy and cultural competency, the two important qualities identified in the District's Profile of a Graduate.

There will be adult supervision on the bus rides as well as at the volunteer sites for the safety of the children. Please visit the [Children for Charity website](#) and the [Children for Charity Facebook](#) page. If interested in being involved in Children for Charity [please send an email](#).

Wydown Students Learn New Art Techniques



Wydown students in a class led by Art Instructor Molly Lawless are creating mixed media still-life artwork, which focuses on techniques they learn with pen/ink, colored pencils and graphite pencils.

Some techniques these students use include stippling, cross hatching, hatching and various blending

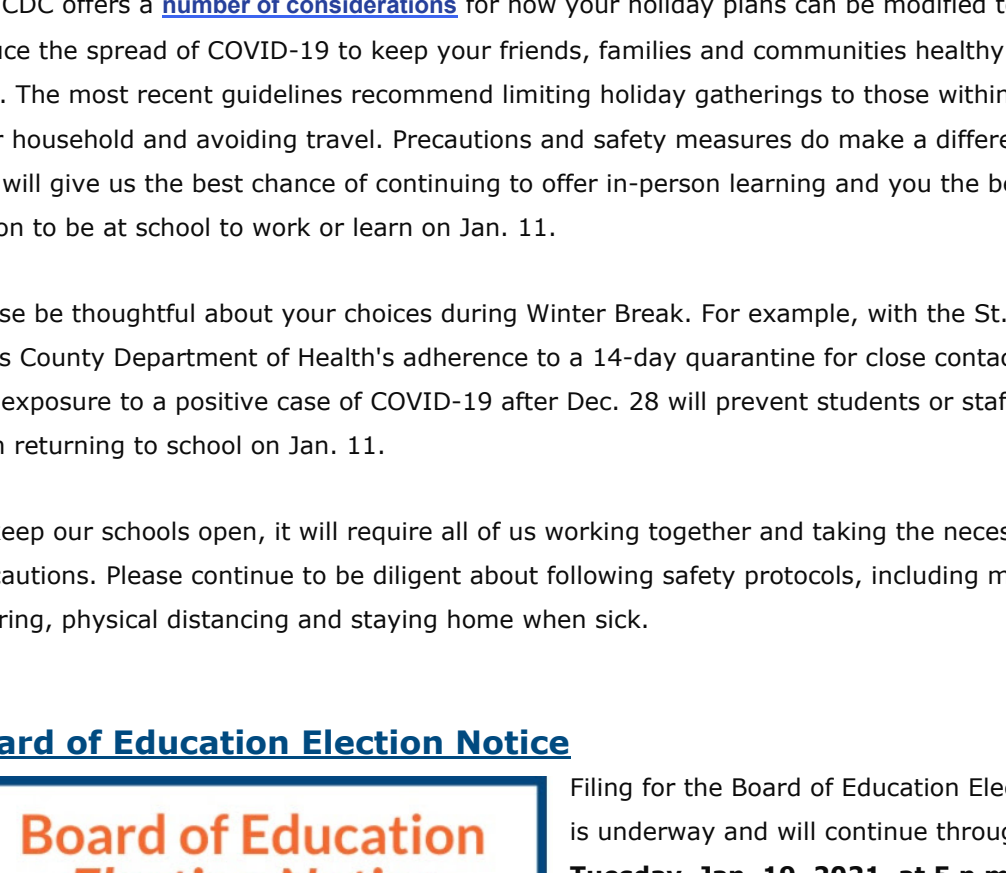
techniques. The purpose of this type of creative learning is for students to learn and practice various techniques using different media, so they can better diversify their future artworks.

"I think visual arts really push my students' creativity and divergent thinking skills to the next level," said Lawless. "I love seeing them when they are truly engaged in these projects - the creative pieces they turn are just amazing."

Learning opportunities like this are critical to fine-tuning students' motor skills, growing their confidence and developing their visual-spatial skills.

[Take a look at some photos](#) of these students engaging in their learning.

Elementary Students Participate in Hour of Code



☐ ☐ **Please click on the image above to view the Hour of Code video.**

Elementary students across the District learned a few things about the language of computers during the [Hour of Code](#), an annual event that takes place during [Computer Science Education Week](#). This is the sixth year that Clayton elementary schools have participated.

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify "code" to show that anybody can learn the basics and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science and expanded to all sorts of community efforts.

As a part of Computer Science Education Week, educators choose an activity from the Hour of Code website. Activities include games and lessons that teach students simple computer science concepts. Students can participate with a desktop computer, tablet, smartphone or even offline with a pencil and paper.

From the inception of Hour of Code in 2013, students have logged more than 1-billion hours of coding. Students can access Hour of Code activities at any time because the tutorials stay up year-round.

Take a look at the [photos](#) of students as they engage in this educational learning experience.

Holiday Travel Considerations

As we get ready for Winter Break, please consider how your holiday plans could impact not only your friends and family but also your ability to return to school or work after break.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its travel guidance and now recommends quarantining for seven days and getting tested after travel to most places outside of the United States. You can view a [summary of the travel recommendations by destination here](#).

Regarding travel, the CDC recommends that the [safest thing to do is stay home](#). Any decision to travel, depending on your return date, could affect a student's ability to return to in-person learning. If you do make the decision travel, please take these actions to protect others from getting sick after you return:

- Consider getting tested with a viral test three to five days after your trip and reduce non-essential activities for a full seven days after travel, even if your test is negative. If you don't get tested, consider reducing non-essential activities for 10 days.
- When around others, stay at least 6 feet (about two 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.

The 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 and you the best option to be at school to work or learn on Jan. 11.

Please be thoughtful about your choices during Winter Break. For example, with the St. Louis County Department of Health's adherence to a 14-day quarantine for close contacts, any exposure to a positive case of COVID-19 after Dec. 28 will prevent students or staff from returning to school on Jan. 11.

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.

Board of Education Election Notice



Filing for the Board of Education Election is underway and will 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 only due to COVID-19. For an

appointment, call 314-854-6017 or [email Sandy Menchella](#).

Ballot order for the candidates who filed by 5 p.m. on Dec. 15 were 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.

PAC.ED Information & Inclusive Schools Week

[PAC.ED](#) is the Parent Advisory Council of Children with Educational Diversity that advocates for awareness, understanding, equity and inclusion of and for all children with disabilities in the School District of Clayton.

This volunteer organization is made up of parents, Clayton and Special School District (SSD) staff and administrators, as well as community members and 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](#).

There is also still time to participate in the [poster and essay contests](#) available through the [Inclusive Schools Week](#) event as well as submit nominations for the Inclusion Awards. The deadline has been extended to Jan. 31, 2021.

Grab n' Go Meal Service Schedule

On Monday, Dec. 21, 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. Service on Dec. 21 will include two

weeks worth of meals. **Please note: There will be no meal service on Monday, Dec. 28.**

Starting in January, Grab n' Go Meal Service will run according to the schedule below:

- Monday, Jan. 4 - Learn@Home students only | 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, Jan. 11 - Learn@Home students only | 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 19** - Learn@Home students only | 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Monday, Jan. 25 - Learn@Home students only | 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

The Fun of the First Snow

Family Center learners certainly had fun playing in the season's first snow this week.

These young students were more than happy to let a little dusting qualify as the first snowfall and a reason to bundle up and head outdoors.

[Take a look](#) at how the District's youngest learners engaged in some fun snow-play.

Diversity Recruitment & Networking Fair - Jan. 16

The School District of Clayton's annual Diversity Recruitment and Networking Fair will be held virtually on **Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021** from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m.

The goal of this event is to recruit and build a faculty that reflects the diversity in our schools. Candidates participating in this event will be interviewed and have

an opportunity to network with current Clayton teachers of color and other staff members. District staff looks forward to meeting experienced teachers and college students majoring in education who are interested in teaching for the School District of Clayton.

To schedule an appointment, start the [application process](#). These steps include completing the online application and uploading a resume. As applications and resumes are received, the District will email invitations to schedule interview times for Saturday, Jan. 16. The application deadline is Jan. 8 or until all slots are filled.

[Take a look](#) at what a few of Clayton's diverse educators have to say about working in the District.

[The Equity Corner](#)

Last week I had the opportunity to watch the Clayton Community Equity Commission's meeting. As I browsed through past agendas from the [Community Equity Commission meetings](#), I stumbled across some information about their efforts to address calls about a suspicious person.

The nature of these calls were rarely linked to illegal activity, but a vast majority of them did have a common denominator - the "suspicious person" was Black. In my opinion, you cannot separate a school from the community in which it dwells in. When we look at our disproportionate numbers within the School District of Clayton, they tell a similar story. As the community goes, so do our schools. If we want our schools to continue to improve in creating an inclusive environment with anti-bias anti-racist foundations, the community must do the same.

Continue reading the latest edition of The Equity Corner, "[Equity is a Community Effort](#)" 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 Dec. 16 electronic Board of Education meeting. The Board recognized the CHS National Merit Scholars, passed a resolution honoring Inclusive Schools Week and approved the District's annual independent audit.

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, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m.** The tentative agenda includes policy review and approval, budget planning and an equity update.

[Nutritional Notes](#)

From Chartwells Director of Dining Services Michelle Fohey.



With the holiday season comes baking season! All the extra desserts and holiday treats can make it tough to stay on track with healthy eating habits.

Below are some ingredient substitutions to try when baking. You can even swap them out with your original recipe if you forgot to get everything from the store.

- Unsweetened applesauce or mashed bananas in place of sugar
- Greek yogurt in place of sour cream
- Prune or fig puree in place of butter or margarine
- Powdered peanut butter in place of regular peanut butter
- Oats in place of flour

[Focus On: Mental Recovery During the Holidays](#)

These upcoming days filled with the holiday rush can be both exciting and mentally draining. It's the time of year most of us look forward to - everything is beautifully decorated, traditions are being celebrated and it's the perfect opportunity to take time off from work. Still, during the rush, things can get stressful and cause undue frustration.

Here are [a few ways](#) you can mentally decompress and enjoy your holiday:

- [Focus on what you can control](#). You can't control what your parents say around the dinner table or your kids' attitudes. When you choose to let go of what you can't control, you'll automatically reduce the amount of stress in your life by refusing to carry other people's problems.
- [Limit your time on social media](#). Spend more time looking at your loved one's than staring at a screen. Those perfect Instagram and Facebook feeds won't do anything but cause you to compare your holiday to someone else's.
- [Accept that this year will be different](#). This year, we all know what it's like to deal with the disappointment of canceled plans. Whatever changes get made, remember to reset your expectations because these circumstances aren't "normal."
- [Don't overdo it on the sugar](#). Don't overindulge on that delicious chocolate fudge or Grandma's famous sugar cookies. Too much sugar interferes with your natural hormone responses, your blood sugar and insulin levels and your brain's neurotransmitters. Remember to consume in moderation.

[Calendar](#)

Dec. 21/22 - Synchronous Remote Learning: PK-12

Dec. 23-31 - Winter Break

Dec. 24/25 - District Office Closed

Dec. 31/Jan. 1 - District Office Closed

Jan. 4 - No School PK-12: Grading Day

Jan. 5-8 - Synchronous Remote Learning: PK-12

Jan. 11 - In-Person Learning Resumes

Jan. 15 - No School PK-12: Professional Learning Day

Jan. 15 - Next issue of eNews

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