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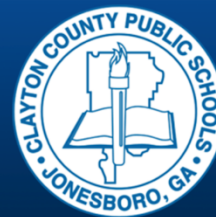
NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stilwell School of the Arts & Elite Scholars Academy Continue to 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 once again been listed among the top high schools in the state of Georgia by the *United States News & World Report!*

This selection continues a five-year trend of these schools being listed among the top 50 schools in the State with **ESA and MESSOA ranked 18th and 28th**, respectively. In addition, each school earned spots among the top High Schools nationwide: ESA ranked 528 and MESSOA ranked 808. More than 24,000 public high schools are evaluated annually by the U.S. News. Elite Scholars ranked 13th among high schools in Metro Atlanta while Stilwell was ranked 22nd.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Elite Scholars Academy ranked 22nd in Georgia while Stilwell School of the Arts ranked 31st statewide.

The 2021 rankings, developed in conjunction with nonprofit research firm RTI International, are based on a 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. A total of 472 high schools in Georgia were ranked.

Riverdale High School, on the strength of an 83 percent graduation rate in 2019-2020 and other academic factors, was the next highest-ranked CCPS high school at 227. The remaining Clayton County high schools on the list, in order of ranking, are Morrow High School (235), Forest Park High School (265), Lovejoy High School (266), Jonesboro High School (270), Mundy's Mill High School (278), Charles Drew High School (283), Mount Zion High School (278), North Clayton High School (328) and Perry Career Academy (328). 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.

“To earn placement among the top schools across the state and nationally, especially during a time impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, showcases our total dedication to preparing our students for college and career success,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “I offer profound congratulations to each school community: its students and families, teachers, support personnel, administrators and community partners on earning this prestigious 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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