

 *Where success is measured
one student at a time*



Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Resignation deadline

The deadline for resignation requests from non-tenured teachers is Monday, May 2. The deadline for resignation requests from tenured teachers is Friday, July 15. Letters must be submitted to human resources by the deadline. Call 301-934-7255 for more information.

Board/Commissioners meet

The Board of Education is holding a strategic planning work session with the Charles County Commissioners on Wednesday, May 4, 12 p.m., in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting will be televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and streamed on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/>.

Celebrate school nurses

National School Nurse Day is Wednesday, May 11. Be sure to thank the nurses in your schools and centers for all of their hard work and concern for student and staff health. The school nursing partnership formed between Charles County Public Schools and the Health Department in 1997. The program, which started as a pilot and expanded to all schools, provides ongoing health services to students and staff.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, May 11.

Third paycheck for April

Today's paycheck is the third paycheck in April. The only deductions taken from today's check are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third paycheck in a month with three pay dates.

Charles County Public Schools celebrates teachers



Charles County Public Schools celebrates its more than 2,040 teachers on Tuesday, May 4 as part of National Teacher Appreciation Day. Our teachers, such as Westlake High School's Patricia Fulcher, pictured left, work with students every day to ensure they achieve academic and personal success. See page 3 for a message from Superintendent James E. Richmond and the Board of Education.

Last day of school set for students and teachers

Students' last day of school for the 2010-11 school year is Monday, June 20. The last day for teachers is Tuesday, June 21. Charles County Public Schools used the four inclement weather days built into the school calendar. The dates are accurately listed in the 2010/11 Parent Handbook/Calendar. June 15, 16, 17 and 20 are two-hour early dismissal dates for students.

Important dates for the 2011-12 school year have been finalized by the Board of Education and are listed on page 2 of today's newsletter. Two-hour early dismissal dates for 2011-12 have not been finalized. Charles County Public Schools distributes

copies of the Parent Handbook/Calendar to staff during the week when teachers return to the classroom in August. An electronic version is also posted on the school system Web site, www2.ccboe.com, at the beginning of the school year.

The Board of Education approves the school calendar two years in advance. The dates for the 2012-13 calendar are on the agenda for approval at the May 11 Board of Education meeting. Proposed dates for 2012-13 are posted on the system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/calendars/calendars.cfm>.

Two county elementary schools earn Green status

The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Maryland Green School awards program recently named Dr. James Craik and Indian Head elementary schools as Maryland Green Schools. Both schools completed a two-year application process earlier this school year to become a Maryland Green School.

The application process requires schools to include documented classroom integration of environmental issues, demonstrate conservation practices and provide evidence of existing community partnerships that help enhance environmental learning. Proj-

ects implemented in Green Schools contribute to lowering green house gas emissions, reducing pollutant exports to the Chesapeake Bay, staunching solid waste disposal and increasing wildlife habitat.

Craik and Indian Head join 11 other Charles County schools that have completed the Green School application process. Since 2000, the awards program has honored Berry, Gale-Bailey, Arthur Middleton and J.C. Parks elementary schools, John Hanson, Matthew Henson, Milton M. Somers and Piccowaxen middle schools, and Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools as Mary-

See Green Schools, page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees recognized by the Board of Education April 5. Pictured, from left, are: Kathleen Adkisson, instructional specialist, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; Patricia Gray, mathematics teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Christine Dutrow, English teacher, North Point High School.

MAC meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting is Wednesday, May 4, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Camp discount for staff

The Henry E. Lackey High School Summer Youth Camp offers full-time school system staff a 50 percent enrollment discount for their children. The brochure and registration forms are available on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/lackey_youth_camp.cfm. Employees should include their identification number and the amount of the discounted price on each registration form. Contact Don Layton, 301-753-1753, for more information.

Interims issued

Charles County seniors will receive interim reports on Monday, May 2. All other students will receive interim reports on Monday, May 9.

New equipment is arriving

Charles County Public Schools is participating in the Federal Computers for Learning program and to date more than 2,000 pieces of equipment, both new and used, have been donated to the school system and placed in schools or centers. The school system is expecting about 600 new pieces of equipment, including flat screen monitors, to arrive soon. The new equipment will be placed in different schools based on need for updated equipment. Superintendent James E. Richmond said the donations are helping the school system with technology replacements during difficult budget times.

Tentative dates for 2011-12 calendar

The following is a partial calendar for the 2011-2012 school year. The calendar is subject to change throughout the school year and any changes are announced on the Charles County Public Schools Web site, www.ccboe.com. Two-hour early dismissal dates have not been finalized. The 2011-2012 Parent Handbook/Calendar will not be available until August.

- Aug. 15-19, 2011 – New teacher orientation week
- Aug. 22, 2011 – First day of school for returning teachers
- Aug. 29, 2011 – First day of school for students, K-12
- Sept. 5, 2011 – Labor Day, schools and offices closed
- Sept. 16, 2011 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only
- Oct. 21, 2011 – Maryland State Education Association Convention, schools closed
- Nov. 2, 2011 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only
- Nov. 11, 2011 – Veterans Day, schools and offices closed

- Nov. 23-25, 2011 – Thanksgiving holiday, schools and offices closed
- Dec. 22-30, 2011 – Winter break, schools closed for students and teachers
- Jan. 2, 2012 – Schools reopen
- Jan. 16, 2012 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, schools and offices closed
- Feb. 20, 2012 – Presidents Day, schools and offices closed
- March 12-28, 2012 – Maryland School Assessment testing window
- April 2-9, 2012 – Spring break, schools closed for students and teachers
- April 10, 2012 – Schools reopen for staff and closed for students, Primary Election Day
- April 11, 2012 – Students return from spring break
- May 28, 2012 – Memorial Day, schools and offices closed
- June 15, 2012 – Last day of school for students (with four inclement weather days built into the calendar)
- June 18, 2012 – Last day of school for teachers (with four inclement weather days built into the calendar)



Green Schools

continued from page 1

land Green Schools. Last year, the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center was also named a Maryland Green Center.

"I applaud all of our schools that have achieved Green School status. It is important that students understand environmental issues and learn what they can do to help conserve resources. The application process also incorporates curriculum in alignment with the school system's focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) practices and creates community involvement opportunities for our students," Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said.

Green Schools are recognized for using their sites to help students understand and act on environmental challenges in Maryland. Green Schools and Centers model

environmental practices in building and landscape design, and operation and maintenance. Green Schools and Centers are recognized for building and maintaining partnerships with their local community to enhance environmental learning and to design programs to result in a healthier environment.

Craik and Indian Head will officially be recognized as Green Schools during the Maryland Green School Youth Summit on June 3 at Sandy State Park. Each school will receive a Green School flag. Green Schools and Centers must renew their status every three years. The program is an integrated approach to learning that incorporates local environmental issue investigation and professional development with environmental best practices and community stewardship.



Teacher Appreciation Week

*National Teacher Appreciation Week
is May 1 - 7*

Thank you CCPS Teachers ...

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

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



Pictured clockwise, from top left, are: Eric Duchaj, Henry E. Lackey High School; Cynthia Lyles, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; Colleen Erickson, Thomas Stone High School; Ann Green, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Belynda Jarboe, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; Molly Simpson, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Brenda Hager, Dr. James Craik Elementary School; and Timothy Emhoff, Indian Head Elementary School.



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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 Patricia Vaira, Title IX Coordinator and 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 10 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 10, 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 student and staff recognition starts 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. The meeting is also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools Web site. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Henry E. Lackey High School's JROTC unit

Recognition of 2010-11 student liaisons

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Discipline update
- CIP update
- Educational facilities master plan

- Lifelong Learning Center and handwriting
- FY 2012 budget
- Out-of-county tuition fees
- New policy 5118 Elementary and Secondary: gang activity

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Presentation of Alan Shepard Award to Superintendent Richmond

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Alan Shepard Award
- Students
- Employees

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2012-2013 calendar

Public hearing on FY 2012 budget Adjournment



Staff notes

Register for the Space Academy

An early childhood space exploration class has been added to the summer Space Across the Curriculum class lineup this summer.

Taught by National Space Foundation instructors, the class centers on space and science education for early learners and provides early childhood educators tools to inspire young students through inquiry-based learning. Hands-on activities are specifically designed to instill the excitement of exploring the child's world and the wonderment of space and can be immediately used in the classroom, according to the Space Foundation's course description. The early childhood class is one of six offered free this summer.

Employees are urged to sign up for classes, which begin the week of July 18. The Institute includes six weeklong sessions for teachers. In addition to the early childhood

class, courses include rocketry, the biology of living in space, astronomy principles, space technologies and robots, the history and geology of Earth and long-term space travel. The sessions are designed to give teachers across all content areas new tools to keep science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education interesting for students. Each project also models how teachers can incorporate different learning aspects into lessons.

Courses are open to all content area teachers from the three's program to grade 12. Graduate credit is also available. The new early childhood class does not qualify for graduate credit; however, teachers are still able to get CPD credits.

Dates of classes are the weeks of July 18-22, July 25-29 and Aug. 1-5. Classes are held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School and are held 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration can be completed online at www2.ccboe.com/

space_foundation.cfm.

The schedule is as follows:

July 18 - July 22

- PreK-2 Early Childhood Space Exploration
- Earth Systems Science: Our Earth Revealed

July 25 - July 29

- Biological and Physical Research: Long-Term Space Travel
- Lunar/Mars Exploration and Base Construction
- Rocketry: The Future of Human Space Exploration

Aug. 1 - 5

- Astronomy Principles for the Classroom: Kinesthetic Astronomy
- Space Technologies for the Classroom: Nanotechnology and Space Spin-Offs

Contact Monique Wilson, coordinator of STEM education, at mwilson@ccboe.com or 301-934-7287, for more information.