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Bethel Manor Elementary Earns National Honor

The U.S. Department of Education has recognized Bethel Manor Elementary School (BMES) as an Exemplary High-Performing School with a 2024 National Blue Ribbon award. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle and high schools for their overall excellence and progress toward closing achievement gaps.

“Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is an outstanding achievement, and to earn this distinction as a Title I school with nearly a 100% military-connected student population who typically attend multiple schools before completing elementary school, is even more impressive,” said Dr. Victor D. Shandor, division superintendent. “Bethel Manor educators consistently demonstrate our commitment to providing intentional, student-centered learning opportunities which support every student’s success.”

The Virginia Department of Education nominated Bethel Manor Elementary as the school was one of just 48 schools in the state to meet the criteria for the state’s Highest Achievement Award, as listed in the Exemplar Performance Awards Program. Bethel Manor is one of eight schools in Virginia, and 356 in the nation, to receive the honor this year. The York County School Division is proud to have three schools to have received this distinguished recognition: Bethel Manor Elementary (2024), Tabb Elementary (2022) and Grafton Bethel Elementary (2010).

Dr. Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education, states “The 2024 National Blue Ribbon Schools are raising the bar for our nation’s students, serving as models for effective teaching and intentional collaboration in their schools and communities.”

Bethel Manor Elementary serves more than 600 students, approximately 97% of whom are military-connected. The school prides itself on providing a safe, welcoming and caring environment in which all students and staff have a sense of belonging and purpose.

The U.S. Department of Education will officially present the National Blue Ribbon School award to Bethel Manor Elementary School in November during a conference and awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.