

Office of
Advanced
Programs

The College Connection

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Creating a College-Going
Culture in WCPS



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UVA Facts

Location
Charlottesville, VA

Undergraduate
enrollment
14,297

Mascot
Cavaliers

Middle 50% SAT
600-710 CR
630-730 M
610-710 W

Majors
51

Average HS GPA
of Admitted Freshmen
4.11

www.virginia.edu

College Readiness

The term college readiness is heard frequently these days, but what exactly does it mean? A commonly accepted definition comes from Achieve, a non-profit education reform organization based in Washington, D.C.:

"Being *ready* for college means that a high school graduate has the knowledge and skills necessary to qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses without the need for remedial coursework."

In the 21st century economy, a high school diploma is no longer enough; all students must be prepared

to pursue some level of postsecondary education or training. Research by Achieve indicates that future success in work or postsecondary education requires higher level math (beyond Algebra II) as well as advanced courses in English and science.

Achieve has conducted research and developed tools to promote college and career readiness. Among these tools are K-12 standards in mathematics and English. Benchmarks, along with related workplace tasks and post-secondary assignments, are posted on the website for public viewing.



Website of the Month

www.achieve.org

The Achieve website, designed for educators, parents, and policy-makers, includes research and tools that can be used to build college and career readiness standards and assessments. Sample topics include the following:

- ⇒ A Case for Action
- ⇒ K-12 Benchmarks
- ⇒ Common Core
- ⇒ Math Works

Check it out!

College of the Month

The University of Virginia, a highly selective public university, was founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1819. In the 12 years that *US News & World Report* has been ranking public universities separately from pri-

vate ones, UVA has ranked either first or second each year. The university offers 135 undergraduate and graduate degrees, 57 doctoral degrees, and degrees in law and medicine.



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Providing world class educational
opportunities for all students

www.wcboe.k12.md.us



The College Connection

School Spotlight: NMS

This month's quick and easy idea is from **Northern Middle School**. Staff members created bulletin boards displaying pennants and brochures from the colleges attended by their faculty. The bulletin boards ask students "Where Will You Go?" and encourage them to "Think Big." Thanks to counselor Heather Williams and teacher Donna Almany for spearheading this effort and sharing the photos below.



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How is your school creating a
college-going culture?

- ⇒ Bulletin boards
- ⇒ Diplomas
- ⇒ Pennants
- ⇒ Room signs
- ⇒ Door decorations
- ⇒ College Talk
- ⇒ PTA presentations
- ⇒ College apparel
- ⇒ Field trips
- ⇒ Guest speakers

Send your activities and photos
to Lori Parks-Murphy for publi-
cation in future issues of *The
College Connection*.