

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

January 18, 2008

R-285



Changing classes

Teachers took the place of students in the hallways at Mary H. Matula Elementary School on Tuesday evening during a staff development session centered on elementary reading. More than 100 teachers from around the county participated in the sessions, which are part of an ongoing series of after-school staff development options. Tuesday's training included a series of workshops and information sessions to provide tips and plans for reading blocks.

College Board offers practical, hands-on training for AP English and history teachers

English and history Advanced Placement (AP) teachers trained with College Board consultants this week to learn practical tips and strategies to strengthen AP instruction.

Approximately 35 AP history and English teachers participated in workshops tailored to meet the needs of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). Training was based on a review of CCPS student AP test data. Teachers learned about scoring using their students' free response questions and developed strategies for improving multiple-choice scores.

The training, part of a partnership between Charles County Public Schools and the College Board, offers practical and important information for teachers. The training was based on instructional planning reports that analyzed students' strengths and weaknesses on last year's AP exams.

"Teachers left the training excited and motivated," said Maryann Bourassa, instructional specialist in gifted education. She said the school system sends all new AP teachers to a week-

long summer institute to train, and this week's workshops augment the training and experience of teachers. Trained AP consultants and exam readers, people who score tests for the College Board in the summer, offered teachers techniques and materials to use.

"We looked at instructional planning reports, analyzed students strengths and weaknesses in subtopics within each subject and asked for suggestions on how we can adapt instruction to meet the needs of our students," Bourassa said.

The training is an outgrowth of the College Board partnership, which centers around administration of the PSAT to all tenth graders. The College Board works with teachers and guidance counselors to use PSAT data to counsel students in course selection and to analyze the data to learn more about their students' strengths and areas they need to work on in instruction. Training for tenth-grade English and math teachers and high school guidance counselors is planned for Feb. 12.

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and on Feb. 18 for Presidents' Day. Schools are closed for students only on Feb. 12, Primary Election Day. Teachers attend staff development activities on Feb. 12.

W-2 forms

W-2 statements will be available no later than January 31, 2008. Forms are sent to schools and departments for distribution to all full-time, salaried employees. Forms for hourly and daily employees are mailed to the address on file with the human resources division. If your address has changed, contact human resources to update information.

It takes at least a week to process a request for a duplicate W-2. A written request must be submitted to obtain a duplicate, and the form is available on the forms web page. Forward requests for a duplicate W-2 to payroll.



Notebook

Report cards issued/mailed

Report cards will be issued to prekindergarten students on Wednesday, Jan. 23. Elementary report cards will be issued and middle and high school report cards will be mailed on Friday, Jan. 25.

Board plans work session

The Board of Education will hold a work session on Monday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building to discuss the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinances (APFO). The meeting will also be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 96.

Agenda Items are:

- Call to order – 6 p.m.
- Public forum
- APFO – subcommittee update
- Board meeting times
- Executive session

Board considers time change

The Board of Education is reviewing its monthly meeting times and will vote on possible changes at its Feb. 19 meeting. Possible time frames are being reviewed by the Board, which is considering moving the meeting starting time to earlier in the afternoon. Email suggestions to boardmail@ccboe.com.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education at its Jan. 8 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Martha Morrison-Lutton, fifth-grade teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Jennifer Pleva, art teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; Kristen Lednum, fifth-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; and John Tompkins, instructional specialist, Matthew Henson Middle School.

Wade, Wise re-elected as Board chairman, vice chair

The Board of Education of Charles County unanimously re-elected Donald M. Wade as chairman and Roberta S. Wise as vice chairman at its Jan. 8 meeting. The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman each January. The officers serve one-year terms. This is the second year for Wade and Wise in the leadership positions.



Donald M. Wade



Roberta S. Wise

“It is really a pleasure to work with such a professional Board,” Wade said after his re-election. He commended the Board members for working together as a team and for their involvement not only in the local community, but also on professional Board committees.

Wade is a three-term Board member and was first elected in 1998. He is a lifetime resident of Charles County and has served as Thomas Stone High School SAC president. He also helped bring the JROTC program to Charles County. Col. Wade spent 30 years on active duty and was a professor of aerospace studies at three universities. He was a teacher, a department

chairperson and a faculty advisor to 21 JROTC units in Prince George's County before retiring in 2006. He was a member of the Charles County Board of Zoning Appeals, and is

a distinguished graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park ROTC program and the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Wise is a first-term Board member, first elected in November 2006. She is a retired Charles County Public Schools teacher with 34 years of experience. A former Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, she also received the *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer award for outstanding teachers in 1991. For most of her career, she served as a mathematics teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School. She was a coordinator of the Educational Partnership Team and a math resource teacher before retiring in 1999. Mrs. Wise was a member of the Charles County Planning Commission for six years and served as the vice chairperson for four years.

Westlake teachers earn district, state recognitions

Harris is District Teacher of the Year

Connie Harris, a physical education teacher at Westlake High School, is a National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) 2008 District Teacher of the Year. She is now a contender for the national title, which will be announced in April.

Harris was selected last year as the high school State Teacher of the Year from school-level nominees throughout Maryland. The Teacher of the Year award is a three-tiered program, which starts at the state, advances to the district and ends with the National Teacher of the Year selection for elementary, middle and high school levels. Nominees must have a minimum of five years teaching experience in physical education and conduct a quality learning experience for students.

Harris is the department chair and teaches both traditional and adaptive physical education classes. She started her career with Charles County Public Schools in 1988 at La Plata High School, and has been teaching at Westlake since 1992.

Roberts up for Presidential award

Steve Roberts, a mathematics teacher at Westlake High School, was recently named a 2007 Maryland mathematics finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

As a finalist, Roberts is eligible for consideration as the state winner for secondary mathematics, an award administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Each year, up to 108 awards are bestowed to recipients across the United States.

Roberts began his career with Charles County Public Schools as a mathematics teacher in 1997 at Westlake. The award is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through grade 12 mathematics or science teacher can receive in the United States.

Science and mathematics teachers can either apply for the award or can be nominated. The national awards will be chosen later this year.

State defines combined-score option for High School Assessment

The Maryland State Board of Education recently voted on changes to the High School Assessment (HSA) program that provides for a combined-score option. The changes have impact on individual students who need to retake assessments. The Maryland State Department of Education has released the following information to clarify what counts toward the combined score.

Procedures for using combined-score option

As a result of the State Board's October 2007 decision, students entering high school in the fall of 2005 or later and using the combined-score option will no longer need to meet the minimum score for any HSA. This means that to use the combined-score option, students must earn a total of 1602 scale score points when their scores on all four assessments are combined or added together. Regardless of the score on any of the four HSA (algebra, English, biology or government), students achieving a total of 1602 scale score points are deemed to have met the HSA requirement for graduation.

Transfer students and the combined score

A student transferring into a Maryland high school from a non-

public school in Maryland or a school in another state can still access the combined-score option even if the student has taken and received credit for one or more of the HSA courses prior to moving to Maryland. For these students, the target combined score is still 1602.

The Maryland receiving school decides what credits to accept for the courses the student has previously passed. When the school awards transfer credit for a HSA course, the student does not have to take and pass the corresponding HSA. If the student chooses to use the combined-score option, the student is assigned the passing score for the HSA from which the student is exempt. This assigned passing score is added to the student's other HSA scores. If the total equals or exceeds 1602, the student is deemed to have met the HSA graduation requirement.

More information

Teachers or staff who need additional clarification about the combined-score option or any other HSA requirement should contact Cliff Eichel, director of research and assessment, at 301-934-7307 or ceichel@ccboe.com; or Judy Estep, assistant superintendent of instruction, 301-934-7377 or jestep@ccboe.com.

State honors physical education teachers

The Maryland Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MAHPERD) recently selected two Charles County Public Schools physical education teachers as recipients of the Simon McNeely Award.

Honored were: David Bradshaw, a physical education teacher and coach at Maurice J. McDonough High School, and Brooke Middleton, a physical education teacher at North Point High School. The Maryland State Senate and House of Delegates honored both teachers with state resolutions for their outstanding teaching and service in health and physical education.

Simon McNeely was a special educator who was a longtime member of the President's Council for Physical Fitness and the United States and International Olympic Committees. The award annually honors up to two teachers from each county who demonstrate outstanding innovation in teaching physical education along with active involvement in school and community affairs.

The educators were awarded in October by MAHPERD and received citations from Sen. Thomas 'Mac' Middleton and the Southern Maryland Delegation at the Board of Education's legislative breakfast in late November.

Students producing diversity video for county

More than 15 Westlake High School multi-media students are creating a video project as part of the Charles County Commissioners "Unity in Our Community" diversity forum.

The student-produced project reflects how diversity affects the Charles County community. Students are responsible for all aspects of creating the video project, from writing editorial content and directing, to filming and editing footage.



CSI Stone

Thomas Stone High School students Robert Finson and Jessica Daniels look at evidence during a forensics psychology and criminal profiling lesson in Brian Reip's psychology class.

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

Food Service, Assistant Manager – Westlake High School; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Food Service, Manager – Theodore G. Davis Middle School; full-time position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Building Service Worker – Berry Elementary School; full-time position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Food Service Worker – Mary H. Matula Elementary School; three-hour position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – General Smallwood Middle School; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Instructional Assistant, Secondary – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 25.

Computer Analyst – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position. Apply by Jan. 22.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Thomas Stone High School; 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 25.

Library and Media Specialist – Henry E. Lackey High School.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels.

NJROTC Instructor – North Point High School.

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

- Spanish
- Mathematics
- Special education
- Gifted education
- Elementary
- Science
- Music
- Family and consumer science

Extra pay positions

La Plata High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity softball coach
- Assistant softball coach
- Head junior varsity softball coach

Call Principal Garth Bowling at 301-753-1754 to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity assistant softball coach

- Pom pons dance team coach
 - Junior varsity baseball coach
 - Junior varsity assistant baseball coach
- Call Principal Jervie Petty at 301-753-1755 to apply.

School system notes

Channel 96 programming schedules

Download your copy of the Channel 96 Broadcast schedule by visiting www.ccboe.com and click on Channel 96, under the Public Info/Media tab. The schedules are updated twice a month and are released the Monday after each *School News* newsletter is published. If you have questions about the schedule, email ccpstv96@ccboe.com. The schedule is subject to change without notice.

Channel 96 broadcasts a variety of different programming, ranging from events happening in Charles County Public Schools, Board meetings and adult education series to programs that help to teach science, math, writing and good citizenship skills. Some programs carry the Thinkport logo at the top right of the screen. These programs have supplemental materials that can be downloaded by visiting www.thinkport.org.

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

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.

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.