



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Spelling bee champ named

Dang-Quang Tran, an eighth-grade student at Mattawoman Middle School, won the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) 32nd annual Spelling Bee held Feb. 20 at General Smallwood Middle School by spelling the words “bildungsroman” and “pfeffernuss” correctly.

As the county winner, Tran advances to the National Scripps Spelling Bee scheduled for May 31 through June 5 in Washington D.C. Tran won second place in last year’s county competition.

Interims

Interims will be issued to students on Monday, March 1.

It’s that time of year again!

Students in grades three through eight will take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in reading on Tuesday, March 9, and Wednesday, March 10.

Let your imagination run wild

Student teams from all Charles County public elementary, middle and high schools will compete in the regional Destination Imagination on Saturday, March 6. The event begins at 7:30 a.m. at La Plata High School.

Drill Classic

The annual Charles County Drill Classic, a junior reserve officers training corp (JROTC) event, is 8 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 27 at Theodore G. Davis Middle School in Waldorf.

MAC meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 3. It begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.



Mary H. Matula Elementary School building service manager Shirley “Lissa” Butler, pictured left, and Tarell Turner, building service worker at Matula, pictured right, remove snow at the school on Friday, Feb. 12.

Important inclement weather calendar changes

Until winter winds down, school schedules and makeup days are as unpredictable as the next snowfall.

Superintendent James E. Richmond has made several decisions regarding calendar changes, but does not plan to announce possible waivers until March 9 at the next Board of Education meeting.

The Superintendent has changed a number of two-hour early dismissal days into full

days of instruction for students. Two-hour early dismissal days that are now full days for students are:

- Thursday, March 4
- Wednesday, March 24
- Wednesday, April 28
- Wednesday, May 26
- Friday, June 11
- Monday, June 14

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Three teachers earn national board certification

Three Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers recently joined the ranks of accomplished teachers nationwide by earning National Board Certification.

Aparna Joshi, Michele King and Julie Verras each completed a yearlong performance-based assessment series to become 2009 Nationally Board Certified Teachers, according to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Joshi is a gifted education teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and earned a

generalist/middle childhood certificate; King is a fifth-grade teacher at William B. Wade Elementary School and earned a generalist/middle childhood certificate; and Verras is a third-grade teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School and earned a reading-language arts/early and middle childhood certificate.

Nationally Board Certified Teachers must complete an extensive review of their skills and work, which includes teacher portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, and thorough analysis of the candidates’ classroom

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from the Charles County Public Schools transportation department. Pictured, from left, are: Darlene Jordan, school bus driver instructor; Linda Ivko, school bus driver instructor; Tyrone Johnson, school bus driver instructor; and Brenda Bowie, department secretary.

Christian earns CAP rating

Yolanda Christian, a secretary to the director of program support for Charles County Public Schools, was recently awarded the Certified Administrative Professional (CAP) rating through the International Association of Administrative Professionals (IAAP). The CAP examination tests knowledge in four areas: office systems and technology; office administration; management; and advanced organizational management. Certification is valid for five years, and CAP holders are eligible to attend conferences and earn college credit. The school system currently provides a 2 percent salary supplement for those clerical/secretarial employees who hold either a Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) or CAP rating.

Wheeler selected to present

Deanna Wheeler, a science teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School, was recently chosen as one of 120 educators selected to attend the 2010 Polar TEACHERS conference in Oslo, Norway in June. Wheeler was one of 12 teachers invited to participate in the 2009 PolarTREC program, which stands for Teachers and Researchers Exploring and Collaborating in the Arctic. Through the program, Wheeler spent 21 days aboard an icebreaker in the Bering Sea last March.

Retirement info. meeting

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association and human resources staff are hosting a retirement planning session 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., Saturday, March 6, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Guest speakers and retirement planning handouts, as well as a guest brunch, will be provided. Contact Carolyn Rogers, 301-934-3157 or cdrogers3@verizon.net, to RSVP by March 1.

Certification

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Aparna Joshi



Michele King



Julie Verras

teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach that material to students.

The three CCPS teachers join 8,900 teachers nationwide, and 305 in Maryland who achieved National Board Certification in 2009. Certification is valid for 10 years, after which a teacher may seek renewal. Charles County Public Schools has 22 nationally certified teachers.

By achieving National Board Certification, the Charles County teachers are

eligible for a \$2,500 stipend added to their annual salary as well as an annual \$1,000 incentive from the Maryland State Department of Education as long as they remain in the classroom and maintain their National Board Certification. More than two-thirds of states provide salary incentives and cover the cost for teachers who pursue and achieve this advanced credential.

Only teachers with a standard or advanced professional certificate who have a minimum of three years successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification.



Piccowaxen teacher honored for technology use in classroom

Sandra Chisholm, a computer technology teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School, was recently honored by the Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET) as Charles County's recipient of the Outstanding Educator Using Technology award.

The award recognizes outstanding prekindergarten through grade 12 teachers who have made an exemplary contribution to instructional computing practices through the use of technology in classroom lessons in a Maryland school. Chisholm was nominated for the award by Piccowaxen Vice Principal Laura Coffren.

In her two years as the computer technology teacher at Piccowaxen, Chisholm created a "Moodle Rooms Project Unit" in which eighth graders can access a virtual learning environment, or an online classroom, to discuss academic subjects and

projects. Chisholm also teaches each of her classes the components of Microsoft Office, and creates lessons, such as "A Digital Holiday" in which students create projects that require them to demonstrate their understanding of each program.

Chisholm also incorporates technology into exciting lesson plans for her students, including creating book summary audio podcasts to post on the Internet and making a movie for graduation ceremonies in June.

Chisholm also serves as a mentor to another second year computer teacher, and visits this teacher regularly to provide support and assistance with curriculum. She has also joined with other Piccowaxen staff to create a "SMART Club" staff development session that highlights SMART Board use in the classroom.



Sandra Chisholm

Snow

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The two-hour early dismissal days on April 8, May 12, June 15 and June 16 remain as early dismissal days for students.

Richmond also announced the last day for teachers is June 18, changed from June 17. This makes up for the in-service day teachers missed on Feb. 5. Two hours of June 18 will be used for teacher planning.

Three weekends of cancellations, a weeklong school closing and the possibility of future storms have left Charles County Public Schools scrambling to make up lost instructional time and for available dates to reschedule missed days and events.

As of Feb. 25, the school system had closed seven days for inclement weather. Four days are built into the calendar, leaving three days to be made up elsewhere. The school calendar, set by the Board of Education more than a year in advance, calls for any additional days used to be made up during Spring Break.

The Superintendent plans to request a waiver from the state for some of the missed days. If a waiver is granted, those days would be restored to Spring Break. On Feb. 23, the Maryland State Board of Education announced a waiver process for school systems affected by this

winter's historic snowstorms. School systems may request a waiver of up to five days from the required 180-day instructional calendar. However, school systems must show that they have made sufficient effort in providing instruction through calendar planning and modifications.

State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick will only consider waivers of student attendance days. Any waiver of work days, as specified in the contracts between the Education Association of Charles County and the Board of Education, would have to be granted by the Board.

Charles County Public Schools has already spent more than \$218,000 on snow removal, which does not include payment for 11 more salt deliveries or employee overtime. "Our snow plowers and building service staff did an excellent job clearing our parking lots, sidewalks and pathways to relocatable classrooms so we could open schools on February 16 and start getting back to normal schedules," Richmond said.

After a weeklong closure from Feb. 8-12, schools re-opened two hours late on Feb. 16, and one hour late the remainder of the week to provide daylight, which allowed buses, walkers and drivers better visibility of ice patches and around snow piles.

Year	Days Used	Action
2009-10	Seven so far	Pending. Waiver decisions to be made by March 9; two-hour early dismissal days revised.
2008-09	Two days	
2007-08	Two days	One-day waiver granted for day used in May when a two-day rainstorm caused schools to close May 12 since the last day of school had been set.
2006-07	Three days	
2004-05	Four days	
2003-04	Seven days	Closings included three days in early September after a hurricane hit the county. The state waived one day and students made up two days during Spring Break.
2002-03	Nine days	State granted a two-day waiver, leaving three additional days to be made up. Those were taken from Spring Break.
2001-02	Three days	State granted a two-day waiver following the tornado that destroyed much of La Plata and outlying areas. Waiver granted since the last day of school had already been set.
2000-01	Two days	
1999-00	Eight days	State granted a three-day waiver; Presidents' Day holiday used as a school day.
1998-99	Two days	
1997-98	Two days	
1996-97	One day	
1995-96	Nine days	State waived two days; three days scheduled as holidays used as school days.

Each year, Charles County Public Schools builds four inclement weather days into its calendar. As of Feb. 25, the school system had used seven days, leaving three days scheduled to be used during Spring Break. Waivers are pending. Actions listed in this chart are what the school system did with days used beyond the four built into the calendar.



School News is published by
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Board of Education announces March 9 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 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. and recognition begins at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Program schedules are available at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm.

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 update
- Student Board member update
- CIP update
- Early childhood
- Race to the Top grant
- 2011-2012 school calendar

- Legislative update
- Draft policy 6411.11 – Physical education and athletic programs for students with disabilities

**Unfinished business
New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items
- Recognition – 4:30 p.m.**
- Students
- Employees
- Maryland Society for Educational Technology Outstanding Educator Using Technology Award winner, Sandra Chisholm, Piccowaxen Middle School
- Resolutions:
 - *Month of the Young Child*
 - *National Student Leadership Week*

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel

Adjournment



Personnel

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

Job Openings

- Roofer III** – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by March 4.
- Food Service, Assistant Manager** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by March 5.
- Network Engineer** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by March 5.
- Instructional Specialists** – Future openings at all levels, 11-month positions.
- Title I Instructional Specialist for Technology** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position.
- Special Education Teacher** – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position.
- Life Skills Teacher** – William B. Wade Elementary School, 10-month position.

- Business Teacher** – Westlake High School, 10-month position.
- Technology Education Teacher** – Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position.
- Family & Consumer Science Teacher** – High school level, 10-month position.
- Physics Teacher** – High school level, 10-month position.
- English Teachers** – Westlake and Thomas Stone high schools, 10-month positions.
- Gifted Education Resource Teachers** – Future openings at all levels, 10-month positions.
- Reading Resource Teachers** – Future openings at all levels, 11-month positions.
- Science Teacher** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.
- Reading Recovery Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.
- Special Education Teacher for Science** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.
- Special Education Teacher of the Emotionally Disturbed** – F. B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

Special Education Infants & Toddlers Teacher – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Head field hockey coach
 - Assistant girls' lacrosse coach
- Contact Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following openings:

- Assistant varsity baseball coach
 - Assistant junior varsity baseball coach
- Contact Principal Larry Martin, 301-753-1756, to apply.

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity cross country coach
 - Head varsity field hockey coach
 - Head junior varsity girls' soccer coach
- Contact Principal Chrystal Benson, 301-753-1758, to apply.