

## **CHAI AND CROSS COUNTRY ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Cross Country Elementary/Middle School serves 693 students in grades PreK-8 in the Glen and Cheswolde neighborhoods of Northwest Baltimore.

Glen is a stable, middle-class community of row houses and single-family homes with easy access to shopping and public transportation on Reisterstown Road. It is home to the Jewish Community Center. Cheswolde is a small community of single family homes located near Cylburn Park Arboretum (which hosts 2,000-plus students each year for environmental education). Comprehensive Housing Assistance, Inc. (CHAI) administers the Healthy Neighborhoods program in partnership with the Glen Neighborhood Improvement Association. Median sales prices in 2009 for homes on Healthy Neighborhoods target blocks in Glen had increased 86 percent since 2000, from \$73,000 to \$136,000.

Cross Country Elementary/Middle School has a vibrant school community, with an active parent teacher organization and a steady stable of volunteers. And its students are making strong student achievement gains: Last year, 84 percent met or exceeded state standards in reading on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA), up from 79 percent the previous year; 75 percent made the state grade in mathematics, up from 68 percent the year before.

In response to the Goldseker Foundation's Neighborhood-School Partnership grant opportunity, the school and neighborhood organization convened several meetings with parents, staff, and community members to articulate their vision for making the school a parent's first choice to enroll a child. They decided to use the award to develop and implement a technology integration plan to support the school's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math curriculum. The STEM curriculum prepares students for high-tech academic challenges and careers. The partnership envisions comprehensive technology education for all students through fifth grade. Middle school students will then be able to choose a focus on Mass Communication or Environmental Technology.

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