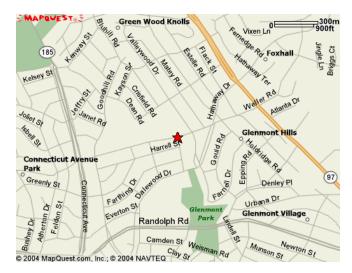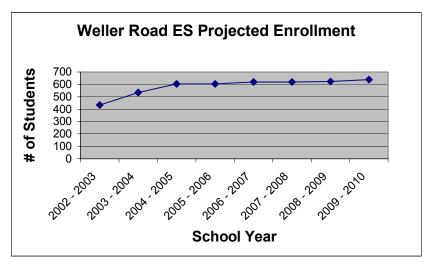## School Location and Description

Weller Road Elementary School is located at 3301 Weller Road in Silver Spring, MD 20906. The school's website is www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/wellerroades. The phone number of the school is 301-929-2010. Weller Road was built in 1953 and remodeled in 1975. Currently there are plans being developed to add on to the school in 2008. The school sits on 11.1 acres. There are 25 classrooms and 14 portable classrooms. There are 2 Pre-Kindergarten classrooms, 6

Kindergarten classrooms, 7 support classrooms, and 10 classrooms for grades 1-3 within the school. The additional 14 portable classrooms are all for grades 3-5.

There are a total of 43 teachers, 5 ESOL teachers, 7 instructional support staff, 1 principal, and 1 assistant principal at Weller Road Elementary School. The student to instructional staff ratio is 10:1. The average class size in Kindergarten is 14.2. The

average class size in grades 1 and 2 is 16, and the average class size in grades 3-5 is 22.5. The capacity of Weller Road is currently 602. The current enrollment is 614. It is projected that in the 2009 – 2010 school year, enrollment

will be 637. The operating costs for the 2002 – 2003 school year, for Weller Road

Elementary School, was $4,683,405. The professional salaries made up approximately

70% of the total operating costs.

Demographics

The enrollment for the 2003 – 2004 school year is 614. Five percent of the

students are SPED, 17.3% ESOL, and 61.6% FARMS. The percentage of students at the

school who now or have in the past received FARMS is 75.1%. The mobility rate

(Entrants and Withdraws) at Weller Road is 21.4%. There is a majority of male students

at Weller Road, making up 52% of the student population versus 48% female students.

The predominant race/ethnic group at Weller Road is Hispanic, making up 63% of the

student population. African Americans and White students make up 13% and 12.9%

respectively. Asian students account for the remaining 11.1% of the student population.

The attendance rate at Weller Road last year was very high at 96.2%, which receives a

rating from the state as excellent. The following chart comes from the Montgomery

County Public Schools website.

2003-2004 Official Enrollment = 614								
	% Total	% Gender		% Racial/Ethnic Composition				
		Female	Male	Afr. Am	Am Ind	Asian	Hisp	White
All Students		**48.0**	**52.0**	**13.0**	**0.0**	**11.1**	**63.0**	**12.9**
SPED	**5.0**	2.1	2.9	0.7	0.0	0.3	3.7	0.3
ESOL	**17.3**	7.0	10.3	0.3	0.0	1.1	15.3	0.5
FARMS	**61.6**	29.5	32.1	7.5	0.0	7.0	42.3	4.7

Some interesting facts about the demographics of the Silver Spring area in which

Weller Road is located can be found at www.census.gov. The Weller Road area has a

high population of foreign-born residents; they make up for 40% of the population.

Almost 50% of the population in this area speaks a language other than English in their

home. This information about the area in which Weller Road is located, supports the demographics that are found at the school.

Last Year's Performance Scores

The overall adequate yearly progress for Weller Road Elementary School was met in the last school year. The following table was taken from the Maryland Report Card website: http://mdreportcard.org.

Montgomery County (LEA:15) Weller Road Elementary (ID:0777)

2004 AYP:	Met				
► Show Trends	All indicators must be "Met" to make AYP. For details, click on the links below.				
	Percent Proficient		**Participation Rate**		
	►Reading	Mathematics	►Reading	Mathematics	►Attendance
All Students	Met	Met	Met	Met	Met
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	--	--	--	--	
Asian/Pacific Islander	Met	Met	na	na	
African American	Met	Met	na	na	
White (not of Hispanic origin)	Met	Met	na	na	
Hispanic	Met	Met	Met	Met	
Free/Reduced Meals	Met	Met	Met	Met	
Special Education	Met	Met	na	na	
Limited English Proficient	Met	Met	na	na	

When you look more closely at the proficient levels in math and reading of grades 3 and 5, you will be able to note some areas of concern. For third grade, 67.1% of students are reading at a proficient level, 10.6% at an advanced level, and 22.4% at a basic level. The percentage of students at a proficient level has increased 22.8 percentage

points from the 2003 report. Grade five reading scores have not seen as large of an increase. In 2003, 39.2% of students were reading at a proficient level and 38.1 were reading at a basic level. In 2004, 44.1% of students are now reading at a proficient level and 36.6% are now reading at a basic level. Unfortunately, the percentage of students in fifth grade who are reading at an advanced level has decreased from 22.7% in 2003 to 19.4% in 2004.

Math scores for third graders have also positively increased. In 2003, 16.5% of students were at an advanced level in math, 54.6% at a proficient level, and 28.9 % at a basic level. Now, in 2004, 24.7% of students are doing math at an advanced level in third grade, 55.3% at a proficient level, and 20.0% at a basic level. Grade five has seen similar results in math scores as grade three. In 2004, 64.5% of fifth grade students at Weller Road are doing math at a proficient level and 30.1% at a basic level. These percentages are up from the previous year when 58.8% of fifth graders were doing math at a proficient level and 30.9% at a basic level. Fifth grade students performing at an advanced level in math has decreased from 10.3% in 2003 to 5.4% in 2004. All of the above data can be viewed graphically at the Maryland Report Card website: http://mdreportcard.org.

From the data above, one can conclude that some areas of improvement for Weller Road Elementary School would be fifth grade reading and third and fifth grade math. There is currently a rather large percentage of fifth grade students who are reading at a basic level; not even 65% of students in fifth grade are reading at or above a proficient level. The school needs to focus on getting more students to at least a proficient reading level in fifth grade. This can be done by trying different reading

instruction techniques, allowing students to have more say in the text they read, and getting the students motivated! Fifth and third grade math could also use some improvement. There are currently 20% of third grade students who are still doing math at a basic level. This could be improved through extra support and time spent with these students in math. For fifth grade, the biggest concern is the large decrease in students achieving at an advanced level. It seems that students in fifth grade are not being challenged in math as they had been in the past, or they are not being given the opportunity to excel beyond a proficient level. Another concern for fifth grade math is the large percentage of students performing at a basic level. Some suggestions to decrease this number include, trying different teaching techniques, help the students build their own understanding and not just memorizing facts, and getting the students engaged and motivated. Motivation seems like it could be the cause in all of the areas of concern for Weller Road.

State Technology Inventory

Weller Road's student to computer ratio is 3.8:1. The target ratio for the state of Maryland is 5:1. One hundred percent of the classrooms at Weller Road have computers with internet access. Technology integration by the teachers is at 65%, well below the state goal of 100% and the county average of 78.56%. Teachers' computer use skills at Weller Road, at 80%, are higher than the county average of 77.29% but do not meet the state goal of 100%. The most common student uses of computers are to: "Gather information/data from a variety of sources; manipulate/analyze/interpret information or data to discover relationships, generate questions, and/or reach conclusions;

communicate/report information, conclusions, or results of investigations; plan, draft, proofread, revise and publish written text; remediate for basic skills; and accommodate for a disability or limitation" (http://reports0304.md.ontargetus.com). More information on student, teacher and administrator use and integration can be found at the Maryland State Department of Education On Target website, http://reports0304.md.ontargetus.com.

Some areas of concern for Weller Road, in the area of technology are the lack of teacher technology integration. Technology is a great resource, which should be taken advantage of. The state and/or county should focus on training teachers to integrate technology into their classroom instruction, in order to meet the goal of 100% of teachers with the skill to integrate technology. Another area of concern is the teachers' lack of using computers to store student data. Especially with all the standardized testing going on now, teachers should be keeping test scores and student data in a database on the computer, in addition to traditional grade books.