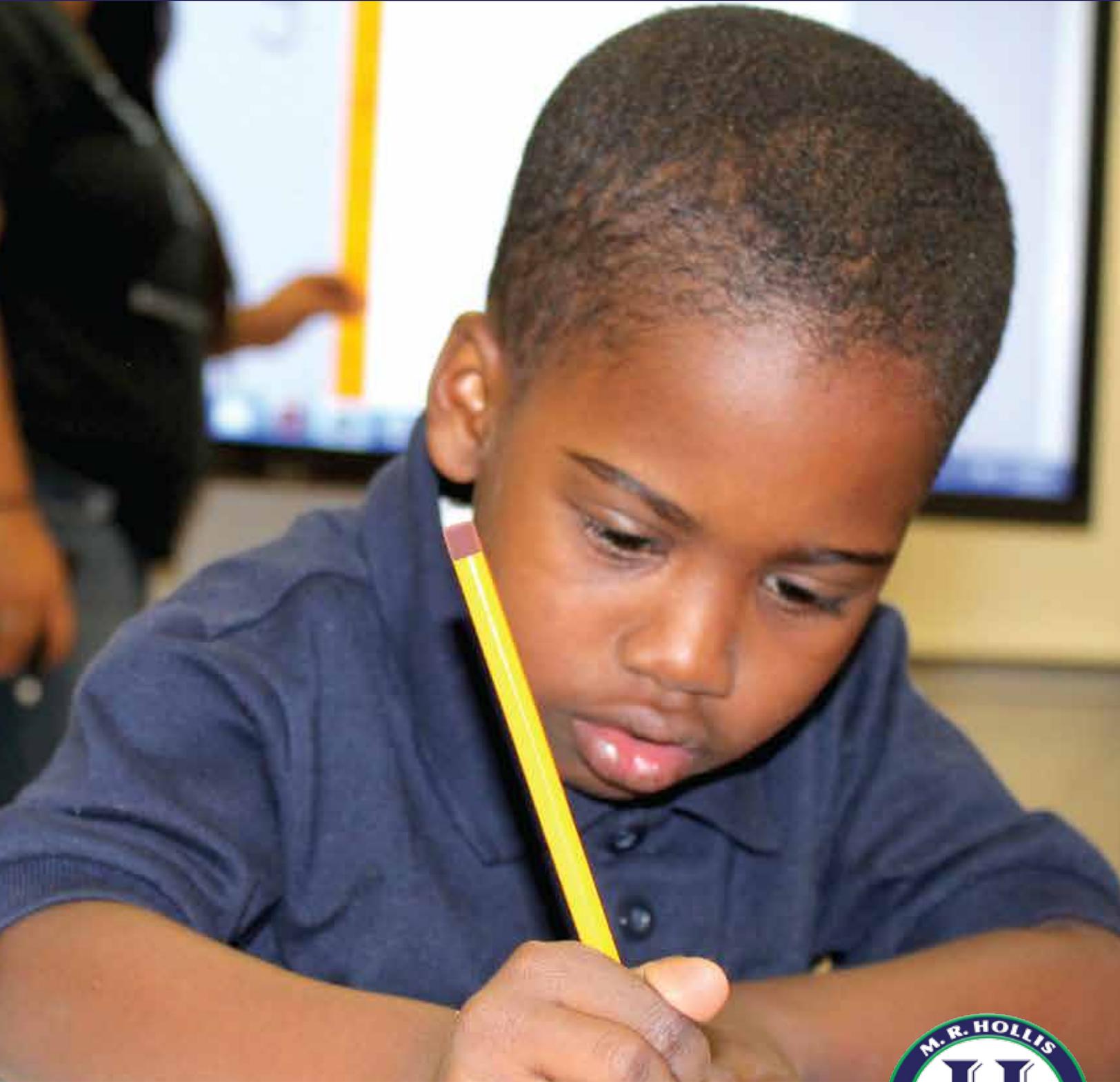


# Becoming The Next...



**Hollis Innovation Academy**  
Dr. Diamond Ford, Principal



# Michael R. Hollis

**Attorney • Entrepreneur • Leader**



Michael R. Hollis was always destined to be a leader, not a follower. He set a high bar as a teenager, and he kept raising it as an adult.

When Mr. Hollis was 16, he talked his way into a job in the Braves' Public Relations department, was selected as a Georgia delegate to the White House Conference on Youth and spearheaded the organization of Young Atlantans for Maynard Jackson when he ran for the U.S. Senate in 1969, before he was elected mayor. Mr. Hollis accomplished all of this before he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School.

Mr. Hollis went to Dartmouth College, where he graduated with honors, then to the University of Virginia School of Law, where he became the first black national president of the student division of the American Bar Association. After law school, he returned to Atlanta briefly before being appointed associate chief counsel by then-President Jimmy Carter to investigate the legal ramifications of the Three Mile Island nuclear power-plant accident near Middletown, PA in 1979.

**“Even when I was young,  
I always thought of bigger things.”**

**Michael R. Hollis**

In 1984, Mr. Hollis launched Air Atlanta, a luxury airline that was the first in the nation controlled by an African-American.

Born at Grady Memorial Hospital, Mr. Hollis served on both the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority and the hospital board. In addition to his work with the hospital, Mr. Hollis was a founding trustee of Clark Atlanta University, and he served as a member of the Emory University Board of Visitors.

*Adapted from The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (June 24, 2012)*

**#BecomingTheNext...**

# 6 Habits of Hollis

These 6 habits guide the daily individual, group, and school performance at Hollis. Hollis students track their behavior on the “Habit Tracker” using learning targets to guide their progress.

## **Collaboration**

“I can work well with my classmates as a Hollis CREW.”

## **Communication**

“I can listen and speak the Hollis Way.”

## **Creativity**

“I can be a confident and creative learner.”

## **Empathy**

“I can care for others.”

## **Perseverance**

“I can continue new things even when they are hard and/or takes a while to reach the goal.”

## **Self-Discipline**

“I can control myself and focus on my learning.”

Habits

Learning Targets

# Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy is a PK-8 EL Education Expeditionary STEM school in the Atlanta Public Schools.

Hollis opened on August 3, 2016 to PK-5 students of the Vine City/English Avenue Community, and will add a grade level each year until the school reaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**685**  
Students

## State Priority School – APS Turnaround Initiative

Newly formed school through an aggressive turnaround strategy to improve the academic performance of a closing nearby low performing school

Robust pathway  
to  
Washington  
High School

## “Beating the Odds”

Hollis is performing better than 52% of similar schools.

**60%**  
Mobility Rate

With a mobility rate of 60% (as reported by the Georgia Governor’s Office), the academic growth of Hollis students is higher than 52% of schools in the state and similar to its district.

## Student Growth Percentile (SGP) Target

Percentage of students meeting or exceeding their SGP target of 40 in 2018

	Atlanta Public Schools District	State	Hollis
English/Language Arts (ELA)	59%	59.8%	55.3%
Mathematics	62.7%	59.8%	62.8%

# 2018 CCRPI

College and Career Ready Performance Index

Elementary School

62.3

Middle School

62.6

Percentage of students at Beginning level across all subject areas

Turnaround Strategy Implemented



2016



2017



2018

-7.6%

-6%

-13.6%

## Content Mastery

Percentage of students performing at **Developing and Above** in all content areas on the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS)

ELA/Reading

+2%

34% 36%



2017



2018

Mathematics

+7%

50% 57%



2017



2018

Science

24%

37%



2017



2018

+13%

Social Studies

40%

60%



2017



2018

+20%

# Transformation

Hollis began a major renovation in May of 2018 to update the building's aesthetics and to provide a more vibrant, engaging learning environment for students.

Photo renders by PERKINS+WILL



**Innovative classrooms**



**Flexible learning spaces**



New East Elevation (Griffin Street)



New West Elevation (James P. Brawley Drive)

**New glass exterior for entire building**



**New community play area**

In August of 2018, Hollis students participated in a groundbreaking ceremony as Atlanta Superbowl Host Committee announced a \$2 million renovation to John F. Kennedy Park, which is adjacent to Hollis.

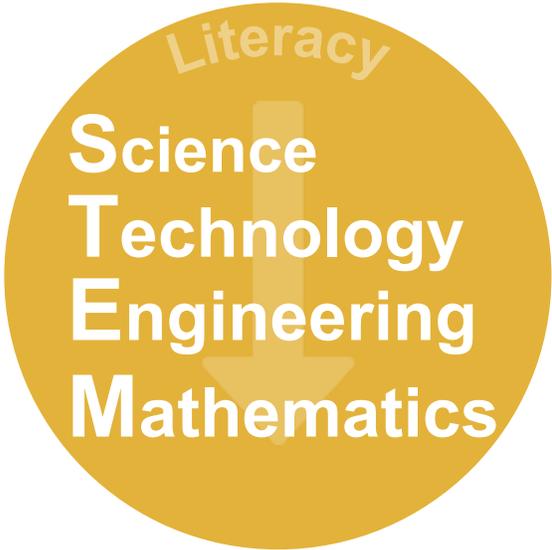
# Literacy

## Education

Hollis partners with EL Education, whose model challenges students to think critically and take active roles in their classroom and communities, resulting in higher achievement and greater engagement in school.

Hollis consistently implements a rigorous curriculum through an Expeditionary STEM model, which is a seamless integration of EL Education and STEM. The Design capitalizes on the connections **between** literacy, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It avoids disconnected and isolated experiences for students, giving them an experiential education.

Hollis Innovation Academy is the only EL Network School in Atlanta Public Schools.



**Learning is:**

Collaborative      Challenging

Meaningful

Active      Public

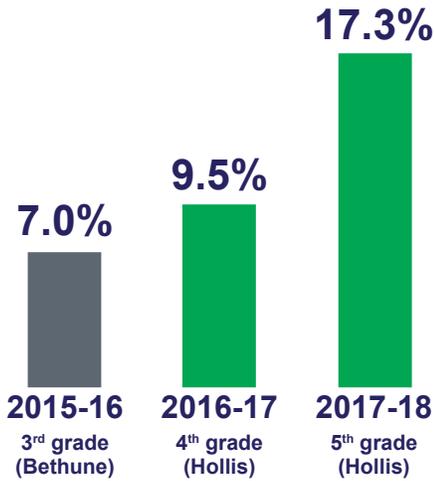
Expeditionary STEM Curriculum Design

For all data, a cohort may not include all the same students from the prior year.

# Literacy

## Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) English/Language Arts (ELA)

Expeditionary STEM Curriculum Design



Percentage of current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (2018-19) scoring **Proficient and Above** since the 2015-16 school year



Total increase of **10.3%**



“I love the way we’re able to use literature to make connections to other things we’re learning about. Like reading the book, *Esperanza Rising* helped me understand different story structures.”  
Cody Bizzard, 5<sup>th</sup> grade

When Hollis opened in 2016, current 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.

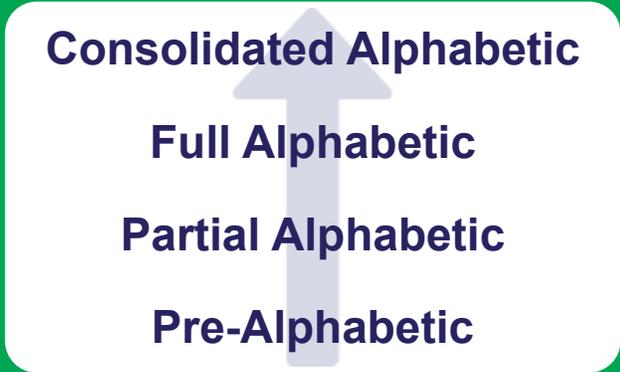
### Pre-Alphabetic Phase



### Consolidated Alphabetic Phase



## Microphase Data

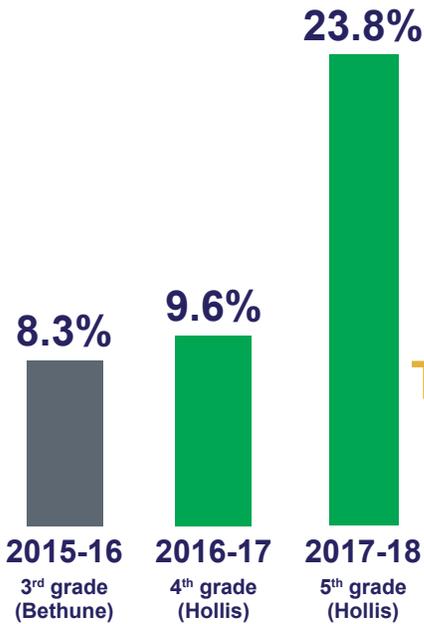


Since 2016, the number of students in this cohort who tested in the Pre-Alphabetic Phase has **decreased** from 32 students at the beginning of the year in 2016 to 17 students at the beginning of the year in 2018, improving students’ chances of performing at or above the Proficient level on the Georgia Milestone Assessment System (GMAS).

The number of students in the Consolidated Alphabetic Phase has **increased** from 3 to 23 in two years.

# Math

## Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) Mathematics



Percentage of current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (2018-19) scoring **Proficient and Above** since the 2015-16 school year

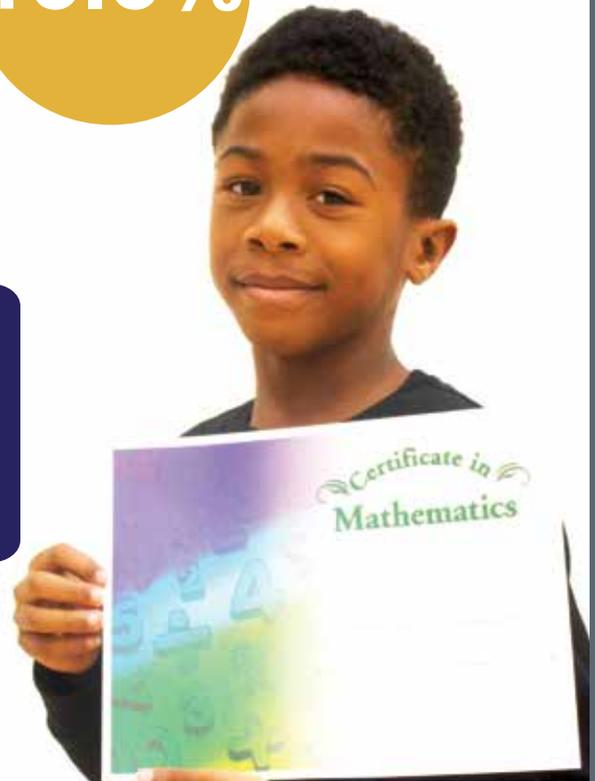
Distinguished  
Proficient  
Developing  
Beginning

Total increase of **15.5%**

“I love the way my teacher teaches math! It’s my favorite subject because she makes it fun and easy to understand.”

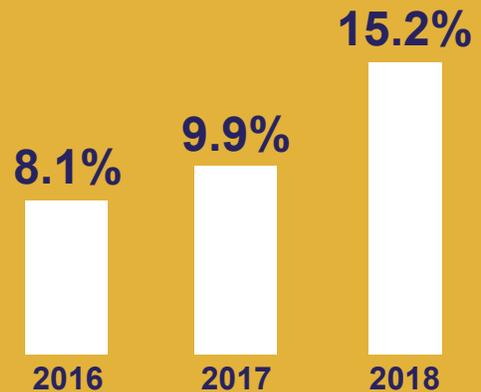
Camren Commerse, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Camren was recognized during the 2018-19 school year as a Mathlete, a student who performs 80% or better on the math assessment.



Since 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students have demonstrated an increase in performance in Mathematics on the Georgia Milestone Assessment System (GMAS) End of Grade Assessment.

**7.1%**  
increase in  
2 years



3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students scoring Proficient and Above

# STEM

Hollis provides students STEM learning opportunities that drive career exploration and college preparation.

*Washington Cluster Plan Priority 1, Strategy 1B*

Hollis students benefit from the support and dedication of numerous partners and community leaders who are invested in their academic success.



Through partnership with M.R. Hollis Innovation Academy, CEISM aims to strengthen the connection between Georgia Tech and its surrounding community. The goal of this partnership

is for CEISM to support the development and implementation of high quality STEM curriculum at Hollis Innovation Academy through direct involvement in the school, utilizing the varied resources available to a leading technical research university.

A signature component of the CEISM-Hollis partnership is the Innovator-in-Residence program, which brings the model of the artist-in-residence into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Each cohort of four innovators is selected with the charge of supporting the development and implementation of quality STEAM curriculum in their assigned school. Innovators partner with teachers to design and implement student-centered projects in the classroom, as well as support engaging STEAM-focused afterschool programs.

Expeditionary STEM Curriculum Design



The goal of NCR's partnership with Hollis is to further enhance the curriculum with enriching experiences directly related to science, technology, engineering, and math. "NCR is honored to partner with Georgia Tech's Center for Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISM), to build student interest and achievement in STEM topics at Hollis Innovation Academy through a \$1M investment over five years to the Westside Future Fund," said Yvonne Whitaker, NCR Foundation Lead. "STEM Education is an important focus area for NCR Foundation, our intent is to promote diversity and wider access to STEM education through this investment."



# STEM



3

## Robotics Competition Teams

### First Tech Challenge

7<sup>th</sup> grade girls

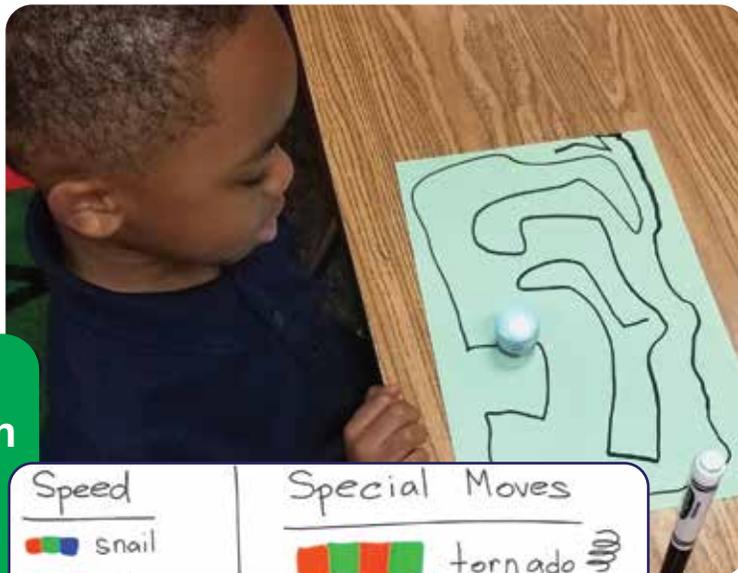
### iBots

3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade students (boys and girls)

### NCR Club ("Nerds Create Robots")

5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls

Hollis students begin learning to program and code in kindergarten, using fun, engaging tools like the Ozobot®. With this robot, students can use screen-free "Color Codes," simple color language that the Ozobot® reads using a sensor.



**"STEM is fun because it's creative and you get to learn. It helps us learn science and it helps us with reading!"**

Tyler Grimes, Kindergarten

Speed	Special Moves
snail	tornado
slow	zigzag
fast	spin
turbo	backward

Expeditionary STEM Curriculum Design

# Science

12.5%



2017-18

5<sup>th</sup> grade  
(Hollis)

Percentage of current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students (2018-19) scoring **Proficient and Above** since the 2015-16 school year\*

Total increase of **7.8%**

Distinguished

Proficient

Developing

Beginning

4.7%



2015-16

3<sup>rd</sup> grade  
(Bethune)

\*Students in 4<sup>th</sup> grade are not required to take the Science component of the assessment

# CREW/Social Emotional Learning

The term “Wraparound” refers to the numerous services implemented at Hollis that are designed to “wrap our arms around” our students, their families, and our community.

Hollis engages in CREW, a structure and process that provides support for students socially, emotionally, and academically. CREW helps each student know one adult well and build **positive connections** with their peers and their CREW leader.

CREW is a daily structure that occurs four times a week for 30 minutes every Monday through Thursday. Friday CREW time is dedicated to Community Circle. CREW members build **relationships** with each other and with other crews through physical initiatives that foster **understanding, teamwork, and trust.**

Community  
CREW  
“We are CREW,  
not passengers!”  
Character  
Culture

Wraparound

The school  
Climate rating  
increased from  
**1 STAR** (2016-17)  
to  
**2 STARS** (2017-18)  
★ ★



"At Hollis, the teachers really get to know you, and they really want to know who you are and how you feel."  
Camille Hanson, 5<sup>th</sup> grade



## Houses of Hollis

The Houses of Hollis are a structure that allows for students to develop a sense of belonging. Each grade level band is a part of a “House”. Houses meet each Friday for Community Circle, either as a House or in conjunction with other Houses.

# CREW/Social Emotional Learning

## 2018 Climate Survey Results

### Students

“There is an adult in my school who will help me if I need it.”

**+7%**  
since 2016

Hollis: 91% | District: 87%

“Teachers treat me with respect.”

**+10%**  
since 2016

Hollis: 89% | District: 81%

### Faculty/Staff

“At this school, parents frequently attend school activities.”

**+41%**  
since 2016

“I feel safe at school.”

**+18%**  
since 2016

Community



Hollis families benefit from the daily involvement of community-oriented organizations and services, including a **school-based CARE Center**, which provides comprehensive health care for **all Atlanta Public Schools students**.

Partnerships, community, business, post-secondary institutions engage students and staff in problem-based learning activities that are solution focused.

*Washington Cluster Plan Priority 1, Strategy 1D*

Wraparound



The services of CHRIS 180 are available to all Hollis students and their families. Staff members are on-site daily to provide mental health counseling, training, and support for children and/or families who have experienced trauma. They also work in tandem with the CARE Center staff to ensure a cohesive approach to helping families.

Staff members with Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation are on-site at Hollis daily to provide free legal assistance to help avoid eviction, ensure that residents' home maintenance needs are met, and other necessary services to assist families of English Avenue, Vine City, and the Atlanta University Center.



The mission of Communities in Schools is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and succeed in life. Services are available on a daily basis to Hollis students, with CIS staff on-site to provide guidance.

# Arts & Athletics



As Hollis continues to expand, so does the variety of enriching activities the school offers its students, including performing arts and athletics. Proudly boasting its mascot, The Hollis Blue Hawks, the school looks forward to officially launching its athletic program during the 2019-20 school year, which will include basketball and football.

In the meantime, during the current school year (2018-19), several Hollis students enjoyed playing with the Brown Middle School football team during its season.



Along with a new athletic program comes a new cheerleading team, which was also formed at the beginning of the current school year.

Enrichment

**"Drama and cheerleading both make me more confident because if I'm able to perform in front of the whole school, then I know that I can do anything!"**

Ta'Niah Gates, 7<sup>th</sup> grade



Each year, following auditions in the fall, the Hollis Drama Club produces a spring musical, which is open to the public.

- 2017** "Willy Wonka, Jr."
- 2018** "The Wiz, Jr."
- 2019** "Beauty and the Beast, Jr."



PEACHTREE ROAD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

After playing a vital role during the planning process as Hollis prepared to open its doors, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church continues to remain an avid supporter. Each year, volunteers contribute time and resources to many areas around the school, especially to the Arts and Athletics Departments, painting sets, providing costumes, purchasing uniforms, and much more!

# Summer Learning Opportunities

Bridge • Horizons • P.E.A.K.S.



was tailored to fit the needs of Hollis students. The program was carefully structured to target academic needs, but encompasses much more than traditional classes. The activities chosen were selected to build confidence and self-efficacy.

The mission of **Horizons at Georgia Tech** is to provide an academic, cultural, and recreational program designed to encourage a diverse group of students to realize their full potential. The program is committed to the development of the whole child through experiences that build problem-solving skills, foster awareness of community responsibility, instill respect for oneself and others, and encourage a life-long interest in learning.

Similarly, the goal of **CEISMIC's Summer P.E.A.K.S.** (Programs for Enrichment and Accelerated Knowledge in STEM) is to give participants the chance to enhance learning in experiential activities on campus at Georgia Tech. Rising 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are selected to participate in this one-week robotics camp, during which they program robots that draw pictures, play instruments, mimic animal behavior, and much more!

To help facilitate the transition from elementary school to middle school, rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Hollis have an opportunity to spend two weeks on the campus of Georgia Tech each summer for **Summer Bridge**, where among many activities and experiences, students program their own robots with backstories tied to an integrated science, math, and language arts curriculum.

While Summer Bridge was modeled on the style of existing CEISMIC camps, it



Enrichment



**Breakthrough Atlanta's** programs help students develop the academic skills and study habits to enroll and succeed in college--and, ultimately, in life. Breakthrough's summer program is both fun and academically rigorous. Classes in math, language arts, science, and social studies offer the chance to read great literature, solve challenging word problems, and tackle enticing subjects like History and Science.



During the summer of 2018, the Chick-fil-A Foundation and Breakthrough Atlanta announced a new collaboration with Hollis, which will create the opportunity for 90 rising 7<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> graders to attend Breakthrough's six-week summer program over the next three years for free.





Michael R. Hollis Innovation Academy  
225 James P. Brawley Drive NW  
Atlanta, GA 30314

[atlantapublicschools.us/HollisInnovation](http://atlantapublicschools.us/HollisInnovation)  
404-802-8217

**“A first class seat for every student”**



Hollis Innovation Academy is a proud part of Atlanta Public Schools.

Through the support of philanthropic businesses and community support, Hollis Innovation Academy has become a premier school on the west side of Atlanta. The Hollis Community remains grateful for partners who are so deeply invested in the success of our students!