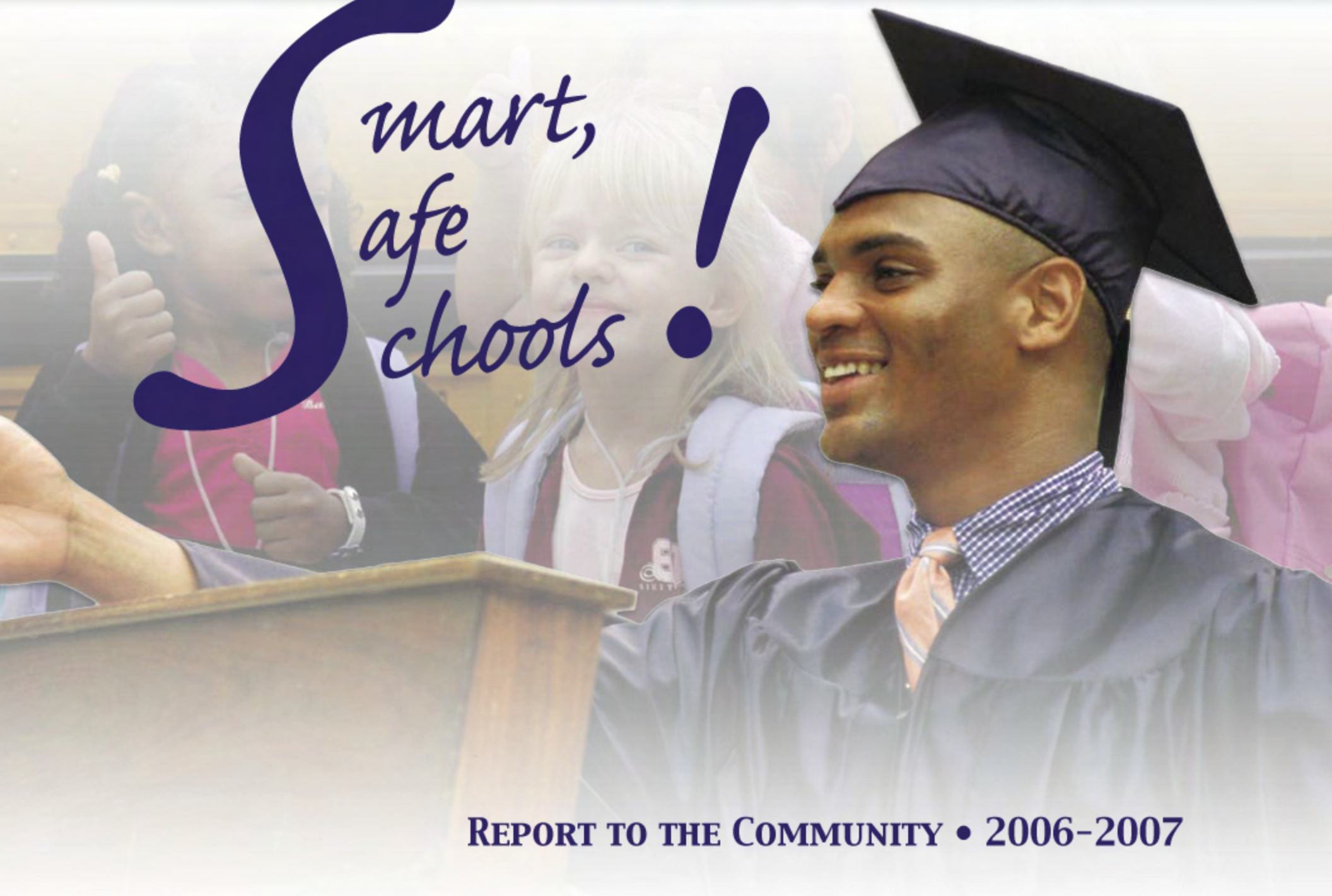


*Smart,  
Safe  
Schools!*



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# DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

## 5 A Message from the School Board

## 6 Smart Schools

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## 10 Community Connections

## 12 Looking Ahead

## 14 Statistics and Demographics

- Thirty-four schools (87 percent) are fully accredited by the state, an increase from 20 schools (49 percent) in 2003.
- Since 2003, the number of schools meeting federally mandated Annual Yearly Progress benchmarks has increased from 12 to 36.
- All 26 elementary schools met or exceeded the 73 percent pass rate on the 2006-2007 reading and writing Standards of Learning tests, and 19 schools exceeded 80 percent.
- Standards of Learning pass rates rose 7 percent for English and 5 percent for science over the past three years for all students, kindergarten through grade 12.
- The achievement gap narrowed between African-American and white students on all Standards of Learning tests in 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades, and on 9 of 11 end-of-course tests.
- Students enrolled in Advanced Placement classes increased by 35 percent since 2003. Last school year, 3,300 tests were administered, and 37 percent of students qualified for college credit.
- Two hundred and thirty-nine students are named 2006 Advanced Placement Scholars, Scholars with Honor, or Scholars with Distinction.
- The 2006 graduation rate is 88 percent — 9 percent above the state average.
- The 2007 graduating class earned more than \$16.3 million in scholarships and awards.
- Ninety-three percent of NNPS teachers are designated as highly qualified by federal No Child Left Behind standards.
- Discipline referrals have dropped by more than 30 percent since 2005.
- All five high schools are recognized by *Newsweek* magazine as among the top schools in America.
- Denbigh High School was one of only three schools in the nation to receive the 2007 College Board Inspiration Award for helping all students achieve equitable access to higher education.
- The school division is one of the “100 Best Communities for Music” according to a national survey of leading music and educational organizations.
- Educators and staff members from Newport News Public Schools have earned numerous awards for excellence: Virginia Library Media Specialist of the Year; Virginia Art Education Supervisor of the Year; Virginia Educational Interpreter of the Year; Air Force Junior ROTC’s Outstanding Instructor, National Outstanding Dance Teacher of the Year, and 36 teachers have been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- NNPS has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting for five consecutive years.



## CONTENTS

Visit the Newport News Public Schools website for the most up-to-date information at [www.nnschools.org](http://www.nnschools.org)

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



I am proud to serve the Newport News community as the new superintendent of schools. My vision promises that Newport News Public Schools will open doors for success in the 21st century. Our students will succeed in a world that is increasingly technological and globally connected.

Eighty percent of today's fastest growing jobs will require some post secondary education. Students must be prepared for jobs involving technology skills, complex communication, and expert thinking. And by 2015, more than half of the world will be working in jobs that don't yet exist.

To prepare our young people for these challenges, Newport News Public Schools staff is approaching the critical task of creating *Smart, Safe Schools*.

*Smart, Safe Schools* provide strong foundations in math, literacy, history, and science; safe and nurturing school environments; and give knowledge students will need for the 21st century.

Newport News Public Schools has made *smart* strides in raising student achievement levels, increasing enrollment in rigorous coursework, boosting the percentage of students taking SATs, moving students into higher-level math, expanding preschool access, and narrowing achievement gaps.

At the same time, the school division has worked to create *safe* environments for students by defining clear expectations for behavior in the *Rights and Responsibilities Handbook*, investing in security staff and electronic surveillance, and supporting academic, extracurricular, and athletic programs that build positive relationships.

In the following pages you will read about what our schools, students, and staff have done in the past academic year to create schools where doors are opening for 21st century success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashby C. Kilgore'.

Ashby C. Kilgore, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## ALL FIVE HIGH SCHOOLS ARE “TOP OF CLASS”

For the third year in a row, *Newsweek* magazine's list of top public schools includes all five Newport News high schools. Warwick High School, ranked highest in the state of Virginia, is 71st .

*Newsweek* magazine ranked high schools in America measured by enrollment, and access to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes. Menchville High School ranked 317, Woodside High School 643, Denbigh High School 734, and Heritage 943, out of 27,468 high schools in the nation.

## ONE OF THE BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC

A survey conducted by a partnership of leading music and educational organizations has identified the “Best 100 Communities for Music Education in America,” and the 2007 list includes Newport News Public Schools for its unwavering commitment to school-based music programs.

According to the results of the “Best 100” survey, recipients of this prestigious distinction have increased enrollment in, and funding for, school music programs.

Why is this important? Music education has been linked to higher SAT scores, math grades, and future success in life. The survey also found that many students hailing from a “Best 100” community have continued professionally as educators, and played for renowned symphonies, opera houses, orchestras, and on Broadway.

This accolade is just one example of the school division's commitment to every student and academic discipline.

# ABOUT THE SCHOOL BOARD

The Newport News School Board is the official policy-making body for the school division. Elected to serve four-year terms, the seven members of the School Board are:



**Richard B. "Rick" Donaldson, Jr.,  
Chairman**  
*Central District*

Mr. Donaldson is an attorney and partner with Jones, Blechman, Woltz & Kelly. He has served on the School Board since May 2000.



**Carlton C. Ashby**  
*South District*

Mr. Ashby is an educator with over 30 years of experience and is presently teaching in Hampton City Schools. Mr. Ashby was elected to the School Board in 2006.



**Dr. William J. "Bill" Collins, III**  
*North District*

Dr. Collins, elected in May 2004, is Chief of Podiatry at McDonald Army Community Hospital at Ft. Eustis.



**Debbie H. "Dee" Johnston**  
*At-Large*

Mrs. Johnston is a coordinator with Bon Secours Health Systems. She has served on the Board since 1998.



**Everette A. "Teddy" Hicks, Sr., Vice Chairman**  
*South District*

Mr. Hicks retired from the Newport News school division after 32 years, having served as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal. He has served on the School Board since May 2000.



**Michael W. "Mike" Wagner**  
*North District*

Mr. Wagner, a recently retired lieutenant from the Newport News Sheriff's office, was elected to the Board in May 2002. He is a business owner and a state certified criminal justice instructor.



**Dr. Patricia P. "Pat" Woodbury**  
*Central District*

Dr. Woodbury, who has served on the School Board since 2002, is a retired educator, school psychologist, and Licensed Professional Counselor.

## MEETINGS

The School Board generally meets in regular session at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at the Administration Building located at 12465 Warwick Boulevard. The meetings are aired live on Newport News cable channel 47 and on the internet at [www.nnpstv.com](http://www.nnpstv.com).

# A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

With the choices and opportunities that abound in Newport News Public Schools, it is a great place for our children. Our young people are provided with an engaging curriculum and have the option of attending a multitude of specialty programs that meet their interests.

And, our students have access to a highly qualified staff of nearly 5,000 to look up to as mentors.

The six other members of the School Board and I look forward to serving you — the citizens of Newport News. We lead with

open ears and hearts. If you have any concerns, please let us know. We take our job — making sure every child in Newport News is getting the best possible education he or



she deserves — very seriously and view it as a continuing conversation on how to make it even better.

Thank you for your past and present support of Newport News Public Schools. We will continue to strive to earn that support. You, along with the many dedicated teachers and staff in

our district, are the human part of the equation that makes student success in our schools possible.

Richard B. "Rick" Donaldson, Jr., Chairman



**Jhmeesah Walker  
Representing  
Students Across  
Newport News**

The newest member of the Newport News School Board has been in education for 12 years. She can run five kilometers in less than 22 minutes and attended Girls State at Longwood University in June.

Meet Jehmeesah Walker. A senior at Denbigh High School, she has been attending School Board meetings since July 2007 as the student representative to the board. This is the fourth year that Newport News Public Schools has had a student representative.

"I'm there to provide a student perspective in any matters where it is needed," Jehmeesah says.

She is prepared to speak on many issues.

Each high school had the opportunity to select one nominee to be considered for the non-voting school board position. Jehmeesah was encouraged by her guidance counselor to apply. After she was selected to represent Denbigh, Jehmeesah competed for the school board seat with a speech presented to the students who serve on the Students Advisory Group on Education (SAGE).

Jhmeesah's resume is long and broad, filled with success in athletics, academics, and extra-curricular activities. "I think it helps that I'm in a lot of programs so I can provide perspective from sports and clubs," she says. "I can give the perspective of the average student."

She is a star athlete, racing in outdoor track, indoor track, and cross-country. (She runs distance as well as 400 and 800 meters as an individual and in relays.) She is a member of Mu Alpha Theta, the math honor society. She manages the football team, and is vice-president of the senior class. She is also active in several service projects designed to eliminate anti-social behavior for both Denbigh ("Teens Against Violence") and Epes Elementary ("Hands are Not For Hitting"). She would like to attend an Ivy League college and study law.

What does she think of the school board meetings so far? "I learn a lot from them," she says. For example? "How important technology is to the strategic plan. Also, I was given the budget. I had no idea where the money was going before."

Is it stressful to serve as the voice for over 32,500 students? Jehmeesah quickly shook her head no. "When you're running a race and you're the last leg and your [team] is in first, that's pressure."



## WHAT ARE SMART SCHOOLS?

Smart schools are not just places where students excel in the basics of reading, writing, and math, but they are also places where students are equipped with knowledge and opportunities necessary for the 21st century, and can apply what they learn to life outside of school.

### Literacy

Smart schools start with strong foundations in literacy. Using a revised curriculum, NNPS is striving to ensure all students are reading on level by grade three and mastering complex literacy in future grades. Through this curriculum, students at the elementary level are acquiring a strong foundation in phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and

All **26** elementary schools met or exceeded the **73%** pass rate on the 2006-2007 reading and writing Standards of Learning tests, and **19** schools exceeded **80%**.

comprehension strategies. Students' needs are diagnosed with frequent assessments, and intervention programs are provided using a combination of individualized attention and computer-based programs. *Earobics* educational software is used in pre-kindergarten through grade two to provide early literacy support. *Reading Recovery* is provided to first graders identified as needing intense intervention. At the middle and high school level, *Read and Write*, an associative technology software solution, is used to improve student reading and writing skills through features such as speech feedback, and phonetic spell checking. And *KidBiz*, a subscription-based website offered at middle schools, makes web content manageable and safe for teachers and students. *KidBiz* includes news from Reuters and CNN that is geared to a child's individual reading level and matched to state standards.

### Mathematics

To provide a strong foundation in mathematics, the school division is using a revised curriculum that prepares students to take advanced courses in high school — courses students need to be competitive in a global economy. Technology and the use of graphing calculators is incorporated into many classroom lessons. Enrichment programs such as the Algebra/PreAlgebra and the Geometry Readiness Academies are offered during the summer for high school students. At the middle



**412** high school students took advantage of dual enrollment opportunities at local colleges during the 2006-2007 school year.

school level, *Explore Learning*, a web-based learning tool, brings visual interaction and connects mathematical equations to real-world problems. And at lower grade levels, teaching methods are introducing Algebraic mathematical concepts sooner so that students can successfully complete Algebra I a year earlier — in eighth grade — instead of ninth.

## Technology

To prepare students for 21st century success in a technological world, the school division has linked all schools through a dedicated fiber-optic network providing an online curriculum that includes distance-learning courses and electronic field trips. To help our youngest students, the school division has upgraded computers at the elementary level. In middle and high schools, students can take advanced classes online, including college courses. And to make sure every



student can get the most out of technology, the school division employs specialists, assigned to individual schools, who assist teachers and students in integrating technology into lessons and assignments.

**44%** of teachers and administrators possess a master's degree or higher.

## Options & Opportunities

To engage students of all interests, Newport News Public Schools offers one of the largest selections of magnet and specialty programs in the

state. Students have the option of attending one of 11 magnet program schools that specialize in a variety of areas such as the arts, engineering, marine science, and aviation. In addition, the school division has International Baccalaureate schools at the elementary and high school levels and is on its way to creating an IB school at the middle school level.

Students have the option of supplementing core classes with classes that can lead to careers in nursing, the culinary arts, computer networking, emergency medicine, law enforcement, and building trades, to name a few.



## Eduardo Gutierrez, A Scholar for the 21st Century

Eduardo Gutierrez, newly graduated from Warwick High with highest honors and an International Baccalaureate diploma, entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology fall of 2007 with a scholarship funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

At MIT, Eduardo plans to study physics and engineering. He hopes to eventually earn a Ph.D., especially since his scholarship provides financial support for study through the doctoral level. After graduate school, he sees himself applying computer technology to real-world problems such as making automobiles safer or homes more secure.

Math, so necessary to the study of computer science and physics, didn't come easily to Eduardo when he was a student at Saunders Elementary and Crittenden Middle.

"I jumped into PreAlgebra in sixth grade," Eduardo recalls. He told himself that "if this is hard, I need to work harder on it." By eighth grade he had mastered geometry. "After that, I was really into math," he says. Calculus in high school, with its "strong demand for precision and accuracy," was a pleasure. "I enjoyed solving problems," Eduardo says.

Some students, faced with a challenging math class, would have tried to take a lower level math class. What motivated Eduardo to master the coursework instead? "It comes from the way I was brought up by my parents," he says. "It's kind of their work ethic." (That ethic must run in the family: Eduardo's cousin, Camil Liceaga, now at Yale University, was the Warwick valedictorian in 2005.)

This determination and unwillingness to walk away from a challenge can be seen in Eduardo's other achievements. He is an Eagle Scout, and he swam for the Coast Guard Blue Dolphins and Warwick High teams. He was also a member of the National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, and Model United Nations. This summer he worked in the fabrications shop at Jefferson Lab, where he soldered circuit boards and trouble-shot wiring problems.

The Gates Millennium Scholars program reduces financial barriers to higher education for minority students with high academic and leadership promise.



## WHAT ARE SAFE SCHOOLS?



Newport News Public Schools is striving to create schools that are safe and orderly, and build nurturing environments where positive relationships are key.

As a lead partner in the citywide initiative *Keeping Our Kids Safe*, whose mission is to implement strategies that ensure a violence-free environment for our community's children at home, in schools, and in neighborhoods, the school division has taken steps to foster an environment of respect, trust, and caring. To create a positive climate, each school implements a citizenship education program that emphasizes eight important traits: responsibility, respect, compassion, honesty, tolerance, perseverance, cooperation, and self-discipline. *Al's Pals*, offered to elementary students, and *Life Skills* and *Class Action*, offered to middle and high school students through partnerships with the Newport News Police Department and Sheriff's Office, are some of the programs the division incorporates into the classroom to encourage healthy decision-making and develop personal, social, and emotional skills.

Through the *Student Assistance Program*, the school division has assembled a team of guidance counselors, social workers, and psychologists to provide student intervention in a positive, nurturing way.

More security officers have been added, gang awareness training has been provided to employees and parents, and schools work daily with community organizations to meet the needs of a diverse student population.

***And the good news is — through these measures — discipline infractions have dropped 30 percent and suspensions have declined 14 percent!***

# PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Starting good dietary and physical activity habits at an early age can have life-long effects. With this knowledge, the school division has implemented a new health and wellness policy - for both students and staff.

First implemented in September 2006, this policy encourages healthy living.

Some requirements include:

- All beverages served in schools must be: 100% fruit juices, skim or 1% milk, water, or flavored zero-calorie water.
- Food items served in schools must contain: no trans fat, less than 35% calories from fat, less than 10% saturated fat, no more than 35% total weight from sugar, and 300 calories or less per item.
- Middle School students receive at least 112 minutes of physical education a week.
- Elementary students receive at least 150 minutes of physical education a week, plus 30 minutes of recess each day.



# CITIZENSHIP TRAITS TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| ■ Responsibility | ■ Tolerance       |
| ■ Respect        | ■ Cooperation     |
| ■ Compassion     | ■ Self-discipline |
| ■ Honesty        | ■ Perseverance    |



## D. Kay Tschirhart Divisionwide Teacher of the Year

D. Kay Tschirhart is a kindergarten teacher at Deer Park Elementary School and is the school division's Teacher of the Year. She makes learning real for her students by using relevant, hands-on experiences to make Standards of

Learning objectives come alive.

"In my classroom I strive to incorporate the requirements of state Standards of Learning with genuine experiences that young children can relate to," she says. "Tenets of life-long learning, responsibility and mutual respect are beliefs that influence what I strive to do every day."

Coming to Newport News in 1976, she has worked at seven schools. She's also Nationally Board Certified and has more than 30 years of teaching experience.

## Cary S. Page - Middle School Teacher of the Year



Cary Page is a math and science teacher at Booker T. Washington Middle School. She takes a hands-on approach to teaching.

"As I plan the 180 days I spend with my kids, I want to make sure we DO things. DOING is the best way to get them to learn, retain and have fun all at the same time . . .

Teachers can inspire, or break, a student. And it is through one student at a time that things will improve," Page says.

## Gretchen B. Watson - High School Teacher of the Year



Gretchen Watson is a chemistry teacher at Heritage High School. She was influenced by a speech given by a linguistics professor who stressed the importance of educating the human spirit and mind when imparting knowledge.

"It is amazing to me that in a changing global, technologically enhanced society educators continue to use the same archaic methods . . .

It is incumbent upon us to provide an empowering curriculum which stimulates a child's natural curiosity rather than one that is functional and occurs in isolation," Watson says.

## Family University Network

Now in its third year, the Family University Network (FUN), offers free workshops to parents and interested community members who want to help children do well in school and in life. Topics have included homework assistance, internet safety, building self-esteem, and behavior management. During the 2006-2007 school year there were more than 500 participants, and 63 honorary degrees were awarded to citizens who came to four or more workshops.



## GOOD SCHOOLS BECOME GREAT WHEN EVERYONE GETS INVOLVED.

### Business & Education Partnership Program

Newport News Public Schools has a cooperative relationship with many area businesses and organizations. Over the past few years more than 300 partnerships have been developed between area businesses and schools. In October 2006 the school division sponsored a Business and Education Summit, where Governor Tim Kaine and local business leaders spoke to encourage community involvement. Outcomes from the summit include an interactive website hosted by the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development ([www.pcfwd.org](http://www.pcfwd.org)) where businesses can partner with schools, and the Career Pathways initiative where students can connect what they are learning in school to the world of work.



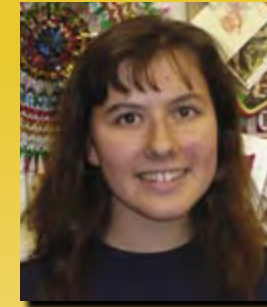
### PTA Family Fun and Fitness Fair

In April 2007, thousands of children, parents and other family members gathered to enjoy the first-ever PTA Family Fun and Fitness Fair.

Billed as a day to celebrate family time while promoting healthy activities, the event featured free entertainment and games, allowing children and adults to enjoy wholesome activities such as hula hoop and limbo contests, volleyball, line and ballroom dancing, relay races and more. With 22 schools and 40

community organizations participating, the event was described as “a town fair that brings everybody together.”

Organized by the PTA, the event was sponsored by Ferguson Enterprises, Virginia Educators Credit Union, Riverside Health System, Mary Immaculate Hospital/Bon Secours Health System, Bowditch Ford, and POMOCO Auto Group.



## Maria Chevtsova, Achieving a Perfect SAT Score

When Maria Chevtsova was introduced as valedictorian at Warwick High School's graduation, her classmates listened politely to her grade point average (4.64 on a 4-point scale) and her future plans (Princeton University). But at the description of Maria's perfect 800 scores on each section of the SAT, they broke into cheers of applause.

That astonishing 2400 score is all the more remarkable considering that English is Maria's third language. She was born in Russia but soon moved to Germany with her parents and began school there. At age nine, she came to Newport News where her father had taken a job as a physicist at Jefferson Labs. Maria entered Hilton Elementary and was enrolled in the school's ESOL class (English to Speakers of Other Languages). Seven years later she aced the SAT while a student in the International Baccalaureate program at Warwick.

Learning new languages is clearly one of Maria's strengths. (She is proficient in Japanese and was vice-president of the Japanese Club at Warwick.) But so are science and math. Indeed, she earned perfect scores on SAT subject tests in chemistry and math.

In her speech at graduation, Maria seemed to draw upon her own experiences as she encouraged her classmates to look for similarities rather than differences among the new people they would soon be meeting at college and in the workplace.

"It is important to realize that as long as there are common interests, it makes no difference what economic background, country, religion or race the other person comes from," she said. "Keep developing yourself, your interests, and your passion, and you will be able to make connections in your life which are mutually interesting and meaningful. Pursue what you love and you will be able to find people who appreciate you and whom you can appreciate as well."

Powerful ideals that seem to have served Maria well.

## Volunteers in Public Schools

It is said it takes a village to raise a child. Newport News community members have taken that message to heart. In the past year, over 3,000 volunteers contributed more than 80,000 volunteer hours to Newport News students. They have provided help in areas such as tutoring and mentoring and serving as chaperones, office assistants and library clerks.

Newport News employees donated more than **\$165,000** to the United Way in support of local health and human care agencies — many of which contribute to Newport News youth.



## A Great Place for Youth

The America's Promise Alliance has designated Newport News one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People for efforts that improve the well-being of youth.





# INITIATIVES FOR THE FUTURE

## Career Pathways

Newport News Public Schools has launched its new Career Pathways initiative for the 2007-2008 school year. The career development program will provide pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students with a pathway to a career through interrelated courses, as well as extra-curricular, and service learning experiences. Starting in the fall of 2007, high schools students will be able to choose a Career Pathway in: Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Business, Management and Administration; Education & Training; Manufacturing; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; or Health Science.

## The Freshman Experience

The ninth grade year can be challenging for many students. To aid students in the transition from middle to high school, the school division is implementing new activities to help students be successful in ninth grade and beyond. With the goal of raising academic achievement and increasing student participation in school activities, students will receive lessons on citizenship, organizational skills, and career exploration. All students will be organized into leadership teams and encouraged to take at least one honors class and join extra-curricular activities. Students who fall behind in classes will be offered assistance before the end of the grading period and be given the option of recovering credits from failed classes during the academic year, so they can stay on track with their peers.

## Dropout Prevention & Recovery

Every student should graduate. That's why the school division has created a new department dedicated to making sure Newport News youth stay in school and ensure they receive their diploma. Over the next few years, this department will identify students who are at risk of dropping out and develop intervention plans for them; train school-based teams on relationship building; and provide satellite and centralized services for youth and adults who have not earned either a high school diploma or a GED.

## Streamlining Operations

When it comes to managing school division resources, Newport News Public Schools is stepping into the 21st century with the implementation of a new web-based financial, human resource, and payroll management system.

The new system is called Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), purchased from the MUNIS division of Tyler Technologies. Becoming the standard in municipal resource management, it is used by over 400 school districts.

It will replace many of the paper-based processes the school division currently uses. The system will streamline operations for every NNPS staff member, so employees will be able to devote more time where it is most needed — making sure our students are receiving the best education.



## OPERATING WITH EFFICIENCY

In response to rising fuel costs, the school division's transportation department developed a plan to reduce fuel usage without impacting instructional, athletic, or after school programs. With the aid of Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking devices on buses and advanced scheduling and route planning software, the school division was able to eliminate 50 bus routes and 27 buses. The result? Three hundred thousand less miles traveled with an on-time rate of 96 percent while transporting the more than 23,000 students that depend on school transportation every day. The savings? Five hundred thousand dollars in operational costs for 2006-2007 and possibly millions in maintenance and the purchase of new buses in the years ahead.



### Tess Williams & Catherine Morewitz, Saving Families One Net at a Time

When fourth-graders Catherine Morewitz and Tess Williams learned that malaria killed nearly 3,000 children every day in Africa, they felt moved to act.

The girls had first heard of malaria during a class at Hilton Elementary on the perils facing the Virginia settlers. "Mr. Rheinisch, our social studies teacher, was talking about it because of Jamestown," Catherine says. "But this didn't just happen then, it's happening now."

Catherine explains: "We wanted to help babies."  
"And people," Tess adds.

It all started with a *Sports Illustrated* column that vividly described the problem and its solution: \$6 "bed nets" that have been treated with insecticide. A family that sleeps under one of these blue mosquito nets can reduce its risk of malaria transmission by 60%, according to the World Health Organization.

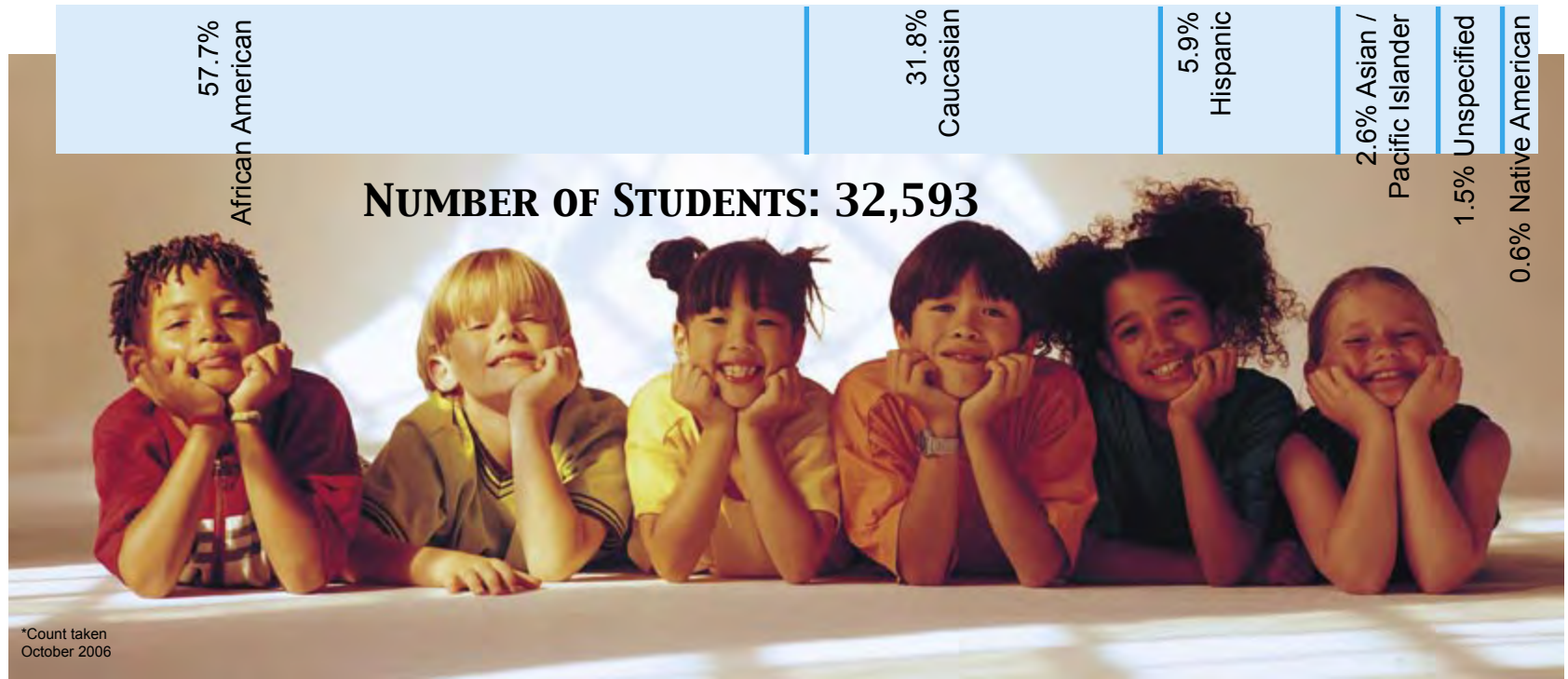
Catherine, picking up her dad's magazine, was among the thousands who read the column and responded. Catherine started by enlisting Tess' help.

"She came and told me about it at lunch at school," Tess recalls. "She said we needed to do something about it."

With support from guidance counselor Jeanne Miles and principal Mary Jo Anastasio, they registered with "Nothing But Nets," the United Nations Foundation organization created after the magazine column sparked an outpouring of charitable donations.

The school's closed-circuit television program, "The Morning Show," promoted the fundraiser. (Hilton is a Communication Arts magnet.) So did the lobby display of dolls asleep under a net. The school web site added a link to the "Nothing But Nets" web site. When classrooms competed to see which could raise the most money, Catherine and Tess' class, predictably, won. Hilton Elementary students and staff raised over \$1,250 for "Nothing But Nets." All because two girls felt moved by the plight of millions of children living an ocean away.

# OUR STUDENTS MAKE UP A DIVERSE COMMUNITY:



48.4% are economically disadvantaged

13.6% require special education services

5.1% are enrolled in talented and gifted programs K-8

Graduation Rate: **88%**

Completion Rate: **98%**

(includes GED's and non-standard diplomas)

**75%** of graduating students plan to attend college or serve in the military

Students whose primary language is one other than English: **700**

Number of Advanced Placement tests administered: **3,300** in 23 subjects

Number of students enrolled in preschool: **1,400**

## PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE

	FY 2005		FY 2006	
	State Average	Newport News		
State Funds	\$ 3,154	\$ 4,086	\$ 4,194	\$ 4,790
Sales & Use Tax	853	998	1,098	1,165
Federal Funds	656	945	1,009	1,253
Local Funds	4,539	2,528	2,884	2,954
Total	\$ 9,202	\$ 8,557	\$ 9,185	\$ 10,162

\* Operations include regular day school, school food services, summer school, and other education, but do not include facilities, debt service and capital outlay additions.

# NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: 45

## 5 Early Childhood Centers *including:*

- 3 full day centers
- 1 half-day center
- 1 center for children with special needs

## 26 Elementary schools *including:*

- 4 magnet programs
- 1 International Baccalaureate program school
- 1 English as a Second Language (ESL) Center

## 9 Middle Schools *including:*

- 3 magnet programs
- 1 International Baccalaureate candidate school

## 5 High Schools *including:*

- 4 magnet programs
- 1 International Baccalaureate program school

### Student-Teacher Ratio

Grades K-5	<b>20 to 1</b>
Grades 6-8	<b>20 to 1</b>
Grades 9-12	<b>22 to 1</b>



# TEACHER BASE SALARY

	FY 2006	FY 2007
Bachelor's	\$35,750	\$37,350
Master's	\$38,253	\$39,965
Advanced Study	\$39,591	\$41,363
Doctorate	\$40,977	\$42,811

Number of teachers: **3,031**

Percentage of teachers and administrators with advanced degrees (master's degree or higher): **44%**

Average years of experience for teachers: **11.4 years**

# SOL SCORES

	2007
<b>Grade 3</b>	
English: Reading	80
Mathematics	86
Science	85
History & Social Sciences	91
<b>Grade 4</b>	
*English: Reading	87
*Mathematics	78
Virginia Studies	78
<b>Grade 5</b>	
English: Reading	85
English: Writing	80
Mathematics	86
Science	87
<b>Grade 6</b>	
*English: Reading	83
*Mathematics	52
*US History to 1877	54
<b>Grade 7</b>	
*English: Reading	79
*Mathematics	49
*US History from 1877	81
<b>Grade 8</b>	
English: Reading	76
English: Writing	85
Mathematics	72
Science	86
*Civics & Economics	73
<b>High School</b>	
English: Reading	91
English: Writing	91
Algebra I	91
Algebra II	79
Geometry	77
Earth Science	80
Biology	79
Chemistry	88
VA & US History	91
World History I	89
World History II	94
World Geography	82


Source: Virginia Department of Education Virginia School Report Card

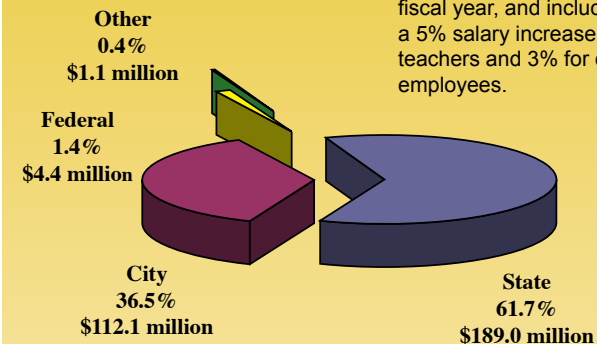
\* New test

# FY 2008 OPERATING BUDGET

## Revenue

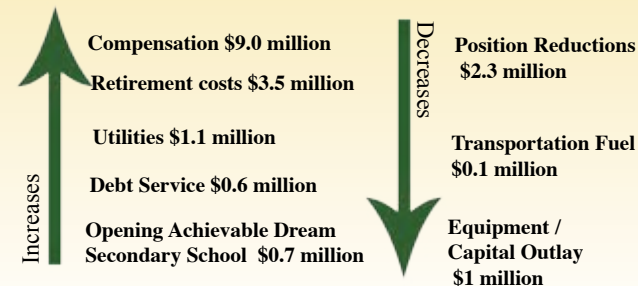
Total: \$306,639,714

 Revenue represents a 2.9% increase above the previous fiscal year, and includes a 5% salary increase for teachers and 3% for other employees.



The school division receives revenue from three primary sources: state aid for public education, funds transferred from the City of Newport News and federal revenue sources. The budget includes \$8.7 million in new funds. Of that, \$1.3 million would come from the state, and \$7.4 million would come from the city.

## Expenditures



The school division's largest expenditure is salaries and benefits, which accounts for \$246.7 million or 80% of the total operating budget. Of the remaining funds, \$35.2 million or 12% goes towards nondiscretionary expenses (utilities, fuel, debt service), and \$24.7 million or 8% goes towards supplies and workforce development.

Think globally, innovate locally.



*Smart, safe schools!*



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