

Clay School Education Foundation 2024-25 Annual Newsletter

CSEF mission: to provide supplemental resources to ALL Clay School students for assistance in developing academic, athletic, artistic, social and practical life skills. We are a vehicle by which concerned citizens past, present and those to come may provide monetary contributions to programs provided to better assist our students in transitioning to more advanced educational programs, which will prepare the students of Clay School to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

New Faces at Clay Elementary!

Greetings Clay Families and Friends! Clay School has 26 employees made up of 15 certificated and 11 classified. We are excited to report that Mr. Lopes has returned to California and just in time to pick up a vacancy left by the departure of Mr. Wilcox. So, Mr. Lopes is back teaching 7th and 8th grade ELA and History while Mr. Gramza is leading the charge in 6th. We welcomed a new 1st grade teacher who was with us last year as an intervention teacher, Amber Kreiter. With the retirement of Tom and Kelly Smith and the incredible opportunity Matt Krueger accepted with the Tulare County Sheriff, we had some classified openings. We hired Elisha Cervantes to take one of our Aide positions, but she is also teaching our art classes to fulfill Prop 28. Eric Medina, Jacob Dugo, and Angie Valenzuela have been hired to take care of maintenance and custodial needs.

Pictured Clockwise: Elisha Cervantes, Eric Medina and Jacob Dugo, Angie Valenzuela, and Amber Kreiter



November 2024



Growing Champions

This year at Clay we are excited to report continued growth on our CAASPP! We had a LOT of students work really hard **keeping Clay #1 in all districts in Fresno County in both ELA AND Math! In comparing similar school districts, we are #2 in the state of California for Math and #3 in ELA!**

THIS IS GREAT NEWS, but we need to get back to the percentages Clay used to have and that is our goal. In ELA, our current percentage of meets and exceeds grew from 72% to 74%. Our goal is 80%. In Math we grew from 65% to 71% with our goal being 75% and ultimately 80%. We know that great attendance and working together from home and school, we can do this!

One community. One goal;
EXCEED EXPECTATIONS!

Here are some other highlights of our CAASPP scores at Clay. Our top performing classes in MATH reaching the highest percentage of meets and exceeds were Miss Barsoom's 3rd graders with 88% and Mrs. Sawatzky/Mrs. Jost in 4th grade at 82%. The largest growth in math was earned by last year's 7th graders as they grew 26% from 45% to 71% and 68 distance from standard points! That's HUGE! In ELA the top performing class was last year's 8th grade taught by Mr. Gramza at 86% followed by those 3rd graders again and Miss Barsoom at 81% meets or exceeds. Mr. Gramza's ELA classes made the most growth in 7th and 8th with 14% growth and 30.9 Distance from standard points.

Outstanding CAASPP Scores!



These students earned a perfect score in either Math or ELA or made the most growth on the 2024 CAASPP. Perfect scores go to Lyla Ketelsen, Kieran McClarty, Angadbir Singh, Nicholas Fierro, and Reed McClarty.

Making the most growth ranging from 150 to 400 points were Julia Johnson, Theodore Showalter, Nolle Bartell, Connor Rodriguez, Kendrick Warkentin and Jocelyn Gomez. Those who could make it were honored at The Kingsburg Viking Football stadium before a stadium full of fans. We are so proud of these students. In addition, the class that made the most



growth over all from 6th to 7th were Ms. Karich's 7th graders who earned a trip to Adventure Park.

Current and Past Contributions to Clay

- ☺ Furniture for the Clay Collaboration Center
 - ☺ Student Spirit Wear
 - ☺ Backpack Carts (2) \$490
 - ☺ National Blue Ribbon Student Reward Trip \$500
 - ☺ Science Camp for 6th grade \$3,000 annually
 - ☺ Clay Library Follett Software \$1019 annually
-
- ☺ Leveled Reading Books
 - ☺ A.E.D.
 - ☺ Large Playground Equipment 'rebuild' \$4,800
 - ☺ Prizes for reading incentive program
 - ☺ DRA reading resources
 - ☺ Supplemental Books
 - ☺ Handwriting materials
 - ☺ Technology equipment
 - ☺ Student Response System
 - ☺ Accelerated Reader
 - ☺ Floor replacement in MPB

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Are you considering investing in the Clay School Education Foundation?

The Clay School Education Foundation (CSEF), established in 1998 as a 501c3, is designed to supplement the positive and successful efforts of the Clay Joint Elementary School District educational program. Foundation members are a committed group of individuals who have contributed financially as an avenue of support for all Clay students. Members continue to make an outstanding difference in the lives of our youth. Therefore, please join with us in our continued efforts and "Invest in YOUR future."

WHAT IS NEW AT CLAY?

After the completion of the west wing, as seen here adorned by new fall colors, our next project was to provide an exterior entrance and remodel of our primary bathrooms. Besides a much needed update of the interior, we wanted a safer entrance to the restrooms than students entering an unsupervised internal hallway with an exterior entrance on the front of the campus. So, we sealed off the hallway doors and opened up doors on the outside of the building. With the remodel, we also installed new drinking fountains.



One additional long-awaited project, was to provide shade for the pick up line in the back. Our parent club graciously provided 5 new tables and umbrellas that have provided a shaded, restful place for students while waiting to be called for pick up. Thank you Parent Club! This space is also available for outside education as desired by teachers.



Be A Part Of This Distinguished Group!

The Clay School Education Foundation Board of Directors encourages you to continue as or become a part of the Foundation and their positive mission. Below, you will find a membership/contribution section. To join or make a one time contribution, please complete the contribution form below. Donations are thankfully accepted, tax deductible, and will be applied to support the educational endeavors for Clay Students.

Contributions made during the 2023-2024 school year will be used to support several on-going Clay School projects, such as science camp for 6th grade, Follett library software, technology needs, books, and much more.

We would like to give a special THANK YOU to Bill Johnson for serving on the Clay School Board and Foundation for many years. Your love for Clay School is evident in your many years of dedication and we are so grateful. We wish you the very best in your Retirement from the School Board and are glad you will remain on the Foundation Board.

Clay School Education Foundation

Board of Directors:

Terri Harrell, President

Kyle Harrell, Treasurer

Bill Johnson, Director

Tami Karich, Director

Judi Szpor, Superintendent/Principal

Count Me In!

I would like to be a CHAMPION for Clay by contributing to the Clay School Education Foundation and supporting Clay School programs.

My contribution is:

_____ \$1,000 Legacy Level Contribution

_____ \$500 Platinum Level Contribution

_____ \$250 Gold Level Contribution

_____ \$100 Silver Level Contribution

_____ \$50 Bronze Level Contribution

_____ \$25 Annual Membership

Please mail contributions to:
Clay School Education Foundation
C/O Terri Harrell
12449 S. Smith Ave
Kingsburg, CA 93631



I would like to be a part of giving the Regan Johnson Memorial Scholarship to a local high school student who is also a Clay School alumnus.

_____ Regan Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Please make checks payable to Clay School Education Foundation and write Johnson Scholarship in the memo line.

Comments:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

REGAN JOHNSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

As you may know, several summers ago we were all saddened by the news that Miss Regan Johnson, while working on a freeway construction project, was hit by a car on Highway 99 and killed.

This was a tragic loss to our Clay School family.

The Clay School Education Foundation established a *Regan Johnson Memorial Scholarship*. This is an annual scholarship given to a Clay School alumnus who is graduating from high school. The Foundation has developed criteria to determine the recipient, which will include some of the characteristics and values that Regan lived by. For example: Regan enjoyed serving as a tutor for younger students. She enjoyed helping others, and consistently demonstrated a positive attitude. She was conscientious and thoughtful.

Therefore, besides good grades, service to the community will be a requirement.

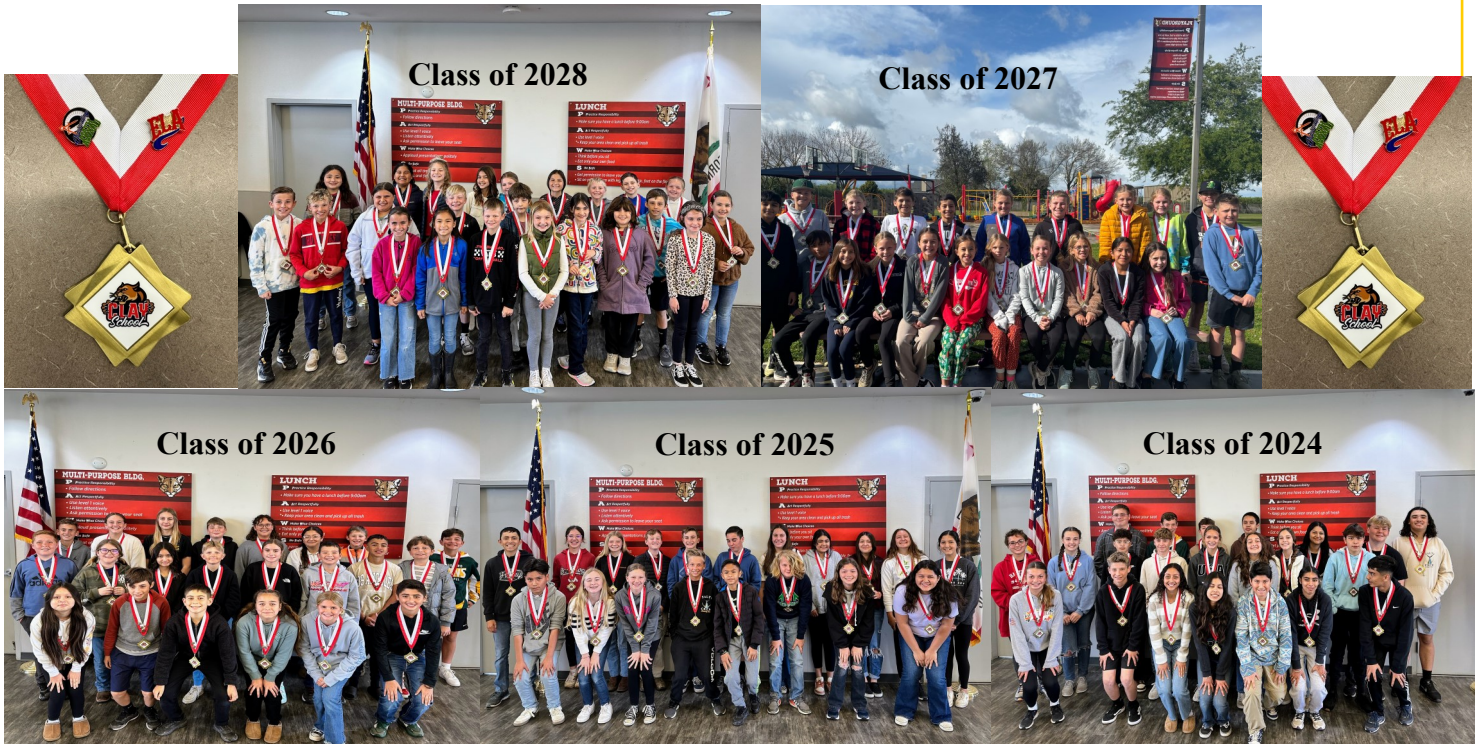
If you would like to help sponsor this scholarship, please send your donations to:

Regan Johnson Memorial Scholarship
Clay School Education Foundation
12449 S. Smith Avenue, Kingsburg, CA 93631
Kingsburg, CA 93631

(Please make checks payable to Clay School Education Foundation)

CLAY SCHOOL CONTINUES TO CHAMPION STUDENTS TO SUCCESS!

Clay Elementary School hosted an awards ceremony last spring 2024 to honor its students who achieved proficient or advanced scores, moved a performance level or grew more than 50 distance from standard points on their state CAASPP exams last school year (2023). The ceremony recognized students who demonstrated exceptional academic proficiency in their exams. The event was attended by proud parents and teachers, who came together to celebrate the achievements of these students. Superintendent/Principal Szpor congratulated the students and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence. During the ceremony, each student was called to receive a perpetual medal of achievement that can be added to yearly, showing their continued efforts over their years at Clay School. The awards ceremony was a reminder of the importance of hard work, dedication, and academic excellence. The success of these students is a testament to the outstanding education provided by Clay Elementary School and the tireless efforts of its teachers, parents, and staff. The school hopes that the achievements of these students will inspire others to follow in their footsteps and that the awards ceremony will motivate all students to strive for academic excellence, maintaining the vision of Clay School to exceed expectations. Overall, the awards ceremony was a tremendous success and a fantastic way to celebrate the achievements of these outstanding students. Congratulations to all the students who received awards and Clay Elementary School's commitment to excellence in education.



Clay School Spirit-Wear Sale

Every year the Foundation sponsors a Clay tee-shirt/sweat-shirt sale. This year, again, our shirt sale is with a Spiritwear vendor that has set up a store that is open ALL YEAR with many selections and coordinated by the directors to provide online access for easier purchasing. Short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, pants, bags, ladies, men, girls, and boys selections all available. Crew neck as well as zipper front sweatshirts are all available to bring multiple options for purchase. All proceeds from the sales go to the CSEF general fund to support Clay school events and programs. Thank you for showing your Cougar Spirit!



Check Out Our School's Online Store!
 EVERY PURCHASE HELPS FUND SCHOOL PROGRAMS!
www.yourschoolspiritwearstore.com
 Make Spiritwear Part of Your
 Back to School Essentials!
 Watch for Order Form Flyers
 To Be Sent Home With Students
 Announcing Our
 Free Shipping Dates
FREE SHIPPING
 ON ALL PURCHASES
 OVER \$50, ANY TIME!
 During Your School's Free Shipping Period, There is NO Purchase Limit for Free Shipping
 To Your Store!
 Scan to Connect

Clay School
 Education Foundation
 12449 S. Smith Ave.
 Kingsburg, CA 93631

We're on the Web!
www.clayschool.k12.ca.us

