



County, Lackey welcome home Principal James Short

James Short, a Henry E. Lackey High School graduate, was welcomed home earlier this month as the Board of Education named him acting principal at the school.

Short, a resident of Waldorf, recently served as an assistant school administrator at Montgomery Blair High School in Montgomery County and concurrently as principal of the evening and Saturday School for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Short said he is adjusting to his new position by “jumping” into his duties as Lackey’s principal, which first and foremost is filling vacancies at the school. “I am really looking to hire staff right now for next school year,” Short said. He has also been busy introducing himself to and



Lackey High School principal James Short is reminded of his “homecoming” by the message posted on the school’s sign out in front of the school that states, “Welcome home James Short.”

talking with staff members who drop by the school to prepare for the first day of school.

Short returns to Charles County Public Schools where he started his teaching career in 1987 at Thomas Stone High School. He taught in Charles County until 1995 when he took a position at Blair as a special education teacher. He was promoted to his position at Montgomery Blair High School in 2004.

Short earned his bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Richmond, his special education certification from Trinity College in Washington, D.C., and his master’s degree in education from Bowie State University.

Students, schools continue steady MSA improvement

Charles County Public Schools’ reading and mathematics scores on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) continue to improve, according to results released this week by the Maryland State Department of Education. Not included in the data is information about Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), which is expected to be completed sometime during the summer. High school data will be released later this summer.

Scores are reported for a total of 12 tests, six reading and six math, taken in April by students in grades three through eight. Scores are expressed as the percentage of CCPS students

who scored at or above the proficiency levels set when the exams started in 2003.

Systemwide, the most significant gains were in reading, where increases ranged from two to 14 points across the grades. Math scores also increased at every level with the exception of fifth-grade, which dropped two-tenths of a percentage point. As a county, all grades continued to score above the yearly benchmark, or the annual measurable objective (AMO), established by the state for school systems to meet their goals by 2014.

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Summer school graduation

Summer school graduation is set for Thursday, July 31, at 4 p.m., at Westlake High School. Call 301-932-1003 for more information.

Summer office hours

The Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building and most schools and centers are operating on a 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. summer schedule. The administrative offices, as well as those schools/centers who are following the summer schedule, return to their normal operating schedules on Monday, Aug. 18.

For a complete listing of schools and centers that are operating on the summer schedule, visit the school system Web site at www2.ccoeb.com/pr/index.cfm/2008/6/11/Summer-hours-for-centers-and-schools-changed-for-energy-savings. The change in hours is expected to generate between \$100,000 - \$150,000 in energy.

Board to meet next month

The Board of Education’s next regular meeting is Tuesday, Aug. 12. The meeting begins at 11 a.m. to adhere to the summer hours schedule for the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

EACC hosts crab feast

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) plans to hold its annual crab feast on Friday, Aug. 22, at the Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata. The event is open to all employees and tickets are \$20. Visit the Eacc Web site, www.eaccmsta.com, for additional information.



Notebook

Summer programs filmed

Comcast Channel 96 is highlighting Charles County Public Schools' summer mathematics and reading academies, which focus on sharpening and reinforcing skills learned during the regular school year. The package is also located on the home page of the CCPS Web site, at www.ccooe.com.

To see what's new on Channel 96, visit www2.ccooe.com/publicinfo/channel96/ for the most up-to-date programming schedule. The station features original CCPS programming produced by members of the communications department that covers students and staff in action as well as school system events and other educational programming.

Grad assists inauguration

Michelle Levesque, a 2001 graduate of Maurice J. McDonough High School, recently joined the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee (AFIC), which will support the 56th Presidential Inauguration on Jan. 29, 2009. The AFIC is a joint service committee that coordinates all military ceremonial support during the inaugural period. Levesque is a reserve member of the United States Army and has served for three years.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Andrew Shanbarger, fourth-grade teacher; Cynthia Rivera, registration secretary; Gary Lyles, building service manager; and Robin Cramer, instructional assistant.



Want a dollar? How about \$25,000?

Five schools were recently awarded \$5,000 grants through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. Company representatives awarded schools the funds at the Bryans Road store on July 15. Glenn Jones, front, vice principal at Henry E. Lackey High School, accepted the grant for his school. Davita Stewart, a secretary at General Smallwood Middle School, accepted the grant for her school, and Toni Melton-Trainor, Indian Head Elementary School principal, second from the right, accepted the grant for her school. John Tompkins, back center, an instructional specialist at Matthew Henson Middle School, and J.C. Parks vice principal Tynika Lytle, back left, Denise Pratt, Parks teacher, second from left, Parks Principal Kristin Shields, third from left, and Parks teachers Mary Fenton, middle row left, and Sunshine Barton, middle row right, accepted the grants for their schools.

MSA

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Additionally, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) continues to make progress on closing the achievement gap between races and socioeconomic subgroups. Since 2003, CCPS has narrowed the gap between African-American and White students' scores at each level and in each subject. The achievement gap in elementary reading has narrowed from 25.7 points in 2003 to 10.4 points in 2008; the difference in elementary math scores has narrowed from 27 points to 13.9 points; middle school reading score gaps have closed from 24.9 to 15.2 points and math score differences have lowered from 28.2 to 22.2 points. "Eliminating the achievement gap between students of different races, ethnicities and socioeconomic status is part of our mission. It is essential for all groups of students to improve for us to continue our path to becoming a top-rated school system. I am pleased that our students are improving and that the achievement gap continues to narrow. We are not where we need to be, but we are seeing progress," said Superintendent James E. Richmond.

At the middle school level, students in

grades six through eight increased reading scores over last year. Sixth-graders' scores increased from 76.6 percent to 82.4 percent; seventh-grade students' scores jumped from 69 percent to 83.5 percent; and eighth-grade scores went from 70.9 percent to 74 percent. Math scores in grades six through eight also increased. Sixth-grade scores went from 73.9 to 75.4 percent; seventh-grade scores increased from 60.8 percent to 68.3 percent; and eighth-grade scores went from 57.4 percent to 60.5 percent.

Reading scores increased across all elementary grades. Third graders increased scores from 78.1 percent to 81.1 percent. Fourth-grade student scores increased from 85.2 percent to 87.3 percent and fifth-grade scores jumped from 74.5 percent to 85 percent with 46.2 percent, nearly half of the fifth grade, scoring at the advanced reading level. Third and fourth graders also increased math scores. Third-grade scores rose from 74.4 percent to 79.8 percent and fourth-grade scores went from 83.6 to 87.7 percent. Fifth-grade scores remained about the same, dipping from 75.3 percent to 75.1 percent.

Registration open for certificated staff development courses

The Office of Program Support is accepting registration for certified professional development (CPD) courses. Participants enrolled in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) courses can receive CPD credit(s). Additionally, CCPS has partnerships with local universities and colleges. Available courses are listed below.

To register for CPD courses, complete the registration form located on the school system Web site, under staff development, www.ccboe.com/staffdev/courses/index.cfm. To register for graduate courses, contact the college or university directly. Contact Barbara Palko, 301-392-7501, for more information.

McDaniel College

Graduate Courses/CPD Courses

Course: *Reading Process & Acquisitions*, RDG 521

Dates: Oct. 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Thomas Stone High School

Course: *Group Dynamics*, CED 508

Dates: Aug. 19, 26; Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7

Time/Location: 4:30 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Monitoring and Aligning Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*, CUR 509

Dates: Aug. 18, 25; Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 13

Time/Location: 4:30 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Curriculum Analysis and Planning*, CUR 512

Dates: Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms*, EDU 541

Dates: Sept. 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 25 (online); Final project due Nov. 8

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., John Hanson Middle School

Course: *Reading in the Content Areas – Part I*, RDG 532

Dates: Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *Introduction to Educational Administration*, ADM 501

Dates: Aug. 19, 26; Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *School Law*, PSI527

Dates: Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *Learning & Instruction*, CUR 503

Dates: Aug. 19, 26; Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7

Time/Location: 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Introduction to Research Methodology*, EDU 550

Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4

Time/Location: 5 – 7:30 p.m., Stone

Bowie State University

Graduate Courses

Course: *Counseling Theory & Practice*, PSYC 734.237

Dates: Sept. 3 – Oct. 22, Wed.

Time/Location: 4:55 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Course: *Appraisal, Assessment & Evaluation*, COUN 610.238

Dates: Oct. 28 – Dec. 23, Tues.

Time/Location: 4:55 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Gratz College/Regional Training Center

Course: *It's All About You: Wellness and School*

Dates: Nov. 21, 22, 23; Dec. 6, 7

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. – Sun.; 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *Styles of Teaching: Personality type in the Classroom*

Dates: Oct. 24, 25, 26; Nov. 8, 9

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. – Sun.; 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *The Cooperative Classroom: Kagan's Instructional Practices*

Dates: Oct. 3, 4, 5, 18, 19

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. – Sun.; 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Wanted: New teen drivers for pilot program that uses video to promote safety

Charles County is looking for new teen drivers to participate in a life-saving program.

The county has secured a grant to sponsor 100 teen drivers from Charles County in the DriveCam program, an in-car monitoring system that captures driving experiences and provides feedback on driving performance.

The program usually costs \$900, but is free to participants under the grant. The program involves installation of a video camera that attaches to the windshield and is triggered by unsafe driving. DriveCam video clips include interior and exterior views for the 10 seconds prior to, as well as the next 10 or so seconds after the event has begun. The event is uploaded, and reviewed professionally by DriveCam employees each night. Coaching messages and risk

points are added to the video clips, both of which aid parents in determining how serious the incident or behavior was. Parents will be able to access the video clips a day or so later.

The "DriveCam for Families" product will be given to 100 families to determine if the program is an appropriate educational tool for parents and newly licensed teens as a means to transition them into fully independent, competent drivers. Participants will provide feedback on the program and its effectiveness.

The county program is limited to the first 100 teen drivers who volunteer. It is open to newly licensed drivers ages 16 to 18 or teens who will be getting their license by October. E-mail Rebecca Martin, martinb@ccso.us, for registration information, or call 301-932-3056.

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

Pre-K Special Education Instructional Assistant – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by July 21.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 21.

Reading Classroom Instructional Assistant – John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by July 21.

Building Service Workers – Openings at La Plata and Westlake high schools; 12-month positions. Apply by July 28.

Building Service Manager – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by July 28.

HVAC Mechanic II – Maintenance Shop, Radio Station Road, 12-month position. Apply by July 29.

Director of Instructional Programs – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree with an

Administration I Maryland certificate and a minimum of five years in the classroom required. Apply by July 24.

Coordinator of Middle School Instruction – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and five years of teaching experience and three years of leadership experience required. Apply by July 23.

Non-Public Instructional Specialist for Special Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and minimum of five years of teaching experience and three years experience working in the special education field required. Apply by July 28.

Content Specialist for Gifted Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and five years teaching experience, with three years as a gifted education teacher required. Apply by July 28.

NJROTC Instructor – Westlake High School.

Library & Media Specialists – Openings at Malcolm, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and William A. Diggs elementary schools.

Computer Education Teacher – Matthew Henson Middle School.

Electronics Teacher – North Point High School.

Vocal Music Teacher – Openings at John

Hanson Middle School and Thomas Stone High School.

Family & Consumer Science Teacher – North Point High School.

French Teacher – North Point High School.

Chemistry Teacher – North Point High School.

Earth Science Teacher – Openings at Thomas Stone and North Point high schools.

Literacy Teacher – Westlake High School.

Physics Teacher – Openings at Westlake and North Point high schools.

Technology Education Teacher – North Point High School.

Reading Resource Teachers – Openings at county schools.

Staff notes

Partial 2008-2009 calendar online

A partial calendar for the 2008-2009 school year, including early dismissal and school closure dates, is available on the school system Web site, at www2.ccboe.com/calendars/08-09-partial.cfm. A pdf version of the 2008/2009 Parent Handbook/Calendar will be available on the Web site by the end of July.

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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.