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ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clayton County Public Schools Promotes Early Voting

District Uses Election Cycle as Real World Civics lesson and Details Student Led Case Study

JONESBORO – As citizens across Clayton County and the State of Georgia prepare to vote in the 2018 Midterm Election, Tuesday, November 6, please consider this notice as reminder from Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) that early voting has begun. We ask all stakeholders to participate in the voting process during the early voting opportunities, Monday, October 15- Friday through November 2, 2018 or on election day, November 6.

“As a school district we encourage every stakeholder that is eligible to vote to exercise their right to have their voices heard in this upcoming election,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley. “It is our inalienable right as citizens to cast our ballots for the candidate of our choice as we look to improve and advance our nation at every level. As Superintendent of Schools, I ask that we do not take this right for granted as our actions, or inactions, today will impact our futures for generations to come,” he stated.

Clayton County Citizens can participate in the early voting process at the following sites: the second floor of the Clayton County Elections & Registrations Office (121 S. McDonough Street in Jonesboro), Carl Rhodenizer Recreation Center (3499 Rex Road in Rex), Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center (1475 East Fayetteville Road, in Riverdale), South Clayton Recreation Center (1837 McDonough Road in Hampton), Lee Headquarters Library (865 Battle Creek Road in Jonesboro) and the Morrow Municipal Complex (1500 Morrow Road in Morrow).

On November 6, forty-two (42) of Clayton County Public Schools facilities will serve as polling places for the November 6 Midterm Election. Students will not report to school on Tuesday, November 6 and twelve-month employees are expected to report to their respective schools and/or offices. We ask all stakeholders to be mindful of increased traffic in and/or around our schools and that visitor’s exercise best/appropriate judgment while navigating our parking lots/school grounds. Each voter must vote at the precinct in which the voter lives.

November 6 Polling Places

CCPS facilities being used as polling places include: Elementary Schools (*Anderson, Arnold, Brown, Callaway, Church Street, Fountain, Harper, Hawthorne, Haynie, Huie, Jackson, Kemp, Kilpatrick, Lake Ridge, Lee Street, McGarrah, Morrow, Mt. Zion Primary, Mt. Zion, Oliver, Pointe South, Riverdale,*

River's Edge, Smith, Suder, Tara, Unidos and West Clayton), Middle Schools (Adamson, Babb, Forest Park, Kendrick, Lovejoy, Mundy's Mill, North Clayton, Pointe South, Riverdale and Roberts), and High Schools (Lovejoy, Morrow Magnet, Mt. Zion, North Clayton, and Riverdale).

For a complete list of Clayton County precincts and polling places, please click on this link: <https://www.claytoncountyga.gov/government/elections-and-registration/precincts>

Providing a Real World Civics Lesson

As our district understands the importance of providing students with a real world and relevant educational experience, the CCPS Social Studies Department is providing high school students an opportunity to participate in Civic Engagement Field Trips to the Historic Clayton County Courthouse in Jonesboro. Designed to expose students to various aspects of our local government, attendees were greeted by Clayton County Board of Elections and Registration Director, Shauna Dozier as well as toured the Community Development and Communications Departments. As part of the field trip, eligible students were afforded the opportunity to register to participate in the upcoming election as well as participate in the early voting process.

“We have over 500 students registered to vote and are exceptionally proud of the work our Social Studies Department and various Partners in Education are doing to ensure students are registered and informed on how to research candidates, proposed Constitutional Amendments and proposed Statewide Referenda,” said Superintendent Beasley. “We want our students to understand that being involved in the democratic process is one of the best ways to ensure their interests are represented. Each vote matters and their vote has the power to enact great change for our community and future generations and we are encouraged by the attention they have displayed to legislative matters,” he added.

If you are not registered to vote or are not sure if you are registered, please click the following link:

State of Georgia's Online Voter Registration System

<https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do#no-back-button>

To register to vote, individuals must: 1) Be a citizen of the United States, 2) Be a legal resident of the county, 3) Be at least 17 ½ years of age to register and 18 years of age to vote, 4) Not be serving a sentence for conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude, and 5) have not been found mentally incompetent by a judge.

Upcoming Elections

Tuesday, November 6, 2018 – Midterm Election

Tuesday, March 19, 2019 – Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) Special Election

Jonesboro Political Leadership Academy Conducts Voter Registration Case Study

On Wednesday, October 18, Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, attended the Georgia Schools Superintendents Association (GSSA) Bootstrap Conference in Athens, Georgia. While attending the conference, Superintendent Beasley and other conference attendees, participated in the Candidates Forum which featured candidates running for positions in the upcoming state election. Candidates include Otha Thornton -- Democratic Candidate for State School Superintendent, Richard Woods -- Republican Candidate for State School Superintendent, Stacy Abrams -- Democratic Candidate for Governor, Brian Kemp -- Republican Candidate for Governor, and Ted Metz -- Libertarian Candidate for Governor.

Following the presentations, Dr. Beasley was afforded an opportunity to speak with Gubernatorial Candidate for Governor, Brian Kemp regarding the alleged 53,000 “pending” voter registrations which disproportionately affects African-Americans.

“As part of our conversation, I inquired of Mr. Kemp, if a conversation was being held to ensure a resolution of this issue was on the horizon. Unfortunately, the Secretary of State’s response suggested the issue with the registrations does not reside within his office,” recalled Superintendent Beasley. “I am of the opinion that absolutely no individual of our county, state or nation should be disenfranchised and deprived of their civil rights. As the leader of the fifth largest school district in Georgia, with over 97% of our students and families being minorities, this concern weighs heavily in our community and we must be involved in the process of ensuring all citizens are able to participate in the democratic process,” he concluded.

All community stakeholders should know that Jonesboro High School’s Political Leadership Academy has taken an interest on the issue of alleged voter suppression. As a result, members of the academy will conduct a *Voter Suppression Case Study* with the goal of identifying demographic information and examining the county of residency for each of the aforementioned 53,000 blocked registrations in the State of Georgia to determine its implications on the November election. Upon completion of this case study, the school district will share their report or findings with the community.

“Our students are very aware and interested in the process and outcomes of the 2018 election,” said Dr. Beasley. “We are extremely impressed with the level of enthusiasm shown by our future leaders in ensuring that the rights of all citizens are held in the same regard regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, or any other factors. Clayton County is establishing a culture of doing what is right for all and not allowing the wants of a few to impact the needs of many. We are exceptionally proud of our students,” he added.

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 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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