



## Cisco recognizes school system, Richmond

Education leaders, legislators, educators and administrators met May 23 to showcase accomplishments and share ideas about how technology is changing today's learning environment. Cisco awarded Charles County Public Schools two awards for exceptional leadership (see related story).

Education Day was sponsored by Cisco and held at North Point High School.

The day-long event was launched with the awards and a round-table discussion, facilitated by Woody Sessoms, vice president at Cisco, and focused on 21st Century learning and the impact of technology. The panel included Superintendent James E. Richmond, along with Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick, Mississippi Hattiesburg District Superintendent Annie Wimbish; and Partnership for 21st Century Skills Member Ken Kay.

Additionally, attendees were provided a virtual tour of Butch Arbin's rocketry class at Matthew Henson Middle School and a tour of North Point.

"Charles County Public Schools provides an outstanding example of how to intelligently apply technology. The district has worked with Cisco as a strategic partner to create a world class learning environment for all of its students," said Charles Fadel, Global Lead for Education at Cisco.



**Charles Fadel, Global Lead for Education at Cisco Systems, presents Superintendent James E. Richmond with the Cisco Outstanding Vision and Leadership Award.**

### Awards honor educational leadership

Charles County Public Schools received two educational and leadership awards from Cisco Systems at Cisco Education Day on Wednesday, May 23, at North Point High School.

The first award, the Cisco 21st Century School Award, was presented to CCPS to recognize North Point High School as a 21st century model school. The second award, the Outstanding Vision and Leadership Award, was presented to Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond.

The Cisco 21st Century School award was created to recognize schools that have demonstrated exceptional leadership and adaptability in transforming education to reflect the needs of the 21st century. This is the first time that Cisco has conferred this award.

### Graduation dates set

Important dates and information for graduating seniors, as well as other Charles County public high school students, has been released. The following events have been scheduled.

The last day of school for graduating seniors is Friday, May 25.

The senior awards ceremony for La Plata High School is Wednesday, May 30, at 7 p.m. at the school. Senior awards programs for Henry E. Lackey, Maurice J. McDonough and Westlake high schools are Thursday, May 31, at 7 p.m. at each school. The senior awards program for Thomas Stone High School is Friday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at the school.

The following schools are holding graduation ceremonies at the Showplace Arena in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, on Monday, June 4:

- Westlake, 9 a.m.
- Stone, 2 p.m.
- McDonough, 7 p.m.

The following schools are holding graduation ceremonies Tuesday, June 5:

- Lackey, 9:30 a.m.
- La Plata, 2:30 p.m.

Students from Westlake and Stone will not have school on Monday, June 4, due to graduation activities. Students from McDonough will have a two-hour early dismissal on Monday, June 4.

Students from Lackey and La Plata will not have school on Tuesday, June 5, due to graduation activities.

Classes will be held at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center on both June 4 and June 5; however, bus service will not be provided either day.

### Direct deposit remittances

Starting in June, only the last four digits of the direct deposit account number will be printed on remittances.



## Notebook

### **Retirement contributions**

The employee's contribution to the Maryland State Retirement Agency for the teacher's retirement plan increases to 4 percent on July 1, 2007, and 5 percent on July 1, 2008. The deduction for retirement is made over 20 paychecks from September to June. The employee's contribution for the classified retirement plan is 5 percent and is deducted over 26 paychecks.

### **Employee portal**

The employee self-service portal now has employee check information when payroll is processed, which is usually available one week prior to the issuance of the paycheck or direct deposit. To access the Employee Self Serve Portal:

- Log on to a CCPS computer located in your school or building
- Go to <http://www2.ccboe.com>
- On the right in blue, find and click on Staff Services.
- The first item in the middle of the Staff Services page is Employee Self Service Portal. Click on the words underlined (Employee Self Service).
- You will get a security alert; click okay.
- Another security alert will pop up; click the box marked yes.
- Log in with your employee identification number.
- Use the last four digits of your Social Security number as the pin.

### **On the cover**

Pictured on the front page are the May exemplary employees. Pictured from left are: Pamela Hawkins, building service manager, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School; Susan Steinmetz, music teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School; Katherine Wesbury, physical education teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; and Jennifer Manoly, teacher, Malcolm Elementary School.



**Pictured are winners of Minority Achievement Awards at the state recognition ceremony. Pictured, from left, are: Agnes Lilly, Mary Wade, Aaron Jackson, Denise Barnes, Dominic Zaccarelli, Amelia Turner and Jane Short.**

## **State recognizes Charles County for minority achievement**

A Charles County Public Schools student and an administrator joined a local sorority as honorees April 20 at the Maryland Excellence for Minority Achievement Awards recognition ceremony. Sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students (AIMMS), the awards honor those who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in promoting student excellence through equity in education.

Aaron T. Jackson, a Westlake High School student, was presented with an AIMMS Student Excellence Award and scholarship, which recognizes high school students who have demonstrated academic success as well as made significant contributions to better understanding and appreciation among diverse groups. Jackson was honored for his efforts to tutor other students as well as serving as a team leader of the Community First Pharmacy senior citizen outreach program that helps nursing home residents.

Dominic Zaccarelli, a coach and athletic director at Westlake, was presented with an Educator Excellence Award, which recognizes educators for significant efforts to sup-

port diverse student groups, promote positive inter-group relations and increase academic success among minority students. Zaccarelli was honored for his unique talent for getting students on the right track and ensuring that they balance academics, athletics and activities. He helps students develop character, discipline and tenacity as well as encourages them to move on to higher education. Nu Zeta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (AKA) was honored with the Community Excellence Award. Community Excellence Awards are presented to people or groups that have made significant efforts to support diverse student groups, promote positive inter-group relations and increase academic success among minority students. AKA was cited for promoting the three E's – esteem, empathy and equity for a multicultural education. The members are active participants in mentoring, public awareness and school programs.

The annual awards program was established in 1998 to inspire educators and the public in their efforts to enhance minority achievement as well as to reaffirm the tremendous potential of Maryland's minority students.

## **Education association sponsoring annual crab feast for employees**

The Education Association is sponsoring its Back-to-School Crab Feast for all Charles County Public Schools employees on Friday, Aug. 24, 3:30-8 p.m. Admission is limited to adults and to two tickets per CCPS employee. Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased in advance. Admission includes all the crabs,

hot dogs and sides you can eat. Space is limited and tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Send checks to the EACC office to buy tickets by July 20. The event is held at the Charles County Fairgrounds and is on, rain or shine. Call 301-645-3232 for more information.



## Four principals announce resignations, retirements at end of school year

Four Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principals have announced they will resign or retire at the end of this school year. Leaving are Peter Cevenini, Susan Fowler, Sylvia Lawson and Kristin Shields.

Cevenini, principal at North Point High School, has announced his resignation. Cevenini, who began with CCPS in 1989 and opened North Point in 2005, has taken a position as director for K-12 Education for Cisco's Internet Business Solutions.

Fowler, who has served as principal of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School for 10 years, is retiring from CCPS. She has accepted a position as principal of Lexington Park Elementary

School in St. Mary's County.

Lawson has served CCPS for more than 20 years and most recently as principal of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. Calvert County Public Schools has announced that Lawson was appointed as vice principal at Patuxent High School in Lusby.

Shields, who has worked for CCPS since 2000, has resigned as principal of William A. Diggs Elementary School, which she opened this school year. She is returning to Pennsylvania where she has been appointed principal at Latrobe Elementary School.

Superintendent James E. Richmond will make principal appointment recommendations to the Board of Education on June 12.

### Four listed in top 1,200 AP high school list

*Newsweek* honored four CCPS high schools this week for their efforts in encouraging students to take the most rigorous courses they can handle and their efforts in the area of Advanced Placement classes.

Maurice J. McDonough High School, La Plata High School, Thomas Stone High School and Westlake High School were ranked in the top 1,200 U.S. Schools listed in *Newsweek Magazine* for their performance in the area of encouraging students to take Advanced Placement courses as well as the accompanying exam. Public schools are ranked according to a ratio, devised by Jay Mathews of the *Washington Post*, which is the number of Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate tests taken by all students at a school in 2006 divided by the number of graduating seniors. All of the schools on the list have an index of at least 1.000; they are in the top 5 percent of public schools measured.

According to a report by the Alliance for Excellent Education, there are more than 17,500 public high schools in the United States and approximately 65 percent of U.S. public schools offer AP courses.

"We believe that it is important for students to challenge themselves and to take the highest-level courses possible. We commend these principals for encouraging their students to maximize their potential and their learning experiences," said Superintendent James E. Richmond.

### Employees may donate sick leave

Charles County Public Schools employees may donate sick leave to their colleagues who have medical conditions or family medical conditions that cause them to run out of leave. Any employee, certificated or classified, can donate to any other employee using the Sick Leave Exchange negotiated between EACC, the Board of Education, and AFSCME. Usage is subject to negotiated guidelines.

Employees should send any questions and documents according to the following procedures:

- If the recipient is a teacher or an administrator, send documentation to the EACC office, c/o Susan Kuczera, via fax 301-645-6352 or through the pony.

- If the recipient is a support staff professional, send documentation to Human Resources, c/o Angel Willett, via fax 301-934-7235 or through the pony.

Call the EACC office, 301-645-6232, or Human Resources, 301-934-7230, for procedures, qualifications and guidelines. Guidelines are also posted on the school system website. After July 1, there will no longer be a minimum of two days required for donations.

### Board of Education agenda - June 12, 2007

The Board of Education has released its June 12 agenda. The meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. with recognition at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The Board meets in executive session from 5:30-5:30 p.m., and reconvenes in open session at 6:30 p.m.  
**Call to order** – 4:30 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Thomas Stone High School

**Swearing-in of Student Board Member Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

- Employees
- Outstanding Support Employees
- Students
- Resolutions
- Charles County Teacher of the Year – Julia Habash, General Smallwood Middle School

- Employees' retirement
- Nominees for Maryland Teacher of the Year
- Nominees for Agnes Meyer Award
- AIMMS award winner - Dominic Zaccarelli - Educator Excellence Award
- Outstanding Vice 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
- Superintendent's report to the Board
- Information item: Student services
- Information item: Summer programs

- Information item: CIP update
- Report Item: New high school educational specifications
- Report item: Educational Facilities Master Plan

• Information item: budget update

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

Information item: Technology update

**Action items**

- Personnel
- FY2008 budget
- Out-of-county tuition fees
- New textbooks

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

## Personnel

Apply for positions at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://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

**Instructional Specialist** – All elementary schools; 11-month positions. Master's degree required.

**Instructional Specialist** – All middle schools; 11-month position. Master's degree required.

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

**HVAC Mechanic II** – Maintenance shop; 12-month position.

**Computer Analyst** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by May 29.

**Food Service Manager** – Piccowaxen Middle School. Apply by May 31.

**Food Service Assistant Manager** – Thomas Stone High School; 10-month position. Apply by May 31.

**Electronics Technician III** – Maintenance Shop. Apply by June 1.

**Building Service Worker** – Matthew Henson Middle School; 12-month position. Apply June 1.

**Assistant in Operations** – Jesse L. Starkey

Administration Building. Apply by June 1.

**Building Service Worker** – Henry E. Lackey High School; 12-month position. Apply by June 1.

**Secretary for Research and Assessment** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by June 6.

**Financial Secretary** – Maurice J. McDonough High School; 11-month position. Apply by June 6.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Openings at all middle and high schools.

**Occupational Therapist** – All age levels.

**Family & Consumer Science Teachers** – Openings at all middle schools.

**Speech Language Pathologists** – Openings at all age levels.

**Reading Resource Teachers** – Openings at all elementary and middle schools.

**Reading Recovery Teachers** – Openings at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools.

**Business Teachers** – Openings at all high schools.

**English Teachers** – Openings at all middle and high schools.

**Library & Media Specialists** – Openings at all elementary, middle and high schools.

**Spanish Teachers** – Openings at all high schools.

**Chemistry Teachers** – Openings at all high schools.

**French Teachers** – Openings at all high

schools.

**Science Teachers** – Openings at all middle and high schools.

**Pre-Kindergarten Teachers** – Openings at all elementary schools.

**Kindergarten Teachers** – Openings at all elementary schools.

**IEP Facilitators** – Openings at all elementary, middle and high schools.

**Extended School Year Positions** – Direct service providers are needed to provide ESY services to special education students during the summer months. There are positions for special educators, regular educators, occupational therapists, teachers of the hearing impaired and instructional assistants. Payment is on an hourly basis and mileage reimbursement is provided. Call Janet Stephanson, 301-934-7396, to apply.

### Staff notes

#### Human resources reorganizes certification

Human Resources has reorganized its certification procedures. Teresa Cook is now responsible for certification for employees whose last names begin with A-K. Contact Cook at extension 7243 or at [tcCook@ccboe.com](mailto:tcCook@ccboe.com).

Luci Kidwell is now responsible for employees whose last names begin with L-Z. Contact Kidwell at extension 7241 or at [lkidwell@ccboe.com](mailto:lkidwell@ccboe.com).

School News is published by  
Charles County Public Schools  
301-932-6610  
301-934-7220  
Fax: 301-932-6651

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**Editor/Writers**  
Katie O'Malley-Simpson  
Shelley Buter

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Charles County Public Schools  
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La Plata, Maryland 20646  
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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.*