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NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Two CCPS High Schools Earn High Rankings in US News and World Report

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to share with all stakeholders that Elite Scholars Academy (ESA) and Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts (MESSOA) have been listed among the top high schools in the state of Georgia by the United States News & World Report!

Continuing a three-year improvement trend, ESA and MESSOA ranked 18th and 21st, respectively, in Georgia. In addition, each school earned spots among the top 552 High Schools nationwide—more than 23,000 public high schools are evaluated annually by the U.S. News. Previously, Elite Scholars Academy ranked 33rd in Georgia while Stilwell School of the Arts ranked 36th statewide.

School Year	ESA	MESSOA
2017	41	37
2018	33	36
2019	18	21

The 2019 rankings, developed in conjunction with nonprofit research firm RTI International, are based on a revamped methodology that weighs six indicators of school quality. The highest-ranked schools are those whose students excelled on state tests and performed beyond expectations; participated in and passed a variety of college-level exams; and graduated in high proportions.

Riverdale High School, on the strength of an 80 percent graduation rate in 2017-2018 and other academic factors, was the next highest-ranked CCPS high school, rising to 210. The remaining Clayton County traditional high schools on the list, in order of ranking, are: Morrow High School, Jonesboro High School, Lovejoy High School, Forest Park High School, Drew High School, Mount Zion High School, Mundy's Mill High School and North Clayton High School.

“This is exciting news for these schools, our school district and community,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “I congratulate each school community, its students and families, its teachers and support personnel, and its administration on this accomplishment.”

“Earning placement on this annual report is indicative of a dedication to excellence and commitment to high performance,” said Dr. Beasley. “The improvement in the rankings exhibited illustrate a dedicated

commitment for improved student performance by each school’s staff and is reflective of the work that is taking place across the district.”

“We are justifiably proud of Elite Scholars Academy and Stilwell School of the Arts,” he added. “They are establishing a path which our other schools will undoubtedly follow as we continue to raise the bar for our school system and continually improve student academic success.”

The U.S News & World Report is an American media company that publishes news, opinions, customer advice, rankings, and analysis. Founded as a newsweekly magazine in 1933, U.S. News is best known for its influential “Best Colleges” and “Best Hospital” rankings, but it has expanded its content to provide offerings in education, health, money, careers, travel, and cars.

To view the complete “Best High Schools in Georgia” annual report, please click the following link: <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/georgia/rankings>

To view the full “Best High Schools in America” report, please click on the following link:

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/articles/us-news-ranks-best-high-schools>

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by 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 that 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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