PRESS RELEASE

October 25, 2019

2019-20 REACH GEORGIA SCHOLARSHIP SIGNING CEREMONY

Five CCSD Eighth-Graders Will Sign Commitment Contracts
to Enter the REACH Georgia Mentorship and Scholarship Program

Athens, Georgia — Tuesday, October 29, 2019, the Clarke County School District will host a formal signing ceremony to celebrate students entering the REACH Georgia mentorship and scholarship program. The ceremony will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Athens Community Career Academy.

REACH Georgia (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) is a needs-based mentoring and scholarship program providing students a framework of support (educational and financial) to aid their successful journey through high school and beyond.

Beginning in 8th grade, REACH Scholars are teamed with a mentor and an academic coach who provide guidance and support until graduation. Scholars must maintain good grades (2.5 GPA), behavior, and attendance throughout middle and high school. Scholars who complete the program and graduate from high school are awarded a $10,000 scholarship ($2,500/year) that can be used at any HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia. A majority of Georgia colleges match or double-match this scholarship. The scholarship is in addition to any other grant or scholarship the student receives.

"We are incredibly proud of our students who make this commitment to their future when they sign as REACH scholars," states Tessa Barbazon, the CCSD REACH Scholarship Coordinator and the Director of School Counseling and Social-Emotional Learning. “The REACH program and the support it offers our scholars not only makes college financially possible but provides the academic and social-emotional assistance to ensure each of these amazing students find success."

During the REACH signing ceremony, students and their families commit to satisfying the program requirements, graduating from high school, and enrolling and completing college. Students sign contracts during this ceremonial occasion agreeing to uphold program requirements, much like athletic signing day ceremonies.

The CCSD 2019-20 REACH scholars are:

- Aaliyah Allen, W. R. Coile Middle
- Laniya Jones, Clarke Middle
- Jacqueline Medina, W. R. Coile Middle
- Tahtiana Talley, Hilsman Middle
- Danitza Ulloa, Burney-Harris-Lyons Middle

About the Clarke County School District

At the Clarke County School District, we believe in tomorrow. We believe that by preparing students for the new and broadening opportunities ahead, we are strengthening our community. Our passionate faculty and staff work tirelessly to help ensure our students grow academically, socially, and emotionally. We are dedicated. We are committed. We work hard to be better every day.

The CCSD has 21 schools and more than 13,000 students. We have 2,288 days to make a difference that will last a lifetime. But we do not just count the days—we make the days count.

For more information about the Clarke County School District, please visit www.clarke.k12.ga.us.

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About the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program

REACH Georgia is a needs-based mentoring and scholarship program providing promising students the support to graduate from high school and achieve postsecondary success.

For more information about the REACH Georgia Scholarship Program, please visit https://www.gafutures.org/hope-state-aid-programs/scholarships-grants/reach-georgia/.

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