AUGUST 20, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS OF CHOICE HIGHLIGHTED ON FIRST DAY

Members of the Prince George’s County Board of Education will join Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) Superintendent Dr. William R. Hite, Jr. on Monday, August 24 starting at 6 a.m. from the Brandywine bus lot to officially open the 2009-2010 school year. A complete schedule is attached.

Joined by state and local officials, parents, teachers, and community leaders, Dr. Hite will welcome parents and students to the Samuel P. Massie Academy in Forestville. This is the first year the school will include middle school grades.

Additionally, the Superintendent will visit students and teachers at the first-ever performing arts school in the southern end of the County. The Benjamin Foulois Performing Arts Academy is also a K-8 school and will offer traditional academic studies along with learning tracks in theatre, dance, instrumental music, and visual arts. Foulois will be a replica of the successful Thomas Pullen Performing Arts School located in the northern portion of the County.

Academics and sports - sports and academics; they go hand-in-hand. Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley will visit Friendly High School in Fort Washington, Maryland and host a “chalk talk” with members of the varsity football team. The Governor will also participate in the team’s practice by throwing a few passes to team members.

Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Maryland State Superintendent Dr. Nancy Grasmick will join Dr. Hite and Board members at James Harrison Elementary school in Laurel, Maryland. Harrison led the County in reading gains on the Maryland State Assessment tests last year. The group will visit with teachers and students at the school.

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New school construction is always worth celebrating. Dr. Hite will tour the new addition at Laurel High School in Laurel, MD. The new school wing features a new auditorium and two new classroom wings.

**Walker Mill Middle School exited School Improvement this year!** Dr. Hite will join Board members and the principal to congratulate the students and staff on a job very well done!

The Superintendent’s schedule for the first day of the 2009-2010 school year is as follows:

**6 a.m. Brandywine Bus Lot, 8110 Short Cut Road, Brandywine, MD**

- Transportation Director to showcase new bus technology - pilot card swipe system for students
- One-on-one media opportunities in front of showcase bus
- Meet and greet bus operators and wish them a safe driving school year

**7:30 a.m. Marlton ES, 8506 Old Colony Drive South, Upper Marlboro, MD**

- **Greet school principal Carol Pica**, Washington Post Distinguish Leadership Award winner
- Greet parents and students; thank them for bringing their children on the first day

**8 a.m. Samuel P. Massie Academy, 3301 Regency Parkway, Forestville, MD**

- Meet principal Michelle Pegram
- Classroom visits
  - Ms. Baskin – 1st grade (Room G103)
  - Mr. Douglas – 4th grade (Room G108)
  - Ms. Rankin – 6th grade (Room F109)

**8:45 a.m. Benjamin Foulois Performing Arts Academy, 4601 Beauford Road, Suitland, MD**

- Meet principal Dr. Patricia Payne
- Welcome students/parents to new school
- Tour the new school; classroom visits

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9:45 a.m. James Harrison ES, 13200 Larchdale Road, Laurel, MD

- Join Maryland Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and Dr. Nancy Grasmick
- Meet principal Patricia Belgrave to congratulate her on leading the county in MSA reading scores
- Visit two classroom teachers who led the school grade-level reading gains
  - Ms. Taylor – 3rd grade reading teacher; increased 3rd grade MSA reading score 18 points – from 60 to 78
  - Ms. Holden – 4th grade reading teacher; increased 6th grade reading (6th grade reading teacher last year) 22 points from 59 to 81

10:20 a.m. Laurel HS, 8000 Cherry Lane, Laurel, MD

- Meet principal Dwayne Jones
- Tour new school addition
- Classroom Visits

11:30 a.m. Walker Mill MS, 800 Karen Boulevard, Capitol Heights, MD

- Meet principal Gorman Brown
- Celebrate the school’s success of exiting School Improvement
- Visit classrooms

2 p.m. Friendly HS, 10000 Allentown Road, Fort Washington, MD

- Governor to visit with varsity football team in school auditorium
- Football practice with team and Governor

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