



from

## Anne Arundel County Public Schools

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AACPS MAKES ANOTHER JUMP ON INDEX RANKING PREPARATION OF STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE-LEVEL EXAMS**

*School system moves up to ninth on Challenge Index*

For the second time in three years, Anne Arundel County Public Schools has moved up on a nationally recognized index ranking school systems' ability to prepare students for college-level exams.

AACPS is ninth among 28 school systems on the Washington Area Challenge Index published today by *The Washington Post*. Among state school systems, AACPS trails only Montgomery County, which is third.

The widely accepted index takes into account Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and other college-level exams given to graduating seniors. It is intended to measure a public high school's effort to challenge its students.

Among county schools, Northeast High School made the biggest leap on the list, moving 44 places from 151<sup>st</sup> to 107<sup>th</sup> on the 172-school list. The school saw a 40 percent jump in the number of Advanced Placement exams taken by students in the 2008-2009 school year compared to the year before.

Eleven of the county's 12 comprehensive high schools have rankings that place them in the top 6 percent of high schools nationwide. Severna Park is the highest-ranking county school on the 168-school list, coming in at 27<sup>th</sup>. Broadneck is 41<sup>st</sup>, followed by Annapolis (42), South River (62), Old Mill (69), Southern (80), Arundel (95), Meade (97), Chesapeake (105), Northeast (107), Glen Burnie (136), and North County (151).

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“Very few districts anywhere have shown the growth in college level courses as sustained and as smart as Anne Arundel’s,” said Jay Mathews of *The Washington Post*, who compiles the list.

In the last four years, the number of Anne Arundel County Public Schools students taking AP exams and the number of AP exams administered to students have each risen by 50 percent.

“I continue to be very pleased with the work our high schools are doing to identify and challenge students to better themselves through Advanced Placement and IB courses,” Superintendent Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell said. “We have more work to do, but I have no doubt that we will continue to see increases as we help our students to reach their full potential.”

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