



# Clayton County Public Schools

## Office of the Superintendent

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DR. MORCEASE J. BEASLEY  
Superintendent of Schools

Dearest Partners in Education:

As we continue to endure the shock waves of such unexpected and devastating occurrences that have impacted the nation and state of Georgia, I believe it is necessary to personally extend my heartfelt prayers, words of encouragement, and requests for all to stay safe throughout this Coronavirus (COVID 19) pandemic.

As many of you are aware, the COVID 19 virus has forced school systems to adjust to non-traditional methods of operations for the past several weeks. In response to this new norm, I have worked with local, state and national officials to make decisions based on the best interest of over 55,000 students and their families, as well as over 7,300 employees. As a community, we must continue to collectively assess and reassess our priorities to align the actions in our day to day lives with a conscious adaptation to the current circumstances that are foreign to us.

In light of this pandemic, we have received remarkable outpourings of support from community advocates, leaders, and volunteers that continue to display their acts of kindness by donations, volunteerism efforts and/or by identifying resources that may help families in need. I have seen and heard of truly heroic people who have risen to levels of greatness in serving our student population, their families, and others throughout Clayton County. These individuals deserve not only our thanks and praise but also our prayers. As this situation continues to unfold, I believe that other heroes will emerge to join these incredible volunteers and employees in bringing us through this crisis and beyond. We are grateful for your generosity, please continue to share pertinent information or viable resources during these challenging times.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has closed our campuses, it has not shut down instruction in Clayton County. I can tell you that our teachers and our instructional leaders have gone above and beyond to give your children a learning experience that will prepare them for the next level. It is our expectation that every CCPS student is engaged in some type of learning activity every day. It is also our expectation that the students of Clayton County Public Schools continue to reach out digitally and participate in high-quality instruction.

With respect to instruction, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and guardians, as many of you have taken on the roles of teachers, standing in the gap for our children during this unprecedented time. We understand the work is not easy, however, I encourage you to hang in there to ensure our students receive the best possible education experience while away from schools. Please know that you are not alone, teachers and administrators are available to provide virtual supports to you. I implore you to reach out to them as the needs arise.

We are currently considering alternative options for graduation ceremonies to comply with the possibility of extended local and national mandates. I am working closely with our district officials and school-level leaders to develop a way in which the Class of 2020 is properly honored for accomplishing this milestone. I have reached out to members of the graduating class seeking their input and suggestions as part of this decision-making process. As I continue this deliberation, please know that I will do what is best for the members of the Class of 2020, taking into account the different mandates and instructions issued by governmental agencies.

While navigating the complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities, we will continue to provide nutritious meals for our students on weekdays through our Grab-N-Go initiative for the remainder of this school year. We will also continue working with the Atlanta Community Food Pantry to provide grocery services to the families of our community for as long as our partnership extends.

As I close this open letter, I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to our staff, our student families and all community stakeholders who have lost loved ones to this virus. I pray that you will find comfort through family members and friends that will give you the strength to face the coming days.

I encourage you to keep in touch with the school district through our Facebook chats, the postings on our website, and the content of our email communications. We are working diligently to keep as much information in front of you because it is through education and awareness that we will navigate and eventually overcome this global pandemic.

This life-changing, history-making event is challenging, all of us must find an inner strength that will keep our families focused on the days ahead. I believe that we will survive this challenge if we continue to concentrate on what is important – our health, our safety and our faith. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.

May God bless you and keep you as we continue to support and uplift one another and remain *Committed to High Performance!*

Sincerely,

Morcease J. Beasley  
Superintendent/CEO of Schools