

**Testimony of Nick Hurson, Junior at PHS
Before the Montgomery County Board of Education
Public Hearing on the Strategic Plan October 12, 2006**

Global Ecology Program

Hello, I am Nicholas Hurson, and I am a junior at PHS global ecology program. I am here to testify against the additional class period that is being proposed tonight. While I appreciate the efforts of Ms. Bradshaw and others who have enrichment opportunities for the magnet students at Poolesville High School, I speak for many students in that I think that an additional class period would not only overtax students, but it would add to the mental stress of students. As a resident of Kentlands, I have one of the shortest commutes to and from school, but I have to be at the bus stop at 6:30 a.m., meaning that I have to wake up at 5:45 to get ready for the day and eat breakfast. By 2:10, my brain is relatively fried. Also, there is no guarantee that the eighth period of the day will be elective, Just under 8 hours of school is enough to put lots of stress on kids to keep up with 8 classes worth of homework, not to mention physical stress, if the elective a student chooses comes with an additional heavy textbook to tote around every day. Thank you for your time, and I urge you to try and see this from behind a students eyes.