

"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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Stilwell School of the Arts Named National Blue Ribbon School

Becomes the second CCPS school to earn this recognition

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has the profound honor to announce that Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts (MESSA) has been recognized as an **Exemplary High Performing Schools** National Blue Ribbon School for 2020 by U. S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos.

Stilwell is one of 367 Blue Ribbon Schools nationwide as announced by the U.S. Department of Education. A total of nine schools in Georgia earned the Blue Ribbon designation for 2020. As this recognition is awarded to elementary and secondary level schools, Stilwell is one of two high schools designated and becomes the second CCPS school to be named a Blue Ribbon School. Elite Scholars Academy was so named in 2014.

The Education Department recognizes all Blue Ribbon schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, student subgroup scores and graduation rates:

- Exemplary High Performing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.
- Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools – These are among their state’s highest performing in closing achievement gaps between a school’s student groups and all students.

“We are extremely delighted to share this news with our stakeholders,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “I join with the Clayton County Board of Education and with all our students, our staff and our administrators in commending Stilwell School of the Arts for earning this tremendous recognition.”

“Clearly this amazing school and all those associated with it are outstanding examples of our commitment to high performance,” he added.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony will be held virtually Thursday and Friday, November 12-13, 2020. During these virtual celebrations will honor all 317 public and 50 non-public school names for this distinction. Stilwell will join with the other honorees in receiving their plaques and flags through the mail.

About the National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards

Now in its 38th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed almost 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools, with some schools winning multiple awards. Up to 420 schools, both public and private in all grade levels, may be nominated each year with nominations accepted from top education officials in all states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education.

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 over 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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