

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENTS

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I honor the recipients of the West Virginia School of Excellence award for the 2008–2009 academic school year. This is a prestigious award given to schools for providing rigorous curricula, innovative programs, and exhibiting an overall high standard of learning. Those receiving the award this year were Ben Franklin Career and Technical Center in Kanawha County; Poca Middle School in Putnam County; Eagle School Intermediate in Berkeley County; Davis Creek, Village of Barboursville, and Martha Elementary Schools all of Cabell County; Cottageville Elementary in Jackson County; and Stratton Elementary in Raleigh County. They are all incredibly impressive schools that are challenging their students. I would like to take a little time to highlight how each school is preparing their pupils for future success.

Ben Franklin Career and Technical Center, located in Dunbar, centers its curriculum on the principle of preparing all students for the 21st century by training them to operate efficiently in a complex economy. It offers career preparation programs, short-term skill courses, and customized training for local businesses.

Poca Middle School is based on the principles of allowing students to “master basic academic skills and to explore and identify their own interests and talents.” It is a school that prides itself on offering students various opportunities to explore the arts and to actively pursue their interest by attending a wide range of classes and school events. It has allowed students to experience a more personal learning environment by implementing an online math program. The school’s use of online learning is just the beginning of the many expanded learning programs that West Virginia schools will be implementing in the near future.

Eagle School Intermediate, located in Martinsburg, is dedicated to “providing educational opportunities for all students to reach their highest academic potential.” Eagle School Intermediate was one of the first schools in West Virginia to allow parents to track their student’s progress via online grade checking. This is just another example of how West Virginia is expanding its boundaries towards providing the most in-depth academic technology to its students and their parents.

Davis Creek Elementary School, located in Barboursville, is an extraordinary representation of the Mountain State’s flourishing primary education programs. For the 2006–2007 school year, the Cabell County public school was declared a National Blue Ribbon School. Davis Creek served 169 students in grades K–5 and has also been named a West Virginia Exemplary School.

Village of Barboursville Elementary School, located in Barboursville as well, is an institution that is focused on cohesive learning among students and faculty. It boasts a strikingly high

parental approval rating. The school focuses its curriculum on providing students with the opportunity not only to learn inside the classroom, but also to develop proper social skills that can be taken and used to develop a stronger bond with the community.

Martha Elementary School, also located in Barboursville, is an institution founded on cooperation between parents and students to create an environment conducive to learning. This 300-student rural school focuses on endowing students with the opportunity to follow their dreams. The dedicated faculty uses innovative programs to assist students on an individual basis, allowing for a more personalized educational experience. The school strives to create an atmosphere of support among family, the school, and the community.

Cottageville Elementary, located in Cottageville, is dedicated to providing “equity and excellence in education.” The school bases its curriculum on the belief that all students should be held to a high standard and endowed with the resources necessary to receive an excellent education. Teachers and faculty strive to provide their students with the skills necessary to excel academically by creating a support system that includes the school, family, and the community.

Stratton Elementary, located in Beckley, strives to afford all of its students the opportunity to learn at a pace that is the best match for each individual. Stratton offers many gifted programs and online learning portals that allow students to take more advanced courses and to have access to one-on-one help around the clock.

Once again, I congratulate these eight schools for receiving the West Virginia School of Excellence award, a distinction each school undoubtedly deserves. I commend them on their impressive achievements and applaud all of the administrators, teachers, and students for the wonderful example they set for all West Virginians.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 9:33 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks,

announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 407. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2009, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, to codify increases in the rates of such compensation that were effective as of December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1777. An act to make technical corrections to the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1344. A bill to temporarily protect the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 25, 2009, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 407. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for an increase, effective December 1, 2009, in the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, to codify increases in the rates of such compensation that were effective as of December 1, 2008, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2091. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Management, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Triallate; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 8421–2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2092. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Management, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “2-Butenedioic acid (2Z)-, monobutyl ester, Polymer with methoxyethene, sodium salt; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 8418–7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 18, 2009; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–2093. A communication from the Director of Regulatory Management, Office of Policy, Economics and Innovations, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Oxirane, 2-methyl-, Polymer with Oxirane; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 8420–9) received in the Office of the President of the