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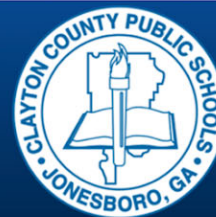
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Morrow High School to Offer Capstone Diplomas

Clayton County Public Schools' (CCPS) Morrow High School (MHS) is participating as part of a highly selective group of high schools across the country.

In the fall of 2017, MHS joined an elite group of schools in the United States that offer the College Board's Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma. The school is one of 44 schools across Georgia to be so designated. MHS had to complete an extensive application process with the College Board that included a written statement (300 words max) that explains how the AP Capstone Diploma program will support the high school's efforts to build college readiness and expand equitable access to AP® courses.

At present, the 93 MHS students that are participating in the Capstone Diploma program are part of the Morrow Magnet High School STEM Cohort.

“We are excited that Morrow High School has been approved to offer a Capstone Diploma to its qualifying graduating seniors beginning with the class of 2020,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “It is another fine example of our efforts to increase rigor and enhance critical thinking among our students as we prepare them to be college and career ready.”

The Capstone program comprises of two classes, AP Capstone: Seminar and AP Capstone: Research. Rather than being content-based like a typical Advanced Placement class, the two classes are skills-based. According to the College Board the two courses were designed to develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. In the 2017-2018 school year, fewer than 50 schools across the state of Georgia offered the Capstone program to their students.

Students that receive passing scores on the Seminar and Research exams, along with passing scores on four other Advanced Placement exams, earn the AP Capstone Diploma from the College Board. Students that receive passing scores on only the Seminar and Research exams receive an AP Seminar and Research Certificate. On the Common Application, a college application used by hundreds of colleges across the country, there is an option for students to indicate they are AP Capstone Diploma candidates, allowing students an opportunity to show colleges the degree of rigor their high school coursework offered.

In addition to sitting for an exam in May, AP Seminar students have two performance tasks. The first task is a 1,200 word report and a group presentation. The second task is a research-based essay linked to stimulus documents provided by the College Board and an individual presentation.

The AP Research class exam score is based entirely on a performance task. Students write an academic paper of 4,000 to 5,000 words in length and have a presentation and oral defense based on the academic paper. The paper is scored by College Board readers while the presentation and oral defense are scored by a panel of three evaluators at the school level. Teachers and evaluators must go through a ten-hour rubric training and practice scoring training samples before they can score their own students' presentations.

Based on AP exam performance of MHS students to date, is expected that several members of the class of 2020, the school's first Capstone cohort, will receive the full Capstone diploma, while most of the remainder will receive the AP Seminar and Research Certificate.

Note: Morrow High School teachers Jennifer Henley, AP Capstone Seminar Teacher, and Malaika Syphertt, AP Capstone Research Teacher, provided research-based language for this Advisory.

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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