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# NEWS RELEASE

**CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

[www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://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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## CCPS Launches Addition to Clayton Reads Reading Initiative

**JONESBORO** – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA) has partnered with the CCPS Department of Transportation and Scholastics Inc. to create the *Books on the Bus (B.O.T.B)* initiative. Designed to maximize reading time for all students, this initiative provides students with high-interest reading material in an effort to foster a passion for reading while building fluency and vocabulary knowledge.

Starting with two buses, B.O.T.B will utilize buses 909 and 844 to gauge student interest as well as troubleshoot any challenges that may arise while the initiative is in its initial phase. Bus 909 services students of Kemp Primary, Kemp Elementary, Mundy’s Mill Middle School, and Mundy’s Mill High School. Bus 844 services two busloads from Lake Ridge Elementary as well as Riverdale High School. It is the goal of the district to expand the program beyond the aforementioned buses as additional book resources become available.

“Research shows that if a student reads an extra thirty minutes a day, he/she will read 1.8 million more words a year than a student who does not,” said Dr. Ebony Lee, CCPS Director of CIA. “With this data in mind, we are focusing on maximizing reading opportunities for students in grades K-6 as well as nurturing the reading skills of students in grades 7-12. In addition, we are also improving grade-level proficiency and deepening our students’ interest in literacy so they becoming lifelong readers once their K-12 education has been completed,” she continued.

In an effort to encourage student participation, bus drivers only have three expectations for students participating in the *Books on the Bus* initiative which are as follows: 1) select a book quickly upon entering the bus, 2) read and enjoy the book quietly during the ride, and 3) return the book when departing the bus and not before.

“It is our hope that students take full advantage of having access to this wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books and magazines while traveling to and from school,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “I am very proud of the work done by our Transportation and CIA Departments as well as Scholastic to create a potentially transformational program to maximize engagement opportunities with our students. We are all responsible for ensuring our students are highly literate critical thinkers and this partnership displays our belief in working together to grow our students,” he concluded.

As the district seeks to involve parents/guardians in this initiative, it is asked that parents/guardians continue to promote literacy by engaging with their students once the school day is over regarding the interesting books read as part of *Books on the Bus*.

“We have shared a letter with parents regarding this program as well as provided the riders of buses 844 and 909 each with a free book to kick off this program,” said Dr. Lee. “We ask parents to assist us in extending the learning beyond the school day by encouraging their children to read on the bus and also ask them about the books they enjoy reading each day. We believe parental engagement is key and will not only pique the child's interest in reading but also promote stronger literacy skills,” concluded Dr. Lee.

For more information regarding the Clayton Reads in Every Season Program and other resource initiatives of Clayton County Public Schools, please visit the district website, [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us).

### **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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