

# SCHOOL RECOGNITION

## NATIONAL

### Signature School #8 Ranked by *The Washington Post* (2013)

Since 1998, *The Post's* Jay Mathews has ranked Washington-area public high schools using the Challenge Index, his measure of how effectively a school prepares its students for college. In 2011, *The Post* expanded its research to high schools across the United States. The formula for the rankings is: Divide the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college-level tests a school gave in 2012 by the number of graduating seniors. Equity & Excellence (E & E) is the percent of all seniors who had at least one passing grade on an AP or IB exam. Signature's E & E was 100%.

### Signature School #23 Nationwide, #6 Charter in Country, #1 in Indiana Ranked by *US News & World Report* (2013)

### Signature School #1 in the Midwest Ranked by *Newsweek* (2013)

### Signature School #1 in the Midwest Ranked by *The Washington Post* (2013)

### Signature School #4 Among the Nation's Charter Schools Ranked by *The Daily Beast* (2013)

### Signature School #12 Ranked by *Newsweek* magazine (2013)

*Newsweek* magazine ranked Signature School number 12 among the top 100 public high schools in the nation. Equity & Excellence (E & E) % is the portion of all graduating seniors at a school that had at least one passing grade on one AP or IB test. Signature's E & E was 100%.

## STATE

### Access & Pass Rate for AP Performance (2013)

This award is based on the graduating class of 2012 taking and passing an AP exam during high school (earning a score of 3 or higher on 1-5 scale for at least one exam). Signature ranked 1st in state with a 95% pass rate.

### Four Star Award 2012

The Four Star Award is a prestigious award which recognizes Signature School for having demonstrated Adequate Yearly Progress (under No Child Left Behind), having performed in the top 25% of all schools in the state in four areas: attendance rate, language arts proficiency score, mathematics proficiency score and percentage of students meeting state standards in both English/language arts and mathematics.

### Adequate Yearly Progress

Signature School was designated as having made Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind (NCLB). Under NCLB, schools must meet annual goals in the academic achievement of the overall student population. Schools are designated as having made Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) by calculating student achievement and participation rates on the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress-Plus (ISTEP+) in English/language arts and mathematics; student attendance rates for elementary and middle schools; and high school graduation rates for high schools.

### A-F Accountability, Signature Receives an "A"

The State Board of Education methodology for determining school and corporation category designations (A-F grades) is based on student performance. Signature School received an "A."



Students practicing in Instrumental Music class

# REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

## REVENUES

General Fund	\$2,274,760
Grants	200,279
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,475,039</b>

## EXPENDITURES

General Fund	\$2,269,177
Grants	166,514
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,435,691</b>

Signature School is a public high school open to all students, and does not charge tuition. It is funded by the Indiana Department of Education for per-pupil enrollment like other Indiana public high schools except that as a charter school, Signature receives substantially less total funding than traditional public high schools.

The Common School Fund Charter School Advancement Loan was forgiven as of June 30, 2013. At the time of forgiveness, Signature carried a principal balance on the loan of \$86,526.

In the 2012-2013 fiscal year, Signature School received a total of \$1,801,813 for tuition assistance from the Indiana Department of Education -- \$76,191 less than the prior year, despite an increase in student enrollment. Signature also receives on an annual basis several smaller, restrictive federal grants distributed by the state such as Special Education, State Connectivity, and Title II. Grants are used in various ways as directed in each grant application, including expenditures for special education consulting, internet service, and professional development. Also received in the 2012-2013 fiscal year was the Charter Schools Facilities Grant in the amount of \$138,510. The Charter Schools Facilities Grant was a new grant offered in the 2009-2010 school year. In the past, facilities funding has been one of several types of funding for which charter schools have not received assistance, while non-charter public schools have. Unfortunately, while the grant was scheduled to be available through 2013-2014, Signature has been notified that funding for this grant has been exhausted, so it will not be offered for the 2013-2014 school year.

On occasion, local foundations also provide grants to Signature for special needs, and those grants may range from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. In 2012-2013, Signature was fortunate to be the recipient of a total of \$38,150 to help with projects such as new student computers and college admissions guidance.

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