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NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCPS Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony Additional Updates

Ceremonies are in-person and hosted at the district's three local stadiums May 26-27, 2021

JONESBORO - Graduation ceremonies for Clayton County Public Schools' 11 high schools will take place Wednesday and Thursday, May 26-27, 2021. Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ceremonies will be held at the district's three stadiums: Southern Crescent in Riverdale, Tara in Jonesboro and Twelve Oaks in Hampton. If needed, rain dates have been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, May 28-29, 2021. Other arrangements or dates may be considered and communicated by district leaders pending weather conditions.

GRADUATION CLASS of 2021 SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 26, 2021		
Southern Crescent 6231 Garden Walk Blvd. Riverdale GA	Tara 1055 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro GA	Twelve Oaks 1587 McDonough Road, Hampton, GA
Charles Drew High School 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Lovejoy High School 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Stilwell of the Arts 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
North Clayton High School 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Mundy's Mill High School 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM	
Thursday, May 27, 2021		
Southern Crescent 6231 Garden Walk Blvd. Riverdale GA	Tara 1055 Battle Creek Road, Jonesboro GA	Twelve Oaks 1587 McDonough Road, Hampton, GA
Riverdale High School 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Forest Park High School 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	Elite Scholars Academy 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM
Morrow High School 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Jonesboro High School 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM	Mt. Zion High School 8:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Gates will open for each morning ceremony at 7 a.m. and for each evening ceremony at 7 p.m.

In order to manage the number of family and friends in attendance the district will utilize a ticketing system. Due to an adjustment of COVID-19 protocols noted in Georgia Governor Brian Kemp's recent Executive Order on April 30, 2021, and in recent information released by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), each graduate will receive tickets in the following numbers:

- **Eight (8) per graduate:** Charles Drew, Forest Park, Jonesboro, Lovejoy, Morrow, Mt. Zion, Mundy's Mill, North Clayton and Riverdale
- **Twelve (12) per graduate:** Elite Scholars Academy and M.E. Stilwell School of the Arts

The difference in ticket numbers is due to the potential size of the graduating classes, anticipated numbers of family members and guests who may want to attend, and the seating capacities of each stadium being used. Tickets are expected to be distributed beginning **Thursday, May 20, 2021**.

As noted in the schedule, starting times have been set to avoid the heat of the day. Weather forecasts call for sunny conditions and indicate that temperatures for May 26-27, 2021 could be some of the highest for thus far this spring. Family, friends and guests attending are encouraged to take this into account as they prepare for the ceremonies, especially the morning sessions.

Free parking will be available at each stadium, however parking options may be limited at event times on May 26-27, 2021. Local transit services (if available), carpooling, Uber, or Lyft options are encouraged. Due to possible traffic congestion around the stadiums as a ceremony's starting time approaches, family and guests are reminded to take this into consideration when making plans to attend.

Please know that the Clayton County School Police will be on site working in cooperation with various law enforcement agencies to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for our graduates, their families and friends. Please know that order will be strictly enforced, unruly or displays of abrasive behavior will not be tolerated. Violators will be subject to removal of the event.

In addition, attendees at the graduation ceremonies **will not** be permitted to bring any objects that could possibly obstruct the views of other guests or interfere with the enjoyment of this event. These objects include balloons, signs, umbrellas, noisemakers or any other potentially distracting items/materials.

Even though a number of COVID-19 restrictions have been adjusted, the district will do temperature checks of family members and guests upon entering the stadium using digital scan-and-walk thermometers. The wearing of masks, while not mandated, is encouraged for personal peace-of-mind. All public and graduate areas of the stadiums/staging facilities will be cleaned and sanitized by CCPS COVID-19 Strike Team and school-based custodial staff following each ceremony.

All graduation ceremonies for the CCPS Class of 2021 will be streamed live from the three stadiums and can be viewed on the district's website using the link below. The taking of pictures and the recording of images via cell phones is encouraged, however family members and guests are asked to refrain from streaming the ceremonies on their cell phones or other electronic devices.

<https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/cms/One.aspx?portalId=54515&pageId=68683>

Stakeholders may request **interpreting services** in Spanish, Vietnamese, or sign language. Anyone wishing these services should contact their graduating senior's school to submit a request.

We encourage all stakeholders to stay connected with the district as final details related to the 2021 graduation ceremonies evolve. The district will continue to share graduate-specific information directly to members of the Class of 2021 through school-level administrative officials.

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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