FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commerce City Schools Earns 2024-2025 John Hancock Banner and Ribbon of Distinction Awards

July 17, 2025 – Commerce, GA – Commerce City Schools is proud to announce that both Commerce Middle School (CMS) and Commerce High School (CHS) have been recognized by the Georgia Department of Education with the prestigious **John Hancock Banner and Ribbon of Distinction** awards for the 2024-2025 school year.

The John Hancock Award honors schools that demonstrate excellence in teaching cursive writing, a skill linked to improved fine motor development, literacy, and student confidence. This award recognizes schools where at least 90% of students can write both their name and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution in cursive.

Cursive instruction supports important student skills, including spelling, writing fluency, memory retention, and critical thinking. It also connects students to history by enabling them to read and write foundational documents in their original form.

“Cursive writing is a vital part of our curriculum that enhances student learning in multiple areas,” said Dr. Phillip Powell, Chief Academic Officer for Commerce City Schools. “We are proud of our students and educators for their commitment to mastering this skill, which not only strengthens literacy but also fosters a deeper connection to our nation’s history.”

During the 2024-2025 school year, over 300 schools statewide applied for the John Hancock Award. Commerce Middle and Commerce High Schools are among 93 schools awarded the Ribbon of Distinction for exceptional cursive proficiency.

This recognition reflects Commerce City Schools’ dedication to providing a well-rounded education that values both traditional skills and modern learning.

For more information about the John Hancock Award and the role of cursive instruction in student development, visit the Georgia Department of Education website.