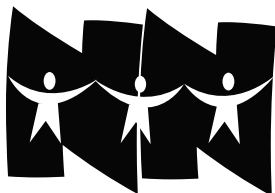


# Newport News Public Schools



*Smart, Safe Schools*

## Report to the Community Fall 2006

The mission of Newport News Public Schools is to provide a quality education that encourages every student to realize his or her fullest potential. Listed below are some initiatives and achievements during the first half of the school year that illustrate the school division's mission in action.

### Outstanding Schools ~

- Thirty-four Newport News schools are fully accredited by the state of Virginia, an increase from one accredited school in the year 2000.
- All five high schools are on *Newsweek's* "Best High Schools in America" list for the second year in a row.
- Sanford Elementary School is nationally recognized as a *No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School*, one of only 10 in Virginia.
- B.C. Charles Elementary School was selected by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as a *Virginia Naturally School* for its efforts to raise environmental awareness.
- The newly renovated Booker T. Washington Middle School reopened as the division's newest magnet school specializing in Marine Science and Advanced Placement readiness. With over \$11 million in renovations, improvements include a full aquatics lab, music facilities and a new gymnasium.

### ~ Innovative Education

- NNPS is expanding access to rigorous coursework by offering students dual-enrollment opportunities at local colleges. More than 650 high school students are enrolled in college courses for credit this semester, giving them a head start on their higher education.
- To prepare students for successful careers after high school, the school division is matching students' career goals with classes that help prepare them for successful careers. Career Pathways identifies course options that students can pursue in high school to reach their future goals.
- This September, Dutrow Elementary School began its first year offering the prestigious *International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme*. It is only one of 72 elementary I.B. schools in the nation.
- Passage Middle School is implementing an *International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme*.

### High Achieving Students ~

- Two-hundred and thirty-nine NNPS students have been named 2006 Advanced Placement Scholars for taking classes that can earn them college credit by receiving a score of three or higher on three or more AP exams.

• Eight NNPS students have been named National Scholars for receiving an average grade of four or higher on eight or more AP exams.

• Twenty-four NNPS students were recognized in the 2007 National Merit and National Achievement Scholarship programs. They are among the country's highest scorers on the PSAT.



• Warwick High School senior Maria Chevtsova earned a perfect score on the 2006 SAT, one of only 240 in the nation out of 1.4 million who took the test.

### ~ Safe and Healthy Children

- Making sure children and teens are safe and healthy is top priority for NNPS. The school division is taking that job seriously, as a leading member of the city-wide initiative *Keeping Our Kids Safe*.
- The school division has updated its health and wellness policy to encourage healthy habits. Low-fat one percent milk is served in all cafeterias. Pure fruit juices have replaced sodas in vending machines, and physical education classes offer lessons that teach life-long fitness skills.

### Award-Winning Teachers ~

- This year's Virginia Educational Interpreter of the Year is Saunders Elementary School's Hollice Pullman.
- Gina Powell of Richneck Elementary has been selected as the York Region Media Specialist of the Year.
- *Dance Magazine*, a nationally published magazine, selected Woodside High School teacher Dr. Anne Laverty as Outstanding Dance Teacher of the Year.

### ~ Community Connections

• More than 300 partnerships have been developed between area businesses and schools to enrich classroom activities. In October the school division sponsored a Business and Education Summit, where Governor Tim Kaine and local business leaders spoke at the event to encourage the school division's efforts. Businesses can partner with schools through a website developed with the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development at [www.pcfwd.org](http://www.pcfwd.org).



• This November, the school division kicked off FUN, the Family University Network. Now in its third year, FUN offers free workshops to parents and interested community members who want to help children do well in school. Topics have included homework assistance, internet safety, building self-esteem, and behavior management. More information about future FUN events can be found at [www.nnschools.org/fun](http://www.nnschools.org/fun).



**For more information and news, visit the Newport News Public Schools website at [www.nnschools.org](http://www.nnschools.org)**