

## PORTSMOUTH VIRGINIA

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### **Community Profile:**

Portsmouth is a quaint, historic seaport city located along the Eastern Branch of the Elizabeth River. The streets are picturesque lined with historical homes in Olde Towne, Park View, Port Norfolk, and Truxton. The city has a variety of specialty restaurants, waterside festivals and a ferry that connects Portsmouth with Norfolk. The Old Town historical section has a trolley that tours the area. It serves a population of 100,535 within a 33 square mile border. The 2010 census indicates that 53.26 percent of the population is African American, 41.56 percent is Caucasian, 3.06 percent is Hispanic or Latin, 2.60 percent is multi-racial, 1.07 percent is Asian, 0.44 percent is American Indian, and 0.12 percent is Hawaiian or Pacific Islander. Portsmouth is located in the heart of Hampton Roads, which is the 27<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan area in the United States.

Portsmouth is also the home of the nation's oldest shipyard, many interesting and enlightening museums, including the Children's Museum of Virginia, the Courthouse Museum, the Shipyard Museum and the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. Other sites of interest are the Commodore Theater, the N-Telos amphitheater, and the Renaissance Hotel. A variety of recreational facilities and parks, such as Willet Hall, City Park and Bid -a-Wee golf course also dot the Portsmouth landscape.

Portsmouth City is also the home of United States Naval Hospital, the nation's oldest military hospital having served the community since 1830. On the hospital compound, you can visit the historical grave yard where you will find markers from the yellow fever epidemic and Civil War casualties. The current administration building (Bldg. 1) serves as the office for the commanding officer of the hospital. The building was the original hospital which still has the original operating room located in its basement.

The 2009-2013 reported median household income was \$46,166, which is \$17,741 below the median household income of Virginia as a whole.

The largest employer in Portsmouth is the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, employing 9,000 workers followed by, the U.S. Naval Medical Center (7,000), Bon Secours Maryview Medical Center (2,000), and the U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> District Coast Guard (2,500). The city of Portsmouth employs 2,605 employees and the Portsmouth City School Board employees 2,192 people. Other significant companies and facilities that contribute to employment and to the economy of the city are Food Lion Grocery (250), Wal-Mart (300), and Earl Industries (900).

Local businesses support cooperative programs in Marketing and Business Education. Marketing programs prepare students for careers in the retail, wholesale, and service industries by placing students in related part-time positions. Business Education provides students with basic business skills and trains them in current technology used in business occupations.

The unemployment rate for Portsmouth as of 2010 was 7.4 percent.

### **School Division:**

The Portsmouth Public Schools and School Board celebrate more than 150 years of education and service. Currently, the Portsmouth Public School system's student population of about 15,000 is spread among three high schools, three middle schools, thirteen elementary schools and four Pre-K Centers. The school division also provides resources and facilities for

adult and alternative education programs, as well as a Career and Technical Education Office at the Portsmouth Campus of TCC.

Portsmouth is divided into zones for three high schools. These schools draw from three middle schools and thirteen elementary schools. Middle schools feeding into Woodrow Wilson High School are William E. Waters Middle and Cradock Middle. These two schools also feed into the other two high schools. The elementary schools feeding into Woodrow Wilson High School are Hodges Manor, Olive Branch, Simonsdale, Douglas Park, James Hurst, Brighton, and Westhaven.

The total number of public housing units in Portsmouth is 684. The public housing units have an estimated population of 2000 persons. A resident must be eighteen years of age to rent a unit, with occupancy based on adjusted income.

*School Board:*

The school division is committed to excellence in education, equality of educational opportunity, and the recognition of each student's individuality. Inasmuch as students differ in their rate of physical, mental, emotional and social growth and vary in their needs and abilities, learning opportunities shall be provided that are consistent with personal development and potential. Programs shall emphasize diagnostic and prescriptive instruction, allowing an individual approach to each student's learning style and educational needs. The educational program shall introduce each student to a variety of interest and subject areas that offer exposure to the range of opportunities available in later years. These experiences produce the basis for further education and future employment. As students demonstrate increased maturity, they may assume more responsibility for the decisions regarding their education.

The school environment should be responsive and conducive to learning. The physical environment facilitates and enhances the learning experiences available to each student. A responsive environment includes competent, dedicated teachers using a variety of techniques and a classroom atmosphere where students can function and develop according to their abilities. Safety, physical comfort, and appearance also are vital environmental components.

The School Board is the official governing body of Portsmouth City Public Schools. New members must be elected and serve three-year terms. The basic functions of the School Board are:

1. To develop policies and goals for the school division.
2. To approve all administrative staffing decisions.
3. To adopt an annual budget.
4. To review what is being taught in the schools.
5. To perform other duties as prescribed by law.

The School District Mission is to challenge the minds, challenge the bodies, and challenge the dreams of all students while focusing on excellence. To ensure this end, the School Board will:

1. Have an effective instructional program.
2. Have a safe and orderly environment.
3. Have an atmosphere which is conducive to learning.
4. Have a motivated, committed, and skillful staff.
5. Provide, as necessary, student transportation

Board meetings are open to the general public. The Board meets on the second and third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers on the sixth floor of Portsmouth City Hall. Portsmouth City Hall is located at 801 Crawford Street.

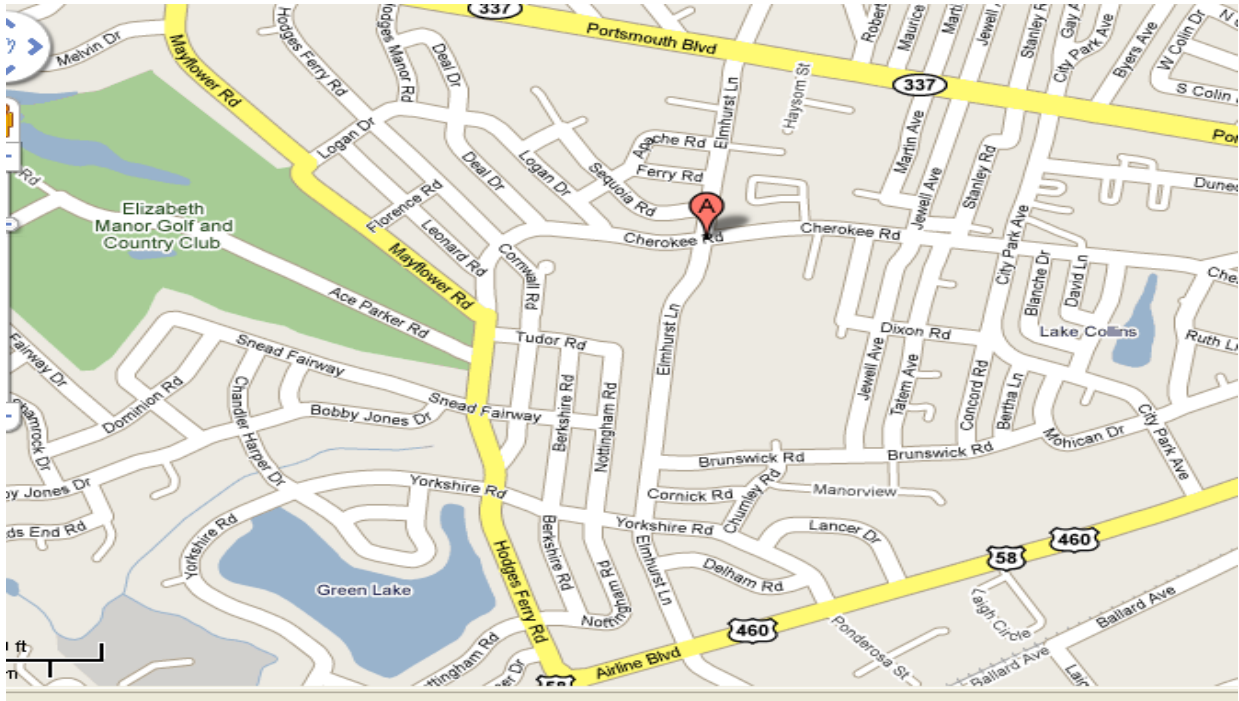
## ***SCHOOL AND STUDENT PROFILE***

### **School Profile:**

Woodrow Wilson High School administration and staff are working to meet the needs of its students and community as they prepare to face the challenges of today and the future. The city of Portsmouth commits itself to a new direction through its vision for leadership in lifelong learning, the Portsmouth Public School system stands ready to offer its support in helping the city reach its goals. The Portsmouth Public School system strives to bring parents, students, and staff together. To this end, school personnel will use every support and delivery system available to offer students the best possible opportunity to have a successful learning experience, while developing them into productive and contributing members of society.

Woodrow Wilson High School commits to creating an educational atmosphere where students can excel in a safe, inclusive and engaging learning community. We strive to instill in our students lifelong learning and an appreciation for diversity by providing measurable, challenging, and equitable learning experiences. We endeavor to prepare all students for their future roles as citizens in local and global communities. We actively continue to incorporate the involvement of parents, guardians, and the community in support of our mission.

Woodrow Wilson High School is located on a forty-six acre site at the corner of Elmhurst Lane and Cherokee Road in the Hodges Manor section of Portsmouth (see map). The building was constructed in 1972 and was originally named Manor High School. The name change in 1993 reflects a major school reorganization plan that reduced the number of city high schools from five to three. A portion of the students from Cradock High School and the “old” Woodrow Wilson High School were merged into the Manor High School building. The name was changed to Woodrow Wilson High School to retain the historic significance of the city’s oldest high school.



The single-level building surrounds a central commons area. Surrounding the commons area are various academic wings. The school is used throughout the day and evening hours by a wide variety of school and community groups.

In addition to the Woodrow Wilson’s school library, the Portsmouth Public Library maintains a branch in a section of the school building and provides additional resource possibilities for students and faculty.

In 2007 the school added a new Early Childcare Program and in the following year established a state-of- the-art Culinary Arts Department as part of the AC-13 vocational Technology initiatives. Another widely used community facility is the newly renovated and state-of-the-art Manor Field House. In addition to being used for an array of school athletics, it is regularly used as a sports and recreation center for community groups.

The 2014-2015 Woodrow Wilson’s diverse student population is approximately 1359 and is divided demographically as follows: males **48** percent, and **51.9** percent females. Racially, 61.58 percent of the student population are African-Americans; 27.15 percent are white non-Hispanics; others ethnic categories comprise the remaining eleven percent of the student population. Woodrow Wilson high school students come from sixteen neighborhoods; there are two middle schools located throughout the city that serve the student population here in Woodrow Wilson high school.

**Table 2: Wilson’s Zoned Neighborhoods**

Green Lakes	Cradock
Elizabeth Manor	Brighton

Hodges Manor	Holly Hill
Collinswood	Loxley Gardens
Westhaven	Lincoln Park
Newport	Madison Village
Highland-Biltmore	Southside

The school receives no Chapter 1 funding; however, 70 percent of the student population receives free or reduced-priced meals.

**Faculty and Administrative Staff Profile:**

Serving the population is a well-trained and experienced faculty. Along with our fully licensed and qualified teachers and staff, our teacher assistants meet the federally mandated “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) regulation standards.

**Table 3: Degrees Held By Faculty and Administrative Staff**

DOCTORATES	CAS	MASTERS	BACHELORS
0	2	48	44

In recent years, Portsmouth city has made great strides in making teacher salaries competitive with other regional school divisions. Woodrow Wilson is currently fully staffed and meeting the needs of a growing resource population.

Contributing to the success of the student body and the teaching staff are four Guidance Counselors, an Access Advisor, and the Magnet Program facilitator. Three of the counselors are responsible for students not enrolled in the magnet program. The guidance coordinator is responsible for magnet members. The ACCESS Advisor is available to the entire student population. The New Youth Challenged Advised and Positively Promoted (Y-CAPP) provides therapeutic day treatment for children and adolescents. The school is provided with a site supervisor, clinician, and a case manager. Y-CAPP facilitators are trained in handle with care, CPR, first aid, and human rights. They work with the administrators, faculty, and staff during the day in accordance to the school schedule. Their primary goals are to decrease the quantity of school suspensions, improve attendance, and improve academic performance. They proactively provide interventions and educational support to modify misbehavior. Students may receive help in social skills, peer relations, hyperactive behavior, compliance with rules and authority figures, anger management/conflict resolution. Funding is provided in part by Medicaid. Woodrow Wilson High School is the sixth school in the area to house this program. Y-CAPP is licensed by the Virginia Department of Mental Retardation, Mental Rehabilitation, and Substance Abuse Services Affiliates of the Local Human Rights Communication. For more information, visit <http://www.thenewycapp.com>.

Woodrow Wilson has a Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) that works diligently to foster a positive working relationship among parents, teachers and students. Throughout the year, they plan and implement a variety of activities that aid in the overall success of the school.

The curriculum at Woodrow Wilson High School utilizes 4x4 block scheduling where students complete four classes in each of two terms. The student has the opportunity to complete eight credits. Incoming freshman are required to complete 24 credits to earn a standard diploma. They must also have six verified credits (classes where the student has passed the state of Virginia Standard of Learning (SOL) end of course exam). The curriculum is planned to provide students opportunities to engage in educational experiences best suited to their needs and goals. The Portsmouth City School Division’s calendar mandates that school to be held for 180 days of instruction per school year. The school day begins at 7:20 a.m. and runs to 2:10 p.m. with the four classes meeting for ninety minute blocks each day. The first term meets for 90 class days from September to the end of January, the second term from February to June.

### Dual Enrollment

In addition to a variety of academic and career and technical education classes, students may elect to participate in Dual Enrollment classes (table 6). These classes permit students to earn both high school and college credits. The remaining Dual Enrollment classes are offered in partnership with Tidewater Community College.

**Table 5: Dual Enrollment Courses Offered at Woodrow Wilson High (2014-2015)**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Number Enrolled</b>	<b>Successful Completion (C or Better)</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>( 67) 97%</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>(54) 100 %</b>
<b>Automotive I-IV</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Welding</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>(11) 100%</b>

### First College Scholars

Students who completed DE English with a “C” or better, and whose schedules permitted, were also able to participate in the First College Scholars Program (Table 7). There are 60 current students who participate in the program in the 2014-2015 school year. These students completed their first term at Wilson High School early, and enrolled as full-time students on the Tidewater Community College (TCC) campus for the spring term. Students were able to choose from among 11 classes which were selected as those which would transfer to four-year institutions. The courses included Art History, General Biology, Chemistry, Principles of Public Speaking, Principles of Macroeconomics, Advanced Composition, History of World Civilizations I and II, US History I and II, Survey of Western Culture, Pre-calculus, Calculus with Analytic Geometry, Music Appreciation, Principles of Sociology and Introduction to Sociology.

### Advanced Placement

Advanced Placement (AP) courses are offered in a variety of academic areas to juniors and seniors. These classes last the full school year, and students are required to sit for the Advanced Placement test in May. The AP courses are English, Biology, Calculus, and Virtual AP Courses through VDOE.

### Honors Classes

Honors classes are offered in numerous academic areas. Table 9 reflects the offerings at Wilson High School.

**Table 6: Honors Classes Available at Woodrow Wilson High School**

English 9-11	Advanced Algebra II/Trigonometry
World History II	Earth Science
World Cultures I and II	Biology
Virginia and US History	Chemistry
Advanced Algebra/ Trigonometry	Physics
Latin, French, & Spanish (levels 4 & 5)	

**Table 7: Standards of Learning Core Courses and Percent Passing (2012 – 2014)**

<b>Core Area</b>	<b>% passing 2011 - 2012</b>	<b>% passing 2012 – 2013</b>	<b>% passing 2013 - 2014</b>
English 11 Writing	90%	82%	74%
English 11 Reading	90%	81%	85%
Algebra I	63%	61%	72%
Geometry	60%	77%	92%
Algebra II	48%	82%	73%
World History I	81%	83%	84%
World History II	88%	84%	83%
US/VA History	76%	84%	84%
Earth Science	91%	86%	89%
Biology	83%	68%	78%
Chemistry	100%	91%	83%

The Virginia Department of Education reviews these passing rates to determine if the students are meeting the associated Standards of Learning. From this data, the state issues a school report card. This provides the public with information concerning the school. Currently there are four levels of accreditation (1 = fully accredited; 2 = provisionally accredited meets state standards; 3 = provisionally accredited needs improvement; 4 = provisionally accredited with warning). Based on the 2013-2014 results for Woodrow Wilson High School, the school report shows “fully accredited” for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The Special Education Department provides those students with special needs the opportunity to maximize their educational potential. On the staff are seventeen (17) certified, resource teachers, sixteen (16) instructional assistants, and one (1) attendant who work to meet the needs of these special students. Of the 1359 students enrolled at Woodrow Wilson High School, 164 have been identified as having special needs. Each of these students has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) on file. The following educational settings are provided for our students: departmentalized, self-contained, inclusion, and total mainstream.

Woodrow Wilson High School offers students the opportunity to earn an Advanced Studies Diploma, a Standard Studies Diploma, a Modified Diploma, or a Special Diploma.

**Table 8: Types of Diploma Requirements**

<b>Type of Diploma</b>	<b>Credits Required</b>	<b>SOL Verified Credits Required</b>
Advanced Studies	26	9
Standard Studies	24	6
Modified Standard	24	Math 8 & English 8
Special (*)	NA	NA

Special needs students may also earn a standard or advanced diploma by meeting the criteria prescribed by the State Board of Education. This includes completing other requirements as set by the Portsmouth School Board and approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Special needs students who fail to meet the criteria necessary for a standard or advanced diploma may earn a Special Diploma by successfully completing the requirements set forth in their IEP program.

Students may also earn a variety of seals which are attached to the diploma. A Governor’s Seal is awarded for an Advanced Studies diploma, a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete college level course. The “Board of Education Seal” is given to a graduating senior receiving a Standard diploma and having a 4.0 cumulative GPA. Other seals that may be earned



are the Virginia Board of Education Career and Technical Seal, Advanced Mathematics and Technology Seal and the Seal for Excellence in Civics Education.

In June, 2014, 99 students earned Advanced Studies Diplomas, 135 students earned Standard Studies Diplomas, nine (9) earned Modified Standard Diplomas, and twenty four (24) students earned Special Diplomas. Graduating seniors of the class of 2014 received scholarships and other funds in excess of three million dollars.

Woodrow Wilson High School is working to meet the needs of students and the community as both prepare to face the challenges of today and the future. Woodrow Wilson High School strives to bring parents, students, and staff together. To this end, we will use every support and delivery system available to offer students the best possible opportunity to have a successful learning experience, while developing them into productive and contributing members of society. The Woodrow Wilson High School staff is dedicated to challenging the minds, bodies and dreams of all of its students while focusing on excellence.