

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Council seeks members

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting applications for additional members to serve on its Safety and Security Advisory Council. Members are volunteers with diverse backgrounds with expertise in security, law enforcement, mental health and other areas. The council meets quarterly and provides suggestions and recommendations to the Superintendent and staff. Superintendent Kimberly Hill started the advisory council at the end of the 2017-18 school year. Members are divided into four subgroups. Most recently, the facilities subgroup conducted site visits/threat assessments at a number of schools. During the school visits, the group focused on entrance points, arrival and dismissal procedures, lunch times, and completed or planned security enhancements. Charles County residents interested in serving on the council should send a resume and letter of interest to Jason Stoddard, director of school safety and security, at jstoddard@ccboe.com or by mail at P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646.

Robotics volunteers sought

Volunteers are needed for Feb. 1 and 15 VEX Robotics events set to take place at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Interested volunteers can sign up by completing an online application. There is one application per each event, as volunteer shifts and need differ by event. Volunteers must be 16 or older and will receive lunch, training and a volunteer certificate. Volunteer duties do not include the direct supervision of children. For more information and to find links to sign up online, go to <https://tinyurl.com/tnwnv7t>.

U.S. Navy band at Lackey

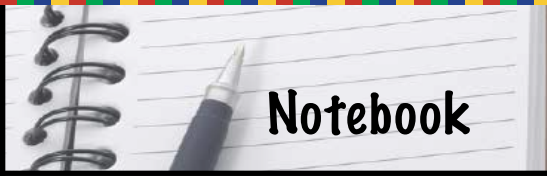
Henry E. Lackey High School is hosting the U.S. Navy Band jazz ensemble, Commodores, 7 p.m. Feb. 6 at the school. Admission is free.



CCPS takes the Plunge

The 23rd annual Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge was held Jan. 23-25 at Sandy Point Park in Anne Arundel County. During the Cool Schools Plunge on Jan. 23, about 200 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students, staff and Board members took part in the fundraiser for Special Olympics Maryland, raising about \$12,000. Clockwise from top, Thomas Stone High School senior Mary Cartwright takes video of she and Stone teacher Gary Winsett wading into the waters of the Chesapeake Bay; Board members Michael Lukas, left, and Jennifer Abell, right, are pictured with F.B. Gwynn Educational Center adapted PE teacher Michelle Ignaszewski who is the state's Adapted PE Teacher of the Year; Thomas Stone students and staff get ready to embrace the cold; La Plata High School seniors Emily Dutton, left, and Cassidy Tetrault are interviewed by CCPSTV; and St. Charles High School students pause for a photo op before the plunge.





Notebook

On the cover

Charles County Public Schools employees pictured on the cover are Lindsey Chancellor, fifth-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School; Kimberley Sheckells, third-grade teacher, Berry Elementary School; and Keri Mona, instructional assistant, Piccowaxen Middle School. Mona and Sheckells were honored by the Board of Education at its Jan. 14 meeting.

A cappella quarterfinals set

CCPS high school singers will take the stage 7 p.m. Feb. 22 at St. Charles High School. A cappella groups from metro-area high schools will compete in the Mid-Atlantic quarterfinals including groups from Maurice J. McDonough, North Point, St. Charles and Thomas Stone high schools. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/wvfbu3s> for tickets and <https://tinyurl.com/uqvrtrc> for more information.

Scholarship Fund closes March 1

The Charles County Scholarship Fund has more than 50 scholarships for Charles County seniors. Application requirements include a resume, personal statement that details academic and career goals, two letters of recommendation, a high school transcript and a copy of the first semester senior year report card. The application window is open through March 1. Go to <https://www.ccboc.com/ss/charles-county-scholarship-fund-inc/>.

Erly Award for ESFCU members

The Support Education Foundation of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU) awards administrators, support staff and teachers funding to support professional development. The Maurice Erly Professional Development Award is a one-time \$1,000 award that can be used toward continuing education fees, workshop registrations, certification fees and tuition. Applicants must be ESFCU members. The application is available online here. Deadline to apply is April 1. Click the application link for more details.

McGraw, Wilson reelected to Board leadership

The Board of Education of Charles County elected Virginia McGraw as its chairman and Latina Wilson as its vice chairman at the start of the Jan. 14 meeting. The Board votes annually in January to elect a chairman and vice chairman. Both the chairman and vice chairman serve a one-year term.

The current Board was elected to office in November 2018 and elected McGraw and Wilson as chair and vice chairman in January 2019. This is the fourth term for McGraw as chairman. McGraw was first elected to the Board in 2014 and is serving her second term on the Board. The vote for McGraw to continue as Board chairman was unanimous.

McGraw thanked the Board for its support and said she excited to continue the work they started in 2018. “We have had a lot of challenges this year, but we have faced them together. I take my role as chair seriously and strive to be fair and honest. I wanted to be a Board member to be a part of the decision making process to do what is best for children. I will do my best to continue to represent what is best for our students,” McGraw said.

Wilson was elected in November 2018 to her first term on the Board. She now begins her second term as vice chairman and said she is excited to continue her work on behalf of students. The Board voted 4 to 3 to reelect Wilson to the role of vice chairman. “This has been an amazing opportunity. Our kids are absolutely amazing. I have taken every opportunity to be out and about in Charles County public schools. The privilege [in serving as vice chairman] has been mine,” Wilson said.

McGraw is a retired Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principal who also served as a teacher and vice principal during her 25-year career with the school system. She was the 2009 CCPS Principal of the Year, and volunteers with Our Lady

Help of Christians Catholic Church. She is an elected member of the board of directors of the Maryland Association of School Boards. She is also a member of the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the Education Association of Charles County and the Maryland State Education Association. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary special education and her master’s degree in special education. McGraw has lived in the Charles County community for more than 40 years.

Wilson is a Gulf War veteran who retired from the U.S. Army after serving for 20 years. She is active in the community and serves as president of the Port Tobacco River Conservancy; president of the Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; member of the McConchie One-room School House committee and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She also served as the education liaison for the Charles County Branch of the NAACP for several years. Wilson earned her bachelor of science in business from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She is serving her first term on the Board.



Virginia R. McGraw



Latina L. Wilson

Second annual Career Fair set for March 21

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is hosting its second annual Career Fair Saturday, March 21 at North Point High School in Waldorf. The fair is set for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and sponsored by the CCPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) department. The event is free and open to the public, but targets high school students interested in exploring local career opportunities available after graduation.

CCPS students can show school ID badges for discounts

Local businesses are giving Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students incentives to wear their identification badges in school and keep track of the badges out of school by providing discounts for services and products.

CCPS began issuing student identification badges during the 2018-19 school year as part of a safety and security pilot program intended to enhance school security. The program started with three schools and extended this school year to all high schools and five middle and elementary schools.

Next school year, CCPS will require students at all schools to wear ID badges.

Student ID badges, said Jason Stoddard, director of school safety and security, keep students and staff safer while they are at school. ID badges help students and staff tell at a glance who does or does not belong in the school. All CCPS staff members already wear employee identification badges. "In case of an emergency, it is imperative we be able to identify both students and staff in a timely manner," Stoddard said.

Schools provide a number of benefits to students for wearing their badges, including checking out library books and paying for school meals. Stoddard said results from the three pilot schools were positive, and showed that tying ID badges to products or services motivated students to wear them.

"Extending the use of student ID badges to include benefits both inside and outside of school is the next step as we prepare to require the mandatory use of student identification badges to all CCPS schools in 2020-21," Stoddard said.

The following businesses have agreed to provide incentives for CCPS students who show their badges.

- **AMC St. Charles Towne Center 9** – Special student ticket discounts prior to 4 p.m.
- **AMF Waldorf Lanes** – Buy one game get one game free
- **Blue Crabs** – \$10 tickets for students 13 and over; \$8 tickets for students 12 and younger
- **Buffalo Wild Wings** – 10 percent off student entrée
- **Burger King** (All locations) – Free regular drink with purchase of a sandwich at locations in Charles and St. Mary's counties
- **Chick-fil-A** (All locations) – "Show Me Your Badge Fry-Day." The promotion will run every Friday in February and March. When a student shows their badge at one of the three Charles County locations, La Plata, St Charles Towne Center Mall or Waldorf, between the hours of 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. they



will receive a free order of hash browns with any purchase. Between the hours of 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. they will receive a free order of small waffle potato fries with any purchase

- **Dash In (part of the Wills Group)** (all locations) — 25 percent off an order of wings or sliders
- **Dunkin Donuts** (all locations) – 10 percent off student orders
- **Foster's Grille** (all locations) – 10 percent off student entrées
- **The Greene Turtle** – 10 percent off student meals (Dine-in only. Offer cannot be combined with any other offer, discounts or Greene Turtle Rewards and does not include beverages)
- **Hancock Family Farms** – 5 percent off total bill
- **Island Music** – 10 percent off all accessories
- **Jersey Mike's** – Student discount on menu items
- **Rita's of La Plata** – Half-price large Italian Ice for the month of March (any day of the week)
- **Sky Zone** – Monday through Thursday pay for 60 minutes get 90 minutes. Also offering special nights for schools with Glow Night opportunities.
- **Sonic** (all locations) – 10 percent off with student ID
- **Vocelli Pizza** (all locations) – 10 percent off student order
- **Wendy's** (La Plata only) – 10 percent off entrée
- **Wireless Junkies** – \$10 off any repair and 10 percent off accessories
- **World Gym** (all locations) – One month for \$45 – normally \$59; three months for \$119 – normally \$159. Teen Sports Camps for ages 15-18, offered once a week, \$99 a month and drop-in rates available.



Flight test at Indian Head

Indian Head Elementary School third graders in Jennifer Kettner's class, Javonte Clark, left, and Trevor Boyd, test the forces of flight using miniature airplanes they put together in Megan Swinea's science class. The students are learning the forces of flight including weight, lift, drag and thrust. Beth Hill of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) visited the school to discuss careers in aviation and how different materials affect a plane's ability to fly.

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Have books — will travel

Gale-Bailey Elementary School students in first grade visited the mobile library of the Charles County Public Library to hear a story and check out books. The mobile library visits various sites around the county in three-week intervals. The mobile library offers services for home-bound residents and story times for young children.

Submitted by Gale-Bailey's PR liaison Kelly Kavlick.

No dicey teamwork at Matula's PBIS assembly

Mary H. Matula Elementary School's second-quarter referral-free PBIS reward was Scooter Soccer. In between games, students were selected from the crowd to play Minute to Win It challenges. Teachers and students, as well as Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) students from La Plata High School, played several games of scooter soccer.

Submitted by Matula's PR liaison Patricia Koch.



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Family and Consumer Science Teacher — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 3.

Principal Pool — Elementary, middle and high schools, 12-month position. Master's degree and Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator II endorsement required. Apply by Feb. 7.

Vice Principal Pool — Elementary and middle schools, 11-month position. Master's degree and Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator I endorsement required. Apply by Feb. 7.

Vice Principal Pool — Elementary schools, 11-month position. Master's degree and Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate

with Administrator I endorsement required. Apply by Feb. 15.

Special Education Teacher — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 28.

Social Studies Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by March 27.

Language Arts Teacher — All middle schools, 10-month position. Apply by March 27.

Technology Education Teacher — North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by March 30.

ESOL Teacher — All schools, 10-month position. Position open until filled.

English Teacher — All high schools, 10-month position. Apply by March 31.

Behavior Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a current BCBA or BCaBA

certification and an advanced degree in education, psychology or a related field. Position open until filled.

Equipment Mechanic III — Annex 2, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required, as well as working knowledge of battery/electric floor care machines and small engine repair. Applicants must have a valid Maryland's driver's license. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — Location to be determined, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively and be capable of manual labor. The job calls for a willingness to work overtime when needed. Position open until filled.

HVAC Mechanic 2 — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A high school diploma and any combination equivalent to four years of journey-level HVAC experience are required. Position open until filled.