

# The Anchor

The Clayton School District Newsletter



Spring /Summer 2023

Herma Simmons Elementary School

Clayton Middle School

Clayton High School

*Preparing Students for Present and Future Opportunities*

# CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Board of Education

Mr. Koutsogiannis, Superintendent



Dear Clayton Community:

In academia, the final weeks of school often feel like a New Year’s celebration, as we close out one school year and look toward the next. This year, we have much to celebrate in our district, beginning with our academic programs which have earned State recognition.

In May, we were notified that the State has named Clayton as a High Performing School District. We earned this designation after a QSAC review, a strenuous examination of our practices and accomplishments by the State of NJ. Our score was based on multiple factors, including the quality of our district’s governance procedures and our success at meeting instructional benchmarks. This is an exceptional accomplishment, and I’m proud of our administrators, teachers, and students, all of whom played a role in our district earning this recognition.

We are also celebrating our State ranking, which places Clayton High School as the #3 high school in Gloucester county as well as the high school with the most gains. I attribute this achievement to the commitment and investments the district has made in social emotional learning, counseling



**Herma Simmons Elementary**



**Clayton Middle School**



**Clayton High School**

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# DISTRICT NEWS AND EVENTS

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## Superintendent's Letter to the Community (continued)

services, professional development, and curriculum. Simmons Elementary also ranked high, scoring 9<sup>th</sup> in the county.

Our Band and Drama programs continue to make us proud with outstanding performances in the PAC year after year. On the world stage, our students often distinguish themselves competitively. This year, two of our seniors were awarded significant scholarships to the highly competitive New York Film Academy.

On the field, Clayton's Athletic Program has proven once again that our teams and coaches are exceptional. We're celebrating our Girls' Soccer win - TCC Classic Division; Indoor Track Girls - Sectional and State Group 1; Bowling – Boys – Classic Division Title; Girl's Track - Sectional title, and Softball - Sectional title.

In September, our football, soccer and track teams will compete in our new stadium which will become a source of pride and celebrations for years to come. Haupt Field Stadium is outfitted with ADA accessible bleachers, expanded parking, and an all-purpose turf field that can accommodate three different sports. This achievement was decades in the making – always a dream deferred due to budget constraints. This year, we were able to build a brand new, state-of-the-art stadium with no increase to our school budget. This is certainly something to celebrate.

As we begin our summer break, we can look back on the 2022-2023 school year with pride. Our successes this year have set the bar high for next year, when we face new challenges, new competi-

tions, and new state mandates. I am confident that we'll find much to celebrate in the 2023-2024 school year, as we continue on the path of excellence. Have a safe and relaxing summer. See you in September!

Mr. Koutsogiannis

Follow this link to view our 2023-2024 district calendar.

<https://claytonps.org/calendar-events/>

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# DISTRICT NEWS AND EVENTS

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## Haupt Field Stadium



# CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Herma Simmons Elementary School**

**Mr. Scott Uribe, Principal**

## Message from Mr. Uribe:

As I reflect on the many wonderful things that happened this school year, there is one thing that is certain--I am truly fortunate and honored to have been the principal of this outstanding learning community. The year has been uplifting and exhausting, amazing and inspiring. However, it was full of hard work and wonderful learning experiences for all of our students.

This year would not have been possible without the incredible and undying support from our parents, guardians, faculty, staff, and of course, our wonderful students. Thank you for your patience, partnership, and positivity.

To our fifth graders who are preparing to leave on a new adventure, I encourage you to stay focused, work hard, set wonderful goals for your life, and know that you will always have a home here at Herma Simmons Elementary School. Best wishes to you now and always.

I hope that everyone enjoys a safe and relaxing summer break!

Nothing Short of Excellence!



Mr. Uribe  
Principal



Boosterthon Fun!



CCC Staff at Spring Spectacular

## ADMINISTRATION

**Mr. Scott Uribe, Principal**

**Ms. Taryn Simmons, Assistant Principal**

**Ms. Tanya Clark, District Supervisor, Curriculum and Instruction**

**Mr. Greg Esposito, CST Supervisor**

**Ms. Alicia Fragoso, Early Childhood Supervisor**

**Mr. Joe Valentino, District Supervisor of Guidance**

**Ms. Kate Hallinan, Clayton Model Program Coordinator**

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# SIMMONS NEWS AND EVENTS

## Clayton Model Continues to Grow

The Clayton Model, also known as the Child Connection Center (CCC), has seen an exciting year of expansion. This proactive, trauma informed Social Emotional Learning (SEL) program continues to grow across Gloucester County. Originally incorporated into five schools, the Clayton Model is now successfully implemented into nine schools within the county. Housed at Herma Simmons, the



CCC provides students with individual, small group, whole classroom and whole school supports to ensure that students are able to enter the classroom ready to learn and achieve.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, New Jersey Department of Education's acting Commissioner Angelica Allen-McMillan visited Herma Simmons Elementary School. During her visit,

she stopped by the Child Connection Center and participated in some sensory therapy with SEL specialist Cathleen Summerfield.

Recently, the CCC staff joined in on the fun at Clayton's Spring Spectacular and assisted students in making positive self-talk bracelets to help them focus and encourage positive self-feelings



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# SIMMONS NEWS AND EVENTS

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This year's Boosterthon raised \$16,000! Funds will be used to upgrade the Herma Simmons playground! To celebrate reaching the goal, students had fun turning Mrs. Simmons into a Human Cheeseburger!



Our 4th Graders traveled to Red Bank Battlefield, located along the banks of the Delaware River. This historic park commemorates an important battle fought during the American Revolution.

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# SIMMONS NEWS AND EVENTS

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## Congratulations Fifth Grade Class of 2023





# CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Clayton Middle School**

**Mr. Marvin Tucker, Principal**

Message from Mr. Tucker:

The school year has come to an end with anticipation of a fun-filled summer! To say Clayton Middle School had busy bustling school days with bountiful events to close out the year, would be an understatement!

The school year started with a positive atmosphere buzzing throughout the halls. The month of May opened up with our middle school's play *Frozen Jr.*, which was well presented and well attended! Our sixth grade shot off their rockets, in Mr. Baker's annual Rocket Science Project, which is always exciting! The annual spelling bee was grand with the spellers going through many rounds of words. It was a wonderful night! The district's Spring Spectacular was spectacular! Students from kindergarten through high school seniors were present, as well as many vendors, food trucks and activities. Even though it was held inside due to rain, it was an enjoyable experience with opportunities to win gift cards, baskets and an electric bike!

The month of June was just as exhilarating with a visit from the fifth graders! Fifth grade students took a tour of our middle school and were introduced to their teachers and learned about our middle school's expectations with Captain Joe. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders were not able to attend their annual Dorney Park Trip; however, they enjoyed a day at the Fun Plex and had a great time just the same, without the long bus ride! A good time was had by all!

We held a successful eighth grade promotion ceremony this year in the Performing Arts Center. A significant number of people were present to support our eighth-grade students, as they closed one chapter in their lives and opened another chapter, entitled, high school. Smiles and congratulatory words of encouragement filled the Performing Arts Center. Finally, our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students were treated to dinner and a dance after the ceremony. What a great way to end the school year!



*Mr. Tucker*



Captain Joe Welcomes our Rising 6th Graders.



21st Century Leaders volunteer at the community garden

## ADMINISTRATION

**Mr. Marvin Tucker, Principal**

**Mr. Wayne Copeland, 21st Century**

**Mr. Matthew Slater, Assistant Principal**

**Program Director**

**Ms. Tanya Clark, District Supervisor, Curriculum and Instruction**

**Ms. Susan Verrico, Literacy Specialist**

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# CLAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

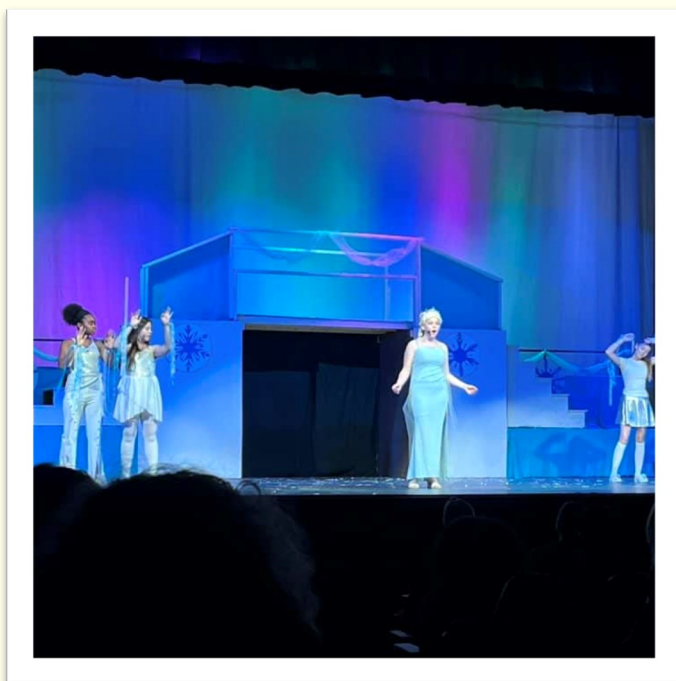
## NEWS AND EVENTS

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Clayton Middle School's 7th Grade Class went on a Constitutional Walking Tour in Philadelphia, where they head about many of our nation's historic sights.



Our middle school's drama club did a phenomenal job with two performances of *Frozen, Jr.* Congratulations to all involved with this awesome production.





# CLAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 21ST CENTURY LEADER'S PROGRAM



### 21st Century LEADERS Program Gears Up for Summer Fun and Learning.

The 21ST Century LEADERS program had a busy spring with classes in cooking, art sculpture, gardening, fitness, and more. Students went skating and visited a community garden. Parents were invited to learn more about the program's goals and activities as they joined their students for a night of games and dinner. The program is currently accepting applications for its summer program which begins on July 10th. Applications can be picked up at the middle school office. For more information, contact Mr. Copeland at [wcopeland@claytonps.org](mailto:wcopeland@claytonps.org).



Field trips and classes are aligned with the program's STEAM focus—Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics.

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# CHS NEWS AND EVENTS

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## Congratulations

### Clayton Middle School Class of 2023!



# CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Clayton High School

Mr. Joe Visalli, Principal

Message from Mr. Visalli:

As we began the 4<sup>th</sup> marking period, we knew we were close to wrapping up a very successful school year. Some of the highlights included our school musical, *"You're a Good Man Charlie Brown,"* which hit the stage this spring; It was a huge success and collected many awards in this year's Cappies ceremony.

The spring concert played to a large and appreciative crowd in the Performing Arts Center.

Our 3rd annual People's Choice Award ceremony was held in the Performing Arts Center, as was our JROTC awards ceremony which honored our cadets.

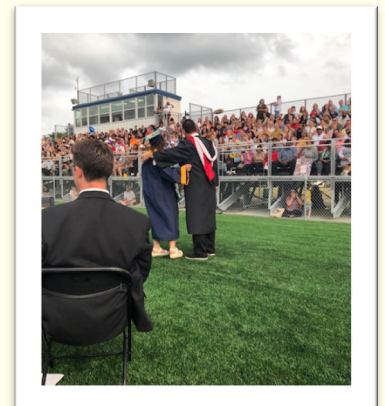
We then turned our attention turned to the Senior class. We held a Seniors' award night at Masso's restaurant, during which scholarships were awarded and the Senior video premiered.

The Seniors had a great time visiting Mickey and Minnie, as they returned to Disney World for their senior trip. When they returned to school, it was time to get ready for our Junior/Senior Prom at Brigalias. This event had more than 200 students in attendance. Other Seniors activities included the Role Model Breakfast, the Simmons' Walk and finally graduation night.

All in all, we had a great end to the school year, and we are already looking forward to next year! Have a great summer!



Mr. Visalli  
Principal



CHS Graduation



JROTC Military Ball

## ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Joe Visalli, Principal

Mr. Dan Antonelli, Assistant Principal  
and Athletic Director

Ms. Tanya Clark, District Supervisor,  
Curriculum and Instruction

Mr. Joe Valentino, District Supervisor of  
Guidance

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# CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Unified PE Class Activities

The Unified PE class took a walking field trip to Twinkiss, along with Unified Bowling. Students were able to look over the menu, place their orders, and socialize with their peers.

In May, the Unified PE class participated in a Unified Track Invitational at Delsea. Clayton students participated in events along with students from 10 other schools.



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# CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### JROTC Activities

*T*he JROTC cadets participate in Clayton's Memorial Day Parade.



*B*elow, cadets enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing at their Military Ball.



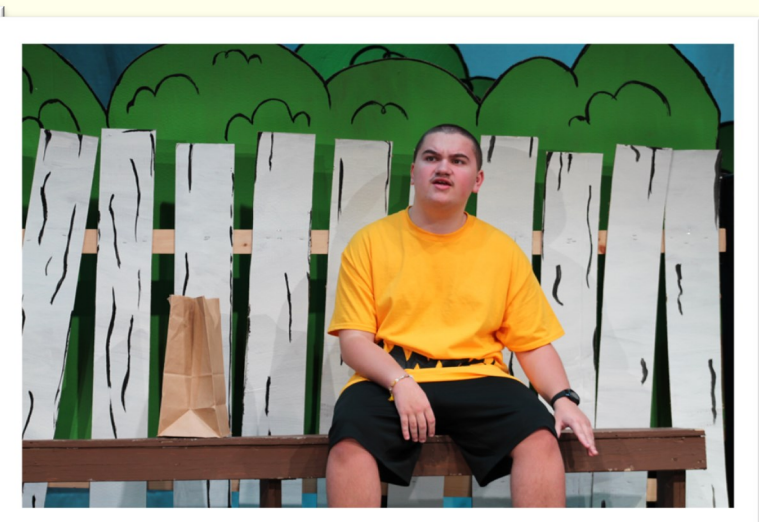
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# CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

## DRAMA ACTIVITIES

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### *Spring Production of You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*





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# CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

## SPRING ATHLETICS

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**Congratulations to Lady Clipper's Softball  
Tri-County Classic Division Champs!  
SJ Group 1 Sectional Champs!  
27-2 Record!**

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# CLAYTON HIGH SCHOOL

## SPRING ATHLETICS

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**Congratulations to Clayton Girl's Track!**  
**Undefeated!**  
**Tri-County Conference Classic Division**  
**Championship**

# SPRING SPECTACULAR

*Thank you to everyone who participated and/or attended to help make this a great day. Special shout out to staff, faculty, clubs, advisors and JROTC for all of their help!*



# SPRING SPECTACULAR



# SPRING SPECTACULAR



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# CHS NEWS AND EVENTS

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## **Congratulations Clayton High School Class of 2023!**



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# CHS NEWS AND EVENTS

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## **Congratulations Clayton High School Class of 2023!**

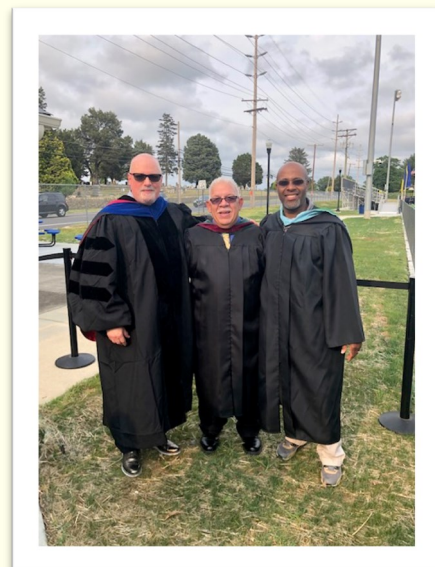


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# CHS NEWS AND EVENTS

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## Congratulations Clayton High School Class of 2023!





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# CHS NEWS AND EVENTS

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