

*It's All About Teaching
and Learning.*

Charles County Public Schools

School News



Pictured above ...

Pictured at the top of the page are employees honored by the Board of Education at its December meeting. Pictured from left are Donna Rzechula, instructional assistant, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Kim Powell Burks, kindergarten instructional assistant, William A. Diggs Elementary School; and Luciano Morales Jr., instructional assistant in the Secondary Academy of International Languages (SAIL) program, Thomas Stone High School.

Virtual plays are a thing

Charles County Public high schools are hosting upcoming virtual plays.

Henry E. Lackey High School's virtual play, "Help Desk: A Stay-at-Home Version" is set to debut at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11. The play will be available for 24 hours, but those interested in watching must email Austin Gore at rgore@ccboe.com for the virtual link.

La Plata High School is presenting two virtual shows this month. "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" is set to debut at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 18. "An Enchanted Bookshop Christmas" debuts 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 19. Interested viewers should contact Jennifer Joyner by email at jjoyner@ccboe.com to request the virtual links.

Maurice J. McDonough High School is hosting a virtual play next month. The drama department will stream "Game of Tiaras (one-act): Stay-At-Home Edition" by Don Zolidis. The show is set to stream virtually on Jan. 8-9. Interested viewers will be able to access the link online soon at <http://mhsdrama303.booktix.com>. For questions, email Jana Heyl at jhey1@ccboe.com.

To make donations to the drama departments, email Gore, Joyner or Heyl.



Stayin' cool this holiday season

Aaron Corbett, a third grader in Christine Chinault's art class at Malcolm Elementary School, created a snow globe drawing to celebrate the season.

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) offices and schools are closed Dec. 23 to Jan. 1 for winter break.



Pupil personnel worker, Donna Robinson, finds a coat to give a student in need during the coat giveaway.



Staff members talk with visitors at the coat giveaway to get ages and sizes of children in need of winter coats.

CCPS staff coordinates winter coat giveaway

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff gave about 550 coats to 300 families last month at a winter coat pickup held at John Hanson Middle School, according to organizers. Pupil Personnel Workers (PPWs) were also given coats for students they work with at their schools. Organizers will continue to collect new-with-tags coats in all sizes to provide to CCPS children in need. All sizes are needed, but coats for elementary school-aged boys and girls were in short supply at the recent pickup.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organizers can only accept new coats with tags at this time. To arrange a donation, call 301-934-7210.

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Superintendent Kimberly Hill announces retirement plans

Superintendent Kimberly A. Hill formally notified the Board of Education last month that she does not plan to ask for renewal of her contract in 2021. The Superintendent of Schools said she plans to retire at the end of the 2020-21 school year and wanted to provide the Board with ample opportunity to fill her position before her final day on June 30, 2021.

Hill is not required to notify the Board until the February before the expiration of her contract. "I think the right thing to do is provide the Board with as much time possible to complete the process of hiring a new Superintendent," Hill said.

Hill has served as Superintendent of Schools for two four-year terms. Before her 2013 appointment as Superintendent, Dr. Hill served as principal of North Point High School, Charles County's largest high school and center for science, industry and technology career pathway programs. Dr. Hill started her 35-year career in education as a social studies teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School, her high school alma mater.

"The state of the school system is strong. Charles County Public Schools is well-positioned to navigate the changing landscape of public education, with organizational structure, policies and practices that serve our students' best interests. CCPS teachers and leaders are dedicated to teaching and learning and prepared for the challenges ahead. I am commit-



Superintendent of Schools Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D., center, stops by Arthur Middleton Elementary School in Fall 2019 to see what students — including Sana Hilario, left, and Caleb Price — are up to in the classroom.

ted to a seamless transition to new leadership, and will provide whatever support is necessary to ensure the continued success of Charles County Public Schools," Hill wrote in her notice to the Board. The Board of Education will now begin a discussion of how it will proceed and hire a new superintendent. "Dr. Hill is not leaving until the end of the school year, so we have some time to decide what to do," Chairman Virginia McGraw said.

Notebook, continued

Family internet centers open

If you know of any student who is having trouble accessing their learning due to poor internet/Wifi service, tell them about the family internet centers. Centers are open Monday through Friday at Henry E. Lackey High School, and Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy and T.C. Martin elementary schools. The hours of the Lackey and Mt. Hope centers are 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Higdon is open from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and Martin's hours are 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Each center has social distancing and mask guidelines in place. Children 15 and younger must be accompanied by an adult and families can sit together.

Holiday giveaway

The American College of Education (ACE) is giving away 15 Amazon gift cards in a holiday giveaway. Through Dec. 16, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff can enter the gift card drawing by filling out a short form at <https://www.ace.edu/raffles/holiday-partner-giveaway>. Winners will be notified by ACE on Dec. 18. ACE is crediting the application fee toward tuition for those who apply by Dec. 16 for its term starting Jan. 11. For more information, go <https://www.ace.edu/campaigns/early-app-fee-credit>.

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

ERP Administrator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in information technology, computer science, business management or a related field is required, with a master's degree preferred. Experience with Oracle Cloud ERP preferred. Apply by Dec. 14.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with an interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children. Apply by Dec. 14.

Instructional Assistant — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with an interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children. Apply by Dec. 14.

Technology Education Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must meet certification requirements established by the MSDE. Apply by Dec. 31.

Science Teacher — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must meet certification requirements established by the MSDE. Apply by Dec. 31.