

## Marine Corps Marathon Announces 2020 Healthy School Awards

*Five Northern Virginia Public Schools to Receive Grant from Sodexo*

**QUANTICO, VA (January 25, 2020)** – The Marine Corps Marathon Organization (MCMO) will present the 2020 Healthy School Award to five Northern Virginia elementary schools who have earned the recognition for having the most student participants in the MCM Semper Fun Mile. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the annual MCM Kids Run was rebranded to the MCM Semper Fun Mile, a one-mile virtual-only event for kids to run with their parents or guardians between September 27 – November 10.

Registering a combined 634 students of the 1,825 participants, top schools included:

- Claremont Immersion, Arlington – 202 students
- James K. Polk Elementary, Alexandria – 123 students
- Hampton Oaks Elementary, Stafford – 117 students
- Crossroads Elementary, Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) school aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico – 106 students
- George Mason Elementary, Alexandria – 86 students

“Claremont has participated in the MCM Fun Run for the last 9 years,” noted Jason Cash, physical education teacher at Claremont Immersion Elementary School. “We are particularly proud of our students and parents for going the extra mile during this pandemic and for continuing to put the fun in fitness. I couldn't be more proud of our commitment to this great event.”

While Claremont Immersion, James K. Polk and George Mason Elementary schools have previously won the award, this is a first-time victory for Hampton Oaks and Crossroads Elementary Schools.

“Being a DoDEA school on a Marine Corps Base, we have loved the opportunity for our students to partake in the MCM races for the last three years,” said Leah Wickham, math teacher, Crossroads Elementary School. “We weren't sure how many families would sign up for this year's race but were overjoyed when we had over 100 register. It was great knowing we could give the students something to look forward to during this pandemic, while also promoting health and fitness and we are honored to win a Healthy School Award.”

The Healthy School Award includes a \$1,000 grant from MCM partner Sodexo to the winning schools' physical education departments, in addition to healthy snacks for each student.

“It is great to see that even during a global pandemic we have all these kids that want to be healthy,” said Sodexo's General Manager of Marine Barracks Washington, John Beck. “It's important to stay healthy and exercise regularly, but more so during a pandemic.”

In addition to encouraging the next generation of runners, the Healthy School Award promotes student wellness and physical fitness starting at an early age. For more information about the MCM Semper Fun Mile or the Healthy School Award, visit [www.marinemarathon.com](http://www.marinemarathon.com). The awards will be presented to each school this spring.

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**About the Marine Corps Marathon:**

The Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) is one of the largest marathons in world. Recognized as “Best Marathon in the Mid Atlantic,” and the “Best Marathon for Charities,” the MCM honors honor, courage and commitment of its participants. Also known as “The People’s Marathon,” runners from all 50 states and more than 50 countries participate in the MCM, the largest marathon not to offer prize money. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied. Connect with the Marine Corps Marathon on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#). #RunWithTheMarines

**About Sodexo North America**

Sodexo North America is part of a global, Fortune 500 company with a presence in 64 countries. Sodexo is a leading provider of integrated food, facilities management and other services that enhance organizational performance, contribute to local communities and improve quality of life for millions of customers in corporate, education, healthcare, senior living, sports and leisure, government and other environments daily. The company employs 160,000 people at 13,500 sites in all 50 U.S. states and Canada, and indirectly supports tens of thousands of additional jobs through its annual purchases of \$17B in goods and services from small to large businesses. Sodexo is committed to supporting diversity and inclusion and safety, while upholding the highest standards of corporate responsibility and ethical business conduct. In support of local communities across the U.S., in 2019, the Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation mobilized 37,000 Sodexo volunteers to distribute 3.2 million meals to help 2.3 million children and adults meet their immediate food needs. Since 1996, the Stop Hunger Foundation has contributed \$34.5 million to help feed children in America impacted by hunger. To learn more about Sodexo, visit [us.sodexo.com](http://us.sodexo.com), and connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).