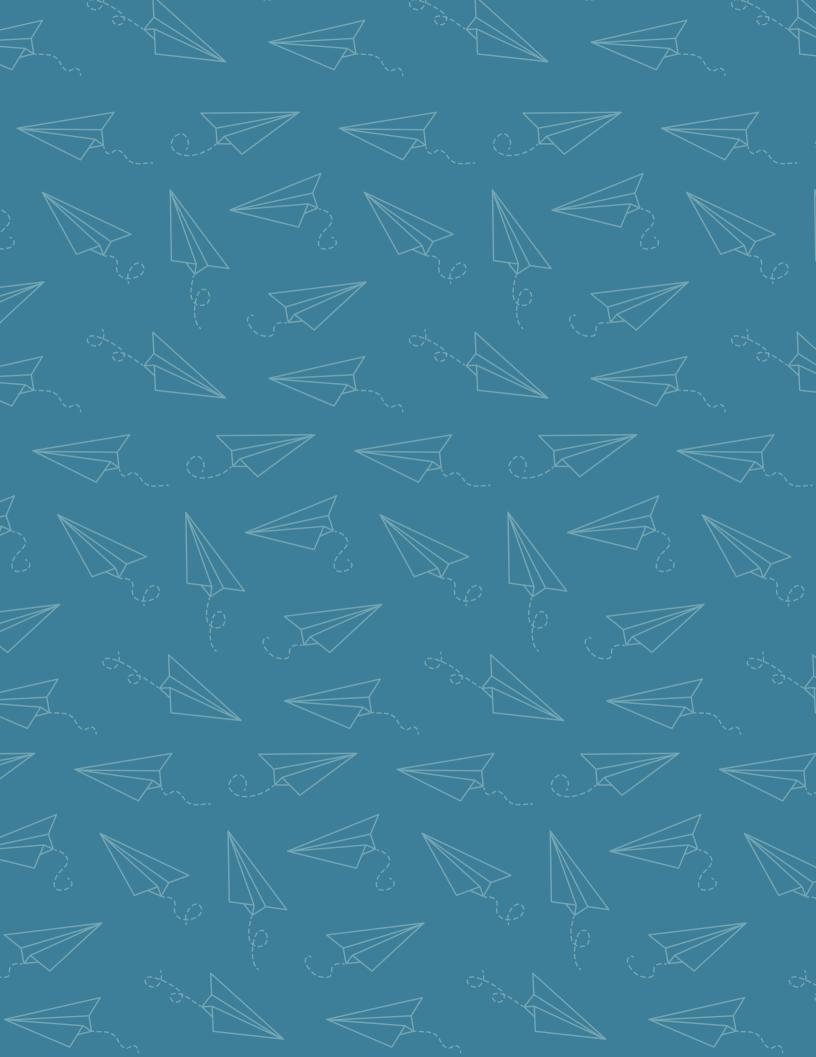
# LEADING THE WAY

# 2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT







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Front Cover Photo Provided By: JEFF TAYLOR/ Winchester Star



### **OUR VISION**

We aspire to be an inclusive community that empowers all students to thrive.

### **OUR MISSION**

We ensure students have the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to embrace rigorous challenges, navigate personalized pathways and enrich their civic communities.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN: EMPOWER 2025**



#### Learner Empowerment

All students will cultivate and assert their voice and choice as they deepen their understanding in essential knowledge, skills, and dispositions, while nurturing their personal, social, and emotional wellbeing.



#### Staff Empowerment

Each member of the WPS team engages in a culture of equitable and empowered learning by developing individual and shared professional goals while executing continuous improvement actions through collective efficacy and shared accountability.



#### Community & Family Empowerment

Winchester families, caregivers, community members and school staff engage in strong and mutually supportive partnerships to ensure students' personal, social, emotional and academic growth.



#### Organizational Empowerment

Winchester Public Schools practices responsive, transparent stewardship in an efficient, cost effective and equitable manner, while galvanizing the trust, support and satisfaction of internal and external stakeholders.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

There are many ways to measure the success of a student

Standardized test scores, graduation rates and other quantifiable outcomes tell us about student success. We are proud of the progress we have made as a school district to have all seven schools fully accredited for 24-25. We will continue to hold our students and teachers to the highest standards while recognizing a shifting population that requires increased flexibility and determination.

We can also measure the success of a student through opportunities taken. Our students have unique options to engage in both college and career prep over the course of their education. Our Innovation Center at JHHS will soon be featured in a documentary, "Multiple Choice," that focuses on the value we place on career preparation in the U.S. Simultaneously, we have more students taking Advanced Placement tests and earning college credits through Dual Enrollment than our peer and local districts.

The most significant way to measure the success of a student feels immeasurable. Look as a teacher sheds tears when the student they thought wouldn't make it is walking across the graduation stage. Listen to a parent say how grateful they are for the mentorship and care their child received. These are the stories that matter most, and we are grateful to facilitate them every day in Winchester Public Schools.

Sincerely,

**DR. JASON VAN HEUKELUM** 









### NICHE<sup>®</sup> ® ∭

WPS Ranks in Top 25% of School Divisions in VA

2ND YEAR IN A ROW

\*\*\*\*\*

ALL 7 WPS SCHOOLS FULLY ACCREDITED

**3RD YEAR IN A ROW** Handley named a Best High School

Teacher and School Leader (TSL) Grant led to sianificant increase in racially diverse staff



% of WPS Racially **Diverse Staff** 

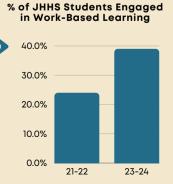
20.0%			
15.0%			
10.0%			
5.0%			
0.0%	0		
~	,78	Ŷ	34



#### Douglas School Grand Opening

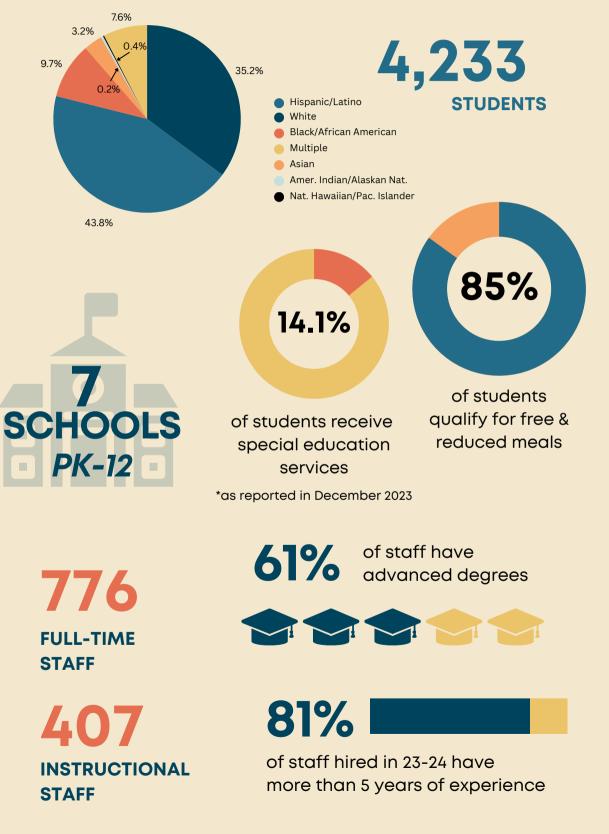


39% of students engage in work-based learning with 75 industry partners



### **DISTRICT QUICK STATS**

#### **STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS**



<section-header>

31%

English Language

5th

percentage population in VA



33 languages spoken





### DOUGLAS SCHOOL GRAND OPENING



It does not escape me that the Douglas School, a place once designed to keep us separate, now serves as the heartbeat of Winchester Public Schools. To the Douglas Alumni: Thank you for allowing me, allowing us, to be a part in the legacy that is the Douglas School. Thank you for paving the way for the generations that have followed you. Thank you for setting an example for us all. -Dr. Veronique N. Walker, Equity & Family Empowerment Coordinator





Thank you very much, alumni and families, for your story and your heart. You have all helped to make this dream a reality.

-Ms. Judy Humbert, Douglas Alumni and Author of "History of Douglas School Winchester, Virginic: A Tribute to Endurance, Belief, Perseverance, and Success"



On June 8, 2024, the Douglas School renovation and expansion was officially marked with a Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting. It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning as 200 people gathered on the front lawn to celebrate. The pride was tangible as Douglas alumni and their families gathered with WPS staff and many others to recognize the true community effort that took place at 598 North Kent Street. Coincidentally, June 8 was also the date in 1966 when the final class graduated from Douglas High School.



#### THE NEXT GENERATION: 4th Grade Field Trips @ The Douglas School

WPS 4th graders took the first field trips to the Douglas School Museum as part of their Virginia History Curriculum in the spring of 2024. Douglas alumni gave tours and answered many questions from both students and teachers alike.



# 2023-2024

### Standards of Learning (SOL)

There are many reasons to be proud of Winchester's 2023-2024 Standards of Learning (SOL) scores through the Virginia Department of Education. *All seven Winchester schools are fully accredited*, which marks a significant achievement for our district. *WPS consistently outperforms school districts with comparable student demographics,* including high numbers of English Language Learners and students eligible for free & reduced lunch. SOL scores are one of many measurements that reflect our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.





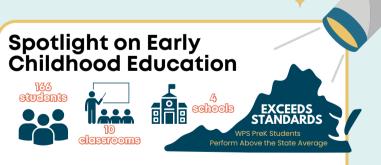
All K-12 math teachers engaged in year-long professional development with Dr. Jennifer Lempp, author of *Math Workshop: Five Steps to Implementing Guided Math, Learning Stations, Reflection, and More.* Teachers learned strategies and structures to create a learning environment where students are engaged in purposeful mathematics experiences.



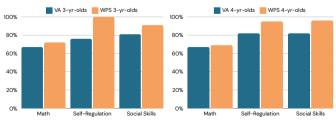


Thirty-eight WPS educators attended the <u>HIVE</u> professional learning conference for educators implementing Open Up Resources curriculum. WPS adopted the <u>Open Up</u> English/Language Arts program in grades 5-8 with great results in 23-24 and will also use it in grades K-4 beginning in 24-25. The program focuses on equity and access for all students.





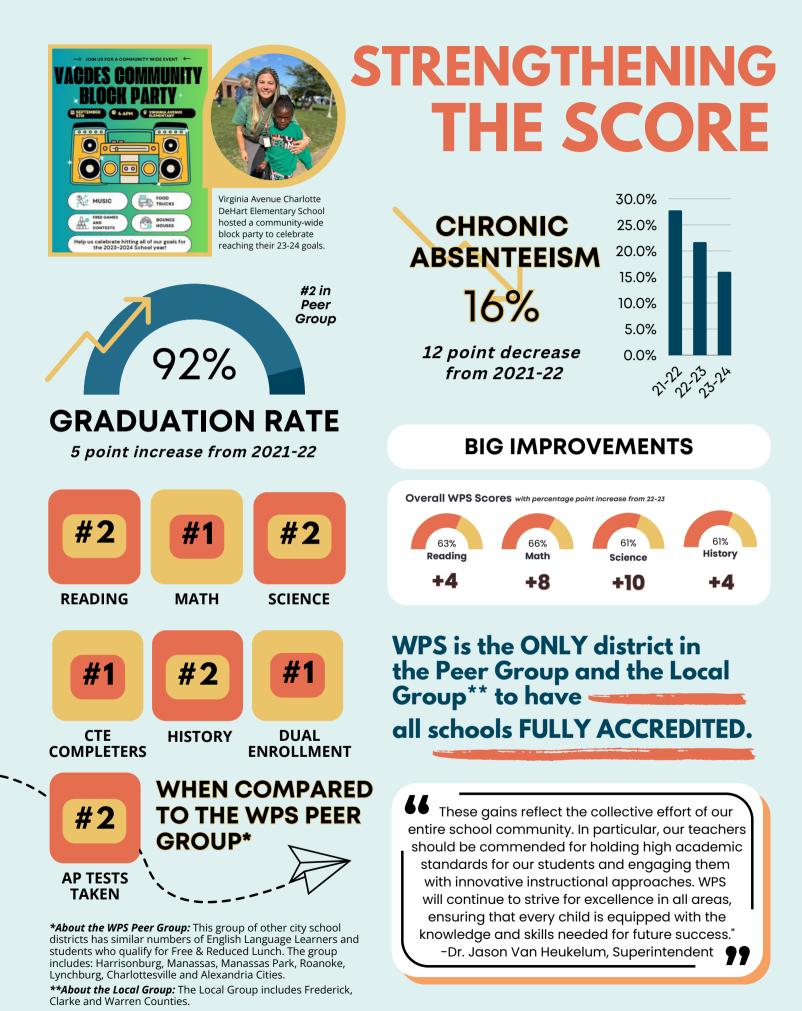
#### Percentage of Students Who Score in Growing or Strong Range



**On The Horizon:** WPS is examining the benefits of moving Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) from Northwestern Regional Educational Programs (NREP) to WPS schools. Additional classrooms would serve students ages 2-5 who qualify for special education services.











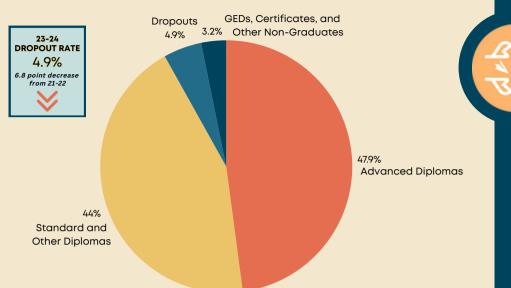






### Portrait of a GRADUATE

#### **DIPLOMAS AND COMPLETION**



**94%** EMPLOYED, ENLISTED, OR ENROLLED IN HIGHER EDUCATION





1 IN 4 HANDLEY STUDENTS ENROLL IN AP CLASSES

36421AP STUDENTSAP CLASSES

Students taking AP classes in 23-24 were more racially diverse and scored 3+ on their AP exams 2X more than the state & national average

#### DUAL ENROLLMENT



2X THE STATE AVERAGE





ELECTRICIAN





FIREFIGHTER

MENTAL HEALTH CAREERS



### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: JAIME TREJO-ANGELES



**"WE HAVE TO MOVE OUT OF THE 'WE'RE DOOMED' MENTALITY. THE FEELING IS UNDERSTANDABLE, BUT I ALSO WANT TO HIGHLIGHT AND CHAMPION THE ENVIRONMENTAL VICTORIES TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH EVERY SINGLE DAY."** 

Jaime Trejo-Angeles, Handley Class of '19, realized his passion for environmental conservation while taking AP Environmental Science with Ms. Emily Badman during his senior year at Handley. Now, he works for the Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) as the Communications & Trainings Associate. VCN is a partnership of 170 environmental groups committed to coordinated and strategic action.

Trejo-Angeles received his bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia with a minor in U.S. Latinx Studies. While attending UVA, he completed two internships with the Environmental Defense Fund in DC and the Community Climate Collaborative in Charlottesville.

Trejo-Angeles was also part of the Scholars Latino Initiative (SLI) at Handley, an organization that supports Latino/a/x high school students with college access. Trejo-Angeles said one of his biggest concerns was paying for college, and SLI helped him navigate everything from the FAFSA to creating his first resume. He also found community with people in similar situations with a common goal: envisioning a future after Handley.

Now, Trejo-Angeles is paving the way for other Latino men and women in the environmental community. In addition to communications outreach, he is the point person for the VCN's diversity, equity, inclusion and justice commitment. He supervises a fellowship program that seeks to provide opportunities to students underrepresented in the environmental sector. "I see myself in the fellowships," he said. "I didn't have connections to anyone in the field and I was the first person in my family to go to college. We can't move forward with environmental work if we don't have different perspectives."

Grateful for the AP courses offered at Handley, Trejo-Angeles said his high school experience fostered academic rigor and provided teachers like Ms. Badman who made a lifelong impact on him. Now, he's working to make his own lifelong impact on Virginia's environmental conservation efforts.

# **OUTSTANDING STAFF**

Whether schoolwide or across the nation, WPS employees received outstanding recognition in 2023-2024.

#### 2024 STEWART BELL JR. EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

#### 2024 EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE AWARDS

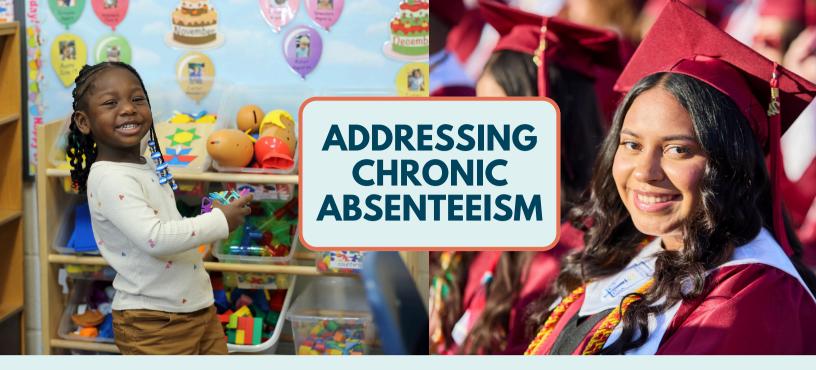


Shanita Morgan 7th Grade Math Inclusion Teacher Daniel Morgan Middle School



Brandy Woods, Registrar at JHHS Tom Campbell, Lead Custodian at JKES Annie Thompson, Teaching Assistant at DMIS





Chronic absenteeism means missing 10% of the academic year for any reason, *including excused absences*, and is 1 of 9 quality indicators that determine whether or not a school is accredited.

**Chronic absenteeism** is a significant factor in student success.

Through a collective effort involving school leaders, staff, students, families and community members, WPS overall chronic absenteeism numbers have **decreased by 12 percentage points** since 2021-22.



WPS students participated in regular attendance competitions between schools, homerooms, or classes. Kona Ice was a frequent prize along with petting zoos and pep rallies. JHHS students dressed up as Punctual Pete to encourage elementary students to be on time to school each day.

#### **Chronic Absenteeism Rates**

(% of student population)

School	Chronic 21-22	Chronic 22-23	Chronic 23-24
FDES	20%	15.17%	10.56%
GQES	21.54%	16.46%	12.04%
JKES	20.04%	16.41%	16.97%
VACDES	26.52	20.55%	14.09%
DMIS	25.55%	17.8%	15.68%
DMMS	20.19%	23.35%	17.63%
JHHS	38.67%	27.26%	17.63%

Level	Indicator	
1	0-15 percent OR 10 percent decrease from previous year if in Level Two range	
2	16-24 percent OR 10 percent decrease from previous year if in Level Three range	
3	25 percent or higher OR Level Two or Three for more than four consecutive years beginning in 2018-2019	

### **2023-2024 GRANT SUMMARY**

GRANT	AMOUNT AWARDED	TIMELINE	END DATE
ASPIRE (Extended School Year)	\$502,125	Annual	Reapply Annually
METRICS	\$3,999,852	5 years	2024
TSL REACH	\$7,799,872	3 years	2024
WISH	\$5,909,967	5 years	2028
TOTAL: \$18,211,816			

The TSL REACH Grant and the METRICS Grant wrapped up in 2024, leaving a widespread impact on WPS teachers and students. ASPIRE continues annually with a summer academy, academic coaching and twilight school. The WISH Grant has already made significant strides in its first year to address mental health.

metrics

techies {thinkers} tinkerers

\$3.999.852

#### MAXIMIZING ENGAGEMENT THROUGH REGULAR **IMMERSION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

The METRICS Grant facilitated integrated computer science curriculum in Garland R. Quarles and John Kerr Elementary Schools. The major goals of METRICS were to increase teacher knowledge and instruction and build student interest in computer science.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Teacher Professional Development and Coaching
- Curriculum Development with **Project-Based Learning**
- Student Support Labs
- Real-world Student Tethers



Over the summer, 32 WPS educators went on a STEMersion trip to Alaska to explore everything from glaciers in Glacier Bay National Park to the Alaskan Rain Forest Sanctuary in Ketchikan. The group had an immersive experience into local culture through sciencefocused excursions. Teachers returned to their classrooms inspired and ready to share what they learned and experienced with students!





OF TEACHERS REPORTED PROFIECIENCY IN 82% OF TEACHERS REFORMED THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF TEACHING COMPUTER SCIENCE CONCEPTS BY YEAR 4

> 63% OF STUDENTS REPORTED INTEREST IN STEM FIELDS

> > **59%** OF FEMALE STUDENTS REPORTED INTEREST IN STEM FIELDS

61%

OF UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS REPORTED INTEREST IN STEM FIELDS

OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN 100% OF MAKERSPACE OR STEM LAB ACTIVITIES



OF 3RD AND 4TH GRADERS ATTENDED COMPUTER SCIENCE CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL





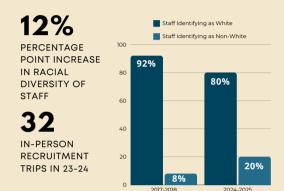


Brehm and Wincheste The B Jeff

#### for critical shortage areas Special Education teacher salary scale is now \$5,000 more

**TEACHER AND SCHOOL LEADER INCENTIVE PROGRAM** 

**REACH GRANT: R**edesigning **E**ducator pathways



And Connecting HR systems

A \$5,000 signing incentive is provided

**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION** 

#### PATHWAYS FOR TEACHERS WITH MORE **RESPONSIBILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY** AND COMPENSATION

- Multi-Classroom Leaders (MCLs) lead small, collaborative teams of teachers and reach multiple classrooms with help from their Reach Assistants in all 7 WPS schools
- \$12,000-\$18,000 more in pay for MCLs





\$7,799.872



#### WISH Winchester Investing in Student Mental Health

#### **TARGET OUTCOMES**

- Improved school engagement
- Improved academic achievement
- Decreased suicide and suicide ideation
- Increased capacity to hire and maintain school-based mental health providers

#### **Career Prep**

 NEW Career and Technical Education (CTE) course for secondary students interested in pursuing careers in mental health



JHHS Students in the Mental Health Assisting Careers class discuss treatment approaches for symptoms of anxiety and depression.

#### **Winchester Investing** in Student **Mental Health**

#### Internships

Up to 8 full-time interns per year in school counseling and school psychology with salary, healthcare, tuition stipend and housing stipend



Policy Change: WPS students must have cell phones off and away during the entire school day starting in 2024-2025. The goal is to promote engaged learning and improved social and emotional well-being.

\$5,909,967 TAL GRANT AMOU

#### Professional Development

- IHHS and GQES have applied for American School Counselor Association (ASCA) Recognized Model Program status
- PREPaRE Training for school psychologists, counselors, and social workers to learn how to best fill their roles on crisis response teams
- Move This World Social-Emotional Learning Training for all K-8 staff
- Behavioral Threat Assessment Training for mental health staff and administrators





# Annual Report

#### Message from the Board

The Winchester Education Foundation (WEF) is dedicated to elevating our community through promoting education opportunities and providing support for Winchester Public Schools (WPS), its students, teachers and staff.

Founded in 2000, we are a 501(c)3 organization which functions as a charitable education not for profit corporation to facilitate a public private partnership between Winchester Public Schools and private citizens and businesses. Our ability to support our schools to the fullest extent possible is only possible thanks to the continued support of our many wonderful donors!

#### **Board of Directors & Staff**

Irina Khanin, President Kathy Thomas, Vice President Martha Roberson, Secretary Lisa Frye, Treasurer William Armstrong, Director Mike Birchenough, Director Glenn Burdick, Director Thomas Dixon, Director Dennis Haston, Director Madelyn Rodriguez, Director Carl Rush, Director Stephen Slaughter, Director Larry Weiss, Executive Director Dr. Jason Van Heukelum, Ex-Officio

#### THE WEF BY THE NUMBERS individual 25 donors received in donations, pledges and grants provided to Winchester \$269,186 Public Schools by the WEF totaling scholarships and grants awarded to 28,500 graduating seniors teachers received WEF "Come Back to Teach" grants totaling **Ş22,500**



#### Honoring Judy Humbert

The WEF was proud to recognize Judy Humbert with an Honorarium presented on behalf of the WEF and WPS as a thank you in recognition for her lifetime dedication to preserving the history and legacy of the Douglas School. Thanks to Judy's incredible work, the history of the Douglas School will be preserved for future generations of WPS students with the creation of the Douglas School Museum and archives. The remarkable, museum-quality exhibits feature both the sights and sounds of life at the Douglas School.

**Pictured:** WEF President Mady Rodriguez and WEF Director Tommy Dixon made the presentation to Judy at the June meeting of the Douglas School Alumni Group.

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The WEF proudly awarded \$28,500 in scholarships to 11 members of John Handley High School's 2024 graduating class at this year's Baccalaureate ceremony. The WEF and the many donors who make it possible for us to present these scholarships and awards salute all the members of Handley's 100th anniversary graduating class.

Congratulations to the following students who received the scholarships:



- Henry Felix, The Eugene B. Cooper Scholarship
- Bella Balio, The John and Polly
  Duvall Scholarship
- Yuliana Ordaz, The Wells Fargo Scholarship
- Yuritzy Martinez and Heidi Gonzalez, The Mindy Loy Future Educator Scholarship
- Lytzy Nolaco, The Mindy Loy Vocational Technical Scholarship
- Bella Balio, Felicity Gomez, Madeline McClosky and Ruth Scott, The Rees Memorial Scholarship
- Devlin Jett and Aaliyah Robertson, Black History Month Award (Devlin Jett pictured above)
- Yuridia and Yuritzy Martinez, Hispanic Heritage Award

#### **EDUCATION GRANTS**



The WEF announced this year's recipients of the Loy "Come Back to Teach" Education Grants at the annual convocation ceremony. These grants are funded by a testamentary trust of the late Mindy J. Loy, John Handley Class of 1974. The goal is to assist JHHS graduates who have decided to serve as educators, administrators and other certificated

professionals for WPS. Since the grants started in 2018-19, WEF has awarded more than \$150,000 to WPS educators.

Congratulations to the 2024 recipients:

- Savannah Hessinger, John Handley High School (pictured above)
- Kara Riley, John Handley High School
- Marisol Rodriguez, Garland R. Quarles Elementary School

### Ready to make a difference?

Become a **Partner in** Education for as little as \$25 per year! Scan the QR code or email us at wefsuccess@gmail.com.



#### 2023-2024 HIGHLIGHTS

#### The WEF Goes "Back to School"

The WEF went back to school in the fall along with WPS students and teachers. Executive Director Larry Weiss and members of the Board delivered Chick-fil-A meals to welcome the incredible teachers and staff back to their classrooms and to thank them for their dedicated service to the students and community.

The WEF is grateful for the support of Navy Federal Credit Union and Chick-fil-A which made these visits possible.



### WEF Launches "Partner in Education" Program

The WEF's new "Partner in Education" program is designed to help provide the funding needed to continue administering existing programs and to develop new partnerships to help WPS realize the goals of their "Empower 2025" strategic plan.

By becoming a Partner in Education, you support scholarships, teacher incentives and pioneering programs. The following businesses and individuals have already committed to achieving excellence together as a WEF "Partner in Education." *(as of September 9, 2024)* 





Mike Birchenough Katherine Thomas



William Armstrong Richard and Sarah Bell Mark and Terese Merrill Martha and Wilborn Roberson Dr. Iyad and Colette Sabbagh Stephen and Amy Slaughter



Atlantic Union Bank

Dr. Jeffey Feit and Irina Khanin

Frederick Block Brick and Stone

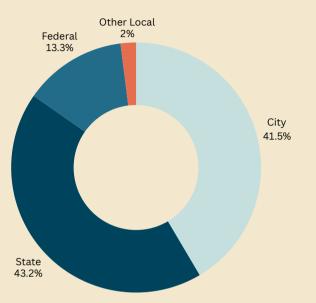
**Star Level** 



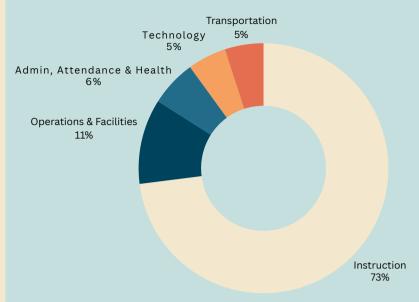


### FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2025 BUDGET OVERVIEW

#### **FY25 REVENUE**



#### FY25 OPERATING EXPENSES



#### TOTAL FY25 BUDGET: \$96,652,071

#### Historical Local vs State Per Pupil Funding

**>>>>** 

#### Nearly 3/4 of the operating budget goes toward instruction

### **FY25 HIGHLIGHTS**

6

cost of living increase for all employees

3%

new ESL teachers added through additional state funding

Federal COVID-19 relief funding made a

> \$5.3 million

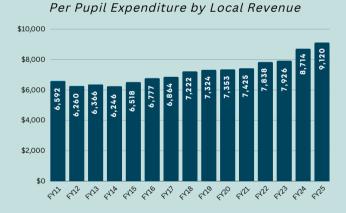
HVAC project possible @ FDES



state funding **2%**additional pay

increase for teachers

**90.9%** of capital improvement projects were completed for 24-25



#### Per Pupil Expenditure by State Revenue



\*based on budgeted Average Daily Membership (ADM)

### **OUR SCHOOL BOARD**



Top Row, Pictured from Left **Elyus Wallace** Ward 3 Melissa Harris At Large Board Vice-Chair, Ward 1 Michael Birchenough Carmen Crawford Ward 2 Stuart Filand At Large Bottom Row, Pictured from Left Bryan Pearce-Gonzales Board Chair, Ward 4 Marie Imoh At Large Jason Van Heukelum Superintendent

### **ROLE OF THE BOARD**

The functions of the School Board are policy-forming and legislative, while those of the Superintendent are administrative and executive. The Board oversees budget expenditures and school staff and carries out responsibilities connected with school buildings.

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

Board meetings are usually held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. For additional info, visit the WPS website: <u>https://www.wps.k12.va.us/domain/58</u>



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