



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Work Session

The Board of Education of Charles County will hold a work session at 6 p.m., Monday, June 28, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. The meeting will be aired live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and streamed on the school system Web site at www.ccboe.com/boe/live. The agenda is as follows:

Call to order – 6 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance

Public Forum

Action Items

- AFSCME signing
- 2011 budget

Report

- School naming

Adjournment

Health insurance holiday

Medical claim payouts were lower this school year than expected, resulting in a savings for the school system. The Board of Education approved a second insurance holiday premium for all CareFirst plan participants. The holiday will occur with the June 18 pay check and affects all policy holders, both current employees and retirees. Contact Christeda Warner, 301-934-7459, with any questions or for more information.

Payroll news

The pay dates for July are July 7 and July 23. Pay dates for the 2011 budget year have been moved back one week, beginning in July, to maintain 26 pay dates for the current calendar year, and 26 pay dates for the 2011 calendar year. This is a normal shift that occurs every five years. Pay dates in July are scheduled two and a half weeks apart in order to adjust to the schedule change. Staff will receive three pay checks this October and in April 2011.



Congratulations Class of 2010

Charles County Public Schools honored 2,090 seniors on June 7 and June 8 during graduation ceremonies for six high schools. Students in the Class of 2010 were offered nearly \$37 million in scholarships. Valedictorians and Salutatorians for the Class of 2010 are, from left: Holly Olson, Henry E. Lackey High School valedictorian; Ashley Sparks, Lackey's salutatorian; Tyler Fini, La Plata High School valedictorian; Brooke Prince, La Plata's salutatorian; Shelby Clarke, Maurice J. McDonough High School valedictorian; Meagan Jezek, McDonough's salutatorian; Sylvie DeLaHunt, North Point High School valedictorian; Abigail Thomas, Thomas Stone High School valedictorian; Christin Waltersdorff, Stone's salutatorian; John Buntz, Westlake High School valedictorian; and Krystle Canare, Westlake's salutatorian. Not pictured is To-Lam Nguyen, North Point's salutatorian.

Students, parents commit to rigorous high school schedule

Nearly 150 students signed a commitment last week to take rigorous high school classes and stick with it for four years. STARS, or Students Targeting Academic Rigor with Success, is a new Charles County Public Schools program that offers additional support to selected students and encourages them to pursue higher academic standards. Kicked off during a celebration and information dinner at Westlake High School on June 10, students, along with their parents, learned about STARS and the four-year commitment it requires.

STARS is designed to enhance academic achievement of students with potential. Rising ninth-grade students who have been successful in Algebra I, including those from economically disadvantaged, minority, first generation college and single parent families,

were identified by each high school and selected for the program. Students at each high school will be grouped together in their core academic classes for their freshman year.

Over the next four years, the STARS students will be enrolled in challenging courses starting in their freshman year with honors English, government and science classes. The students will be required to take AP United States History as sophomores, exposing them to the higher level courses that will be required in their junior and senior years.

The rigor starts this summer, with a requirement that the STARS students attend two summer opportunities to review Algebra I and preview Algebra II as well as to learn study skills. The school system will provide support to the students throughout their high school career through summer classes, course

See STARS, Page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education at their May 11 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Margaret “Meg” Overbey, academic support teacher, North Point High School; Nina Hargis, language arts teacher, Mattawoman Middle School; and Nancy McNulty, Reading Recovery teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School.

Summer office hours

Charles County Public Schools has changed summer office hours to 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in selected schools and centers, beginning Monday, June 21. The schedule will remain in effect until Monday, Aug. 23. For a complete listing of schools and centers that are operating on the summer schedule, visit the school system Web site at www.ccboe.com/pr.

Summer Meals program

Charles County Public Schools, in partnership with other local agencies, is offering a free summer lunch program June 28 through Aug. 6 for students who normally receive free or reduced priced school meals. Lunches are served Monday through Friday at specific sites, including Benjamin Stoddert, John Hanson, Mattawoman and Milton M. Somers middle schools. Meals will also be served at the pool sites at Henry E. Lackey, Maurice J. McDonough, and Thomas Stone high schools. Serving times vary and transportation is not provided. For more information, visit the school system Web site at www.ccboe.com or call 301-934-7210.

Airing on NewsBreak 96

Airing this Friday is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system events. This episode features the Class of 2010 graduation ceremonies, student’s from Westlake High School and their work with the Civic Voices program, and student memories from the 2009-10 school year. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS 12, and is available as a video on demand on the CCPS Web site at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/.

STARS

Continued from page 1

scheduling, study strategies, test preparation, tutoring, college visits and teachers trained to meet their needs. An advocate at each high school is also trained to monitor the students and ensure that support is in place.

“You have been recruited and we are making a commitment to you that we hope you will treasure for the rest of your life. Now, we need the same commitment from you and your parents. You are going to have a great time, but it is going to be tough. We won’t accept any quitters,” Superintendent James E. Richmond said. He reminded the parents that they make the difference in support for the students who will be pushed to reach their potential.

Guest speaker Jennifer Reed, director for counselor advocacy for The College Board, told students they had already proven they are up to the challenge through their participation and success in Algebra I in middle school. She encouraged students to dream big, set standards high and shoot

for the stars through goal setting. Reed used tennis superstar Serena Williams and dance celebrity Serena Cuevas as examples of role models who have overcome personal adversity with persistence and hard work to become highly successful in their careers.

Judy Estep, assistant superintendent of instruction, told students and parents that the opportunities provided for academic success in high school will lead to college admittance and competitive scholarship offers. She stressed parental involvement and said the commitment for both parents and students includes: selecting and remaining in rigorous courses; studying; participating in the Summer Success Academy; asking for help and working with the school STARS advocate; participating in college visits, field trips and special activities; and taking advantage of test preparation programs.

The school system invited 183 students to participate in the first STARS group.



Danae Grant, left, signs a commitment form for the STARS program as her grandmother, Norma Inge, right, looks on. Grant will be attending Maurice J. McDonough High School.

Charles County high schools on Newsweek’s top school list

Four Charles County Public Schools were among the nation’s top 1,622 high schools ranked by *Newsweek* magazine this week in its annual “America’s Top High Schools.”

La Plata, Maurice J. McDonough, North Point and Westlake high schools were listed among the top six percent of schools in the nation that offer, and have students take, college level courses. In Charles County, the measure used is for Advanced Placement (AP) classes. La Plata’s ranking was 487, McDonough was 961, North Point was 1,043 and Westlake was 1,443.

The *Newsweek* list is based on the Challenge Index developed by the *Washington Post*. It ranks the number of AP tests taken

in relation to the number of graduating seniors. Schools rank in the top 6 percent if they achieve a ratio of at least 1.0, meaning they had as many tests taken in 2009 as they had graduates.

More than half of Maryland’s 185 public high schools – 53 percent – were on *Newsweek’s* list.

“We continue to work to ensure that our students are challenging themselves by taking the highest level of courses they can. We encourage students to take Advanced Placement classes and we continue to offer rigorous coursework for all students,” Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

Newsweek’s list is located at: <http://www.newsweek.com/feature/2010/america-best-high-schools/list.html>.

Support staff earn top honors for hard work and dedication

The Board of Education honored five employees with Outstanding Personnel Awards on June 1. Honored were: **Bernard Barnes**, building service manager, John Hanson Middle School; **Barbara Kiider**, food service worker, North Point High School; **Elsie Barnett**, in-school retention program instructional assistant, Milton M. Somers Middle School; **Paul Lucas**, painter, Radio Station Road Annex Building; and **Cherie Reynolds**, secretary to the principal, Piccowaxen Middle School.

Barnes is the 2010 Outstanding Building Service Manager. He has worked at Hanson since 2006 and was nominated for the award by Kimberly King, instructional specialist at Hanson. In award nomination letters, Barnes is described as a strong communicator and leader, a thorough and efficient team player, and a role model for students. "He has always maintained a positive and team-oriented attitude and never hesitates to communicate ideas with the administration or listen to the dreams of staff. Mr. Barnes does not come to work to just take care of daily routine responsibilities. He comes to work and is a part of the Hanson community, always looking to make things better for everyone along the day," Hanson Principal Deborah Hile wrote in a nomination letter. In addition to being responsible for the maintenance and safety of the school, Barnes also sponsors a middle school golf club for students to learn the fundamentals and assists the club with fundraising efforts.

Kiider is the 2010 Outstanding Food Service Worker. She has worked at North Point for the past four school years and was nominated for the award by North Point Vice Principal Ronald Wilson. She is described as a valuable employee who comes to work each day with a smile. She has experience in all food service roles at North Point, including cooking, working the cash register, serving food and managing the kitchen. "She takes pride in her work and is a valuable member of our cafeteria team. Whenever someone is out, she has filled in without complaining. She starts and finishes each day with a smile which speaks to how much she enjoys serving our students," Wilson wrote in an award nomination letter. She is a high achiever and consistently displays a positive attitude, attention to detail and is always professional.

Barnett is the 2010 Outstanding Instructional Support Employee. She supervises the In-School Retention Center and was nominated for the award by Somers Principal Stephanie Wesolowski for her hard work and excellent rapport with students, staff and community members, and for showing a sincere interest in student achievement. "She is a mentor and advocate for all children – those who often get lost in the crowd. She finds ways to get them involved in their school and

community. She is actively involved in several extracurricular organizations," Wesolowski said in a nomination letter. Barnett created and sponsors a group for young women called "Young Ladies of Power" that is designed to teach them how to become more confident. She is a role model for young women and provides them with experiences that teach them self respect and self worth.

Lucas is the 2010 Outstanding Maintenance Employee. He has worked as a painter with the school system since 2005 and was nominated for the award by Gregory Thompson, a foreman at the Annex Building. He is described as an exemplary employee who excels at solving problems, demonstrates a commitment to quality and is always ready to help where and when he is needed. "He shows unusual initiative, is a self-starter, and can be depended upon to carry a task through to completion. He works effectively within his own group

as well as throughout the entire organization. His performance is well beyond what is expected or required for the position," Thompson wrote in a nomination letter. Lucas holds numerous trade certifications and has completed training and certification courses with the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades organization. He has also completed the necessary Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) courses.

Reynolds is the 2010 Outstanding Secretary. She has worked for the school system since 1988 and has been the secretary to the principal at Piccowaxen for almost 20 years. Reynolds was nominat-

ed for the award by Piccowaxen Principal Ken Schroeck and Laura Coffren, vice principal, for her attention to detail, organizational skills, ability to multitask and troubleshoot school equipment and her dedication to the Piccowaxen students, staff and community. "Working with individuals like Ms. Reynolds is a true pleasure. Her love for children, faculty, the community, and her profession are reflected in all she does. Compassionate, dedicated, and high energy individuals are the cornerstone of any top quality educational system. Ms. Reynolds is one such person. I am proud to say that I, like the entire Piccowaxen faculty, see Ms. Reynolds as a role model to admire and emulate," Schroeck wrote. She handles multiple tasks in her position, including financial matters, supply requisitions, school fund raisers, and scheduling appointments and demonstrates professionalism.

The Board each year honors exemplary support staff in five different job categories. The goals of the awards are to recognize exemplary employees in the areas of building services, food services, maintenance, secretarial services and instructional support, and to encourage employees to provide creative and quality services that support the effective and efficient operations of the school system.



Five CCPS employees were honored June 1 with 2010 Outstanding Support Personnel Awards. Pictured, from left, are: Paul Lucas, Maintenance Shop; Cherie Reynolds, Piccowaxen Middle School; Barbara Kiider, North Point High School; Elsie Barnett, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Bernard Barnes, John Hanson Middle School.

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Reporting fraud, illegal acts, waste and abuse of CCPS property

Charles County Public Schools recently developed confidential reporting procedures for employees to use to report suspected financial fraud, illegal activities, waste and abuse. Employees can report information by calling 301-302-8305 to leave a confidential voicemail or by e-mail to Board of Education Chairman Roberta S. Wise at rswise@ccboe.com. Information or complaints will be forwarded to the appropriate staff for investigation. Employees can also submit complaints in writing to their supervisor, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, Keith Hettel, or Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond.

The Board of Education encourages employees to report any actions which may violate the law, regulations, policies, rules or procedures. Board policy 4820, located on Board Docs at <http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/ccpsmd/Board.nsf>, states that the school system cannot retaliate against any employee for filing a report in good faith.

The procedures were developed to better protect the school system's assets and financial integrity. The types of information that should be

reported include theft of system property or money; misuse of system assets; conflicts of interest; or waste/abuse of system resources.

Fraudulent acts are considered to be deliberate and intentional acts to obtain unauthorized or unlawful gain of money, property or an advantage to which the recipient would normally not have. Illegal activity is any violation of laws/regulations and violations of contract provisions or grant agreements. Waste is the excessive expenditure or allocation of resources above and beyond what is needed. Abuse is behavior that is deficient or improper when compared with reasonable business practice behavior.

More information on the reporting process is located on the staff services page of the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staff-services.cfm>. Call 301-934-7224 with questions.



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

Purchasing Assistant I – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by June 25.

Student Data Accounting Clerk – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by June 24.

Computer Analyst – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by June 24.

Director of Student Services – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and A & S certification, and a minimum of three years experience as a school administrator or five years of related leadership experience in coordinating/supervising areas is required. Apply by June 18.

Health Occupations Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Media Production and Graphic Design Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

Theatre Arts Teacher – High school level opening, 10-month position.

Vocal Music Teacher – High school level opening, 10-month position.

Elementary Reading Content Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in reading, minimum of five years teaching at the elementary level and reading specialist certification required.

French Teacher – High school level opening, 10-month position.

Chemistry Teacher – High school level opening, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following opening:
• Junior varsity volleyball coach

Contact David Anderson, athletic director, 301-753-5431, to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following opening:

- Fall varsity cheerleading coach

Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, 301-934-2944, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following openings:

- Two assistant baseball coaches

Contact Steve Lee, athletic director, 301-843-0074, to apply.

North Point High School has the following openings:

- Head girls' basketball coach
- Assistant girls' basketball coach
- Assistant field hockey coach
- Assistant volleyball coach
- Assistant football coach
- Freshman, junior varsity and varsity fall cheerleading coaches

Contact A.K. Johnson, athletic director, 301-753-1759, to apply.