



Clayton County Public Schools

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ADVISORY

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Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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Jonesboro High School Band Set to Perform for Global Audience at 2026 London New Year's Day Parade

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools is excited to announce that the Jonesboro High School Majestic Marching Cardinals have been invited to perform at the prestigious London New Year's Day Parade in January 2026. This incredible honor marks another notable accomplishment for the talented students, who continue to make their community proud with their vibrant and captivating performances.

The London New Year's Day Parade is a world-renowned event featuring over 10,000 participants, including marching bands, cheerleaders, acrobats, and entertainers from across the globe. Being selected to perform in this international celebration is a testament to the skill, discipline, and dedication of the Majestic Marching Cardinals, as well as the support from their teachers, parents, and community.

"This opportunity to perform in London allows our students to experience the world beyond Clayton County and showcases their incredible talents on an international stage," said Principal Tenisha Bailey. "It's an honor that reflects the dedication and hard work of our students and staff. We're proud to shine a global spotlight on what we are accomplishing here in Clayton County, and it's exciting to see our community and students thrive in such meaningful ways."

Mr. Lynel Goodwin, Band Director, added, "This is a monumental achievement, not only for our students but for our entire community. Their relentless commitment to excellence is paying off, and I couldn't be prouder of all they've accomplished."

As part of the announcement, representatives from the parade, including Mr. Robert "Bob" Bone, Founder of the London New Year's Day Parade, and Mr. Duncan Sandys, Former Lord Mayor of the City of Westminster and great-grandson of Winston Churchill, visited Jonesboro High School to personally invite the band. During their presentation, Mr. Bone presented Principal Bailey with a commemorative plate from Buckingham Palace, and Mr. Goodwin received a teacup from the Coronation of Charles III and Camilla as King and Queen of the United Kingdom. Additionally, Micah LeBoyd, a junior and Drum Major, was presented with an umbrella—a unique tradition started in 2018. According to legend, as long as Micah holds onto the umbrella until the day of the parade, it will keep the rain away; remarkably, it has not rained on the parade since this tradition began.

Band members expressed their enthusiasm for the upcoming trip to London. Micah shared, "Receiving this opportunity to go to London is unbelievable. I never thought I could reach this level or be a leader among such talented people. Every day, I'm reaching new heights, and that means the world to me. As I head into my senior year, I'm ready to go out with a bang."

Tamia Ringold, a senior and member of the Majestic Dancing Dolls, reflected on the band's growth over the years: "When I first started, we weren't quite this big, but I feel like my first year on the team was the start of our peak. Everything has gone up from there—being invited to New York and now London. It's such a big deal, and I just think it's incredible."

“The accomplishments of the Majestic Marching Cardinals are a shining example of what our students can achieve with hard work, talent, and support from dedicated educators and the community,” said Ms. Jessie Goree, Board Chair. “The invitation to such a high-profile event in London, along with the numerous other achievements, underscores the level of excellence we strive for in Clayton County Public Schools. We are proud to see our students showcase their talents on an international stage.”

Board Member Dr. Deatrice “Dee” Haney, representative of District 5, also shared her pride, stating, “These students are true ambassadors of Clayton County, and their achievements reflect the excellence we strive for in our district. I am thrilled to see them receive this well-deserved opportunity to shine on an international platform.”

“Our students continue to exceed expectations and raise the bar with their talent,” said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent of Schools. “The invitation to perform at the London New Year’s Day Parade is a monumental achievement, and I am extremely proud of the Jonesboro High School band. We are all excited to see them represent Clayton County on this global stage.”

As the Majestic Marching Cardinals prepare for their performance at the London New Year's Day Parade, they need the community's support to make this dream a reality. To learn more about how you can support the Jonesboro High School Majestic Marching Cardinals and contribute to their journey, please visit <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/1010121>.

To view images of the announcement ceremony, please visit:

<https://ccpscommunications.client-gallery.com/gallery/jhs-london-in-new-years-day-parade-invite>

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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