



## Sen. Cardin visits North Point, tours STEM programs

Sen. Ben Cardin roamed the halls of North Point High School on Monday, chatting with students, cloning plants, examining recycling models and talking computers. This is what 21st-century learning is all about, the U.S. Senator says while calling the school a model for the state and nation.

Cardin's sweep through classes was part of a half-day visit that included working and talking with students and teachers, as well as a roundtable discussion with Charles County Public Schools administrators, principals and community partners.

On Monday, the students were the teachers; the Senator was the student. Cardin got a lesson in learning at North Point. A strong proponent for strengthening science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education in the United States, Cardin said he believes Charles County Public Schools is doing things right.

First stop was Tara Johnson's biotechnology class where Cardin partnered with students cloning plants. As Cardin's lab partners guided him through the lesson, he shared information about the Chesapeake Bay, the shortage of Blue Crabs and his belief that Charles County's students will figure out how to clone much-needed seagrass to help replenish waning crustacean populations. "You are going to figure out how we can get seagrass to grow in Maryland and the Bay," he told the students while tying the impact of seafood availability to Maryland's economy.

"We need to build the type of schools where children can learn and be challenged. North Point represents what we need," Cardin said as he visited Richard Paule's



Top photo: North Point High School students Anthony Briggs, seated left, and Derek Carey, seated right, speak to Sen. Benjamin Cardin, center, about the Cisco program. Also shown, from left, are Glenn Stergar, Daniel Perez, Marcel Dion, Travis Finkenauer and Abriel Corsey. At left is student Hugh Watson, left, and Cardin, right.

engineering class. Students shared with Cardin how building blocks and marbles help them learn to construct recycling structures that sort bottles by color. It's a project that mimics a real world situation, Paule explains.

When Cardin arrives in Glenn Stergar's Cisco Networking Academy, he warns the students that they can assume he has no idea about much of what they are learning. Students provide a demonstration of routers, switches, interface, security and connectivity. Student Anthony Briggs tells Cardin he has just witnessed some "good old-fashioned Cisco."

Cardin's tour ends with brief stops in the auto mechanics classroom and kitchen where students are preparing a four-course lunch. "This is a hands-on model that can be used

### *Student spellers ready for bee*

The Charles County Spelling Bee is 6 p.m. tonight, Feb. 27, at Milton M. Somers Middle School in La Plata.

### *Spring forward*

Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 8. Remember to turn your clock forward one hour.

### *Science/History Fair switch*

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

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

### *Assessment time*

Charles County Public Schools third-quarter assessments will take place March 9-13.

### *Substitute system reminder*

Charles County Public Schools will launch its new substitute calling system, SmartFind Express, at 5 p.m., Sunday, March 8. The current system, SEMS, will be taken off line March 6. The new Web site is [ccboe.eschoolsolutions.com](http://ccboe.eschoolsolutions.com). Please note that the new site will not be accessible until March 8. Call 301-934-7233 or visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) for more information.

### *Student art on display*

Charles County Public Schools student art will be on display during the Youth Art Month show, 5-7 p.m. March 12, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.



## Notebook

### Student recognized for aid

Samuel Smoot, a senior at Maurice J. McDonough High School, was selected as a Maryland finalist for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program that honors young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism.

Smoot, who is planning to attend Clemson University in the fall, was one of six Maryland finalists selected for the state award. The awards program is conducted by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NAASP).

### Schools closed for students

Schools will be closed on Wednesday, March 4, for students only.

### SECAC awards

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee will honor 78 Charles County Public Schools staff members at an awards ceremony at 7 p.m., March 11, at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center.

### Interims issued

Interims will be issued to students on Monday, March 2.

### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from Dr. James Craik Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Judith Gordon, instructional specialist; Shellia Soderstrom, reading resource teacher; Stacy Bateman, school psychologist; Shannon Carroll, first-grade teacher; and Michelle Simone, first-grade teacher.

## Two county educators honored for technology use

Kevin Barry, a social studies teacher at La Plata High School, and Dee Van Gelder, media specialist at Milton M. Somers Middle School, were recently awarded by the state as outstanding for their use of technology.



Kevin Barry

The awards, sponsored by MICCA, an association for educators using technology, recognize employees for their use of technology in teaching and for implementation of technology in their classroom lessons.

Barry has been recognized as Charles County's Outstanding Educator Using Technology. The award recognizes outstanding prekindergarten through grade 12 teachers who have made an exemplary contribution to instructional computing practices in Maryland schools.



Dee Van Gelder

Van Gelder has been recognized as the Charles County Outstanding Leader in Technology Education. This award recognizes an educator outside the classroom who has made exemplary contributions to the implementation of technology.

Barry regularly uses the CPS, or classroom performance system, pads to collect data from his students in order to assess their understanding of learning goals and to enhance his lesson planning.

In an award nomination statement, staff at Somers said Van Gelder serves as a valuable resource for students and teachers as they interact with technology in the building. She seeks ways to find grant funds that enable the school to obtain additional technology.

### Cardin

and the rest of the country can learn from what you do here. What I like about this approach is that you apply it to all schools and make sure all students have access to these opportunities," Cardin said to Superintendent James E. Richmond.

The Senator is a cosponsor of the America Competes Act, which was enacted into law in 2007 and calls for funding to strengthen STEM education in the United States. He

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commended the school system not only for its work at North Point, but also for programs that involve the college and Naval Surface Warfare engineers and the vision for the next high school. Cardin supports funding for the Charles County digital classroom project, which is likely to be included in the FY 2009 budget. He says he is working to establish a federal partnership with Charles County Public Schools.

## Board agenda - March 10

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 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 Comcast 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, Henry E. Lackey 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

- CIP update
- Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee
- 2010-2011 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: *Month of the Young Child and National Student Leadership Week.*

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel

**Adjournment**

## Board honors employees for 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service

The Board of Education honored 63 Charles County Public Schools employees at a Feb. 24 ceremony. The Board each year recognizes employees each with 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service to children.

### 40 years of service

- Maria “Mollie” Johnson, supervising pupil personnel worker, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; and
- Muriel Werking, speech therapist, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.



**Muriel Werking, left, and Maria “Mollie” Johnson, right, were honored for 40 years of service to the school system.**

### 35 years of service

- Denise Barnes, guidance counselor, Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Suzanne Edelen, elementary teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Doris Fluharty, secretary to the principal, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- Wilson Ford, Electrician, Radio Station Annex;
- Susan Gray, content specialist for science, Starkey;
- Sharon Hanley, media specialist, John Hanson Middle School;
- Shirley Harris, guidance counselor, General Smallwood Middle School;
- Laura Hedges, kindergarten teacher, J. C. Parks Elementary School;
- Jane Hobbs, specialist in reading, Starkey;
- James Morrow, pupil personnel worker, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Barbara Pennington, physical education teacher, Hanson;
- Sandra Shegogue, secretary, Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Henry Sinkey, instructional resource teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School;
- Britta Von Der Lippe, elementary teacher, Indian Head Elementary School;
- Edith Wenk, food service worker, Piccowaxen; and
- Kathryn Wilkerson, career and vocational education teacher, La Plata High School.

### 30 years of service

- Melbourne Arbin, III, career and technology resource teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Brenda Bivins, EEEP instructional assistant, Wade;
- Billie Laub, speech therapist, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- Karen Bryant, elementary teacher, Eva

- Turner Elementary School;
- Frances Bugin, staff accountant, Starkey;
- Shelia Butler, secretary, Mattawoman;
- Barbara Campbell, instructional specialist, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Nancy Chase, EEEP instructional assistant, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School;
- Lee Clark, Sr., mail truck driver, Starkey;
- Patrick Cunniff, pupil personnel specialist, Starkey;
- Patty Dorsey, assistant in school administration and operations, Starkey;
- James Dunleavy, physical education teacher, La Plata;
- Clifford Eichel, director of research and assessment, Starkey;
- Catherine Flowers, kindergarten teacher, Matula;
- Michael Gingerich, physical education teacher, Diggs;
- James Gray, special education teacher/ IEP facilitator, Thomas Stone High School;
- Deborah Hile, principal, Hanson;
- Mary Hortch, pre-kindergarten teacher, Higdon;
- Charles Kelly, general maintenance worker, Radio Station Annex;
- Nicolette Kirby, child care teacher, North Point High School;
- Diane McGuire, elementary teacher, Berry Elementary School;
- Arnold Miller, physical education teacher, Somers;
- Kathleen Morris, vice principal, Somers;
- Oksana Mouchyn-Dobbs, special education teacher, La Plata;
- Linda Parrish, language arts teacher, Piccowaxen;
- Jerome Petty, vice principal, Somers;
- David Zippi, art teacher, McDonough.
- Gail Rankell, speech therapist, Wade;
- Dawn Schaeffer, coordinator of special

education compliance and technical support, Starkey;

- Carole Schnitzler, elementary teacher, Turner;
- Mary Seremet, gifted education resource teacher, Starkey;
- Dell Simmons, building service manager, J. P. Ryon Elementary School;
- Terri St. Clair, vice principal, Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Katie Weber, food service worker, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Josephine White, English teacher, Stone;
- Cynthia Wilson, physical education teacher, Smallwood; and
- Patricia Pugliese, science teacher, Hanson.

### 25 years of service

- Louella Bailey, vocal music teacher, Indian Head;
- Roberta Bragunier, special education teacher, Mitchell;
- Joseph Brawner, building service manager, Lackey;
- Constance Conover, elementary teacher, Mitchell;
- M. Susan Craig, attendance instructional assistant, La Plata;
- Thomas Edwards, physical education teacher, Wade;
- Mary Ann Farmer, printing technician, Starkey;
- Virgie Gant, building service worker, Piccowaxen;
- Debra Haan, physical education teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School;
- Gearleen James, business education teacher, Lackey;
- Janice Johnson, specialist in athletics, physical education and health, Starkey;
- Carol Leveillee, principal, Mary B. Neal Elementary School;
- Agnes Lukas, foreign language teacher, Somers;
- Linda Lund, elementary teacher, Wade;
- Elizabeth Miller, accounting manager, Starkey;
- Mary Reeves, special education teacher, Westlake High School;
- Wanda Scott, instruction secretary, Starkey;
- Pauline Spurlock, student database trainer, Starkey; and
- Rosemary Venable, media specialist, Smallwood.

## 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

**Summer Academy Site Coordinators, Elementary, Middle and High levels** – Locations and hours are to be determined. Applicants must have a master's degree or advanced professional certificate; a minimum of three years satisfactory teaching experience; and two years experience in leadership roles. Apply by March 10.

**Summer Academy High School Program Coordinator** – Locations to be determined. Applicants must have a master's degree or advanced professional certificate; a minimum of three years teaching experience; and a minimum of two years of experience in leadership roles; and in the Summer Academy program. Apply by March 10.

**Summer Academy Administrator, Middle School level** – Locations to be determined. Applicants must be a current Charles County Public Schools vice principal or administrative assistant. Apply by March 10.

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

**NJROTC Instructor** – Westlake High 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.

**Special Education Teacher for Math** – Thomas Stone High School; 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 Notes

#### Equity training

All certificated staff at the schools and centers are participating in equity training on Wednesday, March 4. All school-based personnel will receive their training at their schools, and certificated employees at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building have the option to attend one of two training sessions that day in the Board room.

Superintendent James E. Richmond said the March 4 training is not the same as the diversity and blended cultures training previously offered and he hopes the training inspires employees to renew their passion for ensuring that all children reach

their potential. Training for classified staff is scheduled for June 26. Direct any questions to your supervisor.

### TELL survey online

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley is encouraging certificated staff to complete the 2009 Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning (TELL) Maryland Survey. All school-based staff, including administrators, classroom teachers, media specialists and counselors, are eligible to participate in the survey, located at [www.tellmaryland.org](http://www.tellmaryland.org).

Through the survey, educators will be able to confidentially share perspectives related to teaching and learning conditions that impact teaching and learning in schools. The survey also addresses issues such as time, facilities and resources, student conduct, community engagement, empowerment, school leadership, professional development, student learning and new teacher support.

The survey is available online through March 18. Participants will need an access code to complete the survey, available through their school's administrator. The access code can only be used once. The survey takes 30 minutes to complete and must be completed in one session. Visit [www.tellmaryland.org](http://www.tellmaryland.org) for additional information.

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.

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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.*