

(Washington, DC) - U.S. Representative Jason Altmire (PA-4), a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, honored Pine-Richland Middle School for earning a "School to Watch" designation from the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. At a meeting last week at his Washington, D.C. office, Congressman Altmire presented a certificate to Pine-Richland administrators and teachers commending the school for this achievement.

Pine-Richland Middle School is one of 34 middle schools nationwide named as a "School to Watch." Launched in 1999, the Schools to Watch program began as a national program to identify middle-grades schools across the country that were meeting or exceeding 37 criteria that measure academic excellence, developmental responsiveness and social equity. Pine-Richland Middle School officials were in Washington, D.C. this week to participate in the Schools to Watch Annual Conference.

**"By earning recognition as a 'School to Watch,' Pine-Richland Middle School has demonstrated its commitment to providing the best possible education to every one of its students," said Congressman Altmire. "I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the talented faculty and staff who earned this award. Everyday, they dedicate themselves to the task of producing enlightened students and virtuous citizens. I commend them for their work and wish them continued success."**