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# NEWS RELEASE

*CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Twelve CCPS Students Earn a Place in the 2021 Governor’s Honors Program**

*Program expected to take place as scheduled after cancellation of the 2020 program*

**JONESBORO** – Nine students representing four Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) high schools have been named finalists for Georgia's Governor’s Honors Program (GHP), a residential summer program for gifted and talented high school students who will be rising juniors and seniors during the program. Two additional CCPS students have earned alternate status. In addition, CCPS has one student who will be attending as a GHP 2021 Finalist due to the cancellation of GHP in 2020.

GHP 2021 finalist students and their area of nomination are: Tiffany Pham, Elite Scholars Academy, Returning GHP 2020, Social Studies; Riquardo Blankson, Elite Scholars Academy, Communicative Arts; Oluwafeyisayo Romiluyi, Elite Scholars Academy, World Languages: Chinese; Antoninette Robinson, Lovejoy HS, World Languages: Chinese; Jalil Blash, Stilwell SOA, Dance; Kazah Dixon, Stilwell SOA, Music: Jazz Trumpet; Nyla Jones, Stilwell SOA, Music: Voice; Alaija Jones, Morrow HS, Social Studies; Uyen Le, Morrow HS, World Languages: Chinese; Phuong-Quyen Nguyen, Morrow HS, Communicative Arts.

GHP 2021 alternate students and their area of nomination are: David Nguyen, Stilwell SOA, Science and Atasha Widemond, Stilwell SOA, Music Voice.

To be selected, students must progress through a rigorous application process that begins at the District level and culminates with invitation-only, application-based, state-level interviews. Earlier this year, 16 CCPS students representing five CCPS high schools were selected as GHP 2021 State Semi-Finalists.

Following a rigorous state-level interview process, a total of 12 CCPS students were selected as GHP 2021 Finalists and GHP 2021 Alternates. It should be noted that students selected as an Alternate have the opportunity to become a Finalist should an existing Finalist in his/her nomination area declines the invitation to attend or fail to accept the invitation to attend by the required deadline. It is anticipated that GHP 2021 will proceed as planned and students selected as Finalists will be attending the 2021 Governor's Honors Program at Berry College in Rome (GA).

“We are so proud to announce our Governor’s Honors Program Finalists and Alternates for 2021,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “The students who have qualified for this year’s program and accomplished this tremendous feat while coping with arduous, nontraditional conditions imposed by the

COVID-19 pandemic. These students have truly exceeded all expectations and have demonstrated an ability to step outside of their surroundings and achieve greatness.”

“We offer our profound congratulations to each student, their families and their teachers for this wonderful accomplishment,” Superintendent Beasley said. “We wish for them a transformational experience while participating in the 2021 Governor’s Honors Program.”

### **About the Governor’s Honors Program**

The GHP program offers instruction that is significantly different from the typical high school classroom and that is designed to provide students with academic, cultural, and social enrichment necessary to become the next generation of global critical thinkers, innovators, and leaders. To learn more about the Governor's Honors Program, please click on this link: <https://gosa.georgia.gov/governors-honors-program>

### **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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