

PERFORMANCE

performance: (pər fôr' mēns) execution or accomplishments of acts, work, feats, etc.

“Vision 2018: Fulfilling the Promise of Preparation” is the school system’s plan of action for executing an inspiring instructional program that challenges every Howard County student. HCPSS works with community partners to prepare students for a highly complex world that requires a foundation of knowledge and skills that is varied and multifaceted.

Partners collaborate with Howard County educators to prepare students for success by broadening students’ experiences, enriching classroom lessons, and helping children discover hidden strengths and new interests.

Each year HCPSS high school students study the health of the county’s watershed and present their findings via a Watershed Report Card, which is used by Maryland lawmakers and the professional science community to establish policy and practices for improving the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The project is a collaboration between HCPSS and the **Howard County Conservancy**, and is supported by grants from the **Chesapeake Bay Trust** and **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**.

Students work as professional scientists to develop researchable questions, collect and analyze data, collaborate, and communicate their findings. HCPSS students contributed to the development of a new Biological Assessment:

Macroinvertebrate Survey tool for student and citizen scientists, which was unveiled at this year’s Watershed Summit at the Howard County Conservancy. The new instrument contains significant enhancements and enables greater precision in organism identification, classification and water quality assessments. In conjunction with the **Maryland Department of Natural Resources**, students helped create a set of stream protocols that are student friendly and align with the Maryland Biological Stream Survey protocols.



Mary Weller, HCPSS secondary science coordinator, confers with students during their visit to Annapolis to share their Watershed Report Card findings with state and local officials.

