

CLAYTON KERSHAW '06

Distinguished Alumni Award



Clayton Kershaw, a professional baseball pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, was born in Dallas and attended Highland Park Schools, starting at Bradfield Elementary and graduating from HPHS in 2006. He was an exceptional athlete and was widely considered one of the best high school pitching prospects in the United States. At the end of his senior season, Kershaw earned "High School Baseball Player of the Year" honors from USA Today and was named Gatorade "National Player of the Year" for baseball. Clayton was then drafted 7th overall in the 2006 MLB draft by the Los

Angeles Dodgers. The left-handed pitcher has remained with the Dodgers for his entire 16-year career.

Any sports enthusiast knows Clayton's outstanding career in Major League Baseball. Clayton is one of the greatest players in franchise history and one of the most dominant pitchers of his generation. He has received numerous awards, including the Cy Young Award in 2011, 2013 and 2014. He was the 2014 National League Most Valuable Player and a 2020 World Series Champion! While Clayton is incredibly accomplished professionally, his friends consistently say that he is a champion both on and off the field, being a true friend, a steadfast Christian, and a fierce advocate for children both locally and globally.

Clayton and wife Ellen Melson Kershaw '06 are high school sweethearts. They chose to establish their family home in University Park and are the proud parents of Cali, Charley, Cooper, and Chance. Clayton is active in the HP school community. When he volunteers at Hyer, he is welcomed by excited staff, teachers, and students. He has raised money for the annual Hyer Auction with his three-time donation of a "Hometown Heroes" baseball game where he and fellow HP alumnus Chris Young coach youth teams against each other in a game. He is an active member of Highland Park Presbyterian Church and a regular speaker for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Clayton and Ellen are the founders of Kershaw's Challenge, a faith-based organization that encourages people to use their God-given passions or talents to make a difference and give back to people in need. They empower others to positively impact communities and transform at-risk children and neighborhoods through benevolence. Countless lives have been changed by Clayton and Ellen's powerful work!

Clayton is an ideal Scot who exemplifies sacrificial leadership and generosity and inspires others to do the same.