

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

December 18, 2009

R-332

## Happy Holidays from Superintendent Richmond

To all staff: as 2009 comes to an end, I thank you for your hard work and dedication in helping our students achieve personal and academic success. The achievements both students and staff have achieved so far this school year are impressive. The school system met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), all students in the Class of 2009 met the state High School Assessments (HSA) graduation requirement, one of our school counselors was named the Middle School Counselor of the Year and more than 225 students were named Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars.

Student scores also increased on AP tests and the science portion of the Maryland School Assessment (MSA). These are signs of

success and the hard work you contribute each day is appreciated.

Enjoy winter break and the holidays. You deserve a relaxing and safe break, and I hope that you enjoy the time with your family and friends. Thank you again for all you do each day for our students and Charles County Public Schools. I look forward to beginning a new year and working with each of you.

With my very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Richmond".

James E. Richmond  
Superintendent of School

## Winter break schedule

Schools are closed for winter break beginning Monday, Dec. 21. Students and teachers return to school on Monday, Jan. 4. Administrative offices will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during winter break and are closed Dec. 23-25 and Jan. 1.

## LPHS It's Academic team wins

The La Plata High School *It's Academic* team won first-place at the annual Charles County Public Schools competition held Dec. 9 at the College of Southern Maryland. The three-member team of Captain Tyler Fini, Rachel Clark and Alex Smith scored a total of 590 points to earn the top spot. They will compete in a regional competition against Blake and Wakefield high schools on Jan. 23, which will air on WRC TV (NBC 4) March 20.

## Watch out for flying rockets at T.C. Martin



T.C. Martin Elementary School students got a lesson in rocketry last week as part of the school system's partnership with the Space Foundation and their Science, Technology and Academic Readiness for Space (STARS) program. Melissa Peterson, an aerospace education specialist, worked with a group of Martin students Dec. 9 to help them create rockets from straws, tape and clay, to launch in the school's cafeteria.

Peterson, pictured center, provided rocket launcher's and worked with the group, including fifth graders Shane Pilkerton, pictured left, and Jacob Canter, pictured right, to launch their rockets. The STARS lesson was taught in 12 elementary science classrooms earlier this month, and will be incorporated into additional classrooms in March. The goal of the program is to introduce elementary-school students to additional science-based concepts.

## Board to meet Jan. 12

The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 12. The meeting begins at 1 p.m. and recognition begins at 4:30 p.m.

## Payroll announcement

The first scheduled pay date for 2010 will be Monday, Jan. 4. Normally, the biweekly pay date would fall on Friday, Jan. 1; however this is a bank holiday and payroll cannot be submitted to the bank to post on a holiday.

## Pictured at the top of the page

Pictured at the top of the page are employees from William B. Wade Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Emily Feldman, first-grade teacher; Matthew Sickmond, special education teacher; Donna Robinson, instructional assistant; and Lauren McDougle, music teacher.

## Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboc.com/hur](http://www.ccboc.com/hur). Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

### Job openings

**Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Support** – High school level; 10-month position.

**Food Service Substitutes** – Openings at all schools, hours and locations vary. Apply by Dec. 22.

**Building Service Worker** – Openings at the Life Long Learning Center, Henry E. Lackey and Westlake high schools; 12-month positions. Apply by Dec. 22.

**Instructional Assistant** – Dr. James Craik Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 24.

**Instructional Specialists** – Future openings at all levels; 11-month positions.

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

**Chemistry Teacher** – La Plata High School; 10-month position.

**Title I Instructional Specialist for Technology** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 11-month position.

**Spanish Teacher** – Maurice J. McDonough High School; 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed** – F. B. Gwynn Educational Center; 10-month position.

**Long-Term Substitute Teacher, Certificated** – High school level; 10-month position.

**High School Instructional Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position.

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

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

**Physics Teacher** – High school level; 10-month position.

**English Teacher** – Westlake High School; 10-month position.

**Gifted Education Resource Teachers** – Future openings at all levels; 10-month positions.

**Reading Recovery Teachers** – Locations to be determined; 10-month positions.

**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.

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

**Life Skills Teachers** – William B. Wade Elementary and Piccowaxen Middle schools; 10-month positions.

**Special Education Teacher for Social Studies** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; 10-month position.

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

**Special Education Resource Teachers** – Elementary and middle school level; 10-month positions.

## Important end-of-year announcements

### W-2 forms available by Jan. 29.

W-2 forms will be released to all employees by Friday, Jan. 29. If you lose your forms, you must submit a completed replacement form, available on the school system Web site, to payroll.

### AFLAC flexible benefit plans

Aflac flexible benefit plans are effective from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. New deductions for 2010 begin with the Jan. 4 paycheck.

### W4, state withholding allowance forms

Employees who claim exempt from federal and/or state income tax withholdings must submit a new withholding allowance certificate(s) to payroll by Feb. 5 in order to retain exempt status for the 2010 tax year. Withholdings for federal and state taxes will automatically change to the default of "single" with zero withholdings if a new certificate is not filed by the deadline. Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) for more information on tax withholdings.

### 2010 tax information

The maximum taxable wage base earnings for Social Security for 2010 is \$106,800. This means that at a tax rate of 6.2 percent, the maximum amount of Social Security tax that can be withheld from employees is \$6,621.20. This is also the same rate used in 2009.

### Group-Term Life Insurance deduction

Employees enrolled in the Group-Term Life Insurance may see an earnings and deduction adjustment on today's paycheck. Under federal law, the cost of group-term life insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000 must be included as income, and is subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes.

### Verify pay statement information

Verify the name on your pay statement is correct and matches your social security card, and verify that your address is correct. To update your name or address, submit a change of status request form to HR.

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

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.

*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.*