



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

February 8, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: *Schools To Watch Program***

Since 2003, Virginia has been one of the 19 state members of the *Schools To Watch Program*. Sponsored by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform, the goal of *Schools To Watch* is to identify and recognize outstanding middle schools based on four criteria:

- academic excellence;
- developmental responsiveness;
- social equity; and
- organizational structure.

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce the names of one new and eight redesignated Virginia middle schools that have been added to the list of *Schools To Watch*. The new school is:

- Oscar Smith Middle School, Chesapeake City public schools

The redesignated schools are:

- Eagle Ridge Middle School, Harper Park Middle School, River Bend Middle School, and Farmwell Station Middle School, Loudoun County public schools;
- St. Clare-Walker Middle School, Middlesex County public schools;
- Mary G. Porter Traditional School K-8, Prince William County public schools;
- E. B. Stanley Middle School, Washington County public schools; and
- Rachel Carson Middle School, Fairfax County public schools.

These schools join the ranks of more than 350 middle schools across the country considered to be important resources for other schools to consult in their efforts to continuously improve programs for middle grades students.

All middle schools across the Commonwealth are invited to apply to be a *School To Watch*. Application information and instructions are posted at <http://www.vmsa.org/> with a due date of September 15, 2013. For questions, please contact Sandra Dutemple, director, Virginia *Schools to Watch*, by e-mail at [MsDu@mac.com](mailto:MsDu@mac.com) or by telephone at (703) 795-0775; or Jacquelyn Kelley, English specialist, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by e-mail at [jacquelyn.kelley@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jacquelyn.kelley@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 786-2484.

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