

JUNE 2011 NEWSLETTER

Park View Principal Named VASSP Outstanding Principal
Minshew committed to serving in Loudoun's most diverse high school

Dr. Virginia Minshew, the principal of Park View High School, has been named the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) 2011 Outstanding High School Principal of Virginia.

“Dr. Minshew's commitment to the students who need our help the most is proven by her refusal of offers from me to open new schools in affluent parts of our county while she waited for Park View High School to become available through the retirement of its former principal,” stated Dr. Edgar Hatrick. “With a background in special education, Dr. Minshew wanted to be in a school where students do not automatically have opportunities available to them.”

Park View is the county's most diverse high school and a school which has the highest percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch. The level of achievement Minshew has instilled in Park View's culture was recognized by the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 2009 when it was one of five high schools nationwide designated as a “Breakthrough School.”

Park View High School - Enrollment Characteristics
[Source: National Council on Education Statistics. <http://nces.ed.gov>]

	9	10	11	12
Students	322	335	312	297

	Amer Ind/ Alaskan	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Black	Hispanic	White
Students	4	188	128	502	430

	Male	Female
Students	657	595

Free lunch eligible: 423 **Reduced-price lunch eligible: 134**

Minshew has adapted the words of Dr. Ronald Selby Wright to express her own personal credo. “It is my hope that you will not wish for an easy life, but wish to be strong men and women. I hope that you do not wish for tasks equal to your powers, but for powers equal to your task. Then the using of your talents for the needs of the world will not be a miracle and every day you will wonder at the richness of your life.”

**LCPS High Schools Rank High in Washington Post Challenge Index:
*Briar Woods and Loudoun Valley Lead the Pack***

Earlier this year, LCPS was one of 388 school districts nationwide to be honored by the College Board with a place on its AP[®] Achievement List for opening AP classroom doors to a broader pool of students. In May, the Washington Post ranked several Loudoun high schools among the nation's best when it comes to preparing students for college.

Five LCPS high schools were ranked in the top 10 percent of the nation's high schools in the Washington Post's 2001 Challenge Index. The index which measures how well a school prepares students for college by dividing the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school administers in a given year by the number of graduating seniors.

Briar Woods, the highest ranked Loudoun school in the index, administered over 4 AP exams for every graduating senior. This is almost twice as many as Heritage High School, the lowest ranked county school in the index.

The rating, according to Challenge Index creator Jay Mathews, is not a measure of the overall quality of the school, but it can reveal the level of a high school's commitment to preparing "average" students for college.

The rankings also note the percentage of a school's students who qualify for federally subsidized lunch as a measure of poverty in each school.

It also includes an "Equity and Excellence" (E&E%) rate which shows the percentage of all seniors who have at least one score on an AP, IB or Cambridge test that would qualify them for college credit. Stone Bridge H.S. had the highest E&E rating at 62%, according to the Index, while Loudoun County H.S. had the lowest rating at 39.2%.

Loudoun County high schools have some catching up to do if it wants to rank among the best among neighboring school districts. Thirteen high schools from Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church and other DC area schools ranked higher than Briar Woods.

Washington Post Challenge Index - Top Ranked Schools in Loudoun County

<u>County Rank</u>	<u>DC Area Rank</u>	<u>National Rank</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>E&E%</u>	<u>Pct. Of SUBS. LUNCH</u>	<u>Index</u>
1	14	112	Briar Woods	Ashburn	59.00	7.00	4.127
2	23	162	Loudoun Valley	Purcellville	54.60	7.00	3.755
3	24	163	Dominion	Sterling	44.80	22.00	3.754
4	25	185	Stone Bridge	Ashburn	62.30	6.00	3.558
5	26	186	Freedom	South Riding	47.00	9.00	3.548
6	31	210	Broad Run	Ashburn	51.00	14.00	3.379
7	42	307	Loudoun County	Leesburg	39.20	14.00	3.006
8	44	336	Potomac Falls	Potomac Falls	45.10	14.00	2.907
9	64	514	Park View	Sterling	39.70	45.00	2.471
10	73	649	Heritage	Leesburg	44.30	19.00	2.215

Note: First year high schools Woodgrove and Tuscarora were not included in this year's index.

Washington Post Challenge Index - Top Ranked Schools in the Washington, DC Region

<u>RANK</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>E&E%</u>	<u>SUBS. LUNCH</u>	<u>INDEX</u>
1	H-B Woodlawn	Arlington	VA	97.60	19.00	5.795
2	Bethesda Chevy Chase	Bethesda	MD	71.40	8.60	5.257
3	Richard Montgomery	Rockville	MD	60.00	18.00	5.004
4	Poolesville	Poolesville	MD	68.00	5.00	4.917
5	George Mason	Falls Church	VA	87.00	7.00	4.882
6	Yorktown	Arlington	VA	76.00	16.00	4.756
7	Walter Johnson	Bethesda	MD	66.80	8.00	4.694
8	Washington-Lee	Arlington	VA	43.30	35.00	4.660
9	School Without Walls	Washington	DC		22.00	4.458
10	Winston Churchill	Potomac	MD	83.80	4.00	4.435
11	Thomas S. Wootton	Rockville	MD	76.90	5.00	4.291
12	McLean	Fairfax County	VA	73.30	9.00	4.251
13	W.T. Woodson	Fairfax County	VA	64.80	9.00	4.186
14	Briar Woods	Ashburn	VA	59.90	7.00	4.127
15	Langley	Fairfax	VA	72.00	2.00	4.088
16	Lake Braddock	Fairfax	VA	55.60	16.00	4.065
17	Walt Whitman	Bethesda	MD	75.50	3.00	4.058
18	Centreville	Fairfax	VA	54.90	21.00	4.006
19	James Madison	Fairfax	VA	63.70	7.00	3.987
20	Woodrow Wilson	Washington	DC		39.00	3.868

Loudoun County Public Schools Goals – Student Achievement

MSAAC will spend the summer gathering data from the 2010-2011 school year in order to report on Loudoun's progress toward achieving student achievement goals to its members in the Fall.

- LCPS will ensure that all graduates demonstrate readiness for continuing education and entry level skills for immediate employment.
- LCPS will continue to provide full-day kindergarten for at-risk students and will develop a long-term plan to establish full-day kindergarten for all students countywide.
- LCPS will ensure that at least 92% of students will pass all required Standards of Learning (SOL) tests.
- LCPS will ensure that students and schools will attain the annual measurable objectives called for in the Adequate Yearly Progress requirements of NCLB.
- LCPS will identify and reduce the disparity in achievement among all educationally accepted subgroups.
- LCPS will ensure that students in identified racial, ethnic, and socio-economic groups will exceed all requirements of Standards of Learning and NCLB.
- LCPS will ensure that all students demonstrate grade level reading proficiency by the end of the first grade or will have an individualized program of reading instruction.
- LCPS will improve English language literacy among all students, especially those who are identified as Limited English Proficient.
- LCPS shall significantly improve ACT and SAT performance.

News to Share with Your School

MSAAC Parent Delegates/Alternates 2011-2012 Sought

The Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC) is looking for a few good parents from each public school in Loudoun County to serve as a delegate and/or alternate on the committee for the 2011-2012 school-year. MSAAC is dedicated to work in partnership with LCPS, parents, and the community to further the academic, social, and cultural development of every student. MSAAC delegates advance the overall mission and objectives by serving as an advocate for minority students in their school and within the LCPS community as a whole.

Please contact the leadership of your school's parent teacher organization or your principal if you are interested in serving as an MSAAC delegate or alternate. For more information, please visit the LCPS MSAAC website or email Jeff Dunn, MSAAC Chair, at trdunn11@gmail.com.