



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

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CCPS Students Excel in Georgia High School Mock Trial Competition

Jonesboro High School celebrates 25 consecutive years competing at the State Level

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools is proud to announce that after three highly competitive rounds, Jonesboro High School's Mock Trial Team finished first in district competition with a perfect 3-0 record. The team will be competing at the state level March 13-14, 2026 in Gwinnett County. The Jonesboro program has sent a team to state competition each year since 2002 – *a quarter century at state*.

At the district competition, Judah Whaley earned an outstanding attorney award while Aidan Brooks added two additional attorney awards. Noah Henley added an outstanding performance award.

Road to State Competition

Georgia High School Mock Trial recently held its regional competitions in January and early February. The Clayton County Judicial Center proudly hosted six teams, including Elite Scholars Academy (ESA), Jonesboro High School (JHS) (Team Red and Team Silver), and Morrow High School (MHS), competing against McIntosh High School and Eagle's Landing Christian Academy.

Jonesboro High School's Team Cardinal competed in Decatur against strong programs from DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties.

Jonesboro High School (JHS) Team Red and Morrow High School (MHS) emerged from its region and advanced to district level competition at the Henry County State Court in McDonough.

Individual Awards

- Anthony Rivera (ESA)
- Julie Ly (ESA)
- Aidan Brooks (JHS)
- Joi Googer (JHS)
- Hillary Keo (JHS)
- Destiny Jones (JHS)
- Uchechukwu Nibo (MHS)
- Yaremi Canas-Pariban (MHS)
- Aleyah Verdell (MHS)
- Jayden Geiger-Smith (JHS)
- Jesus Polina-Torres (JHS)
- Sydney Washington (JHS)

A special recognition goes to **Judah Whaley (JHS)**, who earned Outstanding Attorney/Witness honors in *all three rounds* of competition at regional competition.

Participant/Teacher Coach Recognition

The following students were honored for four years of dedication to the Mock Trial program at their school:

- Aidan Brooks (JHS)
- Joi Googer (JHS)
- Kyle Burns (JHS)
- Sontez Barnes (MHS)
- Yaremi Canas-Pariban (MHS)
- Noah Henley (MHS)
- Uchechukwu Nibo (MHS)

We also extend sincere appreciation to the dedicated teacher coaches who guide and mentor these students:

- Mandy Smith (Elite Scholars Academy)
- Andrew Cox and Angela Ugbajah (Jonesboro High School)
- Jennifer Henley and Louis Fleming (Morrow High School).

Congratulations to all Clayton County students and coaches for representing our district with excellence and professionalism!

About Mock Trial

Mock Trial is an academic competition in which students assume the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a simulated courtroom setting. After receiving a case file in October, students spend months mastering the Rules of Evidence, crafting direct and cross-examinations, and preparing opening statements and closing arguments. Through the process, students develop critical thinking skills, confidence in public speaking, and the ability to think quickly and persuasively under pressure.

[To view Mock Trial Competition photos, click here.](#)

-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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