

*Remarks for the
JPS 25th Anniversary of the Adopt-A-School Program
April 10, 2003*

- Recognize Gaye Broyles, Mayor Johnson,
Gail Pittman

- It is good to be here to recognize the
importance of partnerships
 - Partnerships do so much to move us all
ahead
 - We're stronger together than we are
separately
 - By partnering, we all benefit

- Appreciative of partnerships that work to
improve education
 - That's always important, especially
during national recession

- Every state impacted by national recession
 - Have to protect people in short term /
prepare for long term

- Best way to do that is through investing in education and creating jobs
 - Everybody benefits from good schools,
especially business

- Education must be first priority for MS
 - Making great progress
 - Teacher pay / 49th to 19th when fully implemented
 - Test scores up / accountability standards stronger than “No Child Left Behind”

- Princeton Review: MS has 6th best testing system in nation
 - MS 6th in nation in National Board Certified Teachers
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- Computers in the Classroom / great partnership example
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- We're proving to the people of MS that we're serious about education
 - Making the investment now for dividends tomorrow
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- Thank JPS for sharing commitment to better education
 - Thank corporate partners for wisdom in helping make schools better as well

■ *Read proclamation of April as “Partners in Education” month*