

# CLAYSBURG - KIMMEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS



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## Personnel Update

As we move into the second nine weeks, both buildings have welcomed new personnel at the support staff level and the instructional level. It has been a learning experience for these new staff members, and they continue to transition well into their Claysburg-Kimmel roles.

Our cafeteria has several new faces beginning with the Food Service Director, Courtney Shultz. She can be found at either building working with the ladies to provide breakfast and lunch for our students. Pat Wendt has also joined the cafeteria staff at the high school.

The custodial staff has three new employees as well. Karla Foster and Tiffany Dively have been working since the summer months. Shyanna Cox was just hired in November. Karla and Shyanna are currently working at the high school. Tiffany is at the elementary.

We also welcome two para-professionals to the Special Education staff. Lisa Auty and Susan Dodson were hired earlier this school year to work at the elementary.

The instructional staff includes three additional teachers -- one at the elementary and two at the high school

Matt Bilchak is serving as the elementary guidance counselor. Mr. Bilchak comes to us from North Carolina. He served as the substitute high school counselor last spring and earlier this fall.

Mrs. Beers moved to the Makerspace position (see additional article), so another science position was opened. Sarah Mock was hired for that open position. Ms. Mock is a recent graduate of Mt. Aloysius.

Upon Mr. Bozella's retirement the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading position became vacant. Mrs. Jennifer Mengel was hired as a long-term substitute for the position. Mrs. Mengel comes to us from Ohio.

We are very pleased to have these employees working with our students and staff.

## The Makerspace

This new space will play a prominent role in the transformation of the traditional library into a Maker environment in which high school students work to design and prototype product ideas, prepare investor pitches, and brand and publicize companies. Faculty members are working collaboratively in an effort to ignite the natural curiosity of students and give them tools to innovate, create, and cooperate to solve real-world problems through coding, design, modeling, fabrication, and communication.

Currently, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are scheduled for a semester of class time in the Makerspace. They have been using learning.com and Code Monkey to learn how to code. The students have been producing some interesting projects with their coding.

Mrs. Beers used K'nex in her 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade curricula prior to the Makerspace. She had students compete in the Intermediate Unit's competition as well. It was a very successful unit that she continued to use at the Makerspace. With K'nex, students research and design catapults using the Engineering Design Process. It is a very successful unit for the students.

Students are currently building and programming either the Raspberry Pi robots, the Lego Mindstorm robots, and/or the VEX robots. The projects and excitement continue to grow with each lesson!

## STEM After School

An outgrowth of the Makerspace is the Technology Student Association (TSA). This is an after school program open to any 7<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade student. It is much like FBLA in that students will be working to solve problems, prepare presentations and compete against other schools. Be looking for more information on the website and Facebook as well as from your children regarding upcoming meeting times and dates!!

## Two New Programs

This school year has brought two new programs to CK, one at each level.

ELA includes spelling, writing, grammar and mechanics as well as some reading. The teachers began looking at programs last spring and continued working through the summer to choose a program they thought would be a good fit for our students. Students and teachers started using the program early in the school year. By now you should have noticed a difference in the way grades are reported, different types of assignments and even what your child may be learning in comparison to previous years.

By using ELA, we plan to provide the opportunities for our students to become better written communicators.

At the high school, the 1-to-1 initiative is underway. All 9<sup>th</sup> graders will be loaned new 2-in-1 laptop computers to be used in school and at home. They will be used by the students until they graduate.

All 9<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have received training with these devices. They also have had opportunities to learn Office 365 which is the new Microsoft Office Cloud-based suite package being used in conjunction with Windows 10 on the device. This is a “real world application” being used by companies and industries today.

We are hopeful that we will be able to expand the program next year to include the new 9<sup>th</sup> grade class. Within the next 3 years, it is planned that all students in the high school will have a device to use at home and at school. The program may then expand to the elementary.

## Save the Dates

December 7<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Keystone Retests

December 8<sup>th</sup> – Elem Family Book Night 6pm

December 12<sup>th</sup> – Mid term  
Jr/Sr. High Concert

December 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Santa’s Workshop

December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Early Dismissal  
HS – 12:15pm  
Elem – 1pm

December 26<sup>th</sup> – January 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Break

## Reminders

Our Website has a new look but continues to provide upcoming events and new programs regularly. It is a ‘responsive’ website with an app available for your cellphones and other personal devices. Directions were sent home with students, and may also be found on the website.

The district Facebook page also contains important information. Remember, we do not respond to comments or questions on our Facebook page. Make it a habit to investigate both pages.

The Raise.me website is still available for students to enter their academic activities, as well as their extra-curricular activities to earn money towards scholarships at a variety of colleges and universities.

We will continue to use the alert system for delays, cancellations and attendance calls. However, the new system also allows for texts and emails. If you are interested in either of those options, a link with more information is available on our website.

Cafeteria account balances are now available by using the parent portal on Infinite Campus. Using the new system found on the Infinite Campus parental portal, deposits may also be made. This is very similar to My School Bucks. More information on this is available on the website.

Remember, the law still requires ALL school employees, and volunteers having direct contact with children to obtain new clearances which include child abuse background checks, state and federal criminal history checks and fingerprints every 5 years. Board approval is also required before working with our students.

Bulldog Pack Program continues at the elementary every Friday or the last day of the school week. There are currently 130+ students being served by this program. Donations can be made by contacting the elementary.

These are just a few of the items and upgrades happening within our District. Stay tuned as the year continues to move forward. We can be found at:

<http://www.ckhsbulldogs.com>  
[www.facebook.com/ClaysburgKimmel](http://www.facebook.com/ClaysburgKimmel).