

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time • November 20, 2007 • R-281

Wesolowski named Principal of the Year

Whether she is busy entertaining students by singing karaoke, riding a tricycle, or is helping mentor new principals, Stephanie Wesolowski is never too busy to put the needs of her students and staff first. Students at Milton M. Somers Middle School describe her as “an outstanding principal who makes learning fun and interesting.”



Stephanie Wesolowski

Somers' students, as well as more than 50 staff members and parents, helped nominate Wesolowski as the 2007 Charles County Principal of the Year, and as one of 18 educators who received the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership award.

“Ms. Wes, which we call her, is always thinking about her students. Personally, I like Ms. Wes because of her positive attitude. Every morning she shows how much she cares about her Milton Somers Seahawks. The smile on her face all day shows her positive attitude toward learning,” said student Bobby Keim.

Her staff describes her as a “phenomenal leader,” who strongly supports an open-door policy for communications. Her teachers say she constantly promotes a vision of excellence and demonstrates her passion for education through classroom visits, faculty and parent meetings, and by challenging Somers students to do their best.

“I am deeply honored to receive this recognition from the *Washington Post*. It certainly has been an exciting time for me. I am very fortunate to have and work along side such a wonderful team of highly motivated teachers, support staff, students and school community at Milton Somers. My personal life has literally become my professional life

in many ways because I absolutely enjoy every aspect of my job and the people I work with,” Wesolowski said.

Wesolowski, who has been principal at Somers for a little more than two years, has already made significant contributions to the school. Under her leadership, Somers has made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) on the Maryland School Assessments (MSA) for the

past two school years. Somers was designated as a Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Maryland Green Ribbon School for 2007. Wesolowski has also received outstanding evaluations from school system administrators for her efforts at Somers in 2005 and 2006.

In a nomination letter, Somers Vice Principal Belinda Shatley wrote that Wesolowski is not only a leader, but a school cheerleader. “She takes pride in sharing both staff and student accomplishments and she encourages staff to grow beyond our comfort zone in order to benefit the children we serve. Her efforts to voluntarily bring PBIS to our school have netted significant positive change in student cooperation and staff to student interactions,” said Shatley. She also created a PrepPlus program, which pairs a student with a teacher in order to provide extra support and preparation for the MSA tests.

“Last year, Somers was recognized by the *Washington Post* as one of the top 50 schools in the metropolitan area because of a large percentage of students who attained advanced scores on MSA. This achievement can be directly attributed to the impressive leadership of Wesolowski,” wrote Mary

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Holiday closures

Charles County Public Schools and offices are closed Nov. 21, 22 and 23 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Benefits guide online

Employee benefit guides for Blue Cross/Blue Shield are now available on the school system website, at www.ccoeb.com/staffservices/benefits.cfm. For more information, call Heather Huff, insurance and payroll analyst, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 301-934-7345.

Stoddert receives donation

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School received a \$2,500 donation Nov. 13 from American Community Properties Trust (ACPT). The funds will help support the school's math program. ACPT Community Relations Director Craig Renner presented the funds to members of Stoddert's math department during the November Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) meeting.

Interim reports

Students will receive their next interim reports on Dec. 10. The first semester ends on Jan. 17 and second quarter report cards will be issued to elementary students and mailed home to secondary students on Jan. 25.

Art show

The first regional art show is Dec. 13, 5 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.



Legislative Breakfast

The Charles County Board of Education is hosting a legislative breakfast on Nov. 29, 7:30 a.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting is being held to discuss the upcoming legislative session and issues with the Charles County Commissioners and the Southern Maryland Legislative delegation.

Winter break

School system offices are closed Dec. 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday, and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's Day. Winter break for students and teachers is Dec. 24 through Jan. 1. Schools reopen Jan. 2.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Student recognition

More than 250 students were recognized at the first quarterly CCPS student recognition ceremony held Nov. 19 at North Point High School. Among those students who were recognized were winners in the school system art contest, and National Merit Scholarship Program participants.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored Nov. 13 by the Board of Education. From left are Karen Oliver, reading recovery teacher, Malcolm Elementary School; Wanda Deavers, secretary, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Corey Washington, building service assistant manager, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School; and Mary Ann Johnson, teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School.

Board agenda - December 11, 2007

The Board of Education has released its tentative agenda for Dec. 11. The public portion of the meeting begins at 4:30 p.m. with recognition in the board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

Executive Session - 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Call to order – 4:30 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance – Thomas Stone High School's JROTC Unit

Recognition

- Employees
- Students
- Resolution: *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leader

Superintendent's update to the Board

Approval of minutes

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board updates

- Education Association update
- Student Board Member update
- Student services
- Special education

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- CIP update
- Inclement weather
- Budget update

Action items

- Personnel
- Schematics for high school 2011
- Addition of courses to Program of Studies for the 08-09 school year

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Adjournment

Principal

From Page 1

Seremet, a Somers gifted education teacher, in a nomination letter.

Parents of Somers students also recognize Wesolowski's dedication to maintaining a positive school climate. "The climate within the school is overwhelmingly positive. The staff and students convey an attitude of energy and enthusiasm. The teachers have high expectations for student behavior and achievements, which are a reflection of the goals Mrs. Wesolowski has set for the school," said Somers' parent Heather Beaton.

Wesolowski also serves as a mentor for new principals and is strongly supported by her administrative peers. "While I have had the opportunity to work with several principals in my career, I can say without qualification that Stephanie Wesolowski will always be a role model for me in my position as a principal," said Deborah Hile, principal at John Hanson Middle School.

Wesolowski started her career in Charles County in 1989 as a social studies teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School. She became a vice principal at Somers in 1995 and transferred to Henry E. Lackey High School in 1996, where she served as a vice principal for five years. She was named principal at John Hanson Middle School in 2001 before being named Somers' principal in 2005.

She is also a member of the National Middle School Association, the Association for Secondary School Principals, the Maryland State Department of Education Principals Advisory Committee and the Educational Association of Charles County.

"The *Washington Post* Distinguished Leader award definitely ranks as the highlight of my educational career here in Charles County. I sincerely appreciate the leadership opportunities at both John Hanson and Milton Somers and the tremendous support that Mr. Richmond and the Charles County Board of Education continuously provide to all of the principals in our system," Wesolowski said.

The *Washington Post* each year honors outstanding principals throughout the metropolitan area through its educational foundation. A committee reviews nominations throughout the school system and one principal is chosen to represent Charles County in the program as its Principal of the Year.

"This award is well deserved. Mrs. Wesolowski is an excellent principal and I appreciate the leadership she has provided to help her students achieve success. Milton Somers has a long history of excellence and Mrs. Wesolowski is carrying on the tradition of quality at Somers," said Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond.

Registration open for certified professional spring 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 Certified Professional Development (CPD) credit(s). Additionally, CCPS has partnerships with local college and universities. Available courses are listed below.

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

Gratz College/Regional Training Center

Course: The Cooperative Classroom: Kagan's Instructional Practices
Dates: Jan. 4, 5, 6, 19, 20
Times: 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri.
 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
Location: John Hanson Middle School, Sunday location TBA

Course: Styles of Teaching: Personality Type in the Classroom
Dates: April 11, 12, 13, 26, 27
Time: 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri.
 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
Location: John Hanson Middle School, Sunday location TBA

Course: Styles of Teaching: Personality Type in the Classroom
Dates: Feb. 1, 2, 3, 23, 24
Time: 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri.
 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
Location: John Hanson Middle School, Sunday location TBA

Course: Skills and Strategies for Inclusion and disAbility Awareness
Dates: March 7, 8, 9, 29, 30
Time: 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri.
 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
Location: John Hanson Middle School, Sunday location TBA

McDaniel College Graduate Courses

Course: Assessment for Reading Instruction, RDG523SM
Dates: Mon., Jan. 14, 28; Feb. 4, 11, 25; March 3, 10, and online hours
Time: 5 – 9:30 p.m.
Location: Thomas Stone High School

Course: Group Dynamics, CED508SM
Dates: Tues. and Sat., March 18; April 1, 8, 12, 15, 22, 29; May 3
Time: 5 – 9 p.m., Tues.
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat.
Location: Thomas Stone High School/John Hanson Middle School

Course: Materials for Reading Instruction, RDG524SM
Dates: Sat., March 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10
Time: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Location: John Hanson Middle School

Course: Learning and Instruction, CUR503SM
Dates: Tues. and Sat., March 18; April 1, 8, 12, 15, 22, 26, 29; May 6
Time: 5 - 9 p.m., Tues.
 9 a.m. -1 p.m., Sat.
Location: Thomas Stone High School/John Hanson Middle School

Course: Introduction to Research Methodology, EDU550SM
Dates: Tues., Jan. 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; March 4, 11, 18; April 1, 8, 15, 22
Time: 5:30 – 8 p.m.
Location: Thomas Stone High School

Course: Reading in the Content Areas – Part II, RDG534SM
Dates: Thurs., March 20; April 3, 10, 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15
Time: 5 - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Thomas Stone High School

Course: Purposeful Learning through Multiple Intelligences, EDU540SM

Dates: Fri., Sat., Sun., April 4, 5, 6, 18, 19, 20
Time: 5 – 9 p.m., Fri.
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sat. and Sun.
Location: Holiday Inn, Waldorf

Course: Supervision and Evaluation of School Personnel, ADM504SM
Dates: Tues., Jan. 15, 22, 29; Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26; Mar 4
Time: 4:30 – 9 p.m.
Location: Thomas Stone High School

Course: School Leadership in the 21st Century, ADM505SM
Dates: Wed. and Sat., March 19; April 2, 5, 9, 12, 16
Time: 4:30 – 9 p.m.
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Location: Thomas Stone High School/John Hanson Middle School

Bowie State University Graduate Courses

Course: Introduction to Research, EDU 706.237
Dates: Thurs., Jan. 28 – March 15
Time: 4:55 - 9:55 p.m.
Location: Maurice J. McDonough High School

Course: Human Growth & Development, EDU 507.237
Dates: Tues., Jan. 28 – March 15
Time: 4:55 - 9:55 p.m.
Location: McDonough High School

Course: Career Counseling & Development, GUCO 608.238
Dates: Wed., March 24 – May 20
Time: 4:55 - 9:55 p.m.
Location: McDonough High School

Course: Test & Measurements, GUCO 610.238
Dates: Tues., March 24 – May 20
Time: 4:55 - 9:55 p.m.
Location: McDonough High School

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Personnel

Apply for positions at www.cchoe.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 Assistant, Adult Education – Lifelong Learning Center; position is part time.

Food Service, Assistant Manager – North Point High School, 10-month position. Three years experience in food service required. Apply by Nov. 30.

Secretary – William B. Wade Elementary School, 11-month position available. Apply by Nov. 30.

Food Service Workers – Openings at North Point, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools; three-hour and four-hour positions available. Apply for North Point by Nov. 26. Apply for Stone and Westlake by Nov. 27.

Food Service Workers – Openings at Benjamin Stoddert, Piccowaxen, Mattawoman and John Hanson middle schools; three-hour and four-hour positions available. Apply for Stoddert, Piccowaxen and Mattawoman by Nov. 27. Apply for Hanson by Nov. 30.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills – William A. Diggs Elementary

School; 10-month position. Apply by Nov. 30.

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 all age levels.

NJROTC Instructor – Westlake and North Point High schools.

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

- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Science
- Computer science/CISCO teacher
- Special education
- Language arts
- English
- French
- Elementary level
- Gifted education

Extra pay position

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following opening:

- Junior varsity assistant softball coach

Call 301-753-1755 to apply.

Staff notes

Henson hosts fundraiser

Faculty members and staff at Matthew Henson Middle School participated in a chili cook off Oct. 31 to benefit the United Way of Charles County. Teachers donated funds to participate in the cook off, which was launched three years ago by Henson math teacher Jessica Galbreath. During this year's fundraiser, more than 20 staff members helped to raise \$1,600.

Westlake teacher honored

Mark Howell, a social studies teacher at Westlake High School, was named the Maryland Council for the Social Studies Educator of the Year on Oct. 19 by the Maryland Council for the Social Studies (MDCSS). Howell began his career with Charles County Public Schools in 1979 and has taught social studies at Westlake since 1993.

Nominees for the award must teach social studies in Maryland and awards are given to elementary or secondary social studies educators. The MDCSS promotes the teaching of social studies and supports research and investigation in the social sciences.

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