

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Two-hour early dismissal

A two-hour early dismissal is Wednesday, March 4. There will be no prekindergarten or Three's Program.

HITS Expo is March 7

The History, Industry, Technology and Science (HITS) Expo is 1-5 p.m. Saturday, March 7. Held at St. Charles High School, there will be exhibits and activities. During the expo, the James E. Richmond Science Center will show full-dome movies including "Dream to Fly," "D-Day: Normandy 1944," and "Lincoln 150."

Board meets March 10

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 10 in the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata. Recognition starts at 4:30 p.m., and public forum is at 6 p.m.

Early Learning Launch set

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will hold an Early Learning Launch 10 a.m.-1 p.m. March 21 at La Plata High School. The event will provide resources for families with children ages 5 years and younger. Resources include school readiness activities for parents and children. During the event, parents can fill out their child's application for prekindergarten or register their child for kindergarten a week earlier than advertised. Admission to prekindergarten is based on guidelines set by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Visit the CCPS website at ccboe.com for information on prekindergarten category eligibility guidelines. Parents must complete the application process for prekindergarten and register for kindergarten online through ParentVue, an online student information system used by CCPS. The system is available at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/online-registration>.



Top teachers

James Ball, an art teacher and coach at North Point High School, was named Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Teacher of the Year during a ceremony held Feb. 20. Right, the Top 5 finalists for the title include Casey Cleary, left, a math teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Stacy Miller, a third-grade teacher at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Maggie Fitzgerald, a Spanish teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School; Dyanna



Finamore, a first-grade teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; and Ball. Stories on Ball and the Teacher of the Year Award program will run in a future edition of *School News*. The CCPS nominee for the *Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year Award will be announced in the spring.

Teachers, principal honored for gifted education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education honored six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) educators for their efforts and accomplishments in gifted education.

Kathleen Morgan, principal at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, was honored with an Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Local School Administrator Award.

Five CCPS teachers – Charna Brooks, Stacey Durham, Danielle Nagle, Michelle Simone and Christina Trest – were honored with Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Teacher as Leader Awards.

They were honored at a Feb. 11 ceremony held to honor the governor's proclamation of February as Gifted and Talented Education Month. The ceremony was held at North County High School in Glen Burnie

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On the cover

CCPS employees pictured on the front cover are, from left, Trina Short, kindergarten instructional assistant, Gale-Bailey Elementary School; Renee Hamilton, food and nutrition manager, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; and Courtney Abell, English teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School. Short and Abell were recognized as outstanding employees at the Feb. 11 Board of Education meeting.

Special education survey

The Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey is open to parents of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education or related services through CCPS. The survey takes about five minutes to complete and must be completed by May 18. Go to www.ccboe.com and look under What's New for a link to the survey.

ESFCU educator award

The Support Education Foundation of Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU) awards funding to administrators, support staff and teachers 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 at <https://supportededucation.org/helping-educators/>. The application is due April 1. Winners will be announced June 15.

Honoring CCPS volunteers

Volunteers make a difference in the lives of CCPS students and staff. The Be the Difference Outstanding Volunteer Award program honors school volunteers. There are five categories in the program including parent volunteer from the elementary, middle and high school levels, Charles County businesses and community organization volunteers. To learn more and to nominate a volunteer, go to www.ccboe.com. Click Quick Links, then click the "Be the Difference" Outstanding Volunteer Award." The nomination deadline is April 1.



Alivia Snyder, second from left, introduces herself during the Feb. 11 Board of Education meeting. Snyder job shadowed Board Member Jennifer Abell, third from left. Also pictured are Isaiah McCloggan, left, who was paired with Board Member Tajala Battle-Lockhart, Kalynn Gutrick, second from right, shadowed Board Vice Chairman Latina Wilson, far right.

Board members welcome job shadows at meeting

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) highlights Job Shadow Day events annually throughout February. Today, the Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill participated in the program and invited a group of fifth graders to shadow them during the first part of the Board meeting.

Shadowing the Board today were nine students from Billingsley, T.C. Martin and Mary H. Matula elementary schools. Principals chose students to represent their schools. Each student was randomly assigned to their shadow.

Participating from Billingsley were fifth graders Kindle Archer, Zebulon Davis and Selena Duson. Representing Martin were Julian Costa, Kalynn Gutrick and Karson Stewart, and representing Matula were Antonio Barrows, Isaiah McCloggan and Alivia Snyder. The students sat next to their assigned shadow for the first part of the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, Dr. Hill introduced her shadow, Antonio Barrows. Barrows got to practice public speaking skills by reading part of Dr. Hill's Board report. Barrows was able to prepare in advance and was excited for his part. "I was able to practice and am

ready," Barrows said. Barrows' classmate Isaiah McCloggan was paired with Board Member Tajala Battle-Lockhart and Alivia Snyder shadowed Board Member Jennifer Abell.

Martin student Kalynn Gutrick was paired with Board Vice Chairman Latina Wilson. Her classmate Julian Costa shadowed Board Member Michael Lukas, and Karson Stewart shadowed Board Member Elizabeth Brown. Before the meeting started, students met their assigned shadows and talked about how they could participate in the meeting.

"Please ask any questions you may have and enjoy your experience," Board Chairman Virginia McGraw said.

Billingsley student Zebulon Davis shadowed McGraw. Davis' classmate Kindle Archer shadowed DeJuan Woods Jr., Student Member to the Board of Education, and Selena Duson, also of Billingsley, shadowed Board Member David Hancock.

The shadows participated in the Board meeting from 1 to 3 p.m. and heard presentations about the CCPS fine and performing arts program, as well as a project status update. To read more, go to www.ccboe.com.

and sponsored by MSDE and the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education.

Morgan is a longtime CCPS elementary school principal with more than 20 years of leadership experience.

She is an advocate for gifted education and encourages rigor for all students. Morgan supports gifted curriculum and holds students and staff accountable. She supports gifted curriculum for highly able students across all grade levels and provides classroom resources to support teachers.

At the start of the school year, Morgan purchased more than 40 novels to supplement the fifth-grade gifted curriculum so each student could have their own book. Morgan collaborates with parents to expand the gifted program at Higdon.

Brooks is the learning resource teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School. She has led the gifted program at Parks for the past four years. She is often found co-teaching with a gifted cluster teacher or working with a small group of gifted students.

Brooks regularly models differentiated lesson plans for all teachers and offers schoolwide classroom management support. Additionally, Brooks is taking advanced math courses in order to help write enrichment and gifted math curriculum for CCPS.

Durham is the learning resource teacher at William B. Wade Elementary School. She has supported gifted education as a learning resource teacher for the past 10 years. Durham works with both teachers of advanced students and gifted students on a daily basis.

Durham helps to lead gifted curriculum writing; she has helped write and review gifted content in both reading and math. Durham works with the Wade chess club and helps at CCPS events, such as the CCPS annual chess tournaments.

Nagle is a fourth-grade teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School. She has worked with the gifted program for the past seven years and is known for her exceptional ability to connect with students. Nagle challenges her gifted and talented students to excel and understands their needs.

Nagle works closely with the learning resource teacher at Neal to ensure the needs of gifted students are met. She presents at the county level on shared inquiry discussions and is often observed by new teachers, as well as teachers from other schools.

Nagle is well known among her colleagues as a teacher who demonstrates an exemplary model of differentiated instruction. She volunteers annually at the county DI tournament as a judge and supports all other gifted teachers at Neal.

Simone is a first-grade teacher at Dr. James Craik Elementary School. She collaborates with the learning resource teacher at Craik for help with lesson plans, and features centers and gifted activities in her classroom.

She seeks additional professional development opportunities in gifted education and attends state gifted conferences. Simone shares her knowledge with colleagues and has completed additional course work in gifted education.

She helps to write curriculum for reading, writing and social stud-



Charna Brooks, left, Stacey Durham, Danielle Nagle, Michelle Simone and Christina Trest, were honored with Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Teacher as Leader Awards at a recent ceremony.

ies. Simone was also asked to lead the Project Lead the Way expansion at Craik. She is the lead launch teacher and provides training for teachers in kindergarten through second grade.

Trest is the learning resource teacher at General Smallwood Middle School and oversees both the gifted and testing programs.

Students seek Trest for guidance because she has established herself as a go-to resource for support.

Trest leads Smallwood in the gifted identification process to ensure students are properly screened and receive appropriate gifted resources. She meets regularly with classroom teachers to ensure they have lesson plans and resources to support gifted learners.

She researches and shares gifted education resources with Smallwood staff as well as among other learning resource teachers. Trest holds a parent night every year to provide information on the gifted program.

During these events, Trest arranges student demonstrations. She is an advocate for the gifted learner and nominates students to be recognized by MSDE. She is well respected by administration, staff and students.

During the ceremony in which the CCPS educators were honored, 17 CCPS students were recognized for their accomplishments in gifted education. Read about the students on the CCPS website at ccboe.com.



Kathy Morgan, principal of Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, was honored with an Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education — Local School Administrator Award.

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Reading buddies at Craik

Dr. James Craik Elementary School kindergarten student, **Chloe Randolph**, left, reads with fifth grader, **Lesly Armah**. Fifth-grade students in **Katie Cooper, Marissa Ellis and Suzette Hahn's** classes visit students in the kindergarten classrooms of **Laura Pahel, Melissa Karimi, Melinda McDermott and Abigail Nichols**.

*Submitted by Craik's PR liaison
Katie Cooper.*

Put your hands together

Butch Albin, center, a technology resource teacher at the **James E. Richmond Science Center**, shows **John Hanson Middle School** eighth graders, **Nina Hardy**, left, and **Tristyn Smallwood** how **Newton's Law of Motion** works. The field trip includes a rotation through 10 interactive labs.

*Submitted by Hanson's PR liaison
Andrew Youngkin.*



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

Building Maintenance/Trades Foreman — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A thorough knowledge of building construction principles, construction project plans and specifications and requirements are required. Applicants should have knowledge of applicable building and safety codes, methods, materials, tools and equipment used in rough and finished carpentry. Apply by March 4.

Facilities Life Safety Systems Foreman — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A demonstrated ability to work professionally and discretely with confidential information is required. Analytical, problem solving and troubleshooting abilities. Apply March 4.

Director of Secondary Education — Jesse

L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's Degree with an Administrator I Maryland certificate is required. Five or more years of teaching experience and a minimum of five years of administrative experience as a content specialist or supervisor are a must. Apply by March 5.

Summer Enrichment Camp Site Coordinator — Temporary position. Advanced Professional Certificate required. A master's degree or equivalent, plus at least three years of teaching experience are required. Experience working in a leadership position in an extended learning opportunity or afterschool program preferred. Apply by March 6.

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

Physical Education Teacher — All schools, 10-month position. Apply by March 27.

Science Teacher — Location to be deter-

mined, 10-month position. Apply by March 27.

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

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

School Counselor — All high schools, 12-month position. A master's degree in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling as determined by the Maryland State Department of Education are required. A minimum of a 600-hour practicum or experience teaching or counseling in a school setting. Apply by April 30.

Building Service Worker — Location to be determined, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively. Apply by May 29.