



## Astronaut visits CCPS to discuss STEM education

Retired Air Force Col. Frederick Gregory, a former astronaut who commanded three missions to space, was the speaker during the Charles County Public Schools “Excellence in Education” luncheon held March 19.

Gregory spoke to school system staff, students, community members and other military personnel about his career in the military and with NASA as part of the

school system’s efforts to emphasize the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills.

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said the luncheon was part of a focus to enhance learning opportunities for Charles County’s students. “It is important to get our students involved in math and science. We are looking at the future and globalization and today’s students need to be prepared for what is ahead of them,” he said to those in attendance.

Gregory, whose parents were educators, said he believes he could not have had a successful career without a background in math and science, but emphasized the importance of other courses, such as English. He stressed the importance for educators to make an effort to introduce STEM programs to students at a young age.

“You need to excite students about science and math at an early age, at the elementary level. Students now have a significant advantage of learning today with technology available. They can learn from the framework



North Point High School Cisco teacher Glenn Stergar, left, Milton M. Somers Middle School math teacher Kathryn Hunt, second from left, Indian Head Elementary School science teacher Timothy Emhoff, second from right, and Henry E. Lackey High School math teacher John Crawford, right, were invited to attend the Excellence in Education luncheon, which featured former astronaut Frederick Gregory, center, on March 19.

schools participated in a question and answer session with Gregory. The main focus of the student questions were about Gregory’s trips into space. He was the flight commander for three missions and described space as “two-dimensional” and like “black velvet.” He said his time in space changed his perspective on life. “The experience doesn’t really hit you unless you do it,” he added.

Richmond also asked Gregory what it was like to command a space shuttle and what his toughest challenge was. Gregory said he was always excited to train with NASA and was honored to be selected as an astronaut. He commented that the toughest part of being an astronaut was ensuring that missions were successful and bringing the crew home safely. “Landing the shuttle was one of the hardest things I had to do,” Gregory said.

The school system plans to host similar events throughout the school year for students and staff to learn about STEM from outside community members.

that those such as myself have laid out for them,” Gregory said.

Students from Milton M. Somers and General Smallwood middle schools, and JROTC members from Henry E. Lackey, La Plata, Maurice J. McDonough and North Point high

## Annual Report mailing

Charles County Public Schools 2009 Annual Report, titled *News to Know*, was mailed to all student and staff households this week. The report, which is one of three to be produced this year, contains student and faculty accomplishments, school system budget information, articles on technology and Charles County Public Schools safe driving partnership with the Charles County Sheriff’s Office.

The report was mailed at no cost to the school system or taxpayers and was mailed in an envelope containing advertisements, which offsets the production and distribution costs.

## Calling all scientists

The Charles County Public Schools 50th annual science fair is Saturday, March 28 at North Point High School. Judging is from 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. The event is open to the public from 4 – 5:30 p.m. and the awards ceremony begins at 6 p.m.

## Camp discount for staff

Teachers and 12-month staff are eligible for a 50 percent discount if they enroll their children in the Henry E. Lackey High School Summer Youth Camp. The brochure and registration forms are available on the parents and community page of the school system Web site. Contact Rob Chamberlain, 301-753-1753, for more information.

## Spring break

Spring break for students and teachers is April 6-13. Schools reopen on Tuesday, April 14. Administrative offices are closed Good Friday, April 10, and Easter Monday, April 13. Office hours during spring break are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

## Notebook

### MSA results honored

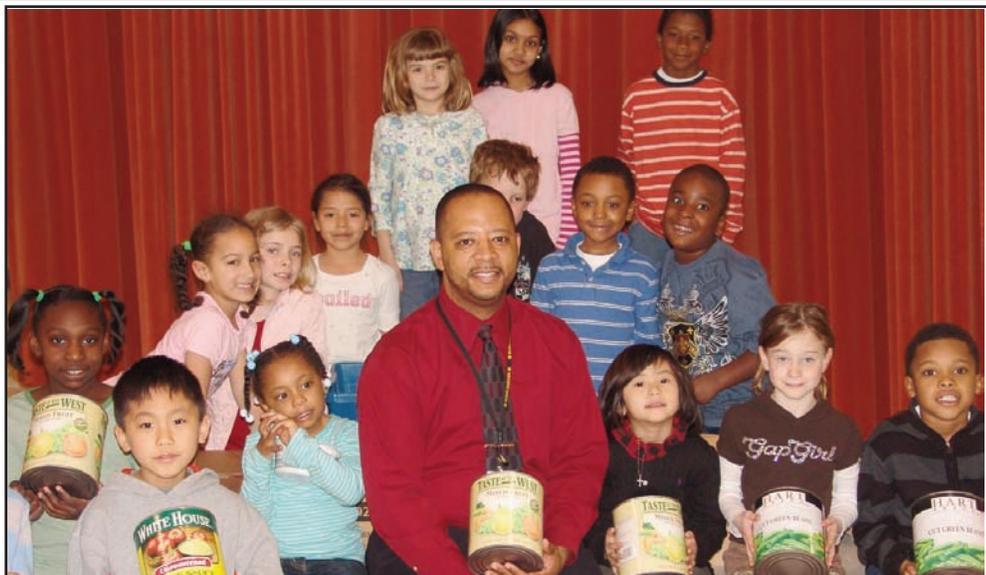
Fifteen Charles County public schools were recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education in the Maryland School Performance Recognition Program, which honors schools for achievement and improvement on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) or the High School Assessment (HSA).

Dr. James Craik and William B. Wade elementary schools, and North Point High School were honored for overall achievement. William A. Diggs, T.C. Martin, Walter J. Mitchell, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, J.C. Parks, J.P. Ryon and Eva Turner elementary schools, Milton M. Somers Middle School, and Henry E. Lackey, Maurice J. McDonough, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools were recognized for subgroup improvement.

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, Ryon and Turner were also presented with a Title I award of \$5,533.93. All other schools received a certificate of recognition. Only Title I schools are given financial awards.

### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education at its March 10 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Anita Latham, guidance secretary, Thomas Stone High School; Stephanie Goldstein, school counselor, Piccowaxen Middle School; Shirley Harris, school counselor, General Smallwood Middle School; Mary Woodland, instructional assistant, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; and Kimberly Hudler, reading resource teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School.



Berry Elementary School participated in a food drive coordinated by Charles County Public Schools and the Charles County Sheriff's Office. Seven schools participated, and Berry had the highest number of participants, with 1,630 items donated by 815 students. Berry Principal Darryl Evans is pictured above with some of the students that participated. Front row, from left, are second graders Ariel Simmons and Asher Lee, kindergartner Taylor Evans, Darryl Evans, kindergartner Jennifer Chen, and second graders Mia Ross and Jordan Miles. Pictured second row, from left, are first graders Cameran Thompson, Kaitlin Courtney, Mya Cantillano, Brennan Fletcher, Micah Prout and Jaylin Hertz. Pictured in the back row, from left, are second graders Anna Scarafille, Krisha Patel and Shaun Young. The food was delivered to LifeStyles, Inc., the Hughesville Women's Shelter, Catholic Charities and the Children's Aid Society.

## Board agenda - April 14

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 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** – 11:30 a.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Maurice J. McDonough High School's JROTC unit

### State champion recognition

- North Point and Westlake high schools boys' indoor track and field teams

### Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Superintendent's report on redistricting committee
- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County
- Student Board member update
- Update on Maryland TELL survey

- CIP update
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) update
- Recruiting
- Budget update
- Legislative update

### Unfinished business

### New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

### Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: Teacher Appreciation Week, Administrative Professionals' Week, Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, National Physical Education and Sport Week and the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader.

### Public Forum – 6 p.m.

### Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2010-11 calendar

### Adjournment

## Parents recognize staff efforts in special education

The Charles County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) recognized 78 Charles County Public Schools staff members at its fourth annual Teacher and Staff Appreciation Awards ceremony held Wednesday, March 11, at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees. Staff members are nominated for recognition by parents in the community for making a difference in the lives of special needs children.

Award winners are nominated and selected in three categories: group, instructional staff and support staff. An elementary and secondary winner is chosen in the group and instructional categories.

In the group nomination category, the Berry Elementary School prekindergarten team is the elementary winner. Team members are Robyn Cataldo, special education teacher; Anita Grimes, instructional assistant; Nancy Murphy, teacher; and Betty Jennings, instructional assistant.

The middle-school group winner is from Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Team members are Kelly Arblaster, special education teacher; Cherelle Holland, special education teacher; Leroy Hughes, instructional assistant; Donald Moss, special education teacher; Erin Pokrzywa, school psychologist; Suzanne Van Horn, instructional assistant; and Marjorie Watson, instructional assistant.

In the instructional staff category, Julie Boucher, a first-grade teacher at Dr. James Craik Elementary School, was selected as the winner. David Bradshaw, a physical education teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School, was chosen as the secondary winner.

Paula Hinton, an instructional assistant at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, was the support staff category winner.

The SECAC is organized to provide a forum for issues pertaining to children with special education needs. Members make recommendations to the school system on the budget, inclusion assessments and support services.

Additionally, staff members who were recognized for nominations include:

- Rose Andrews, bus driver, Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
- Elesa Ansell, language arts teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;
- Gail Bacon, occupational therapist, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center;
- Susan Ballinger, special education teacher

and IEP facilitator, Mattawoman Middle School;

- Tamara Barnes, third-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School;
- Veronica Beck, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- Andrea Binetti, school psychologist;
- Danielle Brigham, special education teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School;
- Sherri Bowser, special education teacher, La Plata High School;
- Jennifer Buckley, special education teacher, Middleton;
- Nina Capuano, second-grade teacher, Middleton;
- Sarah Cavegn, instructional assistant, Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Elizabeth Chotkowski, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- Lisa Cooper, instructional assistant, Middleton;
- Kelly Courtney, vice principal, Berry;
- Jessica Currall, speech therapist, Middleton;
- Terri Davis, special education teacher, Mattawoman;
- Carol Dawn, school nurse, Barnhart;
- Susan Ebbitt, academic support teacher, North Point High School;
- Cheryl Ervin, Reading Recovery teacher, Diggs;
- Avis Favors, speech therapist, Barnhart;
- Rebecca Fleckenstein, special education teacher, Westlake High School;
- Charles Gammons, school counselor, Mattawoman;
- Sue Gilroy, bus driver, Gale-Bailey;
- Laura Gittleman, mathematics teacher, Stoddert;
- Mary Jo Graham, special education teacher and IEP Facilitator, Piccowaxen;
- Mary Ross-Gray, school psychologist;
- Lenora Green, special education teacher, Berry;
- JoLynn Griffith, pre-kindergarten teacher, Middleton;
- Debra Haan, physical education teacher, Mattawoman;
- Teresa Lynn Higgs, instructional assistant, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- Jasma John, school psychologist;
- Roxanne Kavounis, instructional assistant, Mattawoman;
- Jaclyn Kraft, fourth-grade teacher, Middleton;
- Kari Lane, occupational therapist, Gwynn;

- Celeste Law, special education teacher, Berry;
- Meredith Lay, special education teacher, Middleton;
- Martha Lutton, fifth-grade teacher, Mudd;
- Jason Mackey, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- Karen Malone, special education teacher and IEP facilitator, Barnhart;
- Sharon Maytas, special education teacher, Barnhart;
- Marta Starkey-Mister, speech therapist, Gwynn;
- Gerardo Monroy, language arts teacher, Mattawoman;
- Shelby Morris, special education teacher, Mudd;
- Robynn Mudd, first-grade teacher, Barnhart;
- Sharon Mudd, special education teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Barbara O'Dell, special education teacher, Mattawoman;
- Scott Paterson, school psychologist;
- Leonard Rickett, physical education teacher, Berry;
- Donna Robinson, school counselor, Barnhart;
- Sandra Schliep, instructional assistant, Gwynn;
- Allison Shipman, academic support teacher, North Point;
- Nancy Sinnes, English teacher, North Point;
- Denise Smith, special education teacher, Piccowaxen;
- Vickie Tevis, instructional assistant, Piccowaxen;
- James Ryan Thompson, elementary school teacher, Berry;
- Christina Thrutchley, instructional assistant, Middleton;
- Maureen Tschiegg, occupational therapist, Gwynn;
- Muriel Werking, speech therapist, Mudd;
- Matthew Werner, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- Michelle Weschler, special education teacher, Berry;
- Patricia M. Williams, special education teacher, Diggs;
- Mary Woodland, instructional specialist, Middleton; and
- Erin Yim, special education teacher, Middleton.

## 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

**Benefits Analyst** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in business, human resources or related field and five years of benefits management experience required. Apply by March 27.

**Long Term Substitute Teachers, Support** – High school level English, Spanish, mathematics and biology. Bachelor's degree required.

**External Diploma Program Advisor/Assessor** – Adult Services/Stone Annex; part-time, hourly position. Bachelor's degree or equivalent required. Apply by April 3.

**Food Service Worker** – Piccowaxen Middle School; five-hour, 10-month position. Apply by April 3.

**Network Engineer** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Associate's degree and two years networking experience required. Apply by April 7.

**School counselor** – Location to be determined; 11-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – Indian Head Elementary School; 10-month position.

**Long Term Substitute Teachers, Certificated** – High school level English, Spanish, mathematics and biology. Bachelor's degree required.

### Extra pay positions

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

- Junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Varsity fall cheerleading coach
- Junior varsity wrestling coach
- Varsity assistant girls' soccer coach

Call Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, to apply.

### Staff Notes

#### National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard or Advanced Professional Certificate, and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Each applicant must submit a candidate packet of information including a letter of interest, a one-page essay indicating why they wish to pursue National Board Certification and how obtaining National Board Certification will enhance their teaching, a letter of recommendation from their principal or immediate supervisor and a current resume.

An information session is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., Thursday, April 2 in the Board

room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Teachers who currently hold National Board Certification will be available to speak to possible candidates about the process. RSVP to Evelyn Arnold, La Plata High School principal, at [earnold@ccboe.com](mailto:earnold@ccboe.com) if you plan to attend.

Teachers choosing to pursue National Board Certification must complete a demanding two-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills by developing a portfolio that reflects aspects of their teaching, and attend an assessment center during the 2009-10 application cycle, where they will complete six intensive, timed exercises. There are 25 certification areas. Educators who earn National Board Certification earn six CPD credits approved by MSDE, an annual \$2,000 stipend from MSDE and \$2,500 from CCPS.

Candidates will be screened by a review committee to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools in the 2009-10 fee incentive program. The \$2,500 application fee is fully funded by the Maryland State Department of Education and Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

Candidates must submit their candidate packets to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m., Friday, April 17. Visit the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Web site at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org) or call 301-934-7241.

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.*