

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Welcome back

Welcome back to teachers and staff. Veteran teachers return to the classroom on Tuesday, Aug. 21. Students begin school on Monday, Aug. 27.

2012-13 Calendar

An electronic copy of the *2012-13 Parent Handbook/Calendar* is available on the school system website, under the calendars tab located on the home page. Printed copies will be delivered to all schools and centers next week. Requests for additional copies will not be honored until after the school year begins to ensure all students and staff receive a copy. The direct link to the calendar is <http://www2.ccboe.com/PDF/parent-handbook-calendar.pdf>.

Bus hotline

The school system has a bus hotline for parents to call with questions about bus routes. Call 301-932-6655 to access the hotline, which is available Aug. 23-24, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Aug. 27-28, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bus route information is also available on the School Locator feature on the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/schoollocator/>.

Labor Day

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day.

This week in CCPS

This Week in Charles County Public Schools is a short news item compiled on Fridays and sent via e-mail to all employees during the school year. This Week provides informational links to news items, school system accomplishments and facts, as well as upcoming events that employees might like to attend.

System welcomes new teachers for 2012-13 year

New teachers started their jobs this week with an orientation and a welcome to Charles County Public Schools. So far this school year, the school system has hired 138 teachers, including 74 secondary, 29 elementary and 35 special education. As of Monday, there were four teacher vacancies.

The message of the three-day orientation was "Be the Difference," and Superintendent James E. Richmond urged new teachers to cause children to want to succeed

and to be the difference by motivating and providing excitement and encouragement for students. "Welcome to a great profession," Richmond said. "Please don't ever lose your passion for children."

Before heading to staff development sessions, new teachers were treated to musical and JROTC performances by students as well as advice by Charles County Public Schools top teachers, the Board chairman and a student.

Board Chairman Roberta Wise used Mary Madden's poem "Seashells" to get her message across. Madden compares seashells to students, and ends her poem with the following:

*"The shell you have in your hand is unique.
It was carried to shore by the
ocean just for you.
What will you do with it now
that it is yours?
Each student in your class is unique, too.
Each one is in your hands now.
What will you do with your students now
that they are yours?"*

Wise, a former Teacher of the Year, asked the new educators to keep the poem in mind as they start their careers.



Three new Charles County Public Schools special education teachers, Jessica Phelps, left, Alexa Batterman, center, and Phoebe Westbrook, right, get to know one another while walking to their orientation sessions on Monday, Aug. 13.

Kerrie Seberg, the 2012 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year, encouraged teachers to take in the tons of information presented to them over the next several weeks, filter it and use what works. "Our students are on loan to us for 180 days and we have an obligation to make the best of this time," she said.

David Bradshaw, the *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher, said his advice is to share and reach out to colleagues for help and to make meaningful connections with the students in their classes. "Lead with your heart ... I challenge you to be the leader our students need," he said.

Dion Anderson, a Westlake High School student and president of the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC), said teachers who can get the most out of students are always the favorites. He said he likes teachers who listen to him and who are excited and willing to help a student outside of the classroom.

Charles County Public Schools employs 3,469 people. There are 2,041 teachers, 1,113 support staff, 72 technical employees and 243 administrators.

"No profession is more rewarding than teaching," said Elizabeth Brown, president of the Education Association of Charles County (EACC).

Returning teachers start on Tuesday, Aug. 21 and school opens for students on Monday, Aug. 27.



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are three new Charles County Public Schools teachers. Pictured, from left, are: Riham Said, fourth-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; Corey Munn, technology education teacher, Westlake High School; and Meris Sanzotta, special education teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School.

Airing on NewsBreak96

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 the Space Discovery Institute courses, the Educational Exchange and important back to school dates. Episodes are available to view on the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/>.

24-hour information line

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

Direct deposit

The school system encourages employees to sign up for direct deposit for paychecks. 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, which is available on the school system website 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.

Want to be in the know?

Subscribe to the Charles County Public Schools press releases subscriber list to receive the latest school system information, including inclement weather and emergency closing announcements, directly to your e-mail account. Posts are delivered electronically within minutes of updates. Visit www.ccboe.com/pr to sign up.



State Superintendent visits school system

Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, left, the new Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, visited Charles County Public Schools on Wednesday, July 18 to meet with Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, right, the Board of Education and members of the school system's executive staff. This fall, Lowery plans to visit North Point High School to tour the school.

Board begins high school redistricting process

The Board of Education began a year-long comprehensive high school redistricting process to create an attendance zone for St. Charles High School, scheduled to open in August 2014, and to relieve overcrowding at high schools. The redistricting will be comprehensive and students impacted by the redistricting will change schools in August 2014. The Board is starting the process now to provide ample research, feedback and notification time.

The opening of St. Charles High School was first planned for 2011, but construction has been delayed twice due to economic and funding issues. State and local funding for the \$64 million high school has been finalized and construction on the building is set to begin next month.

The Board of Education is also considering which grades to open the new St. Charles High School when the school opens in August 2014. At last week's work session, Charles County Public Schools staff presented four possible options to the Board, including opening St. Charles High School as a full high school, with grades nine through 12; starting with grades 9, 10 and 11, opening as a combination middle and high school with grades 7, 8 and 9 or including only ninth and tenth grades the first year.

Along with the four options, staff presented possible advantages and disadvantages for each option. Board action at the end of the 2012-13 school year will modify the current high school attendance zones and take effect in school year 2014-2015.

The Board is considering holding three information/public hearings, the first being held prior to the establishment of a redistricting committee. The date and time of that meeting will be announced at the beginning of the school year. The purpose of the first meeting is to explain the reasons redistricting is needed, define the process for the redistricting, and explain how residents can be involved in the change.

The public will have the opportunity to comment on proposed redistricting alternatives before they are made final. The second public meeting is held once the redistricting committee forwards its proposals to the Superintendent. That meeting will be to accept comment on submitted proposals. The Superintendent then makes a recommendation to the Board. Another public hearing is held to accept comments on the Superintendent's recommendation.

For more information about redistricting, visit the CCPS website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/transportation/hredistricting.cfm>.

Top space advisor encourages female students to explore STEM careers

Use your imagination, hard work and inner strength. That was guest speaker Patti Grace Smith's message to teachers and students attending the fifth annual Educational Exchange held July 31 at North Point High School.

Smith, a consultant and member of the advisory board of the National Air and Space Museum, encouraged teachers and students to gravitate toward space education. She talked about mentors, space and overcoming adversity as she shared her story, her best and worst times, to encourage students, particularly young women, to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and space. "Women are one half of the workforce, but they are vastly underrepresented in STEM careers," she said.

Smith has been named by *Space News* as one of the top 10 people in the United States space sector, and she became successful, she said, by having the courage and the ability to stand by her convictions. One of 12 African-American students to join in Lee versus Macon County Board of Education to force desegregation of Alabama schools, Smith faced shotguns and hostility and watched the burning of a school that was intended to scare her away from attending school with white children. A U.S. Marshal warned Smith and her sister of the potential dangers of participating in the test of school desegregation laws, but neither was dissuaded from taking that first step onto the once segregated school bus. Through the experience, Smith said, she learned what she was capable of achieving and that others cannot limit her.

She said her experiences have served her well and led her to the space industry. She told students and teachers to keep their focus on what space can do for "you, me and the world."

"Space is a natural avenue for opening your imagination. Most of



Patti Grace Smith, a consultant and member of the advisory board of the National Air and Space Museum, was the guest speaker at the Educational Exchange and spoke to attendees about being successful in STEM fields.

we haven't been there yet, so we can imagine what we want it to be," Smith said. She talked about mentors like a grandmother who challenged her to learn and about living in the segregated south with a father who was the first of eight siblings to graduate from college and who later became a Tuskegee Airman. Her father taught her about trailblazing, and demanded she have a plan for her life. "My parents knew who they were and what they stood for and believed in," she said. Her parents taught her to "stand up and be counted" while being the best while doing her best, she said.

"The more you prepare yourself now, the better prepared you will be to take your place in the world. Nothing gained comes without a lot of hard work," Smith said. She implored students to think about a woman who shines brilliantly, may have struggled all of her life, but still had an inner compass to know she achieved. "You have what it takes to be what you want to be," she told students.

"You are here for a reason," Smith concluded. "You can decide to pick space, and if you do, you are in for the thrill of a lifetime."

Samantha Grant, a Westlake High School senior, called Smith inspiring. Grant already knows she wants to major in biochemical engineering and minor in Nanoscale science and technology, but said it was nice to hear from a successful woman in the STEM field that it is rich and rewarding work.

Smith has more than 25 years of experience in the U.S. space sector, including with the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and U.S. Department of Transportation. She is now a private aerospace consultant.

Superintendent adjusts winter break schedule to conserve energy

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond announced a change to the winter break schedule, which affects 12-month employees. Richmond has granted all 12-month employees with administrative leave on Dec. 26-28, and Jan. 1. These were regularly scheduled work days for offices during winter break. Winter break for students and teachers begins with a two-hour early dismissal on Friday, Dec. 21. Winter break for 12-month employees begins on Monday, Dec. 24. The school system will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1,

and all employees and students return on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Richmond approved the schedule change to provide energy savings for the school system. The approved schedule is printed in the copies of the *2012-13 Parent Handbook/Calendar*. Copies of the calendar will be delivered to schools and centers next week, and a PDF is available for view and download on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/PDF/parent-handbook-calendar.pdf>.

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Board approves six new vice principal appointments

The Board of Education last week approved six vice principal appointments. Appointed were: Melissa Miesowitz, Brian Craley, Patricia Cuffee-Neville, Daniel Kaple, Tangela Scales and Ryan Erickson.

Miesowitz was appointed as a vice principal at Henry E. Lackey High School. She served as an administrative assistant at Lackey for the past three school years.

Craley was selected as a vice principal for Thomas Stone High School. He was previously a high school resource teacher at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, a position he held for the past five years.

Cuffee-Neville was assigned as a vice principal at Westlake High School. She previously served as an IEP facilitator at Lackey and Indian Head Elementary School.

Kaple will work at North Point High School and taught social studies at Lackey for the past seven years.

Scales heads to Milton M. Somers Middle School as a vice principal. She previously worked at the elementary school level as an instructional resource teacher at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.

Erickson was appointed as a vice principal at

Stone. He taught business education at Westlake for the past six years.

The following vice principals were reassigned:

- Diane Laveglia, from J.P. Ryon Elementary School to Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
- Tara Moore, from Gale-Bailey to J.C. Parks Elementary School;
- Tynika Lytle, from Parks to Ryon;
- Tammika Little, from Benjamin Stoddert Middle School to John Hanson Middle School;
- Laura Coffren, from Hanson to Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Dean Brooks, from Westlake to Maurice J. McDonough High School; and
- Ronald Wilson, from North Point to Stoddert.

The vice principal appointments and reassignments are effective immediately.

Directory information for all schools and centers has been updated on the Charles County Public Schools website for the 2012-13 school year. For additional information, visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com.



Personnel

Job Openings

Special Education Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant – Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 17.

Special Education Teacher, Adult Independence Program – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 17.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 22.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Westlake High School, 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 24.

Coordinator of Career Technology Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's Degree and certification as an Administrator I in Maryland are required. A minimum of five years of teaching experience and three years of supervisory or administrative leadership is required.

Title 1 Instructional Technology Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and three to five years of teaching experience, and experience in an instructional technology position is preferred.

Media Specialist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science is required.

Business Education Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

Physics Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

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

Reading Resource Teacher, Elementary School Level – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and/or advanced professional certificate, and five years of teaching experience required.

Instructional Resource Teacher, Middle School Level – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and/or advanced professional certificate and five years of teaching experience are required.

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

Inclusion Support Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. A minimum of five years of teaching experience and three years in an inclusion setting are required.

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

Staff Notes

In-service schedules

Countywide teacher in-service will take place Aug. 22-23. A schedule, including times and locations, is posted on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/in-service/>.