



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Last day reminder

The last day of school for students is Wednesday, June 16. The last day of school for teachers is Friday, June 18. The last for teachers was extended one day to make up for time lost to inclement weather school closures.

### History Day honors

Jennifer Miller, a history teacher at General Smallwood Middle School, was named the 2010 History Day Teacher of the Year for Charles County at the Maryland State History Day event held April 24 at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

### Winsett receives honor

Gary Winsett, a social studies teacher and student government advisor at Thomas Stone High School, was recently named a Claes Noble Educator of Distinction by the National Society of High School Scholars. He was nominated for demonstrating outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the classroom. The award recognizes teacher role models who have made a lasting difference in the classroom.

### Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal is Wednesday, May 12. The two-hour early dismissal scheduled for Wednesday, May 26 was changed to a full day of school for students to make up for time lost due to inclement weather.

### Celebrate school nurses!

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 12. Be sure to thank the nurses in your schools and centers for all of their hard work and concern for student and staff health.

## Superintendent explores space at symposium

Charles County Public Schools Superintendent James E. Richmond was a featured speaker at the National Space Symposium held recently in Colorado Springs.

Richmond updated space industry leaders on the success of Charles County students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and the vision for the new high school. Invited by the Space Foundation, the weeklong symposium was an opportunity for the school system to connect with top aerospace companies that influence STEM, Richmond said.

In addition to presenting, Charles County Public Schools was provided booth space

by the Foundation to showcase its programs and meet with high-level executives from organizations such as NASA, Northrop Grumman, the Air Force and Boeing. "Having a booth allowed us to become more well known nationally than before. Many of the contacts we made indicated that they are interested in working with us in our efforts with STEM.

Richmond and staff had the chance to learn about opportunities for students while visiting two schools using the Space Foundation program. Both schools shared results that show a rise in student achievement. One of the schools, Galileo School of Math and Science, closed

See Space symposium, Page 2



Superintendent James E. Richmond and Board Chairman Roberta Wise talk to a representative from Northrop Grumman following the Superintendent's presentation about Charles County Public Schools, the new high school and STEM offerings.

## Board asks Commissioners to fund salary scale progression

The Board of Education in February approved a \$298.5 million budget request that maintains successful programs, and asks the county to fund salary longevity step and level increases for employees. This week, the Board appeared before the Charles County Commissioners to review its budget.

The Board's request includes an increase of \$3.6 million or 2.4 percent from the county. The school system is working to absorb cost increases related to health insurance and transportation through budget reallocation and contract negotiations. The Commissioners have already notified

Superintendent James E. Richmond by letter that the county will fund CCPS at maintenance of effort levels for next school year, which is the minimum amount of county funding allowed by state law.

"While the maintenance of effort obligation for the county only requires \$203,000 increase in funding, we are hoping the Commissioners will work to provide funding for the employee step and level requirement," Board Chairman Roberta Wise said.

At a public work session earlier this week, Wise told the Commissioners, "Our commitment to students and parents – and to

See Budget, Page 2

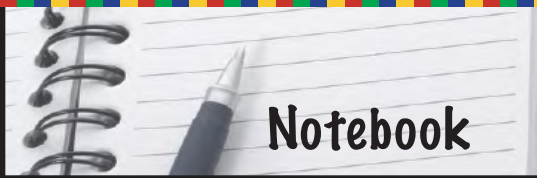
### County Budget Hearing

**When:** May 12, 6 p.m.

**Where:** Charles County Government Building

**Speaker sign up:** 5:30-6 p.m.

*Speakers have three minutes to speak*



**On the cover**

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education at their March and April meetings. Pictured, from left, are: Victor Woodland, building service manager, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; Sarah Elliott, kindergarten teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; and Denise Pratt, vocal music teacher, J. C. Parks Elementary School.

**Camp discount for staff**

The Henry E. Lackey High School Summer Youth Camp offers school system staff a 50 percent enrollment discount for their children. The brochure and registration forms are available on the parents and community page of the school system Web site. Employees should include their identification number and the amount of the discounted price under the registration section of the form.

Contact Rob Chamberlain, 301-753-1753, for more information.

**School News**

*School News* will not be mailed to employees during the summer. All newsletters can be accessed on the school system Web site at this direct link: <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices/newsletters.cfm>. A link to the newsletter will be provided to employees by e-mail each payday.

**Space Institute registration**

Space is still available for teachers interested in participating in the 2010 Charles County Public Schools Space Discovery Institute. The institute includes six, weeklong sessions and participants can sign up for more than one session. The sessions are as follows: Lunar/Mars

Exploration/Base Construction, July 19-23; Rocketry, July 19-23; Earth Systems Science, July 26-30; Biological and Physical Research, July 26-30; Astronomy Principles for the Classroom, Aug. 2-6; and Space Technologies in the Classroom, Aug. 2-6. All courses will be held at North Point High School and taught by Space Foundation staff.

Call 301-934-7327 or e-mail [mvarlas@ccboe.com](mailto:mvarlas@ccboe.com) for more information.

**Space symposium**

Continued from page 1

for a year, received a grant, made renovations, totally changed the curriculum and retrained staff. Students there are now high achieving and instead of being the school no one wants their child to attend, it is the school where everyone tries to enroll their children. "The information we learned on our visit will help us enhance the development of our space and STEM programs. It broadened our perspective about incorporating space themes in the related arts," Richmond said.

Additionally, school officials visited a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) facility to see a demonstration and learn more about Science On a Sphere, which is planned for the new high school. Two staff members, Monique Varlas, specialist in STEM, and Butch Arbin, engineering resource teacher, presented to



**Superintendent James E. Richmond speaks with Leonard "Spock" Nimoy following closing ceremonies at the Space Symposium.**

Space Foundation teacher liaisons.

Richmond made contact with executives from major corporations and said he believes Charles County Public Schools will see strong support for the new high school and STEM efforts from many of these corporations. Already, several contacts established at the symposium have offered possible student internships for the summer.

Following the symposium, Richmond met with Space Foundation President and CEO Elliot Pulham to talk about the possibility of locating the Space Foundation's East Coast operations to Charles County and using Charles County Public Schools as its model school system. The school system already partners with the Space Foundation to provide staff training and development in science across the curriculum.

**Budget**

Continued from page 1

the community – remains strong. Our budget has been downsized, but we have not downsized our expectations. Accountability and the classroom are in the forefront of each decision we make, and we continue to meet or exceed local, state and national student achievement benchmarks."

Wise said that while the school system has managed more than \$13 million in budget cuts over the past two years, programs and items that directly affect students and the classroom have largely been spared. "The budget we are presenting is most significant for what it does not do. It does not cut our reading program. It does not cut summer, before- or after-school academic programs. It does not cut fine arts or athletic programs, or require parents to pay participation fees. It does not limit or reduce expenditures on textbooks or materials of instruction. It does not require that we

furlough our teachers or staff. It does not require that we significantly increase class size. You only need to look at many school systems around the beltway, and across the nation to recognize the excellent job we have done in managing our way through this financial crisis," Wise said.

The Board approved its budget proposal against a backdrop of state and county funding uncertainty and unknown revenue amounts. The Board's proposal assumes state funding will remain the same and requests the increase from the county.

The County Commissioners are holding a public hearing on all county budgets starting at 6 p.m., May 12, at the County Government Building.

A complete copy of Wise's remarks to the Commissioners is posted on the CCPS Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/presentations.cfm>.





### Teacher appreciation week

*Thank You*

**Charles County Public Schools  
Teachers ...**

*Charles County and Maryland  
are top in the nation because  
of your work with  
and commitment to children*

*– James E. Richmond, Superintendent and  
the Board of Education of Charles County*

*Pictured clockwise, from left, are William Fisher,  
Eva Turner Elementary School; Donna Rhoades,  
Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; Corrin  
Cerra, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Andre  
Kenan, Thomas Stone High School; Mary But-  
kiewicz, John Hanson Middle School; Jo White,  
Stone; Paul Dunlevy, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd El-  
ementary School; Nina Lynn Ogasawara, Gale-  
Bailey Elementary School; Jennifer Fitzgerald,  
Brown; and Toni Bateman, Brown.*



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

### Board of Education Members

Roberta S. Wise, Chairman  
Donald M. Wade, 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 Mackey  
Sabrina Weitkamp

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.

## Board of Education announces May 11 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 11, 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 for Channel 96 are available on the Charles County Public Schools Web site 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, Thomas Stone High School's JROTC unit

#### Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Superintendent's report
- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County (EACC) update
- Student Board Member update
- CIP update
- Educational facilities master plan update
- Title I parent involvement update
- FY 2011 budget update

- Out-of-county tuition fees
- Policy updates – 3910 (debt management); 4740 (severance); 3320 (expenditure: purchasing procedures); 4820 (general policies and procedures: duties and responsibilities); and series 6000

#### Unfinished business

#### New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

#### Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Ruth Ann Hall award winners, presented by EACC

- Students

- Employees

#### Public Forum – 6 p.m.

#### Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Policy 6411.21: Physical education and athletic programs for students with disabilities

#### Adjournment



## Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://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

**Web Developer/Television Producer** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in Web production or related field, and one year of Web production experience required. Apply by May 7.

**Food Service Manager** – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 7.

**Coordinator of Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree required. Apply by May 14.

**Secretary** – J. P. Ryon Elementary School, 11-month position. Apply by May 14.

**Elementary Reading Content Specialist** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree required. Apply by May 10.

**Occupational Therapists** – Openings at all age levels, 10- or 11-month positions.

**Electronics Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

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

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

**Reading Resource Teachers** – Future openings at all levels, 10-month positions.

**Reading Recovery Teacher** – To be determined, 10-month position.

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

**Instructional Specialist for Minority Achievement and Multicultural Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Apply by May 14.

### Extra pay position

**La Plata High School** has the following opening:

- Girls' varsity basketball coach

Contact Principal Evelyn Arnold, 301-753-1754, to apply.

### Insurance announcement

Open health insurance enrollment for Charles County Public Schools employees begins May 10 and ends May 28. The premiums for BlueCross BlueShield Group Health Insurance plans are not changing for fiscal year 2011.

If you do not wish to make any changes, your current benefit elections will continue for fiscal year 2011. Changes made during the open enrollment period are effective July 1. Log on to the Benelogic portal at [www.ccboe.benelogic.com](http://www.ccboe.benelogic.com) to make enrollment elections and/or changes.

Contact Christeda Warner at 301-934-7459 or [cwarner@ccboe.com](mailto:cwarner@ccboe.com).