

“COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”

NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Department of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing

Jada K. Dawkins
Chief of Communications
Telephone: (770) 472-7257

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Superintendent Reiterates Safety Message to All Stakeholders *Clayton County Public Schools Commencement Exercises May 24-26, 2018*

JONESBORO – As we come to the close of the 2017-18 school year, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is placing an emphasis on the safety of our students, our staff and our visitors, and the security of our schools and our offices. We will continue to have a visible presence of security and administrators throughout our campuses and facilities as we prepare for the final days of school. Parents, guardians and visitors that enter our school buildings are reminded to refrain from bringing any harmful objects to our facilities that would present a threat or danger to our students, staff or volunteers.

“As it relates to our upcoming graduation exercises at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC), we will have a visible security presence,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent of Schools. “We ask that individuals planning to attend any ceremony to arrive early to allow an on-time start for each exercise.”

“Although this is a time of celebration, we expect our audience members to conduct themselves in accordance with the nature of this special event that recognizes the amazing accomplishments of all Clayton County’s graduating seniors,” Dr. Beasley added.

The 2017-18 academic year for students enrolled in Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) will come to an end on Wednesday, May 23. The only district school that will continue its regular session will be the Elite Scholars Academy (ESA) (see below).

High School Students

High school students are dismissing at 1:00 p.m. through our final day on Wednesday, May 23. All other grade levels are attending on a regular schedule.

We ask students to remain safe as we approach the end of school. We understand that the excitement of the approaching summer vacation may affect behavior during and around the school day. We hope all students will exercise good judgment in and out of school. Please know that the Clayton County School Police will be on heightened alert to keep this time incident free.

CCPS reminds everyone that they should anticipate a higher than normal level of traffic in and around our campuses as schools host end of the year award and promotion programs for students and their families.

Visitors to our campuses should be patient and should add a few minutes for any travel to and from our schools. Be aware that parking may be limited at various school locations during these special events. We ask visitors to our campuses to exercise best/appropriate judgment while navigating our parking

lots/school grounds and adhere to any instructions issued by a School Resource Officer (SRO) or Campus Security Officer (CSO).

We understand this is an exciting time for graduating seniors and their families; however, we encourage them to think critically and exercise proper judgment as they await their respective commencement ceremonies.

Operation Graduation 2018

Ceremonies for the CCPS Class of 2018 will be streamed live from the GICC and can be viewed on the district's website, www.clayton.k12.ga.us.

Graduation ceremonies for 10 of the district's high schools will take place Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 24-26. This will be the second year that CCPS graduation ceremonies will be held at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) in College Park. (The 2018 Graduation schedule is below.)

The GICC is located at **2000 Convention Center Concourse in College Park, Georgia**. Parking at the facility, which will be available for \$8, will be limited on event days. Carpooling is advised.

In order to ensure an on-time start for each ceremony, all members of each class will have the option of being transported to the GICC via school buses provided by the district's Department of Transportation. While transport back to the school following each ceremony will be available, it is optional for graduates to depart the GICC with family or friends.

Please know that the Clayton County School Police will be on site working with the Fulton County Sheriff's Department and the GICC security staff to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our graduates, their families and friends. Please know that order will be strictly enforced and unruly or displays of abrasive behavior will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to removal of the event.

Elite Scholars Academy (ESA)

The last day for students enrolled at Elite Scholars Academy charter school will be Friday, June 1. The graduation ceremony for the ESA Class of 2018 will be held at the district's Performing Arts Center in Jonesboro on Saturday, June 2. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m.

2018 Dates and Time for Commencement

High School	Date	Starting Time	Seating Time	Ending Time	Parking Lot Time (Departure and Arrival)
Day 1 – Thursday, May 24, 2018					
Drew	Day 1	9:00 AM	8:15 AM	10:30 AM	110 to 120 minutes
Jonesboro	Day 1	1:30 PM	12:15 PM	3:00 PM	110 to 120 minutes
Mundy's Mill	Day 1	6:00 PM	5:15 PM	7:30 PM	110 to 120 minutes
Day 2 – Friday, May 25, 2018					
Stilwell	Day 2	8:30 AM	7:45 AM	10:00 AM	110 to 120 minutes
North Clayton	Day 2	12:30 PM	11:45 AM	2:00 PM	110 to 120 minutes
Forest Park	Day 2	4:30 PM	3:45 PM	6:00 PM	110 to 120 minutes
Morrow	Day 2	8:00 PM	7:15 PM	9:30 PM	110 to 120 minutes
Day 3 – Saturday, May 26, 2018					
Mt. Zion	Day 3	9:00 AM	8:15 AM	10:30 AM	110 to 120 minutes
Riverdale	Day 3	1:30 PM	12:15 PM	3:00 PM	110 to 120 minutes
Lovejoy	Day 3	6:00 PM	5:15 PM	7:30 PM	110 to 120 minutes

The Commencement ceremonies for these two schools will be at the PAC

Perry Center	Dec 20	6:00 PM
Perry Center	May 18	6:00 PM
Elite Scholars	June 2	10:00 AM

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving almost 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth largest school system in Georgia.

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