

Diligent Clayton senior makes deep impression on the school community

Elliot Bobo with friends Jailyn Barnett (left), Nia Broussard and Katherine Jefferson (right) during Senior Sendoff.



Clayton High School 2018 graduate Elliot Bobo has made quite an impression on the CHS community over his four years there.

“We’ve been fortunate to have Elliot as part of the Clayton community,” said Carroll Lehnhoff-Bell, CHS Learning Support Director. “Everyone on campus knows him for his positivity and as a model of what a diligent student is. He will surely be missed, but we are a better place because of him, and we wish him all the best after graduation.”

Elliot comes from a hard-working, dedicated family who have done a great job instilling in him the notion of doing his best and giving his all. He has persisted through the challenge of difficult classes and has remained willing to focus on his academics despite his heavy work schedule.

Elliot is known for being thoughtful toward his teachers, his peers and the school community. One could always find Elliot in the stands at basketball games, football games or track meets cheering on his Greyhounds. He also often was found sitting with his classmates helping them through an assignment; in the hallways smiling and greeting his teachers, inquiring how their day has been; or in his classrooms adding to the richness of his courses, Lehnhoff-Bell said.

While at Clayton High School, Elliot worked two jobs. He remained dedicated to the Youth Employment Service (YES) program with the St. Louis Science Center throughout the duration of the four years, experiencing several different fields of science. He also held a part-time job at a retail store near school. A fashion lover, Elliot bleaches and distresses his own clothing.

He will attend Tennessee State University this fall.

Kirkwood junior succeeds in field hockey and academics

Kirkwood High School rising senior and VICC participant Taiye Joseph has found success in the school’s girls field hockey program, while maintaining academic excellence.

Taiye was among 11 teammates who were named to the Keith Waldman Optimal Performance Associates/ National Field Hockey Coaches Association’s 2017 High School National Academic Squad.

The High School National Academic Squad program recognizes high school junior and senior student-athletes who have achieved a minimum cumulative, unweighted GPA of 3.50 out of 4.0 or the equivalent through the first quarter of the 2017-18 school year. Over 2,770 field hockey players from 344 high schools achieved the honor this school year. The program honors students who play sports while still excelling in their studies.

Taiye plays forward, alternating among all three offensive positions for the Pioneers. She was consistently one of the top three finishers in timed runs this year, said her coach, Dana Opperman. The 2017-18 year was Taiye’s first year on the varsity team; she played on the junior varsity team the previous year. The Pioneers finished the 2017 fall season with 14 wins and 10 losses and 7 and 1 record in their league.

Starting Dates

Afton	August 15, 2018
Bayless.	August 15, 2018
Brentwood	August 13, 2018
Clayton	August 15, 2018
Hancock Place	August 16, 2018
Kirkwood	August 15, 2018
Mehlville	August 15, 2018
Parkway	August 15, 2018
Rockwood.	August 14, 2018
Special/Tech	August 13, 2018
St. Louis Public Schools	August 14, 2018
Valley Park	August 15, 2018
Webster Groves	August 14, 2018

Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) complies fully with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). FERPA is a law that affords parents and students 18 years of age and older with certain rights with respect to the student’s educational records. A copy of VICC’s FERPA statement is included in the VICC student handbook, which can be requested by calling 314.721.8422, ext. 3012. The handbook also is available on the VICC website at www.choicecorp.org. Click on the link for “City Residents Currently Enrolled in County Schools,” and then click on “Voluntary Transfer Program Handbook.” For County students enrolled in City magnet schools, click on “County Residents Currently Enrolled in City Magnet Schools,” and then click on “Magnet School Handbook.”

See page 4 for more
Back to School Information

OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

2018

Each spring, the participating VICC school districts choose an outstanding graduating senior from each high school to represent the students' achievements and the schools' exemplary efforts in preparing them for the future. These are the 2018 outstanding graduates.

Affton Affton High School

Malahja Smith was a strong, extremely talented, intelligent and delightful student at Affton. She showed her amazing leadership skills as dance team captain and choreographer and as a Class Officer for the Class of 2018. She participated in the St. Louis Center for Advanced Professional Studies program (STL CAPS) this year and has excelled in the Health and Medicine field. From her medical career exploration, Malahja has fully committed to helping others and becoming a nurse. She is pursuing a degree at Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Affton High is extremely proud to honor Malahja as our VICC Outstanding Graduate as she is an inspiring role model to others.



Bayless Bayless High School

Rene Kina was an outstanding Bayless High School student. He was an active member of the Bayless High School National Honor Society. In addition, he participated in multiple athletic teams throughout his four years at BHS. He competed in track and field, football and volleyball. Rene also was a member of the DECA club and a state qualifier. His academic accomplishments are equally impressive. He completed multiple college credit courses including: AP English, Dual Credit European History, Dual Credit German III, Dual Credit Psychology, Dual Credit Sociology and Dual Credit American History. Bayless High School is proud to designate Rene Kina as our 2018 outstanding senior. We wish him continued success in his college endeavors.



Brentwood Brentwood High School

India Ne-Col Brown was a strong member of the Brentwood school community. She demonstrated a superior ability to balance her job outside of school while still keeping up with academic responsibilities. A leader in her class, India always showed kindness and loyalty to those she keeps close. As part of her extracurricular activities, she played various roles in the school musical for the past two years. During India's junior and senior years of high school, she attended South County Technical High School for the cosmetology program. With hard-work and diligence, she will earn her cosmetology license. India has been admitted into St. Louis Community College at Forest Park in order to pursue a degree in graphic design.



Clayton Clayton High School

Often seen as a dynamic duo, twins **Mahogany and Mariama Donaldson** used their individual strengths to make their collective mark on Clayton High School over the past four years. Behind their strong grade point averages and leadership roles in various school and community activities is Mahogany and Mariama's commitment to learning. While they have different interests and career goals — biology for Mahogany and nursing for Mariama — both gained the respect of their teachers and peers through their poise, intellect and strong work ethic. These traits, combined with their drive to succeed, will serve Mahogany and Mariama well as they enter the college arena this fall.



Hancock Hancock Place High School

Stacia Livingston has distinguished herself as an exemplary transfer student through hard work, leadership and excellent character. A four-year officer in student government, Stacia served as senior class president, leading her class to the highest scholarship total in the school's history. She served as the board of education student liaison, representing students throughout the district in a positive and progressive manner. An honor student, Stacia was dedicated to her studies in addition to being active in cheerleading, DECA and FCCLA. Her excellent character shone as she worked as a senior mentor to freshmen and a mentor for the A+ Schools Program. Stacia is pursuing a degree in dentistry at Wichita State.



Kirkwood Kirkwood High School

Headed to Webster University in the fall to study physical therapy, **DeAntae Henry** has demonstrated through his academic achievement at Kirkwood High School that he is more than prepared to be successful. One teacher described him as "an incredibly kind young man with a heart of gold and unstoppable talents." The fact that he is a four-year recipient of Kirkwood's African-American Achievement Award attests to his hard work and dedication in the classroom. DeAntae also plans to minor in music at Webster University and is an active member in his community and Project X, a St. Louis organization that helps young people who want to pursue careers in music.



Mehlville Mehlville High School

Da'Reyana Hopkins attended the Mehlville School District since fifth grade. During her senior year, she attended a half day at Mehlville and a half day at South County Tech, studying health sciences. She is OSHA-certified and CNA-certified and has received her Patient Care Tech certification. At school she was involved with the freshmen orientation program, Konnect, and participated in cheerleading and track and field. Da'Reyana followed a college preparatory curriculum with Honors, Dual Credit and AP courses, maintaining a 3.6 weighted GPA and 24-composite ACT. Da'Reyana has been recognized by the Future Medical Science Students of the Year and the National Society of High School Students. Outside of school, Da'Reyana was employed after school working 25 to 30 hours per week. Da'Reyana plans to attend Spelman College, majoring in biology/pre-med. She hopes to become a neonatal surgeon and dreams of providing international medical care to children in Third World countries.



Mehlville Oakville High School

Porshia Spradley spent her high school career in the Mehlville School District and is deserving of Outstanding Senior recognition. She had the unique perspective of attending both Mehlville and Oakville high schools, where she participated in choir, student council and theater. Slowly, she began to focus specifically on acting, where it's safe to say she's found her passion. Porshia lights up when she is creating and performing and intends to pursue a career in television. Outside of school, Porshia keeps busy with her job but is quick to point out how beneficial her acting training is when handling unexpected situations and collaborating with fellow employees. She will major in mass communications at Langston University. She has set high goals for her future, as one day she intends to follow in the footsteps of Oprah or Ellen and host her own talk show.



Parkway Parkway South High School

Graduating with a cumulative grade point average of 4.0, **Leiana Boldon** has successfully proven that academics have always been her first priority. Leiana has emphasized that through the VICC program she has learned grit and perseverance are essential to achievement. While a student at South High, Leiana not only maintained her stellar GPA, but she did this while participating in Link Crew, French Club, track, Youth in Government, choir, drama and Peer Teaching. Her ongoing tenacity has helped her map out her goals, which include fall enrollment at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, with a double major in business management and music.



Parkway Parkway Central High School

DeAndre Campbell would be an accomplished student in any school district, but coming to Parkway gave him exposure to different cultures and a chance to step outside of his comfort area. During the past four years, he was an exceptional athlete and played on both basketball and football teams. He also played baseball for two years and managed to squeeze in track and Link Crew for one year, while maintaining a grade point average exceeding 3.0. He consistently pushed himself academically and took additional AP courses during his academic career; this allowed him to graduate with 28 credits instead of the normal Parkway standard of 24. DeAndre was accepted to several schools, but he enrolled at Florida Southern College, where he will major in criminal justice.



OUTSTANDING GRADUATES

continued

2018

Parkway Parkway West High School

Gabrielle Thompson knows she is a force to be reckoned with, in fact she said if there is one thing she learned from participating in the VICC program, it's perseverance and patience. While most underestimate her by her small stature, Gabrielle has learned to use that misconception to her advantage, shattering stereotypes along the way. While at West High, she was pushed to take challenging classes and, while they didn't always end with an A, she persevered and achieved one of her goals, enrollment at St. Louis University with a major in English literature.



Rockwood Marquette High School

Selena Bell was a thriving student and a true leader at Marquette High School. Her entrepreneurial spirit and innovative drive set her apart from the average senior. She was active in the Key Club and Future Business Leaders of America, in which she received 3rd Place in the Public Speaking competition. She also participated in several entrepreneurship competitions, including St. Louis University's Teen Idea Dash, in which she won 3rd Place. Outside of school, she is the sole proprietor of her own business, SlayLena's Hair Company, where she provides beauty services to clients and sells her own hair extensions. Throughout her years at Marquette, she fulfilled the definition of what it means to be a true Mustang. Selena always challenges herself when it comes to her academics and motivates other students to cultivate their abilities. She is full of laughter that brings light to everyone she encounters. This fall, Selena will attend the Eller College of Management at University of Arizona, majoring in entrepreneurship with a minor in psychology.



Parkway Parkway North High School

Shattering stereotypes and misconceptions of African-American achievement has been most satisfying for **Jourdyn Brooks**. While being enrolled in AP classes, Jourdyn proved to her peers that whether one lives in the county or city, a student should not be defined by his or her address or ethnic group. During her years of academic excellence at Parkway North, Jourdyn participated in High School Heroes, Homeless Helpers, cheerleading and Peer Teaching and was consistently part of the planning and execution of the annual black history production. Her plans include attending St. Louis Community College, using the A+ program, then subsequently transferring to The University of Kansas with a biology or pre-med major. Her ultimate goal is to be accepted into medical school and to become a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology.



Rockwood Rockwood Summit High School

Gloryanna Christian, known as "Glo," has been an inspiring and charismatic leader at Rockwood Summit. Her smile is contagious and brightens the day of everyone she encounters. A role model among her peers, she is known for encouraging and motivating others to achieve their potential both personally and academically. During her four years in high school, Glo was passionate about creating a more inclusive school environment. She was a valuable member of the Student Equity Leadership Group and the track team. This extremely focused and goal-oriented student achieved the following during high school: student of the month, most valuable sprinter, and the creator of the school's first Black History Month production, an overwhelming success that will become an annual event. In her community, Glo is a teen ambassador at the St. Louis Science Center's Youth Exploring Science program. She won an essay contest sponsored by Made Moguls for her essay on creating a foster care business to change the world. This fall, Glo will attend Harris Stowe State University, pursuing a career in social work.



Rockwood Eureka High School

Alivia Dixon represents Eureka and the VICC program well as the staff choice for the VICC Outstanding Graduate Award. She has been very active at Eureka in the WEW mentoring program and with groups like E2Y2, the school's student equity group, which hosts social justice dialogues with teachers and central office and annex staff. As a recipient of the Glory of Missouri award, she was honored in February along with 13 other classmates on the Missouri House of Representatives floor. She also was a Renaissance and A+ student and was a health sciences student at South County Tech school.



Rockwood Lafayette High School

Lafayette High School is proud to honor an amazing Lancer, **Myiah Hall**, with the VICC Outstanding Senior Award. In addition to being a gentle, friendly spirit and an incredible person, Myiah has been a highly invested and involved in Lafayette's school community. She was a dedicated band member and cheerleader for four years, an illustration of Myiah's outstanding character. Myiah was a member of Lafayette's track and field team, was selected to participate in the Gateway 2 Change program, was a Link Crew leader, and was selected to participate in Lafayette's Challenge Day. Extending her dedication to service beyond school, Myiah is a member of Jack and Jill, a community organization supporting mothers as they raise strong, healthy children. Her devotion to service is evident in her career plans — she will attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City's nursing program in the fall.



Valley Park Valley Park High School

Alysia Lockhart was an exceptional student leader and outstanding academic, musical and athletic performer. Alysia ranked in the top 10 of her class, was on Student Council and in the National Honor Society and excelled as a leader. Alysia took a rigorous schedule, including several dual-credit and Advanced Placement courses, as well as concert band where she earned all-conference, all-district and state-level recognition. Alysia played on the varsity volleyball team and cheerleading squad all four years of high school. Alysia plans to attend Drury University.



Webster Groves Webster Groves High School

Jamie Tabron, who came to the Webster Groves School District as a first grader, has excelled across the board. She made the honor roll all four years at Webster Groves High School and had perfect attendance as a sophomore. She was captain of the girls track team and captain of the step team and has been inducted into both the Tri M National Honor Society for music and the National Honor Society for academics. Jamie received several Renaissance awards for her grades. In addition, she played alto saxophone in both the jazz and marching bands and sang with the a cappella group A Ladies. Jamie has received a scholarship from the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where she plans to study bioscience with an emphasis in biomedical science. Ultimately, she hopes to study biomedical engineering.



MESSAGE from the CEO

As is our tradition, in the fall issue of the *ParentLink*, we have the opportunity to celebrate and recognize several of the outstanding graduates of the VICC program. These students are merely a representation of the many students who have recently graduated from the program.

Graduation is an exciting time. It marks both an ending and a new beginning. For the students recognized in this issue, all of their hard work has now paid off. We are proud of them and look forward to celebrating their ongoing achievements in life as well as celebrating the achievements of all of our students.

Counseling Staff

The Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation (VICC) staff includes five counselors/social workers who can assist families with issues related to their school transfers. Counselors are happy to respond to concerns and/or questions from parents or students regarding any issue that would interfere with the success of a child in the school setting, such as attendance, disciplinary issues, curriculum, achievement or other concerns. They also can provide counseling assistance for students and help parents understand their educational rights. Counselors generally are assigned according to the first letter of the student's last name. They can be reached by calling 314.721.8422 and dialing the extension number below, or via email.



Vickie Williams,
Counselor, Part-Time
314.721.8422, ext. 3011
vwilliams@choicecorp.org
Serving Students A – C



Laverne Mitchom,
Counselor, Part-Time
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Serving Students D – H



Jennifer Christy,
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Mildred Scott,
Counselor, Part-Time
314.721.8422, ext. 3027
msscott@choicecorp.org
Serving Students O – R



Mary Schafer Meehan,
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Contact Persons

- Affton**
Dr. Chris Daughtry 314.633.5916
- Bayless**
Ron Tucker 314.256.8601
- Brentwood**
Dr. Alex Tripamer 314.962.4507
- Clayton**
Dr. Kashina Bell 314.854.6013
Julie Engelhard 314.854.6013
- Hancock Place**
Dr. Timothy M. McInnis 314.657.9199
- Kirkwood**
Dr. Shonda Ambers-Phillips. 314.213.6105
- Mehlville**
Dr. Jeff Bresler 314.467.5007
- Parkway**
Rakiyah "Rocky" Talavedra 314.415.7060
Dr. Charlotte ljei 314.415.5063
- Rockwood**
Brittany Hogan 636.733.2177
- Special School District of St. Louis County**
Emily Boeckmann 314.989.8125
- St. Louis Magnet**
Lori Merlo 314.721.8422 x3012
- Valley Park**
Tad Savage 636.923.3614
- Webster Groves**
John M. Thomas 314.918.4378

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY Communication System

To improve communication with parents regarding transportation and their child's participation in the St. Louis Student Transfer Program, the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation uses a telephone broadcast system, similar to ones used in many participating school districts. This system, provided by School Messenger, allows VICC to quickly send all households and parents a pre-recorded message by phone within minutes of a transportation emergency or unplanned event that could significantly delay a child's pick-up or drop-off time. These emergencies include traffic jams, bus breakdowns, inclement weather, accidents, etc. The service also may be used from time to time to communicate general program announcements or reminders. This system will simultaneously call a home and one additional cell phone or alternate number for each student's family who needs to be contacted and will deliver a message from Tami Webb. In order for you to receive such messages it is critically important that we are provided accurate and up-to-date telephone numbers.

TRANSPORTATION Information

Transportation to and from school is provided by the Voluntary Interdistrict Choice Corporation so long as your child goes to a school in the correct attendance area. The phone number for the transportation staff is 314.721.8657. Transportation cards with the bus stop location and time are mailed to all transfer families about two weeks before school begins in the fall. If you do not receive your card by one week before the start of school, contact the principal at the school your child will be attending. Please do not call the transportation staff. After the regular school year begins, new cards will be mailed only if it is necessary to make a change to the bus/cab route. Please review each new card carefully, including the effective date, stop location, times and transporter. Destroy all old cards. Any day-to-day transportation problems or concerns you may have should be addressed by first calling the bus (or cab) contractor. These include normal operating issues, such as:

- Looking for lost items left on the bus/cab
- Checking on activity bus location
- Questions or cancellations when VICC Transportation office is closed.

Refer to your child's bus card for the appropriate bus/cab company. If the contractor is unable to resolve a concern, or if you have one of the following issues, please call the VICC transportation staff at 314.721.8657:

- Overall routing issues or concerns
- Pick-up or drop-off location concerns
- Concerns with driver or contractor
- Requesting cab or other alternative transportation service in the event your regular bus does not show.

Taxi Cab or (non-yellow bus transportation)

Starting with the 2018-19 school year, VICC will incorporate individual providers along with traditional taxi cabs in the daily operation of transporting students. These individual providers will be under the direct supervision of our service providers, St. Louis County/Yellow Cab and Laclede Cab. All drivers will be certified to the following Missouri Department of Education specifications:

- Holds a school bus endorsement on their state driver's license;
 - Passed a thorough fingerprint criminal background check in accordance with VICC guidelines;
 - Passed a yearly physical in accordance with State of Missouri School Bus Driver specifications;
 - Passed a Motor Vehicle Driver background check in accordance with VICC guidelines;
 - Carries commercial auto liability insurance in accordance with VICC guidelines; and
 - Comply with all state and local laws governing student pupil transportation.
- All vehicles will be marked with signage and a smartphone application will be made available for use by parents/guardians to provide parents/guardians with the driver's facial picture, make of vehicle and license plate number.

STUDENT Responsibilities

Students are to board their bus/cab only at their assigned stop. They must arrive at their designated pick-up location 5 minutes before the scheduled pick-up time, and remain at least 15 minutes after the pickup time, before calling the transportation staff at 314.721.8657 for advice on alternative transportation. If your child is not at the bus/taxi stop a full 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time and does not wait the full 15 minutes after the scheduled time and misses the bus or taxi, it will be your responsibility to get him or her to school. The transportation staff does not send alternative transportation in such instances. All students must be visible at their assigned bus or taxi stop. Also, all students must get off at their assigned stop on their ride

home unless an exception was granted by VICC prior to the p.m. bell. For the safety of all children, students must obey general safety rules as well as those established by the school district they are attending. You should obtain a copy of your district's bus regulations and review them with your child. Violations of bus rules can result in a student being removed from riding the bus either on a temporary or permanent basis. If a bus suspension occurs, it becomes the parents' responsibility to transport the child to and from school (including activities) for the duration of the suspension.

PARENT Responsibilities

Transportation may run late and/or routes may not be firmly in place during the first few weeks of school. Please make sure your child knows exactly what to do if the bus does not arrive. This includes knowing where to go and whom to call. Also make sure your child knows what is expected when he or she is dropped off at the end of the school day. If you normally meet your child at the bus stop, be sure he or she understands what to do if you are not there. If the transportation route to which your child is assigned does not operate in a timely manner, or other problems arise, please communicate with the VICC transportation office. It is important for parents to keep the school as well as the district contact person informed of any changes in either the home phone number or the cell or alternate/emergency phone number for your child. Also, be sure to request that this information be forwarded to the transportation staff.

IF YOU MOVE

If you move during the summer, call the principal at the county school your child has been or will be attending or that district's contact person immediately. All districts have central office personnel who work during the summer to handle such situations. Please remember, it takes up to 10 working days to make a transportation change. If you are going to move during the academic year, be sure to notify your building principal or district contact person at least two weeks before the move. If you move outside of your school's attendance area, you will need to request a transfer to a school in your new attendance area, or else provide your own transportation in order to remain at your original school.

GENERAL Safety Rules

- Obey the driver promptly.
- Smoking, eating or drinking are not permitted.
- Remain seated until the bus arrives at your

stop. • Refrain from using loud or obscene language.

- Do not damage the bus/cab in any way.
- Do not throw objects on the bus/cab or out of the windows.
- Do not extend head, arms, legs or hands out of the windows.
- Do not tamper with the emergency door except in the case of a real emergency and only under the instruction of the driver.
- Fighting, scuffling or creating loud disturbances are not permitted.
- Avoid the Danger Zones next to the bus where the driver can't see you. This distance is approximately 10 feet around all sides.
- If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal to you and then cross in front of the bus.
- Don't try to pick up something dropped near the bus because the driver might not see you.
- Remember that other motorists don't always stop for a stopped school bus. Use extreme caution when getting on and off the bus.
- Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

STUDENT Safety

Help us protect your child as he or she travels to and from school. Certain types of children's clothing can create a hazard as your child exits the bus. Especially dangerous are jacket and sweatshirt drawstrings, long backpack straps, long scarfs or any other loose clothing. Such clothing could become caught in the bus handrail, door or other bus equipment as the child exits the bus. Please take the time to check your child's clothing. Also talk with your child about the behavior and safety rules.

TRESPASS Policy

To bolster the safety of students riding buses to school, the VICC Board adopted the following trespass policy: "Trespass occurs when anyone boards a school bus without prior approval from VICC. Any VICC-designated person (including students), contractor or school staff whose job responsibilities require him/her to be on a school bus shall be authorized and shall not be considered trespassing. Only with prior approval from VICC or a contractor may any parent, guardian or member of the general public be allowed on a bus at any time." Be sure to review the transportation section in the Voluntary Transfer Program Handbook (pages 8-17) with your child before the start of school. To get a handbook, please call 314.721.8422, ext. 3012, or visit our website: www.choicecorp.org.