

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CCPS Swears-In Re-Elected School Board Members | Board Re-Elects Chair & Vice Chair

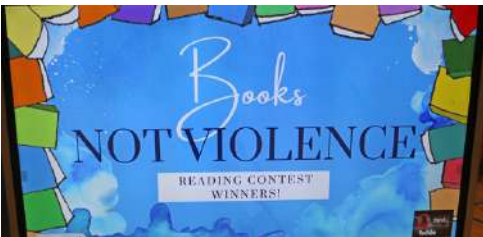


Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) held Swearing-In ceremonies on Monday, January 9, 2023, for Ms. Jasmine Bowles, Board Representative of District 1, and Ms. Joy Tellis Cooper, Board Representative of District 8, as they have won their respective elections. Held in the Boardroom of the Clayton County Public Schools Administrative Complex and officiated by Clayton County Probate Court Judge Pam Ferguson, the ceremonies took place prior to the start of the scheduled Board Meeting.

In addition, as part of the Board Meeting, members of the Board of Education voted to re-elect Ms. Jessie Goree, District 3, and Mr. Benjamin Straker, District 9, to serve as Board Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

Please join us as we congratulate all Clayton County Board members on their successful re-elections! In addition, please join us in congratulating Mr. Benjamin Straker - District 9, and Ms. Victoria Williams - District 4, who were also reelected to serve as Board members.

CCPS Announces Winner of Books Not Violence Contest - Ms. Aretha Hewlett 2nd Grade Class @ Fountain Elementary



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) salutes the Fountain Elementary School second-grade class of Ms. Aretha Hewlett for winning the first Books Not Violence Contest. The districtwide competition was sponsored by Clayton County Solicitor General Charles Brooks in partnership with Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) member Dr. Deatrice "Dee" Haney, District 5.

As part of the contest, the second-grade class that read the most books between November 7, 2022, and January 6, 2023, would be declared the winner. Ms. Hewlett's class read 1,981 books and received a Kindle Reader for each student. The prizes were presented during a ceremony at the school on Friday, January 20.

Please join CCPS as we congratulate Ms. Aretha Hewlett's second-grade class at Fountain Elementary on this amazing accomplishment, and express appreciation to Clayton County Solicitor General Charles Brooks and CCBOE District 5 representative Dr. Deatrice "Dee" Haney for making this remarkable learning opportunity available.

CCPS Board of Education Announces 2023 Meeting Schedule

Clayton County Public Schools is proud to share the 2023 Clayton County Board of Education Meeting schedule. All meetings will be held at the Clayton County Public Schools Administrative Complex (1058 Fifth Avenue in Jonesboro, Georgia). Please be advised that all Board Work session meetings will begin at 5:00 p.m. and Board meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Month	Board Meeting	Work Session
January 2023	January 9	January 30
February 2023	February 6	February 27
March 2023	March 6	March 27
April 2023	April 10	April 24
May 2023	May 1	Tuesday, May 30th
June 2023	June 5	June 26
July 2023	July 10	July 31st
August 2023	August 7	August 28
September 2023	Labor Day Mon Sept 4 Tuesday, September 5	September 25
October 2023	October 2	October 30
November 2023	November 6	November 27
December 2023	December 4	N/A

Board of Education Earns "Outstanding Achievement Award" from College Park Skyhawks



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to share that the Clayton County Board of Education was recently recognized at the College Park Skyhawks Game on Friday, January 27!

Recognized for their overall governance, outstanding community service, and school performance, this award was accepted on behalf of the entire Clayton County Board of Education by Ms. Victoria Williams, Board Member representing District 4. In addition, we commend all awardees honored by the College Park Skyhawks for their notable accomplishments and community service. This award was presented by the Odd Fellows #6 Lodge in Atlanta, Georgia, and Mix106Radio.com.

On behalf of Clayton County Public Schools, we extend our appreciation to the College Park Skyhawks for honoring the hard work and dedication of our Board of Education. In addition, we thank and applaud Dr. Alieka Anderson, Clayton County Commissioner of District 1 and former School Board Representative of District 8, and other community, civic and faith-based leaders for their services and support of this special recognition.

Board Chair Goree Hosts Community Townhall



On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Ms. Jessie Goree, Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) Chair and Representative of District 3, hosted a "Clayton County Parent Meet Up" at the Clayton County Public Schools Administrative Complex. The session was held in partnership with GeorgiaCAN, a local nonprofit that seeks to identify and advance common-sense policies that put the needs of students first.

Led by Outreach Director Steven Quinn and supported by Parent Fellowship officials Patricia Nealy and Kenya Hartry, the GeorgiaCAN team led attendees through discussion groups determining those characteristics desirable in a new superintendent. Mr. Mark Christmas, CCBOE member representing District 2, also participated in the discussion. Please join Clayton County Public Schools in expressing appreciation to Board Chair Goree and the GeorgiaCAN team for providing this opportunity for enlightening conversation.

Board Member Hill Hosts Townhall | Interim Superintendent Provides S.P.L.O.S.T. Update



On Wednesday, January 18, Clayton County Board of Education District 7 representative, Ms. Sabrina Hill, hosted a Community meeting for stakeholders in the district and across the county. Held at the Clayton County Public Schools Administrative Complex in Jonesboro, this event served as an opportunity for Ms. Hill to engage with stakeholders & constituents.

As part of the presentation, Dr. Anthony Smith, Interim Superintendent of Schools focused on the district's facilities plan. This plan consists of planned and ongoing construction, renovations, and modernization of the district's school sites and facilities through the use of E- S.P.L.O.S.T. funds. In addition, Dr. Keith Colbert - Chief of Student Services; Dr. Ebony Lee - CCPS Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment; Mr. Randy Iddins, CCPS Coordinator of Research, Evaluation, Accountability, and Assessment, and members of the Community Schools Department, provided details and key updates to attendees regarding their areas of service. On behalf of Clayton County Public Schools, we commend Board Member Hill for hosting this community meeting as a way of sharing important information with stakeholders in District Seven and countywide. Appreciation is also extended to all who joined and participated.

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



CCPS Board of Education Appoints Dr. Anthony W. Smith as Interim Superintendent



Dr. Anthony W. Smith was appointed by the Clayton County Board of Education on December 5, 2022, to serve as the Interim Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools. Prior to his appointment, Dr. Smith served as the Clayton County Public Schools Deputy Superintendent of Governmental Relations, Partnerships, and Operations. As Interim Superintendent, Dr. Smith leads one of the nation's top 100 largest school districts and the sixth largest school systems in the State of Georgia. Dr. Smith has several years of experience and notable accomplishments in a variety of leadership roles throughout his tenure in the school district.

Beginning his career with CCPS in 1995 as a Computer Technology teacher, he was a classroom instructor for four years before being selected to serve in a variety of administrative positions in multiple school systems. These administrative roles include assistant principal and principalships at the middle and high school levels, Chief Academic Officer, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent. Additionally, Dr. Smith previously served eight honorable years in the United States Air Force and three years as a branch president in the financial industry.

Due to his deep roots and strong community ties throughout Clayton County, Dr. Smith is highly regarded as a dedicated leader with a transformative and innovative approach to education and those elements designed to improve the educational experience and outcomes of all students. As Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Smith was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Clayton County Public Schools Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars used to support Clayton County Public Schools students by providing thousands of scholarships to graduating seniors and sponsoring numerous employee initiatives.

As a direct result of his nearly 30 years of service in the field of education and working collaboratively with numerous business, collegiate, and religious community leaders, he has received multiple recognitions including but not limited to the Outstanding Servant in Educational Leadership Award (2015 - Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County); Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Vision (2016 - Elite Scholars Charter School); Living Legend Award (2016 - Forest Park Ministers Association) and an Appreciation Award (2022 - Clayton County Office of Economic Development). Dr. Smith has also received numerous United States Armed Forces awards and decorations associated with his distinguished service in the military.

Dr. Smith holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from New Hampshire College, a Master of Science in Business Education from Southern New Hampshire University, and a Master of Science in Education Leadership from Jacksonville State University. In addition, he holds an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Columbus State University and a Doctoral degree in Education with an emphasis in Educational Leadership from Georgia Southern University. Professionally, Dr. Smith has completed the Urban Superintendent Academy sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) in Washington, DC, the Aspiring Superintendents Institute sponsored by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) in Chicago, Illinois, the Power of 100 Leadership Development, Georgia School Leadership for School Improvement (GLSI), and the Governor's School Leadership Institute. He also maintains membership in the National Association of Secondary School Principals, American Association of School Administrators, Georgia Educator Association, Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, and the Clayton County Educators Association.

Additional previous roles and appointments include serving as Governing Board Council for Elite Scholars Academy and Board Member of Rainbow House Emergency Shelter for Children. Dr. Smith's civic and social activities include being a member of the Masonic Order (Prince Hall), the Stockbridge-Jonesboro Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, and a member of New Hope Methodist Church. When not working, Dr. Smith enjoys golfing, boating, traveling in his RV, trying new restaurants, attending sporting events, going to plays and concerts, and spending time with his family and friends. He has two adult children (Chris and Briana) and two grandchildren (Asianne and Rami) whom he adores.

To view the Swearing-In Ceremony highlights, visit the following link: <https://youtu.be/3nw9Ct0qrko>

To view the Swearing-In Ceremony in its entirety, please visit: <https://youtu.be/50z9rUuV52Y>

To view the Clayton County Board of Education Interim Superintendent Announcement, please visit: <https://youtu.be/EdIqLIDuVNO>

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Appoints New District Leaders

On Monday, January 9, 2023, the Clayton County Board of Education, hosted the first Board Meeting and Work Session Meeting of the new calendar year and its first meeting since the appointment of Dr. Anthony W. Smith as Interim Superintendent. As part of his first meeting as Interim Superintendent, Dr. Smith recommended and received approval for the appointments below of district leaders to aid the district in achieving the goal of "Building a Better Tomorrow, Today!"

- Dr. Douglas Hendrix, Sr. - Senior Deputy Superintendent Chief of Staff
- Dr. Ralph Simpson - Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services
- Dr. Delphia Young - Deputy Superintendent of Teaching & Learning and Strategic Improvement
- Dr. Keith Colbert - Chief of Student Services
- Ms. Yoshi Barber - Interim Assistant Chief of Finance
- Mr. Lonnie Farmer - Interim Assistant Superintendent of Cluster B
- Mr. Derrick Manning - Interim Assistant Superintendent of Cluster C
- Dr. Kim Dancy - Interim Principal of Forest Park High School
- Dr. Micki Sims-Harris - Interim Principal of Eddie White Middle School
- Ms. Tiffanie Nealy - Coordinator of Elementary Mathematics
- Ms. Dekea Lemon - Coordinator of Instructional Resources

Interim Superintendent Announces Priorities for 2022-2023 School Years & Beyond

"There's much more work to be done and I'm excited to have been very instrumental in implementing many of those plans currently underway to rebuild schools; to support instruction and new infrastructure that ultimately shapes our communities; a robust plan for academic achievement; as well as establish robust engagement opportunities for all community stakeholders." -- Dr. Smith

Clayton County Public Schools
"Building A Better Tomorrow, Today"

Priorities and plans for the second semester of the **2022-2023** school year and beyond!

- 1. CULTIVATE A SCHOOL SAFETY CULTURE & PROMOTE A POSITIVE WORKING ENVIRONMENT
- 2. INCREASE ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
- 3. BOLSTER FINANCIAL STABILITY
- 4. STRENGTHEN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE
- 5. ENHANCE INFRASTRUCTURE & NEW FACILITIES

Dr. Anthony W. Smith
Interim Superintendent

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Clayton County Hosts Winter Commencement Ceremony for Graduates



On Tuesday, January 24, 2023, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) conducted a Winter Graduation Ceremony for seniors throughout the district who had completed state requirements for graduation. The ceremony took place at the Clayton County Performing Arts Center. Over 100 graduating seniors representing eight CCPS high schools officially brought an end to their scholastic careers with Clayton County Public Schools.

Please join CCPS as we congratulate these graduates on achieving this distinction and commend the Department of Counseling, Enrollment, & Postsecondary Readiness, under the leadership of Director Dr. Alicia Dunn, for organizing this milestone ceremony.

Kay R. Pace Elementary School of the Arts Earns Recognition at Jr. Theater Festival

Clayton County Public Schools is excited to announce that students representing Kay Pace Elementary School of the Arts won a Freddie G. Excellence in Ensemble Work award and earned other recognitions at the 2023 Junior Theater Festival Atlanta (JTF Atlanta). At the festival, held January 13-15, 2023 at the Cobb Convention Center in Atlanta, each group performed 15 minutes of a Broadway Junior® musical for adjudicators. Pace SOA performed an excerpt from Disney's Newsies, JR.

Students London Green, Ayla Hunter, and Racer Ifie made it to the callback for a yet-to-be-announced special video project which will promote musicals in schools.

Students Racer Ifie and Xavier Nunez Valdovinos were named Junior Theater Festival All-Stars, a select group of outstanding performers. Student Madison Ralph was added to the Technical Theatre All-Stars, a select group of students who worked side-by-side with individuals to help run events.

Join CCPS as we congratulate Pace Elementary School of the Arts students and their teachers who participated in the 2023 Junior Theater Festival Atlanta for their outstanding performance at this remarkable event.

Elite Scholars Student Named Winner of 2023 Disney Dreamers Academy Essay Contest



Ava Flanigan, a senior at Elite Scholars Academy was selected as an official winner of the 2023 Disney Dreamers Academy Essay Contest! The prize package includes an invitation to attend Disney Dreamers Academy. The Academy will be held at the Walt Disney World® Resort near Orlando, Florida over March 22-26, 2023.

It is the intent of the Academy to teach the 100 young people how to Dream BIG and Discover the Possibilities. The weekend will include educational sessions, guest speakers, and hands-on learning opportunities throughout the living classroom of the Walt Disney World® Resort.

Congratulations to Ms. Flanigan on being selected as one of the 100 exceptional students chosen for this life-changing experience!



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is excited to share that the Jonesboro High School Band has been named one of twenty-two schools across the nation to receive an Advocacy in Action Award from Music for All.

The Advocacy in Action Award designation is presented to music programs, schools, and communities across the United States that demonstrate outstanding achievement in local efforts to provide access to music education for all students. To qualify for the Advocacy in Action Award Designation, the Jonesboro High School Band submitted a detailed description of its music program and project, Perseverance Through a Pandemic. Submissions were reviewed by a national panel of educators, administrators, and community and business leaders. Perseverance Through A Pandemic was named a 2023 Honorable Mention Recipient in Pandemic Perseverance.

CCPS Shares E-SPLOST Update | E-SPLOST VI Will Expire on December 31, 2024.

Clayton County Public Schools uses the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST) as the foundation for previous, ongoing, and future capital improvement projects. Currently, the district is utilizing funds generated through E-SPLOST VI and collections will continue through December 31, 2024.

E-SPLOST VI will expire on December 31, 2024, and a public vote or special election to consider the renewal of E-SPLOST (i.e. E-SPLOST VII) will take place March 21, 2023.

To view the list of proposed projects through the implementation of future E-SPLOST proposals, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/CCPSESPL0ST>

THE NEXT E-SPLOST VOTE IS SCHEDULED FOR
MARCH 2023

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Parents, Pizza, and the Police: District Creates Opportunity for Parents and Students to Engage with Law Enforcement Officers



Clayton County Public Schools, through its Department of Community and Employee Engagement, hosted "Parents, Pizza and the Police" on January 10, 2023, at the district's Administrative Office Complex. Created as a proactive opportunity to engage law enforcement officials in a one-on-one setting, this activity encouraged stakeholders to have candid conversations regarding interactions between the police and community members as well as general safety within Clayton County.

Please join us as we thank members of the law enforcement community as well as elected and appointed officials for coming out and engaging with our stakeholders to foster positive relationships with our families. In addition, we commend Ms. Shakira Rice, Director of Community and Employee Engagement, for creating this amazing opportunity.

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CCPS Partners with Captain Planet Foundation on Climate Justice



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) kicked off the district's partnership with the Captain Planet Foundation to engage elementary through high school students in various projects centered around protecting the environment, climate change, and sustainability on January 12. The Atlanta Hawks are also part of the partnership as they sent their Head of Sustainability to speak to students and offer recycling relay activities, among other contributions.

As part of the two-day Climate Justice Green Heart Challenge kickoff events, attendees will engage in a variety of group discussions and breakout sessions that will highlight the importance of climate justice, environmental racism, and more. Featured speakers include:

- Sofi Armenakian – Head of Sustainability, Atlanta Hawks
- Daniel Blackman – Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
- Hermína Glass-Hill – Field Representative – Georgia, OCEANA
- Demetrius Milling – Assistant Farm Manager, Love is Love Farm
- Rachel McBride – YES! for Equity Organizer, Partnership for Southern Equity
- Robin Okunowo – Program Coordinator of Planeteer Alliance, Captain Planet Foundation

After the opening session of the kickoff event, the students began to engage in the CCPS Climate Justice Green Heart Challenge, designed to educate, support, and develop passion-driven youth leaders at all grade levels. This challenge supports students in becoming environmental justice ChangeMakers within their community. This program also challenges students to explore how climate injustice manifests in their community and empowers them to design solutions to reconcile these injustices. Top winners will advance to the final round of the competition during the week of Earth Day to pitch their idea live to a panel of judges.

Please join us in commending the CCPS Department of Science as well as the Department of Social Studies for collaborating to create this amazing opportunity to teach students about the importance of environmentally friendly practices and how environmental challenges overlap with social justice issues that impact minority-majority communities. In addition, we thank the Captain Planet Foundation and the Atlanta Hawks for supporting our scholars through this initiative and for their continued partnership with our district.

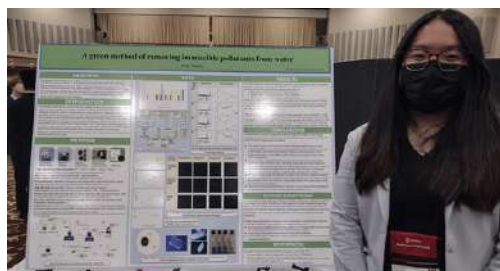
CCPS Graduates 2022 Winter Class of Orange Duffel Bag Initiative Scholars

On Saturday, December 17, members of the Winter Class of 2022 Orange Duffel Bag Initiative (ODBI) successfully completed their 12-week program earning a certificate of achievement, an orange duffel bag, and a fully-loaded laptop computer. The program is a collaborative effort involving Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS), Clayton State University (CSU), United Way of Greater Atlanta, Georgia Department of Human Services, and ODBI.

The initiative provides coaching to students who were nominated by district officials from across the system who met the qualifications for the program. It focuses on reflection, planning, and transition using the "Seven Rules of the Road." These include desire, awareness, change, and gratitude. This is the second class to be supported by CCPS employees who successfully completed a "train the mentor" course.

The graduation program included presentations by the members of the Winter 2022 class sharing their experiences from the program and how it has helped them to look to their respective futures.

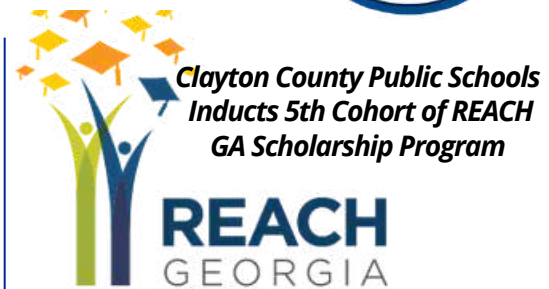
Amy Phan Named Top 300 Scholar in 82nd Regeneron Science Talent Search



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) salutes Miss Amy Phan, a senior at Elite Scholars Academy (ESA), on being named a top 300 Scholar in the 82nd Regeneron Science Talent Search (STS) -- the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors. Miss Phan was selected from an applicant pool of 1,949 students from 627 high schools across 48 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and four other countries.

As a 300 Scholar, Miss Phan will receive \$2,000, and ESA will also receive \$2,000 to use toward STEM-related activities. She could also be named as one of 40 Finalists, who would each receive \$25,000 and be eligible to participate in the final competition this March. The top prize for the most promising emerging STEM leader in the United States is \$250,000.

Please join with CCPS in congratulating Miss Amy Phan on earning a selection as a top 300 Scholar in the 82nd Regeneron Science Talent Search and commending the instructional staff at Elite Scholars Academy, under the leadership of Mr. Samuel West, for their support and guidance.



Clayton County Public Schools Inducts 5th Cohort of REACH GA Scholarship Program

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) recently inducted its fifth cohort of middle school students into the REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) Georgia Scholarship Program as they participated in a Signing/Induction Ceremony held at the district's Performing Arts Center in Jonesboro. Members of the fifth REACH Georgia Cohort are as follows:

- Vy Nguyen – Riverdale Middle School
- Adam Garcia – Babb Middle School
- Deveon Mashbur – Virtual Learning Academy
- Kamila Hernandez – Elite Scholars Academy
- Faith Evans – North Clayton Middle School
- Kenny Le – Kendrick Middle School
- Semajia Davis – Adamson Middle School
- Lindsay Ramirez – Rex Mill Middle School

REACH Georgia is a needs-based scholarship that begins in eighth grade. REACH Scholars are paired with a mentor and an academic coach through high school. Scholars must maintain good grades (2.5 GPA in core courses), behavior and attendance through middle and high school.

As part of the REACH Georgia program signing ceremony, participating scholars and their families commit to satisfying program requirements, graduating from high school and enrolling and completing college. Scholars who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school are awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

During the ceremony, Dr. Sandra Nunez, Deputy Superintendent of Student Support Services, accepted on behalf of CCPS Interim Superintendent Dr. Anthony W. Smith, an award presented in appreciation of the continued fundraising support of the Clayton County Public Schools Foundation, Inc. for the district's REACH Georgia program.

CCPS congratulates the students of the district's fifth cohort and their families for making a substantial commitment to their academic futures! The district also commends Dr. Nunez, Dr. Alicia Dunn (Director of Counseling, Enrollment and Postsecondary Readiness) and Clayton County Board of Education members Mr. Benjamin Straker (Vice Chair representing District 9), and Ms. Sabrina Hill (representing District 7) for making this a memorable event for the participants and their families.