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PRIDE

Maryland Public Schools

Pride Profiles



Sam Macer

Parent Involvement Chair
Woodlawn Middle School
Baltimore County Public Schools
Nominated by MSDE

Sam Macer is an extraordinary advocate for parents and instrumental in helping parents understand their role as equal partners in education.

Mr. Macer is commended for his outreach in bringing parents together to educate them on important issues of No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the role of parents as decision makers.

He has reached out to schools in need of strengthening their parent involvement efforts. The Macers were honored during Foster Parent Appreciation Month to highlight the important service he and his wife provide to their two foster daughters.

What is Pride?

Pride Maryland Public Schools



PRIDE: Maryland Public Schools is a campaign to share success stories about the great things happening in Maryland public schools every day.

It's about...

- ✓ students, teachers, parents, and community partners
- ✓ award-winners and improvers
- ✓ college scholarships
- ✓ students with special needs who are self-sufficient, contributing members of the community
- ✓ businesses that are giving back
- ✓ parents who are making a difference

It's about focusing on what's working, while we're fixing what's not.

March 2008

There are many reasons to be
proud
of Maryland Public Schools ...

Pride Catch it!



A special note from **Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick**

There are countless reasons for us to be proud of Maryland public schools. I can think of about 870,000 individual reasons (the number of students enrolled) and another 55,000 (the number of teachers and professional staff who strive every day to make a difference in the lives of those students). For all these reasons, it is our duty to share their stories of success and triumph, dedication and perseverance.

Too often we hear about the negative side of public education – the funding, the aging buildings, the scandals. These are the stories from which headlines and newscasts are made. But we rarely hear the other side. Plenty of public school students go on to achieve at high levels in colleges across the nation. Others move on to fulfilling careers and lives.

I hope you will join me in applauding the successes of Maryland Public Schools and will take it a step further by showing your **PRIDE**. Read on to learn more.

Proudly,

Nancy S. Grasmick
Maryland State Department of Education
Western High School Graduate
Baltimore City Public Schools

Show Your **Pride**

There are many ways you can show your **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools, whether you're a teacher, a student, a parent, or a local business leader. **Here's how:**

- Tear off the nomination form on the back of this brochure and share a success story.
- Log on to www.MarylandPublicSchools.org to read the most recent **PRIDE** profiles and spread the word.
- Feature a **PRIDE** Profile in your company, community or school newsletter. Just contact us, and we'd be happy to share information on local and state success stories.
- Invite us to speak about **PRIDE** at your school, PTA meeting, or workplace.
- Distribute **PRIDE** materials in your school or workplace.
- Sponsor a **PRIDE** event in your community. Contact us for ideas.
- Become a **PRIDE** corporate or community sponsor to assist with in-kind or monetary **PRIDE** awards, scholarships, and other incentives.

Why should you have **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools?

Here are just a **few** reasons:

- Maryland ranks **2nd** nationwide in the percentage of graduating seniors who have passed an Advanced Placement (AP) exam, and ranks 2nd in the country for improving the pass rate over the past 5 years.
- Maryland ranks **#2** in the College Board's Middle States Region in SAT scores.
- Public school test scores continue to rise in reading and math in all **24** districts.
- Maryland public schools rank **3rd** in the nation.
- Maryland's students are among the **best** prepared in the nation for college.
- Maryland ranks **3rd** in the U.S. for its number of nationally accredited family child care providers.



PRIDE: Maryland Public Schools...

would not be possible without the ongoing support of our lead business partner. Since 2004, Comcast has donated just over \$5 million worth of production and airtime for public service announcements featuring the accomplishments of Maryland students, teachers, and public schools. Through the pro bono assistance of Comcast, we are able to share success stories like those featured in this brochure and on our Web site, and to provide students with the important message that they should be proud of the schools they attend and the hard work they do.

Highlandtown Boys & Girls Club of Baltimore

Nominated by Angela Young, Parent

“The Highlandtown Boys & Girls Club is an organization that shows PRIDE in our public school children. The Club has an after-school program, a summer camp, as well as an extensive list of other activities that are beneficial to the growth and development of our public school children. The children who attend these various programs exhibit what they learn on a day-to-day basis in school and are given the opportunity to learn new things within the organization. The staff at the Highlandtown Boys & Girls Club teaches children to have PRIDE in themselves, PRIDE in their education, and PRIDE in their school.”

Maryland First Lego (Robotic)

Middle Schools State Competition
Garrett County Public Schools
Nominated by Wendell Teets, Superintendent

Out of 63 teams in Maryland, Garrett County won the top three championships. Bloomington School was the runner-up in its first year of competition; a second Southern Middle school team won the robotic floor competition. The Southern Middle School team won the Chairman's Award. All 3 Garrett County teams were in the semifinals of the robotic floor competition. Last year, the high school team, composed of students from both Southern and Northern High School, in its second year of competition, won the Maryland State First Robotics competition held at the Georgia Dome.

Michael Miller, Author and Motivational Speaker

Prince George's County Public Schools
Nominated by MSDE

Best-selling author, Michael Miller, has pledged to pay four years of college for five recent graduates of Prince George's County Schools. Daryl Freeman and Kevin Smith of Frederick Douglass High School, and Steven Whitehead, Steven Darby, and Maurice Robinson from Oxon Hill High School, will benefit from his benevolence. Mr. Miller has hoped that he found students who had come to crossroads in their lives and that his generosity will point them in the right direction.

Irma E. Johnson, Former Principal

Dallas F. Nicholas, Sr. Elementary School
Baltimore City Public Schools
Nominated by Helen B. Shelton, Principal
North Bend Elementary School, BCPS

“Principal Johnson has been named Maryland's Distinguished Principal of the Year, the first time a city principal has won the award. Dallas F. Nicholas, Sr. Elementary School is the only elementary school in the city to have its own radio program. Ms. Johnson is credited for her commitment to the academic and social success of her students, as well as a school climate that represents an orderly, respectful, and purposeful learning environment. The effect of her leadership is documented in adequate yearly progress (AYP) and high levels of student achievement on the Maryland State Assessment (MSA). Ms. Johnson's creative leadership has been a blueprint for many in developing strategies for school improvement.” (Ms. Johnson now serves as the Area Academic Officer responsible for more than 30 elementary schools in the Baltimore area.)

Raymond Peloquin, Teacher

Carroll County Public Schools
Nominated by parents of his students

“Mr. Raymond Peloquin received the Distinguished Educator of Blind Children Award from the National Federation of the Blind of Maryland. Mr. Peloquin is a nationally certified teacher of the visually impaired and an ori-

entation and mobility specialist for the Transition to Life program for middle and high school students. He was selected for his skill in teaching Braille and other related subjects and for his dedication to students.”

Mary Beth Welcos, Psychologist

Roland Park Elementary/Middle School
Baltimore City Public Schools
Nominated by Heather Bradbury, Parent

Mary Beth Welcos, School Psychologist, constantly proves herself as a dedicated educator. Committing herself to bettering the educational experiences of all the students of Roland Park Elementary/Middle School, Mary Beth has been an integral part of the creation of Individual Education Plans for special needs students and is deserving of recognition for her tireless hard work. “Mary Beth is my personal hero! From the day we met her to set up my 5-year old daughter's IEP, she has been our advocate, our sounding board, our guide, and our friend. She delights in my daughter's uniqueness without over-looking her issues and has earned the trust and confidence of my family that my daughter is getting what she needs to reach her fullest potential. We feel incredibly fortunate to have Mary Beth as our school psychologist this year.”

William H. Clay, School Counselor and 'Men of Ardmore' Founder

Ardmore Elementary School
Prince George's County Public Schools
Nominated by MSDE

William H. Clay, a counselor at Ardmore Elementary School, founded 'Men of Ardmore' in 2005, a school-based organization designed to promote leadership and improve grades and self-discipline among students. Thirty-two young males at Ardmore Elementary School meet three times a month, and learn to develop into strong, disciplined, obedient and educated members of their school and communities. The in-school program teaches the young men they can be leaders and shows them what to do to achieve leadership roles. The 'Men of Ardmore' program is credited for helping students to improve academically, socially, as well as in overall discipline areas such as anger management. African culture, social skills, role and responsibilities as Black men, self-identity, slavery, anti-gang and anti-drug activities, music, and race relations are specific issues visited by the group. Acceptance into the program is based on school attendance, the ability to complete homework, motivation, suspension rate, and self-discipline.

Sarah Prymas, Teacher

Westowne Elementary School
Baltimore County Public Schools
Nominated by Dr. Dana Silver, Greenspring Pediatrics Association

“Sarah Prymas is a special education teacher for a student/patient with a special form of autism, as well as multiple medical problems at the Greenspring Pediatric Center. Ms. Prymas is being lauded not only for developing this particular student's communication and behavioral skills, but for preparing appropriate meals, as the student is on a special diet. Most importantly, Ms. Prymas is commended for providing the stability and love this special student requires. Everyday she goes out of her way to help the student achieve; she truly is an exemplary teacher.”

Camden LaMarsh and Kyle Reandeau, Students

Lake Shore Elementary School
Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Nominated by MSDE

Camden LaMarsh and Kyle Reandeau of Lake Shore Elementary School were honored for placing first in the state in the Stock Market Game at Towson State University. The program, sponsored by the Maryland Council on Economic Education, gives each student a virtual account of \$100,000 to invest over a ten-week period. Both Camden and Kyle invested mostly in Rosetta Resources. Each earned an 11.9 percent return on their investments.

Share a Success Story With Us!

Share a Success Story!

Nomination Form

Nominator's Name: _____

School System: _____

School (if applicable): _____

Nominator's Phone No. _____ E-mail Address: _____

*Nominate students, parents, teachers, administrators, program directors, support staff, community and business partners, volunteers, or any individual or group that creates a sense of **PRIDE** in Maryland Public Schools.*

Nominee's Name: _____

School System: _____

School (if applicable): _____ Grade: _____

Position: _____

Nominee's Phone No. _____ E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Please be as detailed as possible, as we will need to create several descriptive sentences for the Web site and other publications.

Describe Accomplishment: _____

**Just fax this form to 410.333.2275
or Mail to Gail V. Tucker c/o Pride: Maryland Public Schools,
MSDE, 200 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, MD 21201**

*Please submit photos or logos we can post on our Web site. E-mail color digital photos (JPEG or GIF format) to accompany your story to **PRIDE@MarylandPublicSchools.org***

*Use “**PRIDE** Pic: Nominee's Name” as the E-mail subject. For example: “**PRIDE** Pic: John Doe.”*

For additional information, call 1-888-246-0016.