



Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
**DATE:** December 5, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** Announcement and Recognition of the 2017-2018 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools

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**PURPOSE:**

To recognize the new 2017-2018 Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Since 1982 the U.S. Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Schools Program has celebrated many of America's most successful schools. Maryland schools have consistently been honored by the U.S. Secretary of Education and by the President of the United States as National Blue Ribbon Schools. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program gives Maryland an opportunity to put the spotlight on high achieving and improving schools in our State. Schools from all twenty-four local school systems are eligible for Blue Ribbon School Awards. In Maryland, selected schools are honored with a State Dinner and a Legislative Tribute at the State House in Annapolis. In addition, each Maryland Blue Ribbon School is visited by the State Superintendent of Schools and other leaders in a Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools Tour of Excellence.

Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools also win monetary awards and other prizes provided by Maryland corporate sponsors.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Each year in Maryland, up to six schools can be selected as Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools. These state winners are identified by the Maryland State Department of Education based on results of their past year's State assessments. This year, PARCC results for 2017 were used and schools were ranked according to the percentage of students proficient or better on combined reading and mathematics assessments. As exemplary high achieving schools, all six selected schools had to be ranked in the top 15 percent or higher of all schools in Maryland. In addition, student groups had to rank in the top 40 percent or higher of all schools in Maryland. Two of the six schools also had to reflect high percentages of student populations who receive free and reduced priced meals. Several additional school excellence measures important in being named a Blue Ribbon School include: instructional methods, interventions, innovative programs, extracurricular activities, arts education, family and community engagement, and professional development. The selected Maryland Blue Ribbon Schools will move forward in the national competition to be named National Blue Ribbon Schools. National applications will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education in March, 2018.

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Maryland corporate sponsors include: BGE, Comcast, Mrs. Fields/Joe Corbi's, Microsoft, NTA Life, Lifetouch Photography, Rudolph's Office & Computer Supply, and SMART Technologies.

Approximately 35 guests of the new Md Blue Ribbon Schools are expected to attend the Board Ceremony, including superintendents, principals, local board members, teachers, and corporate sponsors.

**ACTION:**

The State Superintendent and State Board President will present each Blue Ribbon School with a Maryland State Board Citation and a Maryland Blue Ribbon School Flag.



MARYLAND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECOGNITION 2017

# West Towson Elementary School

PRINCIPAL  
Susan Hershfeld



# Urbana Elementary School

PRINCIPAL  
Tess Blumenthal



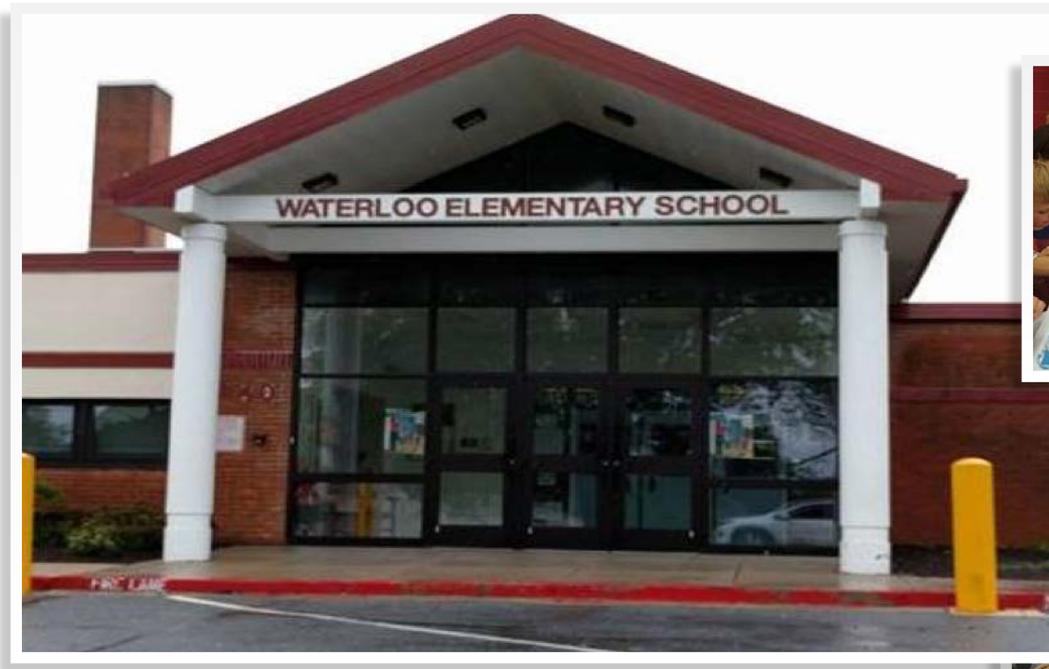
# Fallston Middle School

PRINCIPAL  
Dr. Anthony Bess



# Waterloo Elementary School

PRINCIPAL  
Sean Martin



# Bannockburn Elementary School

PRINCIPAL  
Kathryn Bradley



# Luxmanor Elementary School

PRINCIPAL  
Ryan Forkert



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