



Harford County Public Schools

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C. Milton Wright and Fallston high schools among America's top high schools

Two Harford County public high schools, C. Milton Wright and Fallston, are part of an elite group of schools nationwide that are included in the "2009 America's Top High Schools" list compiled by *Newsweek* magazine. This recognition places C. Milton Wright and Fallston high schools in the top six percent of public schools in the country rated this way.

The *Newsweek* list, known as the "Challenge Index," identifies schools that offer a rigorous instructional program based on high numbers of students taking either Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests. The Challenge Index, which was devised by *Newsweek* reporter Jay Matthews, divides the number of AP or IB tests taken by all students at a school by the number of graduating seniors. The resulting ratio score is used to rank schools in the *Newsweek* survey.

"We are extremely proud of C. Milton Wright and Fallston high schools for this achievement and are equally as proud of our staff for their dedication to the success of our students," said Superintendent Robert M. Tomback. "We will continue to encourage our students to enroll in AP courses to elevate them to the highest level of achievement and prepare them for college."

The total number of AP participants and the number of tests given at Harford County high schools has increased each year since 2005. Last school year, participation in AP assessments increased slightly from 1,230 students in 2008 to 1,253 students in 2009; at the same time, total high school enrollment in the county dropped by approximately 240 students.

C. Milton Wright, Fallston and Bel Air high schools accounted for nearly 60 percent of AP test takers in Harford County in 2009. As a part of school improvement efforts, schools are accelerating student performance to ensure greater participation in AP courses. In particular, the school system continues to address its goal of increasing minority student participation and success in all AP courses.

Superintendent Tomback and Board of Education Vice President Leonard Wheeler will present C. Milton Wright High School and Fallston High School with commemorative wall hangings highlighting their achievements at their schools at 2 p.m. on October 5 and October 22, respectively.

The complete list of *Newsweek's* top high schools may be found at <http://www.newsweek.com/id/201160>.

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