

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time • February 29, 2008 • R-288

Students from Japanese University visit CCPS

Charles County Public Schools recently hosted more than 29 Japanese education students Feb. 18-29 as part of a school system partnership with Bunkyo University.

During their two-week visit in Charles County, the students visited several county schools, including North Point High School, Mattawoman Middle School, and Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School to observe.

The students participated in practice lessons with host students at Westlake High School on Feb. 22 and participated in social events, such as a welcoming breakfast with school system officials Feb. 19 at North Point.

The students from Bunkyo University, a private university that mainly offers teacher education, also visited the College of Southern Maryland to experience an American college and participated in social events, such as an ice cream social with



Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, left, receives a Japanese paddle game as a welcoming gift from Bunkyo University student Miho Inomata during the welcome breakfast held Feb. 19.

Each year, University, along with two professors, visit Charles County.

The partnership is intended to provide the Japanese students the opportunity to learn about the American school system, to compare Japanese and American education, to experience American family life and practice speaking English.

North Point students Feb. 20 at the Holiday Inn in Waldorf.

The school system has participated in the partnership with Bunkyo University since 1987, when the program was organized and hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park. CCPS began hosting the program in 1992. Hotel accommodations are arranged for the first week of the visit, and students stay with host families in the county the second week.

Students from Bunkyo

State recognizes eight county schools for achievement

Eight Charles County Public Schools were recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education in the 2007 Maryland School Performance Recognition Program, which honors schools for achievement and improvement on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA).

Dr. James Craik and William B. Wade elementary schools were honored for overall achievement. Arthur Middleton, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Craik, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Mary H. Matula, and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools and La Plata High School were recognized for subgroup improvement.

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy was presented with a Title I award of \$5,757.52. All other schools received a certificate of recognition. Only Title I schools are given financial awards.

The School Performance Recognition Program recognizes elementary, middle and high schools annually for achievement and subgroup improvement based on the MSA.

The criteria include the performance of minority groups and specific student populations, including special education students, limited English proficient students and economically disadvantaged students.

Affordable housing fair

Human Resources is hosting an Affordable Housing Fair on Thursday, March 13, at North Point High School from 5 - 8 p.m. Employees can meet with realtors and lenders and can learn about different housing programs. Contact Beth Thorsen at 301-392-7580 for information.

Board holds priorities meeting

The Board of Education will hold an open meeting on Friday, Feb. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building to discuss Board goals and priorities with Kitty Blumsack, the director of Board Development for the Maryland Association of Boards of Education. The meeting will also be broadcast live on Comcast Channel 96.

SAT Podcast now online

An SAT/ACT Podcast multimedia project is now available for students on the Charles County Public Schools website at www.ccboe.com.

Students from county high schools participated in a focus group for the project and were required to have taken either the SAT or ACT exams, or both. The students were filmed discussing advice and strategies about how to successfully prepare for the exams.

The Podcast covers topics such as which test is appropriate for students to take, the format of each exam, how to best prepare a study plan, where students can go for additional help and what to expect after the exam.

The Podcast was recently added to iTunes, a popular audio/video application, and is available for free to download on the school system website at www2.ccboe.com/sat/podcast/.



Notebook

Central office staff honored

Margaret Stafford, the coordinator of career technology for Charles County Public Schools, was recently awarded a certificate of appreciation by the Maryland Quality Initiative for helping coordinate Maryland's fourth Highway Construction and Engineering Career Day, held last March at the Chaney Enterprises' Waldorf Plant and Training Center. More than 500 Charles County students attended the event, which hosted hands-on activity stations on civil engineering, electrical and mechanical engineering, construction and maintenance careers.

Correction

Tracy Travers, a science teacher at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, was incorrectly identified in the Feb. 15 School News newsletter. She was featured in the story, "Superintendent pushes for math, science program."

Did you know?

National School Breakfast Week is March 3-7. Be sure to thank your food service workers for their service. National Foreign Language Week is March 3-9. March is also Music in Our Schools month.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education at its Feb. 19 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Joan Stup, Reading Recovery teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School; Nancy Murphy, pre-kindergarten teacher, Berry Elementary School; Sharron Prairie, science teacher, La Plata High School; and Zarina Ameen, guidance counselor, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

Westlake teacher earns National Board Certification

James Ressler, an English teacher at Westlake High School, has earned National Board Certification. This designation is granted by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) and is reserved for teaching professionals who demonstrate superior teaching skills.



James Ressler

Ressler received certification in the area of Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts. Ressler is eligible for a \$2,500 annual salary stipend as well as an annual \$2,000 incentive from the Maryland State Department of

Education (MSDE), as long as he remains in the classroom and maintains his National Board Certification.

There are more than 64,000 National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in schools nationwide. Ressler is one of 229 Maryland teachers who earned National Board Certification during the 2007 assessment cycle.

Teachers seeking National Board Certification must be recommended to MSDE by Charles County Public Schools and must be eligible for the free incentive program, which pays the \$2,500 program-entrance fee assessed by the NBPTS.

Interested in becoming Nationally Certified?

An information session for any CCPS teacher interested in the 2008-2009 application cycle for National Board Certification process is planned on Thursday, March 6, 4 - 5 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

To be eligible for national certification applicants must possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, must have at least three years of successful teaching experience in Charles County and have a valid Maryland driver's license. Fees for accepted applicants will be paid by CCPS.

The NBPTS is an independent nonprofit organization comprised mainly of classroom teachers. Its purpose is to improve student learning in schools nationwide by developing a system of advanced, voluntary certification for elementary, middle and high school teachers. The National Board is establishing rigorous standards and assessment for teachers. For more information, contact Evelyn Arnold at earnold@ccboe.com.

March 11 agenda

The Board of Education has released its tentative agenda for March 11. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to Order – 1 p.m.

• Pledge of Allegiance – La Plata High School JROTC

Superintendent's update to the Board
Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board updates
- Education Association update
- Student Board Member update
- Pupil personnel workers
- CIP update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Legislative update

Unfinished business

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Capturing Kids' Hearts program

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Employees
- Students

• Resolutions

- Month of the Young Child; and

- National Student Leadership Week.

Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

Action Items

- Minutes

- Personnel

- Workers' compensation policy statement

Adjournment

Rockets burst through the air, in all directions, across the classroom floor and sideways. Some fizzle on the spot and are refueled with water and Alka Seltzer. The experiment and student enthusiasm is beautiful to Ariel Garcia, an animated engineer and teacher for a day in an Indian Head Elementary School science class.

Garcia is a rocket scientist with flare, and he paces the classroom in pink and green safety goggles pumping kids up about the possibilities of an engineering career and the importance of math and science. He is one of eight engineers from the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Indian Head tag teaching with Charles County Public Schools teachers this year in a partnership that also includes the College of Southern Maryland. The goal of the partnership, "Go Places with Math and Science" is to develop age-appropriate lessons and to bring scientists to classrooms to get students excited about math and science. Teachers and engineers develop the lessons together.

The hope is, by sharing the expertise of professionals with students, that both the public schools and college can strengthen math and science curriculum and begin to grow the county's own skilled workforce in critical shortage areas like engineering and science, especially at the local Navy base.

Garcia offers high fives around the classroom as students successfully launch their paper rockets. As students record their data, Garcia explains, using analogies, what his job entails. "This is cool stuff. Science is cool," he tells the fifth graders.

The rocket launch is a culmination of classroom preparation by science teacher Timothy Emhoff, an eight-year teaching veteran at Indian Head. Prior to

GO PLACES

with Math and Science

Teachers, engineers launch program



Students Marta Perrine, Mackenzie Dixon and Jordan Howells prepare to launch their rocket as Mary Williams, back row from left, Justin Dinch, Whitney Dickey and Leighanne Bilton watch. Teacher Pricillia Caporaletti looks on.



Tim Emhoff



Ariel Garcia

amounts of water and fizz, how weight affects air resistance and how to use that information to launch rockets. Students cut out paper rockets, and worked in teams to determine how much fuel to use for a successful blastoff.

"When you go to college you can learn more about this – this is fun stuff. You need to learn math. You need a hunger for behavior in nature. It's fun because people have questions and I know the answers," Garcia told the children.

Garcia uses the lesson to transition into what it takes to build rocket motors and puts his work in perspective by comparing the process of making rocket engines with baking cakes.

Before watching students launch their rockets at Indian Head, the Go Places team tested the team-teaching concept at Westlake High School. Indian Head Division engineer Jon Kilikewich joined physics teacher Cheryl Haney to translate how the equations and concepts about the laws of motion and velocity that the students are learning translate into a career. Kilikewich showed video clips of aircraft exploding to demonstrate the importance of physics to pilots. He designs ejection seats, and says the real point of engineering is solving problems. His job is to get pilots out of a plane in an emergency – and quickly. "Every time a pilot ejects safely, I say I am glad I am doing what I am doing," Kilikewich said.

Kilikewich applies physics to practical matters, and says he determines whether an ejection will squish a person or crunch them to death. Physics, he says, helps him put all the pieces together, to build ejection seats that a human body can withstand and to help create successful ejections. "It looks simple, but remember these are live bodies that can only take so much force on them," he said.

"Engineering is a neat career that will challenge you," Kilikewich said after answering student questions.

blastoff, students learned about water temperature, using proper

his experience at Indian Head Elementary. "I used to think I had the most important job in the world. That's before I met Tim (Emhoff)."

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

Summer Academy Administrators, elementary and middle schools – Must be a vice principal or administrative assistant at a Charles County school. Apply by March 7.

Summer Academy Program Coordinators, elementary schools – All elementary school sites; master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by March 7.

Summer Academy Program Coordinators, middle schools – All middle school sites; master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by March 7.

Summer Academy Program Coordinators, high schools – All high school sites; master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by March 7.

Food Service Substitutes – All schools.

Secretary – Malcolm Elementary School; 11-month position. Apply by Feb. 29.

Food Service Worker – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; three-hour position. Apply by Feb. 29.

Food Service Worker – Eva Turner Elementary School, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and Maurice J. McDonough

High School; four-hour positions. Apply by March 5 for Stoddert and McDonough. Apply by March 10 for Turner.

Food Service Worker – North Point High School; three-hour position. Apply by March 5.

Food Service Worker – Berry Elementary School; six-hour position. Apply by March 10.

Plumber II – Maintenance Shop; 12-month position. Apply by March 5.

Secretary, Special Education, Non Public and EA – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by March 6.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, EA program – Thomas Stone High School; 11-month position. Apply by March 10.

Mathematics Teacher – Mattawoman and John Hanson middle schools; 10-month positions.

Science Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position.

Fifth-grade Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Gifted Education Resource Teacher – Openings at all middle schools; 10-month positions.

Music Teacher – Milton M. Somers Middle School; 10-month position.

Family and Consumer Science/Childcare Teacher – North Point High School; 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Science – La Plata High School; 10-month position.

Art Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Music Teacher – William A. Diggs Elementary School; 10-month position.

Library and Media Specialist – Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position. Position is open until filled.

Speech Language Pathologists – Openings at all age levels; 10-month positions

IEP Facilitator – Openings at all age levels; 11-month positions.

AFJROTC Instructor – North Point High School.

ESOL Teacher – Openings at all age levels.

Music teacher – Opening at all elementary schools; 10-month positions.

Extra Pay positions

The following coaching positions are open at Westlake High School:

- Head volleyball coach
- Head golf coach

Please contact Principal Chrystal Benson at 301-753-1758 for more information.

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.