

# CLAYTON

## COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### Interim Superintendent Smith Hosts First Superintendent Community Town Hall



On Tuesday, March 7, Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Interim Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS), conducted his first Community Town Hall meeting of his tenure as administrative leader of the district. Dr. Smith was introduced by Clayton County Board of Education member Mr. Mark Christmas (District 2).

The session, held before a live audience at the S. Truett Cathy Professional Learning Center in Jonesboro and livestreamed on the district's social media platforms and CCPS Channel 24 online, provided an opportunity for Dr. Smith to introduce and explain his plans, priorities and processes that will promote improved outcomes and scholastic achievement for this school system.

As part of his presentation, Dr. Smith reviewed the five priorities of his administration. 1) Creating Safe Schools and a Wonderful Work Environment for all Students and Staff; 2) Improve Instruction to Enhance Students' Academic Achievement; 3) Ensure CCPS has Strong Business Partnerships and Financial Stability; 4) Prioritize Organizing of the Administration and its Resources for Greater Success; and 5) Implement More Facility Improvements and Special Projects. He closed the Town Hall sharing specific details related to the district Facilities Plan that focuses on Early Learning, STEM Learning, and Athletics.

To view the full Community Town Hall meeting, please visit the district's YouTube platform at <https://www.youtube.com/c/ccpsnews>

### Interim Superintendent Smith Host Coffee & Conversation with Teachers



On Wednesday, March 15, Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Clayton County Public Schools Interim Superintendent of Schools, hosted a Coffee and Conversation event for the district's teachers at the Administrative Complex Office Facility in Jonesboro. A coffee truck was on hand to provide free coffee treats to those in attendance. During the session, Dr. Smith shared comments about his five priorities and presented his facilities plan. Remarks were offered by Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) Chair Ms. Jessie Goree (District 3) and members of the district's administrative leadership team. Also in attendance were CCBOE Vice Chair Mr. Benjamin Straker (District 9) and Board member Ms. Sabrina Hill (District 7). On behalf of Dr. Smith, we extend our thanks to the teachers and other instructional staff who were present for Coffee and Conversation

### Interim Superintendent Smith Participates in School Superintendents Association Howard University Urban Superintendent Academy!



The Urban Superintendents Academy is designed for those who want to take on leadership roles in our nation's rapidly-growing urban areas. AASA, along with Howard University, have a distinct partnership geared towards bolstering the effectiveness of school district leadership in our nation's urban areas. This cross-institutional partnership offers a dynamic approach to urban superintendent preparation and certification.

As part of his participation, Dr. Smith joined a panel of current superintendents from various school systems across the nation to discuss areas such as how to negotiate a superintendent contract. Additional topics included things they wish they had known while negotiating their contracts, the inclusion of special contract language regarding Board Governance, and utilizing resources available such as personal relationships/experiences and/or the need for a legal team to review the contract before signing. Superintendents joining Dr. Smith on this panel include Dr. Nyah Hamlett - Chapel Hill - Carrboro City, North Carolina; Dr. Tamara Sterling - Petersburg City, Virginia; and Dr. Calvin Watts - Gwinnett County - Georgia.

On behalf of Clayton County Public Schools, we express thanks to AASA for inviting Interim Superintendent Smith to serve on this panel to provide insight regarding contract negotiations! In addition, we thank Ms. Gina Patterson, Executive Director of the Virginia School Board Association for moderating this important discussion for current and prospective school superintendents.

### Interim Superintendent Smith Attends and Presents at Clayton County Law Enforcement Organization's Quarterly Meeting

On Thursday, March 9, 2023, Clayton County Public Schools Interim Superintendent, Dr. Anthony W. Smith attended the Clayton County Law Enforcement Organization (CCLEO) quarterly meeting at the Jonesboro Police Department.

During the course of the meeting, Interim Superintendent Dr. Smith was one of several featured guest speakers on the agenda to share highlights about the school system, his priorities and transformative (E-SPLOST) facilities plan. On behalf of Dr. Smith and the executive team in attendance at the meeting, thank you Jonesboro City Manager Ricky Clark, Chief Tommy Henderson, Chief Keith Roberts, Chief Ricky Webster, Chief Connie Rogers and other officials in law enforcement and the criminal justice system for the opportunity to share the vision and mission of this school system.

## E-SPLOST

Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax

**THE NEXT E-SPLOST VOTE IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21, 2023**

E-SPLOST VII is not a new tax! Residents of Clayton County have been participating in the E-SPLOST since 1997. If approved on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, the sales tax on all consumer goods will remain the same. The E-SPLOST does not have a direct impact on your property taxes.

**A PENNY GOES A LONG WAY!**

To date, we have accomplished the following:

- New Construction of 13 Elementary Schools, 5 Middle Schools, 5 High Schools, & 9 Ancillary Facilities
- Renovated, Modernized, & Refreshed various existing schools & properties
- Enhanced Technology & Transportation Systems

**WHAT WOULD E-SPLOST VII ACCOMPLISH?**

- Early Learning Centers through new construction & conversions of older facilities.
- Construction of 5 new schools
- Construction & Modernization of 5 Existing Facilities
- Transportation, Technology, & Athletic Enhancements

Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Interim Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS), voiced his appreciation for the outpouring support by the county's registered voters for the continuation of the one cent Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (E-SPLOST) during Tuesday's Special Election. Based on unofficial results, E-SPLOST VII passed with nearly 80 percent of ballots cast.

"There are so many people to thank for this tremendous demonstration of confidence in our vision for the future of Clayton County Public Schools," said Dr. Smith. "A future that focuses on early learning, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning and athletics as the guiding principles for effectively Building A Better Tomorrow, Today."

"First, representing the leadership of the school district, I offer my appreciation to all those registered voters who exercised their constitutional right to cast a ballot in the special election and extend my congratulations to those who were successful in their efforts to seek elective office," Dr. Smith stated. "More significantly, I send a heartfelt thank you to those voting in support of the E-SPLOST VII continuing referendum. Your actions has demonstrated a profound confidence and trust in our ability to begin, manage, and complete this monumental facility construction/improvement program - a trust that we will confirm."

"I thank the members of the Clayton County Board of Education for their steadfast belief in our proposals for moving the district forward," the Interim Superintendent said. "Each member has been vocal in their support and efforts to promote our instructional and facilities plan without reservation."

"I also strongly commend the Clayton County E-SPLOST Citizens Committee under the leadership of Dr. Cephus Jackson, a retired CCPS administrator who answered the call when issued," Dr. Smith added. "Through his leadership, the committee, and other community groups, provided the backbone for this successful E-SPLOST campaign, delivering our message to the citizenry when the school district's employees were not legally able to do so."

"While we are truly enjoying this special moment, we cannot sit and reflect on this success. The approval of this continuation referendum is a signal to push our robust construction agenda forward with vigor and purpose. In the weeks leading up to the Special Election, in multiple appearances, I made a commitment to elevate our school district's facilities to provide some of the finest structures in Metro Atlanta, the state of Georgia, and beyond. It is no longer time for talking. It is now time that we get to work Building a Better Tomorrow, Today for our students and their families, our employees, and our communities," Dr. Smith concluded.



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### Clayton County Public Schools Celebrates School Board Appreciation



As March serves as Board of Education Appreciation Month, Clayton County Public Schools is excited to honor our Board of Education! On Monday, March 27, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Interim Superintendent Dr. Anthony W. Smith joined the Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) for a special board recognition presentation.

During this presentation, the Board of Education was treated to a variety of special commendations including recorded messages from students and school administrators. In addition, they were presented with a proclamation from Georgia Governor, Brian P. Kemp, a letter of appreciation from Georgia State Superintendent Richard Woods, and the Clayton County Chairman, Jeffrey E. Turner, presented on behalf of the entire Clayton County Board of Commissioners. Lastly, Interim Superintendent Smith presented each board member with a plaque of appreciation for their continued support of our school system and the families we serve.

Please join us in commending the Clayton County Board of Education for their outstanding service and leadership of Clayton County Public Schools!

### Ms. Mary Baker Hosts "Lock It Up" Gun Safety and Awareness Event



Ms. Mary Baker, Clayton County Board of Education Representative of District 6, hosted a "Gun Safety Awareness 'Lock It Up'" event on Thursday, March 23, in the Jonesboro High School media center. The program featured remarks by Clayton County District Attorney Tasha Mosley, Clayton County Police Chief Kevin Roberts, and Clayton County Public Schools Chief of Safety and Security, Dr. Reynard Walker. Following these presentations, the group answered questions from Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) families and community members and distributed free gun locks. CCPS extends its appreciation for everyone who attended and participated in the "Gun Safety Awareness 'Lock It Up'" event and thanks to Board member Ms. Mary Baker for organizing and facilitating this informative program.

### Riverdale Elementary School Opens "Because We Care Closet" in Partnership with Area In Need Missionary House, Inc.



On Monday, March 27, Riverdale Elementary School (RES), in partnership with Area In Need Missionary House Inc. in Riverdale, opened a "Because We Care Closet" on the campus. The converted audio-visual storage space has been repurposed with a variety of resources ranging from snacks and healthier food products to clothes and school supplies.

RES Principal Mr. Michael Faison stated the idea behind this outreach is to provide basic support for recently enrolled students and for existing students who may need some help to be ready for school. Mr. Faison said additional partners, including the Clayton County Public Schools Foundation, Inc., have expressed an interest in providing material support to keep the closet stocked.

Clayton County Public Schools expresses its appreciation to Area In Need Missionary House Inc. for providing the materials to launch this endeavor and commends Riverdale Elementary Principal Faison and his team for bringing this exceptional support to reality.

### Lillie E. Suder Hosts School Wide Career Day



In keeping with the Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) theme of Building a Better Tomorrow, Today, and our mission of empowering students to achieve academic and personal goals, Lillie E. Suder Elementary School hosted Career Day, today, March 24. The purpose of career day was to provide students an opportunity to hear from professionals and empower them with knowledge about the many career opportunities available.

During the event, the CCPS Division of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing, and numerous professionals from various fields visited the school to speak to students about possible career paths as well as to engage with students in discussions regarding the workforce, collegiate opportunities, and the importance of education.

On behalf of Clayton County Public Schools, we would like to thank everyone who participated in Career Day at Suder Elementary School as well as congratulate Suder Elementary Principal, Ms. Monica Goree, and her team of event organizers for hosting this amazing experience!

### Clayton County Public Schools Host Ribbon Cutting for the Mike Glanton Royal Knights Sports Complex at Elite Scholars Academy



The Clayton County Board of Education and Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) conducted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, formally naming the athletic facilities at Elite Scholars Academy the Mike Glanton Royal Knights Sports Complex. The action was in recognition of the former Georgia State Representative's role in the founding and establishment of the school. The ceremony took place in the school's gymnasium on Friday, March 24.

CCPS Interim Superintendent, Dr. Anthony W. Smith, was joined in bringing special remarks by Board of Education Chair Ms. Jessie Goree (District 3), Board Vice Chair Mr. Benjamin Straker (District 9), Board members Dr. Deatrice "Dee" Haney (District 5), Ms. Mary Baker (District 6) and Ms. Joy Tellis Cooper (District 8). Also in attendance were Board members Mr. Mark Christmas (District 2) and Ms. Victoria Williams (District 4).

Please join CCPS as we congratulate Mr. Glanton on receiving this special honor and commend the staff of Elite Scholars Academy on staging a heartfelt dedication!

### Northcutt Elementary School Earns Back to Back Imagine Learning Bowl National Championship

For the second consecutive year, G.W. Northcutt Elementary School (NES), located in College Park, earned the title of the 2023 Imagine Literacy Bowl National Champions. The school celebrated its victory during a special ceremony held Wednesday, March 22, 2023.

Northcutt earned the title during the fifth annual competition. The multi-week competition uses the highest average time per active user to determine the overall champ. The school's average time per active user was 23 hours; nine hours higher than the average for Abraham Lincoln Middle School of the Selma Unified School District in California.

Most Valuable Student awards were presented to second-grader Miguel Gomez Mosso, first-grader Anas Amdini, and Angel Pineda Barahona, also a second-grade student. Two fifth-graders, Aisha Sanneh and Alexis Reyes, were presented with Imagine Honors Awards. Northcutt ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) teachers, Ms. Audrey McGhee and Dr. Carol Jones, were presented special recognitions for their work with Imagine Learning.

According to its website, Imagine Learning focuses on the power of every learner's unique potential through individualized, equitable, and innovative learning that meets each student where they are. By setting high expectations for students, Imagine Learning helps students to learn and achieve more.



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### Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team is Headed to National Mock Trial Competition



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to announce that Jonesboro High School's (JHS) Mock Trial Team is headed to the National Mock Trial competition as they have won the 2023 Georgia Mock Trial Championship! JHS earned the title on Saturday, March 18, in Lawrenceville, Georgia. This is the 12th state championship for Jonesboro High.

The team won rounds versus Paideia, Woodland High School, and South Forsyth High School. Jonesboro then won its semi-final round against Cambridge and the final round vs. Paideia, earning the title and a trip to the national tournament in Little Rock, Arkansas in May.

Nine individual awards went to Henry Rabideau, Anna Davis, Rasqa Olowoeshin, and Cameron Jones, who excelled throughout the five rounds of very tough competition. Other members rounding out the championship squad were Hilda Zelaya, Melissa Vazquez-Guzman, Destinee Ponder, Kerrington Cutter, and Alonzo Williams.

"I am delighted to offer congratulations to these students and adults for this outstanding accomplishment," said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, CCPS Interim Superintendent of Schools. "I salute the teachers, our community partners and the team members' families for their support of these students who, through dedication and purpose, have set a standard of excellence for others to emulate."

The Jonesboro Mock Trial Team is coached by Anna Cox, Andrew Cox, John Carbo, and Taylah Cash.

### CCPS Celebrates Read Across America



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) engages students at all levels in reading daily to promote social, economic, and academic success. To enhance academic achievement in recognition of Read Across America, CCPS is celebrating Read Across America with various events at schools throughout the district. Events range from schools hosting visiting readers to parties celebrating the birthdate of Dr. Seuss. On behalf of the school district, we thank all partners, stakeholders and officials for supporting literacy across our district by participating in Read Across America Day and continuing throughout the month of March.

### Marshall Elementary School Host Career Day with Variety of Industry Professionals



Thurgood Marshall Elementary recently hosted a two-day Career Day for kindergarten through fifth grade scholars. There were representatives from various careers which included: Board Members, Authors, a Judge, Scientists, Chiropractors, an Emmy Winning producer, Pilots, Doctors, Mental Health Counselors, Executive Directors, UPS Workers, Firefighters, Police Officers, and many more; all of whom shared information regarding their careers with our scholars. It was an unforgettable learning experience for all Marshall students.

Clayton County Public Schools would like to thank the individuals who took time out of their respective schedules to speak with some of our youngest scholars! In addition, we commend School Counselors Ms. Quovadia Speakman and Mrs. Demetrius Smith for facilitating Career Day, and the staff of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, under the leadership of Principal Ms. Candice Dillard, for making this amazing learning opportunity available to the school's students.

### CCPS Participates in Young Dro Stop the Violence Tour



Earlier in March, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) hosted the first of two visits of the Young Dro "Stop the Violence" Tour! Held in the CCPS Cafe, this event allowed 20 males from each high school on the north side of the county to engage with Dro and members of his team in activities designed to encourage them to make sound decisions about the choices they make and the company they keep. The next session will be held later in the month and will allow for students on the south side of the county to attend. On behalf of the district, we thank Young Dro and his team for visiting our school system to engage with our students as they matriculate through school and become successful adults. In addition, we thank the Department of Community and Employee Engagement as well as the Department of Student Services for collaborating to host this outstanding opportunity for these male students.

### CCPS Honors 2022-2023 Scholar Athletes



Recently, the Athletics Department of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) honored the Class of 2023 Scholar Athletes at a special ceremony and reception held at the Performing Arts Center in Jonesboro.

Fifty (50) students were recognized for their academic capability, athletic accomplishments, and their community involvement. This is the 15th year that the school district has paid tribute to outstanding students who have achieved success in the classroom and in their respective fields of play.

CCPS salutes these scholar athletes, their families, and the network of coaches, teachers, and school officials who have collaborated to make their success a reality.

### Clayton County Public Schools Welcome Metropolitan Atlanta P-20 Collaborative



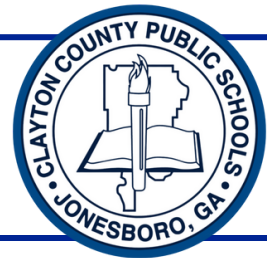
On Thursday, March 16, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) hosted the Metropolitan Atlanta P-20 Collaborative at the S. Truett Cathy Professional Learning Center in Jonesboro. The P-20 Collaborative was established by the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE), the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GAPSC), and the University System of Georgia. P-20 represents instruction from Pre-K through graduate school. Metropolitan Atlanta is one of nine regional collaborations across the state that focus on such topics as recruitment and training of future teachers, induction for in-service teachers, support for educational leaders, and professional learning for all.

The meeting included updates from GADOE and GAPSC as well as an in-depth review of Teacher Burnout in Georgia: Voices from the Classroom, a study commissioned by the State Department of Education in 2022. The highlight of the meeting was a presentation by Mr. Michael Kobito, the 2023 Georgia Teacher of the Year.



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Clayton County Public Schools' Early Learning Department will host a "Kindergarten Transition Fair" for rising kindergarten students on Saturday, April 22, 2023. Scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., this event will be held at the Perry Learning Center, located at 137 Spring Street in Jonesboro, GA. For more information, please contact the Early Learning Department at 770-473-2700 ext. 700178.

### District Displays New Math Curriculum Resources at Vendor Showcase

On Tuesday, March 21, the Clayton County Public Schools Mathematics Department hosted a public Vendor Showcase as part of its efforts to make available for review and inspection the state's new Math curriculum. Educators, students, family members, and community stakeholders were invited to examine the math curriculum and potential math resources, interact with the vendors in attendance, ask questions of the CCPS Math Department, and give input about which resource they prefer.

The Math curriculum resources will continue to be displayed for public review on Wednesday, March 22, through Wednesday, March 29, at the locations listed below. Educators, students, family members, and community stakeholders are invited to stop by and provide input about the resources our students will use next year. Please note, resources will be on display March 22-29, 2023 but personnel will not be on location to answer questions during these days.

- Michelle Obama Stem Academy - 11485 Panhandle Rd, Hampton, GA 30228
- Clayton County Public Library - 865 Battle Creek Rd, Jonesboro, GA 30236
- Forest Park Recreation Center - 803 Forest Pkwy, Forest Park, GA 30297
- Virginia Burton Gray Recreation Center - 1475 E. Fayetteville Rd, Riverdale, GA 30296
- Clayton County Board of Education Administration Complex - 1098 Fifth Ave, Jonesboro, GA 30236

### Huie Elementary School Welcomes State Superintendent Woods & Clayton County Chairman Turner to Read to Students



Huie Elementary School teachers, staff, and students were excited to welcome State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Richard Woods, and Clayton County Chairman, Mr. Jeffrey E. Turner, to their school on March 14, to read to students!

Held in the school's media center, Superintendent Woods and Chairman Turner were greeted with a special friendship song, sung by the Pre-K audience prior to reading "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" by Bill Martin, Jr., "Up, Down and Around" by Matt Mitter and "The Day the Crayons Quit" by Drew Daywalt. Also in attendance were Ms. Jessie Goree, Chair of the Clayton County Board of Education and representative of District 3; Ms. Victoria Williams, Board of Education representative of District 4; Clayton County Public Schools Interim Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith; Senior Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff Dr. Douglas Hendrix; and Chief of Communications Ms. Jada K. Dawkins.

On behalf of Clayton County Public Schools and Huie Elementary School, led by Dr. Roxanne Dixon, we welcome State Superintendent Woods and Chairman Turner to our school district as well as thank them for helping to support the students of Clayton County Public Schools as we build a better tomorrow, today!

### Stilwell Literacy Team Earns Regional Runner Up in Literacy Competition

Clayton County Public Schools is proud to share that the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts Literacy Team recently participated in the 2023 Georgia High School Association AA Regional Literacy Competition. We are excited to announce that the team earned Regional Runner-Up! In addition, several of the students earned 1st and/or 2nd place in many of the Literacy Events and will represent Stilwell at state-level competition on Saturday, March 25. The students include Illa-Rose Robinson (2nd Place - Extemporaneous Speaking Domestic); Taylor Moore (2nd Place - Extemporaneous Speaking International); Angelina Cavin (2nd Place - Oral Interpretation Humour); Jailyn Walton and Tyaire Charles (1st Place - Oral Interpretation Duo); Jansysia Bridges (3rd Place - Personal); Camille Johnson (3rd Place - Essay Literacy); Savannah Huff (2nd Place - Essay Argumentative); Vy Truong, Nataly Yanez, and Ange Sanchez (1st Place - Trio); Malik Diallo, Jordan Gross, Jeremiah Wise, and Mekhi Smith (2nd Place - Quartet); Jeremiah Wise (1st Place - Boys Solo) and Ange Sanchez (2nd Place - Girls Solo). Please join us as we congratulate these students on a job well done as well as acknowledge the Literacy Team Coaches, Ms. Bellamy, Ms. White, and Mr. Brown for their work in preparing these students to succeed in the competition!

### Elite Scholars Student Named Georgia Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club



Clayton County Public Schools is proud to announce that Elias Dennis, a 17-year-old junior at Elite Scholars Academy, has been named the 2022-2023 Georgia Youth of the Year. He now moves on to the Southeast Regional competition. Earlier this school year, Elias was named the Metro Region's Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of Metro Atlanta. The Youth of the Year Award is the organization's highest honor.

Elias Dennis, who has been attending Boys and Girls clubs since he was six years old, currently attends the Flint River Community Center Boys & Girls Club in Clayton County. He is a dual enrollment student at Clayton State University and has career aspirations of becoming a veterinarian and owning several clinics. He was selected as one of the first 15 Banfield Next Veterinarian Interns and upon completing the program, he was hired as a Veterinarian Assistant. He also runs a lawn care business. As a Club member, Elias spent time visiting and eventually working as a summer counselor at the organization's camp facility, Camp Kiwanis.

Youth of the Year is part of the organization's focus on character and leadership development. It serves as a competition that recognizes teen Club members who demonstrate exemplary academic achievement, leadership skills, and service to the community.

### Department of Exceptional Students Hosted DES Expo



On Saturday, March 11th, Clayton County Public Schools' Department of Exceptional Students (DES) hosted its 2023 Spring DES Expo as the culminating event of 2023 Exceptional Children's Week. Held at Charles R. Drew High School, the DES Expo featured a variety of fun activities such as a special wheelchair basketball game featuring Board of Education Members and District Administrators vs the Clayton Eagles Adapted Sports team. Additionally, the event featured activities that included pony rides and music as well as provided guests with important educational information regarding Pre-K registration, colleges, careers, accommodations, technology, access to community partnerships and resources, and much more! On behalf of the DES Department, we extend thanks to the community volunteers, CCPS departments, and all others who participated in ensuring the success of this event as well as those who joined us as we celebrated our phenomenally exceptional students!