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# NEWS RELEASE

*CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Clayton County Public Schools Prepare for Total Solar Eclipse**

*District to delay dismissal on Monday, August 21*

**JONESBORO** – According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), for the first time in ninety-nine (99) years, the entire continental United States will experience a total solar eclipse on Monday, August 21. As school districts across the nation prepare for the impending eclipse, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is prepared to take advantage of this once in a life time phenomenon.

CCPS has planned various educational opportunities for staff members to engage students in this rare occurrence such as activities involving studying cloud patterns before, during and after the eclipse as well as taking temperature readings to gauge the eclipse’s effects on the environment. This data will be used not only immediately after the eclipse but also in other subjects such as Math and English Language Arts (ELA) to support the district’s literacy and numeracy across the curriculum efforts.

“As a school district, we pursue every opportunity to engage our students and help them achieve the high levels of performance of which we know they are capable,” said CCPS K-12 Academic Science Coordinator, Janetta Greenwood. “By using activities from one subject area and integrating the work into different subject areas, we are helping students establish connections and bridge confidence gaps in subject areas where they may have had issues in the past.”

Due to the location of Clayton County and the path of the eclipse, residents will not experience a total eclipse, however, they will be able to witness the start of the eclipse at approximately 1:06 p.m. The peak is expected at 2:37 p.m. and the eclipse is anticipated to end around 4:02 p.m.

While the district recognizes the magnitude and rarity of this educational opportunity, the safety of all students and staff during the eclipse is of utmost importance. With safety at the forefront, school district leaders have decided to delay dismissal on Monday, August 21, to ensure that no students or employees are exposed at the height of the eclipse.

“We are excited to allow our students to engage with science in a way that many will never be able to experience; however, we must be extremely knowledgeable of the safety implications this event poses to our school district,” stated Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, Superintendent of Schools.

“Since the peak time of the eclipse is occurring during our elementary school dismissal process, coupled with the dangers and temptation associated with looking directly at the sun during an eclipse, we felt it best for everyone to delay dismissal by forty-five (45) minutes at each school level. The safety of our students and employees is always our top priority in all that we do. In order to be the highest performing

school system in the nation, we understand that we have to put ourselves in the best position to be successful, which involves being aware of potential dangers and avoiding them when we can,” he concluded.

In addition to delayed dismissal, the school district has purchased protective eyewear, eclipse glasses, which utilizes a special solar lens to filter ultra-violet, infrared and intense visible light rays that are harmful to the eye.

To view the delayed dismissal times for Clayton County Public Schools please reference the following chart. For more information regarding the district’s handling of the eclipse, please visit CCPS district website, [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us) or contact individual schools directly.

<i>Delayed Dismissal Times For Monday, August 21, 2017</i>	
Elementary Schools	3:05 P.M.
Middle Schools	3:50 P.M.
High Schools	4:35 P.M.

### **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 over 54,000 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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