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# NEWS RELEASE

*CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Stilwell High School & Elite Scholars Academy Earn High Rankings from US News & 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!

This selection continues a four-year trend of these schools being listed among the top 50 schools in the State with ESA and MESSOA ranked 22nd and 31st, respectively. In addition, each school earned spots among the top 985 High Schools nationwide—more than 24,000 public high schools are evaluated annually by the U.S. News. Previously, Elite Scholars Academy ranked 18th in Georgia while Stilwell School of the Arts ranked 21st statewide.

The 2020 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.

Morrow High School, on the strength of an 81 percent graduation rate in 2018-2019 and other academic factors, was the next highest-ranked CCPS high school, rising to 161 statewide. The remaining Clayton County high schools on the list, in order of ranking, are Riverdale High School (199), Lovejoy High School (214), Jonesboro High School (243), Forest Park High School (251), Mundy's Mill High School (268), Mount Zion High School (279), Charles Drew High School (291), North Clayton High School (313) and Perry Career Academy (324-418). Please note that Perry Career Academy's ranking indicates that there are multiple schools tied for the same ranking and are listed in no particular order.

“Each year we are excited for this news to be shared as it showcases our dedication to preparing our students for college and career success,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “I congratulate each school community, the students, teachers, support personnel, as well as the administration for earning this accomplishment.”

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>

### **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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