

School News



Class of 2009 meeting demands of mandated state tests

Programs put in place to help all students meet HSA graduation requirements

Charles County Public Schools High School Assessment (HSA) results show that more than 80 percent of the class of 2009 passed the algebra and government tests required for graduation and more than 70 percent completed biology and English II requirements.

Students who have not passed the tests, which are a graduation requirement for students in this year's junior class and beyond, are being offered additional classes, support and program adjustments to help move them toward graduation.

Results for last year's sophomore class show that 77 percent, or 1,413 students, have met HSA requirements for graduation. There are 73 students, or 3.9 percent, who need to pass one additional exam to meet the requirement and 322 students, or 17.6 percent, who have more than one exam to pass.

The end of grade 10 pass rate for algebra is 81.35 percent; 76.02 percent for biology; 73.21 percent for English II; and 86.59 percent for government.

End of grade 9 pass rates are 78.67 percent for algebra and 72.57 percent for government. Not all students take the exams in ninth grade and biology and English II are classes typically taken in the sophomore year.

"We know from these results that the vast majority of Maryland students are finding

that they can pass these assessments and will be well on their way to graduation in 2009," said State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick in a release announcing state test results.

Superintendent James E. Richmond was equally optimistic. "As we begin to focus on students who must take these exams to earn their high school diploma, we are seeing higher success rates. The majority of our students have already met the graduation requirements and we are offering remediation and additional help for those students struggling with the exams. The accountability measures are raising achievement levels for all students," he said.

High School Assessments are a requirement for the Maryland High School Diploma for the class of 2009. The HSA replaced the Maryland Functional Tests, a group of basic skills exams, as the exit exams required for graduation.

High School Assessments include algebra, English II, government and biology. The algebra and English II scores are also used as part of the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) and to determine Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at the high school level. The state plans to release AYP results on the state report card site, mdreportcard.org, later this fall. Elementary and middle school MSA scores were released in early August.

College Fair planned

More than 130 colleges will participate in the tenth annual Charles County College Fair on Sept. 17, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center on Crain Highway in Waldorf. The fair is hosted by CCPS and high school juniors and seniors attend the event during the school day as part of the system's career readiness goal in the five-year plan.

Students are able to speak with representatives and gather information from colleges from all over the east coast.

State plans HSA hearing

The Maryland State Board of Education will host a regional hearing Sept. 18 at North Point High School to hear public comments on the Maryland High School Assessment (HSA).

The hearing is at 7 p.m. and the Board will only hear comments on the HSAs. The maximum speaking time is three minutes and time has been scheduled for approximately 40 speakers. Anyone wishing to speak during the hearing must sign up on site beginning at 6:15 p.m. For more information, visit www.ccboe.com/pr.

Superintendent boards bus

CCPS Superintendent James E. Richmond and his leadership staff rode school buses on Monday, Aug. 27, for the first day of classes. Richmond and staff joined students on buses as part of opening week activities and to promote school bus safety.

School administrators typically visit each school during the first week of classes. In addition to Richmond, 12 administrators rode buses to different county schools Monday.

HSA results by school/grade

School	Algebra		Biology		English II		Government	
	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 9	Grade 10
Lackey	63.4%	68.3%		65.5%		63.0%	59.2%	79.4%
La Plata	92.9%	86.7%		80.4%		80.5%	82.8%	89.7%
McDonough	75.1%	82.5%		78.2%		75.0%	67.4%	88.0%
North Point	86.0%	92.8%		87.7%		84.3%	87.9%	96.0%
Stone	74.7%	77.5%		72.1%		67.3%	63.7%	81.4%
Westlake	72.1%	75.2%		66.3%		65.3%	68.1%	82.2%
County	78.67%	81.35%		76.02%		73.21%	72.57%	86.59%

Grade 9 represents scores for the Class of 2010 and Grade 10 is the Class of 2009



Notebook

Activity buses available

CCPS is providing after-school activity buses at all high schools to encourage student participation in extracurricular activities. Students must have parental permission and be involved in a school-sponsored activity. Principals and parents requested the school system consider activity buses to provide more students with opportunities to join school teams and clubs. For more information, visit www.ccboe.com/pr.

New staff reception planned

CCPS will host a reception for new staff members on Wednesday, Sept. 26, at Middleton Hall in Waldorf. The reception is from 4–6:30 p.m. Contact 301-934-7370 for more information.

Watch a board meeting

The Board of Education meetings will be televised live on the school system's cable television station, Channel 96, beginning with the Sept. 11 meeting. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Additionally, the school system plans to increase televised coverage of student and system events.

24-hour information line

CCPS posts school news, weather closings and calendar information on our 24-hour information line. Call 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are four of Charles County Public Schools newest teachers. Pictured from left, are Keisha Kelly, English teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School; Peter Ullman, choral director, Milton M. Somers Middle School; Corinne Dockery, science teacher at Mattawoman Middle School; and Joshua Lisi, Spanish teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School. In the Aug. 17 issue of School News, Kelly's photo was run with the incorrect name and school assignment.

SAT average of 1523 remains above state, national scores

Charles County Public Schools average score on the SAT, a nationally known college entrance test, is 1523, which is above state and national averages.

Students' average score in the mathematics section of the test is 507, the average score in the writing section is 504 and the average score on the critical reading portion is 512. SAT tests are designed to demonstrate a student's mastery of certain subjects to colleges. Many colleges use the test as a part of the admissions process.

Charles County's score is 25 points above the state average of 1498 and 12 points above the national average of 1511. Only scores for graduating seniors are included in the 2007 report. Students in the class of 2007 were offered \$25 million in scholarships.

Maurice J. McDonough High School was the highest performing school with a score of 1602. La Plata High School students posted an average score of 1588 and Westlake High School students' average score is 1532. Thomas Stone students posted a 1530 average and Lackey students averaged 1393.

SAT scores decreased 14 points from

1537 the previous year, with critical reading scores remaining the same, math scores decreasing 8 points and writing scores dropping 6 points. State scores decreased 13 points, from 1511 to 1498, and national scores dropped 7 points, from 1518 to 1511.

"This year's scores continue our trend of remaining above the state and national averages, which is our ultimate goal and exceeds the benchmark set by the county. Remaining above the state and national averages enables our college-bound students to compete for acceptance into the college or university of their choice," said Superintendent James Richmond.

This year, Charles County Public Schools is providing all high school students access to the Official SAT Online Course, which can be used as a classroom teaching aid, a component of English and math courses, a test-preparation resource or an independent study tool. School staff will help students set up an account and profile this school year. Students may access the program from home after they have created their profile.

School-by-school results are posted at www.ccboe.com/pr.

Board agenda - September 11, 2007

Executive session — 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Call to order – 5:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Recognition

Resolution: *Health Careers Month*

Superintendent's update to the Board

Approval of minutes

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Information item: Opening of school
- Information item: Residency requirements
- Information item: Russian partnership
- Information item: Three-year-old program
- Report: Master Plan update
- Information item: CIP update
- Report: Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Information item: Budget update
- Report: FY 2007 intercategory transfers
- Information item: Staffing update

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Action items

- Personnel

- State 2009 CIP

- Full day kindergarten schematics

- Recurring Resolutions:

- *Health Careers Month; American Education Week; American Freedom Week; Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader; African American History Month; Career and Technical Education Week; National School Counseling Week; Read Across America; Women's History Month; Fine and Performing Arts; Month of the Young Child; National Student Leadership Week; Teacher Appreciation Week; Professional Secretaries Week; Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel; National Physical Education and Sport Week; Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award; Charles County Teacher of the Year; Employees' Retirement*

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

New business

Future agenda items

Adjournment

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

IEP Facilitators – Openings at county elementary schools; 11-month positions.

Special Education Teacher, Life Skills – Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

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

Food Service Worker – Openings at Theodore G. Davis Middle, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Malcolm and Gale-Bailey elementary schools; three-hour positions. Davis position is open until filled. Apply by Sept. 4 for Higdon; Sept. 5 for Malcolm; Sept. 7 for Gale-Bailey.

Purchasing Assistant – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Associate's degree or five years of school system purchasing experience preferred. Apply by Sept. 4.

ESL Adult Education Teacher – Lifelong Learning Center. Apply by Sept. 4.

Environmental Education Assistant – Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center, full-time position. Bachelor's degree in natural science or related field required.

Media Instructional Assistant – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School. Apply by Sept. 4.

Food Service Driver – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

Building Service Manager – Maurice J. McDonough High School. Apply by Sept. 7.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Openings at Eva Turner and J.P. Ryon elementary schools. Apply by Sept. 4 for Turner; Sept. 11 for Ryon.

Special Education Instructional Assistants – Openings at Matthew Henson Middle and Thomas Stone high schools. Apply for Henson by Sept. 4; Stone, Sept. 6.

Instructional Assistant/Instructional Assistant, Title I – J.P. Ryon Elementary School; two positions. Apply by Sept. 4.

For the Title I position, apply by Sept. 6.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills – Westlake High School. Apply by Sept. 4.

Meeting in the Middle Instructional Assistant – Openings at Matthew Henson and Mattawoman middle schools. Apply by Sept. 6. for Henson; Sept. 7 for Mattawoman.

Program Analyst/Project Manager – Annex Building 101, Radio Station Road. Bachelor's degree required. Apply by Sept. 4.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Malcolm and Berry elementary schools. Apply by Sept. 7.

Kindergarten Special Education Instructional Assistant – William A. Diggs Elementary School. Apply by Sept. 4.

Title I Instructional Assistant – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School. Apply by Sept. 11.

External Diploma Program Advisor/Assessor – Adult Services/Stone Annex; temporary position. Bachelor's degree required.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistants – Openings at Malcolm and Berry elementary schools. Apply by Sept. 7 for Malcolm; Sept. 11 for Berry.

Instructional Assistant/Instructional Assistant – Openings at Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. Apply by Sept. 7.

In School Retention Instructional Assistant – Arthur Middleton Elementary School. Apply by Sept. 8.

Secretary in Instruction – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Apply by Sept. 11.

Title I Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; Bachelor's degree and five years experience required.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at county elementary schools.

Guidance Counselors – Openings at all age levels. Master's degree required.

NJROTC Instructor – Westlake High

School; 11-month position.

Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed – Openings at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, Westlake, North Point and Henry E. Lackey high schools; 10-month positions. Bachelor's degree required.

Gifted Education Resource Teachers – Openings at county middle schools.

Reading Recovery Teacher Leaders – Openings at county elementary schools.

Teachers, Three-year-old Program – Openings at Title I schools.

Occupational Therapists – Openings at all age levels.

Charles County Public Schools is seeking teacher candidates who meet the certification requirements established by the MSDE for the following areas:

- Mathematics
- Family & Consumer Science
- Business
- Spanish and French
- Science
- Biology and chemistry
- Music
- Special education
- Computer science

Extra pay position

Thomas Stone High School:

- Freshman boys' basketball coach.
- Contact Principal L.C. Martin, 301-753-1756.

Staff notes

Direct deposit available

Charles County Public Schools encourages employees to use direct deposit for pay checks. Use of direct deposit eliminates concerns about receiving checks in a timely manner on snow days and during the summer. To sign up for direct deposit, fill out the Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposits – Credits which is available at your school office or on the school system's website. Attach a voided or cancelled check to the form and forward to the payroll office. Allow one payroll cycle for information verification and checks will be deposited on the second payroll cycle, pending bank approval of your information.

School system opens eighth middle school, completes campus

Theodore G. Davis Middle School, Charles County Public Schools eighth and newest middle school, opened Monday, bringing the total number of middle schools in the county to eight. Principal Wendell Martin said the opening day was smooth, and students and staff are quickly adjusting to the routine and the layout of the school.

More than 1,000 students and 113 staff members reported to Davis on Monday for the 2007-08 school year. Davis is located in Waldorf and is part of a larger academic complex that also contains North Point High School for Science, Technology and Industry and William A. Diggs Elementary School. Construction and equipment costs for Davis were \$27.5 million.

The 134,542 square-foot building is a two-story school that uses a central main street concept to connect the different grade levels and programs. The sixth-grade is located on the ground floor and the seventh and eighth grades are in separate wings on the second floor. Martin said they have named the hallways Administration Avenue, Davis Drive, Davis Place, Diggs Drive, Wade Way and Berry Boulevard to include the names of the feeder elementary schools.

Additional rooms in the school include a centrally located media center, art, science, music, band and strings rooms, cafeteria, gymnasium/auditorium and administrative areas.

Athletic facilities include six tennis courts, as well as two softball and two multi-purpose fields. An outdoor teaching space is located at the storm water management pond. The requirement to provide storm water management quality controls gives teachers an opportunity to use those structures as living classrooms where students can view several species of wildlife in their natural habitat.

The school is named for Theodore G. Davis, a teacher who began his career at a one-room school in Doncaster in 1926 and transferred to Nanjemoy High School when it opened in the early 1930s. Mr. Davis taught English, math, civics and American History and coached girls' volleyball and softball teams. He served as acting principal for several years and retired in 1964.



Nichole Van Devender, a language arts teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, counts her students in the Davis gymnasium on Aug. 27, Charles County Public Schools first day of the 2007-08 school year.

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Patricia Vaira, Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646. 301-932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

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

Board of Education Members
Donald M. Wade, Chairman
Roberta S. Wise, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Collins A. Bailey
Charles E. Carrington
Maura H. Cook
Pamela A. Pedersen
Ashin Shah, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools
James E. Richmond

Editor/Writers
Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Buter

Charles County Public Schools
Post Office Box 2770
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(address service requested)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 66

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.