



## Highly qualified teachers in most CCPS classrooms

The percentage of certificated teachers in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) for the 2007-08 school year was 95 percent, which is 9 percent higher than the state average.

The percentage of certificated teachers in CCPS increased 11 percent over the last five school years, as 84 percent of teachers were certificated in the 2003-04 school year, according to Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) 2008 Maryland Report Card statistics.

In CCPS, 95 percent of teachers hold either a standard professional certificate or an advanced professional certificate, and 5 percent have conditional licenses and are working toward full certification.

The percentage of classrooms taught by highly qualified teachers has also increased over the past five school years, from 51 percent during the 2003-04 school year, to 91 percent during the 2007-08 school year, which is 6 percent higher than the state average.

The school system attributes the increases to its focus on hiring highly qualified teacher applicants.

"Principals have made efforts at the school level to place highly qualified teachers in the subject areas of their certification and highly qualified status. This has increased the number of Charles County Public Schools classes that

are being taught by highly qualified teachers," said Keith Hettel, CCPS assistant superintendent of human resources.

Teachers are deemed as highly qualified if they meet minimum requirements outlined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), enacted in 2002. The law requires teachers in core academic subject areas to be highly qualified in the subject area they teach.

Highly qualified teachers must have a bachelor's degree and full state certification, and be able to demonstrate content knowledge in their teaching subject area. These subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics and government, economics, arts, history and geography.

Highly qualified statistics reported by MSDE only include figures for teachers who teach core academic subject areas as defined by NCLB and do not reflect the percentage of teachers who are highly qualified, but teaching in subject areas not considered core academic subject areas.

NCLB also requires that teachers newly hired in Title I schools be highly qualified, as they are partially paid with federal funds. Title I is a federal education program that provides services to at-risk students in high poverty elementary schools.

## CCASC to implement student driving task force in high schools

The Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) addressed teen driving safety as a priority at its first meeting of the 2008-09 school year on Thursday, Oct. 4, at La Plata High School.

Student council representatives from each high school split into groups with Charles County Public Schools juvenile intervention officers to gather ideas on implementing a teen driver safety task force as part of the school system's and Charles County Sheriff's Office "We Care" teen driving safety campaign.

Each group discussed preliminary steps to

encourage student participation, such as offering athletic event incentives, staging mock accident scenes at schools, hosting monthly student assemblies and creating public service announcements.

The CCASC is also considering requiring students who violate parking permit requirements to participate in the program.

CCASC members were asked to present and discuss the program with their student government associations and will revisit launching the student task force at its next meeting in December.

## AFCEA grant awarded

Kathy Cahn, a science teacher at La Plata High School, was recently selected as a 2008 Science Tools Grant award recipient and will receive a \$1,000 grant from the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA).

Cahn is one of four \$1,000 AFCEA grant recipients in the tri-county area and plans to use the funds toward the purchase of Vernier colorimeters and dissolved oxygen probes. These probes connect to laptop computers and are used in water quality studies for tenth-grade biology and Advanced Placement biology labs.

She will be recognized Oct. 30 at a luncheon hosted by the Southern Maryland AFCEA chapter in St. Mary's County.

## Teacher of the Year honored

Margaret "Sue" Childers, a third-grade teacher at T.C. Martin Elementary School, was honored Friday, Oct. 3, at the Maryland Teacher of the Year awards gala held in Baltimore. She was named the 2008 Charles County Teacher of the Year in May and is one of 24 Maryland teachers honored.

## Celebrate Education

Charles County Public Schools is celebrating American Education Week Nov. 16 - 22. The annual theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," reflects the importance of providing all children with a quality public education so they can achieve success in the 21st century.

## Schools closed for MSTA

Schools are closed for students and teachers on Friday, Oct. 17, for the Maryland State Teacher's Association Convention.

## Notebook

### *Festival de las Americas*

The Charles County community will celebrate Latin American culture during Festival de las Americas, on Saturday, Oct. 11, from noon to 5 p.m. at Westlake High School. The event is free and open to the public.

### *Benefits announcement*

Charles County Public Schools benefits program, which includes health insurance, retirement and AFLAC, is being consolidated in one office. Starting Monday, Oct. 13, John Felicitas, human resources specialist, is coordinating all benefits. Please continue to call extension 7345 for assistance. Payroll deductions will now be handled by budget and finance staff.

### *Celebrate service learning*

Charles County Public Schools is celebrating student service learning programs Oct. 6 - 12 as part of National Learn and Serve Challenge Week. CCPS staff also presented a watershed restoration project, on which some county students completed their service learning requirements, at the Maryland State Learn and Serve Challenge Conference Oct. 8 in Baltimore.

### *Celebrate school lunches*

National School Lunch Week is Oct. 13 - 17. Be sure to thank the food service staff in your building for their hard work.

### *On the cover*

Pictured on the front cover are Westlake High School staff members. Pictured, from left, are: Randell Braithwaite, algebra teacher; Anthony Cianfichi, media instructional assistant; Cathy Bryant, financial secretary; and James Ressler, English teacher.



## Malcolm teacher honored

Sam's Club management members Brenda Newkirk, left, and Joyce Edelen, far right, presented Malcolm Elementary School fifth-grade literacy teacher Stacy Burkheiser, second from right, and Malcolm Principal Wilhelmina Pugh, second from left, with a \$1,000 grant on Sept. 25 for the school. Burkheiser was selected as the 2008 Sam's Club Teacher of the Year and was chosen by students for the award. Students wrote and submitted letters of recommendation to the Waldorf store last year. As the Sam's Club Teacher of the Year, Burkheiser received a \$100 gift card for school supplies.

## Board agenda - October 14 meeting

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. and recognition begins at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and rebroadcast throughout the week. Program schedules for Channel 96 are available at [www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm](http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm).

**Executive session** – 12 p.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

• Maurice J. McDonough High School JROTC unit

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

• Correspondence/board member updates  
• Education Association of Charles County  
• Student board member update

• Information item: Discussion on school recognitions

• Information item: CIP update

• Information item: Service learning

• Report item: Title I parent agreement

• Report item: New health curriculum

• Information item: Testing

• Information item: FY2008 audit presentation

• Information item: Budget update

• Information item: Teacher retention

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

• New business

• Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

• Students

• Employees

• Resolutions: *American Education Week*, *American Freedom Week*

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action Items**

• Minutes

• Personnel

• FY2009 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

**Adjournment**

\*\* The Board of Education has also planned a question and answer forum about the next new high school, 7 - 9 p.m., Monday, Oct. 27, at Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

## Smart Boards enhance instruction with touch of a screen

Charles County Public Schools is bringing student lessons into virtual light in classrooms with the use of Smart Boards and airliner tablets – interactive technology that involves visual graphics and moveable diagrams, all accessible with the touch of a finger.

Smart Boards combine the use of a computer and digital projector with an interactive whiteboard that features a touch-sensitive display. Teachers and students can use their fingers, which act as the computer's mouse, to control computer applications, write notes, pull up images and Web sites, play interactive learning games and save lesson plans. Smart Boards motivate students to learn and adapt to different learning styles of students, such as visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners. Kathy Cahn, a science teacher at La Plata High School, said Smart Boards can be used to reach all learners through student involvement.

"The Smart Board is a wonderful tool that combines the spontaneity of a chalkboard with the interactive ability of a touch screen computer. I have used the Smart Board to teach food webs, to identify the parts of a cell and to work genetic problems by completing Punnett Squares. When used as one of many different approaches for engaging students, the Smart Board enhances the learning experience through student involvement," she said.



**La Plata High School science teacher Kathy Cahn, right, assists two tenth-grade students in a biology lesson using a Smart Board. Cahn said the La Plata science department shares one Smart Board and teachers rotate usage on a regular basis. Teachers can use Smart Boards with most software applications, such as Microsoft Office, and the Internet.**

Teachers can create their own lesson plans for use with Smart Boards, or can download ideas from multiple Web sites.

Airliner tablets, or slates, are used interactively with Smart Boards, within a range of about 50 feet. They are Bluetooth wireless and run most software applications. Airliner tablets allow teachers to teach from any location in the classroom and students can interact with the Smart Board from their desk.

CCPS began to use airliner tablets during the 2005-06 school year, when North Point High School opened. Last school year, CCPS asked principals, administrative staff, teachers and instructional specialists to participate in Smart Board presentations with three Smart Board vendors to determine which company to contract.

BJ Devkota, director of technology for CCPS, said it was important to gain input from those who would be using the technology.

The school system has purchased more than 290 Smart Boards, and has received another 17 through donations. The majority of schools have at least one to two Smart Boards and teachers rotate usage of them. Smart Boards are distributed to schools based on school priorities set by each school principal. The average cost for a Smart Board, including the stand, is about \$1,550. Airliner tablets retail for about \$349.

## CCPS looking for outstanding teachers, nominations for Agnes Meyer award

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for the *Washington Post's* 2009 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. The annual award honors exemplary teachers who demonstrate excellence in teaching, encourage creative and quality instruction and contribute in a substantive way to the improvement of education.

Nominees must be full-time teachers in grades pre-kindergarten through 12 and have a minimum of five years teaching experience. Three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools and teachers, students, former students, administrators or community members may submit nominations. Teachers may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be from a professional educator; a career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories.

Nominees must be teachers who:

- instill a desire in students to learn and achieve;
- understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and foster their self esteem;

- demonstrate a thorough knowledge of subject matter and the ability to share it effectively with students;
- foster cooperative relationships with their colleagues and the community;
- demonstrate outstanding leadership; and
- maintain their teaching position throughout the 2009-10 school year.

Charles County's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award recipient will be one of 21 recognized by the *Post* from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.

Nominations are due Friday, Dec. 12. Materials should be sent to Barbara Palko, staff development resource teacher for Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Md., 20646. Award recipients will be recognized and awarded \$3,000 at a ceremony in May.

The *Post* established the Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Awards in honor of Agnes Meyer, a supporter of public education who was the wife of Eugene Meyer, who purchased the *Post* in 1933.

## 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

**Manager of Planning, Department of Planning and Construction** – Maintenance Shop/Annex 101 Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and experience required. Position is open until filled.

**Behavior Specialist, support** – Openings at all levels, 10-month position.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant, Title I** – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 10.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 15.

**Food Service Manager** – T.C. Martin Elementary School, 6-hour, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 15.

**Food Service Assistant Manager** – La Plata High School, 7-hour, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 15.

**Food Service Worker** – North Point High School, 5-hour, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 16.

**Building Service Worker** – Westlake High School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 16.

**Student Data Accounting Clerk** – North Point High School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 16.

**Coordinator of Autism Services** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Candidates must have three years of experience with autism at the system level and must be pursuing a master's degree.

**Instructional Specialist** – Location(s) to be determined, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher for Mathematics** – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position.

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

**Special Education Teachers for Inclusion and Resource** – Future high school openings, 10-month positions.

**Special Education Teacher for Inclusion** – High school level, 10-month position.

**Life Skills Teacher for Severe and Profound** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Education Center, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position.

**Life Skills Teacher for Severe and Profound** – Future high school openings, 10-month openings.

**Fifth-grade teacher** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Third-grade teacher** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Kindergarten teacher** – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Future middle and high school level openings, 10-month position.

**English Teacher** – Future high school level openings, 10-month positions.

**NJROTC Instructor** – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

**Behavior Specialists, certificated** – Openings at all levels, 10-month position.

### Extra pay positions

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

- Head varsity winter cheerleading coach
- Head junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Varsity freshmen cheerleading coach
- Head varsity boys' lacrosse coach
- Head varsity girls' lacrosse coach

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

### Staff Notes

#### Stadium Dedication

Westlake High School will dedicate its football stadium in memory of Dr. John Cox, former principal and CCPS administrator, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16.

**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  
Diane Berringer, 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.*