



Clayton County Public Schools

"Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!"

1058 Fifth Avenue, Jonesboro, GA, 30236 | Tel: 770-473-2700 | Web: www.clayton.k12.ga.us

ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Division of Communications, Public Relations, & Marketing

May 19, 2023

Secretary of the U.S. Army to Speak at CCPS Graduations

The Honorable Christine Wormuth will speak at Mount Zion and Forest Park Ceremonies

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) joins with the Clayton County Board of Education in welcoming the Honorable Christine Wormuth, the Secretary of the United States Army as a special guest speaker during the CCPS Class of 2023 Graduation Exercises.

Secretary Wormuth will offer remarks at the ceremonies honoring candidates for graduation from Mount Zion and Forest Park High Schools. Both ceremonies will occur at the Georgia International Convention Center (GICC) in College Park on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. and at 8:00 p.m. respectively.

The Honorable Christine Wormuth was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and appointed as the 25th Secretary of the U.S. Army on May 27, 2021. The Secretary of the Army is the senior civilian official within the Department of Defense (DoD) responsible for all matters relating to the U.S. Army.

"It is with great pride that we have the privilege of welcoming Secretary Wormuth as part of our graduation celebration," said Ms. Jessie Goree, Chair of the Board of Education representing District 3. "We extend our heartfelt thanks for including Clayton County as part of her commencement week tour."

"Our mission is to create a meaningful, memorable experience for graduating seniors through our commencement ceremonies," said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, CCPS Interim Superintendent of Schools. "The presence of an official such as the Secretary of the U.S. Army will more than accomplish that mission!"

"Her participation creates a spectacular celebration for our Mount Zion and Forest Park graduates," Dr. Smith added.

"It's an honor to speak with these groups of graduates," said Wormuth. "These young adults are entering the time of their life where the possibilities to 'be all you can be' are endless. I hope that some of them will go on to find a calling in public service."

Class of 2023 Graduations

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 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.

Note to News Media

News Media representatives are welcome to cover the platform remarks of Secretary Wormuth during each graduation ceremony. Media outlets are requested to coordinate this coverage with the CCPS Division of Communications, Public Relations, and Marketing and the Public Affairs Advisor to the Secretary of the Army.

The support staff for Secretary Wormuth has stated that a media gaggle will take place at 2:30 p.m., and individual interviews with the Secretary may be scheduled on a case-by-case basis. To schedule an interview, please utilize the following emails: ccpscommunications@clayton.k12.ga.us and grace.m.geiger.mil@army.mil.

- **Who:** The Honorable Christine Wormuth, 25th Secretary of the U.S. Army
- **What:** Offer remarks at the Mount Zion and Forest Park Graduation Ceremonies
- **When:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. (Mount Zion) and 8:00 p.m. (Forest Park)
- **Where:** Georgia International Convention Center (GICC), 2000 Convention Center Concourse, College Park, Georgia
- **Why:** To encourage the best and the brightest young people to consider public service.

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	12:00 PM	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	12:00 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.

-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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