



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Whodunnit at St. Charles?

Join Ms. Scarlett, Professor Plum and Mrs. White in the conservatory Dec. 6 to 8 when St. Charles High School stages "Clue: On Stage (High School Edition)." Based on the 1985 cult classic movie, "Clue," is a the whodunnit that will have audiences guessing up until the curtain drops. Shows are 7 p.m. Dec. 6, 2 and 7 p.m. Dec. 7 and 2 p.m. Dec. 8. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$5 for students, military members and senior citizens. CCPS badges are honored with one ticket per badge.

Bunkyo hosts needed

Families are needed to host visiting Bunkyo University students for a week in February. While here, students are assigned to an elementary or middle school to observe classes, learn about education in America and will present lessons on Japanese culture or literacy to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students. Host families will pick up Bunkyo students on Feb. 21 and drop them off at their hotel on Feb. 28. During the week, host families will need to provide transportation for Bunkyo students to attend their assigned school. Staff members interested in hosting a student should apply online by Dec. 6 at <https://tinyurl.com/BunkyoHostFamily2020>. Contact Kimberly Hairston at 301-934-7245 or khairston@ccboe.com.

Board meeting

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. The meeting starts at 1 p.m. with public forum at 6 p.m.

Early dismissal

A two-hour early dismissal is set for Thursday, Dec. 12. Morning pre-kindergarten students attend school.



Cloaked in kindness, Stethem holds coat drive

Students at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center are holding a coat drive until January. Organized by members of the center's National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) and SkillsUSA, the coats collected for men, women and children will be donated to St. Mary Church, Newport. New and gently worn coats can be dropped off at Stethem between 7:50 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. Monday through Friday when school is in session. Visitors must show identification to enter the school and can leave the coats with office staff. Stethem houses a giving closet to help those in need year around. During the holidays, students who are members of SkillsUSA and NTHS put together food baskets with donations from community partners, said Monique Poole, job placement coordinator and NTHS advisor at the center. Pictured in the back row from left are Quentin Dibble, Esteban Gomez, Arica Jones, vice president of Stethem's chapter of NTHS, and Derrick Thompson-Yates. In the front row are Zykerria Knott, Shalani Bedford, NTHS chapter president, and Morgan Curtis. Read more about another coat drive on Page 3.

State releases accountability report card, ratings

Thirty-four of Charles County's 36 public schools rated on the 2019 Maryland Report Card received 3, 4 or 5 stars, according to data released this week by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

MSDE released its new accountability report card, providing information on every county and school in the state.

The report card measures the success of schools and identifies areas for improvement. Data included is from the 2018-19 school year.

"The Maryland Report Card is one of multiple data sources we use to guide ongoing improvement and academic success. We use the data to help our students prepare for

college and career readiness," Superintendent Kimberly A. Hill said.

The new report card, introduced by MSDE last school year, provides a star rating, percentile rank and percent of total earned points for each school. Scores reflect school performance on multiple components. Results for Charles County Public Schools can be found at <https://reportcard.msde.maryland.gov/Graphs/#/AtaGlance/Index/3/17/6/08/XXXX>.

The new Maryland Report Card is based on the ESSA accountability plan. The changes were set in motion by the passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in 2015.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers. From left are Sabryna Valen, Secondary Academy of International Languages (SAIL) program teacher, Thomas Stone High School; Ericho Little, special education math teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Amanda Nadeau, second-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School. Nadeau and Valen were honored by the Board during its Nov. 12 meeting.

Winterfest set for Dec. 14

James E. Richmond Science Center will hold Winterfest 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 14. Tickets are available at the door with admission including hands-on Discovery Lab activities, full-dome shows, Science on a Sphere demonstrations and hot chocolate. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for science center members and free for children 3 and younger. For more information or to buy advance tickets, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/winterfest-2019/>.

Scholarship Fair is Dec. 17

CCPS and the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) are hosting a Scholarship Fair 6 to 8 p.m. Dec. 17 on the La Plata campus of CSM. High school juniors and seniors, along with their parents, can stop by to learn more about scholarships available for Charles County students. There will also be workshops for parents where they can learn about the college application process and resources available. The fair will be held in the BI Building at 8730 Mitchell Road in La Plata.

Sign up for CTE programs

Students have until 3 p.m. Dec. 20 to apply for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs is 3 p.m. Dec. 20. Every high school has CTE programs, but applications are necessary for particular programs housed at Maurice J. McDonough and North Point high schools and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. For more information, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/cte/index.php>.



Charles County Public Schools special education content specialists lead a presentation during the Maryland State Department of Education's Special Education Professional Learning Institute. From left are Laura Duffy, Larry Johnson, Amanda Johnson, Lenora Green, Don Moss and Melyssa Cooke.

Special education specialists present at institute

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff members in the department of special education and department of counseling services attended the annual Maryland State Department of Education's Special Education Professional Learning Institute last month in Ocean City.

The focus of the learning institute was narrowing the achievement gap between students with disabilities and their non-disabled peers. During the conference, CCPS special education instructional specialists Larry Johnson, Amanda Johnson, Laura Duffy, Melyssa Cooke, Lenora Green and Don Moss presented information on CCPS's comprehensive plan for implementing specially designed instruction for

students with disabilities in the Access, Equity and Progress sessions strand.

Christina Sprague, a CCPS transition specialist, presented on the innovative ways the school system is providing support and services for its special education students. Melanie Upright, coordinator for speech language services, gave a poster presentation on how CCPS is moving to an inclusive instruction model for the provision of speech/language services.

During her state of the state address, Marcella E. Franczkowski, the special education assistant state superintendent, highlighted CCPS for its use of evidence-based strategies in math instruction.

Dance program 'en pointe' for 2020-21 school year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will launch a dance program at the start of the 2020-21 school year. Housed at Maurice J. McDonough High School, the program is open only to current CCPS eighth graders or eighth-grade students who plan to enroll in CCPS for the 2020-21 school year. Students accepted into the program will attend McDonough as freshmen at the start of the 2020-21 school year with transportation provided by CCPS.

The program will be rooted in ballet, modern and jazz with other dance styles introduced throughout the four years. To be considered for the program, students must complete an assessment that includes a 30-second video showcasing their talent and potential. The video can contain origi-

nal choreography and applicants do not need any formal dance training to audition.

The application window is open until 3 p.m. Dec. 20. "The dance program will enrich the lives of young performing artists in the field of dance. It is a learning environment that will allow students to explore their talent and passion for dancing as an art form," said Tim Bodamer, a specialist in fine and performing arts for CCPS. "Students will take part in a well-rounded, comprehensive fine arts dance education that develops them as artists."

For more information, contact McDonough Vice Principal Cherif Zohra at zcherif@ccboe.com or 301-753-1755, or go to <https://www.ccboe.com/schools/mc-donough/index.php/dance-program>.



Drive Away the Cold, a coat drive organized by the Charles County School Bus Contractors Association, recently collected more than 300 coats and other cold weather essentials for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students in need.

Drive Away the Cold picks up 300 coats

Drive Away the Cold Coat Drive collected 300 coats, gloves and other cold weather necessities for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students who are in need this winter.

Following a successful school supply drive earlier in the year, the Charles County School Bus Contractors Association wanted to do something to help students and their families as cold weather approaches.

Three branches of the Community Bank of the Chesapeake served as drop-off locations between Nov. 18 and 23 with a “stuff the bus” event on Nov. 23 in the parking lots of the bank’s branches.

The contractors’ association partnered with the Community Bank, Battle Creek Construc-

tion, Title Professionals and the Law Offices of Sue Greer to collect the items.

Monetary donations from the partners and others allowed association members to purchase new coats from various stores.

“Anywhere we could get the most bang for our buck,” Mark Koch, president of the school bus contractors association, said.

Along with the contractors association and Community Bank of the Chesapeake, other drive sponsors included Battle Creek Construction, Title Professionals, Ltd. and Law Offices of Sue Greer.

CCPS staff assured that the coats will be distributed to children who are in need of winter necessities this season.



Twila Walker, left, the school counselor at Billingsley Elementary School, receives coats from the school’s pupil personnel worker, Donna Robinson. The coats were donated through the Drive Away the Cold Coat Drive.

Eligible Unit I, Unit II certificated employees to receive mid-year, one-step increase Jan. 1

Eligible Unit I and Unit II certificated employees will receive a mid-year, one-step increase effective Jan. 1. Eligible certificated employees include those who were employed by the Board of Education as of June 30, 2014, and have been continuously employed as active employees since that time. It excludes retirees, employees at the end of the salary scale and employees with a break in service.

During negotiations with the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) last spring, the Board approved the mid-year step increase for Unit I employees. Negotiations also included an opening to reassess if the system could also provide the 2015 back step to eligible Unit II employees. The two groups met Nov. 26 to sign a memorandum of understanding that also provides the increase for eligible Unit II employees.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Em-

ployees (AFSCME) and CCPS negotiated one-time back step salary adjustment to eligible employees who had been continuously active since June 30, 2014. That raise took effect on July 1, 2019.

“With the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the EACC and the Board, all Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees are back on step,” Kimberly A. Hill, superintendent of schools, said. “When it comes to compensation, the school system is whole once again.”

Certificated Unit I employees are classroom teachers, counselors, media specialists, teachers of JROTC, resource teachers, IEP facilitators and speech therapists. Unit II members are directors, coordinators, principals, vice principals, administrative interns, supervisors, specialists, assistant supervisors, psychologists and pupil personnel workers.

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

Board of Education Members
Virginia R. McGraw, *Chairman*
Latina L. Wilson, *Vice Chairman*
Jennifer S. Abell
Tajala Battle-Lockhart
Elizabeth C. Brown
David Hancock
Michael Lukas
DeJuan Woods Jr., *Student Member*

Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers
Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Mackey
Sara K. Taylor

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.



Paging Lackey high school

Henry E. Lackey High School senior biomedical sciences students made a recent (and scheduled) visit to operating rooms and the emergency department of the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center to prepare for an assignment of designing an emergency room. Hospital staff answered students' questions relating to priorities and spacing in an emergency care unit. Students also hopped at the chance to try on "bunny suits" while in the operating room.

Submitted by Lackey's PR liaison Heather Alvarez.

No need to be blue at Barnhart

C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School first graders Zhi'Mir Moore, left, and Jamir Robinson cashed in some of their Bluejay Bucks to help Principal Brian King make morning announcements. Students earn Bluejay Bucks by displaying positive behavior and can turn them in for various perks.

Submitted by Barnhart's liaison Alycia Smith.



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

School Bus Attendant — 10-month position. Applicants must be 18 or older and have a high school diploma. Five years of experience working as a school bus attendant is preferred. Physical requirements come with the job. Apply by Dec. 13.

Dance Instructor — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 27.

Elementary School Counselor — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Early Childhood Teacher — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

ESOL Teacher — All schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Language Arts Teacher — All middle

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

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

Accounting Assistant (forms processor) for Food and Nutrition Services — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required with an associate's degree or higher preferred. A minimum of five years in accounting or bookkeeping experience required. Position open until filled.

System Administrator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. The person in the position is responsible for administration of the Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Cloud system. A bachelor's degree in information technology, computer science, business management or a related field required with a master's degree preferred. Position open until filled.

Special Education Instructional Assistant (IA) — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma and have passed the ParaPro assessment, or have at least 48 college credits. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — Location to be determined, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Position open until filled.

Extra pay positions

Title I Tutor — All elementary schools. Bachelor's degree required with professional certificate in elementary education preferred.

New Teacher Mentor — All schools. Master's degree or an advanced professional certificate. Applicants must hold a Maryland Teaching Certificate or be working toward renewal.

Parent Center Liaison — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center. Position open until filled.