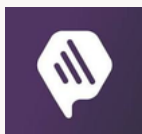




NJ Trees For School Grant

In May, 65 trees were planted at Clayton schools and Haupt Field through a Trees for Schools grant. Clayton Public School District received \$21,643 to cover tree costs over three years. The Green Team Chair, Facilities Manager, and Groundskeeper facilitated successful planting with support from Four Seasons Nursery. Nikolaos Koutsogiannis, the Clayton Public School District Superintendent said, "We are honored to be chosen as recipients of the Trees for Schools grant. The trees are more than just a beautification project, they also provide learning opportunities as our students watch them grow." The grant program is a collaboration between NJ DEP, Sustainable Jersey, and The College of New Jersey, funded by RGGI auction proceeds to plant over 3,000 trees statewide.

For more information visit: <https://bit.ly/TreesforSchools>
 #NJTreesforSchools @SustainableJersey @fourseasonsnurserynj



Introducing Our Social Media & Marketing Campaign

Clayton Public School District is revamping its online image by consistently engaging with the community on Facebook and Instagram, creating online newsletters, and utilizing a single, unified hashtag #claytonclippers. Additionally, an online pop-up store is *coming soon* through BSNSports.com featuring school branded apparel and gear. By prioritizing marketing and social media interactions, the District aims to enhance community engagement, highlight educational initiatives, and increase parental involvement.

To help support the District's marketing and branding efforts, Clayton has partnered with Apptegy: Thrillshare to design a mobile friendly simple-to-use digital app (available for download in Summer 2024!) Thrillshare is built to run on mobile. Parents will have access to their child's school information readily available at the touch of their screen!

More information, coming soon!

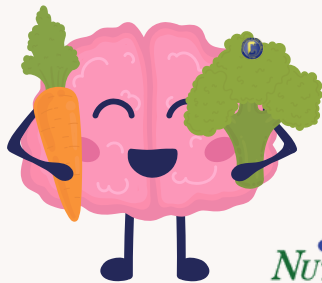


Clipper Updates

#claytonclippers



Nutritious & Delicious



NUTRI-SERVE
FOOD MANAGEMENT, INC.

A well-rounded school lunch program is crucial to providing young minds and bodies with the fuels they need to innovate, create, and explore. With that being said, crafting the perfect school lunch program can be a challenge, but it's definitely worthwhile. Ensuring our students have access to the right healthy school meals is our goal!

Clayton has teamed up with Nutriserve to diversify our menu options and encourage students to get involved in the decision-making process - through fun taste tests, informative surveys and school lunch committees. This collaboration aims to introduce a variety of more appealing, nutritious meal choices that cater to different tastes and dietary needs. By involving students in the decision-making process, we empower them to make informed choices about their meals while also fostering a sense of ownership and pride in their school lunch program. Together, we are on a journey to enhance the school lunch program, setting our students up for success in and out of the classroom.

To check your student's lunch account, make a payment or add funds, [click](#) on the link below.



Message from the Superintendent

As we move toward the end of the 2023-2024 school year, I continue to be impressed and proud of all that our students have accomplished! They have grown as learners, earned impressive awards and honors and have shown kindness and social responsibility within our community and beyond.

I am excited to announce that according to the latest NJ School performance reports, Clayton Public School District has been ranked as the #4 High School, #10 Elementary School, and #6 Middle School in Gloucester County. For the second consecutive year, both our High School and Elementary School have secured positions in the top 10. This success reflects the dedication and growth exhibited by our staff and students. A huge shoutout to our CPSD team members for their unwavering efforts in enhancing academic and enrichment experiences for all students.

As we look ahead, Clayton Public Schools will continue to invest in providing and expanding access to academic support, enrichment and recreational opportunities for all of our students. To those of you promoting out of our district, thank you for your many years of partnership. You have invested in your child and your child's school for many years, given of yourself, and helped to make us a better district. We wish you well in your transition. For those returning to our schools in the new school year, we look forward to seeing you back to school on September 3rd (Sept. 9th for Pre-School.) Please watch for information from your schools in early August for the details you'll need to start the school year strong.

Wishing your family a relaxing and rejuvenating summer! -Mr. Koutsogiannis



Clipper Updates

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CPSD- A Leader in SEL



The **Clayton Model Child Connection Center (CCC)** has been serving Clayton students continuously since 2012. Due to its success in service and implementation, it was adopted by the State in 2021 as a pilot program in neighboring schools. The CCC provides SEL support for students in Herma Simmons, offering individual, small group supports, classroom SEL lessons, and teacher/parent consultations. Recently, Assemblyman David Bailey visited Herma Simmons, touring the center and seeing firsthand how the CCC staff work to help students “come to the classroom ready to learn.” During his visit, Assemblyman David Bailey commended the efforts of the CCC staff and the positive impact they have had on the students at Herma Simmons.

The success of the CCC model in Clayton and its subsequent adoption by the State highlights the growing recognition of the importance of prioritizing the social and emotional development of students. By providing a safe and supportive environment for students to develop essential skills such as self-awareness, social awareness, and responsible decision-making, programs like the CCC are instrumental in preparing students for success both in and out of the classroom.

As the pilot program continues to show positive outcomes, it is hoped that more resources will be allocated to support similar initiatives in schools state-wide. The dedication of the CCC staff and their commitment to helping students thrive serve as a shining example of the positive impact that social-emotional support can have on the lives of young learners.



FUNDRAISING FUN

The administrators and staff worked together to throw a “Pizza Fundraiser Night” at the 2024 Spring Concert. The event was a smashing success as the aroma of freshly baked pizzas wafted through the air, enticing concert-goers with every slice. It was a vibrant atmosphere of community spirit and support that raised funds for CMS’s “Sail to Success” program, a PBSIS program designed to encourage positive behaviors in school.



REGISTER FOR PRESCHOOL

Applications are available to register your child for the 2024-2025 Pre-School Program at Clayton Early Childhood Center- located at Herma Simmons Elementary School.





High School



As we turned the calendar to June, we realized we were close to putting the wrap on another successful school year. Some of the highlights included our school musical, "The Addams Family," hitting the stage. It was a huge success and collected many awards in this year's Cappies ceremony. The spring concert played to a large and very appreciative crowd in the Performing Arts Center. We welcomed the return of the Clayton Art Show- Night of the Arts and inducted the newest artwork to the wall of fame.

It has been a pleasure watching our students grow from September to June. There are always some growing pains along the way but together, our faculty and staff continue to educate and teach life lessons to our students every day. Our freshmen transitioned from Middle School and have come to know the expectations of being a High School student. Our sophomores and juniors are already planning for their futures. For our seniors, their future is upon them! How quickly four years have gone by and now they are turning the page into a new chapter of their life.

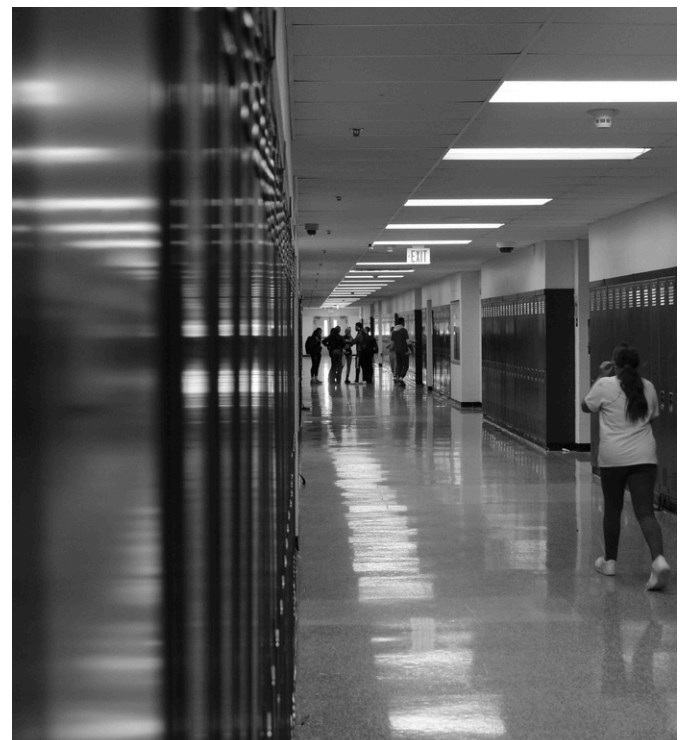
As we say goodbye to another school year, we celebrate the journey we took to get here and look forward to September. We are grateful for the supportive Clayton community and thank you for the opportunity to work with your children each and every day.

-Mr Visalli, HS Principal

Middle School



Reflecting on the past school year, we have had so many great memories and exciting events to look back on. We continued many successful traditions such as our family nights, book fairs, Spring Spectacular 2024, Annual Pizza Fundraiser Night, Annual Spelling Bee, spirit week activities, and field days. A special thanks to the parents who have contributed in ways small, large and unimaginable! Thank you for the partnership between home and school, which is so important. We appreciate all that you do each and every day for our school and our children! Enjoy the summer break- we will see you in September! -Mr. Tucker, MS Principal



Photograph by: Guiseppe Wiltsey, Grade 11

Herma Simmons Elementary >>

"June is busting out all over, all over the mountain and the hill." Truer words were never written by the great lyricist Oscar Hammerstein. The entire world seems to be bursting with life. There is a spirit within each and every one of us that longs to be free to walk out under those trees, to smell those flowers, and to be a part of summer.

That spirit is bursting within each of our wonderful students, and they are anxious to be out of school and into life under the summer sun. This is as it should be. We are meant to enjoy life, and the summer offers us opportunities we have at no other time of the year. Yet, it is also a time when we pause for a moment to remember that we are completing another wonderful school year here at Herma Simmons Elementary School.

I would like to take a moment to thank the people who helped make it a terrific year. Parents and families: thank you for the love, encouragement and support you have given your child(ren) this year. Thank you for your expertise, energy and devotion to children's learning and development. At every grade level, students at Simmons Elementary School are nurtured and valued by our incredible group of teachers and staff. I have watched our students grow academically throughout the year. Each has deepened their knowledge of topics, concepts and strategies. They have developed a more sophisticated understanding of reading and language and learned more complex math. They have written beautiful poetry and created amazing art pieces.

I hope our students have fond memories of their 2023-2024 school year at Herma Simmons Elementary School. This year has once again been rich in learning, traditions, people, experiences, stories, and laughs. I hope you have a wonderful summer break. Enjoy all that life has to offer, and we look forward to you returning in September to Herma Simmons Elementary School, the school known for Nothing Short of Excellence.

Mr. Scott Uribe

“ June is busting out all over, all over the mountain and the hill.”
-Oscar Hammerstein”



Painting by: Olivia Thornton
Grade 11, Clayton High School



Painting by: Carrington "Chase" Richmond
Grade 11, Clayton High School

Clipper Updates

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Early Childhood Center



The Clayton Early Childhood Center offers a high quality, play-based curriculum, which includes a mix of student led and teacher directed learning. We infuse movement throughout the day and take our students' attention spans into consideration, as well. A typical day for an early childhood student includes: centers, free play, circle time, gross motor activities, read aloud time, small group activities, lunch, and quiet/rest time. Throughout the school year, families are given many opportunities to be a part of their child's learning as we host monthly community or school events.



Our FREE Preschool program is available to every Clayton child who turns 3 or 4 before October 1st. Transportation is provided, as well as a free snack, each day. Before and Aftercare program options available at a cost. To register, call Mrs. Downes at 856-881-8700 ext. 3051.

Teachers of the Year

These outstanding educators were recognized for their dedication, passion, and hard work in shaping the minds of our students. Each of them exemplifies the values of excellence in education and goes above and beyond to ensure that every student receives the support they need to succeed. *Pictured left to right: Ariana Short (MS), Nicole Colamarino (ES), Mr. Koutsogiannis (Superintendent), Nancy Kinsley (HS), and Mr. Connell (Board President.)*



Play Unified

Unified Sports® joins people with and without disabilities (known as Unified partners) on the same team. Clayton offers Unified Track and Bowling Teams for High School athletes. Clayton's Unified Track Team is featured here at the season's final meet- Kasalon took home 1st place in the Shot Put and 200 M, Liam took 3rd place in the 100 M and Kevin took 2nd place in the 400 M. Congratulations to all!

Clipper Updates

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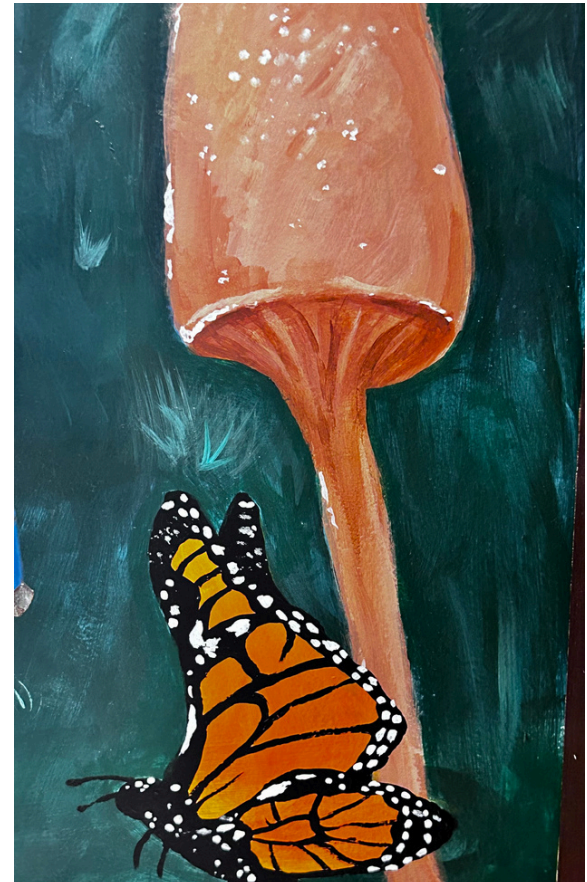
MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER BOOST PROGRAM

The Middle School Summer Boost Program is available for students entering grades 6–8. Students will receive targeted instruction in ELA & Math while participating in fun and engaging STEM Activities. The Boost Program will be held for 4-weeks beginning 7/8/24 through 8/1/24, Monday–Thursday, 8:30–12:30 at Clayton Middle School. FIELD TRIPS EVERY THURSDAY. Transportation available. Snack provided. Complete [ONLINE INTEREST FORM](#), ASAP (limited spaces available.)

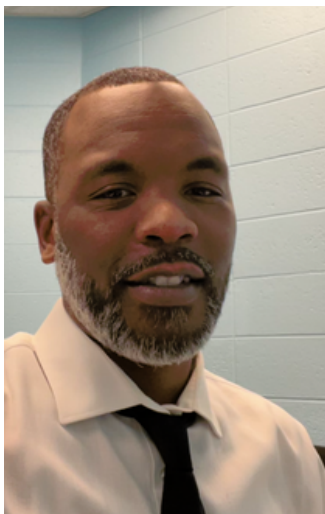
[ONLINE INTEREST FORM](#)



Note: Registration for the Herma Simmons' Summer Boost Program (K-4) is full. The 4-week program runs from 7/8/24 to 8/1/24, Mon-Thurs, 9:00-12:30 at Herma Simmons Elementary School. Snacks are provided, and transportation is available for those who requested it during registration.



A clip from the large mural project
“Birth of the Stars” by: Jack Beach, Grade 11
[\(View Full Mural Here\)](#)



Meet the New High School SCC SEL Specialists!

Get to know the new faces behind the High School Student Connection Center (SCC): Brian Kennedy & Zhabre Russell.

The Student Connection Center (SCC) provides support for both middle and high school students. The goal of the SCC is to prepare students to come to the classroom ready to learn by helping them navigate their adolescent years, acquire essential life skills, improve their emotional health, and ultimately achieve their educational and life goals.

Click [Here](#) to View their Personal Greetings.



ART SHOW 2024

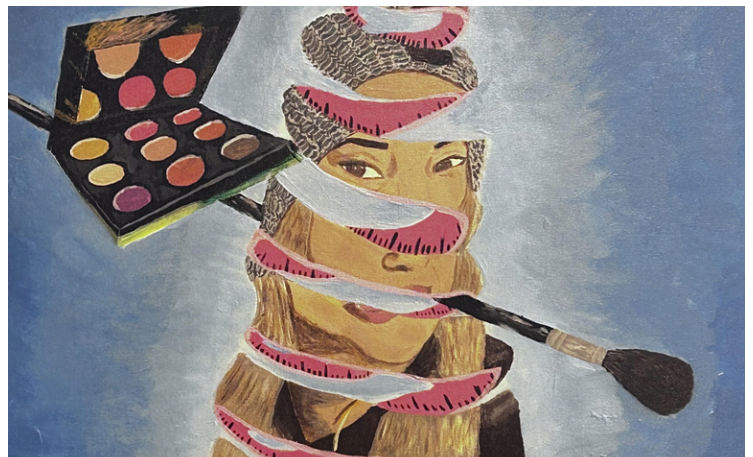


Night at the Arts

Clayton's 2024 ART SHOW, curated and orchestrated by the one and only Mr. Quintin Koreck, with Mr. Aaron Shugarts and Mr. Mark Zambon, showcased a mind-blowing array of creativity from our talented students! Students unleashed their inner Picasso throughout the year, exploring their artistic flair both in and out of art class- on display were imaginative pieces from cellular biology labs, the English Department, JROTC, digital media, ceramics, and more! For more pictures of student masterpieces, [click here](#).

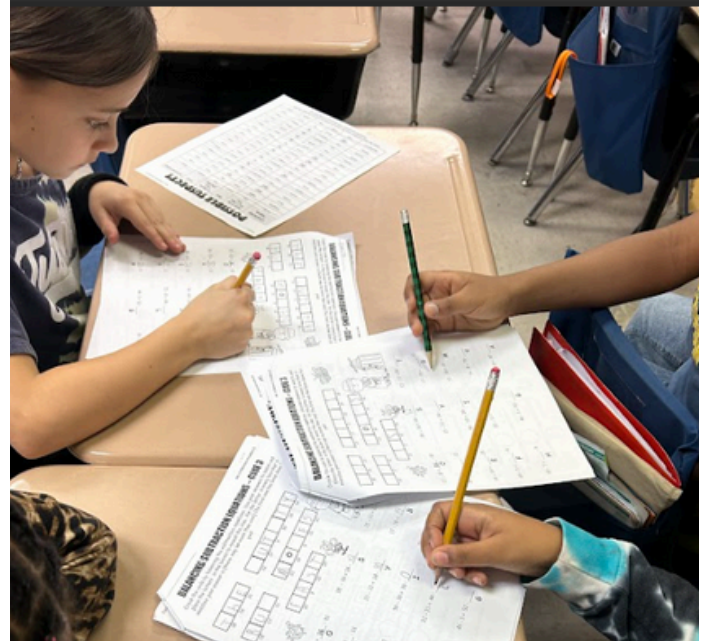
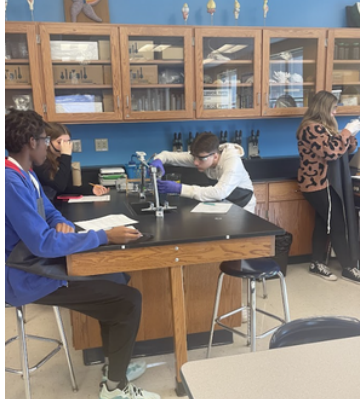


Imaginative



Clipper Updates

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ACTION FOR EARTH MONTH APRIL 2024

In April, Clayton Public School teachers showed remarkable commitment to environmental education during "Action for Earth Month." Activities included Mrs. Morris' PK3 students creating art, inspired by the earth's beauty and their recent readings; Mrs. VanOstenbridge and Mrs. Eichorn's third graders solving environmental math problems; Ms. Pancoast's middle schoolers writing heartfelt Earth Day pieces, and Ms. Davenport's high school Environmental Science students measuring pollution levels in tap water. The collaborative effort exemplified the spirit of Earth Month and set a positive example for future generations.



#ClimateEd #ClimateChangeEducation #ActionforEarth

Clipper Updates

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CLIPPERVILLE

Our elementary school after-school program provides the opportunity for each child to do their homework and seek assistance when needed. We offer a variety of age-appropriate supervised activities such as games, athletics, and arts & crafts that encourage free play and creativity. Students in grades 3-5 also have an opportunity to participate in, "Clipperville," a student-lead simulated town that allows them to experience what its like to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. Students are able to connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world.



ROTC

the Clayton ROTC'S marching unit and color guard participated in the 2023 Vineland Christmas Parade. The Clayton ROTC takes great pride in serving the community and representing their organization with honor and dedication. Beyond the Christmas Parade, they engage in various community events such as Veterans Day ceremonies, Memorial Day parades, and local charity fundraisers.



Jazz Festival 🎵

Clayton receives a rating of "Excellent" and Walter Benedict's soulful solo captivated the audience, earning him the prestigious "Honorable Mention Solo Player Award." The atmosphere at the Downingtown East Jazz Festival was filled with joy and appreciation for the incredible musical talents on display.



School & Community

Clayton's School Resource Officer, Officer Brown, visited with our preschool students on the basketball court. Officer Brown shared stories about safety, kindness, and helping others- sparking the students' curiosity and imaginations. Officer Brown's visit not only brought a sense of community and friendship to the preschool but also instilled important values that will stay with the children for years to come.

Clipper Updates

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1st Place

Clayton Lady Clipper Track 4x100 relay team at Penn Relays. This team won first place and were awarded gold watches at the Woodbury Relays.

Left to Right: Leila Ortiz, Jaiyoni Yates, Amor Stevens-Gaines, & Miyana Johnson



MARCH MADNESS

This past Spring, the student team, "The Oreos," won by two points against CMS teachers and staff in our March Madness basketball tournament. It was an exciting event filled with fun and laughter!

MOST WINS

Clayton's Alexis Paden made history this year as the first ever Clipdawg to place 2nd at States, first GIRL to place at Regions, and the MOST wins at Girls Regions! Season record of 31-5.



GROUP I TITLE

Lady Clippers Track team totally crushed it this season, clinching the Group 1 Title! Their hard work and dedication paid off as they dominated the competition with their speed and endurance. The Lady Clippers demonstrated true teamwork and sportsmanship, inspiring others with their incredible performance on the track.

Clipper Updates

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PBSIS & Captain Joe

Clayton's PBSIS Program weaves a tapestry of positivity within the school, blending classroom wisdom with whole school events. "Captain Joe," a revered figure among both students and teachers, as he is quick to encourage reinforcement for students who are caught doing the "right thing!"

Free Resource

When a child is facing challenges to their functioning and well-being, finding the right services and support can be overwhelming. PerformCARE is committed to helping you access the right services for your child.

Website: www.performcarenj.org



Support for Clayton

Assemblyman David Bailey, Mayor Tom Bianco, and Councilman Frank Rollo joined our Spring Spectacular event. The enthusiasm and encouragement they showed towards the students and staff of Clayton Public Schools did not go unnoticed. We are grateful for their dedication to our community and their ongoing commitment to education. Thank you, Assemblyman David Bailey, Mayor Tom Bianco, and Councilman Frank Rollo, for your unwavering support.



Follow us on Social Media!
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