



John Brooks talks with his first-grade students at J.P. Ryon Elementary School. Brooks is the 2007 *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher recipient.

Brooks earns 2007 Outstanding Teacher honors

John Brooks believes teaching is a stewardship, not just a job. He serves as a role model for his students and makes every effort to develop his students' character by the example he sets, his colleagues say.

Be it his trademark shirt and tie that his students often emulate or his effort to greet and shake each student's hand as they enter his classroom in the morning and leave for the day, teachers and parents say Brooks touches his students' lives. Described as a gentleman and a scholar by J.P. Ryon Elementary School Principal Virginia McGraw, Brooks is the 2007 recipient of the *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

Brooks has been teaching elementary school in Charles County since graduating from the University of Maryland in 1993 and also completed his student teaching assignment at Arthur Middleton Elementary School.

"I am extremely honored to be recognized by Charles County Public Schools and the

Washington Post. I know that Agnes Meyer was a staunch supporter of public education and to have this opportunity is truly humbling. There are so many outstanding, talented, and creative teachers throughout Charles County and they all deserve to be recognized in this way. I was fortunate to have had a fantastic student teaching experience 15 years ago at Arthur Middleton Elementary School with Mrs. Judy Rhode. I have had the joy to work with the greatest people in the world. It has been my privilege to work under outstanding administrators such as Mrs. Brehon, Ms. Nye, Mrs. Richardson, and Mrs. McGraw," Brooks said.

"No matter who you ask, a student, parent or colleague of Mr. Brooks, they will tell you about the positive impact he had on them. I was fortunate enough to watch Mr. Brooks show me what teaching was all about. His impact on me was incredible," Matthew Williamson, a fifth-grade teacher at Gale Bailey, wrote.

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Leadership opportunities

Charles County Public Schools is opening registration for the 2007 CCPS Leadership Institute. Candidates for the institute are educators who want to develop their leadership skills in order to successfully transition into an instructional and/or administrative leadership position. The 2007 Institute has two concurrent leadership strands: Aspiring Leaders at All Levels and Aspiring Principals Program. The Aspiring Leaders at All Levels is open to all Charles County educators who seek leadership positions such as department heads, ILT, high school resource teachers and vice principals. The Aspiring Principals Program is open to vice principals and administrative assistants who want to be principals.

The CCPS Leadership Institute is designed as a motivational and participatory experiences. The focus of the institute is on critical areas of educational leadership: vision, accountability, instruction, communication and group dynamics.

The Leadership Institute is the week of June 25 -29 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at North Point High School in Waldorf. Upon completion participants can receive three MSDE credits or three graduate credits from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland. Contact the Office of Staff Development at ext. 7332 or email staffdevelopment@ccboe.com to register.

Diggs plans dedication

Staff and students at William A. Diggs Elementary School are planning to formally dedicate Charles County's newest elementary school on May 4, 6:30 p.m., at the school. The public is invited.



Insurance enrollment

Open enrollment for health insurance is May 1 through May 18. This is a passive open enrollment so employees do not need to sign onto the website if they are not making changes. Current coverage continues if an employee does not sign onto the website.

To update or change plans, go to www.ccboe.benelogic.com. The user ID is an employee's social security number without the dashes and the password is the last four digits of the social security number. Changes to coverage go into effect on July 1. The first check in July will reflect changes.

The new rates for each plan will be announced next week. A letter or email will be sent to all employees announcing the rates. Contact Heather Huff, hhuff@ccboe.com, with questions.

On the cover

Pictured on the front page are employees honored by the Board of Education in March and April for outstanding accomplishments.

Pictured from left to right are: Alesha Guechati, instructional specialist at William B. Wade Elementary School; Joseph Greenawalt, computer resource teacher at Westlake High School; Shelly Michael, Spanish teacher at La Plata High School; John Childers, social studies resource teacher; and Denise Childers, English teacher at La Plata High School.

Guechati and Greenawalt were recognized at the April meeting for excellence in the field of technology. Michael and both Childers were recognized at the March 13 meeting for attaining National Certification.

Outstanding teacher

From Page 1

Described as a unique educator and an exceptional teacher, Brooks' nominators say he is an advocate for student success who is also kind-hearted, dedicated and hard working.

"John Brooks is a teacher of the mind. But even greater, John Brooks is a nurturer of the heart and soul of children," Anita Scherer, an instructional assistant at Gale-Bailey, wrote.

Parent Neely Ellis wrote to thank Brooks for regular updates on her child's progress and for his impact on her son. She said, "I am just taken back by how caring, considerate, patient and hard-working Mr. Brooks is."

Throughout his nomination, parents, students and coworkers wrote about Brooks' ability to communicate well with students and parents and his dedication and enthusiasm for his students.

"I could never express how appreciative I am to those who nominated me and took countless hours putting together the nominating portfolio and writing letters of support. Each letter and word written meant so much to me. I want to thank Superintendent James Richmond and the executive staff for their commitment to all children in Charles County. I thank each and every parent, staff member, teacher, and especially student who I've been able to get to know

over the years. I only hope that I have had a small fraction of the impact on their lives as they have had on mine," Brooks said.

Brooks has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Maryland, College Park, and is working on his master's from McDaniel College in Maryland. In 1993, he began his teaching career as a fifth-grade teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School where he also taught third and second grade before transferring to Ryon in 2005. He is a member of the School Improvement Team, a team leader, chairperson of the former Site-Based Management Team and a teacher partner and mentor.

The goals of the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards, which are sponsored by the *Washington Post* Company Educational Foundation, are to recognize excellence in teaching, to encourage creative and quality instruction and to contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education. Agnes Meyer was the wife of Eugene Meyer, who purchased *The Post* in 1933 and was a strong advocate for public education. The *Post* will honor Brooks during a reception on May 3 and the Board of Education will recognize him at the May 8 meeting.

Board of Education agenda - May 8, 2007

The Board of Education has released its tentative agenda for the May 8 meeting to be held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. with recognition ceremonies, breaks at 5:30 p.m. for executive session and resumes at 6:30 p.m. with Public Forum.

Call to order – 4:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

- North Point High School

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Employees
- Students
- Resolutions
 - *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award
 - Recognition of Student Board member and student liaisons
 - Minority Achievement Gala Award winners
 - Ruth Ann Hall Award winners
 - NDIA Scholarships – Joe Shannon of CSM; Accepting: high school principals

Executive session -- 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Approval of minutes

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Superintendent's report to the Board
- Curriculum update
- CIP update
- Budget update
- Legislative update
- Technology update

Action items

- Personnel
- 2008-2009 calendar
- Redistricting for Mary Burgess Neal Elementary
- Approval of employees' negotiated Agreement

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Adjournment

Registration open for certificated staff development summer courses

The Office of Program Support is accepting registrations for certified professional development courses. Participants enrolled in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) courses can receive CPD credit(s). Additionally, CCPS has partnerships with local universities and colleges. Available courses are listed below.

To register for CCPS courses, complete the registration on the school system website at http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/courses/cpd/cpd_register.cfm. For more information, contact Barbara Palko at 301-392-7501.

Charles County Public Schools

CPD Courses – Charles County

Course: *Assessment for Reading Instruction*

Dates: May 30; June 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16

Time/Location: 4:30–8:30 p.m./Mon. and Wed.; Thomas Stone HS and 8 a.m.–5 p.m./Sat.

John Hanson Middle School

Course: *Balanced Literacy Instruction*

Dates: June 25, 26, 27, 28, 29; July 9, 10, 11, 12

Time/Location: 9 a.m.–1 p.m./Mon.–Fri.; Thomas Stone High School

Course: *Making It Happen Through Creation, Implementation and Facilitation – Inclusion*

Dates: June 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–5 p.m./Mon.–Fri. Hanson

Course: *Reading in the Content Areas Part I*

Dates: June 18, 19, 25, 26, 27

Time/Location: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Maurice J. McDonough High School

Course: *Reading in the Content Areas Part II*

Dates: June 20, 21, 22, 28, 29

Time/Location: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

McDonough

Gratz College/Regional Training Center

Course: *Teaching for Success in the Multicultural Classroom*

Dates: June 25, 26, 27, 28, 29

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m./Mon.–Th; 8 a.m.–12 p.m./Fri.

Hanson

Course: *Cooperative Discipline*

Dates: July 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m./Mon.–Th, 8 a.m.–12 p.m./Fri.

Hanson

Course: *Cooperative Classroom: Kagan's Instructional Practices*

Dates: July 23, 24, 25, 26, 27

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–4:40 p.m./Mon.–Th; 8 a.m. – 12 p.m./Fri.

Hanson

Course: *Teaching Writing and Thinking Across the Curriculum*

Dates: Aug. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m./Mon.–Th; 8 a.m. – 12 p.m./Fri.

Hanson

McDaniel College

Graduate Courses

CPD Course/McDaniel College

Course: *Balanced Literacy Instruction*

Dates: June 25, 26, 27, 28, 29; July 9, 10, 11, 12

Time/Location: 9 a.m.–12 p.m./Mon–Fri.

Stone

CPD Course/McDaniel College

Course: *Assessment for Reading Instruction*

Dates: May 30; June 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 16

Time/Location: 4:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m./ Mon. and Wed., Stone; 8 a.m. – 5 p.m./Sat.

Hanson

Course: *Assessment of Student Learning*

Dates: May 29, 31; June 5, 6, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26

Time/Location: 5–9 p.m.

Stone

Course: *Curriculum Design*

Dates: June 18, 20, 25, 27; July 2, 3, 9, 10, 11

Time/Location: 3–7 p.m.

Stone

Course: *Successful Teaching for Acceptance of Responsibility*

Dates: July 16, 17, 18, 30, 31; Aug. 1

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Stone

Course: *Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms*

Dates: June 26, 27, 28; July 10, 11

Time/Location: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Stone

Course: *Culture & Diversity*

Dates: June 16, 23, 27, 30; July 7, 11

Time/Location: 5–9 p.m., Wed., Hanson; 8 a.m.– 5 p.m., Sat.

Stone

Course: *School Law*

Dates: May 29; June 1, 2, 5, 7, 9

Time/Location: 4:30–9 p.m./Tues., Thur. and Fri., Stone; 8 a.m.–3 p.m./Sat. Hanson

Course: *Introduction to Research Methodology*

Dates: May 29; June 5, 12, 19, 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Time/Location: 4:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Stone

Bowie State University

Graduate Courses

Course: *Career Counseling & Development*

Dates: June 4 – June 28, Mon. and Wed.

Time/Location: 4:55– 9:55 p.m.

Stone

Course: *Psychodynamics Psychopath*

Dates: July 9 – August 2, Tues. and Thurs.

Time/Location: 4:55– 9:55 p.m.

Stone

Undergraduate Courses

Course: *Physical Science*

Dates: June 4 – June 28, Mon. and Wed.

Time/Location: 4:55– 9:55 p.m.

Stone

Course: *Orientation to SPD*

Dates: June 4 – June 28, Mon. and Wed.

Time/Location: 4:55–9:55 p.m.

McDonough

Course: *Literature for Children*

Dates: July 9 – August 2, Mon. and Wed.

Time/Location: 4:55–9:55 p.m.

McDonough

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.ccboe.com/hur, or in writing to the personnel office. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Senior Project Manager – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position; bachelor's degree required.

Food Service Workers – North Point High School, William A. Diggs and William B. Wade Elementary Schools; three-hour and four-hour, 10-month positions.

RPG/JAVA Programmer Analyst – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position; bachelor's degree required.

Food Service, Assistant Manager – La Plata High School; 10-month position. Apply by May 8.

HVAC Mechanic II – Maintenance Shop; 12-month position. Open until filled.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Mattawoman Middle School; 12-month position. Apply by May 2.

Secretary to the Principal – North Point High School, 12-month position. Apply by May 7.

Business Teachers – Positions open at all high schools.

English Teachers – Positions open at all middle and high schools.

Library & Media Specialists – Positions

open at all CCPS schools.

Spanish Teachers – Positions open at all high schools.

Chemistry Teachers – Positions open at all high schools.

French Teachers – Positions open at all high schools.

Biology Teachers – Positions open at all high schools.

Science Teachers – Positions open at all middle and high schools.

Mathematics Teachers – Positions open at all middle and high schools.

Occupational Therapist – Opening for all age levels; 10-month or 11-month positions; bachelor's degree required.

Family & Consumer Science Teacher – Positions open at all middle schools.

Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers – Indian Head Elementary School.

Speech Language Pathologist – Openings at all elementary schools; 10-month positions.

Reading Resource Teacher – Dr. James Craik Elementary School.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.

Extra pay positions

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Head junior varsity field hockey coach
- Head fall varsity cheerleading coach
- Head junior varsity cheerleading coach

- Winter junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Head varsity volleyball coach
- Head junior varsity volleyball coach
- Head junior varsity boys' basketball coach
- Assistant boys' basketball coach
- Head swimming coach
- Head junior varsity girls' basketball coach
- Assistant girls' basketball coach
- Head junior varsity wrestling coach

Contact Principal Curry Werkheiser, 301-753-1753, to apply. Deadline is April 30.

North Point High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity swimming coach.

Contact Principal Peter Cevenini, 301-885-2012, to apply.

Staff notes

Jennifer celebrates anniversary

Staff and students at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School are celebrating 20 years of excellence in an anniversary celebration on May 20, 2 p.m., at the school.

This event is open to the public and all former Jenifer employees are invited to attend.

The school is compiling a display and memory book with comments by current and former students and staff. Those who are interested in sharing memories or artifacts should contact Principal Susan Fowler, 301-753-1768.

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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.