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**HARFORD COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



Harford County Public Schools

# ANNUAL REPORT 2012-13

102 S. Hickory Avenue • Bel Air, Maryland 21014 • [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org)



**THE AEGIS**

**HAR-CO MARYLAND  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**

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# Board of Education of Harford County

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Appointed Member-at-Large

**Francis F. "Rick" Grambo, III**  
Vice President

Elected Member  
Councilmanic District D

**Alysson L. Krchnavy**

Appointed Member-at-Large

**Joseph A. Hau**

Appointed Member-at-Large

**James D. Thornton**

Appointed Member-at-Large

**Robert L. Frisch**

Elected Member  
Councilmanic District A

**Cassandra R. Beverley, Esq.**

Elected Member  
Councilmanic District B

**Thomas Fitzpatrick**

Appointed Member-at-Large

**Arthur F. Kaff, Esq.**

Appointed Member-at-Large

**Benjamin C. Barsam**

Student Representative

**Barbara P. Canavan**

Secretary-Treasurer  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

## Board of Education Public Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Education are typically held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month (except July and August) at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are announced on the HCPS website and in other media, including the Harford Cable Network (HCN). Meetings are open to the public, unless otherwise noted, and attendance is encouraged for those with an interest in business operations of the school system. If you are unable to attend the meetings, watch them live via streaming video on the school system's website, [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org).

Each regular, public business meeting of the Board includes a public comment period. Any citizen, group representative, parent or student may make a statement regarding an item on a past, present or future Board open-session agenda item, or a matter of general policy over which the Board has jurisdiction.

**Stay connected  
with our Board of  
Education!**

**Click the 'In the  
Loop' link on our  
homepage to view  
action items and  
presentations from  
past meetings.**



## Core Values

### VISION:

Harford County Public Schools will be a community of learners in which our public schools, families, public officials, businesses, community organizations, and other citizens collaborate to prepare all of our students to succeed academically and socially in a diverse, democratic, change-oriented, and global society.

### MISSION:

The mission of the Harford County Public Schools is to promote excellence in instructional leadership and teaching and to provide facilities and instructional materials that support teaching and learning for the 21st century. The Harford County Board of Education will support this mission by fostering a climate for deliberate change and monitoring progress through measurable indicators.

### WE BELIEVE...

- All of our decisions should be based on the best interests of our students to prepare them for success in the 21st century.
- We must embrace the differences among our students and train our staff to meet their individual needs.
- All of our students can meet high standards; and we will hold all students to those high standards.
- We must attract, recruit, assign, develop, reward, and retain effective staff.
- Effective communication with internal and external stakeholders is essential to the success of our students.
- Input and support from our community will improve the quality of our schools.
- Our students must attend schools that support 21st century learning, that offer equitable access to technology and that are environmentally efficient.



[www.facebook.com/HCPSchools](http://www.facebook.com/HCPSchools)



[@HCPSchools](http://www.twitter.com/HCPSchools)



## Contact Us

### Employment Opportunities

Office of Certificated Personnel	410-588-5238
Office of Supporting Services Personnel (clerical, custodial, technical, etc.)	410-588-5238
Substitute Teaching	www.hcps.org 410-809-6341

### General Information and Inquiries

Communications Office	410-588-5203
TTY	7-1-1
Website/Emergency Notification	www.hcps.org
Fraud Hotline	410-809-6056

### HCPS Central Office Switchboard

Local Number	410-838-7300
Toll Free	1-866-588-4963

### Psychological Services, Student Services

Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline	1-800-422-0009
Office of Student Services	410-588-5334
Aberdeen Office	410-273-5514
Bel Air Office	410-638-4143
Edgewood Office	410-612-1521
Fallston Office	410-638-4124
Havre de Grace Office	410-939-6612
Magnolia Office	410-612-1531
North Harford Office	410-638-3662
Patterson Mill Office	410-638-4215
Southampton Office	410-638-4153
Hickory Elementary (Child Find)	410-638-4386
Office of Curriculum	410-588-5298
Office of Elementary School Performance	410-588-5207
Office of Middle & High School Performance	410-638-4061
Office of Grants and Business & Community Partnerships	410-809-6065
Office of Special Education	410-588-5246
Office of Transportation	410-638-4092
Use of School Facilities - Principal	Call that facility
Volunteer Work	Your local school

## Strategic Plan

Board of Education members, with consideration of community input, established four goals:

### GOAL 1

To prepare every student for success in post-secondary education and a career.

### GOAL 2

To encourage and monitor engagement between the school system and the community to support student achievement.

### GOAL 3

To hire and support skilled staff who are committed to increasing student achievement.

### GOAL 4

To provide safe, secure, and healthy learning environments that are conducive to effective teaching and learning.

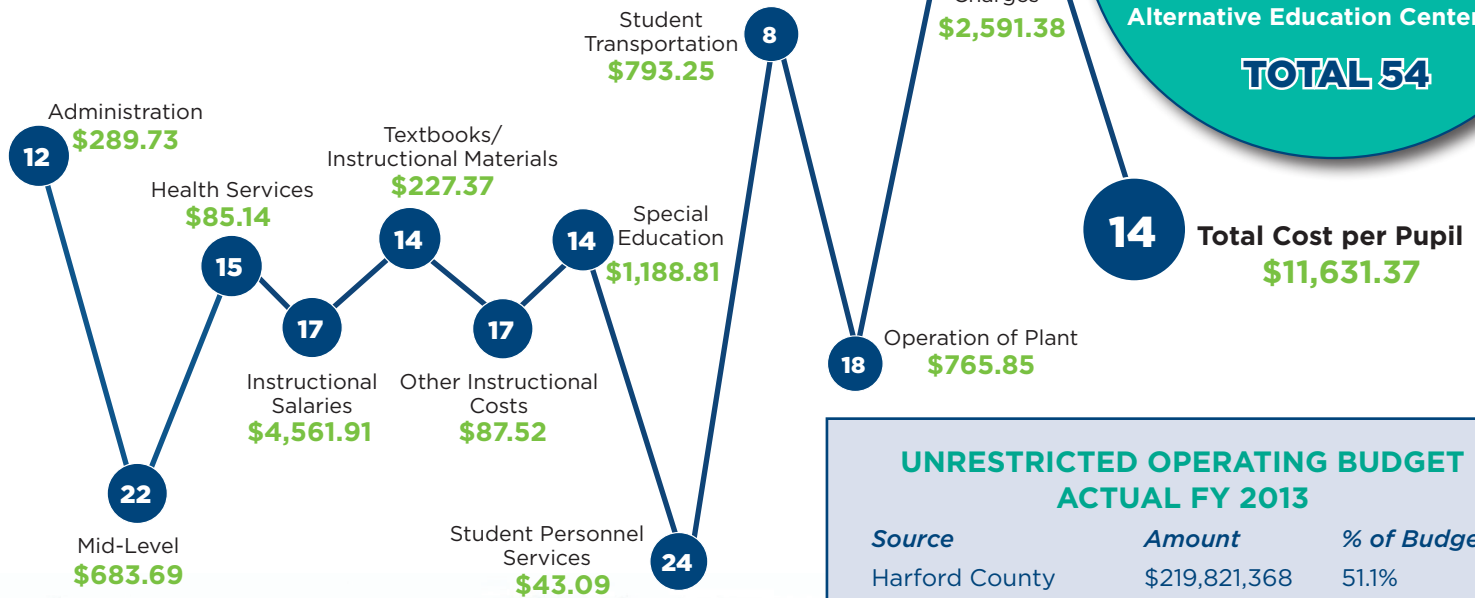




# Financial Data

## How does Harford County compare to the other 24 Maryland school systems in cost categories per pupil?

Rank key: 1 highest, 24 lowest; Source: Maryland State Department of Education Selected Financial Data, MD Public Schools 2010-2011, Part 3 - Analysis of Costs



## Our Schools

Elementary Schools	33
Middle Schools	9
High Schools	9
Special	1
Technical High School	1
Alternative Education Center	1

**TOTAL 54**

**14** Total Cost per Pupil  
**\$11,631.37**

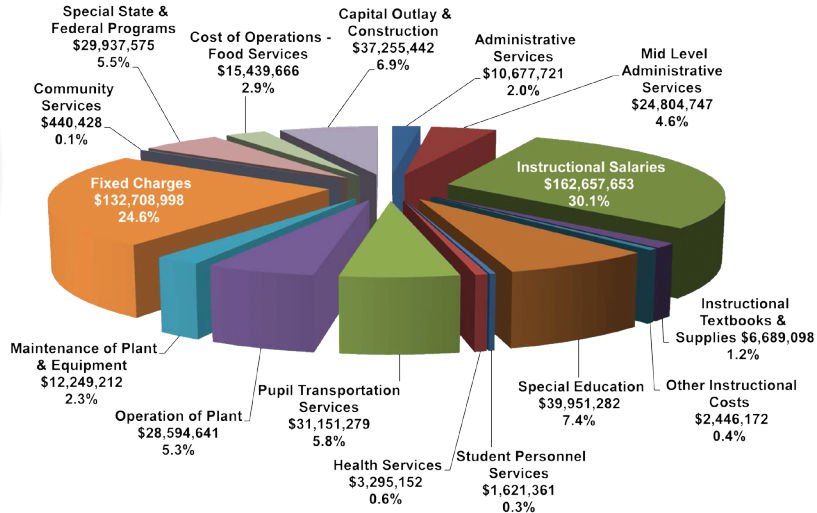
### UNRESTRICTED OPERATING BUDGET ACTUAL FY 2013

Source	Amount	% of Budget
Harford County	\$219,821,368	51.1%
State of MD	\$197,012,274	45.8%
Federal Government	\$448,890	.1%
Other Sources	\$4,729,065	1.1%
Fund Balance	\$7,800,000	1.8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$429,811,597</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

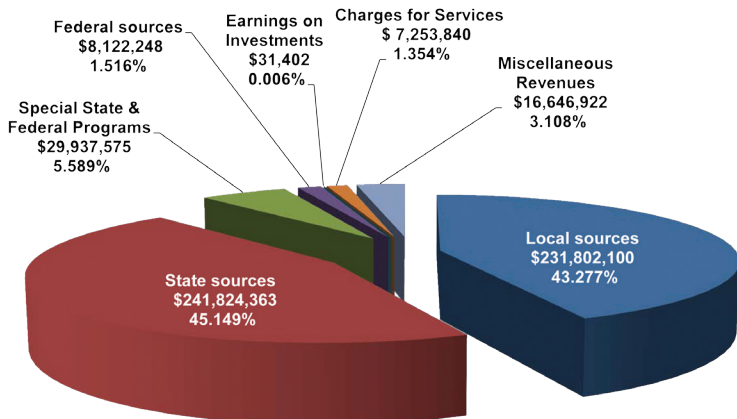




## FY 2013 Actual Expenditures All Governmental Funds



## FY 2013 Actual Revenues All Governmental Funds



# Sustainable Schools



Sensors in Prospect Mill Elementary School's library enable lighting by zones for use by small groups.

Sustainable schools are healthy, energy-efficient schools that minimize resource consumption and maximize student learning potential. Harford County Public Schools utilizes a Resource Conservation Manager to oversee sustainability initiatives and ensure its school buildings serve as

educational resources for teachers and students. Several programs and projects have been implemented to support sustainability in our school system. Many of these initiatives promote environmental stewardship while reducing operational costs for the school system. Here are a few of these programs:

- **Alternative Energy Program:** Six, large-scale solar PV sites have generated more than 1,986,038 kWh to help provide clean energy for those schools. These solar sites have avoided over \$70,000 in operational costs since activation on June 30, 2011. In addition, the teachers and students can log on to a website to see the actual energy production of their schools.
- **Load Response Program:** Five sites participated in a voluntary electrical usage reduction during high usage periods to offset grid demand. Participation in this program resulted in revenue of over \$33,000 this year. The program has produced a total of \$285,339 in revenue for the school system since its inception in 2009.
- **Single Stream Recycling Program:** Through restructuring of the current contract, HCPS will reduce operational costs by \$100,000 and yield an expected annual savings of \$45,000.

- **Organics Recycling Program:** Includes nine school sites in a commercial composting program that diverts cafeteria food scraps to a composting facility. Recently, several truckloads of the nutrient rich compost were used to amend the soil on sports fields.
- **BGE Smart Energy Savers Program:** By using these rebates to upgrade lighting and electrical equipment, energy consumption has been reduced by 1,888,888 kWh this year. This will produce an annual savings of \$198,678 in operational costs. In addition, the school system has secured over \$500,000 in BGE rebates.
- **Furniture Refurbish Program:** Resulted in cost avoidance of \$43,146 by reusing renovated student desks.
- **Performance Contracting Program:** By working with Johnson Controls, energy efficiency upgrades to 27 schools are being installed at no additional cost to the school system. These improvements are funded by utilizing the utility cost savings they create. During the construction period the project has already reduced the electric utilities by \$165,000. This is the third round of performance contracting for HCPS. The first phase yields an average annual cost avoidance of \$438,275 and an average annual cost avoidance of \$420,684 in the second phase.



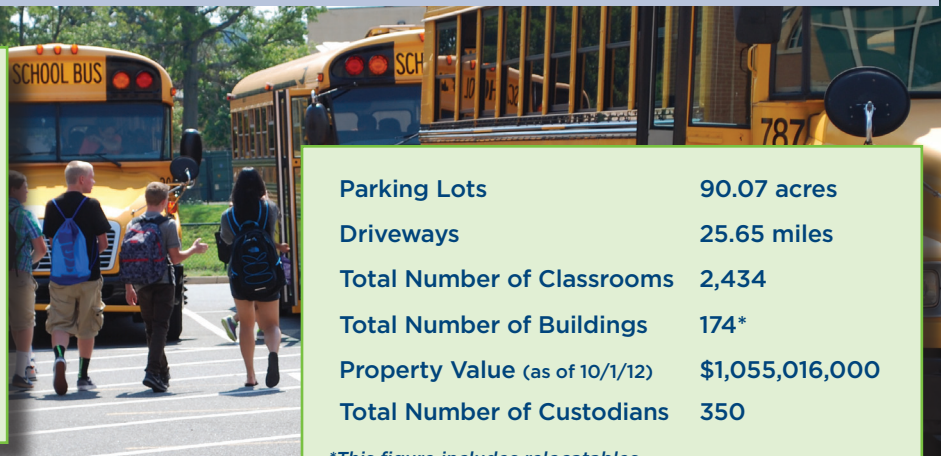
LED lighting in C. Milton Wright High School's theater allows for dimming and greatly reduces maintenance costs.

# Transportation & Facilities

An essential component of the education process is the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school. The successful completion of this task relies on the shared responsibility of drivers, students, parents, schools, and Transportation. To ensure safe and reliable service, Harford County Public Schools Transportation takes great pride in our driver training program and fleet maintenance.

## 2012-13 School Year

Number of Students Transported	33,716
Total Number of Buses	486
Miles Traveled Annually	8,317,207
Total Hours Driven Annually	481,098
Number of Bus Accidents	47
Preventable Accidents	21
% Preventable Accidents	44%
<b>TOTAL TRANS. COST</b>	<b>\$31,152,482</b>



Parking Lots	90.07 acres
Driveways	25.65 miles
Total Number of Classrooms	2,434
Total Number of Buildings	174*
Property Value (as of 10/1/12)	\$1,055,016,000
Total Number of Custodians	350

\*This figure includes relocatables.



# Food & Nutrition

Menus for Harford County Public Schools are reviewed annually by the state and constantly by two registered dietitians on staff. Each day, the lunch menu features a romaine lettuce based garden salad, a variety of fresh fruit, and fat free milk. Over the course of a week students are able to choose from red-orange, dark green and green leafy vegetables and legumes. Much of the fresh fruit offered is locally grown, including apples, watermelon, pears and peaches. Vegetables also come from local farms, providing a healthy alternative for students while supporting local agriculture.

**450** staff members

**1,303,755** breakfasts served

**3,504,850** lunches served

**\$15,358,309** in sales & revenue

**\$2,926,620** in a-la-carte sales

Other items on the menu are also more nutritious than they may appear. Pizza is made with low-fat cheese and some are served on whole grain crust. The fish sandwich is baked, not fried, as there are no fryers in any school kitchen in Harford County,

nor has there been for the last ten years. Each day a variety of nutritious options are available in forms familiar to most children. All grains served at lunch are at least 50% whole grains – including the breading on baked chicken nuggets.

The school food service program is staffed by people who are proud of what they have to offer and are genuinely concerned about the nutritional needs of the students. Growing children need a strong nutritional foundation to succeed in the classroom and in their other endeavors. The staff works hard to fulfill that need and maintain a program that is attractive to students.

The Food & Nutrition Department of HCPS was recognized as a District of Excellence by the School Nutrition Association in 2009 (one of 30 in the nation) and we continue to maintain that level of service. HCPS is eligible for recognition in 2014 and the expectation is to achieve that distinction again. Six members of the central office are credentialed School Nutrition Specialists and most managers are certified Level I by the School Nutrition Association. Professional development is critical to the advancement of the program and achievement of expected standards. Two staff members received state awards, Amy Hill of Edgewood Elementary (Rhonda Motley Award)

The HCPS  
Food & Nutrition  
Department was one of  
only 30 districts across the  
nation to be recognized as a  
**District of Excellence**  
by the School Nutrition  
Association in 2009.

and Beth Freeman of C. Milton Wright (Louise Sublette Award). Beth was also recognized as the National Award winner, believed to be the first from Maryland. These awards acknowledge innovation and commitment to students.

The Food & Nutrition Department is involved in several initiatives to support Harford County students and the community:

**FARM-TO-SCHOOL** involves the purchase of local produce directly from farmers and orchards so that money spent goes back to the local community. It provides fresh products for students and connects them to the heritage of the local agricultural community. *(continued)*

## Food & Nutrition continued

**NUTRITION OUTREACH** is primarily directed by our food and nutrition dietitian, and features direct interaction with more than 2,000 students per year via classroom presentations, school health fairs, and student council meetings. HCPS also supports an Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics approved internship program to provide means for aspiring dietitians to meet their Food Management and/or Community Health requirement.

**THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM** operated in 14 locations over the summer with 12 of them supported by community organizations. These programs operated while school was out and served more than 1,000 meals per day.

**HARFORD COUNTY SCHOOL NUTRITION ASSOCIATION (HCSNA)** is an organization of local school food workers. Every year, a food drive is organized to support the Food

Pantry. A family is also adopted for Christmas and gifts are collected to bring them the joy of the season. For more information, visit [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org).



The Hall of Fame honors those who have given their professional lives building a school system that consistently ranks in the top 25 percent in student achievement among Maryland school districts. Harford County Public Schools, in cooperation with the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRSPA), began the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame in October 2000. Retired educators are chosen by HCRSPA in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the system to be enshrined in the "Hall of Fame." The men and women chosen also receive a plaque noting their accomplishments. Several criteria have been established to guide the HCRSPA in its selection process: the educator may be living or deceased, but must be retired as an educator; the educator should have devoted the majority of his/her career to teaching

and/or being a school or central office administrator in the Harford County Public Schools; the nominee must have been an educator in the HCPS system for at least 20 years; and the educator does not have to be a member of the HCRSPA. Visit our website at [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org) to read more about our "Hall of Fame" members!

October 2012  
**Patricia L. Skebeck**

November 2012  
**C. Scott Sharnetzka**


April 2013  
**Donald R. Morrison**


October 2012  
**James R. Murzda**

February 2013  
**Dr. Dennis L. Kirkwood**


June 2013  
**Donna M. Zavacky**


## 2012-13 STAFF PROFILE

 Total Number of STAFF - **5,374**

 **93%** of staff provide direct services to students

 Number of Teachers - **2,873**

 Number of Support Services Staff - **1,783**

 **66.5%** of teachers have a Master's Degree



# Teacher of the Year



**KRISTIN SCHAUB**  
**5th Grade Teacher**  
**Havre de Grace Elementary School**  
**2013-2014 Teacher of the Year**

There are moments in life when your reality far exceeds your dreams. That has been the theme of my Teacher of the Year story. Every step of my journey this year has left me saying, "It can't get better than this." Yet around every turn, I find myself even more

in awe of what this year holds for me. I have loved every part of this year, and am truly humbled by the recognition and grateful for the opportunities I have received.

The night of the Teacher of the Year banquet, I was excited to be there and to be recognized as a finalist among many other talented teachers. I had no visions of actually winning. When my name was announced, my entire body collapsed. In the midst of all the excitement and positive energy, I had no idea how my life was about to change. All I knew was that the last four months leading up to this event allowed me to reflect on who I was as a teacher and left me feeling more valued than ever before. I knew I did not want all of it to end. At that moment, it became apparent that my dream was becoming a reality. My words would be heard and I would be a voice for all teachers.

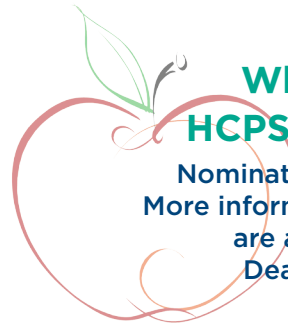
That night I received so much. From generous business and community members, I received a lease on a car, a beautiful watch, an engraved ring, a laptop, Kindle, engraved plaques, and thousands of dollars in gift cards. Throughout this year, I have received cards, flowers, and gifts from so many including the teachers from my childhood, past coworkers, politicians, store owners, and CEO's of corporations. Strangers stop me on the street to shake my hand, pay for my meals at restaurants, and show up at my school with gifts and congratulatory cards. I know that for each handshake I receive or every "thank you" I have been given, they are really thanking the profession of teaching and the educators who sustain this work. So often, as teachers, we are in the trenches working so hard to help our children overcome obstacles that we do not realize the value our community has placed on us. Beyond the physical gifts, I have received the gift of respect and appreciation. If we all took a moment to look above the trenches we

would realize that we are not standing alone. We have the support of a county, the affection of children, the respect of parents and the admiration of other educators behind us. This year, my eyes have been opened to what this support truly looks like.



As amazing as the gifts and recognitions have been, what I hold so dearly to are the opportunities I have had to give back. I have had so many opportunities to speak on behalf of teachers and to teachers. Whether it is a speech, my blog, an interview, or a conversation, I have been allowed for this one period in time to be the voice for so many teachers. These are people I consider to be my heroes, and I look forward to each and every time I am allowed to talk to them and for them. During this year, I have served on the Superintendent's Teacher Advisory Committee, General Curriculum Committee, and State Superintendent Advisory Panel. I have had the opportunity to engage in authentic conversations with leaders and teachers across this county and state as we embark on so many new endeavors.

I always dreamed of being a teacher one day. It was what I wanted to do from the very beginning, and I have spent the last ten years of my life living that dream every single day. Never did I imagine a year such as this, where I would be able to represent all the teachers in Harford County as Teacher of the Year. This recognition has caused me to grow as a teacher, as a leader, and as a person in so many ways. My life has been forever changed.



## Who will be the next HCPS Teacher of the Year?

**Nominate an outstanding teacher now!**  
**More information and the online application**  
**are available at [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org).**  
**Deadline is February 3, 2014.**

## Nurse of the Year



The 2013 Harford County Public Schools Nurse of the Year is Janet L. Mueller from Havre de Grace Elementary School. While raising a young family, Mrs. Mueller worked as an aerobics instructor for five years. She then transitioned into the medical profession where, for seventeen years, she served as a medical receptionist, a medical secretary and a medical transcriptionist, as well as a medical sales and marketing representative for American Radiology

Services. In 2003, Mrs. Mueller graduated from Harford Community College's nursing program. She served as a registered nurse at St. Joseph's Medical Center for two and a half years in the cardiac medical-surgical step-down unit before taking the school nurse position at Havre de Grace Elementary in 2005. Mrs. Mueller has been married for thirty-eight years to Thomas Mueller, Sr., is the mother of two sons and a daughter, and is the grandmother to four grandsons and three granddaughters.

## Safety & Security

### HCPS SAFETY & SECURITY MISSION

To advance security with HCPS by integrating safety into the fabric of the school system through evaluation, education and training. The following objectives have been established to accomplish this mission.

- 1** To establish clear expectations for positive school climates and maximize student learning.
- 2** To provide safe and secure schools during daytime and evening hours of building use.
- 3** To provide safe and secure schools during those hours when the buildings are not occupied.
- 4** To maximize school building safety and security through student, staff and parent training.
- 5** To expand interagency cooperation and partnerships among youth serving professionals and agencies.

### CRISIS & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

HCPS maintains a proactive approach to preparing for a crisis situation in a school setting. A systemwide critical incident plan enables HCPS to effectively and efficiently manage various emergencies. The plan is constantly reviewed and updated. All school administrators and staff members participate in table top drills and complete regular crisis training through the HCPS Safety and Security Office. In addition, countywide drills are conducted in conjunction with various county agencies including the county government, the Emergency Operations Center and the Harford County Sheriff's Office.

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Every HCPS high school, and four middle schools, are assigned a School Resource Officer (SRO), an officer from the local police department or sheriff's office, who provides additional security and support to maintain a safe atmosphere for students to learn. The SRO also provides education to the school community on law enforcement topics, counseling and problem-solving. Many officers are involved in the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Related Education and Training) program for elementary and middle schools. SROs also assist neighboring elementary schools in the event of an emergency.



## DRUG DOG SCAN PROGRAM

As part of the school system's commitment to keeping illicit drugs out of schools, routine, random drug dog scans are conducted at each HCPS middle and high school throughout the school year. School administration may request an additional scan if there is a specific concern. The scans are accomplished in partnership with the Harford County Sheriff's Office or local police department.

Visit [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org), click "Parents" from the top menu, then click "Safety and Security" for more information and safety tips!



## 2012-13 SAFETY & SECURITY BY THE NUMBERS

**1,443** surveillance cameras in 42 schools.

**51** schools have remote door access to enter building.

**9** schools have vestibules that direct all visitors to the main office.

**33** buses are equipped with surveillance cameras.

**380** hand-held radios have been distributed to schools during the past school year.

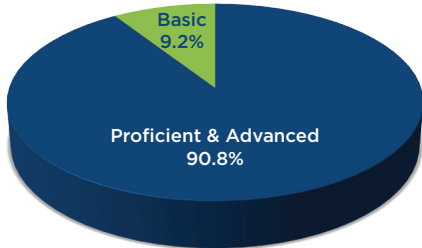
**1** computer visitor management system is in place at **ALL** schools to standardize process of registering visitors.

**54** schools have Critical Incident Plans specifically designed for the needs of each individual school, which are reviewed and revised annually.

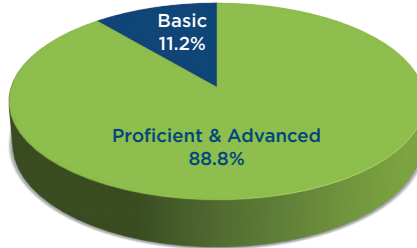
# Student Profile

## Maryland State Assessment (MSA) Math & Reading Proficiency 2012-2013

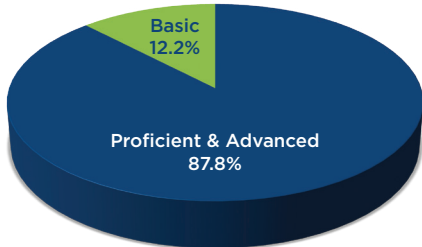
Reading, Grades 3 - 5



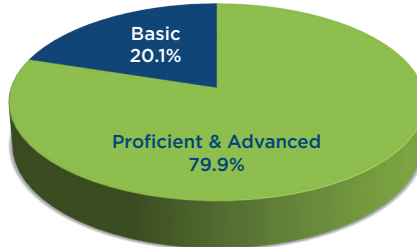
Math, Grades 3 - 5



Reading, Grades 6 - 8



Math, Grades 6 - 8



## STUDENT FACTS

**34.5%** of elementary students receive free/reduced meals

**12.6%** of elementary students receive special education services

**93.5%** of high school students attend school regularly

**72.7** instructional staff per 1,000 students

**10.9** professional staff per 1,000 students

**20.4** instructional assistants per 1,000 students

**6.6** hours average length of school day for students

\*Information above can be found on the Maryland Report Card website, [www.mdreportcard.org](http://www.mdreportcard.org).

## AP/SAT PARTICIPATION

**25%** increase in participation on Advanced Placement (AP) assessments from 2012.

**5,896** total enrollment in AP courses, with many students taking multiple AP courses.

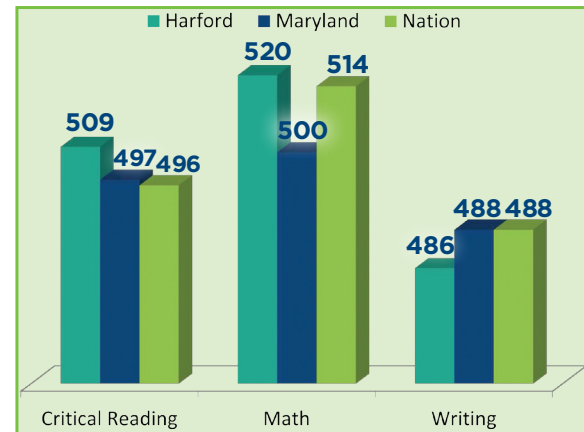
**24%** of the AP exams given were scored as “college mastery level” consistent with Maryland and the nation.

**60%** of graduates participated in taking the SAT exam in 2013.

*Graduation Rate*

**88.4%**

Class of 2013 SAT Mean Scores



Compared to 2012, HCPS test-takers' overall performance in mathematics improved by four points (520), improved by five points in writing (486) and improved by six points in critical reading (509).

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT

37,868

(as of 9/30/12)

Asian	1,228
African American	6,729
Hispanic	2,144
HI/Pac. Islander	65
American Indian/ Alaska Native	124
White	25,510
Two or more races	2,068

### BY GENDER

Male	19,527
Female	18,341

## HCPS SCHOOLS TOP SUMMER READERS

In September of the 2012-13 school year, Jarrettsville Elementary School, Fallston Middle School and Patterson Mill High School were awarded Harford County Public Library (HCPL) 2012 Summer Reading Trophies. The trophies were awarded to the public elementary, middle and high schools with the highest percentage of students who completed the Dream Big: READ Summer Reading Program. In addition, John Archer School was presented with an Extraordinary Achievement Award for having the largest increase in completions over the previous year.



(continued)

## Notable News & Events

### BEL AIR HIGH NAMED MODEL GREEN SCHOOL

Bel Air High School (BAHS) received the designation of a Model Green School from the Maryland Association of Environmental Outdoor Education, meaning that Bel Air “has been recognized three times in the last decade as a green school.” In order to receive this designation, BAHS had to make efforts of energy conservation, recycling, landscaping and habitat enhancement. Also, BAHS has been named a Green School multiple times, which impacted their designation.

“This whole effort was student-driven,” stated Mr. Glen Hedelson, BAHS environmental sciences teacher. “Every aspect of the school has to be involved. It takes the custodians, administration, cafeteria staff, students and teachers to be a successful green school.”



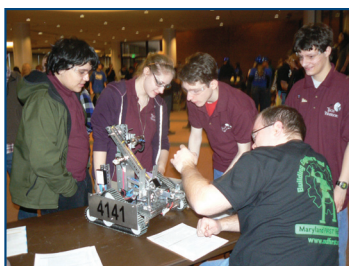


# Notable News & Events continued

## HAVRE DE GRACE HIGH ROBOTICS TEAM RANKS HIGH IN STATE

The MD State Championship for the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) class of FIRST Robotics was held Saturday, February 23, 2013, at the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) at Johns Hopkins University in Laurel, MD. Thirty-two of the top-ranked teams in the state (teams had to qualify for the state championship by virtue of wins or awards earned during the regular season) competed in 40 separate matches teamed with different "Alliance" partners. The robotics action was competitive and intense with hundreds of students and mentors attending the event from all over the state.

The small Havre de Grace High School "Spears and Gears" robotics team worked feverishly to complete and refine their Bot in preparation for this state championship. After five rounds of intense competition, Spears and Gears posted two wins, one tie and two losses, accumulating points for a final state ranking of 14th! The Havre de Grace High School team was also the 4th-ranked team in the state among teams



that were based in public school systems, and the only FTC team fielded by a HCPS school. This 14th place state ranking and 4th among all public school based teams was the best performance by the Havre de Grace High School robotics team.

## BEL AIR MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL HALL OF FAME

Sixth grade language arts teacher, Rebecca Gault was surprised at a special assembly held on April 9, 2013, at Bel Air Middle School, celebrating her selection as one of the top five teachers in America who will be inducted into The National Teachers Hall of Fame (NTHF). A 22 year veteran of teaching, Gault is the third teacher from Maryland to be inducted into The National Teachers Hall of Fame.

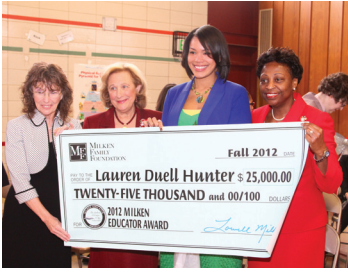
Mrs. Gault's principal at Bel Air Middle School, Sean Abel, writes, "Whether she is serving in the role of School Improvement Team Facilitator, Literacy Specialist, Reading Intervention Teacher, Language Arts Department Chair, or classroom teacher, one thing has remained constant: Mrs. Gault's content knowledge expertise, pedagogical skill, and relationship building ability is second-to-none."



# Emergency Communications

<b>Phone Notification System</b>	Receive announcements of school closures and delays sent directly to your home and mobile phones. The phone numbers you have on file with your school will be called. <b>For morning inclement weather closures/delays, announcements will go out at 5:30 a.m. and are normally complete by 6:05 a.m.</b>
<b>Social Media</b>	Follow HCPS on Facebook & Twitter for important announcements. <b>Twitter: @HCPSchools</b> <b>Facebook: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/HCPSchools">www.facebook.com/HCPSchools</a></b>
<b>Television</b>	Television stations announcing school closures and delays: WMAR (Channel 2); WBAL (Channel 11); WJZ (Channel 13); WBFF (Channel 45). <b>*Please remember it is at the discretion of the station as to which announcements are posted and at what time.</b>
<b>Radio (AM/FM)</b>	<b>AM radio stations:</b> WAMD (970); WBAL (1090); WCBM (680); WSBA (910) <b>FM radio stations:</b> WLIF (101.9); WPOC (93.1); WQSR (102.7); WWMX (106.5); WXYV (105.7); WERQ (92.3); WARM (103.3); WXCX (103.7); WDAC (94.5)
<b>HCPS Website <a href="http://www.hcps.org">www.hcps.org</a></b>	Get the latest emergency information directly from the homepage of HCPS.org. School closure and delay information will appear as a news flash on the main home page. <b>For morning inclement weather closures/delays, the website should be updated by 5:15 a.m. and as needed when messages change.</b>
<b>Voicemail</b>	Call one of the following phone numbers to listen to a recording of the current emergency message. Switchboard: (410) 838-7300 or 1-(866) 588-4963. <b>For morning inclement weather closures/delays, these mailboxes will be updated no later than 5:15 a.m.</b>

## WILLIAM PACA/OLD POST ROAD TEACHER EARNS PRESTIGIOUS MILKEN AWARD



On December 12, 2012, fifth grade Reading Specialist Lauren Hunter was surprised, along with students, faculty, staff and elected officials at her school, as she was presented with the National Milken Award from the Milken Family Foundation and Maryland

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Lillian M. Lowery. Mrs. Hunter is an educator of eight years and her students continually show high levels of growth and advancement each year. The award included a \$25,000 cash prize that she is free to use in any manner she chooses.

“It is wonderful that this accomplished Reading Specialist is one out of a select few across the nation to receive a 2012 Milken Educator Award for her outstanding dedication and commitment to education. Her ability to focus her instructional practices to meet the individual needs of each of her students proves she is a model of excellence for the profession,” said Dr. Lowery.

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Harford County Public Schools recently upgraded to a new system called Blackboard Connect 5. We encourage parents to use the system’s Parent Portal by visiting [www.hcps.org](http://www.hcps.org) and clicking on the link located in the top right-hand corner of the homepage. Through the Parent Portal you will be able to customize your message delivery preferences, update information, and review any messages you may have missed. Blackboard Connect 5 utilizes phone voice messaging, text messaging, email and social media as means of message delivery. Please call the Communications Office with any questions regarding this system at 410-588-5203.



