



## Inclement weather alters school schedule

Inclement weather conditions caused Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) to make changes to the school schedule this week. School system staff decided to close schools two-hours early on Tuesday, Jan. 27, close for the day on Wednesday, Jan. 28, and open two-hours late yesterday.

Transportation staff travels county roads to monitor conditions, beginning as early as 2 a.m. on days when inclement weather is predicted. This process is followed so a decision can be made by 5 a.m. regarding the delay in opening or closing schools.

On Tuesday, weather reports provided by the National Weather Service indicated that Charles County was on the south side of the storm coming into the area. School system staff monitored county roads and at 5 a.m., no inclement weather or hazardous road conditions were observed, which is why schools were opened that morning.

School system staff reassessed weather reports and road conditions, and contacted the Charles County Sheriff's Office and

Department of Public Facilities at 8 a.m. and made the decision to close schools two-hours early.

If no inclement weather announcements are made, schools open at regularly scheduled hours. Please note that teachers and instructional assistants do not follow inclement weather codes, as they follow the student schedule.

Wednesday's school closure is the first of four emergency closing days used that are built into the calendar.

Parents, staff and community members can access information regarding inclement weather closing in the following ways:

- call the 24-hour information line, 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410;
- register to receive an e-mail alert from [www.schoolsout.com](http://www.schoolsout.com);
- check the CCPS Web site, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com); and
- sign up to the CCPS press release subscriber list, [www.ccboe.com/pr](http://www.ccboe.com/pr), to receive additional e-mail notification.

## Employee manual updated

An updated version of the Charles County Public Schools employee manual is now available under the staff services section of the school system Web site at [www.ccboe.com/staffservices](http://www.ccboe.com/staffservices).

## PAC meeting rescheduled

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

## Tri-County concerts

The Tri-County concerts are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 8 at the Mary Harrison Center in Calvert County. The chorus concerts begin at 2 p.m.; the band concerts begin at 4 p.m.; and the orchestra concerts begin at 6 p.m. The center is located between Northern High School and Northern Middle School. Admission is free of charge.

## Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Feb. 4.

## Calendar note

Dates for both the Science and History fairs have been changed on the March 2009 calendar. The Science Fair will be held on Saturday, March 28, at North Point High School. The History Fair will be held March 6-7 at La Plata High School.

Please make a note of the change on your copy of the 2008-09 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

## Winter chess tournament

The winter chess tournament is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 31, at Westlake High School.

## Stoddert teacher named Space Foundation liaison

Jennifer L. Davis, a science teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, was recently selected as a Space Foundation Teacher Liaison with the 2009 Teacher liaison program through the Colorado Springs-based Space Foundation.

Teacher liaisons serve as a link between the Space Foundation, NASA, their school and their school district. Teachers must apply for admittance to the program and do not need to be science or mathematics teachers.

Davis joins five other Charles County Public Schools teachers for the 2009 program. They are Charles Newcomb, of Westlake High School; Sandra Hamke of



Jennifer L. Davis

Henry E. Lackey High School; Christopher Rooney of Thomas Stone High School; Aparna Joshi of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; and Sue Gray, content specialist in science for Charles County Public Schools.

Teachers from across the country are encouraged to apply for participation in the program. The program promotes space and science education in the classroom and the community.

The liaisons are selected by a panel consisting of industry experts, former teacher liaisons, military members and Space Foundation representatives.



## Notebook

### Student art showcased

The Mattawoman Creek Art Center (MCAC) is hosting its 11th annual Six Picks High School Exhibit on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., now until Feb. 15. The exhibit features art from six Charles County Public high school students. Visit [www.mattawomanart.org](http://www.mattawomanart.org) for additional information.

### Lincoln tour at La Plata

La Plata High School is hosting the "Abraham Lincoln: Self-Made in America" bicentennial tour Jan. 28 - 31. The tour features an exhibit inside of a mobile museum that was developed by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The exhibit includes interactive elements, graphics, facsimile documents and artifacts about Lincoln and his presidency.

The tour is open to the public on Saturday, Jan. 31, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and admission is free. For more information on the exhibit and tour, visit [www.alplm.org/self-made/bicentennial\\_tour.html](http://www.alplm.org/self-made/bicentennial_tour.html).

### MAC meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee meeting is Thursday, Feb. 5, 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from William A. Diggs Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Joyce Jordan, building service manager; Tia Coombs, special education instructional assistant; Troy Barnes, instructional specialist; and Stephanie McKinley, fifth-grade teacher.



### Jump ropes help Ryon teacher receive grant

Jillian Bates, a physical education teacher at J.P. Ryon Elementary School, was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) Jump Rope for Heart/Hoops for Heart Grant Program. More than 120 teachers nationwide applied for the grant and 15 recipients were chosen. Bates was selected as a grant recipient for coordinating the Jump Rope for Heart event at Ryon in April 2008. She encouraged 147 students to participate in the event by jumping rope to raise money and awareness for the American Heart Association. Bates' coordinated the activity into student lessons about the cardiovascular system and how it works. In total, her students raised more than \$7,000.

Bates plans to use \$1,300 of the grant to renew her AAHPERD membership, attend the national conference later this school year and pay for travel expenses. The other portion of the grant funds will be awarded in the form of a \$1,200 gift card from U.S. Games, a physical education equipment company. Bates will use the gift card to purchase exercise balls, strapless heart rate monitors and exercise cards to use with her students. She will also coordinate the program at Ryon again this school year. Bates is pictured above, center, with four of her top donating students: fifth grader Shray Spriggs, left, fourth grader Kasey Mentzer, second from left, third grader Janae Outlaw, second from right, and fifth grader Jordan Britton, far right.

## Board agenda - February 10

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 10, 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 Channel 96 and rebroadcast throughout the week. Program schedules for Channel 96 are available at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

**Executive session** – 12 p.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Westlake High School's JROTC unit

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Superintendent's update
- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County
- Student Board Member update
- Survey on education

- CIP update
- 2011-2012 school calendar
- Legislative update

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: *Read Across Charles County; Women's History Month; and Fine and Performing Arts Month.*

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- New health curriculum
- 2010 budget

**Adjournment**

## Employees must follow Charles County Board of Education ethics regulations

The Charles County Board of Education Ethics Regulations apply to all CCPS employees. Any violations of the regulations by employees may result in discipline up to and including dismissal.

Complaints alleging violations may be filed with the Board of Education's Ethics Panel, a five-member panel consisting of individuals from the Charles County community. The panel reviews complaints and issues recommendations concerning violations to the Board of Education. In addition, questions concerning the applicability of the regulations to a particular situation may be addressed to the panel, which will issue a non-binding advisory opinion concerning the matter.

Under the regulations, employees may not:

- Participate on behalf of the school system in any matter which would, to their knowledge, create a "conflict of interest," defined as a situation in which a person's impartiality or independence of judgment may be impaired, or any action which could have a direct financial impact, as distinguished from the public generally, on either:

- (1) themselves or their spouse, parent, brother, sister, or child; or
- (2) a business entity in which they have ownership; or hold an interest of at least either \$5,000 or 3 percent; or hold employment.

- Be employed by a business entity that has or is negotiating a contract of more than \$2,500 with the school system, unless:

- (1) the employment is disclosed to a direct supervisor;
- (2) the employee does not participate in any matter which could reasonably be expected to result in a conflict of interest, as defined above;
- (3) the employee reports the employment to the Ethics Panel; and
- (4) the Ethics Panel issues an advisory opinion concluding that the employment does not create a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest.

### To submit ethics requests

To file a complaint, or to submit an advisory opinion request to the Ethics Panel, please contact:

Ethics Panel Chairman  
Charles County Public Schools  
P.O. Box 2770  
La Plata, MD 20646

For a copy of the Regulations, please contact Katie O'Malley-Simpson, Coordinating Supervisor of Communications and Media Relations, at 301-934-7221.

Any questions about the Regulations may be addressed to Eric Schwartz, Staff Attorney, at 301-932-6610.

A list of vendors doing business with the Board of Education of Charles County in the amount of \$2,500 or more annually is available for review on the school system Web site, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

- Hold any outside employment relationship that would impair or would appear to impair their impartiality or independence of judgment.

- Represent any party, for a contingent fee, before the school system.

- Within one year following termination of the school system service, act as a compensated representative of another in connection with any specific matter in which he or she participated substantially as an employee.

- Solicit any gift from any student, employee, or other person who is under the authority of the school system or any person or business entity who has or is negotiating a contract or doing or seeking to do business with the school system.

- Accept gifts or series of gifts of greater than \$50 in value from any student, employee, or other person who is under the authority of the school system or any person or business entity who has or is negoti-

ating a contract or doing or seeking to do business with the school system, except that the following gifts may be accepted:

- (1) ceremonial gifts or awards which have insignificant monetary value;
- (2) meals and beverages, provided they are consumed in the presence of the donor;
- (3) reasonable expenses for food, travel, or lodging at a conference, meeting, or other event at which the recipient is speaking or presenting;
- (4) tickets or free admission to events generally provided to the individual in his or her official capacity;
- (5) gifts received from the recipient's parent, spouse, sibling, or child; and

- (6) as determined by the Ethics Panel, any other gift which was not intended to create, did not create, and did not appear to create a conflict of interest.

- Knowingly use confidential information acquired in their official school system position for their own benefit or that of another.

- Knowingly fail to report any violation of the Ethics Regulations to the Board of Education of Charles County Ethics Panel.

- Knowingly use the prestige of their offices for their own benefit or that of another.

### Ethics panel members

There are five members on the Board of Education's Ethics Panel. The current Board was appointed in 2006 and serves a four-year term. Members are volunteers and appointed by the Board.

#### Members

Randy Albright - Ethics Chairman  
Zandra Heilmair  
Jessie Morris  
William F. Olmstead  
Anthony Rainey

## 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

**Human Resources Assistant, Certificated** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in human resources, business management or related field required. Apply by Feb. 1.

**Food Service Workers** – Openings at county schools; three-hour positions. Apply by Feb. 6.

**Secretary in Instruction** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 10.

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

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

**Special Education Teacher for Inclusion** – high school level; 10-month position.

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

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

**Language Arts Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; 10-month position.

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

### Staff and Student Announcements

#### Mitchell art teacher receives award

Ann Lydia Busch, art teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, recently received a Picturing America Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities Picturing America program. She will receive a collection of 20 high quality art reproductions and a teachers resource book. The reproductions will feature art associated with American history, social studies, writing, literature, art and civics.

The program seeks to introduce students to United States history and culture by providing teachers and public libraries with American art.

Visit <http://picturingamerica.neh.gov> for more information.

#### Mattawoman students meet leaders

Two Mattawoman Middle School students, seventh grader Alana Johnson and eighth grader Mallory Jackson, were invited to participate in the Junior Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference

Jan. 17-21 in Washington, D.C. The conference included middle school student scholars from across the United States and participants were offered the opportunity to take part in events surrounding the inauguration of President Barack Obama on Tuesday, Jan. 20.

Visit [www.cylc.org/jrpyic](http://www.cylc.org/jrpyic) for more information on the conference.

#### Maryland Writing Project

Towson University is offering teachers in the tri-county area the Maryland Writing Project Invitational Summer Institute this spring and summer. The institute is a four-week, six-credit graduate program offered at a reduced tuition rate. Participating teachers will learn about teaching writing and using writing as a learning tool. Teachers will also learn how to serve as teacher consultants.

The institute will be offered April 28, May 2, May 19, June 12 and Monday through Friday, July 13-31, at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center in California, Md.

Applications are available online at <http://wwwnew.towson.edu/mwp/sti.html> and are due by March 1. Applicants will be interviewed later in March for acceptance in the institute. Call 410-704-3593 for additional information.

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