

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time • June 5, 2009 • R-318



Charles County Public Schools honored 2,148 seniors on June 1 and June 2 during graduation ceremonies for six high schools. Valedictorians for the Class of 2009 are, back row, from left: Maya Davis, Henry E. Lackey High School; Amy Rappole, Westlake High School; Nikki Sanford, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Victoria Weiss, La Plata High School; Simon Jerome, Thomas Stone High School; and Patrick Gaume and Travis Finkenauer, North Point High School. Salutatorians for the Class of 2009 are, front row, from left: Abigail Willett, Lackey; Tiphonie Gammon, Westlake; Jordan Stephenson, McDonough; Marie Farley, La Plata; Courtney Flerlage, Stone; and Kelsey Pearson, North Point. See the graduation story on page 2 for more information on the Class of 2009.

## Students meet HSA graduation requirement

Maryland's new High School Assessments (HSA) requirement did not keep any Charles County Public Schools students from graduating on time.

Students in the Class of 2009 are the first to be required to pass the High School Assessments to receive a Maryland diploma. HSA is the state mandate to show mastery in algebra, English II, government and biology, and the majority of students meet the requirement by passing four tests. Students have three ways to meet the requirement: achieving a passing score on each of the four tests; achieving a combined score of 1602 on all four tests; or completing it through the Bridge Plan.

"As a school system we worked hard to ensure all students had all possible options for success. Our instructional people did a great job of looking at each individual student, developing plans for the students and overseeing students until they reached their goals," said Cliff Eichel, director of research and assessment.

In some cases, students had interventions such as after-school programs that helped them pass the tests. One intervention offered is the Bridge Plan, which started last summer in Charles County Public Schools and is used as a model for the state. The Bridge Plan provides students who have not achieved passing scores on assessments an optional way to meet the HSA requirement. Students failing to pass an HSA can complete a single project for every 21 points they fall short of the passing score.

"The students saw the importance of this and they worked hard," said Drew Jepsy, director of instructional assessment. "The Bridge Plan projects themselves helped the students perform better on the actual tests. This was really a team effort with administrators, teachers and students all working toward one, well-defined goal and we met it," Jepsy said.

At the beginning of the school year, approximately 88.7 percent of students had

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## Reimbursement deadline

Tuition reimbursement for all employees must be submitted no later than June 30 for courses completed during the 2008-09 school year, July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009. If grade slips or official transcripts are not available by the deadline, staff must still submit requests by June 30. In these cases, reimbursement will be held until original grade slips, transcripts and documentation of tuition fees are received by human resources.

For additional information or questions, certificated employees with last names beginning with A-K call 301-934-7243; L-Z, 301-934-7241. Support staff with questions should call 301-934-7232.

## News to Know mailing

Charles County Public Schools quarterly newsletter, titled *News to Know*, will be mailed to all student and staff households the week of June 15. The report, the second of three to be produced this year, contains student and faculty accomplishments, a partial 2009-10 school calendar, and information on the school system's focus on safety.

The report is mailed at no cost to the school system or taxpayers and is sent in an envelope containing advertisements, which offsets the production and distribution costs. Call 301-934-7220 for additional copies or more information.

## End of year reminders

The last day of school for students is June 12. Teachers last day is June 16. June 9, 10, 11 and 12 are two-hour early dismissal days. Middle and high school report cards will be mailed Friday, June 19.



## Notebook

### School News mailings

The communications department publishes *School News* every other Friday, which coincides with pay dates. During the summer, limited copies are provided to each school. All editions are posted on the Staff Services page of the CCPS Web site. A link to each new post will be e-mailed to all staff with the weekly *This Week* bulletin.

Copies are mailed only upon request. If you would like a copy mailed, e-mail your name and address to Shelley Buter at sbuter@ccboe.com.

### Teacher's lesson published

A lesson plan developed by Indian Head Elementary School third-grade teacher Kathy Kavlick was nationally published earlier this school year through the Maryland Comics in the Classroom program. Her lesson plan, titled "Otto's Orange Day," was posted on the Toon-Books Web site as part of a pilot program developed by Disney Productions, Diamond Comic Distributors and the Maryland State Department of Education.

The program was designed to introduce comic books into the classroom. Kavlick also received a set of 30 comic books including her lesson plan to use in her classroom.

### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees recognized by the Board of Education at their May 12 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Gail Stone, college and career advisor, Westlake High School; Elizabeth Loeper, fourth-grade teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; and Sharon Hedrick, primary science teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

## Students graduate, earn \$44.8 million in scholarships

Charles County Public Schools graduated the Class of 2009 on Monday and Tuesday with more than \$44.8 million in scholarship offers. A total of 2,148 students received high school diplomas or certificates.

Valedictorians and salutatorians were announced earlier last week.

The 333 graduates from Henry E. Lackey High School were led June 1 by valedictorian Maya Davis and salutatorian Abigail Willett. Lackey seniors were offered \$8,133,019 in scholarships.

The 351 graduates from La Plata High School were led June 1 by valedictorian Victoria Weiss and salutatorian Marie Farley. La Plata's graduating class was offered \$10,021,188 in scholarship money.

Maurice J. McDonough High School's 278 graduating seniors were led June 1 by valedictorian Nikki Sanford and salutatorian

Jordan Stephenson. McDonough's graduating senior class received \$7,845,600 in scholarship offers.

North Point High School's first graduating class of 503 seniors was led June 2 by co-valedictorians Travis Finkenauer and Patrick Gaume, and salutatorian Kelsey Pearson. The graduating class from North Point was offered \$9,525,800 in scholarships.

The 373 graduating seniors from Thomas Stone High School were led June 2 by valedictorian Simon Jerome and salutatorian Courtney Flerlage. Stone's graduating class was offered \$3,920,000 in scholarships.

Westlake High School's graduating class of 310 seniors was led June 2 by valedictorian Amy Rappole and salutatorian Tiphany Gammon. These students were offered \$5,330,977 in scholarships.

### HSA

From Page 1

met the HSA requirement. Included in those not meeting the standard were 156 new students whom entered CCPS as seniors and had not yet taken all the exams. By the end of May, of the 2,115 students needing to meet the HSA graduation requirement, 1,537 passed all four tests, 404 achieved a composite score and 163 met the requirement through the Bridge Plan.

There are 11 seniors who did not complete the HSA requirement; however, it was not the

only factor preventing their timely graduation. These students also had other reasons for not graduating including not having enough credits, lack of student service learning hours, inadequate attendance or not meeting local requirements.

This week, 2,148 students graduated from CCPS, receiving either a high school diploma or certificate. Students who receive a certificate or started high school prior to 2005 were not required to pass the HSA.

## Board agenda - June 9

The Board of Education's monthly meeting is June 9, 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.

**Executive session** – 11:30 a.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

La Plata High School's JROTC unit Swearing-in of new Student Board member

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Superintendent's update
- Correspondence/Board member updates

**Action item**

- EACC/AFSCME contract and signing

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Education Association of Charles County
- Student Board Member update
- CCPS homeless students update
- New high school

- Adult education
- Dual and concurrent enrollment
- CIP update
- 2009 budget change
- 2010 budget
- Policy 3411
- Policy 5117

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

**Recognition** – 4:15 p.m.

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Educational facilities master plan
- Out-of-county tuition fees
- Policy 1000 series
- Superintendent's redistricting recommendation

## **Board to honor retirees for years of service, work with children**

The Board of Education will honor employees who have retired since June 30, 2008, and those who have already announced their retirements at the end of this school year during a ceremony on June 11, 5 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Retirees are listed by name, last position held, location and years of service.

- Sandra Brehon, principal, Malcolm Elementary School, 33
- Cynthia Alley, elementary teacher, Malcolm, 33
- Brenda Audley, food service worker, Thomas Stone High School, 10
- Alice Bailor, resource teacher, North Point High School, 26
- Nancy Blizzard, gifted education resource teacher, Mattawoman Middle School, 35
- Linda Brumberg, vocal music teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jennifer Elementary School, 32.5
- Dorothy Bush, food service manager, Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 42
- Mary Butler, building service assistant manager, Maurice J. McDonough High School, 20
- Ruby Butler, building service manager, William A. Diggs Elementary School, 27.5
- Walter Chalmers, math teacher, Westlake High School, 15
- Sharon Chalmers, English teacher, Stone, 37
- Thomas Clements, HVAC mechanic, Radio Station Road Annex, 25
- Joseph E. Dorsey, building service worker, Adult Services/Thomas Stone Annex, 11.5
- Janice Elder, secretary to the principal, Matthew Henson Middle School, 36
- Kathy Gabrielsen, special education teacher, Indian Head Elementary School, 32
- Patricia Garner, food service worker, La Plata High School, 29
- Sandra Gilroy, special education instructional assistant, Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 30
- Kenneth Goldring, maintenance worker, Radio Station Road Annex, 32.5
- John Gray, Sr., building service worker, Westlake, 14.5
- Steven Grimes, science teacher, McDonough, 33
- Lee Hafer, science teacher, McDonough, 30
- Rosellen Houser, specialist in social studies, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 37

- Roger Hubbard, Jr., maintenance worker, Radio Station Road Annex, 15
- Yolanda Hume, language arts teacher, Mattawoman Middle School, 29
- Sonya Jamieson, kindergarten teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 16.5
- Carlene Jarboe, Spanish teacher, McDonough, 24
- Georgianna Layton, mathematics teacher, Henson, 30
- J.B. Lockhart, Jr., building service worker, John Hanson Middle School, 2.5
- Gwendolyn McCarter, elementary teacher, J. C. Parks Elementary School, 32
- Daisy McClelland, special education teacher, Henson, 39
- Elizabeth McCready, computer programmer analyst, Starkey, 11
- Carolyn Melius, math teacher, Henson, 39
- Paul Miller, printing teacher, North Point High School, 19
- Louise Montgomery, food service manager, T. C. Martin Elementary School, 24.5
- Teresa Ann Peddicord, accounting assistant, Starkey, 32
- George Polycranos, school counselor, Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 30
- Mary Proctor, food service worker, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 9
- Mary Reeves, special education teacher, Westlake, 36
- Marva Robinson, English teacher, Stone, 34
- Arlene Santiago, secretary to the principal, Davis, 8
- Maralee Shoemaker, special education teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 28
- Patricia Simpson, instructional specialist, Barnhart, 30
- Mary Ann Sinclair, food service manager, Eva Turner Elementary School, 16
- Gary Stefanides, administrative assistant, Stoddert, 33
- Kathleen Stockman, food service worker, Westlake, 21.5
- Delbert Ray Townsend, Jr., pupil personnel worker, Hanson, 16
- Jamie Vance, pre-kindergarten teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 25
- Judy Weisman, student data accounting clerk, Hanson, 16
- Lorena Wright, food service worker, Indian Head, 15
- Charlotte Wynder, health occupations teacher, North Point, 29
- Edith Wenk, food service worker, Piccowaxen Middle School, 34

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## **AFSCME approves contract, EACC waiting on members to ratify**

Members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Charles County Public Schools classified employee group, have approved a contract that does not provide for raises next year, but leaves open the possibility of opening negotiations in January to discuss possible salary increases.

The Board of Education and AFSCME plan to sign the agreement for the 2009-10 school year at the June 9 Board meeting.

County and state funding were not enough to provide for any salary enhancements, including cost-of-living, steps or grade increases, said Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources. However, several major items were negotiated. Approved items include: a reduction of one day of work; a reduction from 15 years of service to 10 years of service for eligibility of sick leave payout upon retirement; and waiver of out-of-county tuition for chil-

dren of employees attending Charles County Public Schools. The date classified employees will be given off is to be determined and will be included on next year's school calendar.

Nearly 80 percent of the AFSCME membership voted for the new contract.

Negotiations with the Education Association of Charles County are complete; however, members had not ratified the contract as of Thursday morning.

## 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

**Events Coordinator** – North Point High School, 12-month position. Minimum of two years experience in banquet management or events coordination preferred. Apply by June 12.

**Financial Secretary** – Henry E. Lackey High School, 11-month position. Apply by June 17.

**Gifted Education Resource Teacher** – Elementary school level, 10-month positions. Master's degree preferred and five years of teaching experience required. Apply by June 10.

**Gifted Education Resource Teacher** – Future middle school openings, 10-month position. Master's degree preferred and five years of teaching experience required. Apply by June 10.

### Extra pay positions

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

- Assistant boys' basketball coach
- Varsity girls' soccer coach
- Junior varsity head baseball coach
- Assistant track coach
- Junior varsity head wrestling coach

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

### Staff Notes

#### New benefits analyst

Charles County Public Schools new benefits analyst is Christeda Warner. She is located in the human resources department at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building and coordinates medical coverage, life insurance and AFLAC plans for current and retired employees. She can be reached at 301-934-7459 or [cwarner@ccboe.com](mailto:cwarner@ccboe.com).

#### Space Discovery Institute available

Interested in learning about rockets, space transportation, black holes or if there is life on Mars? Sign up for the Space Discovery Institute, offered free this summer through Charles County Public Schools' (CCPS) partnership with the Colorado Springs based Space Foundation.

The institute is available only for CCPS teachers and certificated staff. Six, week-long sessions will be offered and 50 spaces are available per session. Participants can sign up for more than one session. The sessions are as follows:

- Biological and Physical Research - July 20-24; this session explores advanced life support systems being developed on the International Space Station to keep astronauts safe from hazards of space travel.
- Earth Systems Science – July 20-24; par-

ticipants will learn about Earth's geological history by studying weathering, erosion, natural disasters and global climate change.

- Astronomy Principles for the Classroom – July 27-31; participants will study the motions of the universe through kinesthetic astronomy, black holes, dark matter, cosmology and astrophysics.

- Space Technologies in the Classroom – July 27-31; this session examines uses of space technology and transportation, design, robotics, communications, space power and space structures.

- Rocketry – Aug. 3-7; participants will design and construct classroom rockets, including pop, water and solid-fueled rockets, to learn about Newton's Laws of Motion and the physics of flight.

- Lunar/Mars Exploration and Base Construction – Aug. 3-7; this session covers what it will take to establish and maintain human life on the moon or Mars.

The sessions are open to teachers in all content areas. Participants have the option of completing sessions for graduate credit. All courses will be taught by Space Foundation staff and include a light breakfast and lunch. The location for the sessions has not been determined, but will be announced later next week.

To sign up for a session or for additional information, contact Rebecca LaRoque at 301-934-7369.

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.

**School News** is published by  
Charles County Public Schools  
301-932-6610  
301-934-7220  
Fax: 301-932-6651

**Board of Education Members**  
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**Editor/Writers**  
Katie O'Malley-Simpson  
Shelley Buter

**Charles County Public Schools**  
Post Office Box 2770  
La Plata, Maryland 20646  
(address service requested)

Non-Profit Org.  
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20646

*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.*