



FCPS: OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOLS

Interested in how Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) high schools rate nationally? Education reporter Jay Mathews named all 24 eligible FCPS high schools* among the most demanding in the United States in the 2005 Washington Post Challenge Index. The May 10 issue of *Newsweek* featured Mathews' article "The Best High Schools in America," in which the top 100 schools were highlighted. Here are three things you should know about the Challenge Index and Fairfax County high schools:

- Based on the 2005 *Newsweek* rankings, FCPS schools are in the top three percent of all American high schools measured for their student participation in Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations. The index identifies schools that challenge all students.
- As the 12th largest school division in the country, Fairfax County is the only large American school system to have every eligible high school on the list, with four schools ranked in the top 100 nationwide.
- All high school students in Fairfax County can choose from numerous honors, AP, and IB courses, depending on their school's curriculum. All high schools also offer students the opportunity to obtain an IB or AP diploma.

Eighty-nine percent of all FCPS graduates continue their educations, attending the most prestigious private and public universities in the United States and finding that they are well prepared for college courses after a rigorous high school curriculum. Other FCPS alumni are achieving success in vocational schools and in the working world, where they are discovering that academic and technology skills gained in Fairfax County schools are giving them an advantage over other recent graduates. Many alumni return to Fairfax County as teachers, business leaders, artists, and community leaders.

More information about the Washington Post Challenge Index is available online at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/education/challenge/2005/challengeindex01.html>. Visit the Fairfax County Public Schools web site at www.fcps.edu for information about schools and test scores.

**Note: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology was not included in the index because it has a selective admissions process.*