

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

August 1, 2008

R-295

## Teachers launch into learning at space institute

More than 80 teachers from Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's Counties participated in the Space Discovery Institute offered July 21 through August 1 as part of Charles County Public Schools partnership with the Space Foundation.

The four, week-long sessions, held at Maurice J. McDonough High School, offered teachers opportunities to learn about rocketry and the biology of living in space aboard the international space station, astronomy principles for the classroom, the history and geology of Earth, and the effects of long term space travel.

The 18 participants in the "Rocketry and the Biology of Living in Space: Living Aboard the International Space Station," learned to design, launch and build classroom rockets to incorporate into lesson plans for students. The rockets ranged from beginner levels of use, such as paper straw rockets, to more advanced rockets, such as the Goddard rocket, composed of foam and rubber bands.

J.P. Ryon Elementary School science teacher Kimberly Stillwell attended the rocketry session and said she learned a lot to take back to her students.

"This is the first time I have taken one of these courses. I learned a lot of hands-on activities that I can take back to the J.P. Ryon community. We are learning to instill these ideas and encourage our students to become more interested in engineering. It is amazing what we are learning," she said.

Michael Forrest, a science teacher at Matthew Henson Middle School, taught physics for more than 15 years and will begin teaching sixth-grade Earth Science this school year. He said the rocketry course is a "refresher" course for him and he plans to take back much of what he has learned into the classroom.

"We are working with water rockets, Goddard rockets and 2-liter bottle rockets. The partnership we have is great because of how willing the Space Foundation is to send you classroom materials," Forrest added.

The astronomy session, "Astronomy

Principles for the Classroom: Kinesthetic Astronomy," provided the participants with lessons on moving astronomy, such as orbital movements and similarities between Earth and Mars, and focused on the constellations and the structure of the solar system.

Participants also took a field trip to the Goddard Space Flight Center to experience the day-to-day operations and to understand the role the center plays in space exploration, and a field trip to the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center to observe the stars and constellation in the night sky with advanced telescopes.

Second-year McDonough High School teacher Charles Centivany, who teaches ninth-grade Earth Science, said he has developed at least four to five lesson plans from his participation in the astronomy system session to incorporate into his classroom this fall.

"I have about four or five labs, so far, that I am going to use. They deal with studying life on other planets, false imaging, which uses electromagnetic radiation imaging, comparing earth's atmosphere to others [planets] in space and cosmic rays, which consist of particles," Centivany said.

The two other sessions, "Biological and Physical Research: Long-term Space Travel," and "Earth Systems Science: Our Earth Revealed," offered teachers the opportunity to learn ways to focus and understand how to integrate science, technology, engineering and math into all content areas and lesson plans.

This is the second year that CCPS offered the summer session, in conjunction with the Space Foundation, to teachers. The sessions were offered free to teachers and were open to all subject and grade-level teachers in the tri-county area. Participants could also sign up for Maryland State Department of Education credit or for graduate credit through the Colorado-based Regis University.

Learn more about the Space Foundation education programs at [www.SpaceFoundation.org](http://www.SpaceFoundation.org).

## Board agenda

The Board of Education meets Aug. 12 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Due to summer energy-saving hours, the Board will meet early, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with executive session. The public portion of the meeting begins at 11 a.m. There will be no Public Forum at the August meeting. Public Forum will resume at its regular time at the September meeting.

### Agenda

**Executive session – 9:30 a.m.**

**Call to order – 11 a.m.**

- Pledge of Allegiance

### Superintendent's update Reports

- What Counts update
- Board priorities update
- Education Association of Charles County update
- CIP update
- State CIP 2010
- Review of Bridge to Excellence
- Summer opportunities – Bridge to Excellence summer program
- Staffing update
- Recurring resolutions

### Unfinished Business

### New Business

### Future Agenda Items

### Action Items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Ethics regulation amendment

**Adjournment – 3:30 p.m.**

## On the cover

Pictured above are employees from Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Thomas Smallwood, building service assistant manager; Sara Burroughs, food service manager; and Dorothy Jefferson, reading recovery teacher.

## 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** – All schools; 10-month, three-hour positions. Apply by Aug. 6.

**Technology Facilitator** – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; 10-month position; associate's degree, 48 college credit hours or passing the ParaPro assessment required. Apply by Aug. 7.

**Instructional Assistant** – Adult education; Lifelong Learning Center; part-time position. Apply by Aug. 7.

**General Maintenance I** – Annex 101 Building; 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 8.

**Building Service Worker** – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 8.

**Instructional Assistant** – Matthew Henson Middle School; Meeting in the Middle classes. Apply by Aug. 11.

**Secretary** – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10.5-month position. Apply by Aug. 11.

**Building Service Manager** – T.C. Martin Elementary School; 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 12.

**Building Service Assistant Manager** –

Mary B. Neal Elementary School; 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 12.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Future middle and high school openings.

**Speech Language Therapists** – All levels.

**Spanish Teacher** – Henry E. Lackey High School.

**Science Teachers** – Future middle and high school openings.

**NJROTC Instructor** – Westlake High School.

**IEP Facilitators** – All age levels.

**Special Education Teachers** – All levels.

**Electronics Teacher** – North Point High School.

**Library and Media Specialist** – Malcolm Elementary School.

**Family and Consumer Science** – North Point High School.

**Art Teacher** – William A. Diggs Elementary School.

**Chemistry Teacher** – North Point High School.

**English Teachers** – Future middle and high school openings.

**Earth Science Teacher** – North Point High School.

**Literacy Teacher** – Westlake High School.

**Physics Teachers** – Westlake and North Point high schools.

**Technology Education Teacher** – Henry E. Lackey High School.

**Reading Resource Teachers** – All schools;

11-month positions.

**Social Studies Teachers** – Future middle and high school openings.

**Inclusion Support Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 6.

### Extra pay positions

**Maurice J. McDonough High School** has the following openings:

- Head junior varsity field hockey coach
  - Head junior varsity volleyball coach
  - Head girls' soccer coach
  - Assistant girls' varsity soccer coach
  - Head junior varsity soccer coach
  - Head varsity cheerleading coach
  - Head junior varsity cheerleading coach
  - Head pom poms coach
  - Assistant boys' varsity soccer coach
- Call Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, to apply.

**Westlake High School** has the following openings:

- Head volleyball coach
  - Head golf coach
- Call Principal Chrystal Benson, 301-753-1758, to apply.

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

- Assistant cross country coach
- Call Principal L.C. Martin, 301-753-1756, to apply.

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. Starkly 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.

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