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Teaching and Learning.*



Charles County Public Schools

School News

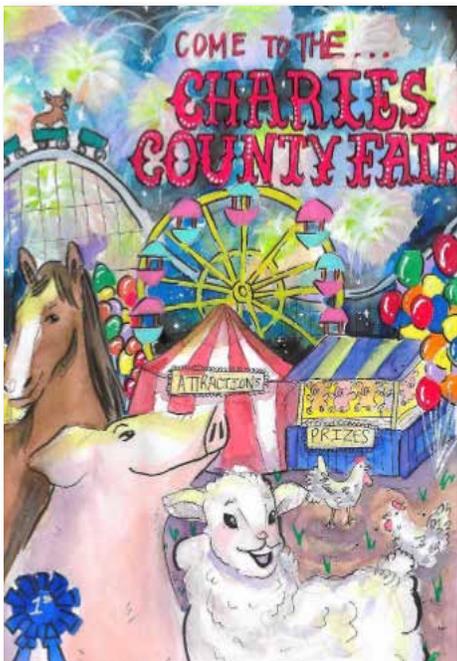
Important Dates Coming Soon

Free, reduced meals

The application for free and reduced price meals is open. The carryover period for free and reduced price meals for the 2020-21 school year ends Oct. 14. The carryover period is the time the USDA allows students to remain on the prior year's meal status. Students who were on free or reduced meal status in the 2019-20 school year will revert back to full paid status on Oct. 15 if a new application isn't submitted. For a free and reduced price meal applications, go to <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>.

Fair Guide winner

Before the Charles County Fair was canceled, students submitted artwork for the annual Fair Guide Cover contest. Each year, the fair board asks CCPS students in all grades to take part in the art contest. This year, Arielle Bruce, an incoming junior at North Point High School, was named the winner of the contest.



Teaching teachers

• Orientation held

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) held New Teacher Orientation Aug. 17 to 19. While a majority of the orientation was conducted virtually, on Tuesday educators attended in-person trainings. Top, Jasmine Moore, a first-grade teacher at J.P. Ryon Elementary School, goes over what the first seven days of school will look like while at an in-person training held at Arthur Middleton Elementary School. Left, Sheri Belisle, right, a prekindergarten teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School, talks with Ashley Miller, left, a prekindergarten

teacher from J.P. Ryon and Emily Watts, a prekindergarten teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School, during the orientation. "The not knowing what it's going to be like," is stressful," Hannah Brown, an early interventionist at the F.B. Gwynn Center, said of starting the school year virtually. "Not knowing what to expect. But I'm looking forward to the opportunity to build relationships with my students' families. That's an upside." Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/yykwfko>.

School meals program starts Aug. 31 at 17 sites

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is set to begin its standard school meals program on Monday, Aug. 31, which is the first day of school for students. CCPS students are starting the school year in an online format, meaning meal service will continue as curbside distribution.

The school meals program provides a meal bag to any student enrolled in CCPS. Meals are not available for any child who is not an enrolled CCPS student. A meal bag includes a cold breakfast and lunch. Distribution is limited to one meal bag per child per day.

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Notebook

On the front cover

Pictured on the front cover from left are Russell Walker, building service worker at Arthur Middleton Elementary School; Charles Proctor, building service manager at Westlake High School; and Jennifer Diaz, registration secretary at William B. Wade Elementary School.

Updated employee manual

An updated employee manual has been published. To take a look, go to www.ccboe.com/myccps. The manual is linked on the front page of MyCCPS.

Help with technology

Staff with technology questions can get them answered at MyCCPS. Fill out a form if you need assistance with Microsoft TEAMS, Flipgrid or other tools and apps. The form can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y22a5ans>.

College Fair set for Sept. 16

The 23rd annual Charles County College Fair will be held virtually on Sept. 16. High school juniors and seniors will meet with college, trade school and military representatives using video conference tools and the student's Microsoft Teams account. Representatives will discuss admission, financial aid and campus life.

Summer camp fun

As it has for years, CCPS held summer enrichment camps to keep academic skills sharp among students while introducing them to new activities or expanding on their love of others. This year, organizers and teachers scrambled to craft camps that could be offered virtually and others that were OK to hold in person — as long as safety guidelines were in place.

“Anytime a child goes to school, there are new procedures that teachers go through with them,” Ann Taylor, content specialist for Gifted and Differentiated Services, said. The procedures students learn are ones about the importance of social distancing, washing their hands and not sharing school supplies. “They’re learning the social skills that they need in this new world we’re in,” she said. Read more at <https://tinyurl.com/y6faqr4o>.



File photo from August 2019 of Thomas Stone High School’s football team at practice. High school fall and winter sports have been postponed over concerns about the spread of COVID-19.

Fall, winter sports, extracurricular activities postponed

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is taking a page from the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association’s (MPSSAA) playbook and postponing the fall and winter high school athletic seasons due to conditions presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MPSSAA’s decision to postpone fall and winter sports in schools through the first semester was made in coordination with the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, the Maryland Department of Health and the Public School Superintendent Association of Maryland.

The CCPS Return to Play Committee — made up of sports and safety experts including a doctor, nurse, coach, athletic director, athletic trainer, principal and administrators — is looking at ways to reintroduce athletics and extracurricular activities as soon as possible while putting the health of students and staff at the forefront.

CCPS high school fall and winter athletes reported for conditioning last month. With the MPSSAA decision to delay the seasons, conditioning was paused on Aug. 5.

CCPS will explore the possibility of allowing off-season practices when health and safety conditions allow. The school system will follow the same guidance for extracurricular activities such as band, theater and other groups and clubs. The Return to Play Committee continues to explore ways to engage students virtually in the first semester to keep their skills sharp.

“I know how important and integral

athletics and other activities are to our students and staff. They are enriching opportunities that provide creative and physical outlets for many, while fostering a sense of school pride,” Superintendent Kimberly Hill said. “We are saddened that such activities have been sidelined for the time being, but understand it is for the greater cause of keeping our students, staff and community healthy.”

MPSSAA will collaborate with the state’s health department and the superintendent association to work on a hybrid two-semester plan with engagement opportunities during the first semester and modified competition seasons taking place in the second semester.

This plan could result in three abbreviated sports seasons starting with the second semester. Each sport season will have a 20-calendar day preseason and a 5-week competition season with winter sports fielded first, then fall, and ending with spring sports, according to the MPSSAA.

To learn more about MPSSAA’s Roadmap for Return to Interscholastic Athletics, click here.

The state board of education approved on June 23 the use of MPSSAA waiver regulations for student engagement during the first semester. The regulations will give CCPS, along with other school systems in the state, the flexibility to adapt to local COVID-19 restrictions and offer athletics based on local health conditions. The waiver applies to interscholastic athletics from July 1, 2020, through July 30, 2021.

Meals

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Starting Aug. 31, students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals can receive a meal bag at no cost. Students who do not qualify for meal benefits will be charged for meal bags picked up at a distribution site. Cost for a meal bag is \$4.10 (\$2.75 for the lunch items and \$1.35 for breakfast – these prices reflect the current elementary school prices for paid students).

Additionally, students who attend schools that offer free breakfast to all students during the school year through the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program will have to pay for breakfast if they do not qualify for free or reduced price meals.

Parents will need to provide their child’s CCPS-issued student identification number in order to pick up a meal bag. This number is on a student’s report card and in the ParentVue app. In the app, login and click on the student’s name and picture, then choose “ID Card” in the upper-right hand corner.

Meal site staff can scan the student barcode in ParentVue or a child’s school-issued student ID to limit contact. To pick up a meal bag, parents must have their child’s student ID number to connect with the CCPS cafeteria system.

Families can apply now for free and reduced price meal benefits. An application is posted on the CCPS website at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. CCPS will mail paper applications to households of students who have qualified for meal program benefits in prior school years.

Meal payments can be made by check or money order at distribution sites, or using the online meal payment system MyPaymentsPlus.

Staff at meal sites are not able to accept cash payments. MyPaymentsPlus is available online at <https://www.mypaymentsplus.com/welcome>. Parents can add funds to their



Food and nutrition service (FNS) staff members Trina Ford, left, and Ann-Marie Akumah, prepare to hand out meals at the Westlake High School summer meal site. Starting Aug. 31, FNS staff will distribute school meals to CCPS students at 17 sites.

child’s account online without fees.

Starting Aug. 31, parents of children enrolled in CCPS can pick up a meal bag at one of 17 available distribution sites from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Distribution sites include:

- Henry E. Lackey High School;
- La Plata High School;
- Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- North Point High School;
- St. Charles High School;
- Thomas Stone High School;
- Westlake High School;
- Mattawoman Middle School;
- Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Billingsley Elementary School;
- Indian Head Elementary School;
- Malcolm Elementary School;
- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- J.C. Parks Elementary School; and

- J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

Seven sites will host an evening pick-up window from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. They are Lackey, La Plata, North Point, St. Charles, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools, and Piccowaxen Middle School.

Nutritional information for meal bags will be posted on the school system website, www.ccboe.com. Parents of children with food allergies or modified diets should check their child’s meal bag items before serving.

When schools closed unexpectedly in March, CCPS provided meals to all children under the age of 18 at no cost to families. CCPS was reimbursed for these meals by funding available from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Summer Food Service Program.

CCPS also secured several waivers to USDA guidelines to continue to serve children more than one meal at a time through no contact, curbside service. USDA discontinued extra funding for CCPS at the end of the 2019-20 school year in June.

Who is that masked kid?

To slow the spread of COVID-19, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff and visitors to CCPS buildings are required to wear face masks. During in-person summer enrichment camps, students wore masks when they couldn’t social distance. Pictured are Zachary Reynolds, left, a second grader at T.C. Martin Elementary School, and Zoe Barb, a kindergartner at J.P. Ryon Elementary School.



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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).



Summer celebration

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center held a socially distant celebration for high school seniors who completed their work in summer school to earn their diplomas. The ceremony — much like those that aired in June — will be available for view on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) YouTube channel. Eleven students received their diplomas on Aug. 6 including Keryanne Rojas of Henry E. Lackey High School; Ryan Anderson of North Point High School; Troy Chase, Marquan Dailey, Breanna Neal, Ian-Simplice Obare and Ashanti Vaughan, all of St. Charles High School; Noa Rauda Martinez and Marquez Smith, both of Thomas Stone High



School; and Bobbi Jones, Janiya Lewis and Immanuel Neal, all of Westlake High School. Above left, Immanuel Neal pauses for a photo opportunity after receiving his diploma. Above, Marquan Dailey celebrates with his family at the event.

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

Plumber III — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A high school diploma or equivalency certificate supplemented by appropriate vocational training and skills is required, along with five years of progressive plumbing experience of which at least one year as Maintenance Plumber II or equivalent time and experience. Apply by Aug. 26.

Computer/STEM Teacher — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 28.

Language Arts Teacher — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 28.

Mathematics Teacher — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 28.

Mathematics Teacher — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 28.

Sixth-Grade Language Arts Teacher — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 28.

Special Education Teacher — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 28.

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

Mathematics Teacher — Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 11.

Science Teacher — Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 11.

Special Education Teacher — Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 11.

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.

Mathematics Teacher — North Point High

School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 15.

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

Business Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Position open until filled.

Administrative Instructional Assistant — All elementary schools, 10-month position. High school diploma is required with experience working with children. Position open until filled.

Food Service Manager — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Position open until filled.

Technology Facilitator — Location to be determined, 10-month position. A high school diploma and an associate of arts degree or a pass on the ParaPro Assessment are required. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — Mattawoman Middle School, 12-month position. Position open until filled.