

# SCHOOL REPORT 2001

*Working Together to Educate Each Child and Promote Success*

## Achievement: It's All About Teamwork

Studies show, time and again, that children from families and communities that openly value education are far more likely to embrace learning and knowledge as fundamental to success. As a school system working to enhance student achievement countywide, the Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) relies heavily on strong community support and teamwork. Examples of the power of partnership abound at the 56 public schools that serve more than 38,100 county students and their families.

### School As Community

The Walkersville area has distilled the concept of cooperation to the phrase "Community of Schools." All five schools — plus the PTA, families and local business partners — are committed to making education a seamless, cohesive process built on a common set of expectations for all students, from the moment they first enter school through graduation and beyond.

In Myersville, the elementary school makes its community connections as early as birth. The "Bright Start" program, established in 2001, presents new parents with a child's book and a bookmark printed with tips for developing early literacy skills, along with an invitation to check out the school and its resources during the preschool years.

Thurmont Elementary boosts achievement by tapping talent from neighboring Mount Saint Mary's College. This year, some 40 college students visited the school weekly to tutor children who need extra help with reading, math and other essential skills.

### Parents As Learners

Every spring, students in third, fifth and eighth grades statewide take the rigorous Maryland School Performance Assessment Program (MSPAP) tests. At Green Valley Elementary, parents get a taste of just how tough these real-life problem-solving and critical thinking tasks can be when they join their kids for a mock test on "MSPAP Day." By participating, they see how their children approach problems and also reinforce the value of academic achievement.

To promote the message that math counts, Monocacy Elementary's PTA holds a math circus. More than 160 students, family members and staff joined the fun this year, applying

computation, geometry, measurement and even statistics and probability skills to create 3-D sculptures out of marshmallows and toothpicks and compete in math games to win math-related prizes.

### Business and Education Partners

In 2001, local employers gave 1,577 high school juniors and seniors a chance to learn on the job, and 170 businesses and agencies had active formal partnerships with FCPS. Among them is State Farm Insurance, which for several years has sponsored the Academic Tournament, a fast-paced competition that tests the wits of top high school students. Farmers and Mechanics Bank and State Farm again co-sponsored an annual series of receptions to recognize outstanding scholars. The Frederick Keys rewarded elementary students for reaching their reading goals with a night at the stadium.

Members of the Rotary Club of Frederick tutored West Frederick Middle's at-risk students in reading and provided home computers to more than 200 students. For the thirteenth year, the Chamber of Commerce acquainted FCPS teachers with area businesses to learn more about the skills their students will need to succeed in the workplace.

Continuing collaborations with Hood, Mount Saint Mary's and Frederick Community colleges help prepare students for higher education and teachers for the classroom.

### Shared Goals

The Board of Education (BOE) underscores the importance of collaboration by meeting monthly with the Frederick County Commissioners. In 2001, the sessions gave the two boards timely opportunities to address mutual funding concerns such as legislation affecting class size and the growing population's impact on new school construction. The BOE and FCPS also profited from the expertise of a number of citizen advisory committees. Public forums offered another venue for exchanging ideas and opinions.

These are just a few ways teamwork made a difference for Frederick County's children last year. As FCPS works to enrich the culture of community aimed at improving student achievement, we welcome new partners.

*Walkersville High principal Jay Berno attributes his students' success to community-wide support for education that extends seamlessly from pre-kindergarten through graduation and beyond.*

*Walkersville High students Sarah Baltic and Meikos Parker are high achievers academically and in extracurricular activities. Yet they find time to tutor, assist teachers and be involved in the community.*

*Outside her English classroom, veteran teacher Peggy Cosley focuses her energy on improving achievement among minority students and promoting multiculturalism.*

*School Improvement Team member, PTA officer and mother of five Susan Butt is one of 7,895 individuals who volunteered in county schools during 2001.*



**Giving the Best to Education**

## 2001-2002 STUDENT POPULATION

### Demographics –

85.5% White, 9.1% African American, 2.9% Hispanic, 2.4% Asian, 0.1% American Indian, Alaskan Native, Pacific Islander

**Languages –** FCPS tops the state with a 71% increase in English as Second Language class enrollment

from 1997 to 2001. 540 students participate. Dominant native languages: Spanish (320), Korean, Chinese, Russian, Urdu (spoken in Pakistan)

**Special Education –** 4,466, of whom 250 attend special schools

**Low Income –** 12% qualify for free and reduced-price meals

**Gifted & Talented –** 40% in grades 1-5 enrichment/acceleration, 1.8% in elementary magnet schools; 52% in middle school honors/enrichment; 32% in grades 9-12 honors classes; 30.6% in grades 11-12 Advanced Placement; 1.8% in grades 9-12 concurrently enrolled in college/university

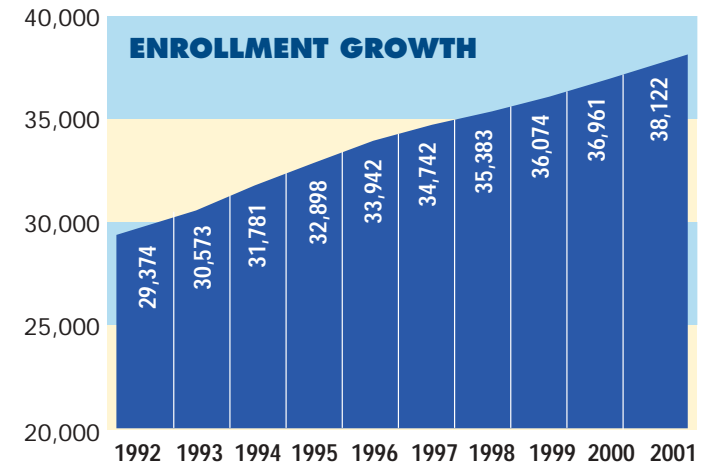
### ENROLLMENT

Pre-K & Kindergarten	3,168
Elementary School (grades 1-5)	14,466
Middle School (grades 6-8)	8,991
High School (grades 9-12)	10,985
Special Schools & Programs	512
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,122</b>



Megan Taylor's 4th graders Amer Al-Dibeh, Muneeb Qureshi, Maria Mendez and Rosa Estrada are among more than 540 non-native students who receive special instruction in English speaking and writing skills countywide.

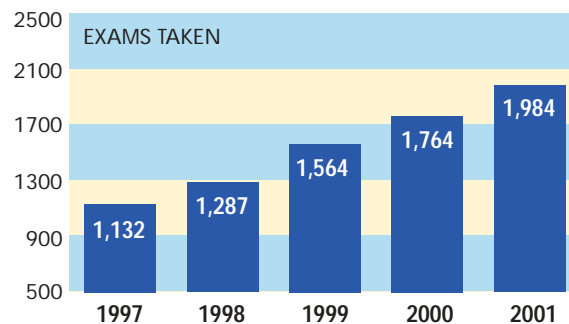
# FCPS Facts, Fig



The 2001 scores for three major performance indicators – CTBS/5, Advanced Placement, SAT-1 – offer compelling evidence that FCPS students are rising to higher expectations. That's good news for the entire community, which stands to gain well-educated, productive adult citizens.

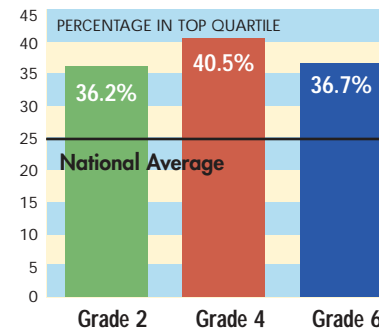
### ADVANCED PLACEMENT

More students took AP exams in 2001 than in 2000, and 68.8% earned scores that qualified for college credit.



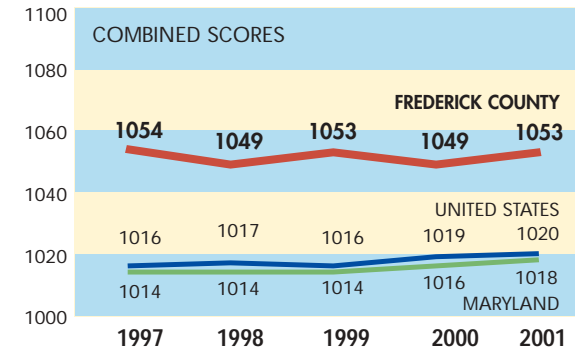
### CTBS/5

Higher percentages of FCPS students scored in the top quartile than the national average of 25%.



### SAT-1

60% of all FCPS seniors took the SAT-1 college entrance exam.



### SCHOOLS

**Number –** 52 traditional, 4 special

**Building Enrollment –** 97% of capacity systemwide

**Schools Over Capacity –** 23

**Average Class Size –** 24 elementary, 28 middle, 27 high

**Portable Classrooms –** 136; \$50,000 to purchase; \$23,000 to relocate

### MEASURES OF ACHIEVEMENT

**Blue Ribbon Schools –** 7 national and 5 state winners, 1 honorable mention

**Certificate of Merit –** earned by 51% of high school graduates

**Attendance Rate –** 94.1%\*

**Dropout Rate –** 2.27%\*

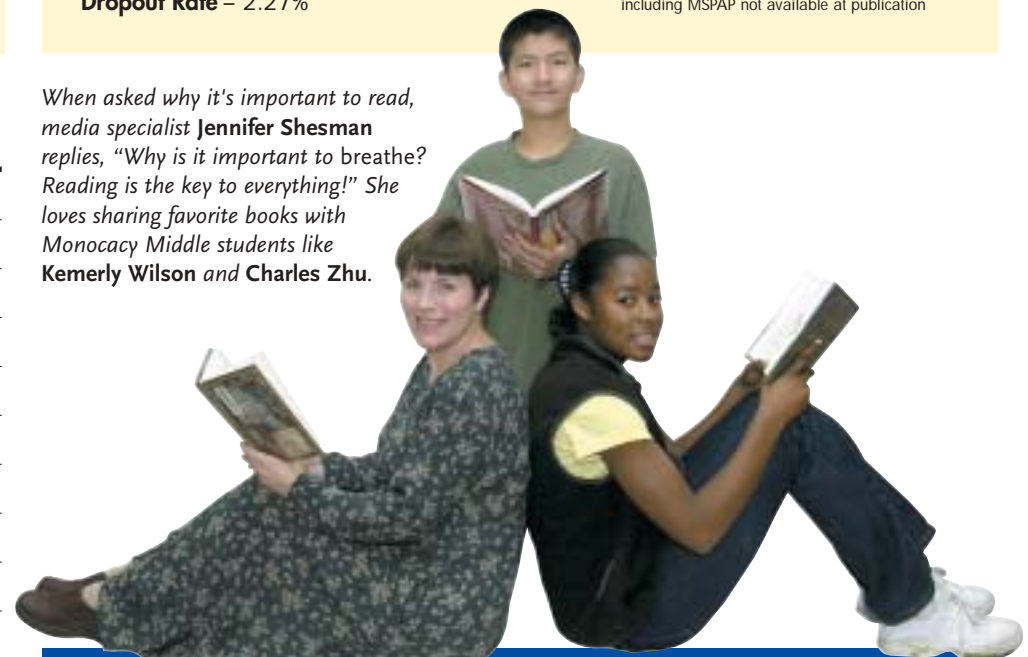
\* preliminary 2001; other 2001 state-collected data including MSPAP not available at publication

### SCHOOLS IN THE MASTER PLAN

SCHOOL	SCHEDULED OPENING
Tuscarora High	2003
New Frederick City area elementary (south)	2004
New Frederick City area middle	2004
Brunswick Middle addition	2005
New Middletown area elementary	2005
New Urbana area elementary	2005
Urbana High addition	2005
Valley Elementary addition/modernization	2005
New Urbana area middle	2006
South Frederick "B" Elementary modernization/addition	2006
New Frederick City area elementary (north)	2007
Kempton Elementary addition	2007
Brunswick High addition	2007
New east county area high	2007

FCPS project manager Mark Herr worked hard to open the new Thurmont Primary School on time so first-time teacher Freda Karos and kindergarten Mikel Wildasin could start their education careers off right.

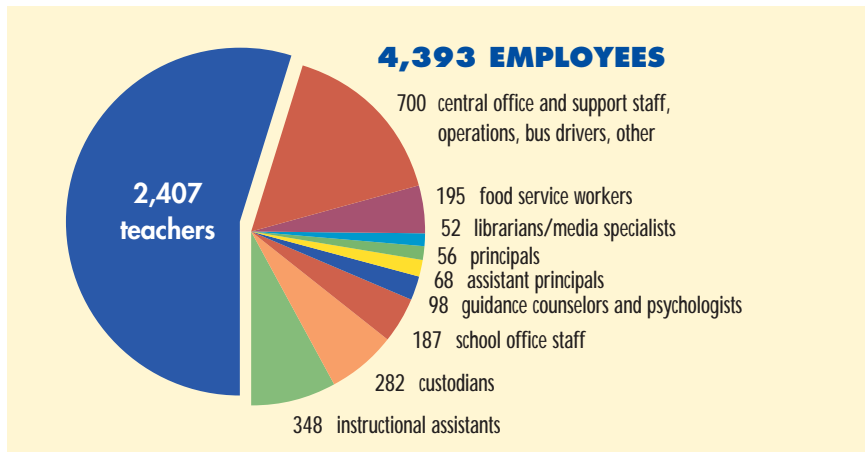
When asked why it's important to read, media specialist Jennifer Shesman replies, "Why is it important to breathe? Reading is the key to everything!" She loves sharing favorite books with Monocacy Middle students like Kemerly Wilson and Charles Zhu.



In 2000-2001, Expansion Management magazine designated Frederick County Public Schools a "gold medal" winning district – in the top 16% nationwide among 1,500 communities evaluated for business relocation potential. Criteria included how well students learn, the graduation rate and the community's financial support for education.

# ures and Faces

Custodian **Arvin Tritapoe** keeps Middletown High in sparkling, peak-performance condition. His work ethic is a model for the school's 1,188 students, among them senior class president **Andrew Nicklas**.



## HEALTH AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

**Health Room Visits** – 1,877 per day average, 58% for medication administration

**Health Screenings** – 11,221 vision, 10,058 hearing, 2,845 scoliosis

**Guidance Counselor to Student Ratios** – 1:558 elementary; 1:394 middle; 1:351 high

**Psychologist to Student Ratio** – 1:2,118

## TECHNOLOGY

**Computers** – 1 for every 5 students

**Internet Connected** – 100% of schools

**Distance Learning** – offered at 4 high schools



**Tom Stanford's** "Technology in Maryland Schools" grant management work adds hundreds of thousands of dollars to the FCPS technology resource pie. The funds afford updated computer hardware and software to instruct students in every school, including Whittier Elementary 5th graders Phillip Denny and Arlene Rivera.

## SCHOOL MEALS

**Served Daily** – 13,035 lunches; 1,906 breakfasts

**Full Price Student Lunch** – \$1.50 elementary, \$1.75 secondary

**Reduced-Price Student Lunch** – \$ .40

**Cost of Lunch to FCPS** – \$3

**Federal and State Subsidies** – average \$ .76 per meal



Brunswick Elementary students – like **Zachary Sawicki** and **Meranda Stoian** – depend on food services site assistant **Casandra Allison** for nutritious lunches served with a friendly smile.

## BUS TRANSPORTATION

**Miles Traveled** – 34,000 per school day

**Cost of New Bus** - \$49,470

**Buses** – 391

**Riders** – 30,725



FCPS bus driver **Rita Watts** has always made it a point to know the parents as well as her riders. After 19 years behind the wheel, she's now driving the children of former passengers. **Courtney Luther** (left) started riding with Mrs. Watts in pre-kindergarten. Also pictured are **Ryan Chow, Theo Nimpson and Cristian Solano**, all from Hillcrest Elementary.

## BUDGET 2000-2001\*

### OPERATIONS - \$255.56 million

County, state and federal funds along with grants cover day-to-day school system operations and activities, including salaries, instructional materials and equipment, bus transportation, technology and training.

### FOOD SERVICE - \$7.34 million

Federal and state funds and income from selling meals reimburse FCPS for the cost of school meals.

### SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION (Capital) - \$68.98 million

State and county dollars pay for new school construction, major renovations and additions, land purchases, technology equipment and related capital expenses.

## OPERATING FUND 2000-2001

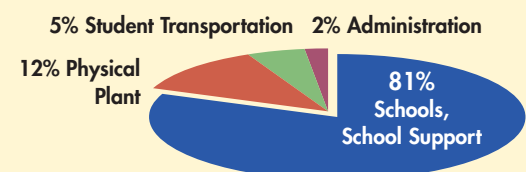
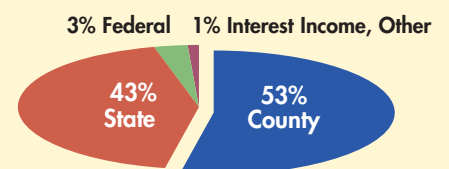
### WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

County	\$137.95 million
State	\$110.72 million
Federal	\$ 7.28 million
Interest Income, Other	\$ 3.72 million

### HOW THE MONEY IS USED

Schools, School Support	\$206.71 million
Physical Plant	\$ 30.27 million
Student Transportation	\$ 12.45 million
Administration	\$ 6.11 million

In 2000-01, FCPS spent an average of \$6,914 to educate each student.



\*The audited annual financial report for 2000-2001 is available from the FCPS Office of the Comptroller, 7630 Hayward Road, Frederick, Maryland 21702, 301-644-5043

# Expecting More of Our Students

The President is calling on America's schools to "leave no child behind." The U.S. Department of Education has awarded \$16 billion in grants to strengthen educational programs nationally, of which Maryland received \$267.5 million for its students.

Maryland continues to lead the country in education standards and accountability. Elementary and middle schools and students statewide are being challenged to rise to rigorous performance measures. Starting with the class of 2007, Maryland high school students will be required to pass a new series of tough end-of-course tests in order to graduate.

## New County Standards

In the belief that better tests and higher standards mean students will be better taught and learn more, FCPS is raising the bar, too.

This year, the local system for assessing student performance underwent the second phase of a major redesign. The goal is two-fold: to provide teachers a clearer, continual picture of their students' knowledge and abilities, and to better align local achievement expectations with the state's.

Building on early success last year, teachers are using information gained from quarterly and end-of-course or end-of-unit assessments to determine how they should modify instruction to assure all students are mastering vital concepts and skills. In spring 2002, elementary students will take new local assessments that integrate reading, writing, language usage, science, social studies and math.

FCPS also boosted graduation requirements by four credits for the class of 2006 and eliminated the letter grade "D" for all high school courses beginning fall 2002.

## A New Look for Classrooms

The new classroom experience is designed to stretch kids' minds and develop their curiosity. Reading

continues to be fundamental, and a firm grasp of facts and figures remains essential. But the real test becomes the ability to apply that knowledge in deeper, more complex exploration and analysis.

To effectively deliver this high-quality instruction, teachers systemwide are learning to reach children in

Students are applying knowledge in deeper, more complex ways. Elementary students not only sow flower seeds and nurture their growth but also develop a landscape plan for the school yard and write a letter to the principal persuading her to adopt the plan. Rather than simply listing three causes of World War II, high school students must explain how those factors impacted foreign policy and influenced other countries to become involved in the conflict.

innovative ways. Thanks to the more timely performance assessments, they can readily respond to the individual child's progress. They might decide to group children flexibly, provide more individualized coaching or utilize different teaching materials. And they can identify at-risk students earlier and intervene with additional resources and services, such as recommending summer programs to augment students' learning and prepare them for school in the fall.

## Lofty Goals at Home, Too

Even the most coordinated efforts to improve education cannot succeed without the commitment of the students and their families. As local schools strive to attain their performance targets, they invite parents to monitor and motivate their children to set lofty academic goals. And students are strongly encouraged to take tougher courses, with the understanding that success stems from hard work, not luck.



Starting next year, West Frederick Middle 8th grader William Fleming will need to earn 4 more credits to graduate than current Frederick High senior Ruba Elbasha. Guidance counselor Aaron Duckett will be on hand to help him choose the right courses.

## NEW GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

### All Students, Starting Fall 2002

- Minimum of "C" to earn high school credit; "D" no longer a passing grade

### Class of 2006

- 4 additional credits to graduate, for a minimum total of 25
  - 1 more credit in math
  - 2 credits in courses related to career interests
  - 1 credit for a graduation project

### Class of 2007

- Passing scores on Maryland's end-of-course high school assessments

## What Are Your Education Spending Priorities?



The Board of Education of Frederick County wants to know how you think local education funds should be spent. Make your opinion count by calling our toll-free number and using your touch-tone keypad to respond to a completely automated questionnaire about school budget considerations.

1. Call toll-free 1-877-468-0585 January 18 – 27.
2. When prompted, enter 8901.
3. Use your telephone keypad to enter your responses.

It's free and confidential. Call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! For details, visit our web site, [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org).



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