
Superintendent's Report To the Baltimore County Board of Education

May 20, 2008

Last Wednesday, I had the opportunity to participate in what is becoming one of the most meaningful ceremonies of the year for Baltimore County Public Schools – the AVID reception for graduating seniors. At this event, several students shared compelling stories of how their lives have changed because of AVID. Their testimonials and other indicators of success for our AVID students provide clear evidence that every child can excel in Baltimore County Public Schools.

AVID is a program that identifies, nurtures, and supports students who generally do not expect to go to college and prepares them for success in college and in life. In 2002, BCPS initiated the program for 119 students in six high schools. Today, there are 1,612 students in the AVID elective class in 23 BCPS high schools. Our data shows that Baltimore County students who are supported by AVID strategies have improved attendance, increased participation in highly rigorous courses, increased PSAT participation, and increased High School Assessment pass rates.

At this year's National AVID/College Board Conference, Baltimore County Public Schools was singled out as a school district that has been highly successful in its implementation of AVID.

This year's results are particularly impressive. Of the 170 graduating seniors who participated in AVID at 13 BPCS high schools, 99 percent have received college/university acceptance letters. To date, we have learned that these students have amassed \$3,363,930 in scholarship offers. (This total includes offers that individual students received from multiple colleges and includes the total value of multi-year awards.)

One student, Tensia Montoya of Dundalk High School, received offers totaling \$447,804 – from five colleges. Sixteen students from Woodlawn High School received offers totaling \$896,186.

Does anyone need any more evidence that all of our children can achieve at high levels?

I extend congratulations to all AVID seniors for their accomplishments, and I commend their principals, AVID/College Board coordinator Dr. Jessie Douglas, and the school-based AVID coordinators for the support they have provided.

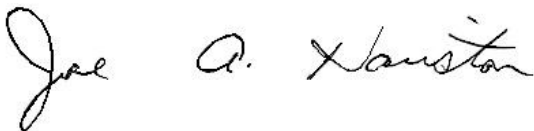
Directly related to the success of our AVID students is the news released this week that 40 percent of BCPS high schools have again been named among the top five percent of high schools in the nation by *Newsweek* and *The Washington Post*. The school system's representation among schools noted for student participation in rigorous exams through

the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs has grown from seven high schools in 2005, to eight in 2006, and then to 10 in 2007 and 2008. We will honor these schools at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

To prepare for this type of success in high school, we must start much earlier in our students' academic careers. Our progress in creating a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 college-ready culture was evident at the BCPS Elementary STEM Fair this past weekend. At the event, parents, students, and educators shared their enthusiasm and pride in record numbers. Congratulations to all for helping make science, technology, engineering, and mathematics exciting and integral parts of our academic program.

In closing, I would also like to congratulate four other students – all of them members of my Superintendent's Student Advisory Board. Two of my Advisory Board members, Logan Anbinder and Jillian Chavis, were named 2008 National Merit Scholars. Another, Anna-Lisa Macon, was named a 2008 National Achievement Scholar; and another, Stephanie Sappleton, received a prestigious BCPS Ethics Award.

Congratulations to them all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe A. Hairston". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Joe A. Hairston
Superintendent

Review of Superintendent's Calendar

Past

- 5/7 **Hosted monthly Superintendent's Student Advisory Board meeting**
- 5/7 **Participated in BCPS Student Scholarship Award Ceremony**
- 5/8 **Offered greetings at TABCO/BACE Retirement/Recognition Dinner, Martin's East**
- 5/10 **Attended Randallstown Elementary School's 100th Anniversary Celebration**
- 5/12 **Gave remarks at Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce Awards for Excellence in Education ceremony**
- 5/14 **Attended ribbon-cutting for Cockeysville Operations and Training Center**
- 5/14 **Offered keynote message at AVID Senior Reception, Community College of Baltimore County – Catonsville**
- 5/15 **Participated in County Council FY2009 Budget Work Session, Council Chambers, Towson**
- 5/15 **Shared remarks at Shade Pavilion Dedication Ceremony at Ridge Ruxton School**
- 5/16 **Inducted new Baltimore County Student Councils officers, Oregon Ridge Center**
- 5/16 **Participated in 75th Anniversary Celebration for Seventh District Elementary School**
- 5/17 **Offered greetings to She Matters Conference (for teen girls), New Town High School**
- 5/17 **Offered greetings at Elementary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Fair Awards Program, Randallstown High School**
- 5/19 **Shared remarks at Alternative Education Advisory Committee Scholarship Awards Banquet, Hilton Garden Inn White Marsh**

Upcoming

- 5/21 **To speak at Principals' Meeting, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Timonium**
- 5/21 **To offer congratulatory remarks at Patapsco High School PTSA Scholastic/Service Banquet, Martin's East**
- 5/22 **To attend County Council budget adoption, Council Chambers, Towson**
- 5/27 **To attend Owings Mills High School graduation, McDaniel College**
- 5/28 **To offer greetings at the CollegeBoard Springboard training, Loyola Conference Center**
- 5/28 **To participate in Children's Cancer Foundation Award Ceremony, Perry Hall Middle School**
- 5/28 **To present Mildred Murray Scholarship Awards, Greenwood**
- 5/29 **To offer greetings for second day of CollegeBoard Springboard training, Loyola Conference Center**
- 5/29 **To attend Lansdowne High School graduation, UMBC**
- 5/30 **To attend Ridge Ruxton School graduation**
- 5/30 **To host AVID Coordinators luncheon**
- 5/31 **To attend Milford Mill High School graduation, Towson University**
- 6/2 **To tour Vincent Farm Elementary School**
- 6/3 **To participate in The Benjamin Banneker Institute for Science and Technology's Network of Networks Roundtable, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C.**
- 6/6 **To participate in the Northrop Grumman Engineering Scholars Awards Dinner, Historical Electronics Museum, Linthicum**
- 6/8 **To attend Delegate Impallaria's and Delegate McDonough's Scholarship Award Reception, Community College of Baltimore County - Essex Student Center**

6/9

To participate in Johns Hopkins Children's Center Recognition Luncheon, Baltimore Marriott Waterfront