

NEWS RELEASES

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Contact: Irene Cromer
Supervisor, Community Relations
703.791.8720

PWCS Middle Schools Excel

Associate Superintendent for Middle Schools Dr. Pat Puttre gave a presentation to the School Board last night on the progress middle schools have made over the last three years. "Passing rates on Standards of Learning (SOL) tests across grade levels and within subgroups at the middle school level have steadily improved," Puttre said. She emphasized that a student's achievement by eighth grade is the single-greatest indicator of success in high school, including whether the student will graduate on time, according to a recent research report, "The Forgotten Middle 2009."

Puttre also noted the achievement of English Language Learners and special education students. Over the past three school years, pass rates for LEP students have risen more than 24 percent in reading and almost 22 percent in math. The scores for special education students showed impressive results with a 29.73 percent increase in reading and 34.31 percent in math. Overall, the reading scores have increased more than 7 percent in reading and more than 10 percent in math.

Other performance measurements for middle schools in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS) also reflect this continued upward trend. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) has shown steady increases and middle schools have also have achieved 100 percent accreditation for the past three years. Administrators and teachers across the School Division are working to continue these favorable trends.

PWCS has a rigorous core curriculum at each of its 15 middle schools and two traditional schools which include the middle grades that prepares students for success in high school and

beyond graduation. In addition, students are offered exploratory programs in music, family and consumer science, technology, fine arts, physical education and health. Nine middle schools house specialty programs. Lynn, Lake Ridge, and Parkside Middle Schools offer world languages; Graham Park, Marsteller, and Rippon Middle Schools offer math and science; and Beville, Godwin, and Stonewall Middle Schools offer the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme. Pennington and Porter offer a traditional school model.