



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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CCPS Students, Staff and Board Honored during ASPIRE Awards

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to announce recipients of the 2023 ASPIRE Awards as presented by the American Association of Adapted Sports Programs. ASPIRE stands for Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education and honors individuals and organizations who have had a significant impact in contributing to the physical, social and intellectual well-being of children and adolescents with physical disabilities and impairments through the power of athletics.

The following were honored during the ceremony:

- **Outstanding Female Scholar Athlete of the Year**
 - Kila-Ray Brown
- **Senior Athlete Of the Year**
 - Tadaisia Hillman
- **Adapted Sports Team of the Year**
 - Clayton County Eagles – Clayton County Public Schools
 - Accepting awards: Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) Chair – Ms. Jessie Goree (District 3); CCBOE Board Member – Mr. Mark Christmas (District 2); Dr. Sheila Cook, CCPS Special Programs Coordinator; Ms. Trina Smith, CCPS Exceptional Children’s Program Director; Sebastian Tillman, Head Coach; Ms. Marcia Payton-Edwards, Principal of Michelle Obama STEM Elementary Academy; Mr Dwight Smalls, CCPS Assistant Coordinator of Adaptive Sports

Other nominations were:

- **Volunteerism Award**
 - CCBOE Board Member – Mr. Mark Christmas (District 2); Ms. Marcia Payton-Edwards, Principal of Michelle Obama STEM Elementary Academy; Mr. Samuel Gonzalez, Sign Language Interpreter for Clayton County Public Schools
- **Most Improved Athlete Award**
 - Gary Woodruff, Clayton County Public Schools

We are so proud of the Board members, employees, and students representing Clayton County Public Schools who were nominated for the 2023 ASPIRE Awards and who were honored as winners in this prestigious program this past weekend,” said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “The excellence as demonstrated by these individuals in working in the area of adapted sports is emblematic of the commitment exhibited by our district through its Exceptional Children’s Program.”

“In our effort to enhance our work with our students with disabilities in the field of adapted sports, the district is renovating a former middle school, making it an Adapted Sports Complex, complete with a gymnasium, a baseball field, and a track,” said Superintendent Smith. “Our district is committed to providing all of our students with a complete scholastic experience as we Build a Better Tomorrow, Today.”

To view photos of the 2023 ASPIRE Awards Ceremonies, please use the links below:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EpTmPIE6UL4Zc3-fZPGvY3WpYwQMjYIq?usp=sharing> and <https://adaptedsports.org/american-association-of-adapted-sports-programs-aaasp-announce-2023-aspire-awards-recipients/>

-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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