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School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools, offices closed

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) schools and offices are closed Friday, Nov. 12, for all employees.

It's Academic to air Nov. 13

Be sure to tune into NBC4 at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 13, to catch La Plata High School's *It's Academic* team. Team members Aashta Patel, Eric Valentine and Will Alcorn will compete on the show against Langley High School of McLean, Va., and Falls Church High School of Falls Church, Va. Emma Vanden Berg is the alternate for La Plata's team.

Play season is full swing

North Point High School is staging "Romeo and Juliet" 7 p.m. Nov. 18 to 20. Tickets are \$5 for students and senior citizens, and \$10 for general admission. Tickets are available at the door. **Thomas Stone High School** is also taking inspiration from the Bard at 2 p.m. Nov. 20 for "Shakespeare in the Parking Lot." Tickets are free. **Westlake High School** will stage "Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play" from Nov. 18 to 21. The show will be held outdoors at the school's stadium at 7 p.m. during its run. Tickets are \$6 for students and senior citizens, and \$8 for adults. Tickets can be purchased at the door. **St. Charles High School** will stage "As She Likes It." The shows are 7 p.m. Nov. 19 and 20, with a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee on Nov. 21. General admission tickets are \$8 and \$5 for students. Get tickets at the door.

Menu changes

Nationwide supply chain and transportation issues are affecting the meal distribution of CCPS. Beginning Nov. 15, CCPS is planning to switch to offering cold breakfast options for the time being. [Click here to read more.](#)



The Rev. Kenneth Stewart, left, of Body of Christ Church, and his wife, First Lady of the church Davita Gaines-Stewart, center, drop off a donation of hoodies to Linda Stocks, pupil personnel worker at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Stocks will add the donation to others for use by PPWs around CCPS.

Cold temperatures, warm hearts

A friendly competition between a men's group and women's group at a local church is benefitting Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students.

The Rev. Kenneth Stewart of Body of Christ Church in Waldorf, and his wife, First Lady Davita Gaines-Stewart, recently dropped off more than 100 new hoodie sweatshirts to Theodore G. Davis Middle School.

Linda Stocks, [pupil personnel worker](#) (PPW) at Davis, was there to welcome them. It is a familiar sight — the Stewarts donating school supplies, food and clothing for CCPS students. "They just follow me from school to school," Stocks said. She has known the couple for more than two decades. Gaines-Stewart's mother, Joanne Gaines, was Stocks' mentor during her time as a sixth-grade teacher in Prince George's County.

"I have called them to ask for things ... They have called me to ask what we need," Stocks said. The hoodie collection came about during a discussion in a parking lot. The Stewarts were handing over

school supplies donated by church members to Stocks when they started talking about the coming school year.

In between T-shirt season and when the parkas are pulled out of the coat closet, students need an extra layer. "Just a little something to put on," Stocks said. The hoodie donation was born.

Stewart mused that he would ask the men's group at church to oversee the collection, but Gaines-Stewart thought the women's group could get in on it too. A friendly competition started with church members bringing hoodies and sweatshirts in all sizes to Sunday services for about a month.

"We had hoodies piled in our family room this past month," Gaines-Stewart said. While the collection has officially wrapped up, Stewart expects a few more donations trickling in. "We're here to try to fill a need," he said.

Stocks added the donation to supplies PPWs store at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building for CCPS students in need.

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CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).



On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County honored [outstanding employees](#) at its Nov. 9 meeting. Pictured from left are Todd Wogamon, physical rehabilitation teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; and Alisha Sweatt, secretary, William B. Wade Elementary School.

Open enrollment

The annual open enrollment for CCPS employee health benefits is open until Nov. 30. During open enrollment, eligible CCPS employees can either join a health care plan or make changes to their coverage. Medical plan premiums and co-payments remain the same for 2022. Available benefits include medical/dental, term life insurance, optional supplemental employee or dependent life insurance and flexible spending accounts (FSA). To access open enrollment, visit <https://ccboe.hrintouch.com>.

Health insurance plans are provided by CareFirst and include a Preferred Provider plan (PPO/PPN) or a Blue Choice Opt-Out Open Access plan. For more information, [click here](#).

ESSER survey closes Nov. 18

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) seeks community feedback about the use of COVID relief funding. Three rounds of COVID relief funding have been authorized by U.S. Congress and released since the start of the pandemic. The funding is called the [Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, also known as ESSER](#).

CCPS was approved last month by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for \$30.8 million in grant funding under the third round of ESSER through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). The approval allows MSDE to release two-thirds of the allotted funding to the school system. To receive the remaining funds, CCPS must provide to MSDE the following:

- Baseline and projected student enrollment data as part of a publicly available Reopening Plan by January 2022; and
- Evidence of stakeholder engagement by Feb. 1, 2022.

A copy of CCPS' request to MSDE for use of the third round of ESSER funding is posted on the CCPS website. CCPS encourages community members to review the request and complete a survey about ESSER funding use. CCPS can amend the request with MSDE.

The survey is linked [here](#). The survey expires at 11:59 p.m., Nov. 18.

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 Service Manager — J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required. One-to-five years of supervisory experience in this or a related field required. Apply by Nov. 15.

Building Service Worker — Billingsley Elementary School, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required. Apply by 15.

Transportation Router — Annex 1, 12-month position. A high school diploma or equivalent. Working knowledge and general understanding of the geography and roads within Charles County preferred. Apply by Nov. 16.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month

position. A high school diploma is required. An interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children preferred. Apply by Nov. 19.

Compliance Facilitator — Westlake High School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree and Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement are required, along with three years of satisfactory special education classroom teaching experience. Apply by Nov. 22.

Elementary School Counselor — All elementary schools, 10-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 (MSDE) are required. A minimum of a 500-clock hour practicum or experience in counseling in a school setting required. Apply by Jan. 31.

Secondary School Counselor — Location

to be determined, 11-month position. A master's degree in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling as determined by the MSDE are required. A minimum of a 600-clock hour practicum or experience in counseling in a school setting required. Apply by Jan. 31.

Staff Accountant--Restricted Funds/Budget — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field is required with a master's degree and/or CPA, preferred. Position open until filled.

Special Education Compliance Facilitator — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree and Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement, and three years of satisfactory special education classroom teaching experience required. Position open until filled.