FACTS ABOUT FCPS

- FCPS is the country’s 12th-largest school system with 168,742 students. More than 53 percent of these students are minority students, 13 percent are students in the English for speakers of other languages program, and more than 20 percent are living in poverty.

- Between now and 2013, enrollment in FCPS is expected to increase by about 12,000 students. In November 2007, Fairfax County residents voted on a school bond referendum to allow the sale of $365,200,000 in municipal bonds to finance new schools and renovations.

- More than 93 percent of FCPS graduates go on to postsecondary study—64 percent to four-year colleges.

- In 2008, 29,575 Advanced Placement exams were administered to FCPS students; the average score was 3.17, 68 percent of which were “3” or better.

- FCPS graduating seniors who took the SAT in 2008 had an average combined score of 1654. This exceeds the average combined scores of 1522 in Virginia and 1511 for the nation.

- Based on the March 2008 Survey of Graduates, 90 percent of the class of 2007 special education graduates were employed and/or participating in post-secondary education. During the 2006-07 school year, FCPS served over 23,800 students.

- FCPS’ FY 2009 per-pupil cost is lower than the per-pupil costs in Alexandria and Falls Church Cities, and Arlington and Montgomery (Md.) Counties, and more than 92 percent of employees are school-based. The salary for beginning teachers is $44,789, and the average teacher salary is $66,237.

- FCPS owns and operates the second largest school bus fleet in the country, consisting of 1,600 buses that transport approximately 110,000 students to and from school each day on routes covering the county’s 399 square miles.

- FCPS maintains more than 200 facilities containing more than 25 million square feet of space and 3,675 acres of property.

- FCPS provides appetizing and nutritious lunches in all schools and breakfast in 158 schools. Each day, approximately 1,300 food service employees serve a
variety of nutritious breakfasts, lunches including chef salads, and à la carte offerings to about 145,000 school customers.

- Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, a governor’s school that serves qualified applicants from Fairfax County and other participating school divisions in Northern Virginia, has had the highest number of National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists in Virginia for the last 19 years. FCPS’ class of 2009 has 194 National Merit Semifinalists.

- ESOL classes are provided in 220 school settings throughout the county for 22,674 students (projected for 2008-09) in grades 1-12, who collectively speak more than 100 languages and are from more than 150 foreign countries.

- Thirteen FCPS elementary schools offer partial-immersion programs in which students spend half their time learning in English and half their time learning in a foreign language (Spanish, Japanese, French, or German).

- Two FCPS elementary schools are magnet schools; 18 are special focus schools. Ninety-nine schools offer full-day kindergarten.

- Eight high schools offer the International Baccalaureate (IB) program—Annandale, Edison, Lee, Marshall, Mount Vernon, South Lakes, and Stuart High and Robinson Secondary School. Three of these schools—Marshall, Stuart, and Robinson—were recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as Top International Baccalaureate High Schools in their issue on America’s Best High Schools published in December 2008 and were awarded a silver medal. The magazine spotlights schools that have been successful in helping their students attain the IB diploma. Four secondary school teams—Whitman Middle and Mount Vernon High, Hughes Middle and South Lakes High, and Glasgow Middle and Stuart High, and Holmes and Poe Middle and Annandale High—offer the IB Middle Years program.

- Six high schools house professional technical studies academies. They are Chantilly High School Academy, Edison High School Academy, Fairfax High School Academy, Falls Church High School Academy, Marshall High School Academy, and West Potomac High School Academy. Students can study engineering and scientific technology, health and human services, international studies and business, and communication arts.
• FCPS established high and clear achievement standards and accountability measures for all FCPS students several years before the Virginia Standards of Learning were established.

• FCPS has nearly 300 business-school partnerships that enhance learning opportunities for students through mentorships, tutoring, career exploration, and fund-raising efforts by business partners.

• 70,202 volunteers donated 972,626 hours of their time to FCPS in FY 2008. Over the past 20 years, 1,348,369 volunteers have provided a reported total of 26,588,088 hours of service to our schools. The monetary value of this contribution is over $287 million. If our volunteers had been paid at the entry-level instructional assistant salary of $13.67 per hour, the bill for 2007-08 alone would total more than $13 million. The educational value of the work of our volunteers is incalculable.

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