

Two Alexandria City Public Schools Earn Healthy School Award

MCMO and long-time sponsor Sodexo recognize schools with largest student participation in the Marine Corps Marathon Kids Run

QUANTICO, VA (February 7, 2020) – On Thursday, Feb. 6, the Marine Corps Marathon Organization (MCMO) and MCM Kids Run sponsor Sodexo presented two Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) with the 2019 Healthy School Awards. James K. Polk Elementary and George Mason Elementary were recognized at the ACPS February Board Meeting.

“Sodexo is proud to be a sponsor of the annual MCM Kids Run. We take great pleasure in supporting a healthy lifestyle for the kids. It’s great to see all of the kids running their hardest and fastest to the finish line,” shared Sodexo’s General Manager of Marine Barracks Washington, John Beck.

The Healthy School Award is a \$1,000 grant presented by Sodexo to the winning schools’ physical education departments. In addition, Sodexo provides healthy snacks for each student. Schools earn this recognition for having the most student participants at the annual MCM Kids Run presented by Virginia529—a one-mile just-for-fun run at the Pentagon North Parking lot in Arlington during MCM Weekend.

“The MCM Kids Run is a tremendous annual event attached to one of the most famous races in the world, the Marine Corps Marathon. ACPS has taken great pride over the years in sending many, many kids to take part in this wonderful and active event,” said Michael Humphreys, ACPS Instructional Specialist for Health, Physical Education & Family Life Education.

The MCMO presented both schools with a custom laser cutting of the Marine Corps War Memorial designed by a local artist. In total, five schools will be recognized for this award. The three remaining schools from Arlington County will be presented their awards on April 16.

“The Kids Run is an opportunity for all students to participate and not be judged for who they are or how fast they are. They can just come out, have fun and celebrate with each other,” said Penny Hairston, an assistant principal at James K. Polk Elementary who accepted the award on her school’s behalf.

The Healthy School Award challenge promotes student wellness and physical fitness starting at an early age. The 2020 MCM Kids Run for children ages 5-12 takes place on October 24. Registration will open April 13 at noon Eastern at www.marinemarathon.com with entries priced at \$10. School group information is available on the MCM website.

For media information please contact Jheanel Walters, Marine Corps Marathon Public Relations Coordinator at jheanel.walters@usmc-mccs.org or 703-987-3191.



(Left to right) Rick Nealis, MCMO Director; Penny Hairston, James K. Polk Elementary Assistant Principal; John Beck and John Rocca, Sodexo; Michael Humphreys, ACPS; and Nicholas McDonald, James K. Polk Elementary School Physical Education Teacher.

About the MCM Kids Run:

The MCM Kids Run is part of the annual MCM Weekend hosted by the Marine Corps Marathon Organization. The one-mile just-for-fun run for kids age 5-12 is presented by Virginia529 and promotes the next generation of runners while encouraging student wellness and physical fitness starting at an early age. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement is implied. Connect with the Marine Corps Marathon on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [Flickr](#). #RunWithTheMarines