Clayton County Public Schools

Department of School Choice

CCPS MAGNET

Welcome Back, Scholars!

Inside The New Riverdale Early Learning Center

All About Choice Schools

School Choice Scholarships

The Future is Now- Introducing the Student Led Marketing Agency

CCCA at CCPS Creators Studio



August 2026

Pictured: Students from Kay R. Pace School of The Arts

EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome Back, Clayton County!

There is something special about the beginning of a new school year. It brings new opportunities, new experiences, and another chance for our scholars to discover what inspires them. As we welcome our scholars, families, and staff back for another exciting year, I'm also excited to welcome you to our 2026 Welcome Back issue of CCPS Magnet.

In this issue, we celebrate the many ways School Choice continues to create opportunities across Clayton County Public Schools. From our specialized Magnet programs and the opening of the new Riverdale Early Learning Center to the creativity and real-world learning happening inside the CCPS Creators Studio, there is so much to celebrate.

As you turn these pages, I hope you discover a program you didn't know about, learn something new about our schools, and see the incredible work happening throughout our School Choice community.

Most importantly, I hope this issue reminds you that behind every program, initiative, and opportunity is a scholar with a future worth investing in.

Welcome back, scholars—and welcome back to CCPS Magnet. Here's to another year of learning, creativity, discovery, and possibility.

-Department of School Choice

Inside The New Riverdale Early Learning Center:
A New Chapter Begins for Our Community







Riverdale Early Learning Center Opens Its Doors to Clayton County's Youngest Scholars

A new chapter is beginning in Riverdale as Clayton County Public Schools proudly celebrates the opening of Riverdale Early Learning Center, a space created to inspire, nurture, and support our youngest scholars as they begin their educational journeys.

More than a new building, Riverdale Early Learning Center represents an investment in children, families, and the future of our community. The center provides an engaging and nurturing early learning environment where young learners can build foundational skills, explore their creativity, and develop the confidence they need to thrive.

The opening also marks an exciting expansion of early learning opportunities within the Department of School Choice. Riverdale Early Learning Center is home to the Discovery Magnet theme, a Magnet program focused on creativity, foundational skills, and school readiness.

Strong early learning experiences help build strong foundations for lifelong success. Within these new classrooms, scholars will discover, create, form friendships, reach important milestones, and begin developing a love of learning that can follow them for years to come.

As we celebrate this exciting milestone, we also recognize the many individuals whose vision, planning, and commitment helped bring Riverdale Early Learning Center to life.

https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school-choice

August 2026

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Let's Clear It Up:

UNDERSTANDING MAGNET PROGRAMS AND SCHOOL CHOICE

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Clayton County Public Schools is here to help you understand your options so you can find the best fit for your child's future.

THE BIG PICTURE

Magnet Programs are a type of School Choice option in Clayton County Public Schools. Both magnet programs and charter schools are part of School Choice!

MAGNET PROGRAMS

A SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

Magnet Programs are specialized public schools within the Clayton County Public Schools district that offer unique themes and rigorous academics.

- Part of School Choice
- Located throughout our district
- No tuition – free for Georgia residents
- Programs include themes such as STEM, arts, dual language, leadership, and more
- Admission is based on eligibility, criteria, and seat availability
- Transportation may be provided based on the program and student eligibility

CHARTER SCHOOLS

A SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

Charter Schools are tuition-free public schools that are independently operated and hold their own charter from the State of Georgia.

- Part of School Choice
- Open to all students
- Independently managed with more flexibility in certain areas
- May have different calendars, uniforms, and policies
- Transportation policies vary by charter school
- Accountable to the State of Georgia and their governing board

DID YOU KNOW?

Every magnet program is a school choice but not every charter school is a magnet program.

IN GEORGIA

Both magnet programs and charter schools are tuition-free public options available to families.

OUR PROMISE

Clayton County Public Schools is committed to providing high-quality choices that help every student learn, grow, and succeed.

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOVEMBER 1

APPLICATIONS CLOSE DECEMBER 1

LEARN MORE

Visit the School Choice Guide for details on programs, eligibility, and how to apply.

LEARNING TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

Please note: The November 1–December 1 application period applies to Magnet Programs only

MAGNET PROGRAMS & CHARTER SCHOOLS

Clayton County Public Schools offers a variety of magnet programs and charter schools so every student can learn, grow, and succeed.

Pre-K is available at various locations throughout the district.

APPLICATIONS OPEN NOVEMBER 1 AND CLOSE DECEMBER 1.

Learn more about our programs by visiting the School Choice Guide.

Please note: The November 1–December 1 application period applies to Magnet Programs only

ELEMENTARY MAGNET PROGRAMS

- **Kay R. Pace School of the Arts** | Visual & Performing Arts
- **Kilpatrick Elementary School** | Spanish Dual Language
- **M.L. King Elementary School** | Botany & Zoology
- **Riverdale Early Learning Center** | iCreate Academy
- **Unidos Dual Language School** | Spanish Dual Language
- **West Clayton Elementary School** | STEAM

MIDDLE MAGNET PROGRAMS

- **Elite Scholars Academy** | Early College
- **M.D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts** | Visual & Performing Arts
- **Morrow Middle School** | Spanish Dual Language
- **North Clayton Middle School** | STEM
- **Rex Mill Middle School** | STEM

HIGH MAGNET PROGRAMS

- **Elite Scholars Academy** | Early College
- **Charles R. Drew High School** | Medical Sciences and Public Safety
- **Jonesboro High School** | Political Leadership
- **Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts** | Visual & Performing Arts
- **Morrow High School** | STEM
- **North Clayton High School** | Aviation

CHARTER SCHOOLS

- **Tapestry Public Charter School**
- **Utopian Academy for the Arts**

SCHOOL CHOICE SCHOLARSHIP



Investing in Students. Strengthening Communities.

For the past three years, the Department of School Choice has had the privilege of awarding scholarships to deserving Clayton County Public Schools scholars, made possible through funds raised by our department and the generous support of community partners and donors.

This year, we are taking that commitment one step further with our inaugural School Choice Scholarship Gala on Friday, November 6, 2026, at the Morrow Center Tea Room.

The evening will bring our community together with one shared purpose: investing in students and creating opportunities for their futures.

Proceeds from the gala will support scholarships for deserving members of the Class of 2027 as they prepare for life beyond high school.

We invite you to join us—whether by attending the gala, becoming a sponsor, or making a donation.

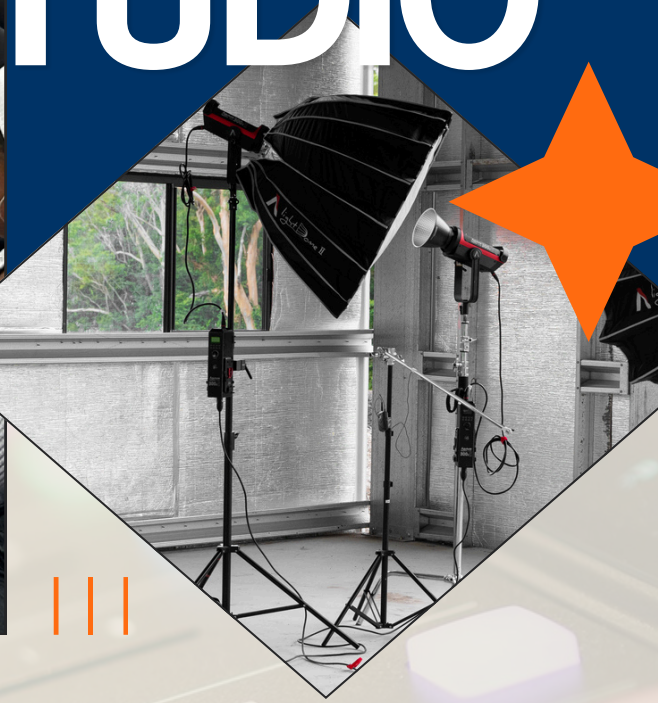
Every contribution helps us continue opening doors for Clayton County scholars.

Click Here to Become a Sponsor

August 2026

The CREATORS STUDIO





WHERE CREATIVITY, OPPORTUNITY AND REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE COME TOGETHER

Located at The Arena at Southlake, the CCPS Creators Studio is a space where student creativity, career exploration, and real-world experience come together.

Designed to support hands-on opportunities in marketing, communications, media, content creation, and creative production, the Creators Studio gives students a place to collaborate, develop ideas, strengthen their skills, and experience what it means to create in a professional environment.

It is also home to one of Clayton County Public Schools' newest student-led initiatives—the Clayton County Creative Agency (CCCA).

DESIGNED TO SUPPORT HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITIES IN MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS, MEDIA, CONTENT CREATION, AND CREATIVE PRODUCTION

Creative Studio & Agency

https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school-choice



From Idea, To Agency

The journey began with a simple question: What if students could do more than participate in an internship? What if they could help operate a real creative agency?

That question sparked the vision for a student- led agency in 2025. The concept was developed around creating an authentic agency experience where students could take on meaningful roles, collaborate as teams, contribute to real projects, and gain exposure to the many career paths that exist within the creative and communications industries.

During the 2025–2026 school year, the vision continued to grow, eventually reaching district leadership and the Clayton County Board of Education. By summer 2026, the idea had moved from concept to reality as the agency welcomed its founding cohort of student interns.

The founding cohort stepped into something that did not exist—and helped shape what it could become.
Working across areas including creative, strategy, client services, operations, analytics, social media, and campaign development, students began experiencing the collaborative structure of a professional creative agency while bringing their own perspectives and talents to the work.

CLAYTON COUNTY CREATIVE AGENCY

FOUNDING COHORT
2025-2026



KIMBERLY SCOTT
AGENCY SUPERVISOR
SCHOOL CHOICE/MAGNET PROGRAMS-MARKETING



JASMINE BEAL
JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL
2027 GRADUATE



JALIA BRYANT
JONESBORO HIGH SCHOOL
2026 GRADUATE



NEAL CLARK
STILWELL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2026 GRADUATE



ISABEL DONALDSON
STILWELL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2026 GRADUATE



TAMIRA GREEN
MORROW HIGH SCHOOLL
2026 GRADUATE



ZAVIDA HALL
LOVEJOY HIGH SCHOOL
2026 GRADUATE

ZHANE HAYNES
STILWELL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2025 GRADUATE



KAMILA HERNANDEZ
ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY
2027 GRADUATE



AMIYAH JACKSON
MUNDYS MILL HIGHSCHOOL
2026 GRADUATE



ETHAN JONES
STILWELL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
2026 GRADUATE

ANNAMAYA KANU
LOVEJOY HIGH SCHOOL
2025 GRADUATE



UYEN "JULIE" LY
ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY
2027 GRADUATE



JORDAN MILNER
LOVEJOY HIGH SCHOOL
2026 GRADUATE



TOMILOLA OLABOSINDE
ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY
2026 GRADUATE



SAMARIA ROSSER
LOVEJOY HIGH SCHOOL
2026 GRADUATE

From Foundation, to the Next Chapter

The 2025–2026 founding cohort did more than participate in the Clayton County Creative Agency—they helped develop it. As the agency's first group of students, they played an important role in shaping its foundation, exploring how the agency could operate, and helping establish a vision for future cohorts to build upon.

That foundation was passed to the 2026 summer intern cohort, who inherited the agency and began taking it to its next stage. Throughout the summer, students contributed to creative projects and district initiatives, developed content, explored campaign strategy, and launched Project Clayton: School Pride Rebuilt, a district-wide campaign designed to celebrate school pride.

The summer cohort also gained valuable industry exposure through a visit to Hawks Studios, where students toured a professional creative environment, connected with industry professionals, and explored careers across sports, entertainment, marketing, and production. The experience provided both career exposure and inspiration as students considered what their own agency could become.



https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school-choice

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Building What's Next

Now, CCCA is preparing for another important transition.

Recruitment is underway to complete the 2026–2027 Clayton County Creative Agency cohort, bringing together returning and new student talent to continue developing what the previous cohorts began.
For the first time, students will have the opportunity to carry that work forward from the agency's new home inside the CCPS Creators Studio at The Arena at Southlake. There, students will continue developing the agency while gaining hands-on experience working within a professional creative environment.

The next phase will also move CCCA closer to its larger vision: serving both internal and external clients. Students will have opportunities to collaborate on authentic projects, respond to client needs, develop creative solutions, build professional portfolios, and experience the expectations and responsibilities that come with agency work.

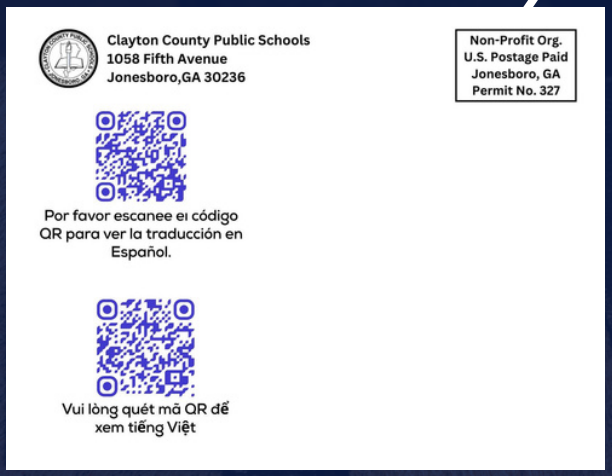
Each cohort has a role in the story. The founding cohort built the foundation. The summer cohort inherited the vision and moved it forward. And the 2026–2027 cohort will have the opportunity to continue building the agency, establish its presence in the Creators Studio, and expand the work it was created to do.
The agency is still being built—and that is exactly what makes this opportunity so unique.



SUMMER COHORT

UPCOMING EVENTS







https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school-choice

GET FEATURED IN CCPS MAGNET

Have a Story to Share? Have exciting news, student achievements, upcoming events, or something special happening in your school or program? We want to hear about it!

Submit your story ideas for a chance to be featured in CCPS Magnet. Send your story details, photos (if available), and any important information to our Marketing Specialist, Kimberly Scott Taylor (Kimberly.Scott@clayton.k12.ga.us.)

Your story could be our next feature!

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

https://www.clayton.k12.ga.us/departments/school-choice