



Clayton County Public Schools

"Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!"

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, & Marketing

May 16, 2023

Interim Superintendent Calls for Safety as the End of 2022-23 Draws Near *Commencement Exercises are May 23-26, 2023- Only Clear See-Through Bags Allowed*

JONESBORO - As we approach the final days of the 2022-2023 school year, Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith, and the district's leadership are emphasizing the safety and security of our students, staff, families, and event guests as we celebrate the commencement season.

Dr. Smith said. "We will have a visible security presence at our campuses and events that are scheduled for the final weeks of the 2022-2023 school year."

Clayton County Public Schools will utilize the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) in College Park for commencement exercises involving ten high schools for the fifth year. The ceremonies will take place Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, May 24-26 (see schedule below). The GICC address is 2000 Convention Center Concourse in College Park, Georgia.

The Class of 2023 for Elite Scholars Academy will kick off the Operation Graduation 2023 activities with its commencement exercises at the district's Performing Arts Center at 2530 Mt. Zion Parkway in Jonesboro. The ceremony is Tuesday, May 23, 2023, and begins at 7:00 p.m.

High School	Date	Seat Time	Start Time	End Time
Day 1 – Wednesday, May 24, 2023*				
MT. ZION	May 24	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	5:30 PM
FOREST PARK	May 24	7:15 PM	8:00 PM	9:30 PM
Day 2 – Thursday, May 25, 2023				
MORROW	May 25	7:15 AM	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
RIVERDALE	May 25	11:15 AM	12:00PM	1:30 PM
STILWELL	May 25	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	5:30 PM
LOVEJOY	May 25	7:15 PM	8:00 PM	9:30 PM
Day 3 – Friday, May 26, 2023				
CHARLES DREW	May 26	7:15 AM	8:00 AM	9:30 AM
JONESBORO	May 26	11:15 AM	1200 PM	1:30 PM
NORTH CLAYTON	May 26	3:15 PM	4:00 PM	5:30 PM
MUNDY'S MILL	May 26	7:15 PM	8:00 PM	9:30 PM

Commencement Ceremonies for the PAC

ELITE SCHOLARS	TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023	7:00 PM
SUMMER	TBD	
ADULT ED	TBD	

* - Wednesday, May 24, 2023 will be an Early Release Day for the school district.

The Clayton County School Police, working in cooperation with GICC security and other law enforcement agencies will have a visible presence inside and outside the facility. Security checks, utilizing weapons

detection devices, will take place as guests enter the GICC for each ceremony. Parents, guardians, relatives, and guests are reminded to refrain from bringing harmful objects to the graduation ceremonies that would threaten our students, staff, volunteers, or other attendees.

As security personnel work to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our graduates, their families, and friends, know that safety measures to ensure orderly conduct will be strictly enforced. Displays of unruly or abrasive behavior will not be tolerated and violators will be subject to removal.

Special Dismissal Schedule for Week of May 22

- **Monday and Tuesday, May 22-23, 2023** – Monday and Tuesday, May 22-23, will serve as early dismissal days for all high school students only. High schools will dismiss at 12:00 p.m. Elementary and Middle schools will dismiss at their regular times.
- **Wednesday, May 24, 2023 (the last day of the 2022-2023 School Year)** – Wednesday, May 24, schools will dismiss on the following schedule: high schools at 12:00 p.m.; elementary schools will dismiss at 1:15 p.m.; and middle schools will dismiss at 2:15 p.m.

Commencement Tickets & Live Streaming Services

Entry into the ceremonies will be ticketed. Be advised that tickets will be distributed directly to seniors by respective school leadership and stakeholders should not visit schools to pick up tickets for graduation. This decision is due to the district's commitment to providing a safe and healthy event for students and their guests and our employees. The wearing of masks is optional but encouraged.

Each ceremony will be live-streamed from the GICC and is accessible on the district's website, www.clayton.k12.ga.us. **Watch parties for family and friends are also encouraged.**

Have trouble accessing the streaming video? Please review the following support:

- Please ensure that your device's operating system is up to date (this includes mobile devices)
- Please use one of the following recommended internet browsers: Chrome, Firefox, Safari
- Please ensure that your browser is up to date and refresh as necessary

Parking for the Ceremonies

Parking at the facility, which is limited, will cost \$10. **Payment will be by card only.** The lot will be closed when capacity has been reached. **Carpooling is strongly encouraged.** Local transit services, if applicable, Uber or Lyft options, and use of short-term parking at the Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport are recommended.

Items not allowed in any ceremony

While we want this to be a joyful celebration for the graduates and their parents/guardians, relatives, friends, and guests, the following items are **NOT** allowed in the GICC for any graduation ceremony. Guests will be asked to return them to their vehicle. **District/GICC staff will not be responsible for holding or watching items.**

- Weapons
- Balloons

- Signs
- Noise-Makers
- Glass Vases

Clear, See-Through Bags ONLY!

Guests attending ceremonies at either the Performing Arts Center in Jonesboro or the Georgia International Convention Center in College Park may only bring clear, see-through bags to the event. Guests will be asked to return bags that are not clear, see-through bags will be asked to return them to their vehicle. **District/GICC staff will not be responsible for holding or watching items.**

There will be **NO** re-entry into the GICC. If you leave, you will not be able to return. (You may only re-enter if you are returning one of the above items to your vehicle.)

For more information related to the the Do's and Don'ts of Attending a 2023 Graduation Ceremony, please check out this video: [▶ 2022-2023 Operation Graduation Do's & Don't](#)

Important: To prepare for the processional, five (5) minutes before the start of each ceremony, we will temporarily close entry doors to the event space. Those arriving after this time will have to remain in the pre-function area of the facility so please keep this in mind. We will reopen the doors following the performance of the National Anthem. Please note that attendees can view the ceremony on display monitors in the pre-function area until doors are reopened.

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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