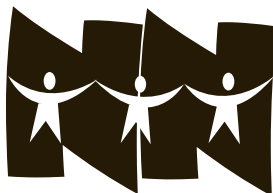


# Newport News Public Schools



*Smart, Safe Schools*

## Report to the Community

Winter 2008

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 recent initiatives and achievements that illustrate the school division's mission in action.

### Smart Schools ~



**Governor's Awards!** Hilton Elementary School earned a Governor's Award for Education Excellence for exceeding state and federal benchmarks and meeting the Governor's performance standards. Hilton is just one of 89 schools in the state — and one of only two on the Peninsula, to earn this honor! In addition, B.C. Charles, Deer Park, Dutrow, General Stanford, Greenwood, Jenkins, Kiln Creek, Lee Hall, McIntosh, Nelson, Richneck, Riverside, Sanford, Saunders, South Morrison, and Yates elementary schools earned Virginia Board of Education Awards for progressing towards the Governor's performance standards.

- **Healthy, Safe and Caring.** For three consecutive years, the America's Promise Alliance has named Newport News one of the "100 Best Communities for Young People" for its efforts to improve the well-being of youth.
- **Advanced Learning.** Since 2003, enrollment in Advanced Placement classes has increased by 35 percent. Two-hundred and thirty-six students have been named 2007 Advanced Placement Scholars for earning a score of three or higher on three or more AP exams, qualifying them to earn college credit.

### ~ 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning



**Pathways to the Future.** NNPS launched its new Career Pathways Initiative last fall. This career development program provides pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students a pathway to a career through interrelated courses, as well as extra-curricular and service learning experiences. High school students are choosing career pathways 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; and Health Science.

- **No Child Left Behind.** NNPS has also kicked off its new Dropout Prevention and Recovery Program. Already, 240 students who had dropped out have returned and are back on track to earn a high school diploma or GED. Starting in middle school, intervention plans are being developed for youth who are at risk of dropping out, and the transition process for rising ninth graders is being expanded. To help high school students graduate on time, opportunities to retake failed classes are being provided during the school year. And, plans are underway to open two drop out recovery centers in Newport News — one downtown and one in the Denbigh area — to bring back students.
- **College Credit.** To provide additional class options, online courses are offered at all high schools. Students also have the option of receiving college credit through dual enrollment at Thomas Nelson Community College. This year, 373 students are taking advantage of this option.
- **Governor's Academy Grant.** NNPS and New Horizons is using a grant awarded by Governor Timothy M. Kaine to open a Governors Academy for Innovation, Technology and Engineering in Fall 2008.



### Award-Winning Staff ~

- **Art and Music Excellence.** Newport News is home to the National Art Supervisor of the Year, Patricia Franklin, who supervises art instruction in all schools. Dr. Darryl Waller, supervisor of music, has been awarded the Bettie Minette Cooper Arts Educator Award by the Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads.
- **Athletic Leadership.** Marilyn Watkins, athletic director at Warwick High School, has been named the 2007-2008 Virginia Group AAA Activities Administrator of the Year.
- **CNU Honoree.** Heritage High School teacher Louise Edwards-Pair has been named the Outstanding Economic Educator of the Year by Christopher Newport University.
- **Nationally Recognized.** For 2007, seven more teachers received National Board Certification, considered the highest credential in teaching, bringing the total number to 39 in NNPS. Congratulations to our newest recipients: Lorrie Blood of Woodside High School, Leslie Bowers of An Achievable Dream Academy, Christina Gonzalez-Vega of Reservoir Middle School, Nichole Johnson of Denbigh High School, Carla Jones of Denbigh High School, Bonnie Sousa of Woodside High School, and Traci Waters-Ellis of Hidenwood Elementary School.



Patricia Franklin,  
National Art  
Supervisor  
of the Year

### ~ Community Connections

- **Volunteer Involvement.** Over 1,000 volunteers have contributed nearly 30,000 hours of service to NNPS.
- **Career Café.** The school division has established a partnership with the Peninsula Council for Workforce Development. In the fall, the partnership launched a Career Café at Patrick Henry Mall, an interactive career preparation center for youth.
- **Giving Back.** Employees and students have donated more than \$171,226 during the 2007 United Way Campaign in support of local health and human care agencies. Staff members raised \$157,044. Students raised \$14,179!



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