

Clayton County Public Schools

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ADVISORY

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Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

May 21, 2025

New Chapters Begin: CCPS and Women of Clayton County Celebrate Literacy with Little Free Library Rededication

JONESBORO - In a joyful celebration of literacy, unity, and community pride, the Women of Clayton County, in partnership with Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS), proudly hosted a rededication and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the county's 12 Little Free Libraries on May 9, 2025, at Kay Pace School of the Arts.

Originally launched in March 2021 as part of the Clayton Reads; Clayton Succeeds campaign, these charming book-sharing boxes were created to promote equitable access to books and ignite a love of reading in residents of all ages. Each library operates on a simple yet powerful concept: "take a book, and build your personal at home library." In preparation for the rededication, the libraries were freshly painted and restocked with an exciting new selection of books—ensuring they remain vibrant, welcoming, and full of possibility.

The celebration began with a warm welcome from Rochelle Dennis, President of the Women of Clayton County, whose passion and leadership set the tone for a meaningful morning. Ebony Brown, President-Elect and CCPS Coordinator of Elementary English Language Arts, shared her insight on the lasting value of literacy and collaboration within the community.

"The Women of Clayton County have made a strong and unwavering commitment to lifting literacy in our community," said Brown. "This initiative is about more than just books—it's about empowerment, equity, and ensuring every child and adult has access to the tools that unlock their potential."

"These libraries are more than book boxes—they're symbols of opportunity, equity, and the power of community collaboration," added Dennis. "They represent what's possible when we come together with purpose and passion. It's not just about reading—it's about building a brighter, more connected Clayton County."

Linda K. Hayes, Technical Training Instructional Designer at Southern Company Gas, also delivered remarks, underscoring the value of public-private partnerships in supporting literacy initiatives.

The program featured a moving segment titled The Little Free Library Journey, showcasing the initiative's growth and impact across Clayton County. A special moment of recognition came during the presentation of the Little Free Library Literacy Lifter Award, which honored Karen Mondzelewski and Latavious Rogers for their outstanding contributions and support of this beloved project.

Excitement filled the air as the ribbon was officially cut, signaling the transition to the newly enhanced Little Free Library Garden—a space that will continue to inspire readers and connect communities for generations to come.

The Women of Clayton County and CCPS extend their heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped bring this vision to life. Community members are encouraged to visit a Little Free Library near them and be part of spreading the joy of reading—one book, one neighbor, and one moment at a time. To view images from the rededication ceremony, please <u>click here</u>.

-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.

