

 *Where success is measured  
one student at a time*



Charles County Public Schools

# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Welcome back

Welcome back to teachers and 10-month employees. Veteran teachers return to the classroom on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Students begin school on Monday, Aug. 30.

### Student services director

Dr. Patricia Vaira, supervising school psychologist for Charles County Public Schools, was recently named the new director of student services. Vaira began her career as a school psychologist with the school system in 1980 and holds a doctorate in school psychology from the University of Maryland, College Park. She replaces Keith Grier, who retired in June.

### NewsBreak 96 ...

Airing this week is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system events. This episode features information from the Board of Education's August meeting, highlights from the Space Discovery Institute and the school system's recent Education Exchange that featured a guest speaker from NASA. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is also available as a video on demand on the school system Web site. Visit [www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/](http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/) for a programming schedule and for a list of videos on demand.

### 24-hour information line

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closings and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.



**Tim LaBelle, a new CCPS teacher, volunteers in a demonstration with Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Jill Jowdy at the opening of new teacher orientation on Aug. 16. See page 3 for a complete story.**

## Parents can now access grades online with Edline

Starting this school year teachers will have another way to easily connect with parents. Charles County Public Schools is adding Edline as a way to keep parents and students up-to-date online. Edline will go live on Sept. 20 and allow parents, who secure an activation code from their child's school, to check grades, receive e-mail alerts when new grades are posted, receive e-mails with school or class information and much more.

Every teacher will have a class page that can be updated and used as both a parent and student information center. Parents will also be able to monitor student grades at the middle and high school levels. Grades submitted by teachers through iG-Pro will automatically be downloaded into the Edline grade pages for parents to view.

Select administrators, teachers and staff members were trained last week to help es-

See Edline, Page 2

## Board votes to name new high school St. Charles

St. Charles High School is the name of Charles County Public Schools seventh high school, which is scheduled to open in August 2013 off Piney Church Road. The Board of Education Aug. 10, by majority vote, selected the name from three recommendations submitted to them by a school naming committee.

Groundwork to prepare the school site is already underway, and the Board is hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the school on Sept. 8, 10 a.m., at the site, which is adjacent to Regency Furniture Stadium. The groundbreaking is open to the public. The school system hopes to solicit bids for the school in the fall and begin construction in early 2011.

St. Charles High School will offer courses and programs through environmentally infused instruction. The high school will offer opportunities to students as well as the Charles County community. A digital classroom and Science on a Sphere are included in the design of the new high school and will be used by students across the county.

Board members selected the name because the school sits in the heart of the remaining 4,000 acres to be developed in St. Charles. The committee suggested three names, as directed by the Board, for consideration. Name suggestions were St. Charles, Zekiah and Lagrange Point.

A comprehensive high school redistricting will occur prior to the opening of St. Charles High School. A redistricting committee will be developed next summer and work through the 2011-12 school year to make rezoning recommendations to the Board. Superintendent James E. Richmond is recommending that the Board opens the new school with students in grades 9, 10 and 11, with some students being moved from other high schools.

For more information, visit the school system Web site at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) or call 301-932-6610.



**On the cover**

Pictured on the cover are three new Charles County Public Schools teachers. Pictured, from left, are: Rachael Ashby, Three's program, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Walter Bowman, science teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Frances Legaspi, third-grade teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.

**Bus hotline**

The school system has a bus hotline for parents to call with questions about bus routes. Call 301-932-6655 to access the hotline, which will be available Aug. 26-27, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Aug. 30-31, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bus routes can be accessed through the School Locator application located on the Charles County Public Schools Web site. School Locator can be accessed at [www.ccboe.com/schoolocator/](http://www.ccboe.com/schoolocator/).

**Back-to-School supply drive**

The Children's Aid Society of Charles County is hosting a back-to-school supply drive from Aug. 16 to Sept. 3. Donations can be sent to Charles County Children's Aid Society, Inc., 3000 Huntington Circle, Waldorf, Md., 20602. For more information, call 301 645-1561.

**New employee portal**

The school system recently launched a new employee portal on the school system Web site. Through the new portal, employees can: create and maintain user accounts; change their user name and password; configure personal settings; view and print employer forms; view paycheck information; view W-2 forms; view leave balances; and view current and previous paycheck deductions and benefits details.

The direct link to the system is <https://info1.ccboe.com/employeeportal/employee/login.php>. All employees will need to set up an account in order to access the new portal, and will need their employee identification number and the last four digits of their social security number.

Call 301-934-7488 or e-mail [EP@ccboe.com](mailto:EP@ccboe.com) for more information or with questions.

**Board of Education meeting agenda - Sept. 21**

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 21, 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. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week.

Board meetings are streamed live on the school system Web site at [www.ccboe.com/boe/live](http://www.ccboe.com/boe/live). Program schedules are also 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** – 12 p.m.

**Call to Order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – North Point High School's JROTC unit

**Superintendent's Update to the Board Reports of Officers/Boards/Committees**

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member's update
- Update on fall sports
- Use of tasers – Sheriff Rex Coffey
- Review of the cell phone policy
- CIP update
- FY 2011 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Bridge to Excellence update
- Diversity training in the work place

- Food Services report
- Oral update on staffing
- Board Chairman Election Bylaw

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

**Future Agenda Items**

**Recognition** – Health Careers month

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action Items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- State CIP 2012
- Recurring Resolutions:

*Health Careers Month; American Education Week; American Freedom Week; African American History Month; Career and Technical Education Month; National School Counseling Week; Read Across America; Women's History Month; Fine and Performing Arts Month; Month of the Young Child; National Student Leadership Week; Teacher Appreciation Week; Administrative Professionals' Week; Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week; National Physical Education and Sport Week; Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader; Charles County Teacher of the Year; Employees' Retirement; Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award*

**Adjournment**

**Edline**

**Continued from page 1**

establish Edline at each school. Those who were trained will return to their schools and train teachers to set up their pages.

Schools are holding sign-up sessions for parents to obtain an activation code. Parents must apply in person and present a photo identification to receive a code.

Sign up dates are:

- **Aug. 23, 5-8 p.m.** – John Hanson Middle School and Mattawoman Middle School
- **Aug. 24, 5-8 p.m.** – All high schools. (Please note: Lackey session is for parents of students in grade 10, 11 and 12. Parents of ninth graders and all new students may sign up at orientation on Aug. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.)
- **Aug. 25, 5-8 p.m.** – Piccowaxen Middle School, Theodore G. Davis Middle School,

Matthew Henson Middle School, General Smallwood Middle School, Milton M. Somers Middle School and Benjamin Stodert Middle School.

Parents with children at more than one school may pick up all activation codes at any one of their children's schools.

Elementary schools will provide activation codes to parents during back-to-school and open house events. Parents of middle and high school students who cannot attend the scheduled sign-up dates, and elementary school parents can contact their child's school for additional information.

The Edline system is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, and is maintained on a secure system. Call 301-934-7220 for more information.

## New teachers learn the system at orientation last week

Tim LaBelle took center stage in his new classroom Aug. 16, two weeks before his theater students will fill the North Point High School auditorium. He wasn't the teacher yet, but still playing the part of a student learning a final lesson from one of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) top teachers.

One of 164 new CCPS teachers, LaBelle was helping Charles County's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher, Jill Jowdy, demonstrate the power of words and the importance of how teachers use them. With outstretched arms, LaBelle stood fast as Jowdy tried to bend his arms. But when she asked him if he thought his dress was appropriate for the occasion, he immediately lost confidence and the ability to hold his arms up. How you say something to a student, Jowdy said, makes all the difference.

Charles County Public Schools kicked off the new school year with a back-to-school leadership conference for principals and vice principals and new teachers arrived Aug. 16 for orientation. Returning teachers start Tuesday, Aug. 24 and the school year officially starts Aug. 30 when students again fill the classrooms.

Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Mark Howell, called elementary teachers, especially those teaching kindergarten and first graders to read, the backbone of any school system, and outlined his 31-year career that started in elementary school, continued in middle school and led to his last 17 years as a social studies teacher at Westlake High School. He left teachers with five points: be a professional; be a planner; be positive; be proactive and be patient. "You are going to learn a lot this year, and some of what you learn will be from your students."

At last Monday's orientation, there were 21 elementary, 38 middle school, 51 high school, 45 special education and five resource teachers as well as four school counselors. The school system also hired six speech pathologists and occupational therapists, for a total of 170 new hires. As of last week, there were still four middle school vacancies and six special education openings.

Following a morning of fine arts performances by students, new teachers attended benefits sessions and equity training.

It wasn't just administrators that shared messages with new teachers. North Point student Gaston Lopez told teachers they have the potential to enrich the lives of their students. Teachers, he said, need to make a connection between their students' lives and what they are learning.

Superintendent James E. Richmond urged new teachers to ask for help. "Ask... ask those who have experience. Lean on us," he said. He also reminded teachers that reading and reading comprehension are essential for students to learn and technology is a strong tool, but it does not replace a good teacher. "I've never seen any resource that is better than a good teacher," he concluded.

Board of Education chairman Roberta S. Wise addressed the group and advised the teachers to enjoy their experiences and remember the impacts they will make with their students. "Forty-five years ago, I was where you are today – scared to death. But I fell in love with the classroom... There is nothing more invigorating and I loved every moment," she said.

"Remember you are a teacher first and a friend second," Wise cautioned, and urged new teachers not to "friend" students on Facebook and to be careful about what they post. She also told them that being firm and consistent in the classroom is what helps set the tone for respect and an orderly classroom.



D'Angelo Thompson from General Smallwood Middle School was one of several students who performed for new teachers Aug. 16.

### Tips from a top teacher Mark Howell, Westlake High School CCPS 2010 Teacher of the Year



Mark Howell

1. **Be a professional:** Teaching is not a 9 to 5 job. Take pride in your work.
2. **Be a planner:** How are all your students going to learn their best? You need more than just A, B and C plans. Teach your kids something they will never forget. Incorporate hands-on experiences. If they are doing things, they will learn it.
3. **Be positive:** Start including I like how you ... I love how you ... It is great when you ... as part of your vocabulary. Put away the sarcasm. Remember, you may be the only positive person or provide the only positive experiences in a child's day.
4. **Be proactive:** Remember the iron

triangle – teachers, administrators and parents. When these three players communicate and work together, the education of each child will become a success story. Communicating is easier now with phones in every classroom and e-mail. Communicate immediately rather

than waiting.

5. **Be patient:** Be patient with yourself. You are going to make mistakes. Remember, no matter how bad it can get, you can fix it. Kids are resilient. Your students are going to learn a lot, and you are going to learn a lot this school year. Your students will learn from you and you will learn from your students as well.

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## Indian Head science teacher named finalist for award

Timothy Emhoff, a science teacher at Indian Head Elementary School, was recently named one of three 2010 Maryland Science Finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The award is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through grade 12 mathematics or science teacher can receive in the United States.



**Timothy Emhoff**

said Emhoff's nomination is well deserved. "He is definitely an example of an excellent science teacher. His instruction is engaging and students succeed in the classroom. Tim has made a tremendous impact on our school's success through supporting our students in robotics, Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA), and the Eggbert challenge. It is quite exciting!" Melton-Trainor said.

As a finalist, Emhoff is eligible for consideration as the state winner for elementary science, an award administered by the National Science Foundation on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Each year, more than 100 awards are bestowed to recipients across the United States.

Emhoff was nominated for the award by Sue Gray, former content specialist for science for Charles County Public Schools, and said the application process was rigorous. "I had to fill out eligibility forms to ensure that I met the requirements. I had no idea I was a finalist. It was a shock and surprise," he said.

Indian Head Principal Toni Melton-Trainor

Emhoff began his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2000 at Indian Head, where he has also served as the environmental science, robotics and MESA sponsor. He received a master's degree in education in 2009 from Walden University, and holds a bachelor's degree from Evangel University in elementary education.

Science and mathematics teachers can either apply for the award or be nominated. Applicant information is initially screened by the state Office of Mathematics and a state committee, comprised of educators from kindergarten through grade 12 and higher education. Each state committee selects up to three finalists for the national level. National award winners will be announced in June 2011.

## Personnel

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

### Job Openings

**Food Service Substitutes** – Openings at all schools, 10-month positions. High school diploma desired. Apply by Aug. 26.

**PreK Instructional Assistant Title 1** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 23.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant** – Berry Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 26.

**PreK Instructional Assistant** – Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 26.

**Kindergarten Instruction Assistant Title I** – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 31.

**Technology Facilitator Title 1** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School. 10-month position. Associates degree required. Apply by Aug. 31.

**In-School Retention Instructional Assistant** – General Smallwood Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 31.

**HVAC Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. Five years of experience required.

**Family & Consumer Science Teacher** – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

**Library/Media Specialist** – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

**Spanish Teacher** – High school level, 10-month position.

**Coordinator of Middle School Instruction** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Masters degree and five years of teaching experience preferred.

**English Teachers** – Openings at the middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.

**Administrative Assistant** – North Point High School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree, Standard Professional Certificate and three years of experience required. Apply by Aug. 27.

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

**Special Education Resource Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Masters degree required. Apply by Aug. 23.

**Speech Language Therapist** – Elementary school level, 10-month position. Masters degree in Speech Pathology required.

### Extra Pay

**Westlake High School** has the following opening:

- Head junior varsity volleyball coach

Contact Principal Chrystal Benson, 301-645-8857, to apply.