

CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



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JANUARY 2026



www.claytonsd.k12.wi.us

Student Spotlight

High School
Student Spotlight
Emily Zemke



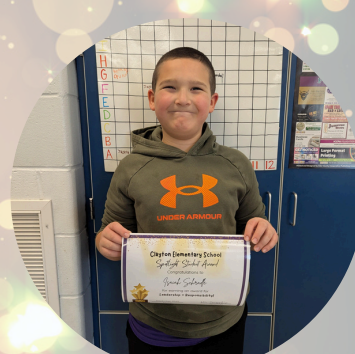
Middle School
Student Spotlight
Solomon Schradle



Elementary Student Spotlight

Leadership & Responsibility

During the month of December, students in our school community learned about responsibility and leadership. We practiced different ways that we can highlight these important traits daily to create a positive space for everyone! Students practiced leadership skills by setting a positive example, helping others, and making kind, respectful choices consistently! Responsibility was emphasized through being prepared, following expectations, caring for school spaces, and taking ownership of our actions! When you put all of those things together, we become even more confident learners, strengthen our school community, and prepare students for success both in and out of the classroom!



A Note from Mr. Sturzl

2026-2027 School Year Planning

Where did the year go? It's hard to believe that another year has gone by. Though we are only half way through this current school year, in the school business, we have already started planning and preparing for next school year. As we plan for the next school year, we will be paying very close attention to our student enrollment and the district's budget. The school district's student membership count was taken on January 9, 2026. The count will assist us in projecting enrollment. This count will help to determine the level of state equalization aids we will receive for the 2026-2027 budget, which in turn helps us determine the local levy.

The district is not planning for any additional changes in the equalization formula or in the area of general aid to school districts. The general aid to Clayton will likely be close to the same amount received this school year. The state biennial (2 year) budget is set for one more year. The state budget allows for minimal financial increases for the 2026-27 school year. During the ten years that I have been a superintendent, the state legislature tends to provide some property tax relief for all school districts the second year of the biennial budget. However, this is an election year with a new governor to be elected in Wisconsin. I do not expect any tax relief. The majority of the federal money school districts receive is in the Title I, II, III, and IV aid. The Title monies are based upon the student population who are eligible for free and reduced lunch. We are planning for the federal aid to school districts will remain the same or a little less. All school districts in Wisconsin continue to face unfunded mandates, increased costs of operation, and the responsibility of providing quality education services for the children of our community within financial constraints. The Board of Education and the administration will continue to work diligently to use all funding wisely and make cost effective cuts that will not affect the quality of education for our students.

Inclement Weather Decisions

During this time of the school year, monitoring the daily weather conditions is always of paramount importance to ensuring the safety of our students. Now might be a great time to review what criteria are used to determine if school should be held or canceled. The final decision on whether or not school should start late, end early or be canceled rests with the District Administrator. There are no hard and fast rules for canceling school, unless of course the weather is extremely bad. We do ask ourselves the following questions when a decision has to be made to cancel school:

- 1. What is the forecast for the weather over the next 24 hours?**
- 2. What is the National Weather Service reporting?**
- 3. How cold is it predicted to be at the time students will be getting on buses to come to school or to leave school?**
- 4. Will there be a wind chill during those times, making it feel much colder?**
- 5. What are or will be the condition of roads in the district when the buses are transporting students?**

As part of the decision-making process on whether to hold or cancel school, we consult with other area school districts and other district employees who live throughout the area to help us better understand the weather conditions. The greatest factor in our decision is what level of safety can we provide your children. If it is decided to cancel school, we will use our student notification system to let families know. We also use our social media links, as well as radio and television stations to make announcements and get the word out.

A Note from Mr. Schradle

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well and that your family enjoyed a restful and joyful winter break. As we welcome 2026, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities and accomplishments that lie ahead for our school community. January is a time for fresh starts, and at Clayton Schools, we are focused on setting goals, building strong foundations, and continuing the incredible progress we've made so far this year. Our students have returned energized, ready to learn, and eager to embrace the challenges of the new semester.

As we kick off the new year, here are a few important dates to keep in mind: Quarter 2/Semester 1 ended on January 16th. Professional Learning Day on January 19th, Parent/Teacher Conferences on Feb. 12th and another Professional Learning Day on Feb. 16th.

Additionally, January is a great time to reinforce positive habits and routines. Whether it's setting academic goals, creating consistent study schedules, or building social-emotional skills, this is the perfect time for our students to reflect on their progress and aim high. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. Together, we can help every student grow, achieve, and reach their full potential. As always, my door is open—please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, feedback, or just to say hello! Here's to a fantastic 2026!

Warm Regards,
Ryan



Mason Peetz and Marcus Zemke spent January 16–17 in Stevens Point at the Half-Time Leadership Conference for FFA, growing their skills through workshops focused on illuminating their chapter. They also heard from the 78th Alice in Dairyland, Sarah Hagenow, connected with FFA members from across Wisconsin, and came back excited about the chance of attending more conferences!

2026 Child Development Day

2026 CHILD DEVELOPMENT DAY

WHEN: FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH

TIME: 8:00AM - 2:00PM

WHO: ALL CHILDREN, AGES
BIRTH TO 4 YEARS OLD



The Clayton School District will be hosting a Child Development Day on Friday, March 6th from 8:00AM-2:00PM. We are inviting all children, ages birth to four years old, to participate with their families. If you have not received a registration letter for your child or know of someone new to the Clayton School District, please contact Mel Becker in the school office at 715-948-2163 x209 to register. If you have any questions, contact Melanie Luoma at 715-948-2163 x217.

Free Library



Recently students in Clayton High School's DIY Repair and Home Renovation Class completed a remodel of the community Free Library. Students resided and reroofed the structure with cedar siding that was donated by a local family, made a new sign using the district's new laser engraver, which was purchased using funds from a Perkins Grant and refurbished the window using plexiglass and custom one of a kind handmade knobs. Please stop by and check it and a book out!!



DIY Repair and Home Renovation Class~
Students L-R, Tyler Place, Carson Jones-Anderson,
Hunter Beestman, Karsten Johnson, Cooper Flanigan,
Hayden Bergmann, and Alexis Lange

Nutrition Department

Opal Apples



SPOTLIGHT ON PRODUCE

WHAT AM I?

Opal apples are beautifully bright yellow with a distinctively crunchy texture and a sweet, tangy flavor.

HOW DO I GROW?

Opal apples are grown exclusively in Southeastern Washington State.

NUTRITIONAL FACTS

Opal apples are a naturally sweet snack, offering about 90-100 calories, good fiber, and essential minerals.

FUN FACT

Opal apples won't brown after cutting. So an Opal a day will keep your salads - and your lunchboxes - crisp and fresh!



NONDISCRIMINATION AND ACCESS TO EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students in the District. The Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including transgender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability ("Protected Classes") in any of its student program and activities.

Board Minutes

Clayton Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2025

President Jeff Young called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Jeremy Grosskreutz, second by Rebecca Mumm to enter into closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85 (1) (c) regarding the evaluation of the District Administrator. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried at 5:34 pm.

A motion was made by Rebecca Mumm, second by Jeremy Grosskreutz to leave closed session and began the regular board meeting. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried at 6:01 pm.

President Jeff Young called the regular board meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

President Jeff Young took the roll call. Present were Jeff Young, Roger Olson, Jacob Fall, Jeremy Grosskreutz, Rebecca Mumm, and Superintendent Patrick Sturzl. Also present were Ryan Schradle, Jeremy Schradle, Mark Hendrickson, Terri Magnuson, Tammy Polta, Steph Bylander, Abigail Bylander, Becky Peterson, and Nathan Peterson.

The Clayton Middle School Student of the Month is Abigail Bylander. The High School Student of the Month is Nathan Peterson. They appeared and were recognized by the Board.

During the Board Forum, comments and discussion gave kudos to Daniel Zebro and Natalie Maino for the work and performance at the Holiday Concert. An update on delegate information was given. Appreciation for the community choir and band was expressed. Robotics Academy was discussed.

Consent Agenda:

A motion was made by Rebecca Mumm, second by Jacob Fall to amend the technical corrections and items in the First Read of Board Policy and to approve the Consent Agenda. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

District Resident Participation:

None.

Action Items:

Wrestling Overnight Trip.

A motion was made by Jacob Fall, second by Rebecca Mumm to approve the noted overnight Wrestling Event. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

FFA Overnight Trip.

A motion was made by Roger Olson, second by Jeremy Grosskreutz to approve the noted overnight FFA Event. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

2026-2027 Course Offerings.

A motion was made by Rebecca Mumm, second by Jeremy Grosskreutz to approve the Course Offerings. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

PFC Head Volleyball Coach.

A motion was made by Jacob Fall, second by Roger Olson to approve Jess King as coach. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried.

Discussion Items:

Enrollment Report.

2026-27 Calendar.

District Resident Participation.

None.

Administrator Reports:

Principal Report.

Holiday Concert was well attended.

Archery Club has started.

Superintendent Report:

Thanks to Daniel Zebro and Natalie Maino for their work on the Holiday Concert.

Some scammers have been hitting emails.

There are two transportation proposals.

WASB Convention is January 23rd..

Coaching update.

Merry Christmas.

A motion was made by Jeremy Grosskreutz, second by Jacob Fall to adjourn. 4 yes, 0 no. Motion carried at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Olson, Clerk