



# Committed to **HIGH PERFORMANCE**

A SCHOOL SYSTEM DISTRICT-WIDE NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018

ISSUE ONE

Greetings Clayton County Public Schools,



**Dr. Morcease J. Beasley**  
Superintendent of Schools

Well, the first semester of the 2017-2018 school year is almost over. We have been very busy working to establish a culture of high-performance by supporting the five areas of focus: Instruction; Support to Students; Professional Learning; Family and Community Engagement and Partnerships; and Communication and Marketing. Hopefully, you have participated in one of the many Critical Conversations and Superintendent's Advisories as a means of sharing your ideas, concerns, feedback, or support. We are so pleased that the district's Graduation Rate and College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score increased. Most schools improved on each measure. With almost a 4-points increase in our combined CCRPI score, with similar increases in the upcoming years, we will close the gap with the state and exceed the state score within a few years. We know that our strategies to increase the graduation rate will result in similar outcomes. Yes, we are on our way to becoming a high-performing school district.

Our continued work is focused on improving the quality of instruction throughout the district. This work includes efforts to ensure the rigor of instruction is comparable to the rigor of the standard (Curriculum) and the assessment (Georgia Milestones). We are using common assessments, unit assessments, and district benchmarks to monitor our students' preparation toward mastering content standards. In addition to teachers providing all students with instruction on the grade-level content standards, we are working to implement an online reading and math tool that will help students eliminate all prior grade-level deficits. This tool will be implemented in January 2018. We are convinced that these two actions will converge and result in increasing numbers of students performing at the Proficient and Distinguished levels on the Georgia Milestones thereby "flipping our data."

In closing, please read this newsletter as it is another tool we are using to keep our community informed. Please log into Infinite Campus to check student grades, to email teachers, and to read district-level or school-level announcements. I encourage all to download the school district app. Students are encouraged to use the Tip Line to report bullying or other issues as we work to create and ensure safe, high-performing environments wherein our students thrive and achieve at high levels. Thank you for your tremendous support of our students, our employees, and our school system. We are committed to making our community proud as Clayton County deserves only the best.

Committed to High-Performance,  
Dr. Morcease J. Beasley



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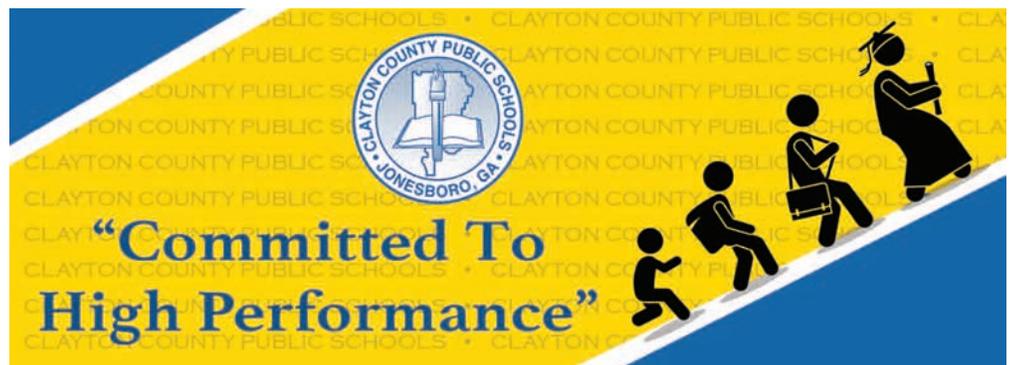
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ccps mobile app



# COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Communications, Public Relations and Marketing Division has a variety of methods to support the school district's Strategic Goal IV - **to effectively communicate the system's vision and purpose as well as allow stakeholder involvement in an effort to build understanding and support.**

Join us in spreading the news about the outstanding accomplishments and steps we are making to display our Commitment to High Performance as a school district. We encourage everyone to share the following ways to connect and give feedback as we continue to use a wide variety of platforms to promote and expand our collaborative partnerships with all stakeholders.

The Communications, Public Relations and Marketing Division utilize the school district's website, [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us), social media platforms, the CCPS Mobile App (available to download for free on Apple and Android devices), SchoolMessenger telephone & email notification system, email blasts, district television station, Channel 24 and much more to highlight the many activities, recognitions and honors of our students and employees that makes CCPS the best place to teach and learn.

We also utilize SchoolMessenger automated calling and email system to notify the community of upcoming events, important announcements and emergency situations as well as Infinite Campus to provide stakeholders (parents/guardians) with important district information and updates regarding their children's attendance, grades and other information real time.

In addition, CCPS has an internal Print Shop which handles district graphic designs, internal and external mailing requests, website services and much more!

While we understand the importance of communicating with you, we would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to communicate with us. Please feel free to submit requests or general inquiries using the forms provided on the CCPS Communications web page, or send inquires directly to the Communications, Public Relations, and Marketing Division email: [ccpscommunications@clayton.k12.ga.us](mailto:ccpscommunications@clayton.k12.ga.us).

To view the departments' protocol and/or guidelines for submission, please visit the communications page on the CCPS website.



HELP

**SUPERINTENDENT,  
DR. MORCEASE  
J. BEASLEY**

REACH OVER

**1000**

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## STAY CONNECTED

THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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[YOUTUBE.COM/CCPSNEWS](https://www.youtube.com/ccpsnews)

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[WWW.CLAYTON.K12.GA.US](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/parents/infinite-campus-overview/)

[HTTP://WWW.CLAYTON.K12.GA.US/PARENTS/INFINITE\\_CAMPUS\\_OVERVIEW/](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/parents/infinite-campus-overview/)

CCPS MOBILE APP

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WATCH US ON COMCAST CHANNEL 24

ALSO STREAMING ONLINE

[CCPSCOMMUNICATIONS@CLAYTON.K12.GA.US](mailto:CCPSCOMMUNICATIONS@CLAYTON.K12.GA.US)



# SAFETY & SECURITY



## Swearing-In Ceremony of the Safety Patrol Program at Suder Elementary School

The Safety Patrol's job is to remind students of safety rules and encourage them to observe and adhere to those rules, while also serving as positive influences on their schoolmates. Patrols influence other students both formally as part of their regular duties, as well as informally because they serve as student role models of appropriate and safe behavior. In addition, patrols can bring valuable safety information to schoolmates in classrooms. Patrols receive instructions in guidelines and procedures during their training and regular patrol meetings. We're extremely proud of the selectees and expecting them to make a significant impact on their peers at Suder Elementary.

## National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Training week

Clayton County Public Schools SROs attended National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) Training week, October 9-11, 2017. NAMI is a twenty-hour professional development training program developed for law enforcement officers, educators, mental health providers, counselors, faith leaders, and other community members who touch the lives of youth. The training was developed to provide information to trusted adults helping them identify youth in crisis. This training affords the participants the ability to gain knowledge of effective tools enabling them (the SROs) to assist and support our youth in Clayton County and their caregivers. The training encompassed the following areas:

- Understanding Adolescent Development
- Psychiatric Disorders and Treatment
- Suicidal and Non-Suicidal Self Injury
- Autism and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Cyber Bullying
- LGBTQ Youth
- IDEA, IEP, and 504 Plans
- Systems Serving Youth
- Crisis Intervention and De-escalation

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
**MOBILE APP**  
**Tip Line**

**See Something Say Something**      **Completely Confidential**

**Mobile App TIP LINE**

This is a user friendly platform that is kept confidential for the students, employees and visitors submitting the information. There are dropdown categories for easy usage. The categories are as follows:

- Bullying
- Drugs
- Fighting
- Personal harm
- Theft
- Weapons
- Student/Employee Relations

The features with this confidential tip line allows the sender to notify their specific school SRO, as well as his or her supervisor. In addition to those notifications, the division commanders and the Chief of Police are notified as well, to ensure an expeditious response. More importantly, the sender can also attach and send photographs, allowing the physical illustration of their concerns.

**Remember, You Have The Right "Not" To Remain Silent!**

# Athletic Dept.

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## Athletic Highlights

- CCPS Middle School Volleyball Champions  
Eddie White Academy
- CCPS JV Volleyball County Champions  
Drew High School
- CCPS Varsity Volleyball County Champions  
Jonesboro High School
- CCPS Cross Country County Champions for  
both Men's & Women's  
Morrow High School
- CCPS Middle School Football Champions  
North Clayton Middle School

# CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

## DEPARTMENT

### English/ Language Arts:

The Department of Language Arts is Academies for teachers in grades K-12. During the first session – October 14th – over 150 teachers spent their Saturday learning how to increase students' ability to engage in the writing process and construct effectively written pieces on various genres. Participants were exposed to practical techniques and strategies for building students' foundational skills in writing as well as the more complex skills. The course uses our Google Suite platform to foster ongoing collaboration among colleagues and to provide a place to upload examples of the practices in action! In October, students participated in the NCTE's National Day on Writing campaign in order to write about their reading. The Department of Language Arts received copious pictures, a video, and descriptions of how our students

were engaged in the meaningful process of written expression. Here are a few examples of how students participated:

- At Huie Elementary, the students wrote letters to the bus drivers in honor of Bus Safety Week to thank the drivers for safely driving them to and from school and fieldtrips.
- At Church Street Elementary, students were writing explanatory pieces about how a hurricane can change one's life. To support their ideas, they viewed a video and read informational articles.
- At Pointe South Middle, students wrote (and performed) lyrics describing why writing is important; other students were asked to compose a one-act play with a plot using figurative language like they see in their favorite books.
- At Kilpatrick Elementary, students learned how to write a five paragraph essay, and other

students wrote about the fascinating ants they had been studying!

- At Rex Mill Middle, students composed original horror stories with the goal of developing a specific tone and mood for the readers.

The District is partnering with Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign and First Book to bring 20,000 new books to our students. To do so, 1,000 qualified participants must register using the following link:

<http://www.firstbook.org/DTECDeKalbCO>



### Veterans of Foreign Wars Literacy and Art Contest

The Department of English Language Arts partnered with The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6330 to celebrate Veterans Day through a literary and art contest. The contest allowed students to explain why veterans are special. Students in K-5 submitted art depicting this theme, and students in grades 6-12 submitted essays. We are pleased to announce that some of our students were selected as winners in the 2017 contest! To recognize our winners, the VFW Post 6330 provided our students with gift cards and a certificate on Saturday, November 11, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Please see the winning students' names and information on this page. We thank the VFW for providing our students with a platform to adapt and transfer their literacy skills beyond the classroom!

## CONTEST winners

Place	Student's Name	Grade	School
1st	Justin Dorsey	8th	Eddie White Academy
2nd	Saniy Robinson	7th	Adamson Middle
3rd	Jamiah Bates	7th	Point South Middle
1st	Emily Tran	4th	Church Street Elementary
2nd	Justin Tong	5th	Harper Elementary
3rd	Paulina Sanchez	5th	Church Street Elementary

# MATHEMATICS

The Clayton County Public School's Department of Mathematics held its first Make Math Matter Awards on November 7, 2017. The Make Math Matter Awards recognized elementary students, their principals, and select teachers for choosing to make mathematics a priority. Students who participated in the virtual "Summer Math Matters" Program and earned 500 or more stickers (the equivalent of "accurately" solving 1500 problems) were recognized. Student recognized earned as much as 5000 stickers (about 15,000 problems solved). The honorees were presented with math games, logic puzzles, and a Make Math Matter t-shirt to support and encourage them to continue to develop the reasoning, strategizing, and problem solving skills that support the development of mathematical proficiency. Following the presentation of awards, the students, educators, and parents were given an opportunity to experience some virtual and "not so virtual" math logic games. It was a great evening of mathematics and motivation.

## Reading and Math Interventions

Clayton County Public Schools is committed to high-performance and this starts with ensuring ALL students are ready for the demands of our assessments, such as the Georgia Milestones Assessments. The District has purchased three reading and mathematics online programs that will be implemented in January 2018. These programs will provide students in elementary, middle, and high school with additional practice in order to "bump up" their skills and close achievement gaps. The targeted group of students is those who may not qualify for the Early Intervention Program (EIP) or Remedial Education Program (REP) because they have partial gaps in knowledge and skills. However, these students still require support in order to master grade level content. These programs include a pre-assessment to identify each student's specific learning needs in reading and mathematics, and then, the system places each student on his/her own unique learning pathway. The benefits of the selected programs are that they are highly engaging, standards-based, and web-based, which means the programs can be used at school and at home with the click of a button. Parents, guardians, and caregivers will be able to partner with schools in order to support continued learning at home. Parents will receive specific directions to help their children log-on and navigate the system. Parents will be encouraged to have a specified time and place for our students to practice. Throughout the process, parents and students will receive reports that show how well our students are progressing. Effective and continued use of these tools should lead to greater achievement among our students by fostering a powerful partnership between school and home.



The Language Arts Instructional Site Facilitators participated in professional learning on "coaching for rigor and relevance." There were many lightbulb moments that occurred as the team understood the magnitude of Leading Literacy. #iLeadLiteracy



## Career Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Gets Into Industry!

CTAE's monthly Gets Into Industry Tour (GIIT) provides Work-Based Learning (WBL) instructors from all high schools a glimpse into business and industry. GIIT focuses on industry trends within Clayton County and the surrounding areas to better prepare our students to lead the talent pipeline for careers. This month, the Clayton County Police Department (CCPD) gave instructors a first-hand look at the many divisions and career opportunities for students interested in a career within law enforcement.



Shown here with a CCPD helicopter pilot are WBL instructors (left to right) Charles Stafford, Charles Drew; Dr. Sherice Willis-Henry, North Clayton; Neva Head, Jonesboro; Pam Harris, Riverdale; and Shelia Cox-Marshall, Forest Park high schools.

**Girls Who Code** Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs at Rex Mill Middle (STEM), Lovejoy and Forest Park High Programming Pathways partner with Girls Who Code, closing the gender gap in tech, one girl at a time! Girls

Who Code Clubs are free after-school programs for 6-12 grade girls to use computer science to impact their community and join a sisterhood of supportive peers and role models. CTAE and Girls Who Code believes that computing skills are a critical path to security and prosperity in today's job market.

### CTAE Career Clusters

1. Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources
2. Architecture & Construction
3. Arts, A/V Technology, & Communications
4. Business Management & Administration
5. Education & Training
6. Energy
7. Finance
8. Government & Public Administration
9. Health Science
10. Hospitality & Tourism
11. Human Services
12. Information Technology
13. Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security
14. Manufacturing
15. Marketing
16. Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM)
17. Transportation, Distribution, & Logistics

# FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT



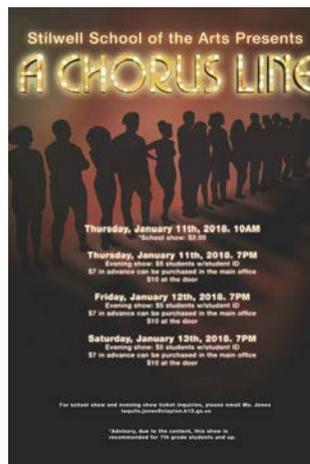
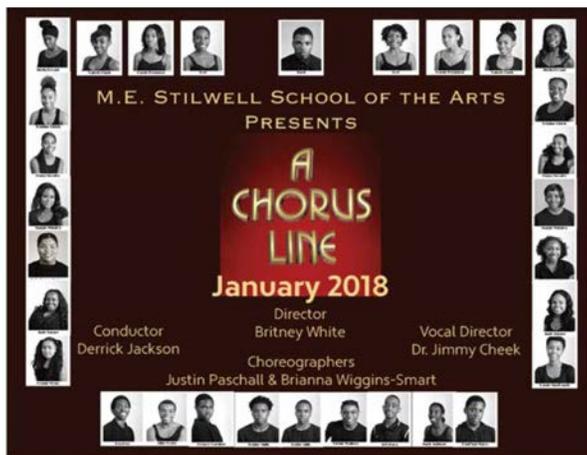
**M. E. STILWELL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS:  
STUDENTS GRADES 9-12 IN COMPANY/APPROPRIATE FOR  
7TH GRADE AND ABOVE**

**January 11, 2018 School Show at 10am,  
\$2 for CCPS Students/\$3 for All Others**

**Evening Show at 7pm, \$5 for Students w/student ID,  
\$7 in Advance/\$10 at the Door**

**January 12 and 13, 2018 Evening Shows at 7pm, \$5 for  
Students w/student ID, \$7 in Advance/\$10 at the Door**

**Ticket Information: [tequila.jones@clayton.k12.ga.us](mailto:tequila.jones@clayton.k12.ga.us)**



## Additional News:

The Pre-K Department and the Early Learning Collaborative Team have applied for an Early Learning Literacy Grant for the students of Clayton County Public Schools. If awarded, this grant will fund additional educational opportunities for the early learners and early childhood educators of Clayton County. By building upon the “100 Wonderful Words That Work” initiative, the district will be able to offer activities such as; read-ins, book carnivals, book giveaways, parent workshops and professional development classes for teachers. The 100 Wonderful Words That Work initiative was recently launched to target children ages 0 – 7 and serves as a resource for families and stakeholders to ensure children become college and career ready. Further information will be available at a later date.

## PRE-K UPDATES/ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER AND JANUARY:

### DECEMBER 2017

*Sunday, December 10, 2017*  
Family Day at the High Museum of Art  
1280 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
1:00pm – 4:00pm  
Free Admission

*Monday, December 11, 2017*  
The Wonderful Whimsical World of Winter  
Performing Arts Center  
2530 Mt. Zion Parkway  
Jonesboro, GA 30236  
6:00pm – 7:30pm

*Monday, December 18, 2017*  
Warm up to a Great Read  
Family Night at Clayton County Library  
865 Battle Creek Road  
Jonesboro, GA 30236  
5:00pm – 8:00pm

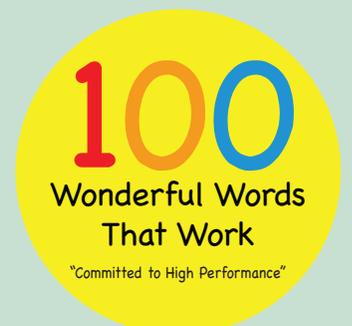
### JANUARY 2018

Month of January  
Envisioning a “New Career Year”  
All School Sites

*Thursday, January 9, 2018*  
Pre-K Engagement for Parents  
(PEP) Workshop  
Morrow Annex  
(across from Morrow High)  
2260 Old Rex Morrow Road  
Morrow, GA 30260

Workshop Title: Health and Nutrition  
Description: “Parents will participate in creating easy nutritious and delicious treats to eat!”

RSVP at (770) 473-2700 ext. 700178 by  
Thursday, January 9, 2018



# Clayton County's Afterschool Robotics Program

teams competing from 10 elementary and middle schools. The following schools are ready for combat: Rex Mill Middle, Lovejoy Middle, M.D. Roberts Middle, Mundy's Mill Middle, Smith Elementary, Kendrick Middle, Adamson Middle, Brown Elementary, Jonesboro Middle, and Tara Elementary.

The Clayton County Robotics Teams are registered and ready to compete in the 2017-2018 First Lego League Robotics Competition. This year Clayton County has 12



A Rex Mill Middle School student launches her team's robot into the maze.

## LIBRARY MEDIA SERVICES

### Georgia Picturebook Reading Bowl

**A Celebratory Occasion for Clayton Reads in Every Season!**

On Saturday, November 4, 2017, the Department of Library Media Services hosted the first annual Georgia Picturebook Reading Bowl at Kendrick Middle School. The goal of this program is to promote an early love for reading and to promote reading fluency and comprehension. Students in grades K-3 competed using a quiz-bowl format to answer questions about the twenty picturebooks nominated for the Georgia Picturebook Award. The selected format is similar to the highly notable Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl. The Picturebook Reading Bowl will create a

cohort of students who will be ready for this competition once they reach Grade 4. It truly was an amazing event that highlighted the power of reading! See competing teams below. Northcutt Elementary was the winning team.

#### COMPETING TEAMS:

- 1 - Northcutt Elementary
- 2 - Arnold Elementary
- 3 - Kemp Primary/Kemp Elementary
- 4 - Unidos Dual Language Elementary
- 5 - Callaway Elementary
- 6 - Brown Elementary

### Digital Reading Log

Students and teachers in elementary grades now have access to an electronic reading log integrated with Follett Destiny Discover called Biblionasium. Students and teachers can login at: [www.destinydiscover.com](http://www.destinydiscover.com) and select Biblionasium from the menu in the upper left corner. Within Biblionasium, students can add books to a digital reading log, write book reviews, recommend books to others, and work towards completion of reading challenges established by teachers and media specialists. See your Media Specialist for more information.



November is Family Engagement Month! Family Engagement Month is a time to celebrate the vital role parents play in their children's education. Many prominent researchers have noted that the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which that student's family is able to: Create a home environment that encourages learning, express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for

their children's achievement and future careers, and become involved in their children's education at school and in the community. In October 2016, Governor Nathan Deal issued a proclamation designating the month of November as Family Engagement Month, with November 17 being

recognized as Parental Involvement Day. Clayton County Public Schools recognizes the critical roles that schools and families play throughout a child's educational career. To help parents and families stay involved in education, we want to share with you a few simple ways to stay engaged:

## FEDERAL PROGRAMS

1. **Become A School Volunteer**
2. **Volunteer To Be A Reading Partner**
3. **Attend School-Based Parent Workshops**
4. **Help with Community Outreach Initiatives**

# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS

## D E P A R T M E N T

### HOMELESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

#### HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS OBSERVANCE

November is Georgia Homelessness Awareness Month. Clayton County Public Schools will distribute green ribbons to wear in observance of this cause. These green ribbons represent our commitment to serve students who are experiencing homelessness.

For more than a decade, our school district has provided activities under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. These activities provide support services to homeless children and youth that enable them to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.

Despite economic recovery throughout the nation, many families continue to experience a loss of housing, employment, or medical traumas that result in high mobility and instability

for children. Some of our student's experience unstable living arrangements that include residing in shared housing, shelters, hotels/motels, or substandard living situations.

**The Homeless Education Department is asking everyone to wear a green ribbon in the month of November.**

It symbolizes your support of the work we do to minimize the effects of high mobility for homeless students.

Thank you for your support with this initiative that builds awareness and sensitivity for issues surrounding homelessness throughout the State of Georgia.

#### OFFICE DEPOT MAKES A DONATION TO HOMELESS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The Homeless Education Department was selected as an award recipient from Office Depot at its Jonesboro location Grand Opening Event. The award consisted of a \$100 Office Depot gift card in appreciation for the educational support the department provides to homeless children and youth. Homeless education coordinator, Sonia Davis was asked to participate in the ribbon cutting and shared a brief summary of the program and information about the homeless population in Clayton County Public Schools.

# PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CENTER

## 2018 Employees of the Year

The Clayton County Public Schools Professional Learning Department is excited to announce the 2018 Employees of the Year! The winners are:

**TEACHER OF THE YEAR –**  
Mr. Jeremy Lemahieu  
Stilwell School of the Arts

**CO PRINCIPALS OF THE YEAR –**  
Mr. Sam West  
Church Street Elementary

Dr. Pam Pitts  
Morrow High School

**CERTIFIED SUPPORT LEADER OF  
THE YEAR –**  
Dr. Eboni Chillis  
CTAE Coordinator

**DIVISION OF TEACHING AND  
LEARNING CLASSIFIED  
SUPPORT LEADER OF  
THE YEAR –**  
Dr. Yetunde Alade  
Nutrition Services Coordinator  
School Nutrition

**CERTIFIED SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR –**  
Ms. Landria Anderson  
School Psychologist  
Psychological Services

**CLASSIFIED SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR –**  
Ms. Keronda Robinson,  
Administrative Support Specialist II,  
School Leadership and  
Improvement Department,  
Cluster B



## The Bedrock for Building Relationships

The Professional Learning Department continues to offer “Customer Service: The Bedrock for Building Relationships”. This course is designed for all staff and includes research-based strategies for building relationships and providing exceptional customer service to all internal and external stakeholders. The course was developed based on extensive research and out-of-district professional learning sessions regarding the importance and delivery of customer service in the school setting. The course also addresses effective communication, cultural competency, stress management, and the importance of self-care. The course is offered on an “On Demand” basis and is customized to fit the audience. The class has been presented to over 2,000 employees to date. The course is presented by CCPS Training Specialists.

## TAPP Program

Our department continues to offer the TAPP (Teacher Academy of Preparation and Pedagogy) Program for individuals holding 4-year degrees in areas other than education who are desiring to obtain full teaching certification. Upcoming interest meetings are scheduled for December 7, 2017, January 11, 2018, February 8, 2018, and March 8, 2018. All sessions are held from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. For more information, please visit:

[http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/professional\\_learning/ccps\\_tapp\\_program/](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/professional_learning/ccps_tapp_program/).

School Council Training Sessions will be held on the following dates: December 4, 2017, and December 11, 2017. All sessions will be held at the Professional Learning Center from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

## Division of Engagement, Government Relations and Partnerships

The newly formed **Division of Engagement, Government Relations and Partnership** is headed by its Chief, Wendell A. Spiva.

The Family and Community Engagement Center is located at the Perry Center, which is the Clayton County Public Schools Open Campus.

New and exciting partnerships have been established with the following companies and organizations: Atlanta Food Bank, Toyota South, Operation Lunchbox, The Atlanta Hawks, Baranco Ford and Camus.

The Family and Community Engagement Center will be partnering with Clayton County Public Schools Social Workers for the Ninth Annual Food Drive. This event will be held at the Perry Center.

Please stay tuned for more information and updates about activities and events.

# TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

## Driver and Monitors 2017 Appreciation Week

Each year the Nation celebrates National School Bus Safety Week. This year that week fell between October 16th -20th. During that time, Clayton drivers and monitors were recognized in several ways. The Transportation Department staff were honored to prepare lunch for all the drivers and monitors. The drivers and monitors were honored at various schools. Additionally, each Transportation

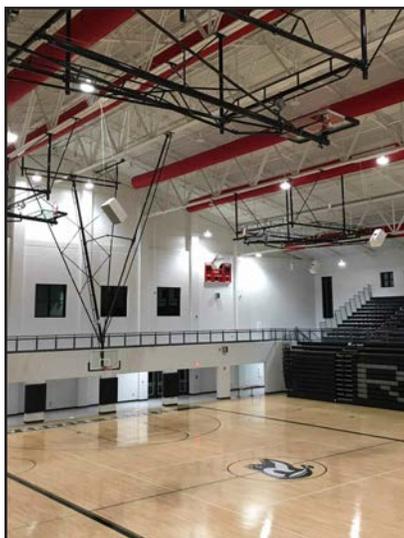
department employee received a special lunch bag honoring their hard work and dedication. Finally Clayton County Public School Students had a chance to celebrate the week by participating in the annual School Bus Safety Week Contest. More than 20 students submitted a poster observing the theme "Stop on Red". The entries from the final candidates for the poster contest were submitted to the state to compete against other participants statewide. This capped a week-long celebration of activities that supported and recognized the hard work and dedication regularly displayed by Clayton County Public Schools drivers and monitors.



# CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in November for construction of the Riverdale High School's new Competition Gym, which is now complete and welcomes the 2017-18 basketball season. With lofty 35-foot ceilings and a beautiful curtain wall entrance, the approximately 53,000 square feet gym makes a delightful addition to the facility. Included in the new gym are two coaches' and two trainer offices, both home and visitor girls' & boys' locker rooms, two boastful lobby areas and a hospitality room for guests.

The maximum capacity of the new gym is 1,835 which should amply provide space for students, staff and spectators to support their athletes. The new Riverdale High Gym was designed by Manley, Spangler, Smith Architects and constructed by Bowen & Watson at \$13.5 million with existing gym modifications included.



## NUTRITION

### Shaking up School Lunch

"Shake it Up" is a new statewide initiative aimed at improving school meals and making positive changes to cafeterias in the district. CCPS has joined the movement by introducing fresh, exciting flavors to the menus, featuring Georgia Grown Products, and implementing friendlier cafeteria environments.

Mr. James Jabbarr, has been hired as CCPS's new chef. Chef Jabbarr is in the process of revamping the school menus. His first project was to revamp

vegetable side dishes incorporating more flavor to the recipes. Students participated in comparison tests of Confetti Carrots, Fresh Cabbage, Zesty Broccoli and more. "You Da Chef", a flavor station, was unveiled at all schools during Nutritional School Lunch Week (NSLW). Students were able to season their own food with a selection of salt-free seasonings. Feedback from the schools suggest that it was a huge success. More seasonings will be added.

Students were amazed by the introduction of "Walking Tacos". A delicious interactive meal somewhere between a taco and a nacho, which allows students to add their own toppings.

Indescribably delicious according to student feedback. Another avenue the Nutrition Dept. has taken with testing products with students, teachers, and administrators is to partner with large corporations such as Land O' Lakes and their culinary Team. Recently the student/administrator focus group tested new delicious recipes like Chicken Tortilla Soup, Buffalo Flat Bread Pizza, Alfredo Florentine, and Caribbean Chicken. This diverse group of students were encouraged to be candid in expressing their feelings in reference to the total appeal of the meals they tested. Their feedback will determine which new items will be used on the district-wide school menus.



# Clayton County Public Schools Mentor Process, Policies & Procedures

## MENTOR PROCESS

1. All persons interested in becoming a mentor in Clayton County Public Schools will complete an application and submit the application to the following address:  
**Clayton County Public Schools  
Attn: Dr. Alicia Dunn  
Guidance and Counseling  
1058 Fifth Ave  
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236**
2. The Coordinator of Guidance and Counseling will review all applications. All potential candidates will be contacted within 72 hours of receiving an application to arrange an interview.
3. Students who are approved for mentoring will undergo a criminal background check issued by Clayton County Public Schools at no cost to the applicant. The background check will be completed by the Clayton County Public Schools Safety and Security Department located at the following address:

**1098 Fifth Ave  
Jonesboro, Georgia 30236**

- o If the applicant is not selected a background check will not be administered. The applicant will receive a letter indicating that he or she has not been selected for the program.
  - o If the applicant has a criminal record, the applicant will not be selected to become a mentor with the Clayton County Public School System. The applicant will receive a letter stating the reason for denial is due to an active criminal history record.
4. All applicants who are accepted into the program must attend training provided by Clayton County Public Schools.
  5. Applicants may begin mentoring students upon receipt of a clear background check.

***All mentors will attend monthly meetings with program director/coordinator to discuss the progress of the mentor-mentee relationship.***

## MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Clayton County Public Schools:**

Clayton County Public Schools will implement the Mentoring Program by completing the following:

- Implement the program policies and procedures as outlined in the manual.
- Recruit and interview mentors.
- Provide initial and ongoing training of mentors.
- Monitor mentor hours, supervise, and support mentors.
- Match mentors with mentees.
- Maintain mentor files (application, background check form, interview summary) and paperwork related to each mentoring relationship (Mentor Agreement, Activity Log, Mentor-Mentee Agreement Checklist, Setting Goals, Exit Interview, etc.).
- Hold bi-weekly or monthly mentor meetings to discuss problems and/or accomplishments.
- Maintain updated information about the mentoring relationship in the mentor database.
- Plan social activities for mentors and mentees approximately three times a year.
- Prepare and conduct exit interviews.
- Evaluate the mentoring component throughout the year (end of summer program, mid/end of academic year) periodically through program surveys and interviews.

# MENTOR RESPONSIBILITIES CONT.

## Clayton County Public Schools Mentors

The Mentors will report to the Department of Guidance and will be asked to make a six-month commitment. Mentors are asked to follow the three Cs:

- **Commitment:** Commit to foster a healthy relationship with your mentee throughout an academic school year.
- **Care:** Provide a caring rapport with your mentee.
- **Consistency:** Follow the guidelines on mentor times and visits.

### **Additionally, mentors will:**

- Participate in mentor training provided by Clayton County Public Schools.
- Provide mentoring support and assistance to the mentee to encourage school attendance.
- Meet with assigned mentees based upon agreed work schedule.
- Assist in the development of skills necessary for mentees to succeed personally, socially, and academically.
- Assist assigned mentees in developing realistic career/academic goals and expectations.
- Participate in the planning of enrichment activities.
- Accompany mentees on field trips and other activities related to the program.
- Evaluate and document experiences of assigned mentees.
- Provide resource information to mentees.

## My Brother's Keeper



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, along with Deputy Superintendent of School Improvement and Leadership, Dr. Ralph Simpson, has challenged all schools to establish male mentoring/outreach programs and participate in the My Brother's Keeper Clayton (MBKC) initiative, which is based on the six (6) principles of Former President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper Program.

To meet the six milestones, My Brother's Keeper Clayton will establish programs and procedures to monitor academics, and discipline from grades kindergarten through 12th grade through a data dashboard that will also provide the district with information on early warning signs of dropping out. In addition, MBKC will seek to increase the number of students completing an Academic or Career Tech Pathway, reduce the number of out of school suspensions and expulsions, as well as provide opportunities for Males of Color who are disproportionately suspended/expelled from school. Lastly, by creating male support groups at every level, MBKC will increase the number of Males of Color being exposed to rigorous and challenging courses e.g. Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Honors and Gifted courses.

For more information about the My Brother's Keeper Clayton initiative or the six My Brother's Keeper Principles, visit the updates section of the Clayton County Public Schools district website, [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us). To learn information about specific mentoring programs at schools, please contact the school site directly.

