

School News



All high schools meet Adequate Yearly Progress

All Charles County high schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2006. Charles County is one of five in the state to have no schools on the state's school improvement list or needing local attention listing.

The news, released by the Maryland State Department of Education on Oct. 25, is the final in a series of testing reports on the Maryland School Assessments, High School Assessments and AYP. Previously, Charles County was notified that all elementary and middle schools had also met AYP for this year.

AYP is the cornerstone of Maryland's accountability system and is used to track academic progress. AYP is the gain that schools and school systems must make each year in the portion of students receiving proficiency in reading and math.

All Charles County public schools met the standards in each subject and in each subgroup. The subgroups of students are: African American, American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic, White, Limited English Proficient, Free and Reduced-Price Meals, and Special Education.

No Charles County schools are on the school improvement list, which means a school failed to achieve AYP for two consecutive years. Charles County is one of the few counties in the state that has never had a school on the school improvement list. Additionally, no public school in Charles County is on the local attention list. Schools in need of local attention are schools that achieved their Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) last year, but fell short this year. A school failing to meet AMO for two consecutive years is placed on school

Get the scores

Charles County's results for the Maryland State Assessments, High School Assessments and Adequate Yearly Progress are available at www.mdreportcard.org.

improvement.

"I am pleased with the news that we continue to make the necessary progress to meet the state and federal requirements for student performance. I commend the principals, teachers, staff and students at all schools for their work in the area of the Maryland State Assessments and the High School Assessments. We are one of only a handful of counties in the state to have no schools on any level – elementary, middle or high school – in need of local attention or on the state school improvement list," said Superintendent James E. Richmond.

AYP is the standard established by Maryland to meet the federal mandates established by NCLB, which requires states to establish accountability systems designed to ensure that all students achieve proficiency in reading/language arts and mathematics by the end of school year 2013-2014.

Richmond stressed that schools will continue to work with all students to ensure the school system continues to make progress toward the goals set locally and by NCLB. He thanked teachers and staff for their work with students that led to this accomplishment.

Coming soon ...

American Freedom Week

Charles County Public Schools is planning its annual American Freedom Week Celebration to be held at La Plata High School on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. Each year Charles County Public Schools hosts American Freedom Day, which involves more than 100 JROTC students and numerous veterans throughout the county. The ceremony provides a bridge between our military veterans and students. It is a celebration of America, our freedoms, patriotic days and veterans.

Author to visit

Former Henry E. Lackey High School student Robert Fields recently published his first book, *Suspension* under the pen name of Robert Westfield. The writer will be in Charles County the week of Nov. 13 and will talk to AP students about his process, writing and publishing. The author will be available to meet the public on Nov. 19 at the Brewhouse Coffee Shop in La Plata at 1 p.m. Fields is a 1990 graduate of Lackey. His book is described as a "dark comedy about a young New Yorker's failed attempts to isolate himself from stalkers in a city filled with impostors, ax murderers and a fanatically religious, overprotective mother."

American Education Week

Charles County Public Schools is celebrating American Education Week Nov. 12-18. This year's theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, highlights the importance of bringing together educators, school staff, parents and communities. The National Education Association and the Education Association of Charles County promote the week as a way to place public schools in the spotlight and to highlight the positive activities occurring each day in public school classrooms.



Notebook

AFLAC open enrollment

AFLAC is holding open enrollment at the following schools and centers through Nov. 3.

- Oct. 27 - Piccowaxen, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Oct. 30 - Ryon, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, 10:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
- Oct. 31 - Maintenance, 7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.; Gwynn Center, 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.; Starkey, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 1 - Starkey, 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2 - Diggs, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.; T. C. Martin, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Nov. 3 - Stoddert, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

La Plata memorial

La Plata High School's Memorial Garden Society recently held a fall remembrance ceremony where they dedicated two park benches to Joey Husick III, a former La Plata student who was killed in a boating accident. The program also honored one former teacher and four additional former students who have died. They were William "Joe" Williams, former physical education teacher and coach; Brian Stokely, class of 1994; Matt Davis, who would have graduated with the class of 1991; Stephanie Nohe, class of 1998; and Erica Pemberton, who would have graduated with the class of 2008.

Cover photos

Pictured on the cover are employees from J.C. Parks Elementary School. From left, front row, Erik Sivta, fourth-grade teacher; Tara Mattingly, instructional specialist; and Delma Smallwood, reading resource teacher. From left, back row, Pat O'Connor, guidance counselor; and Amanda Woodard, fourth-grade teacher.

In memoriam - Carolyn James-Rountree

Carolyn James-Rountree, a special education teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School, passed away suddenly on Friday, Oct. 13 after collapsing in a hallway.

Mrs. James-Rountree had been teaching at Lackey since August. She previously served as a special education teacher at Parkway Elementary School in Virginia Beach and taught at Salem High School in Virginia Beach from 1999 to June 2006.

Mrs. James-Rountree received her bach-

elor's degree in 1993 from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and her master's degree in special education with a secondary principal's endorsement in 2003 from Norfolk State University in Virginia.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 21, in Virginia Beach.



Carolyn James-Rountree

Principals, school psychologists present PBIS program

Charles County Public Schools staff recently presented the school system's success with the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program at a national forum.

Toni Melton, principal at Indian Head Elementary School, Ron Stup, principal at Matthew Henson Middle School, and Elsa Velez, school psychologist and coordinator for PBIS, were invited to present at the National Forum for Advanced Implementers of School Wide Positive Behavior Supports (SWPBS) in Rosemont, Illinois.

The presentation titled "Implementing Targeted Group Interventions within a School, District, & State," provided participants with an overview of targeted interventions such as the Behavior Education

Program (BEP) which has been successfully implemented at Indian Head and Henson.

The BEP Program, also called Check-In/Check-Out, is a school-based program for providing daily support and monitoring for students who are at risk for developing serious or chronic behavior problems.

Stup and Melton shared outcome data that indicated a decrease in suspensions and an increase in academic engagement for students participating in this program.

Velez presented ways in which the local system is building systems to support implementation and sustainability of this program.

PBIS State Facilitator Susan Barrett from Sheppard Pratt Health Systems presented alongside Charles County.

Board of Education Agenda - November 14

The Board of Education has set its tentative agenda for its meeting Nov. 14.

Executive session - 12 p.m.

Call to order - 1 p.m.

Pledge of Alliance

Public Forum

Report/information items

- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Superintendent's Report to the Board
- CIP Update
- Curriculum update: Adult Education
- Budget update
- Human resources update
- School naming report

Action Items

- Approval of Personnel
- Month of the Young Child Resolution

- Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel Resolution

Unfinished Business - 4 p.m.

New Business and Future Agenda Items

- New Business
- Future Agenda Items

Recognition

- Students
- Employees
 - Jamie E. Stephenson, special education life skills teacher, Walter J. Mitchell
 - Alice C. Bailer, resource teacher, North Point
 - Mary J. Seremet, gifted resource teacher, Milton M. Somers
 - David P. Bradshaw, physical education teacher, Maurice J. McDonough

Adjournment

Students examine causes, solutions for youth violence

Adults learned about youth violence from students Oct. 18-19 during a Youth Summit held to gather information about the causes and possible solutions of a growing community problem.

“Why do we have a problem with youth violence? Say what you mean. Tell us. We need to know,” Capt. Michael Wyant of the Charles County Sheriff’s Office told students at the beginning of the two-day summit held at Middleton Hall in Waldorf.

Sponsored by the Charles County Sheriff’s Office and Charles County Public Schools, the summit was the second joint effort by the agencies. The last summit was held 10 years ago.

Overall suspensions from school are down for the past year, but suspensions for fighting continue to rise and have increased 37 percent over the past five years, said Darlene Kahl, safe and drug-free schools coordinator for Charles County Public Schools. She asked students to let officials know what they think is causing youth violence and what can be done to curb it.

Guest speaker Kendel Ehrlich, Maryland’s first lady, stressed the importance of summits like Charles County’s and said it is essential to engage students in the process as well as the solutions. “When you have issues like this, you have to go to the source. The kids know what is happening. They really come up with the best ideas.”

Students and adults came up with more than 100 ideas about the causes and solutions to youth violence. Each middle and high school sent a cross section of students who were separated by school level. Selected officials and adults from the community participated in adult-only groups. Members of the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) facilitated the student groups, guiding discussion and recording the suggestions.

Following roundtable discussions, students returned to a main hall where student and adult participants reviewed the 111 sugges-



Kenneth Almodovar of Milton Somers Middle School and Monique Stapleton of General Smallwood Middle School participate in a roundtable discussion at the Youth Summit.

tions and cast votes for what they believed were the top five causes of youth violence. The votes narrowed the list to 15, which divided by group the top five middle school, high school and adult suggestions. These were used as a base the second day for discussion about solutions.

High school students listed media, the Internet (MySpace.com), rumors/gossip, gangs and family issues as the top five reasons for youth violence. Middle school students ranked parental neglect as their top reason, followed by video

games, peer pressure, alcohol and lack of attention (relationships and dating). Family issues also topped the adult list, followed by a no snitching policy, lack of resources after school, loss of family cohesiveness and anger.

Students and adults reconvened in groups the second day to brainstorm possible solutions. Top solutions included after-school activities including increasing family time, sports and community recreation centers; mentoring; outreach support for victims of parental abuse; transportation for after-school activities; establishment of good teacher/student/parent relations; and a drop box for anonymous information.

Wyant said he was encouraged by the results and told students he learned by listening to them. He added that more after-school activities and a better activity transportation system might be possible outcomes of the day.

Deputy Superintendent Ronald Cunningham told students early in the program that the results from the summit would translate into action by adults in the community. However, he stressed, that the most important way to reduce violence is the development of positive relationships. “A community gets better when people know each other,” he said. The summit, he stressed, is a way to start that process.

Student solutions to youth violence include:

- after-school activities including family time, sports and community recreation centers;
- mentoring;
- outreach support for victims of parental abuse;
- transportation for after-school activities;
- establishment of good teacher/student/parent relations; and
- a drop box for anonymous information.



Pictured at right, Juakia Dorsey and Katie Bass, both of Henry E. Lackey High School, and Maryland's First Lady Kendel Ehrlich.

Personnel

Apply online at www.ccboe.com/hur Job openings

Job openings are posted on the Charles County Public Schools' web site under employment. Apply for the following positions as directed in the announcement: High School Resource Teacher, Reading Resource Teacher, Gifted Education Teacher, Principal – Secondary and Vice Principal- Secondary.

Teacher Vacancies – Charles County Public Schools has teaching positions at all levels. Contracts are available for December graduates and early contracts will be offered to spring graduates interested in teaching in Charles County. Refer potential candidates to www.ccboe.com or 1-800-416-0794.

Power Reading Teacher – General Smallwood Middle School and Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; 10-month positions. Five years teaching experience; bachelor's degree required. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office by Nov. 8.

High School Resource Teacher – La Plata High School; 11-month position. Masters degree preferred; minimum three years of teaching experience at secondary level. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office by Nov. 3.

Reading Resource Teacher – Dr. James Craik Elementary School and La Plata High School. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office. Positions open until filled.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Dr. Mudd Elementary School; 10-month position.

Masters degree in early childhood education or reading; three years of teaching required. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office. Position open until filled.

Teachers for Self-Contained Therapeutic Day Treatment Program – All elementary schools; 10-month positions beginning January 2007. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office. Positions open until filled.

Special Education Teachers of the Emotionally Disturbed – All high schools; 10-month positions. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office. Positions open until filled.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – All elementary schools; 10-month positions. Masters degree or advanced professional certificate; minimum five years of teaching experience. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office. Positions open until filled.

Job Placement Technical Specialist, Maryland's Tomorrow Program Coordinator – North Point High School. Apply online or in writing to the support personnel office by Oct. 31.

Program Analyst/Project Manager – Department of Planning and Construction, Starkey Building; 12-month position. Four-year college degree in business, contractual/planning or technical school program in construction technologies, engineering, architecture, business contracting/planning, or related field required. Apply online or in writing to the support personnel office. Position open until filled.

Family Involvement Support Facilitator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position for one year only. Three years of successful parent involvement experience preferred; bachelor's degree required. Apply online or in writing to the support personnel office by Oct. 30.

Food Service Manager – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. Apply online or in writing to the support personnel office by Oct. 31.

Locksmith/Carpenter – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply online or in writing to the support personnel office. No closing date.

Instructional Assistant – Attendance – Mattawoman Middle School; temporary position. Apply online or in writing to the support personnel office by Nov. 3.

Title I Coordinator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office by Nov. 9.

Occupational Therapist – All elementary, middle and high schools; 10- or 11-month positions. Apply online or in writing to the personnel office. Positions open until filled.

Extra pay positions

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following positions open:

- Head junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Head junior varsity wrestling coach

Call Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, to apply.

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The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.