



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

24-hour information line

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

Airing on NewsBreak 96

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of *NewsBreak 96*, a show produced by the communications department. This episode features a segment on the latest Board of Education work session, as well as highlights from a memorial service held in honor of former Matthew Henson Middle School Principal Ronald Stup. Visit www.ccboe.com/pr to view a programming schedule.

Travel, conference reports

Beginning this month, any travel mileage made after July 1 will be paid at \$.555 per mile, up from \$.51 per mile last school year. An updated mileage form is located on the forms database on the system Web site, and must be used in order to obtain the new rate. The form has also been revised and includes additional space for entries and an area to be filled in with the title of the employee. The form is for business travel only and should be submitted on a monthly basis. If an employee's total monthly travel is less than \$10, employees can submit a form every 60 days.

Additionally, conference travel must be submitted on a separate form. A new mileage guideline is also available on the forms database located on the staff services page of the system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices/forms.cfm>.

Six new principals named for 2011-12 school year

As preparations for the start of the 2011-12 school year begin, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) welcomes six new principals at the elementary, middle and high school levels. They are Verniece Rorie at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; Stephanie Nottingham at Eva Turner Elementary School; Kathy Kiessling at John Hanson Middle School; Sonia Jones at Matthew Henson Middle School; Kathy Perriello at General Smallwood Middle School; and Bradley Snow at Maurice J. McDonough High School. The Board of Education approved the appointments of the six new principals last month.



Verniece Rorie

Rorie began her career with the school system at Mitchell in 2006, where she has served as a vice principal for the past five school years. Before joining Charles County Public Schools, she served as an assistant principal for school districts in Virginia and also held positions as a learning disabilities teacher at the elementary and high school levels.



Stephanie Nottingham



Kathy Kiessling

Nottingham started her career with the school system at Berry Elementary School as a vice principal in 2002. She transferred to Turner in 2005 as a vice principal, where she has worked for the past six years. Prior to obtaining her position with Charles County Public Schools, Nottingham served as a science teacher with the Prince George's County Public Schools.

Kiessling began her career with Charles County Public Schools as a social studies teacher at Matthew Henson Middle School. She transferred

to Mattawoman Middle School the following year and also taught social studies at Thomas Stone High School before being appointed as a vice principal at Mattawoman in 2002. Kiessling was named as a vice principal at Hanson during the 2005-06 school year, where she has worked for the past six years.

Jones' career with the school system started at Henson in 2006. She served as a vice principal at the school for the past four years and was named acting principal at the school during the 2010-11 school year. Before joining CCPS, Jones was an assistant principal with District of Columbia Public Schools and taught in Prince George's County for more than eight years.



Sonia Jones

Perriello started her career in education at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School in 1989 as a foreign language teacher. She transferred to a similar position at Westlake High School in 1992, where she was named a vice principal in 1997. Perriello also served as an instructional specialist at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building for five years before transferring to Smallwood as a vice principal in 2005.



Kathy Perriello

Snow's career with the school system began at McDonough in 2000, where he taught health education for six years before being named vice principal at the school in 2006. He previously taught with the Addison Central School District in New York before joining CCPS.



Bradley Snow

State releases Maryland School Assessment data

Elementary and middle school students at Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) continue to work toward 2014 goals on the reading and mathematics Maryland School Assessment (MSA). In elementary schools, 86.5 percent of students scored proficient or advanced on the reading MSA and 84.1 percent on the mathematics test. In middle schools, 82.8 percent scored proficient or advanced on the reading MSA and 79.5 percent on the mathematics test.

“Thanks to the hard work of our outstanding staff and students, Charles County is making progress, especially in the areas of special education and free and reduced meals (FARMS) subgroups,” said Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond. “We still have a lot of work to do, and the improvement targets continue to get harder to meet as schools reach the 80 and 90 percent levels.”

The MSA reading composite score at the elementary level has risen 22 percentage points since 2003, when the tests first started. Elementary mathematics proficiency has increased by 19.9 points. Middle school reading proficiency has increased 16.6 percentage points since 2003, while middle school math proficiency has risen 33.4 points.

The MSA scores were released as part of the Maryland 2011 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) report, which uses the assessment data to determine if schools have met federal testing targets. The tests are required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that charts the progress of the overall student population in the grades tested as well as for students receiving special services and by racial subgroups. Scores are reported for a total of 12 tests, six reading and six math, taken in March by students in grades three through eight. Scores are expressed as the percentage of students who scored at or above the proficiency levels, which were set in 2003. The annual measurable objective (AMO) is the yearly benchmark established by the state for school systems to meet their goals by 2014. If one subgroup in a school does not meet the goal, the entire school does not make AYP.

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

- Overall, 13 of Charles County Public Schools 29 elementary and middle schools

met all testing targets and made AYP.

- Schools that did not meet every one of the overall or subgroup targets in mathematics or reading for two or more consecutive years are identified for School Improvement. Schools exit School Improvement if they meet every one of the area and subgroup targets for two consecutive years. Four of 29 CCPS schools have been identified as schools in improvement.

- In CCPS schools, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, which is a Title I school, entered into improvement status and is required to offer school choice to parents. Letters to all Barnhart parents will be sent by July 6 outlining their options for the next school year. Only Title I schools in school improvement are required to offer school choice. There are no CCPS schools in the “priority” stage, which is the most severe level of School Improvement. For more information about Maryland’s AYP process, visit <http://mdk12.org/assessments/ayp/index.html>.

- The targets that all students and subgroups had to meet went up this year, causing more CCPS schools to miss making AYP. Five of the schools that did not make AYP missed making it in only one subgroup.

“Schools face much greater challenges with meeting AYP as targets grow higher. Schools that did not meet AYP are not failing schools, but simply have areas where the teachers, staff and students must put more of a focused effort,” said Richmond. “We will work closely and collaboratively with these schools to address these areas in the coming year.”

Students in the special education and free and reduced meals (FARMS) subgroups also made significant gains on both the reading and mathematics tests. For a breakdown, read the press release posted on the CCPS Web site, www.ccooe.com/pr.

State, system and local school data are now available on the Maryland State Department of Education’s report card, www.mdreportcard.org. CCPS results can also be found at <http://www2.ccooe.com/msa/msa.cfm>.

In the coming months, the Maryland State Department of Education will release algebra and English II data, High School Assessments, system AYP, attendance and graduation numbers.



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from Mary H. Matula Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: E. Diane Simmons, elementary school teacher; Barbara Fitch, food service manager; and Shirley “Lissa” Butler, building service manager.

On Air

Charles County Public Schools communications department produces original programming for Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12. *On Air* is a monthly news show that highlights students and staff. July’s edition of *On Air* features interviews with the 2011 Teacher of the Year and Vice Principal of the Year, as well as comments from the Valedictorians and Salutatorians of the Class of 2011 about their high school memories and future plans. The episode is posted on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccooe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/>.

Three schools named winners

Student teams from three Charles County public schools were named winners last month in the Charles County Government’s “Going Green: What Does It Mean?” video contest. Mary B. Neal Elementary School was named the winner at the elementary school level. Picowaxen Middle School earned the overall middle school spot and students at North Point High School are the winners at the high school level.

The video contest is part of the county’s efforts to increase awareness about green initiatives. Each team was recognized at the Charles County 2011 Green Expo last month and received a \$200 prize.

Payroll Update

Starting with the July 8 paycheck, some employees may see a decrease in their net pay due to the deduction for teacher retirement. The pre-tax teacher’s pension deduction (RET 2) has increased from 5 percent to 7 percent, which was mandated by the Maryland State Retirement Agency. Contact the payroll department at 301-934-7347 for more information or with questions.

Principal and Vice Principal assignments for the 2011-12 school year

The following is a list of principal and vice principal assignments for all Charles County public schools for the 2011-12 school year. The Board of Education approved the appointments of six new principals and eight new vice principals, which set in motion reassignments of most elementary school principals. Additionally, twelve vice principals were transferred as a result of the changes, which were effective July 1.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS/VICE PRINCIPALS

- **C. Paul Barnhart Elementary**
Principal - Amy DiSabatino
Vice Principal - Troy Barnes
- **Berry Elementary**
Principal - Marvin Jones
Vice Principal - Shannon Finnegan
- **Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary**
Principal - Darryl Evans
Vice Principal - Deborah Brown
- **Dr. James Craik Elementary**
Principal - Penny Nye
Vice Principal - Cynthia Panizzi-Williams
- **William A. Diggs Elementary**
Principal - Sandra Taylor
Vice Principal - Jacqueline Couvillon
- **Gale-Bailey Elementary**
Principal - Carolyn Richardson
Vice Principal - Tara Moore
- **Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary**
Principal - Kathleen Morgan
Vice Principal - Doris Davis
- **Indian Head Elementary**
Principal - Toni Melton-Trainor
Vice Principal - Tina Francis
- **Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary**
Principal - Linda Gill
Vice Principal - Karen Lewis
- **Malcolm Elementary**
Principal - Wilhelmina Pugh
Vice Principal - Melissa Williams
- **T. C. Martin Elementary**
Principal - Gregory Miller
Vice Principal - Caroline Timmons
- **Mary H. Matula Elementary**
Principal - Timothy Rosin
Vice Principal - Jean Ritter
- **Arthur Middleton Elementary**

- Principal - Sabrina Robinson-Taylor
Vice Principal - Patricia Mooring
- **Walter J. Mitchell Elementary**
Principal - Verniece Rorie
Vice Principal - Michelle Beckwith
- **Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary**
Principal - Kristin Shields
Vice Principal - Laurie Brown-Abdelma-geed, Ph.D.
- **Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary**
Principal - Kimberly Hairston
Vice Principal - Natalie Marston
- **Mary B. Neal Elementary**
Principal - Carol Leveillee
Vice Principal - Daphne Burns
- **J. C. Parks Elementary**
Principal - Thadine Wright
Vice Principal - Tynika Lytle
- **J. P. Ryon Elementary**
Principal - Robert Opiekun
Vice Principal - Diane Laveglia
- **Eva Turner Elementary**
Principal - Stephanie Nottingham
Vice Principal - William Miller
- **William B. Wade Elementary**
Principal - Virginia McGraw
Vice Principal - Nancy Vogt

MIDDLE SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS/ VICE PRINCIPALS

- **Theodore G. Davis Middle**
Principal - Wendell Martin
Vice Principal - Kimberly Holmes
Vice Principal - Linda Metheny
Vice Principal - Brad Williams
- **John Hanson Middle**
Principal - Kathy Kiessling
Vice Principal - Laura Coffren
Vice Principal - Ben Kohlhorst
Vice Principal - Yvonne Nichols
- **Matthew Henson Middle**
Principal - Sonia Jones
Vice Principal - J. T. Hanley
Vice Principal - Kathleen Morris
- **Mattawoman Middle**
Principal - Douglass Dolan
Vice Principal - Christina Caballero
Vice Principal - Debra Calvert
Vice Principal - Steven Miller
- **Piccowaxen Middle**
Principal - Kenneth Schroeck
Vice Principal - Charmaine Young-Waddy

- **General Smallwood Middle**
Principal - Kathy Perriello
Vice Principal - Brenda Tillotson
Vice Principal - Allen Wright
- **Milton M. Somers Middle**
Principal - Stephanie Wesolowski
Vice Principal - Jerome Petty
Vice Principal - Belinda Shatley
- **Benjamin Stoddert Middle**
Principal - Robert Babiak
Vice Principal - Jennifer Branham
Vice Principal - Tammika Little

HIGH SCHOOLS PRINCIPALS/VICE PRINCIPALS

- **Henry E. Lackey High**
Principal - James Short
Vice Principal - Richard Conley
Vice Principal - Peggy Tisdale
Vice Principal - Pauline Johnson
Vice Principal - Glenn Jones
- **La Plata High**
Principal - Evelyn Arnold
Vice Principal - Matthew Loyd
Vice Principal - Veronica Crawford
Vice Principal - Danny Henry
Vice Principal - Curry Werkheiser
- **Maurice J. McDonough High**
Principal - Bradley Snow
Vice Principal - Terri St. Clair
Vice Principal - Lori Gibson
Vice Principal - Mark Gladfelter
Vice Principal - Steven Roberts
- **North Point High**
Principal - Kimberly Hill
Vice Principal - Carrie Akins
Vice Principal - Michael Heim
Vice Principal - Kimberly McClarin
Vice Principal - Michael Simms
Vice Principal - Ronald Wilson
- **Thomas Stone High**
Principal - Larry Martin
Vice Principal - John Hairston
Vice Principal - Susan McCormick
Vice Principal - Michael Meiser
Vice Principal - Carl Pascarella
- **Westlake High**
Principal - Chrystal Benson
Vice Principal - Dean Brooks
Vice Principal - Cheryl Davis
Vice Principal - Victor DiBella
Vice Principal - Shelly McDaniel



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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.

Stone, Turner named 2011 National Promising Practice winners

Eva Turner Elementary School and Thomas Stone High School were recently named 2011 Promising Practice Award winners by the Character Education Partnership for their efforts in character education. They were selected from more than 500 schools nationwide and are among 260 to receive the honor this year. The award recognizes schools and districts that have developed specific, unique and effective educational practices that promote character development.

Stone was recognized for their class character competition called "The Golden Stone," which focuses on student service learning and service to the community. As part of the competition, students compete monthly in categories such as attendance, food drives, blood drives, clothing drives and student grade point averages in an attempt to earn the most points as a class to win the overall prize - the golden stone.

The competition was implemented during the 2007-08 school year and is spearheaded by the student government association. The implementation of the program has resulted in an increase in attendance and decline in suspensions over the past four school years. Additionally, Stone has experienced an increase in student community involvement, teamwork among classes and sportsmanship.

Turner was honored for their recess station program, which was implemented in 2008 to reduce the

number of referrals occurring during recess time. John Sine, physical education teacher at Turner, designed game stations for students to participate in during recess and works with students during their physical education period to learn about the games and skills needed to participate. The program promotes teamwork and includes activities and games for students in prekindergarten through grade 5.

Students also learn appropriate social skills and better transition from the classroom to periods of unstructured time, such as recess. As a result of the program, recess office referrals have declined and students spend more time during recess working in groups at the recess stations.

The Character Education Partnership sponsors the annual program to showcase innovative best practices that promote character education. Turner and Stone, along with the other national award recipients, will be honored at the 18th National Forum on Character Education in October. For more information on national character education programs, visit www.character.org.

Earlier this year, both schools were also recognized by the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE) for their efforts in character education and creating a positive school climate. Turner was named a 2011 Maryland School of Character, and Stone was named a 2011 Emerging School of Character awards recipient.

Staff notes

Job Openings

Secretary to the Supervising School Psychologist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by July 15.

Secretary to the Principal – William B. Wade Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by July 11.

Instructional Assistant, Title I/Three-year-old program – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Associates degree, 48 college credits or a passing score of 455 on the PRAXIS ParaPro Assessment is required. Apply by July 14.

School Psychologists – Two openings at locations to be determined, 10.5 month positions. Apply by July 14.

Health and Physical Education Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and five years of teaching experience is required.

Spanish Teachers – Openings at Henry E. Lackey, Maurice J. McDonough and North Point high schools, and Benjamin Stodert and Matthew Henson middle schools, 10-month positions.

Chemistry Teachers – Openings at La Plata and North Point high schools, 10-month positions.

Earth Science Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Latin Teacher – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

La Plata High School has the following openings:

- Junior varsity volleyball coach
 - Junior varsity girls' basketball coach
 - Junior varsity wrestling coach
 - Junior varsity boy's basketball coach
- Contact Clifford Nagle, athletic director, at 301-934-1100 to apply.

North Point High School has the fol-

lowing openings:

- Fall varsity cheerleading coach
- Fall junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Fall freshman cheerleading coach
- Winter varsity cheerleading coach
- Winter junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Winter freshman cheerleading coach
- Winter head boys and girls indoor track coach
- Winter assistant spring track coach
- Spring head varsity softball coach
- Spring junior varsity softball coach
- Spring assistant softball coach
- Spring assistant track coach

Contact Aly Khan Johnson, athletic director, at 301-753-1759 to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity boys Soccer
- Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, at 301-934-2944 to apply.