



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

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

Three pay dates this month

There are three pay dates this month. The only deductions taken from the third paycheck are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third paycheck in months with three pay dates. Visit the staff services page of the CCPS website to view a list of additional pay dates for the 2012-13 year.

Calendar notes

All Charles County Public Schools staff members should have a copy of the 2012-13 Parent Handbook/Calendar. Important changes to note this year include:

- The school system is closed for winter break. Schools and offices are closed from Dec. 24, 2012 through Jan. 1, 2013.
- Four inclement weather days are built into the calendar. If they are used, Presidents Day, Feb. 18, will be changed to a make-up day, followed by the addition of spring break dates: April 5, 4, 3 and 2.
- There are only three two-hour early dismissal dates scheduled at the end of the school year – June 12, 13, and 14. If no inclement weather days are used, the calendar will be moved back four days, with the last three days set as early dismissal days.

Teacher in-service day

Schools are closed for students only on Friday, Sept. 14, for a teacher in-service day. Visit <http://www2.ccboc.com/staffdev/in-service/> for a complete schedule.

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, school system accomplishments and upcoming events.

Welcoming students and changes to a new school year

Charles County Public Schools welcomed students to school this week with changes to the reading and math curriculum, tougher athletic guidelines and new programs at schools.

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) continues to move forward under the direction of Superintendent James E. Richmond, and is strengthening its curriculum through the federal Race to the Top program and the implementation of Maryland's Common Core State Standards. Richmond, who is overseeing his 17th and last school year opening, is not seeking renewal of his contract when it expires on June 30, 2013.

The Board of Education is embarking on a yearlong agenda that includes a search for a new superintendent of schools, an ambitious high school redistricting and construction of a seventh high school.

"As I enter my 17th and final year as superintendent, I continue to work toward moving the school system forward and adopting new state and national standards that will raise the rigor for all students in Charles County Public Schools. We will continue to focus on academics, including advanced placement, the Common Core State Standards and Race to the Top requirements," Richmond said.

Richmond announced that Eva Turner Elementary School has a new three-year-old program. CCPS first introduced the three-year-old program in 2004, and has gradually added classes to each of its six Title I schools. The program helps prepare children for academic achievement and school success, and is funded through Title I allotments.

Other highlights include:

- Fall athletics are underway, and new rules governing athletic participation are designed to curb concussions and other brain injuries. Charles County Public Schools concussion awareness started before the opening of the fall sports season. A new impact testing program trains coaches and athletic directors in risk management, provides baseline testing for all student athletes that can



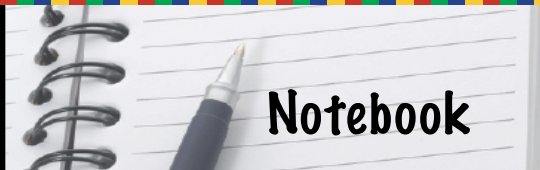
Indian Head Elementary School kindergartners Kaitlyn Clark, left, and Brianna Vernon, right, get to know each other on their first day of school.

be used to help doctors evaluate suspected concussions, and provides information to parents about brain injuries. Testing and training is being conducted through the Rehabilitation Center of Southern Maryland, which provides athletic training services to CCPS. Maryland rules do not allow an athlete to return to the field of play until cleared by a licensed health care provider authorized to provide sports physical exams. Last year there were 81 confirmed concussions among the nearly 3,000 student athletes. Impact testing will occur prior to each sports season.

- General guidelines for practicing in the heat have also been adopted. Charles County Public Schools has implemented heat acclimatization guidelines that are mandated by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) for student athletes. The guidelines outline safe methods to use during preseason practice periods to help build heat tolerance for student athletes, and their ability to exercise safely and effectively in warm to hot conditions to minimize their risk for a heat-related illness.

- North Point High School opened its Telepresence classroom this year, which

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Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center. Pictured, from left, are Melissa Ryan, Multiple Intensities Teaching (MIT) program teacher; Raymond Thompson, instructional assistant, STAY program; and Rita Ketchel, secretary.

SECAC meeting

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meets Wednesday, Sept. 12, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7456 or e-mail fps@ccboe.com for more information.

Calling student artists

The Space Foundation invites students from around the world in grades prekindergarten through 12 to enter its annual student art contest. The 2013 Space Foundation International Student Art Contest theme is "If I Were Going..." and challenges students to imagine how they would personally experience space travel, exploration or settlement and then interpret that idea into an original work of visual art. Teacher sponsorship is required, and teachers must submit artwork entries for their students. For more information on the contest, visit www.spacefoundation.org/education/2013-student-art-contest.

Follow us on Twitter

Did you now that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on www.twitter.com/CCPS for system updates, news, facts and more. The site can be accessed from the internal network by selecting the "view for work-related purposes only" under the options area of the Websense page.

Now showing ...

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 are highlights from the first day of school, the school system's partnership with the Charles County Sheriffs Office and the "We Care" safe driving campaign and important upcoming dates. Visit www.ccboe.com for a programming schedule.

Seberg named state Teacher of the year finalist

Kerrie Seberg, a third-grade teacher at William A. Diggs Elementary School and Charles County Public School's 2012 Teacher of the Year, was named one of seven Maryland Teacher of the Year finalists by the Maryland State Department of Education. She advances to the state level along with teachers from Carroll, Cecil, Howard, St. Mary's, Talbot and Washington counties.



Kerrie Seberg

State finalists are selected by a panel of judges from Maryland education organizations that represent principals, teachers, school boards, teacher unions, parents and higher education. Finalists are selected based on criteria

that include teaching style and philosophy, community involvement and knowledge of general education issues.

Finalist interviews will be conducted Sept. 8, and the winner will be announced at a gala reception and dinner scheduled for Oct. 5 at Martin's West in Baltimore. The state winner receives a cash award, a new car, and will be considered for the National Teacher of the Year honor.

Seberg was nominated for the county award by Diggs Principal Sandra Taylor and school staff. She started her career with Charles County Public Schools in 2007.

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makes the technology available to all CCPS high schools. In the 2010-2011 school year, CCPS installed its first two Telepresence classrooms at Maurice J. McDonough and Westlake high schools. Telepresence is videoconferencing technology that uses large screens to create a virtual classroom in more than one location. Last school year, La Plata, Henry E. Lackey and Thomas Stone high schools opened Telepresence classrooms.

Common Core State Standards

CCPS is transitioning to the Maryland Common Core State Standards in mathematics and English/language arts. Common Core defines what skills and knowledge students need to be successful in the workplace and postsecondary education, and helps ensure students receive a high quality education.

The Maryland State Department of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards in June 2010 and developed frameworks that align with existing curriculum and place an increased emphasis on academic rigor. The goal of the Common Core does not replace the current curriculum, but supplements it to ensure that children leave school with the real-world skills and knowledge they need to succeed in college and/or their careers.

New assessments, based on the Common Core, will be administered in the 2014-15 school year.

Accountability increases

CCPS elementary and middle school students continue to show improvement on the reading and mathematics Maryland School Assessment (MSA), according to data released by the Maryland State Department of Education. The MSA scores released during the summer are the first reported under Maryland's recently granted flexibility regarding the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law.

The federal No Child Left Behind law helped boost performance, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said; however, the law had unintended consequences. The law unfairly branded too many schools as failing, despite a record of continued improvement, because of the formulas used. It required that by 2013-14, all students would be proficient in reading and mathematics. Secretary Duncan last year announced his intention to provide flexibility from the law to states that maintained strong accountability systems. Maryland applied and in May was granted a waiver from some aspects of NCLB. The waiver eliminates the school improvement, which labeled schools and targeted some for restructuring.



Schools welcome students back to class

Charles County Public Schools welcomed students on Monday, Aug. 27. Pictured, starting from top left, are Jessica Mongell, Reading Recovery teacher at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, who is passing out stickers to students as Nichole Hazard, an instructional assistant, directs first grader Nyla Phelps to her classroom. Charles County Sheriff Rex Coffey and Maurice J. McDonough High School Principal Bradley Snow hand out "We Care" information to McDonough students to express the importance of driving safety. Benjamin Stoddert Middle School Principal Robert Babiak helps Anthony Brisbon find his classroom; Dr. James Craik Elementary School Principal Penny Nye guides students Jakari Dyson and Mahee Patel to their classrooms. General Smallwood Middle school sixth graders Tayana Ketchel and Lauren Quinlan head to school. Indian Head Elementary School kindergartner Jack Rogers peaks into his lunch box.

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Board of Education announces September 11 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 11, 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. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

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

Superintendent's update to the board

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) update
- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student board member's update
- Opening of schools
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) update
- Report item: FY 2013 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Gifted and talented education policy
- Gifted and talented education month resolution
- Policy #5171.1 – Epi-pens

Unfinished business

New business and Future agenda items

- New business
- Resolution for MABE
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Truth Chapter No. 19, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliated

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- FY 2014 CIP state and local CIP program
- Redistricting policies
- Recurring resolutions: *American Education Week; American Freedom Week; African-American History Month; Career and Technical Education Month; National School Counseling Week; Read Across America; Women's History Month; Fine and Performing Arts Month; Month of the Young Child; National Student Leadership Week; Teacher Appreciation Week; Administrative Professionals Week; Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week; National Physical Education and Sport Week; Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader; Charles County Teacher of the Year; Employees Retirement; and Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.*

Adjournment



Personnel

Job Openings

In-school Retention Instructional Assistant

– Indian Head Elementary School. 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 4.

Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant

– J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 4.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills

– Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 6.

Special Education Instructional Assistant

– F. B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 6.

Judy Center Early Childhood Liaison

– Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 7.

Energy Manager

– Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 11.

Head of Accounts Payable

– Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Associates degree and five years of ac-

counts payable experience required. Apply by Sept. 12.

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.

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 teaching experience and three years of administrative/supervisory leadership is required.

NJROTC Teacher

– Westlake High School, 11-month position.

Physics Teacher

– Westlake High School, 10-month position.

Technology Education Teacher

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

Math Teacher, Middle School Level – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

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

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.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Assistant boys' lacrosse coach
Contact Steven Lee, athletic director, 301-645-2601, to apply.

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Field hockey coach
- Wrestling coach
Contact David Anderson, athletic director, 301-743-5431, to apply.