

"COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE"

ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CCPS to Host "The Very Special Arts Festival"

JONESBORO - The Very Special Arts Festival (VSAF) is an event hosted by the Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of Exceptional Students and Music Therapy Program. It provides an opportunity where students with special needs in Preschool through 12th Grade come together to participate in a day of arts and crafts, field events, and classroom art competitions related to a festival theme. Past festival themes have included: "Wonders of the World", "Sports", "Decades: Thru the Years", "A Day at the Beach", "All About that Music", "Arts on Parade", and "A Day at Camp". While students participate in the various arts and crafts and other events, they not only are having a lot of fun, but they are also working on their social skills, fine and gross motor skills, attending skills, and academic skills.

This year's VSAF will be held at Southern Crescent Stadium (Charles Drew HS), 6231 Garden Walk Blvd in Riverdale, on Monday, May 7, 2018 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Volunteers will help out between 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The theme of this year's festival is "*SPRING INTO SUMMER*" and all arts and crafts will relate to some aspect of spring or summer. Students will be able to participate in crafts for all levels and all age groups. There will be a disc jockey for dancing, field games, as well as the newest addition to this year's festival, a photo booth.

Over the years, the festival has grown tremendously and not only includes students and staff from Clayton County Public Schools, but also Henry County Public Schools. The festival has gone from approximately 400-500 students in attendance to 700-800 students in attendance, along with many teachers and assistant teachers. Approximately 800 students have registered for this year's event from our functional autism and intellectual disabilities classrooms.

An event of this magnitude would not be possible without the help of many volunteers from throughout the school and local communities. Each year, we have approximately 100-125 volunteers from various community organizations, such as Arts Clayton, as well as Clayton County Public Schools central office personnel, physical therapists, adapted physical education teachers, occupational therapists, friends of CCPS employees, and administrators. In addition, volunteers from the Henry County Public School system also lend a hand (administrators, HCPS central office personnel, physical and occupational therapists), and many, many more! ***We are still in need of volunteers. Please feel free to check out the attached flyer and register to volunteer.***

We also rely on donations and discounts from local vendors, in addition to school support. Some give monetary donations and others provide supplies for our students to use during the festival or food for the volunteers. Over the years we have had donations from Home Depot, Chick-fil-A, Krispy Kreme Donuts, Dunkin' Donuts, Friends of the Bradford Williams Center, ARC of Clayton County, and many more! We

are excited for our upcoming Very Special Arts Festival. We can't wait to see you there supporting our students with disabilities.

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through 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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