2013
State of the Schools
BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

The Music Center at Strathmore
November 11, 2013

DR. JOSHUA P. STARR
Superintendent

MCPS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 2013 State of the Schools—Building Our Future Together.

Montgomery County Public Schools is dedicated to preparing our students to thrive in their future, but we know that we can’t do that alone. We need the support and involvement of our whole community—our staff, parents, political leaders, businesses, and nonprofit organizations—to provide our students with the knowledge and experiences they need to be successful.

That need for collaboration and partnership is reflected in our Strategic Planning Framework—Building our Future Together: Students, Staff, and Community. The Framework sets our focus on the three competencies our students need today and in the future: academic excellence, creative problem solving, and social emotional learning.

Working together, we can make sure all students graduate ready to thrive in college, the workplace, and in life. Thank you for joining us today and for your continued commitment to the students and staff of Montgomery County Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Joshua P. Starr, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

850 Hungerford Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org
Dear Friends of Montgomery County Public Schools,

Thank you for attending the 2nd annual State of the Schools event today. We are proudly supporting this event because we know that our school system is a large part of what makes Montgomery County one of the nation’s best places to live and do business.

Both of our organizations—Strathmore and Glenstone—have partnerships with Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). More than 20,000 elementary school students fill this beautiful music hall each fall to attend the Strathmore Student Concerts with the National Philharmonic, and Strathmore’s Artists-in-Residence frequently visit MCPS schools for special performances. MCPS students are also getting the chance to view one of the nation’s premier collections of modern and contemporary art through a growing partnership with Glenstone.

We hope the student performances you see and hear today demonstrate why arts matter for our children and support a 21st century education. And as you listen to Dr. Starr’s presentation today, we hope you will consider how you and your organizations can partner with MCPS to provide our children with a well-rounded education that prepares them for success today and in the future.

Sincerely,

Eliot Pfanstiehl
Chief Executive Officer
Strathmore

Mitchell Rales
Co-founder
Glenstone

GLENSTONE

PROGRAM

Armed Forces—The Pride of America!
Arr. Greg Gilpin
Walter Johnson High School
Pop Fly! Show Choir
Kelly Butler, director

Honoring Our Veterans
William Moorehead
Sgt. First Class, U.S. Army, and MCPS Parent

Presentation of the Colors
Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps
Color Guard
Gaithersburg High School

The Star-Spangled Banner
Seneca Valley High School
Chamber Choir
Michelle Searle, director

Greetings
Christopher Barclay
President
Montgomery County Board of Education

Reflections
Mary Hawkins-Jones
2013 Most Hopeful Teacher in America
Westover Elementary School

Cristina Ulrich
2013-2014 MCPS Teacher of the Year
Brookhaven Elementary School

On the Definition of Hope
Blessed Sheriff
Student
Richard Montgomery High School

Introduction
DeRionne Pollard
President
Montgomery College

State of the Schools Address
Joshua Starr
Superintendent
Montgomery County Public Schools
DR. JOSHUA P. STARR began his tenure as superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) on July 1, 2011, and has worked tirelessly to provide all students with an education that prepares them for success in the 21st century.

He has worked collaboratively with staff, students, and the community to develop a strategic planning framework for MCPS that is aligned with the skills and knowledge students will need in college and the workplace—academic excellence, creative problem solving, and social emotional learning. Dr. Starr is a strong advocate for educators and school staff and believes the best way to improve education is to improve teaching and learning for every student. He has been widely recognized for his efforts to engage the community in a variety of ways, including student and parent town halls, book clubs, podcasts, and the use of social media.

Prior to joining MCPS, Dr. Starr was the superintendent of Stamford (Connecticut) Public Schools, and held executive-level positions in urban and suburban districts, including New York City Public Schools. Dr. Starr began his career as a special education teacher in New York City and holds a doctorate degree in administration and social policy from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.
BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

WE ARE BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

IN THE 21ST CENTURY, our students are going to need a very different set of skills to be ready for college and the workplace. That’s why Dr. Starr and the Board of Education, in collaboration with students, staff and community members, have created a new Strategic Planning Framework—Building Our Future Together. The Framework is built around the three competencies our students will need for future success:

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: Ensuring our students receive a rigorous, well-rounded education that prepares them for college and the workplace.

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING: Giving our students the skills they need to think critically and creatively; analyze problems and develop solutions; and collaborate and communicate effectively.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING: Ensuring our students respect and value diversity; build their resilience and perseverance; and learn to make constructive, healthy decisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS is the foundation upon which the Framework is built. MCPS is dedicated to efficient, effective business practices and continuous improvement in all areas so our students have the resources and support they need to thrive.

MCPS has the best staff in public education and they are ready to do whatever it takes to provide our students with the skills and knowledge they need for success today and in the years to come. But they can’t do it alone.

We need our entire community to come together to help us provide our children the services, support, and opportunities they need to thrive in their future. Join us on this journey of excellence.

WE ARE BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!
PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA)

WHEREVER THERE IS A NEED, MCCPTA IS THERE. Whether it’s supporting a school-based program, celebrating at the annual Presidents and Principals Dinner, or advocating for the facilities and staff our students deserve, the nearly 50,000 members of MCCPTA define what it means to be true advocates for children. That dedication is seen in the important role that the leadership of MCCPTA plays in developing the superintendent’s Operating Budget and Capital Improvements Program recommendations, and how the membership turns out to champion for the needs of all 151,289 students.

PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: MCPS and the Employee Associations

MCPS HAS A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP with its three employee associations that has allowed the district to be innovative and forward-thinking, even during difficult economic times. MCPS employees have worked shoulder-to-shoulder with the district to develop a Professional Growth System that helps build the capacity of our staff.

EXCEL BEYOND THE BELL (EBB) provides free, high-quality afterschool programs to more than 900 students in six MCPS middle schools. Students spend 2.5 hours in a safe, nurturing environment and receive a hot meal, transportation, and access to programs that develop interests in the arts, sports, and academics. EBB began in 2007 and is a truly collaborative effort among MCPS; the Montgomery County Recreation Department; the Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth and Families; and many local nonprofits and specialty program providers. This collaborative effort is helping to meet the growing need for out-of-school activities that support the educational success and health and well-being of our students.

This partnership has resulted in an employee evaluation system that is a national model for other school districts. It is built on the idea of providing strong support to all employees, nurturing new team members, and providing an effective process to support underperforming employees. It also provides a fair and respected process for removing underperformers from their positions.

These associations are at the table to build the MCPS budget and make difficult economic decisions. They also embrace innovation and change and are willing to help the district find new ways to solve problems and overcome challenges.
Glenstone cordially invites Montgomery County high school art students to tour the current exhibition, Peter Fischli & David Weiss, and view the outdoor sculpture.

Glenstone has reserved Thursday mornings for school groups wishing to visit this fall or spring 2014. All visits are free of charge and Glenstone will provide school-approved transportation.

Please email visit@glenstone.org with your preferred date to visit. Our Visitor Services Coordinator, Betsy Johnson, will contact you to confirm the details.

www.glenstone.org

The International Baccalaureate is a proud member of the Montgomery County community and a proud supporter of MCPS

MCPS IB World Schools:
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
Albert Einstein High School
John F. Kennedy High School
Richard Montgomery High School
Rockville High School
Seneca Valley High School
Springbrook High School
Watkins Mill High School
Francis Scott Key Middle School
Newport Mill Middle School
Silver Spring International Middle School
Julius West Middle School
Westland Middle School
College Gardens Elementary School

www.ibo.org
ACHIEVING COLLEGIATE EXCELLENCE AND SUCCESS (ACES)

ACES is a collaboration among Montgomery County Public Schools, Montgomery College, and the Universities at Shady Grove that will increase college enrollment and completion in Montgomery County for students underrepresented in higher education. The program will provide targeted counseling, interventions, and support to students while they are enrolled in all three institutions. ACES begins in 2013–2014 in ten high schools and is expected to expand in the coming years. To help students realize the dream of higher education, the MCPS Educational Foundation has established an ACES Program Fund to receive contributions in support of program implementation. Learn more about the ACES program at wwwACESmontgomery.org.

The Montgomery County Public Schools Educational Foundation, Inc. is a public, nonprofit corporation existing under the 501(c)3 section of the Internal Revenue Code and by virtue of the laws of the state of Maryland. Established in 1989 by the Montgomery County Board of Education, the MCPS Educational Foundation receives funds from estates of deceased persons, charitable foundations, government granting agencies, cooperative businesses, and helpful citizens.

The MCPS Educational Foundation raises and awards funds in support of MCPS educational objectives. Grants have been awarded in support of technology access and acquisition, academic enrichment programs, and have provided scholarships to MCPS graduating seniors.

Every gift to the MCPS Educational Foundation helps to continue the tradition of excellence that has defined Montgomery County Public Schools. You can donate to the MCPS Educational Foundation—

- By check or money order sent to: MCPS Educational Foundation, Inc. 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 149 Rockville, MD 20850
- Online at www.mcpsfoundation.org and following the steps for making a contribution
- Via a stock transfer
- Through workplace campaigns Combined Federal Campaign – 27185 United Way – 8152
ON THE DEFINITION OF HOPE:

HOPE.

One syllable.
Four letters:
H.
O.
P.
E.

NOUN. A feeling of expectation and desire. Derived from Old English hopa or hopian meaning to wish, expect, to look forward to. A word of German origin, connected as well to the Dutch language.

HOPE.

A word with so many sounds, so many souls, it doesn’t get by on just one syllable.
It’s the words of a man, a King, with a dream. It’s attached to the faces of the one’s who are screaming
For freedom.

Four letters? More like six—and it’s spelled like this:
V.
I.
S.
I.
O.
N.

And do you see now what I mean?
Where there is no vision the people perish—
we are a species defined by our progress—
from the moment we climbed up off our knees and onto our feet...
and we’ve been doing it ever since.
Off our knees and onto our feet.

HOPE.

A noun in action,
And whether we are shuffling, mumbling, or running at breakneck speed it makes sure that we are moving.

HOPE.

Derived from the one who makes all things new—
a spirit that lives on the inside,
like a wish waiting to come true. It’s true,
we are made of stardust. So the next time you see a shooting star
turn around and look inside you:
You’re on fire.
Know that the only things that burn are the things that last forever.
Know that fire ignites, and we’re called to leave this world in ashes more beautiful than the icebergs before.

HOPE.

A word which has its origins in the smile of a newborn child, and in the spark of a newborn mind which has the power to change a generation.
And if there’s one thing important enough to remember about what hope is,
It’s that H.O.P.E. stands for one thing W.E.; and that is WE.
WE ARE HOPE.

Blessed Sheriff
### STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY

| John T. Baker Middle School | Christine M. DiMisa, teacher |
| Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School | Lisa K. Dehays, teacher |
| Beverly Farms Elementary School | Julie Diaz, teacher |
| Winston Churchill High School | Brendan P. Roddy, teacher |
| Damascus High School | Gretchen A. Goldsmith, teacher |
| Albert Einstein High School | Jane A. Walsh, teacher |
| Fairland Elementary School | Ivette M. Burgess, teacher |
| William H. Farquhar Middle School | Lisa L. Rodriguez, teacher |
| Fields Road Elementary School | Loanne Nguyen, teacher |
| Robert Frost Middle School | Angela Privitera-Wetzl, teacher |
| Gaithersburg High School | Joy L. Swantkowski, teacher |
| Garrett Park Elementary School | Jennifer L. Bilgrien, teacher |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School | Stephanie A. Taylor, teacher |
| Maryvale Elementary School | Philip A. Pilgrim, teacher |
| New Hampshire Estates Elementary School | Sonia D’Agnesi, teacher |
| Northwest High School | Lorraine S. Moten, teacher |

| Olney Elementary School | Jill D. Henderson, teacher |
| Piney Branch Elementary School | Anne K. Boyer, teacher |
| Poolesville High School | Shannon M. Heaton, teacher |
| Quince Orchard High School | Julie P. Newcomer, teacher |
| Dr. Sally K. Ride Elementary School | Dawn Y. Covington, teacher |
| Rosemary Hills Elementary School | Mary L. O’Neill-Wood, teacher |
| Carl Sandburg Learning Center | Patricia M. Deckert, teacher |
| Sherwood High School | Angela J. Prasner, teacher |
| Watkins Mill Elementary School | Jaclyn E. Cross, teacher |
| Westover Elementary School | Jacqueline A. Schweitzer, teacher |
| Wheaton High School | Patricia A. Broda, teacher |
| Walt Whitman High School | Nancy M. Morris, teacher |
| Earle B. Wood Middle School | Jeanne B. Hennze, teacher |
| Woodfield Elementary School | Elizabeth L. Sousa, teacher |
| Wyngate Elementary School | Sarah D. Neubold, teacher |

### THANKS TO OUR STUDENT PERFORMERS

| Albert Einstein High School | TitaS SalsaRos Latin Dance Team |
| Walter Johnson High School | Madrigals and Pop Fly! Show Choir |
| A. Mario Loiederman Middle School | Chamber Choir |
| Richard Montgomery High School | Trumpet Ensemble |
| Paint Branch High School | Jazz Ensemble Combo |
| Ritchie Park Elementary School | Chorus |
| Seneca Valley High School | Chamber Choir |
| Thomas S. Wootton High School | String Quartet |

### TOGETHER, WE CAN CONNECT MORE KIDS TO OPPORTUNITY.

We’re honored to be a part of caring communities dedicated to helping more families overcome the digital divide.

The Internet has the potential to level the playing field in American life, especially when it comes to access to education – but only for those who can afford it.

In fact, according to the Pew Research Center, less than half of those with household incomes under $30,000 have broadband at home. That just isn’t right. And it’s intolerable to the 3,000 organizations across the country that are already working with us to close this divide.

Internet Essentials™ offers families with a child eligible to receive free or reduced price lunches through the National School Lunch Program fast, affordable Internet service for $9.95 per month plus tax with no price increases, the option to purchase a computer at enrollment for $149.99 plus tax and access to free digital literacy training.

Join our many dedicated partners who have already used Internet Essentials to make a difference in their communities by registering today on our Partner Portal: InternetEssentials.com/partner.

Learn more about Internet Essentials™ by logging onto www.InternetEssentials.com
STAY CONNECTED
WITH
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VISIT www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

CALL 301-309-MCPS (6277)

WATCH MCPS TV on Comcast 34, Verizon 36, RCN 89 and visit www.youtube.com/mcpstv

SUBSCRIBE for news and information www.mcpsquicknotes.org

FOLLOW www.twitter.com/mcps

SIGN UP for e-mail and text alerts www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/alertmcps

Scan with your smart phone to visit the MCPS web page.

Over in the Meadow

Mosaic—ceramic, glass, and stone
Created by all students at Oak View Elementary School
Sarah V. Joyce-McCarron, teacher

McBRE
Montgomery County
BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE for EDUCATION

Connecting Classroom Learning to the Workplace
www.mcbre.org
INTERESTED IN BECOMING MORE INVOLVED WITH MCPS?

There’s something for everyone. You can volunteer or mentor, establish a business partnership, join an advisory committee, support the MCPS Educational Foundation, or explore any number of other opportunities. For more information, contact the Office of Community Engagement and Partnerships at 301-279-3100, or e-mail askMCPS@mcpsmd.org.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A sincere note of appreciation to Eliot Pfanstiehl, CEO, and Monica Jeffries Hazangeles, president, of Strathmore along with Mitchell and Emily Rales of Glenstone for hosting the State of the Schools event. A special note of thanks to Mark J. Grabowski, Miriam Teitel, and Jon Foster, along with the amazing Strathmore staff that diligently collaborated with MCPS to produce this event.

This event would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of countless MCPS staff, particularly those from—

> Communications
> Editorial, Graphics & Publishing Services
> Community Engagement and Partnerships
> Fine Arts
> Food and Nutrition Services
> Language Assistance Services Unit
> Materials Management
> Transportation

Dustin Brown, 8th grade, colored pencil, Westland Middle School; Fontaine Rodgers, teacher
We’re proud to support Montgomery County Public Schools.