

School News



Welcome new staff

Board of Education Vice Chairman Roberta Wise, left, welcomes Andrew Lundeen, social studies teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, right, at the new teacher reception held Sept. 23 at Middleton Hall. The reception is sponsored by the school system, the Charles County NAACP and the Nu Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

School system makes AYP at all levels

Charles County Public Schools has met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at each level – elementary, middle and high school. Additionally, all six Charles County public high schools met AYE school performance benchmarks for 2009.

The Maryland State Department of Education released results Monday. The high school AYP is based on the results of grade 12 students' scores on the Maryland High School Assessments (HSA) and graduation rate. Information released Sept. 21 is only for high schools; the state released AYP data for middle and elementary schools in August.

AYP is the gain that schools, school systems, and states must make each year in the proportion of students achieving proficiency in reading and math. To make AYP, schools and school systems must improve in reading

and mathematics for all students, as well as for nine student subgroups including each of five racial/ethnic groups, students receiving special education services, Limited English Proficiency services and Free and Reduced Meals services (FARMS). AYP also includes graduation rates for high school and attendance in elementary and middle school. A high school's AYP status is based on the highest student scores among all grade 12 students on the English and algebra/data analysis HSA scores, the school's participation rate in the assessments and its graduation rate.

"Students and staff continue to work toward meeting the rigorous goals set by the state and federal government. *Education Week*, the College Board and *Newsweek* all ranked Maryland education as number one in the

See AYP, Page 2

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Apply online for jobs

Beginning Oct. 1, all Charles County Public Schools employees, including substitutes and temporary staff, must apply for open job positions online. The new procedure will streamline the application process and applies to both certificated and classified personnel.

Current system employees do not have to resubmit three references; however, they must upload a new resume. E-mails and paper letters of interest for open positions will no longer be accepted as an application for a job. Resumes and employment information can be updated 24 hours a day.

All permanent positions are advertised on the school system Web site at www2.ccboe.com/employment under the current openings link. Employees can link directly to the application on the current openings page.

Any employee needing assistance to apply online should call the Human Resources Division, 301-934-7255, to make an appointment.

According to Jeremy Campbell, personnel specialist, the next step is to require all applicants, both internal and external, to apply online.

Board work session

The Board of Education is holding a work session with the Charles County Commissioners at 6 p.m., Sept. 28 in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting will be aired live on Comcast Channel 96 and broadcast live on the CCPS Web site at www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/.

Notebook

Student success

The College Board recently named 227 Charles County Public Schools students as Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college level Advanced Placement Program exams.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers high school students the opportunity to take challenging college level courses to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP exams. A complete list of AP Scholars can be found at www.ccbocoe.com/pr.

New masters program

Charles County Public Schools, through its partnership with Towson University, is now offering employees the opportunity to earn a master's degree online in Human Resource Development – Educational Leadership or an Administrative I Certificate. An information session for interested participants will be held Thursday, Oct. 8, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Details about the program, associated costs and course information can be found on Towson University's Web site at www.towson.edu/TLNOnline.

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Dale Ward, technology facilitator; Shauna Hood, school nurse; Bruce Coward, building service worker; and Carolyn Vaughn, music teacher.



Corae Briscoe, support services director and youth council coordinator for LifeStyles of Maryland, left, and Norman Hatton, youth council member and senior at North Point High School, second from left, celebrate J.P. Ryon's adoption at the school on Sept. 10 with Ryon Principal Virginia McGraw, second from right, and Sarah Vaughan, Teen Court coordinator, right.

J.P. Ryon adopted by Teen Court, Lifestyles

The playground and recreational areas of J.P. Ryon Elementary School were recently adopted through the Adopt-a-Spot program as part of a partnership between Charles County Public Schools, the Charles County Sheriff's Office Teen Court juvenile justice program and Lifestyles of Maryland Foundation, Inc.

Teen Court and Lifestyles of Maryland signed a yearlong contract to adopt Ryon, and students who have been ordered to perform community service through the Teen Court program will volunteer time during the weekend hours to maintain the school grounds.

Teen Court Coordinator Sarah Vaughan said students involved with the Teen Court program will visit adopted schools at least once a month during the winter season, and twice a month during warmer months. Vaughan said parents often participate too.

This is the second elementary school that has been adopted through the Teen Court and Lifestyles of Maryland partnership. Last school year, Eva Turner Elementary School was adopted through the partnership and Vaughan said so far, students in the program have done a great job at Turner.

The Teen Court program works with children between the ages of 12 and 17 who have been convicted of a first-time misdemeanor offense, such as a traffic violation or disorderly conduct. The children are judged by a jury of their peers, who decides their sanction, or punishment. One of these sanctions is community service.

Vaughan said Teen Court chose both Turner and Ryon because they are community-based schools in central Waldorf. She hopes to adopt additional schools this year through the partnership with Lifestyles of Maryland, Inc.

AYP

nation, and I am proud of Charles County Public Schools, our students, teachers and staff who contribute to this extraordinary accomplishment," Superintendent James E. Richmond said. "Our students continue to succeed and make progress, and as with every round of testing results, we will take this information and use it to build upon our success and make improvement in areas where needed."

Continued from page 1

The Maryland School Assessment (MSA) exams are given in the spring to third through eighth-grade students in reading and mathematics. High school students take the HSA in May.

Additional information may be found on the School Improvement in Maryland Web site at www.mdk12.org and the Maryland State Department of Education Web site at www.marylandpublicschools.org.

Aflac holds open enrollment for staff at schools, centers

Aflac, a supplemental insurance company, offers additional benefits for Charles County Public Schools employees. Representatives will be available for staff to speak with at the locations and dates listed below. For more information about Aflac and available policies, visit www.aflac.com.

October 12

Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 13

Thomas Stone High School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Indian Head Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 14

Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Henry E. Lackey High School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October 15

John Hanson Middle School, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Matthew Henson Middle School, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

October 19

Berry Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 20

Mattawoman Middle School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

October 21

Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 22

Maintenance Shop, 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 7:40 a.m. – 10 a.m.

Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 23

Eva Turner Elementary School, 8:15 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Milton M. Somers Middle School, 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

October 26

J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 27

North Point High School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

T. C. Martin Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 28

Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Maurice J. McDonough High School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October 29

William A. Diggs Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Malcolm Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 30

Piccowaxen Middle School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

November 2

William B. Wade Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

November 3

La Plata High School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

General Smallwood Middle School, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

November 4

Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 8:15 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Westlake High School, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

November 5

Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

November 6

F. B. Gwynn Educational Center, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Light poles at North Point athletic field removed for safety concerns

The school system removed four light poles from North Point High School's football stadium last week after cracks were found in two of the poles. Night activities at the stadium have been suspended for the remainder of the fall season and games have been rescheduled as daytime events or relocated to other fields.

Superintendent James E. Richmond also ordered an inspection of all other outdoor lighting poles at high school fields even though no other school has poles produced by Whitco Co. LP, of Fort Worth, Tx., the manufacturer of the faulty poles at North Point. The light pole inspections are complete, and no problems were found at any other school.

Students from the high school welding class have cut three of the four poles into sections using an oxy-fuel cutting process. The sections of steel will be used in the welding class for students to practice cutting and in the creation of class projects. Engineering students are using a section of the poles to analyze the deficiency and come up with ways that the poles could have been designed to avoid potential failure. The school system intends to replace all four poles with new poles and reuse the existing light fixtures,

which have been placed in storage. There is no time estimate for when the poles will be replaced at the stadium.

The North Point light poles were inspected by staff and a structural engineering firm after Superintendent James E. Richmond received notice that a number of light towers manufactured by Whitco had fallen. The inspections showed two of the North Point poles had cracks and the other two had evidence of distress.

Concern over the poles manufactured by Whitco Co. began late this summer when the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued an alert about the possible risk of the poles. The school system was alerted last week when a notice was sent to Richmond. Nationwide, nine poles have fallen since 2000 and nearly 50 other Whitco poles have been found to have cracks. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued statements that engineers are looking for the cause of the failure in the poles.

Athletic events impacted include football, girls' and boys' soccer, and field hockey. Schedule changes are available on the North Point Web site, www2.ccoeb.com/northpoint.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.cchoe.com/hur. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Painter II – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 25.

Building Service Worker – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 25.

Instructional Assistant, STAY Program – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 25.

Literacy Instructional Assistant – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 25.

Speech Language Therapists – Openings at all age levels, 10-month positions.

Family & Consumer Science Teacher – High school level, 10-month position.

Science Teacher – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Library & Media Specialists – Openings at Theodore G. Davis Middle School and at the elementary school level, 10-month positions.

Special Education Teacher for Reading/Language Arts – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher for Science – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

Kindergarten Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Elementary Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Staff Notes

Regional Road Shows

Charles County Public Schools is hosting Road Show information sessions this fall for parents and community members. Sessions are scheduled by high school regional locations, and include middle and elementary schools.

The following is a list of dates, locations and times:

- Henry E. Lackey High School – Oct. 6, 6 – 8 p.m., at Lackey; participating schools also include Gale-Bailey, Indian Head, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy and J.C. Parks elementary schools, and General Smallwood and Matthew Henson middle schools.

- La Plata High School – Oct. 14, 6 – 8 p.m., at La Plata; participating schools also include Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Mary H. Matula, Walter J. Mitchell and Dr. James Craik elementary schools, and Milton M. Somers and Piccowaxen middle schools.

- Thomas Stone High School – Oct. 21, 6:30 – 8 p.m., at Stone; participating schools also include Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, Malcolm, J.P. Ryon, T.C. Martin and Mary

B. Neal elementary schools, and John Hanson Middle School.

- Maurice J. McDonough High School – Oct. 26, 6 – 8 p.m., at Eva Turner Elementary School; participating schools also include Turner and Dr. Gustavus Brown elementary schools and Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.

- North Point High School – Oct. 29, 5 – 7 p.m., at North Point; participating schools also include William A. Diggs, William B. Wade and Arthur Middleton elementary schools and Theodore G. Davis Middle School.

- Westlake High School – Nov. 12, 5:30 – 8 p.m., at Westlake; participating schools also include C. Paul Barnhart, Berry and Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer elementary schools and Mattawoman Middle School.

Possible topics include tips for reading with children at home, helping children learn math, a parent's role in course selection, how sports and academics go together, special education, assessment and gifted education, communication tools for parents, and understanding the difference between general and enrichment classes.

Dinner or light refreshments will be served at each session, and babysitting services for children ages 3 and older will be provided free-of-charge. For more information, call 301-934-7245 or contact your school.

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
Donald M. Wade, Chairman
Robert S. Wise, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Collins A. Bailey
Charles E. Carrington
Maura H. Cook
Pamela A. Pedersen
Kyle Grusholt, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools
James E. Richmond

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.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 66
La Plata, Md.
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.