

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Gail McCarthy  
Director of Development  
(703) 938-2553, ext. 12  
[development@olgcv.org](mailto:development@olgcv.org)

On Friday, September 23, 2005 U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced that **Our Lady of Good Counsel School** in Vienna, Virginia was among the 295 U.S. schools named a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Blue ribbons hung from trees and signs along the driveways leading to Our Lady of Good Counsel School. OLG C Principal Austin Poole congratulated the faculty and students at a school-wide assembly saying, “This is a direct result of the hard work consistently put forth by our students, their teachers and our school parents. My congratulations to each and every member of our school community for their efforts in helping us achieve this tremendous accolade. I am thankful for our students who work so hard, our school parents for their support and faith in our program and also our teachers who sacrifice so much for the students entrusted to their care. Congratulations one and all for a job well done.”

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established in 1982 to spotlight the country’s most successful schools. The program was renamed and modified recently to emphasize the goals of the No Child Left Behind Program and recognize schools that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap in addition to recognizing those schools whose students achieve at very high levels. Public schools are nominated by their state’s chief school officer. Private schools are nominated by the Council for American Private Education.

The schools are selected based on one of three criteria:

- Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance on state tests.
- Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests.
- Private schools that achieve in the top 10 percent in the nation.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings will honor the Blue Ribbon Schools during an awards ceremony in Washington, DC, in November where the schools will receive a plaque and a flag signifying their Blue Ribbon Status.

Our Lady of Good Counsel School, established in 1957, is a co-educational parish school serving grades K-8. Located in Vienna, Virginia, OLG C has been accredited by the Virginia Catholic Education Association since 1972, and is a member of the National Catholic Education Association.