

# School News



## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Educational Showcase

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is hosting its second annual Educational Showcase on Saturday, April 21, at North Point High School. The event begins at 9 a.m. and will feature more than 30 educational presentations on popular topics for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as general sessions targeted for students of all ages.

### Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, April 25.

### Cruisers and castles...

The drama department at Maurice J. McDonough High School is presenting its spring play, "Grease," next weekend. Show times are April 19-20, at 7 p.m., April 21 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and April 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$7 for thespians who provide their school identification card. Tickets can be purchased at the door or online at [www.mcdonoughdrama.com](http://www.mcdonoughdrama.com). School system employees also receive a complementary ticket by showing their identification badge.

Henry E. Lackey High School is also presenting their spring play, Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," next weekend on April 20-21 at 7 p.m., and 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 22. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, senior citizens and military service members and \$6 for thespians. School system staff receive two free tickets by showing their identification badge.

There is also a "Lunch with the Characters" performance available at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. Cost is \$10 and includes a cold lunch and time for photographs with main characters, and a 1 p.m. performance. Reservations for this performance are required. Call 301-743-5431 for more information.

## Stone students get 'Every 15 Minutes' reminder

The Grim Reaper visited a Thomas Stone High School classroom every 15 minutes on Thursday, leaving behind a "living dead" student who silently reminded classmates of the consequences of drinking or texting while driving.

The Thomas Stone Student Government Safe Driving Task Force participated in the National Every 15 Minutes program on April 12 and 13, which included a mock automobile accident, the removal by the Grim Reaper of 30 preselected students from classrooms and a post-school trial of the "drunk" driver who caused the morning accident. Sponsored and coordinated by the Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD), Every 15 Minutes is a national two-day program that encourages students to think about personal safety when driving, especially when alcohol or texting are involved. The program challenges students to recognize that their actions affect others besides themselves.

Traffic collisions are the leading cause of death among teen-age youth, said Guy

Yesse, event coordinator and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) lieutenant with the WVFD. The program goal, which is geared toward eleventh- and twelfth-grade students, is to educate teens through realistic experiences that simulate the magnitude of tragedies caused by drunk driving and texting while driving, Yesse said.

At the end of the day, students who participated in the staged accident as well as those who were made-up as the "living dead" were taken to Camp Merrick in Nanjemoy for an overnight retreat.

Students made a presentation on Friday when they were "brought back to life." The focus of the assembly stressed that the decision to consume alcohol can affect many more people than just the one who drinks and the dangers of texting while driving. "This program has a powerful message that is designed to prevent drunk driving and texting while driving," said Thomas Stone Principal L.C. Martin. "If we save one student's life, it is worth it," Martin added.



**The Waldorf Volunteer Fire Department sponsored a simulated car crash as part of the "Every 15 minutes" program at Thomas Stone High School. Pictured are Riley Thutchley, junior, in the back seat of the car, and senior, Taylor Eshleman on the car hood.**

## Transfer rule includes provisions for employees

Employees will still be able to request school transfers for their children under a new rule adopted by the Board of Education this week, but the choice of schools will be limited.

On April 10, the Board of Education agreed to Superintendent James E. Richmond's changes to Rule 5126 that tighten the

criteria for transfers for children of employees. The biggest change for employees is that transfer approvals for their children are now restricted to the elementary, middle or high school that is zoned for the employee's work location. For example, an employee at Maurice J. McDonough High School who lives in a different school zone may receive

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## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at their April 10 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Jennifer Davis, third-grade teacher, Indian Head Elementary School; Christine Turner, language arts teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Frances Austin, special education teacher, Westlake High School.

### PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Visit the PAC section of the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/pac.cfm> for additional information and notes from previous meetings.

### SECAC awards ceremony

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will host an awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 25, at 7 p.m., at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. Honorees are nominated by parents and community members for recognition for their contributions to children. Call the Parent Center at 301-934-7456 for more information.

### Gifted education meeting

Charles County Public Schools is hosting a gifted education parent meeting on Wednesday, April 25, at 6:30 p.m., in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7457 for more information.

### CRD breakfast

The Career Research and Development (CRD) Employee-Employer breakfast is Thursday, April 26, at 8 a.m., at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. Each year, the school system sponsors the event to recognize students in the CRD program and one student is selected by a panel of staff, community members and business representatives as the CRD Student of the Year.

The program provides high school students with on-the-job training and work experience. Visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) for more information on the CRD program.

## Tentative dates for the 2012-13 calendar

The following is a partial calendar for the 2012-2013 school year. The calendar is subject to change throughout the school year and any changes are announced on the Charles County Public Schools website, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). The 2012-2013 Parent Handbook/Calendar will be available in August.

- Aug. 13-17, 2012 – New teacher orientation week
- Aug. 20, 2012 – First day of school for returning teachers
- Aug. 27, 2012 – First day of school for students, K-12
- Sept. 3, 2012 – Labor Day, schools and offices closed
- Sept. 14, 2012 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only
- Oct. 19, 2012 – Maryland State Education Association Convention, schools closed
- Nov. 6, 2012 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only
- Nov. 12, 2012 – Veterans Day, schools and offices closed
- Nov. 21-23, 2012 – Thanksgiving holiday, schools and offices closed

- Dec. 24-31, 2012 – Winter break, schools closed for students and teachers
- Jan. 1, 2013 – Schools and offices closed
- Jan. 2, 2013 – Schools reopen
- Jan. 21, 2013 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, schools and offices closed
- Feb. 18, 2013 – Presidents Day, schools and offices closed
- March 4-19, 2013 – Maryland School Assessment testing window
- March 29-April 5, 2013 – Spring break, schools closed for students and teachers
- May 27, 2013 – Memorial Day, schools and offices closed
- June 10, 2013 – Last day of school for Three's program
- June 14, 2013 – Last day of school for students (with four in-clement weather days built into the calendar)
- June 17, 2013 – Last day of school for teachers (with four in-clement weather days built into the calendar)

## Schools recognized by MSDE for testing advances

Nine Charles County public schools earned recognition in the 2011 Maryland School Performance Recognition Program, which honors schools for academic and subgroup achievement on the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) or the High School Assessment (HSA).

Four schools were honored for overall academic achievement. They are Dr. James Craik Elementary School, Milton M. Somers and Piccowaxen middle schools, and La Plata High School. Somers and Piccowaxen, as well as La Plata, were also honored for subgroup achievement.

Five schools were honored for subgroup achievement. They are Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Malcolm, Mary H. Matula and Walter J. Mitchell elementary schools, and Westlake High School.

The program, facilitated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), honors schools for performance on the 2011 MSA or the HSA, and for improving the performance of special populations of students. Only schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2010-11 school year were eligible for recognition.

Subgroups are special populations that include race/ethnicity, special education, limited English proficiency, and students receiving free- or reduced-price meals. The program was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1996, and is now required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

For more information on the program, visit [www.msde.maryland.gov/msde](http://www.msde.maryland.gov/msde).

## Explore the solar system and beyond through the Space Discovery Institute

Are you interested in learning about rockets, space transportation, the effect of microgravity on the human body or the future of space exploration? Sign up for the Space Discovery Institute, offered this summer through Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) partnership with the Colorado Springs-based Space Foundation.

The institute is available for Charles County Public Schools teachers and certificated staff, and will be held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. The four, weeklong sessions focus on astronomy, biological and physical research, rocketry and space technologies in the classroom. There are 50 available spaces per session and participants can sign up for more than one session. The sessions run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the schedule is as follows:

- Astronomy Principles for the Classroom - July 23-27: this course focuses on exciting ways to bring the universe into the classroom. Topics include motions of the heavens, astronomical research tools, stars and constellations, auroras and planets. Participants will also participate in a night of planet and stargazing with telescopes.
- Space Technologies in the Classroom: Robotics and Nanotechnology – July 23-27: this course examines the use of space technologies in society. Through field trips and hands-on demonstrations, participants will receive an introduction to space transportation and design, robotics, communications, space power and space structures. Participants will explore a variety of space technologies and con-

struct their own robot, and will also learn about the field of nanotechnology.

- Rocketry Space History and Future of Space Flight - July 30-Aug. 3: participants will learn about the history of rocketry and space exploration, and will build various rockets to use in the classroom with students. The course also features information on the structure and design of rocketry, Newton's Laws of Motion, as well as aerodynamics.
- Biological and Physical Research: Long-Term Space Travel – July 30 – Aug. 3: this course covers the effects of microgravity on the human body and other dangers that space exploration presents for humans. Participants will learn about immunology, brain research, cardiovascular and skeletal impacts and will have the opportunity to experience the effects of disorientation during space flight.

The free sessions are open to CCPS teachers across all subjects and grade levels. Participants also have the option of completing sessions for professional development or graduate credit. All courses will be taught by Space Foundation staff and include a light breakfast and lunch.

Staff members will receive registration information by e-mail later this month. For additional information, contact Monique Wilson, instructional specialist for STEM, at 301-934-7287 or [mwilson@ccboe.com](mailto:mwilson@ccboe.com).



## Applications sought from teachers interested in National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard Professional or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Applicants must submit a candidate packet, which includes a letter of interest, a one-page essay indicating why they want to pursue national certification and how it will enhance their teaching competencies and effectiveness, a letter of recommendation from their principal or supervisor and a current resume. Candidates are screened by a review committee to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in the 2012-13 fee incentive program. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) limits the number of applicants for the school system to 10 candidates, and the \$2,500 application fee is funded by MSDE and CCPS.

Teachers choosing to pursue National Board Certification must complete a demanding two-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills by developing a portfolio that reflects various aspects of their teaching background and attend an assessment center during the 2012-13 application cycle, where they will complete six intensive, timed exercises. There are 25 certification areas and educators who earn National Board Certification earn six approved professional development credits, an annual \$1,000 stipend from MSDE and \$2,500 from the school system.

Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 27. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. For more information, visit the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards website, [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org) or call 301-934-7241.



## Transfer

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a transfer approval for their child to attend McDonough, General Smallwood Middle School or James Craik, which are zoned for McDonough.

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of Student Services will determine all transfer requests, and employees are required to fill out a school change form for the transfer.

The rule applies to all full-time employees; however, if the employee lives outside of Charles County, the county tuition will be waived, but the employee is responsible for paying any costs above the established regular education county student rate.

Students receiving transfers must provide their own transportation to and from school and may not participate in athletics for one

year. Athletic participation dates are determined by the transfer date.

Students granted school transfers prior to the 2012-13 school year are allowed to remain in their current school until they are no longer enrolled in the specific school, unless the Superintendent rescinds the transfer. Reasons for rescinding a transfer could include student behavioral, attendance or academic issues.

The Board voted on April 10 to approve the rule, after sending the Superintendent's suggested changes for review by a Board committee last month.

A link to the complete copy of the approved rule can be found at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices.cfm> at the bottom of the page.

School News is published by Charles County Public Schools  
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**Board of Education announces May meeting agenda**

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 8, 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 website. Visit <http://www2.ccboc.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

**Executive session – 12 p.m.**

**Call to order – 1 p.m.**

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

**Recognition of student liaisons**

**Superintendent's update**

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) programs
- CIP update
- Educational facilities master plan
- Title I homeless project

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition – 4:30 p.m.**

- Students
- Employees

**Public Forum – 6 p.m.**

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2013-2014 calendar
- Budget amendment FY 2012

**Adjournment**



**April 30 work session**

The Board of Education is also holding a work session on Monday, April 30, starting at 6 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Agenda items include:

- Core curriculum
- Superintendent search

A complete work session agenda is posted on the Charles County Public Schools website at [www.ccboc.com/pr](http://www.ccboc.com/pr).

**Personnel**

**Job Openings**

**Media Specialist** – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

**Science Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

**Autism Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years experience required.

**Instructional Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years experience required.

**Food Service Program Support Manager** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A minimum of three years experience required.

**Extra pay position**

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

- Head varsity wrestling coach

Contact Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.

**Staff notes**

**Summer centers registration**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) summer centers program is offering unique instructional experiences for gifted and talented students entering grades three through 12. The program offers one- to three-week residential and non-residential programs with a focus on the arts, sciences, technology, computer science and engineering. The activities are designed to encourage critical thinking, creativity and problem solving while challenging students academically. An online brochure and application forms are available from local gifted and talented education coordinators or on the MSDE website at [www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/summercenters](http://www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/summercenters). Applications must be postmarked by April 15. Contact Stephanie Zenker at 410-767-0821 for more information.

**Early childhood registration**

Registration for prekindergarten and kindergarten students begins Monday, April 23, at all Charles County public elementary schools.

To enter prekindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, students must be four years old by September 1. To be eligible for kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year, students must be five years old by September 1.

Registration for in-county students is conducted at the individual elementary schools. To find out what elementary school your address is zoned for, use the School Locator feature on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www2.ccboc.com/schoollocator/>. Contact the department of student services at 301-934-7326 if you need information about registering a child who is moving to the area.