COLUMBUS, OH, December 14, 2009 - *U.S.News and World Report®* magazine has released its 2010 America’s Best High Schools report, ranking 12 Columbus City Schools high schools as among the nation’s best. Columbus has more individuals schools recognized with the “bronze or better” designation than any other district or charter entity in the central-Ohio area, as well as the state.

The 2010 CCS honorees are:

1. Alum Crest High School - Bronze
2. Briggs High School* - Bronze
3. Centennial High School* - Bronze
4. Columbus Alternative High School* - Silver
5. Eastmoor Academy* - Bronze
6. Fort Hayes Metro Education Center (MEC) and High School* - Bronze
7. Independence High School - Bronze
8. Marion-Franklin High School – Bronze
9. Northland High School – Bronze
10. South High School - Bronze
11. Walnut Ridge High School - Bronze
12. Whetstone High School* – Bronze

* Denotes the school has earned the designation for three consecutive years.

“These rankings are an additional affirmation of the hard work, districtwide and at all levels, by staff, parents, and the community to prepare all students for the next stage in life,” said Dr. Gene T. Harris, Columbus Schools Superintendent. “Our goal is that each student graduate, be accepted by the college, university or technical school of their choice; and, be capable of earning the diploma, licensure or certification that allows them to be prepared for work in our global economy.”

Additionally, in a separate ranking, silver-medal winner Columbus Alternative High School, with an IB® Exam passing rate of greater than 75%, was the only Ohio school listed by the publication as a top International Baccalaureate school. The International Baccalaureate program is globally recognized for its ability to prepare students for a college education.
Of the 18,743 eligible public high schools examined by U.S. News and its partner in the project, School Evaluation Services, 1,750 were recognized for considerably outperforming their state's standards. The publication uses a three-step process to determine if the school’s performance level exceed statistical expectations and how well each school serves its entire student body – traditional, economically disadvantaged, and college-bound.

Specifically, it measures how well the school performed against the state’s accountability system in the core areas of reading and math; and, the school’s participation and performance in Advanced Placement® exams or International Baccalaureate® exams.

This is not the first appearance for Columbus City Schools (CCS) in this ranking. In 2008, the ranking’s inaugural year, CCS had eight high schools earn the designation. The following year, seven Columbus schools were recognized.

*Columbus City Schools, established in 1845, is the state of Ohio’s largest school district, serving the needs of more than 53,000 students in 127 school buildings. The district is under the leadership of its 19th superintendent, Gene T. Harris, Ph.D., and a seven-member board of education. The mission of Columbus City Schools is that each student is highly educated, prepared for leadership and service, and empowered for success as a citizen in a global community.*

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