

CLAYSBURG - KIMMEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



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Spring at CKSD

End-of-year activities are picking up speed. Testing is underway. Planning for next school year is in full swing. It is a very busy and challenging time to balance all of the happenings of the spring. However, we must remember not to give away May!

Let's look at testing first. We have already done one week of English Language Arts (ELA) testing before Easter. The next round begins Monday, April 24th and continues through May 5th. Those tests will include math and science. Then Keystone testing begins May 15th for high school students completing Biology, Algebra 1 and Literature. Along the way there is also testing for our Career and Technology students from the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI), and don't forget SAT and ACT for college bound students.

Both buildings have had assemblies for the students participating in the testing to support their efforts throughout the next several weeks. Ice cream sundaes were provided at the end of the week for the students' efforts. Breakfast and snacks were also provided before and during the testing to keep the students' energy levels up and sharp.

Additionally, our students and teachers continue to work hard to finish strong, even beyond the testing! High school students are busy working to complete courses to add to their transcripts. The elementary students are busy as well completing their grade level work to move on to the next grade.

Students at the high school have selected their courses for next year. Therefore, we are working hard to have draft schedules out to students and families before the end of the year.

And we cannot forget about budgeting for the 17-18 school year that actually began with the teachers making their classroom requests in January and December. The Board has been considered a preliminary budget. A final budget must be adopted by June 30th. As you can see we are all busy!

Save the Date

The list of dates below is just a sampling of the activities planned for the remainder of the year in both buildings. It is by no means all-inclusive.

April 24th – May 5th Grades 3- 8 Math & Science PSSA

May 4th – Elementary Chorus and Band Concert

May 5th – Jr. High Chorus and Band Concert

May 11th – Sr. High Chorus and Band Concert

May 13th – Prom

May 16th – Honors Banquet

May 26th – Kindergarten Recognition

May 29th – No School – Memorial Day

May 30th – 6th Grade Recognition

June 1st – Elementary Awards Program

June 2nd – last day of school

June 3rd & 4th – Baccalaureate; Graduation

Website and Facebook

The District recently hired a media specialist. One of the goals of this position is to keep the social media pages up-to-date with news and pictures from the district. There are three website pages, each with their own content. For example the above save-the-date outlines "big events," each building site has a weekly calendar that will help you with daily events in case your child does not give messages to you in a timely manner. Facebook does this as well. We can be found at: <http://www.ckhsbulldogs.com> and www.facebook.com/ClaysburgKimmel.

Feasibility Studies

Several months ago the Board of Directors agreed to conduct two different feasibility studies within the District. The first one gathered data to find ways to improve the efficiencies and save money in our buildings. After gathering data, doing walkthroughs and having conversations, it was decided that our lighting systems needed an upgrade to LED lights in both buildings. This will save the District over \$300,000 in the next twenty years. The project is being scheduled for this summer and is expected to be completed by the end of July. Schneider Electric is leading the project.

The second feasibility study involved the outside athletic fields plus the surrounding building and grounds. Steve Parks, Landscape Architecture, was selected to conduct this study. Similarly, data was collected, walkthroughs occurred and many conversations and meetings took place. A survey needed to be done of the District's properties. You may have noticed stakes with pink flags on them on school property. These mark boundaries with neighboring properties. The study continues with permits, design of fields and outbuildings. More meetings will occur with different levels of stakeholders. Stay tuned as the District continues to work through this process.

Next Year

Below are a few dates that highlight the 2017-2018 school year. The approved calendar for next year can be found on the website and Facebook. More details will follow.

August 29th – Student first day

September 4th – Labor Day

September 22nd – ED; Homecoming weekend

October 27th – Teacher in-service

November 10th – No School; Veteran's Day

November 22nd – 28th – Thanksgiving Break

December 23rd – January 2nd Christmas Break

Updates

During the 2016-2017 school year the District began several new initiatives at both buildings, some of which have been building-wide while others were more targeted. The information below represents a quick update of a few of the programs.

At the elementary, the new English Language Arts (ELA) program is in place. You may have noticed more writing samples and homework coming home from school. The teachers have been working hard to improve our students' writing skills across the grades and to prepare them for future communication opportunities.

More tutoring opportunities have been added for students to sharpen their skills in both the Reading and math programs. The tutoring is provided to give extra time and attention to students who may need this. The tutoring may take place throughout the day and by using software programs or working with others in small groups.

The high school implemented a makerspace program in grades 7 and 8. Many great learning experiences and activities have been produced in the makerspace. Students seem to be more engaged and excited to be working in the space. Another related program is the after school Technology Student Association (TSA) program. Students meet Wednesday afternoons to work on many STEM related activities.

Beginning with the second nine weeks a 1-to-1 computer program was rolled out to the 9th grade students. All ninth graders have a laptop to use at school and home. There are different approaches and strategies used by teachers to integrate and embed technology into their courses. Sometimes the students are the teachers!

All of these programs will continue into the next school year. However, they may look new and improved as we continue to add equipment and strategies while making changes to what we have. They will be used as the foundation to build upon and expand opportunities for students. The 2017-2018 budget calls for another grade level or two to receive individual computers. It also calls for a comprehensive science program at the elementary to continue to expand the work of the makerspace and STEM activities. Stay tuned!

LOOK FORS

Be watching the website and students' book bags for summer activities at the schools!!