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Students with Learning Disabilities Excel in Mathematics

Annapolis, Maryland – Students who attend The Harbour School at Annapolis (THS) were among those whose work was on display when the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) held their annual conference at Old Mill High School, on October 20, 2006. THS students from elementary through high school participated in the Council's Math Month activities by completing daily mathematics exercises' at school and at home, for the entire month of April 2006. THS students were presented with a framed certificate for their outstanding efforts during Math Month.

Gail Kos, THS math teacher and MCTM member noted, "On the surface it might not seem like much, but when you think about students who have challenging learning disabilities devoting that kind of time to a subject like math, the significance of the effort can be more fully appreciated." Learning disabilities affect people's ability to either interpret what they see and hear or to link information from different parts of the brain. These limitations can show up in many ways--as specific difficulties with spoken and written language, coordination, self-control, or attention. Such difficulties extend to schoolwork and can impede learning to read or write, or to do math.

Every Child Can Learn just not the same thing, on the same day, in the same way: It is one of The Harbour School's founding beliefs and it keeps the faculty stretching every day, frequently in new, innovative ways, to ensure every student meets his or her highest potential. So, it is with full compliment of programs as intense as those completed during Math Month that has THS students out performing their public school peers as measured by Maryland's High School Assessment (HSA).

HSAs are tests that measure school and individual student progress towards Maryland's High School Core Learning Goals. Passing the HSA is a graduation requirement beginning with the graduating class of 2009. In the Algebra test, 30% of THS students achieved passing grades as compared to 24.9% for Anne Arundel County special education students or 9% for special education students in Prince George's County. Moreover, THS

Annapolis student's test results in Biology, English and Government were comparable or exceeded the performance of students with similar needs in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties.

Dr. Linda Jacobs, Founder and Executive Director of THS observed, "Naturally I am very proud of our students performance. Their success reinforces the fundamental belief upon which this school is built 25 years ago. As long as we modify the method to match the student's strength rather than expect the student to learn according to our predetermined method, our students will continue to exceed expectations."

The Harbour School, a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit school, is a unique educational organization providing supportive, caring, and individualized education to students with learning and other disabilities from kindergarten through twelfth grade by assisting each child to attain academic, personal achievement, and success commensurate with the child's abilities. Currently the school is celebrating its 25th year of continuous service to Maryland students. Our two campuses in Annapolis and in Baltimore are provide special education to more than 260 students from 14 school systems within Maryland, the District of Columbia and Virginia.

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