

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

• June 20, 2008 •

R-296

## CCPS hosts 2nd annual job fair

Nearly 75 teacher hopefuls interviewed for jobs on June 7 at the Charles County Public Schools second annual Job Fair.

Keith Hettel, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources called the daylong event at La Plata High School a success. He said 20 candidates were

offered positions, with 10 accepting jobs as of Wednesday. "We expect to hear from the others this week," he said.

Most offers were made in the school system's critical areas, which are high school and middle school special education, math, science, Spanish, art, and music.



**Henry E. Lackey High School Principal Curry Werkheiser interviews David Fink, a mathematics teacher from Buffalo, New York, at the CCPS job fair held Saturday, June 14, at La Plata High School. Fink was hired to teach at Westlake High School.**

Elementary candidates were interviewed; however, there are no elementary teacher openings at this time. Tenured teachers may resign up until July 15, so interviews were held to develop a pool of possible future hires, Hettel said.

Candidates were from 13 states including in-state candidates from Maryland and

ones from as far away as Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Principals and vice principals from each school conducted the interviews.

Teacher candidates are given the opportunity to sign up for interviews and also meet with Human Resources staff to learn about other issues.

## Board holds work session

The Board of Education will meet on Monday, June 23, 6 p.m., at Maurice J. McDonough High School. Agenda items include approving alignments to the fiscal year 2009 budget and the schematics for full-day kindergarten additions and renovations at Dr. Gustavus Brown, Indian Head, Arthur Middleton and Eva Turner elementary schools. There will also be a closed executive session to discuss personnel.

## Board approves textbook

The Board of Education approved a new textbook for use in the Teaching as a Profession Foundations of Curriculum and Instruction course. The book, "Learning to Teach" by Richard I. Arends and published by McGraw Hill, will be used at all high schools. The cost of the 180 textbooks is \$17,213. The Teacher Academy of Maryland program was developed in coordination with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Association of Community Colleges.

## Top vice principal known for love of children, education

Deborah Brown, vice principal at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, was selected as the 2008 Charles County Public Schools Vice Principal of the Year.

"I am humbled to receive this award. Children and public education are my passion. I am truly honored to be nominated by my school staff for this award and am

proud to be a part of a system that promotes excellence," Brown said.

She was nominated for the award by Marvin Jones, Brown's principal, for possessing quality leadership skills, for demonstrating



**Deborah Brown**

energy, compassion and enthusiasm in her job and for always ensuring that student needs come first.

"Mrs. Brown possesses extremely high quality professional skills and human relation skills that are rare and extraordinarily effective. She embodies and personifies, in the truest and most-intended sense of the word,

**See Brown, Page 3**

## Larson learns Bach

Katherine "Katy" Larson, an ESOL (English as Second Language) teacher at North Point High School, was recently selected to attend the "J.S. Bach in the Baroque and the Enlightenment" summer institute to be held in Germany. The four-week institute is one of 27 summer study opportunities provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The institute's focus is on the music of J.S. Bach and how it relates to the knowledge and belief system of the 18th century.



## Notebook

### ***Tuition reimbursement***

Tuition reimbursement for all employees must be submitted no later than June 30 for courses completed during the 2007-08 school year, which is July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008. If grade slips or official transcripts are not available by the deadline, requests must still be submitted by June 30, and reimbursement will be held until original grade slips, transcripts and documentation of tuition fees are submitted to human resources.

Classes starting after July 1 will be charged to the 2008-09 tuition reimbursement allotment. All courses must be pre-approved by human resources.

Certificated employees with tuition reimbursement questions and have last names beginning with A-K should call 301-934-7243; certificated employees with last names beginning with L-Z should call 301-934-7241. Support employees should call 301-934-7232.

### ***On the cover***

Pictured on the front cover are the nominees for the *Washington Post's* 2008 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year award who were recognized at the June 10 Board meeting. Pictured, from left, are Diane Hancock, mathematics teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; Aeronita Dillard, special education teacher, Thomas Stone High School; Leslie Johns, social studies teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School; Jennifer Kelly, teacher, Malcolm Elementary School; and Maria Arevalo, language arts teacher, General Smallwood Middle School.

## Summer hours changed for some schools, centers

Charles County Public Schools began operating on a changed summer schedule June 16. The changes affect all CCPS schools and centers that do not have extended day or community services programs. These locations operate on a 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. schedule. The schedule remains in effect until August 18.

The following elementary schools are operating on the summer schedule: C. Paul Barnhart, Berry, Dr. James Craik, William A. Diggs, Gale-Bailey, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, J.C. Parks, Malcolm, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, Walter J. Mitchell (which opens at 7 a.m. for Summer Academy), J.P. Ryon, and Eva Turner.

Offices at Mattawoman and Milton M. Somers middle schools, La Plata and North Point high schools, the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center and the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building close at 3:30 p.m. for the summer.

Three county schools - Piccowaxen Middle School, Thomas Stone and Maurice J. McDonough high schools - have been des-

ignated as centralized meeting sites to accommodate evening meetings this summer.

Schools and centers that have extended-day programs, including Department of Community Services programs, are operating to accommodate program schedules and include: Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, Indian Head Elementary School, T.C. Martin Elementary School, Mary H. Matula Elementary School, Arthur Middleton Elementary School, William B. Wade Elementary School, Theodore G. Davis Middle School, John Hanson Middle School, Matthew Henson Middle School, Piccowaxen Middle School, General Smallwood Middle School, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, Henry E. Lackey High School, Maurice J. McDonough High School, Thomas Stone High School, Westlake High School, Lifelong Learning Center, and Adult Services Center/Stone Annex.

Call the specific school or center for more information. The change is expected to generate anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000 in energy savings for CCPS.

## Days off, two-hour early dismissals finalized for 2008-09

- Aug. 11-15, New teacher orientation
- Aug. 18, First day for teachers
- Aug. 25, First day for students, K-12
- Sept. 1, Labor Day, schools/offices closed
- Sept. 2, First day for 3's/PreK programs
- Sept. 12, Schools closed for students
- Sept. 24, Two-hour early dismissal, AM PreK
- Oct. 8, Two-hour early dismissal, PM PreK
- Oct. 17, MSTA Convention, schools closed for students and teachers
- Oct. 30, Two-hour early dismissal, AM PreK
- Nov. 4, Election Day, schools closed for students and teachers
- Nov. 11, Schools closed for students
- Nov. 19, Two-hour early dismissal, PM PreK
- Nov. 26-28, Thanksgiving holiday, schools/offices closed
- Dec. 9, Two-hour early dismissal, AM PreK
- Dec. 19, Two-hour early dismissal, PM PreK
- Dec. 22-31, Winter break, schools closed
- Dec. 24-26, Offices closed
- Jan. 1-2, Schools/offices closed
- Jan. 5, Schools/offices reopen
- Jan. 7, Two-hour early dismissal, AM PreK
- Jan. 19, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday,

schools/offices closed

- Jan. 23, Semester break, schools closed for students
  - Feb. 4, Two-hour early dismissal, PM PreK
  - Feb. 16, President's Day, schools/offices closed
  - March 4, Schools closed for students
  - March 31, Two-hour early dismissal, AM PreK
  - April 6-13, Spring break, schools closed
  - April 10-13, Offices closed
  - April 14, Schools/offices reopen
  - April 17, Two-hour early dismissal, PM PreK
  - May 13, Two-hour early dismissal, AM PreK
  - May 25, Memorial Day, schools/offices closed
  - June 12-17, Two-hour early dismissal
  - June 17, Last student day (with four inclement weather days added\*)
  - June 18, Last teacher day (with four inclement weather days added\*)
- AM and PM prekindergarten students rotate attendance on two-hour early dismissal days. Teachers work on days marked closed for students.*

## Outstanding support staff honored for dedication to system

The Board of Education honored five employees with Outstanding Personnel Awards on June 10 as part of their annual recognition of support staff.

Honored were Robin Deese, food service manager, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; Pamela Jenkins, instructional assistant, Dr. James Craik Elementary School; John Lancaster, building service manager, Milton M. Somers Middle School; George Risko, HVAC Mechanic, Radio Station Road Annex; and Sandra Shegogue, secretary, Piccowaxen Middle School.

Deese is the 2008 Outstanding Food Service Worker. She has been the food service manager at Barnhart for the past two school years and was nominated by Patrick Tague, the supervisor of food services for CCPS. Barnhart Principal Timothy Rosin said Deese is a “highly effective leader” and that she was instrumental in the establishment of the Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) program at the school. “She and her staff daily prepare trays of these breakfasts, which are then delivered to each of the classrooms so students can start their day off in a healthy way,” Rosin said in a nomination letter.

Jenkins is the 2008 Outstanding Instructional Support Employee. She has worked as a pre-kindergarten instructional assistant at Craik since 1998 and was nominated for the award by Holly Cannon, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Craik. Jenkins was a parent volunteer at Craik and Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School and was asked to join the instructional team at Craik by Penny Nye, Craik’s principal. “The fact that Pam works so well with the students at Craik is a testament to her fortitude, work ethic, and commitment to her students, as well as our entire school community,” Nye said in a nomination letter.

Lancaster is the 2008 Outstanding Building Service Worker. Lancaster has been with CCPS since 1993 and was nominated for



**Pictured are the 2008 Outstanding Support Employees. From left is Sandra Shegogue, John Lancaster, Pamela Jenkins, Robin Deese, and George Risko. They were recognized by the Board of Education at its June 10 meeting and each received a recognition plaque and check for \$1,000.**

the award by Stephanie Wesolowski, principal at Somers. She said Lancaster demonstrates a positive attitude toward all that he does and is reliable and dependable. “He approaches all of his tasks with a great deal of enthusiasm and pride each and every day. He efficiently manages the building service staff that keeps our school a clean and welcome place for the students and staff,” Wesolowski said in a nomination letter.

Risko is the 2008 Outstanding Maintenance Employee. He was nominated for the award by Ernie Downs, foreman in the CCPS maintenance shop. Downs said Risko, who is also known as “Dean,” is a leader and has a “can do” attitude. “He has done an

outstanding job of keeping team members optimistic and focused on results no matter what the obstacles. Dean is a reliable team member and sets an excellent example for the rest of us to follow,” Downs said in a nomination letter.

Shegogue is the 2008 Outstanding Secretary. Shegogue has been employed with CCPS for more than 35 years. Piccowaxen Principal Ken Schroeck said Shegogue is friendly to everyone she encounters in the school office and is dedicated and passionate about her job. “When you first meet Mrs. Shegogue her contagious smile and friendly giggle will put you at ease. I am absolutely impressed by her willingness to help faculty, students with anything they need,” Schroeck said in a nomination letter.

The Board each year honors exemplary support staff in five different job categories. The goals of the awards are to recognize exemplary employees in the areas of building services, food services, maintenance, secretarial services and instructional support, and to encourage employees to provide creative and quality services that support the effective and efficient operations of the school system.

## Brown

the title of vice principal,” Jones wrote in a nomination letter.

Fellow staff members at Brown, including the pre-kindergarten and first-grade teams, wrote letters of recommendation for Brown’s nomination that spoke of her compassion for children. “Brown faces the challenges of the day with confidence, understanding and a genuine love for children. She strives daily to accommodate the needs of the students, staff and parents in a fair and professional manner,” Mary Beth Ritchie, Conchita Stewart, Angela Wenzinger and Ginger Mason, the pre-kindergarten team at Brown, wrote in a nomination letter.

In a supporting letter, Brown parent Marilyn Boswell said that Brown promotes a positive and safe learning environment for stu-

dents. “She always makes time to hear every concern or problem you may have and makes every effort to correct the problem in the fastest and best way possible,” Boswell wrote.

Brown began her career with Charles County Public Schools in 1977 as a teacher at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, where she served as team leader from 1996 to 2000. She transferred to Indian Head Elementary School in 2000, where she served as vice principal for six years. She was named vice principal at Brown in 2006. She has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in education from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Brown was honored by the Board of Education on June 10.

Continued from page 1

## 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

**Food Service Workers** – Openings at all schools; three-hour, 10-month positions.

**Adult Education Instructional Assistant** – Lifelong Learning Center; part time, five-hour position. Apply by June 23.

**HVAC Mechanic II** – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by June 24.

**Technology Facilitator** – Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 10-month position. Associate's degree or ParaPro Assessment required. Apply by June 25.

**Human Resources Assistant II** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in human resources, business management or related field required. Apply by June 25.

**Adult Education Teacher** – Lifelong Learning Center, part-time position. Bachelor's degree required. Apply by June 27.

**Building Services Assistant Manager** – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 12-month position. Apply by June 30.

**Food Service Assistant Manager** – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

Apply by July 1.

**Technology Facilitator** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Associate's degree or ParaPro Assessment required. Apply by July 1.

**Coordinator of Minority Achievement & Multicultural Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in administration, education, curriculum or related field required. Apply by June 25.

**Director of Instructional Programs** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in administration and five years teaching experience required. Apply by June 25.

**Coordinator of Career and Technology Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in administration and minimum of five years teaching experience required. Apply by June 28.

**Administrative Assistant** – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree and three years teaching experience required. Apply by June 26.

**NJROTC Instructors** – Openings available at Westlake and La Plata high schools; 11-month positions.

**Drafting and Design Teacher** – North Point High School; 10-month position; bachelor's degree in technology education

or related area required.

**Electronics Teacher** – North Point High School; 10-month position; bachelor's degree in electrical engineering or other related area required.

**Library & Media Specialists** – Openings at William A. Diggs, Malcolm, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and T.C. Martin elementary schools; 10-month positions. Master's degree in library science required.

### Extra pay positions

**North Point High School** has the following openings:

- Head varsity field hockey coach
- Head junior varsity field hockey coach
- Head varsity girl's soccer coach
- Head junior varsity girl's soccer coach
- Head junior varsity cheerleading coach, fall season
- Head freshman cheerleading coach, fall season

Call Principal Kim Hill, 301-885-2012, to apply.

**Thomas Stone High School** has the following opening:

- Assistant field hockey coach.
- Call Principal L.C. Martin, 301-753-1756, to apply.

### Resignation deadline

The resignation deadline for all tenured teachers is July 15, at 5 p.m.

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

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