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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

www.clayton.k12.ga.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing

Jada K. Dawkins

Chief of Communications

Telephone: (770) 472-7257

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Clayton County Public Schools 2020-2021 School Year Reopening Updates

School Board Approves Virtual Start to 2020-2021 School Year; Pushes First Day to August 10, 2020

JONESBORO - As Clayton County Public Schools continues to monitor the COVID-19 cases and all data regarding the pandemic, the Clayton County Board of Education has approved to start the 2020-2021 School Year utilizing the Virtual Instructional Model (Instructional Model Option B) as outlined in the 2020-2021 Reopening Resource Guide (<https://tinyurl.com/CCPSReopeningGuide>). In addition, the Board has also approved the adjustment of the 2020-2021 academic calendar which pushes the start of the school year to August 10 for students, to allow teachers and staff an additional five days for preparation. Please note, the employee workday calendar will remain the same. The changes were approved based on recommendations from the Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley. To view the school year calendar as approved, please click the following link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1soaZo-8xWqQEZHvHzkW3TwVd2hBRT7a2/view?usp=sharing>.

“I certainly commend our Board of Education for recognizing the need to adjust plans as we considered all options for the 2020-2021 school year,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “We have been working tirelessly to mitigate as many challenges as possible during this complex time, and we are glad to have one less hurdle to navigate as we prepare for a safe virtual return to school in the fall,” he added.

It is important to note that, as the district will start the upcoming school year with the district-wide virtual model, it is not necessary to apply for this virtual model. Applications are only required for the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA- Instructional Model Option D), which will allow students who requested the VLA to continue in this model if the district transitions to a face-to-face model. Since all students will start school virtually, the deadline for completing the application process for the VLA has been extended to Friday, August 28, 2020. This extension allows more parents to determine if they would like this option when the district returns to a face-to-face model. Also, this extension allows individuals who continue to experience issues accessing the Parent Portal and/or obtaining registration documentation, such as Student Identification Numbers, immunization records, or other documents due to COVID, to still apply for the Virtual Learning Academy (VLA).

It should also be understood that submitting a VLA interest application does not guarantee admission, as admission will be granted based on available seats and resources. Also, due to the VLA extension and the district’s decision to start all students in virtual learning in August, parents will be notified at a later time than July 28th if their child is accepted into the VLA. For additional questions regarding the VLA, stakeholders are asked to review the FAQ Document

(https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/news/district_news/virtual_learning_academy_application_process), or submit inquiries to virtalllearning@clayton.k12.ga.us.

Please be reminded that Clayton County Public Schools began the Online Registration Process for new students for the 2020-2021 school year on May 4, 2020. Online Registration is for lottery approved Pre-Kindergarten students and for students registering for grades K-12 for the 2020-2021 school year. The OLR application is not for returning students who attended school in CCPS last year. For more information regarding registration, please visit the CCPS website (www.clayton.k12.ga.us). For online registration support, please contact us at 404-361-3421. Requests may also be emailed to, studentregistration@clayton.k12.ga.us.

The parents/guardians/caregivers of the students who attended school in CCPS last school year are asked to complete the Residency Verification Process (RVP). The Residency Verification Process is accessible online through the CCPS Parent Portal. The Residency Verification Process is very important to ensure that all schools have the correct household information on file for students. To complete the RVP, please click the following link:

(<https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54515&pageId=23781193>)

“This has certainly been an unprecedented time for all of us, we thank all stakeholders for their patience as we collectively navigate this new reality,” said Dr. Beasley. “Regardless of the method, we know that children will have to be educated, and we are here to serve and support our students and their families. It is our commitment to ensure that we do that to the best of our ability. While we may not have all the answers, we will continue to exercise our best efforts as well as rely on collaborative community support to address concerns created by the pandemic.”

In addition, Superintendent/CEO, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley will host a YouTube Live message on Tuesday, July 14, 2020, which can be accessed via the Clayton County Public Schools YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/ccpsnews). This session will share critical updates and expound on the decision made by the Board of Education as part of the called July 13th meeting. This session will begin at 1:00 p.m.

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 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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