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2012 Indiana "A" School Corporation

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Office of the Superintendent

To: All Media Outlets
From: Beverly Smith, MCCSC Director of School & Community Services
RE: National Blue Ribbon School Announcement
Date: September 24, 2013

U.S. SECRETARY OF EDUCATION ARNE DUNCAN RECOGNIZES

CHILDS ELEMENTARY as a NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS FOR 2013

The Monroe County Community School Corporation is pleased to announce that Childs Elementary School has been designated a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The recognition from U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan is the second such award for the Childs' school community. The K-6 school also received the Blue Ribbon honor in 2007. The designation is awarded every five years.

"We salute the Childs Elementary faculty and staff on being renamed a Blue Ribbon School," MCCSC Superintendent Dr. Judith A. DeMuth said. "Congratulations to each and every one of you along with our students and parents for your continued hard work to ensure excellence in teaching, learning and student performance."

Childs Principal Chris Finley added, "It is an honor to be recognized at the national level, and it is certainly a testament to the great work I see on a daily basis at Childs Elementary. I am proud of our students, and the National Blue Ribbon Award represents their continual high achievement and tremendous effort over the last decade. We have a veteran staff, and they work closely with our families to ensure student success at all levels. We continue to focus on adequate amounts of content area time (science, social studies, etc.), problem solving and thinking skills, and authentic literature to drive our curriculum and instruction. I see exciting, engaging activities happening throughout our building, and lots of students with smiles on their faces...that's what it's all about."

The Childs' announcement is part of a national recognition by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today that recognized 286 schools as the 2013 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools, based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in improving student academic achievement. Secretary Duncan made this year's announcement live via the Department's USTREAM channel, viewed by recognized principals, teachers, and students assembled across the country.

The Department will honor 236 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 18-19 in Washington, D.C. In its 31-year history, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed this coveted award on nearly 7,500 of America's schools.

"Excellence in education matters and we should honor the schools that are leading the way to prepare students for success in college and careers," said Secretary Duncan. "National Blue Ribbon schools represent examples of educational excellence, and their work reflects the belief that every child in America deserves a world-class education."

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement.

The program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

To select National Blue Ribbon Schools, the Department requested nominations from the top education official in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) nominates private schools. A total of 420 schools nationwide may be nominated, with allocations determined by the numbers of K-12 students and schools in each jurisdiction. The Secretary of Education invites nominated schools to submit an application for possible recognition as a National Blue Ribbon School.

A list of the 2013 National Blue Ribbon Schools is available online from the U.S. Department of Education at <http://www.ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>.

For more information, contact MCCSC Director of School & Community Services Beverly Smith at bevsmith@mccsc.edu.

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