



# School News

## Notebook

### Summer meals program

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering a free summer meals program for children 18 and younger who live in Charles County. CCPS will continue to serve grab-and-go meals at the 11 meal sites from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Tuesday, June 30. Meals will continue to be available through Aug. 14; however, CCPS is waiting for direction from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as to how meals can be provided after June 30. For more information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y7gbq6bj>

### Summer school starting

The CCPS summer school program begins online July 7. Courses available will use a mix of Microsoft Teams instruction and the Apex Learning platform. Students can take a maximum of two make-up courses during summer school. The cost of make-up courses has been waived by CCPS this year. Summer school also offers four courses for original credit and are \$300 each. Learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/yaf28duz>.

### Celebrate virtually

High school graduations are available for viewing anytime, anywhere on the CCPS YouTube and Vimeo channels. They will air through Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. on both Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12. Henry E. Lackey High School's ceremony will air on Mondays; La Plata High School's ceremony will be shown on Tuesdays; Wednesdays are reserved for Maurice J. McDonough High School's ceremony; North Point High School's ceremony will air on Thursdays; St. Charles High School's ceremony will be on air on Fridays; Thomas Stone High School's ceremony will air on Saturdays; and Westlake High School's ceremony will air on Sundays.



### Con-GRAD-ulations

That's a wrap on the Class of 2020 of Charles County Public Schools. Clockwise from above, Moriah Jones, a St. Charles High School graduate, celebrates as she walks across the stage during the in-person ceremony June 3; Alanda Lee, left, a front office secretary at Thomas Stone High School, helps graduate Christopher Johnson prepare to walk across the stage to receive his diploma during the school's ceremony June 2; and Masia Vicente, a 2020 graduate of North Point High School, chats with family members via FaceTime shortly after she walked across the stage during the school's in-person graduation event June 4.



### Cleary named finalist in WaPo's Teacher of the Year program

Since she was a kindergarten student, Casey Cleary has been comfortable in a classroom and knew it was a place she belonged — and not only as a student.

"I wanted to be the one who wrote on the chalkboard, so I figured I had to be the teacher to do that," Cleary said. Even at home, school was on her mind as she tried to rope her brothers into playing "school" with her.

Cleary, a math teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, fulfilled her goal of becoming an educator, and as the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) finalist in *The Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year Award program, her career choice proved a perfect fit for her.

"What has stood out the most when I visit her class is the effectiveness of the positive relationships she's built with her students," Stoddert's Principal Erica Williams said in nomina-

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## CCPS celebrates adult program graduates

For the 15 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students in the adult independence program, graduation means moving on to the workforce and exploring the community.

These students have spent the past three years learning by doing – whether they had paid employment or spent hours learning job training in the community. They learned how to contribute to their community and the skills necessary to lead independent lives.

The program, known as AIP, is a secondary transition program that provides students with disabilities between the ages of 18 to 21 with opportunities to complete their education in age-appropriate community settings.

Focal parts of AIP include employment, community access and daily living skills in order to support students as they transition from high school to life as an adult.

Enrollment in AIP is generally about 30 students.

The AIP Class of 2020 includes the following students: Keyona Bowman, Alexander Chisley, Selah Davis, Angelo Drayton, Nathan Fenwick, George Gorham, Kevon Green Johnson, Trey Hargrove, Jonathan Jones, Anthony Macri, Paris Massey, Joshua Minnis, Hadassah Taylor-Ketchum, James Wheeler and Keith Wood.

To read about the graduates future plans, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ya2sdu67>.

## Six graduates are finalists in scholarship program

Six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) graduates in the Class of 2020 are finalists in the College Board's Opportunity Scholarship program.

Students who participate in the program complete six college planning actions using the College Board website, such as creating a list of colleges to research and taking a practice SAT exam.

Students opt-in to participate during their junior year of high school and create a College Board profile online.

Students are honored with awards for completing actions in one of six focal areas: build, practice, improve, strengthen, complete and apply. The following students were honored with one-time College Board scholarships.

- **Helena Caaya**, St. Charles High School, practice category, \$1,000;
- **Mya Cantillano**, Westlake High School, practice category, \$1,000;
- **Damia Carter**, St. Charles, build category, \$500;
- **Eric Fotang Jr.**, North Point High School, improve category, \$2,000;
- **Angelo Jackson**, Thomas Stone High School, complete category, \$1,000; and
- **Valencia Nwanwa**, North Point, apply category, \$1,000.

Students honored with a build award use their College Board profile to build lists of colleges and universities they would like to research. Students must add at least six prospective colleges or universities to their profile list.

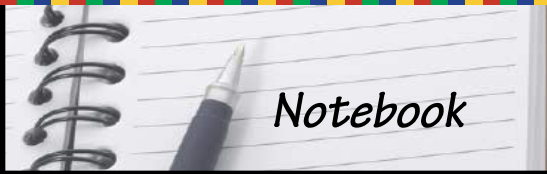
The practice award recognizes students who complete the official SAT practice exam on Khan Academy. Students who improve an SAT score are recognized with the improve award.

Scholarships in the strengthen category honor students who include colleges on their research list in which their SAT/ACT score is lower than, equal to or higher than the average freshman applicant. The complete category recognizes students who complete the free application for federal student aid, known as the FAFSA.

The apply category honors students who apply to the colleges and universities listed in their College Board profile.

Students who complete all six actions steps in their College Board profile are eligible to receive one of 25 awarded \$40,000 scholarships.

Scholarships are one-time payments provided directly by the College Board to the recipient's college of acceptance.



## Community resources

Student Services has a web page dedicated to community resources for families in need of assistance due to circumstances related to COVID-19. Pandemic-Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) provides food benefits to children who have temporarily lost access to free or reduced-price meals at school due to COVID-19. For questions about the program, go to the state's Department of Human Services (DHS) online at [mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us](http://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us) or call 800-332-6347. The free and reduced meal online application is open until July 1, 2020. CCPS cannot assist with the P-EBT benefits, but can confirm if a child is currently receiving free and reduced meals. To confirm your child's status, email Lititia Warren at [lwarren@ccboe.com](mailto:lwarren@ccboe.com) with the student's name, the school they attend and the child's student identification number. Other community resources including food pantries and health and wellness programs are available at <https://tinyurl.com/y8ahqeqr>.

## Student Member sworn in

Ian Herd, a rising junior at La Plata High School, was sworn in June 9 by Board Chairperson Virginia McGraw as the new Student Member of the Board of Education for the 2020-21 school year. Herd began his term last Tuesday and officially participated in the Board's June 9 meeting.

"Today, I took an oath of office and sealed a commitment to the students of Charles County. Twenty-six students proceed me, each having brought something unique to this Board. I am so extremely humbled and honored to now serve as the twenty-seventh. I have been sent here as a conduit of action for my fellow students. Now, more than ever we can see student advocacy boil to fruition. To the students of Charles County, I stand with you in your endeavors," Herd said. The Student Member works with a committee of student liaisons, one student from each high school, throughout the school year. Each high school has a liaison, which is selected by methods approved by the school's Student Government Association (SGA) and principal.

To read more about Herd and the student liaisons, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y9aaz3vf>.

## Cleary

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tion materials. “Her students are receptive to redirection, feedback and suggestions because they truly believe she is invested in their success, and trust that she will support them along the way.”

Cleary originally planned on teaching fifth grade, even completing an internship in her senior year of high school as a student-teacher in a fifth-grade class at her former elementary school. Realizing math was her passion, it made sense to devote her teaching career to it.

The middle school years prove to be challenging for many. Students are not little kids anymore, but they are not teenagers either. As a middle school teacher, Cleary sees her students go through many changes in three years.

“They make such huge gains over their middle school career and go through so many changes, plus they still will have silly fun as they aren’t too grown up yet,” Cleary said. “It is definitely a unique age group, but there is never a dull moment with them, and they always keep me on my toes.”

Harmony Holmes, a North Point High School rising sophomore, was in Cleary’s class in eighth grade. Holmes said she hated school, and the middle school years were the most tumultuous. “I always doubted myself and my abilities. I was an emotional kid going through a lot at that time in my life,” Holmes wrote in a nomination letter. “I was honestly ready to give up on school and let myself quit. Then I met Casey Cleary and my whole life changed.”

Holmes admits it sounds dramatic, but it is the truth. Cleary is tough, but fair and teaches more than math. She talks to students about their responsibilities beyond the classroom and what they’ll face as they grow older. “You do what you are told to do in the time you were given, or you get fired,” Holmes said. “Ms. Cleary taught me that. Yes, she helped us with our work, but she didn’t do [the work] for us. She wanted us to learn that we don’t get that many chances, so the one chance that we do get, we better make it count. There will not always be do overs.”

North Point rising sophomore and Cleary class alum Jordyn Davis agreed. “Ms. Cleary has been a role model for me, she’s taught me to be more confident and that I am where I am for a reason, it wasn’t an accident,” Davis said. She counts Cleary as her inspiration for wanting to become an educator. “I am forever



**Casey Cleary, center, a math teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, was named the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) finalist for *The Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year Award program. Earlier in the year, she went over a Algebra assignment with eighth graders Eric Melton Jr., left, and Donald Uzoukwu.**

grateful to have a teacher like Ms. Cleary because I truly believe without meeting her, I wouldn’t be the same person I am now,” she said.

“Ms. Cleary has taught me so much – whether it’s about being organized or being independent,” said Amy Garcia-Lopez, a former Cleary student.

Cleary instills confidence in her students by listening to them, building relationships, and ensuring they understand the academic material they are studying. “She has an innate ability to connect with her students, meet them where they are academically, and move them forward,” Mary Lee Sadler, a math content specialist with CCPS, said.

The work isn’t dry or boring if Cleary can help it. She peppers lessons with scenarios that appeal to pre-teen minds. “I try to make math relevant to them,” she said. “If they don’t see a purpose of learning the material, why would they even want to?” Earlier this year, classes studied exponential functions and how exponential growth can be seen in a zombie apocalypse – a prescient metaphor that taught students how illnesses can spread among a population. “Now they are actually seeing that math happening in real life,” Cleary said.

Another hallmark of her instruction is an end-of-the-year video. The project features students singing a pop song with the lyrics rewritten by Cleary to explain math

concepts. The tradition started with students learning the quadratic formula to the tune of the folk song “Pop Goes the Weasel.” They updated it to Willow Smith’s song “Whip My Hair.” Since then, classes have filmed videos based on “Work” by Rihanna, Drake’s “One Dance” (“One Graph”) and “Shape of U” by Ed Sheeran, as well as others. “I have found that this has helped build a community in my school as it is something positive for Stoddert,” Cleary said. This year, although separated by distance learning, Cleary put the finishing touches on the lyrics and the video, “Try, Try, Try,” recently debuted on YouTube, with students filming from home. “I never expected these videos to grow the way they did, but I love that it happened. It taps into the talents that students can share,” she said. “Their teamwork and support for each other continues to inspire me every year to see what we can accomplish together.”

The songs have come in handy in high school classrooms, too. “It’s two years later in Algebra II and I still remember the quadratic equation song that she had us remember,” North Point rising junior Aija Branson said. “I see other people flipping through their notes for it.”

To read more about Cleary, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybnoeecu>. To see the videos made by Cleary and her students, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybjcp7wm>.

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## Middle schools celebrate with drive-thru 8th grade promotions

Clockwise from upper left, Dante Walker is congratulated at Theodore G. Davis Middle School; Davis staff members Emily Shatley, Yvette Motley and Marissa Gulvas, cheer on students from a social distance; Mattawoman Middle School teachers Charyn Scrivens, Amanda Jones and Courtney Weaver wave to students; Sophia Toye, of Milton M. Somers Middle School, thanks teachers; and Somers' art teachers Kelia Mcrae and Richard Ivanac, celebrate during the promotion event.



## Personnel

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

### Job Openings

**Assistant Building Service Manager** — Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. Applicants should be physically capable of performing manual labor and have basic knowledge of HVAC systems. Apply by June 19.

**Attendance Secretary** — La Plata High School, 10-month position. Good computer skills with familiarity with MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Apply by June 23.

**English Teacher** — North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 31.

**ESOL Teacher** — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Position opened until filled.

**Family and Consumer Science Teacher** —

Location to be determined, 10-month position. Position opened until filled.

**IEP Facilitator** — All schools, 11-month position (pool for future openings). Bachelor's degree required, a master's degree preferred. Knowledge and experience with IEP procedures preferred. Apply by June 30.

**Library Media Specialist** — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Instrumental Music Teacher** — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**U.S. Marine Corps JROTC Senior Marine Instructor** — St. Charles High School, 11-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and must have served a minimum of 20 years of active duty or have retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority. Apply by June 30.

**Chemistry Teacher** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by

Sept. 15.

**Special Education Teacher** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 15.

**Art Teacher** — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Position open until filled. Technology Education Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Speech and Language Pathologist** — Location to be determined, 10-month position. A master's degree is required, as well as a Maryland State license in speech and language pathology. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in business, financial management, accounting or a related field required. A minimum of seven years of leadership experience in financial management and business operations is a must. Position open until filled.