



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Memorial Day closure

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, May 28, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Graduation dates

Westlake, Thomas Stone and Maurice J. McDonough high schools will have their graduation ceremonies on Monday, June 4, at the Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro. The ceremony for Westlake is at 9 a.m., Stone's is at 2 p.m. and McDonough's is at 7 p.m. Graduation ceremonies for Henry E. Lackey, La Plata and North Point high schools are Tuesday, June 5. The ceremony for Lackey is at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. for La Plata at the Show Place Arena. The ceremony for North Point is 7 p.m. in the school's gymnasium.

Mudd receives library books

As part of the Read for My School campaign, sponsored by We Give Books and the Pearson Foundation, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School recently received 194 free books to add to the school's library. The national campaign challenged public elementary school students, staff and parents to read 150,000 books online within 30 days. Participating schools earned books to add to their library collection, and the maximum amount of books a school could receive was 500.

McDonough heads to finals

The Maurice J. McDonough High School varsity girls' softball team is competing for the Maryland 2A championship title this Friday, May 25, at 6 p.m. at the University of Maryland College Park. As the 2A regional champion, the McDonough team faces Liberty High School of Carroll County. Tickets can be purchased on the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSA) website at <http://mpssaa.ticketleap.com/>.

Budget shortages result in cuts to summer programs

Budget shortfalls have caused cancellation of summer reading and math academies this year. Superintendent James E. Richmond said he hopes the cancellation is temporary and that the programs can be added to future operating budgets.

Charles County Public Schools will continue to hold summer school for students who have failed classes and special education summer programs. Summer school is mandatory and funded by direct payment from parents and students. Special education summer camps and programs are grant funded.

The Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSCC) has committed to funding summer Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Engineering Academy opportunities for seventh- and eighth-grade students. Additionally, summer programs funded through the Judy Centers will also be held.

Superintendent James E. Richmond made the announcement this week saying he hopes this is only a temporary suspension of the summer academy program that was started in 1998. "It saddens me to discontinue the summer camps. During my tenure, we have always had reading and math academies for children to help build on their reading foundations. We continue to look at ways to maintain quality programs, but as our mandatory costs increase, we face hard funding decisions," Richmond said.

The summer academies were held each summer at the elementary, middle and high school levels. At the elementary level, the

program focused on students in grades kindergarten through four who need additional support in reading and math. It also included enrichment reading and math. Middle school academies also served students needing math and reading support and some enrichment offerings. High school academies focused on incoming ninth graders who needed additional support in algebra, reading and English, STARS students, students working on High School Assessment requirements through the "Bridge Plan," SAT and ACT preparation and Advanced Placement history preparation.

Richmond started summer reading academies during the summer of 1998 at 10 elementary schools. The program eventually grew to all elementary, middle and high schools and to include math and enrichment opportunities. The summer programs, over the past several years, have been funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Shortly after he was appointed, Richmond instituted a five-year plan that focuses on academic achievement, career readiness and personal responsibility. After careful research, the Superintendent determined that the strongest challenge to student achievement in Charles County is the students' reading skills. After reviewing second- and third-grade reading scores, it became clear that a reading intervention program was needed. The Summer Reading Academy was one of a number of reading interventions initiated for students.



Reading Recovery teacher Mary Bailey, left, works one-on-one to help Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School student Christopher Diaz, right, with his reading and writing skills. Bailey is one of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) more than 2,000 teachers. See page three for a photo celebration of CCPS.



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education during their April and May meetings. Pictured, from left, are: Thomas Weirich, principal, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; Laurie Silk, secretary, Mary B. Neal Elementary School; and Melissa Walter, instructional specialist, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.

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 camp will be held June 18 to July 13 and provides supervised activities including soccer, touch football and swimming. A brochure and registration materials are posted on the school system website 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, program coordinator, at 301-753-5431 for more information.

Airing now on Channel 96

Airing now on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, a feature show that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. Featured in this episode is the story of a student who overcame adversity through inspiration from Jackie Robinson, dates for sports physicals to be administered at the county's six high schools this summer and an update on the Charles County Board of Education's search for a new Superintendent of Schools. Visit www.ccboe.com for a programming schedule.

Executive session on June 4

The Board of Education of Charles County is holding an executive session at 11 a.m., Monday, June 4, at the Show Place Arena located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The meeting is closed as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act of the State Government Article to discuss budget negotiations.

The session is being held at the Show Place Arena because the Board is attending graduation ceremonies at the arena on June 4.



Bingham earns state History Fair honor

Michele Bingham, a social studies teacher at La Plata High School and History Day coordinator, was chosen to represent Maryland at the National History Day event as the Patricia Behring High School History Day Teacher of the Year. Bingham began her teaching career with Charles County Public Schools as a social studies teacher at John Hanson Middle School in 1997, and moved to La Plata in 2007. As the Maryland awardee, Bingham is eligible for the national award which will be announced at the national event on June 11-14 at the University of Maryland. Bingham, second from left, was honored on April 28 by Sen. Thomas Mike Miller, Jr., left, Sen. Benjamin Cardin, center right, and Jack Tuttle, right, content specialist in social studies.

Adult Independence Program graduates take a bow

Jeffrey Willie moved closer to his career goal on May 18 when he graduated, along with 16 other students, from the Charles County Public Schools Adult Independence Program (AIP).

He aspires to be a maintenance worker, like his dad, and through the AIP, he learned many of the life skills he needs to be successful. "I am going to keep working and apply for a maintenance job to follow in my father's footsteps," said Willie, who works at Safeway and volunteers at Morningside House as a maintenance assistant.

Joining Willie, and accepting graduation certificates were, Derek Cleland, Lorenzo Flaim, Kevin Ford, Tonia Hagens, Nashea Hart, Alexander Johnson, Nicole Johnson, David McGhee, Samantha Noel, Jenna Reyes, Katie Stillwell, Takia Thompson, Courtney Trusty, Kyle West, Edwin Willie and Marcellis Wills.

Students in the program are trained to search for employment and to complete job applications, as well as how to access public transportation. There were 24 participating employers in the 2011-12 program. Some of the participating employers in-

cluded Texas Roadhouse, Modell's Sporting Goods, Goodwill Industries, Nanjemoy Landscaping and T.J. Maxx.

Graduation was an exciting day for the graduates. "I won," said Courtney Trusty as she raced to hug her parents. Other graduates grinned, while some proudly held their certificates in the air. Another graduate took a bow as he ended his experience with the AIP that has provided him with tools for success.

The program provides students with community learning experiences that give each individual the experiences of being independent. Throughout the program, which is designed for student's ages 18 to 21, students acquire adult skills and apply them to community environments.

The ceremony was held at North Point High School and included a picture slideshow of the graduates. The keynote speaker for the event was Michelle Bradshaw, a Life Skills teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School. The students accepted their certificates from Tony Silva, special education instructional specialist for Charles County Public Schools.



Teacher Appreciation

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



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Board of Education announces June 14 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, June 12, 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 recognition begins 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. Program schedules for Channel 96 are available on the Charles County Public Schools website at 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

Swearing-in of new Student Board member

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Adult Independence Program staff recognition
- Graduation update
- CIP update

- JROTC
- Lifestyles of Charles County
- Budget update
- Breakfast program participation

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Outstanding vice principal award
- Outstanding support staff awards
- Resolution – *Charles County Teacher of the Year* – Kerrie Seberg, third-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School
- Employees retirement resolution

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Educational facilities master plan

Adjournment



Personnel

Job Openings

Special Education Instructional Assistant

– Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by May 25.

General Maintenance Worker – Charles County Public Schools Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by May 31.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month elementary position. Master's degree in early childhood education or reading and a minimum of three years experience required.

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

Science Teachers – Openings at county middle and high schools, 10-month positions.

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

Drama Teachers – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

English Teachers – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

Latin Teachers – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

Mathematics Teachers – Openings at county middle and high schools, 10-month positions.

Technology Teachers – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

Language Arts Teachers – Openings at county middle schools, 10-month positions.

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

Special Education Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

IEP Facilitator – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

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

Speech and Language Pathologist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree required.

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

Teacher – Academy of Health Professions Pharmacy Technician – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Varsity baseball coach

Contact Steven Lee, athletic director, 301-645-2601, to apply.

North Point High School has the following openings:

- Assistant girls' soccer coach
- Assistant boys' soccer coach

Contact A.K. Johnson, athletic director, 301-753-1759, to apply.