



School News

Notebook

Board meeting May 12

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet via teleconference at 1 p.m. May 12.

The Board meeting will be televised on the front of www.ccboe.com.

Due to restrictions posed by COVID-19, the Board has suspended public forum, but accepts questions and comments through email at boardmail@ccboe.com.

AP exam update

The College Board recently scheduled dates for online Advanced Placement (AP) exams for students. Each exam includes a primary test date in May and a make-up date for students. The schedule is posted at <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students/taking-ap-exams/ap-exam-schedule>. All primary exam dates fall between May 11 and 22 with make-up dates from June 1 to 5.

Exams will test students on skills and concepts learned in the first 75 percent of the course. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) AP teachers are providing students with lessons in Microsoft Teams to help prepare them for the exam.

The College Board is offering online resources, including review courses facilitated by AP teachers, to students for free. Review course content is available through livestream or on demand.

A schedule is posted at <https://apcoronavirusupdates.collegeboard.org/students/ap-course-schedule>.

Report card dates set

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will mail middle and high school report cards on June 22. Teachers will post all elementary school students' final grades in ParentVue by June 15.



Look for the signs

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff spent Friday morning delivering yard signs to the homes of the school system's nearly 2,100 seniors. Due to the school closure in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis, traditional graduation ceremonies and events are altered this year. To celebrate the Class of 2020, staff of the county's seven public high schools placed signs to celebrate the accomplishments of their students. Camelia McNeill, financial literacy teacher at St. Charles High School, places a sign in a Spartan's front lawn.

Withers receives Richmond Leadership Award

An important element of any strong instructional program is its leader. Someone who is knowledgeable, passionate and committed to the success of both students and staff. For the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) secondary education program, that person is Joan Withers. Withers has spent most of her career in education with CCPS, starting first as a high school English teacher and now as director of secondary education leading a team of more than 26 content specialists and staff.

Withers is highly regarded as a tireless advocate for instruction and pushes those around her to achieve excellence. Her passion for education is evident in all that she does for CCPS. For these qualities and her ability to lead with passion, Withers was named the 2020 recipient of the James E. Richmond Leadership in Excellence Award.

Withers was presented with the award at the Board of Education's March meeting. In presenting the award, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Amy Hollstein said Withers was a natural choice for an award that recognizes someone who leads by example. "The Richmond Leadership Award is a tribute to an educator who during their career led by example and had a positive and lasting impact on the school system," Hollstein said.

The award was established in 2013 to honor CCPS staff members who exhibit high stan-

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Enrichment activities

While distance learning assignments for grades have been distributed, enrichment activities are available online at www.cbboe.com.

Science keeps on spinning

The James E. Richmond Science Center is still mapping the skies. Go to the center's YouTube page where Patrick Rowley, the Science on a Sphere facilitator, is using NOAA's mobile app to continue in-depth science education during the school closure. The science center also has grade-level science activities for students to try out at its website, www.cbboe.com/science-center.

Updating residency

Each school year in February, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) requires parents of students in fifth- and eighth-grades to submit two updated proofs of domicile to their child's school. Prior to the school closure, parents received a letter about updating proofs with an April deadline. The deadline has been eliminated, but students in Grades 5 and 8 must have updated proofs on file before the 2020-21 school year begins. Students transitioning to sixth grade and high school as a freshman will not have their course schedule confirmed until their updated proofs are on file. To learn more, go to www.cbboe.com.

Registration dates

Registration for prekindergarten and kindergarten is taking place now. Go to <https://www.cbboe.com/index.php/online-registration> to start the process. Registration for students new to CCPS entering Grades 1 through 12 will open June 15.

Getting back to classroom

As of May 8, CCPS has not been provided with information regarding a date when students and staff members can return to their schools to collect their personnel belongings. Communications staff will inform staff and students about when people can visit CCPS buildings to pick up their items and drop off school property, such as library books that were not returned as of March 16 when Maryland schools were closed.



Joan Withers, sixth from left, is pictured with the Charles County Public Schools instruction team.

Withers

dards of excellence and leadership. It was named in honor of former longtime Superintendent James E. Richmond, who spent his entire educational career with CCPS. Former Board of Education Chairman Col. Donald M. Wade launched the award to honor Richmond when he announced his plans to retire. Withers began her career in 1981 as an English teacher at La Plata High School. She held her students to high standards, challenged them with rigorous instruction and pushed them toward academic excellence. "Students knew they would be challenged in her class and the work would be rigorous, but they were being prepared for college-level writing," Hollstein said.

Later during her career, Withers took on the role of high school resource teacher at La Plata. In this role, Withers supported all teachers, students and staff. She mentored others, led by example and worked closely with new teachers to help them be successful. Withers was first honored for excellence in the classroom in 1994. She was named the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Charles County by the Washington Post.

Rebecca Pearson is the CCPS content specialist for career and technical education (CTE). She works on the secondary education team with Withers and has another connection with her supervisor: she was once a student in Withers' classroom. Pearson said Withers not only wrote her college recommendation letter, but also was the teacher who influenced her the most.

"Being the youngest of three children,

I had heard about this teacher before I even entered her classroom. That is because she leaves a lasting impression on her students. She has the extraordinary gift of holding you to the highest standard while forming life-long relationships. Now, I have the unique experience of having her as a supervisor. The standards she held in the classroom are exemplified in the workplace. When you get a compliment from Joan, it makes you beam. You know it is deserved and it means the world," Pearson shared during Withers' award recognition ceremony.

Withers left a teaching job in Pennsylvania to join CCPS. For nearly 20 years, Withers taught English to students in Grades 9-12 at La Plata. She said her goal was to create readers, writers and listeners who would have the critical thinking and communication skills necessary for success in any field. Withers said the professional development opportunities provided to her by CCPS are what made her career worth staying in Maryland. "I stayed with CCPS because of the professional opportunities that I would never have encountered in Pennsylvania," Withers said.

Withers attributes her success as an educator to her father, a craftsman who taught wood and metal shop. "From him, I learned the importance of a strong work ethic, the need for attention to detail, and the positive impact a teacher can have on the life of a student," Withers said.

After a 39-year career with CCPS, Withers plans to retire at the end of this school year.



Laura Buzzell



Donna Day



Nicole Joly-O'Brien



Lolita Kiorpes



Victoria Farrell



Deanna Wheeler

Outstanding math, science teachers honored by SMECO

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, known as SMECO, recently named six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers 2020 Outstanding Teacher Honorees.

The annual awards program recognizes teachers for outstanding achievements in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Honored for accomplishments in math are Laura Buzzell of Henry E. Lackey High School, Donna Day of Theodore G. Davis Middle School and Nicole Joly-O'Brien of J.C. Parks Elementary School. SMECO recognized them as 2020 Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year.

SMECO honored Lolita Kiorpes of North Point High School and Victoria Farrell of Piccowaxen Middle School as 2020 Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year.

Deanna Wheeler, science teacher at Parks, was recognized by SMECO as a 2020 Outstanding Teacher in the area of STEM integration.

Each teacher was nominated for the SMECO Teacher of the Year awards program by staff, students and parents.

Each earned honors for demonstrating outstanding performance with creativity, rapport with students and staff, enthusiasm for teaching, professionalism and technology use in the classroom.

SMECO announced the award honorees earlier this month.

Buzzell has been a teacher with CCPS for 13 years. She has taught math at Lackey since starting her career in 2007. Her course load features Advanced Placement (AP) calculus, algebra with trigonometry and statistics, and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) engineering design and development. She is the math department chair at Lackey and achieved National Board Certification in the area of mathematics/adolescence and young adulthood.

Day is in her eleventh year of teaching with CCPS. Her classes include sixth-grade compacted and accelerated math, and she serves

as the math department chair and is the sixth grade co-team leader at Davis. Day coordinates professional development sessions for her colleagues and participates in FAME courses with CCPS and the Maryland State Department of Education.

Joly-O'Brien began her teaching career with CCPS in 2008. She has taught at Parks for the past 11 years and teaches kindergarten. She is the kindergarten team leader and serves as the PLTW program lead launch teacher. Additionally, Joly-O'Brien is part of the kindergarten math curriculum team.

Kiorpes has been a teacher with CCPS for 13 years. She teaches biology and introduction to biotechnology at North Point. She has also taught introduction to environmental science, serves as the North Point envirothon coach and helped North Point achieve its Green School certification and Ocean Guardian School status. Kiorpes also oversees both a trout in the classroom and terrapin in the classroom program for students. In 2016, she received the Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators.

Farrell is in her twelfth year of teaching with CCPS. She teaches eighth grade physical science at Piccowaxen. Farrell has taught at Piccowaxen for the past six years and serves as the math department chair. She also oversees the Green School program and is the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) team advisor.

Wheeler is a longtime CCPS teacher and has been teaching at Parks since 2001. She works with students in Grades 3-5 and helped the school achieve Ocean Guardian School status. Wheeler took two research trips through the PolarTREC program aboard an icebreaker in the Arctic. She oversees the Parks Green Team and helped her students present at an international science conference. Wheeler has been recognized at the state level as an environmental educator and participated in two White House roundtables about climate change in education.

Charles County Fair catalog cover contest is open to CCPS students in K-12

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students in kindergarten through Grade 12 can participate in the Charles County Fair Guide catalog cover contest. This year, students are being asked to create artwork that shows traditional county fair activities like livestock, food, amusement rides and other activities.

Go to <http://www.charlescountyfair.com/cover.html> for contest

rules and an entry form.

Winning artwork and theme may be used for the cover of the fair catalog, advertising, posters and any materials promoting the 2020 Charles County Fair. The deadline for receipt of entries is Friday, May 22, 2020. For more information, contact Glenn Belmore at 301-932-1234 or info@charlescountyfair.com.

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Teacher Appreciation Week

Indian Head Elementary School students show their appreciation for their teachers. Top, Maceo Rice, a fourth grader, made a sign for his teacher, Cheryl Sellow. Kylie Kirby, a fifth grader, gave a sweet shout out to her teacher, Shannon Berghoefer. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week May 4 to 8 with students around the county thanking their teachers using social media and the hashtag #oneccps.



#oneccps

Lizbeth Valenzuela-Delacruz, a Thomas Stone High School freshman, thanks her teachers, including her Algebra teacher, H'Erika White. Valenzuela-Delacruz displays her thanks during Teacher Appreciation Week.

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 Assistant Manager — Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. A willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency is a must. Apply by May 13.

Building Service Worker — Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. Ability to read and write effectively, as well as being physically capable of performing manual labor are required. A basic knowledge of heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems preferred. Apply by May 13.

Associate Superintendent of Finance and Business — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's

degree in business, financial management, accounting, legal or related field is required, along with a minimum of seven years of organizational leadership experience which includes financial management and business operations. Apply by May 15.

Math Content Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree and/or an Advanced Professional Certification in math is preferred. A minimum of five years of exemplary teaching experience in math preferably at the high school level. A minimum of three years of leadership experience in math with some system-wide experience preferred. Apply by May 15.

Carpenter III — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A high school diploma or any combination equivalent to completion of an apprenticeship or other formal training program and six years of journey-level carpentry experience is required. A minimum of 10

years of carpentry experience preferred. Apply by May 15.

Attendance Secretary — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 11-month position. Applicants must have good computer literacy skills with MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and the internet. The ability to compile data accurately and concisely is required. Apply by May 18.

English Teacher — Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. A bachelors from an accredited college or university in education is required, a master's degree in the related area preferred. Apply by May 19.

Middle School Teacher — Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. A bachelors from an accredited college or university in education is required, a master's degree in the related area preferred. Apply by May 19.

Temporary Computer Analyst — Hourly position, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Position open until filled.