

Good afternoon,

I am John West, President of the SCA at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. I am here to ask you to approve the budget for Alexandria's schools. I have been a student at MacArthur since I was in kindergarten, and now I am a fifth grader. I think I have gotten a great education at MacArthur. My favorite subject is Virginia history, and since I've been at MacArthur, I have learned a lot about our state. One of the highlights of my time at MacArthur was in fourth grade when I participated in our annual Colonial Fair. I researched colonial games and sports, and we taught other students about life in Virginia in the 1700's.

I think it is important to spend money on having good schools so that kids will have the opportunity to do what they want with their lives. I hope to be a real estate developer someday. I have taken some classes in economics and business, and I hope to take more.

I know that you have many other good and important uses for the city's money, but money spent on schools will not be wasted. I know I am lucky because Alexandria has already spent money on improving our schools. Next year, I will attend George Washington Middle School, which looks like a brand new school after all the renovations. And I will be able to attend a brand new high school, as a member of the Class of 2012. So please stay committed to the kids of Alexandria by approving the school budget, and I will keep working to be the best that I can be.

Thank you.