 *Where success is measured
one student at a time*



Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

Election Day

Schools are closed for students only on Tuesday, Sept. 14, for Primary Election Day.

MAC meeting

The Minority Achievement Committee's (MAC) first meeting of the 2010-11 school year is 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 29, in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Metlife advisors

MetLife advisors will be available at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 29, in room 214. Representatives will be available to review account information, schedule appointments, set up new enrollments or answer questions.

Advisors are also conducting an IRA seminar Sept. 29, 4 to 5 p.m., at North Point High School, in the staff development room. The seminar is open to all employees. Advisors for the 2010-11 school year are: LaQuita Stancil, lstancil@metlife.com; Mark Spencer, mspencer@metlife.com; and Victor Maldonado, vmaldonado@metlife.com.

Board meeting reminder

The Board of Education will hold its regular monthly meeting at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 21, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Visit the press releases section of the CCPS Web site at www.ccboe.com/pr for an agenda.

Mark Howell named Maryland Teacher of the Year finalist

Mark Howell, a history teacher at Westlake High School and Charles County Public Schools 2010 Teacher of the Year, was named one of seven Maryland Teacher of the Year finalists by the Maryland State Department of Education. He advances to the state level along with teachers from Calvert, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

State finalists were selected by a panel of judges from Maryland education organizations that represent principals, teachers, school boards, teacher unions, parents and higher education. Finalists were selected based on criteria that include teaching style and philosophy, community involvement and knowledge of general education issues.

Finalist interviews will be conducted Sept. 11, and the winner will be announced at a gala reception and dinner scheduled for Oct. 8 at Martin's West. The state winner receives a cash award, a new car, and will be considered for the National Teacher of the Year honor.

Howell teaches a range of social studies classes at Westlake, including local, state and



Superintendent James E. Richmond congratulates Mark Howell.

national (LSN) government and U.S. History, as well as several Advanced Placement (AP) classes in European and U.S. history, government and politics, human geography and international relations. He also coaches a student team to compete in the "We The People" historical event, of which Westlake is one of eight Maryland schools to compete. Howell also recently coordinated the expansion of Westlake's schoolwide History Day program, which led to a large increase in the number of students who competed.

Howell was nominated for the county award by Westlake Principal Chrystal Ben-
See Mark Howell, page 3

School system welcomes students for 2010-11 school year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) kicked off the 2010-11 school year Monday with expectations of enrollment increases of more than 100 students and the groundbreaking for its next new high school.

Kindergarten students at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School started classes in newly renovated and additional classrooms. The renovation and addition are part of a state project to add space at elementary schools to accommodate full-day kindergarten, and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy is the fourth school completed. This year, construction has started for kindergarten expansions and renovations at Eva Turner and Indian Head elementary schools.

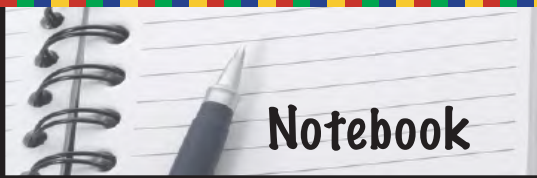
A groundbreaking for St. Charles High School, which will be located off Piney

Church Road in Waldorf, is scheduled for Sept. 8, 10 a.m., at the school site. The groundbreaking is open to the public. Charles County Public Schools seventh high school is set to open in August 2013. Site preparation is underway and the school system plans to solicit construction bids in the fall. Building construction is expected to start in early 2011.

"We had a tremendous opening of the new school year and I am looking forward to the continued progress and growth of Charles County Public Schools," said Superintendent James E. Richmond.

Instruction remains at the center of new programs this year, which advance early childhood and Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering (STEM) offerings.

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On the cover

Pictured on the cover are three new Charles County Public Schools teachers. Pictured, from left, are: Robin Figurelle, special education teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School; Daniel Mosey, English teacher, Westlake High School; and Crystal Sailor, math teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School.

SECAC meeting

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will hold its first meeting of the 2010-11 school year on Sept. 15 from 6:30-8 p.m., in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Want to be in the know?

Subscribe to the Charles County Public Schools press releases subscriber list to receive the latest student and staff accomplishments, and school system information, including inclement weather alerts, directly to your e-mail account. All posts are delivered electronically within minutes of new posts. Visit www.ccboe.com/pr to sign up.

Direct Deposit

The school system encourages employees to sign up for direct deposit for pay checks. Use of direct deposit eliminates concerns about receiving checks in a timely manner on snow days or during the summer. To sign up for direct deposit, fill out the authorization agreement for automatic deposits, which is available on the school system Web site under the staff services page.

Attach a voided check to the form and forward to the payroll department. Allow one payroll cycle for information verification.

Airing this week ...

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newbreak 96, produced by the communications department. This episode features a segment on new teacher orientation, as well as back-to-school highlights. Visit www.ccboe.com/pr for programming schedules.

Superintendent, Sheriff greet students on first day back

Police officers welcomed students and parents with safety messages as they drove into Westlake High School on Monday for the first day of school.

It was the third year that the sheriff, superintendent of schools and school resource officers have greeted students with flyers reminding them of the rules of the road and wishing them a safe start to the school year.



Westlake High School's Pfc. Paul Anderson hands out the "Rules of the Road" to a Westlake students and parents as they arrive for the first day of school. This is the third year the school resource officers, along with Sheriff Rex Coffey and Superintendent James E. Richmond, have greeted students with a safe driving message.

A series of car crashes four years ago had left students and the community stunned and determined to work together in an attempt to prevent more accidents.

"We Care," a coordinated effort between the school system, sheriff's office and the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) has kept safe driving at the forefront of students' minds through checkpoints in school parking lots and activities including assemblies, driving simulations and student-created public service announcements.

LaQuan Holton, a senior at Westlake said he believes safe driving is vital and too many teens are still texting, talking and eating while driving. He said, "When accidents happen, you get our attention and we begin to listen."

Kayla Marshall, a Westlake senior and member of the school's student government association, said teens need to be safe and take precautions when driving. She said it is hard to get the message out, but students continue their efforts through the student government's "We Care" activities.

Knowing the rules of the road is one of the messages police and school officials are focusing on at the start of the school year.

Effective October 1, Maryland drivers are prohibited from using a cell phone without a hands-free device while driving. Schools plan to also attach Rules of the Road flyers to school parking permits as a reminder that students must drive safely on and off school property to keep their permit. The sheriff's office notifies schools when a student gets stopped and ticketed driving to or from school or a school event, which can lead to the loss of privileges.

"The safety of our students, both in and out of school, is always our priority and concern. It is important that we continue to educate students about safe driving as well as let them know that it is important to us that they drive and arrive safely to and from school," Superintendent James E. Richmond said.

Sheriff Rex Coffey said the sheriff's office remains committed to the safe driving effort. Throughout the school year, "Officers will continue to spot check drivers as they leave school parking lots, checking for seatbelt use and the number of passengers in students' cars.... While our work in this area will never rest, we ask that the entire Charles County community continue to support the program and see to it that our youngest drivers stay committed to this mission," Coffey said.

The Rules of the Roads, including explanations of the different types of teen driving licenses and the restrictions on each, can be found on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/students.cfm> under the Teen Driving Requirement link.

Information about teen driving requirements and parking privileges are published in the high school student handbooks.

Back to School

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Indian Head Elementary School science teacher Timothy Emhoff, left, welcomes first grader Lila Rahm, right, to the first day of the 2010-11 school year.

A three's class is opening at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School in Waldorf this month, bringing the total of schools with three-year-old programs to five. "Early childhood education plays an important role and helps with the proper development and education of a child. It is crucial and some children need these programs in order to be prepared for kindergarten. Any early childhood programs we can offer are good investments for the future," Richmond said.

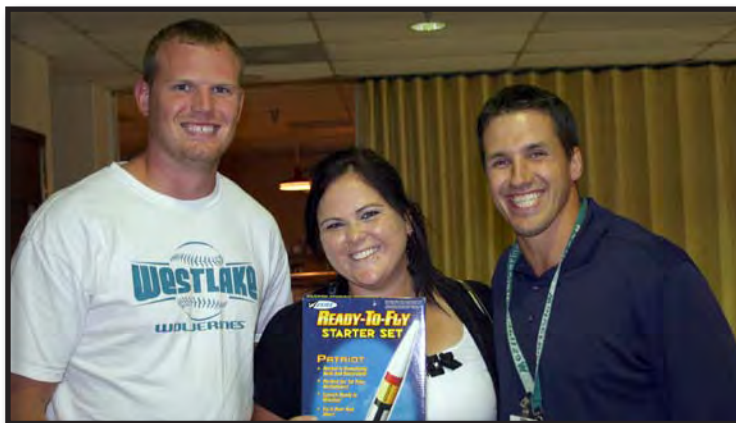
CCPS continues to strengthen its STEM offerings. SpringBoard, STEM e-Portfolio and SeaPerch are new programs this school year. SpringBoard is a College Board pre-advanced placement program. CCPS has added SpringBoard at the middle school level in math and language arts. SpringBoard will increase the

level of rigor in the curriculum as well as accelerate learning and help close the achievement gap, said Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Judy Estep.

The STEM e-Portfolio, or Maryland STEM Portfolio Project, is funded by a grant and gives teachers model lessons in problem-based learning using electronic portfolios. Charles County is one of five in MD to receive the grant, and teacher participants receive classroom Smart Boards, mounted projectors, GPS units for classroom use, a personal laptop, flip cameras and thumb drives for 30 students. The teachers learn to incorporate multiple types of software and technology and then develop model STEM problem-based learning lessons.

CCPS is also participating in SeaPerch, a federally funded pilot program designed to expose middle school students to exploration of naval architecture, marine and ocean engineering concepts. Selected students at Theodore G. Davis and Piccowaxen middle schools will participate in the after-school program that focuses on the development of robots that perform underwater maneuvers.

Communication between the school and home is about to get easier. Starting Sept. 20, the school system is launching software that allows parents to check online for information about their child, including middle and high school grades. Parents must sign up in person at their child's school and present a photo identification to receive an access code and password.



Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond welcomed teachers back to the 2010-11 school year with rocket kits on Tuesday, Aug. 24, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Bradley Grey, science teacher at Westlake High School, left, Karlyn Long, math teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, center, and Marty Margolis, physical education teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, right, along with other teachers who participated in the Space Discovery Institute this summer, received rocket kits to use with classroom lessons.

Mark Howell

Continued from page 1

son and school staff. Throughout his 30-year career in education, Howell has taught at the elementary, middle and high school levels. He was instrumental in bringing the Civics Mosaic Russian partnership and Civic Voices instruction to students in Charles County. In 2003, CCPS launched a partnership with a school in Penza, Russia through the Civics Mosaic program, in which students learn about political systems and ideology through the use of comparative methods. Howell was chosen as one of two initial Mosaic Fellows and traveled to Russia to collaborate with teachers and teach students.

Howell has maintained his connection with Penza, and uses video conferencing capabilities in class so his students can participate in live conversations with Russian students to discuss the differences in history, political and educational systems and culture. In his efforts to provide his students with a diverse understanding of history, Howell became involved with the Civic Voices program. The program pro-

vides teachers with the tools to work with their students to gather oral histories from civic activists. Once the histories are compiled, the content is uploaded to the Civic Voices Web site as part of an International Democracy Memory Bank, which features the work of students across eight countries.

Beyond the classroom, Howell is heavily involved in the musical activities of his church, where he serves as the volunteer music director. He works with children and adult choirs, hand-bell choirs and leads the praise band. He also helps teach Sunday School and enjoys traveling cross country with his wife, Judith, who is also a longtime CCPS educator, and his two children.

Howell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education and history, with a concentration in music from Westminster College in Pennsylvania. He has also participated in AP course training at La Salle University and Manhattan College, and holds an APC.

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North Point students invited to participate in Taste America

For the second consecutive year, a group of North Point High School culinary arts and strings students were invited July 29 to rub elbows with members of Congress at Taste America, an event coordinated with the end of Congress' session to celebrate culture, lifestyle and cuisine.

Culinary students Cierra Carroll, Amber Delgado, Joey Evans, Chris Lawrence and recent graduate Matthew Lorman worked with their instructor, Pam Jones, to prepare a menu for the more than 535 state senators and representatives. These students were selected for their participation in the culinary arts program. "My kids really look forward to this and work together to represent the school system," Jones said.

Rick Feeney, coordinator of Taste America, said he invited North Point culinary students to participate last year after he learned about the school's Science, Technology and Industry programs from Superintendent of Schools James Richmond. Feeney is a native of Charles County and "thought inviting these students was a great way to show off the tal-



North Point High School student Joey Evans, left, and 2010 graduate Matthew Lorman, right, meet Cathy Lanier, center, the chief of police with the District of Columbia's Metropolitan Police Department.

ents of students and the school system."

Students Michael Divino, Ashli Haggard, Alexander Hanna and Chanel Miller, who play as a string quartet, attended to play for senators and representatives. "The event, especially the student participation, is well received by members of Congress and their families," Feeney said.

North Point is one of only two student-based groups invited to participate. During this year's event, students mingled with congressional members

as they walked around through three separate dining areas and served attendees. Their menu of corn salsa, seafood salad, mini basil, turkey, ham and pesto paninis, as well as tiramisu squares and chocolate-peanut butter cheesecake bites, was very well received and attendees visited the student's several times throughout the evening to taste their work.

The event was launched in 1992 as a way to celebrate cuisine, and is sponsored by several businesses and organizations each year.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at 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

Building Service Worker – Mattawoman Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Mattawoman Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 10.

Special Education Instructional Assistant-Hiatus – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Instructional Assistant-Secondary – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Title 1 Budget Analyst – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Special Education Instructional Assistant-Life Skills – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Budget Analyst – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Mathematics Teacher – Theodore G Davis Middle School, 10-month position.

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

Special Education Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Position will be based in Language Arts inclusion classrooms.

Special Education Instructional Assistant/Emotionally Adjusted (EA) Program – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

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

Science Teacher – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 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.

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

Extra Pay

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Head swimming coach

Contact Principal L.C. Martin, 301-645-2601, to apply.

• **Maurice J. McDonough High School** has the following opening:

- Head junior varsity basketball coach

Contact Principal Jervie Petty, 301-934-2944, to apply.