



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Presidents Day

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of Presidents Day.

Interims issued

Interims will be issued to students on Monday, Feb. 25.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Feb. 27. Morning prekindergarten students attend that day. Students in the Three's Program do not attend school on two-hour early dismissal dates.

PTA Founder's Day

National Parent-Teacher-Association (PTA) founders' day is Sunday, Feb. 17. The day celebrates the efforts of PTA founders Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, and Selena Sloan Butler, who launched the organization to better the lives of children. PTA's today are networks of families, students, teachers, administrators, business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. For more information on the role of PTAs, and the significance of founder's day, visit the National Parent Teacher Association's website at <http://www.pta.org/index.cfm>.

"Save the Bay" robotics

Charles County Public Schools is hosting a "Save the Bay" in-school robotics event on Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m. at North Point High School. The "Save the Bay" robotics program is an in-school program for fifth- and seventh-grade students that focuses on environmental issues surrounding the Chesapeake Bay. For more information about the event, call 301-934-7287.



Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley visited North Point High School on Monday, Feb. 11. As part of the tour, O'Malley, pictured right, visited the Academy of Health Professions and worked with juniors David Williams, left, and Jasmine Greene, center, to build a replacement heart valve out of clay as part of a classroom project.

North Point welcomes Governor Martin O'Malley

Governor Martin O'Malley only had an hour to tour North Point High School on Monday, but he managed to perform a heart operation, learn about automotive technology and solar energy, work with DNA and proteins, and sample Beignets.

Calling North Point a premier example of a school preparing students for career and college readiness, the Governor visited to promote innovation funds in his fiscal year 2014 budget that encourage programs like the ones in place in Charles County.

"North Point and Charles County Public Schools are models for the state," O'Malley said, and have created the digital learning environment and early college/career readiness classes that all public schools need. "This is what it is all about," the Governor said as he started his tour in North Point's Health Occupations lab and worked with students to perform a clay heart operation. "Charles County is way ahead in these areas. These two innovative funds encourage implementation of what you are already doing," O'Malley added.

"We need to transform high school so students are attaining skills to go into the

workforce or college," O'Malley said. He added that the old view – that all students must go to college – is not enough. "We have to prepare students to do both, to provide access to those skills that help them get college credit or industry-approved certificates while in high school," the Governor said.

On Monday, O'Malley was the student; the students were the teachers. Automotive technology students showed the Governor how to use technology to diagnose an engine before he headed to the electrical construction area where he learned about students' career plans and how solar panels guide lessons on solar energy. Engineering students showed the Governor how to use a 3-D printer to create objects from a digital design.

O'Malley commended Superintendent James E. Richmond for pursuing a vision for North Point that meets the needs of both college- and career-bound students. The Governor said North Point is what he envisions for schools throughout the state.

"Gov. O'Malley is proactive in education and he wants to make sure our students are career and college ready. I think he was impressed with our students, Richmond said.

New principals, science center director appointed

The Board of Education of Charles County on Tuesday, Feb. 12, appointed two vice principals to serve as principals at St. Charles High School and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. Richard Conley, a vice principal at Henry E. Lackey High School, was appointed as principal of St. Charles High School, scheduled to open in August 2014. Wayne Freeman, a vice principal at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, was appointed as principal at Stethem and will replace Thomas Weirich, who plans to retire at the end of June.



Richard Conley

Both Conley and Freeman look forward to serving as principals in Charles County Public Schools. Conley said he is honored that he was selected as a principal, and especially at Charles County's newest high school. "Being selected to serve as the principal of any school, let alone St. Charles High School, is an extreme honor and I am deeply grateful to Mr. Richmond and the members of the Board of Education for the confidence that they have shown in me. The vision for St. Charles High School as a center for science, environmental education, 21st century instructional technology, and collaborative learning is one which I am excited to work with students, staff, parents, and community members to help make into a reality," Conley said.

Freeman said he is honored just to be considered for a principal position. "It is my honor and privilege to accept the appointment as principal of the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. I have had the pleasure of working with outstanding teachers, staff, administrators and stakeholders who have helped to shape my destiny. I stand committed to working with all secondary schools in the delivery of instruction for students needing a cohesive educational program," Freeman said.

Conley began his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2003 as a Spanish teacher at Westlake High School, and was named a vice principal at Lackey in 2008. He has a bachelor's degree in foreign lan-

guage, and government and politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and has a master's of science in administration from McDaniel College.

Freeman joined the school system in 1986 as a pupil personnel worker and served at several county schools until he was named a vice principal at Thomas Stone High School in 1996. He transferred to General Smallwood Middle School as a vice principal in 2002 before joining the Stethem staff as a vice principal in 2006. He has a bachelor's degree in social sciences from Oakwood College, a master's degree from Bowie State University in guidance and counseling, and a master's degree in school administration from California State University.

Wilson named center director

The Board also approved the appointment of Monique Wilson, the coordinator of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education for Charles County Public Schools, as director of the science center at St. Charles High School. Wilson will oversee the use of technology at the school, including the Digital Classroom and Science on a Sphere, and will coordinate STEM-related opportunities for the school and the county.

Wilson began her teaching career with Charles County Public Schools in 2001 as a science teacher at Benjamin Stodert Middle School. She taught science at Mattawoman Middle School from 2003 to 2007, and transferred to Theodore G. Davis Middle School when the school opened. In 2009, Wilson took a position at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building as an instructional specialist. In 2010, she was named the coordinator of STEM education for Charles County Public Schools. She has a bachelor's degree in earth science and secondary education from Kent State University, and a master's degree in administration from McDaniel College.

The appointments are effective July 1.



Wayne Freeman



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored at the Board of Education's February meeting. Pictured, from left, are Nicholas Adam, special education teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School; Lenora Green, special education teacher, Berry Elementary School; and Caitlin Sinclair, mathematics teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School.

Minority Achievement meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 20, starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Employees to be honored

The Board of Education will honor more than 30 employees for their years of service to the school system in a ceremony on Feb. 21, 5 p.m., in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. A complete listing of those to be honored will be featured in the March 1 edition of *School News*. For information about the ceremony, call 301-934-7356.

Winter recognition programs

Charles County Public Schools is hosting several winter recognition programs at area high schools on Tuesday, Feb. 26, for students at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Award categories include student accomplishments in areas such as academic achievement and fine arts to fall sports. Each elementary and middle school has been assigned to one of the six county high schools, which are hosting the programs. For more information about the programs, call 301-934-7365.

Read Across Charles County

Charles County Public Schools celebrates Read Across Charles County on Friday, March 1. The annual event is a reading motivation and awareness program that invites children in the community to celebrate literacy and reading, and the birthday of the famous children's book author Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. Each year, the school system coordinates the event in conjunction with the National Education Association's Read Across America Day.

Two schools named 2013 Maryland School of Character award winners

Two Charles County Public Schools – Mary B. Neal Elementary School and Thomas Stone High School – were recently named 2013 Maryland School of Character award recipients by the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE) at Stevenson University. Both Neal and Stone are now eligible for consideration in the National Schools of Character program, sponsored by the Character Education Partnership.

Schools are selected for the state award based on their demonstration of the Character Education Partnership's 11 principles of Effective Character Education. The principles focus on the promotion of ethical values and a caring school community, fostering students' self-motivation, and engaging school staff to help with character-building efforts. Both schools have previously been honored for their character education initiatives.

Neal was chosen as a Promising Practices in Character Education 2010 National award winner. As part of the National Schools of Character awards program, the Character Education Partnership gives Promising Practices awards to schools for implementing unique and specific strategies in character education.

Stone was named a 2012 School of the Year and received a School of Character honorable mention award in 2011. In 2010, the MCCE honored Stone with an Emerging School of Character award and in 2009, Stone also received the Maryland School of Character award.

There are several character education initiatives in place at both Neal and Stone. Neal has a partnership with Andrews Air Force Base in which military members visit the school once a week to mentor students. The school coordinates community service-oriented projects such as annual food drives and a 5K race to support the Southern Maryland Food Bank. The Maryland State Department of Education has recognized Neal for the past four years for their food drive efforts.

Additionally, Neal launched an initiative called "30 rock" three years ago in which students in grades second through fifth can par-

ticipate in a variety of clubs. The school has formed more than 30 clubs and each Friday for 30 minutes, students can participate in the club of their choice. Club examples range from cheerleading, creative writing and art, to drawing, world drumming and sign language. Character education has been a strong focal point at Neal since the school opened in 2008.

Stone launched their character education program at the school in 2007 and has several initiatives in place. School staff implemented the use of banner words to demonstrate school pride and focus on one word each month to highlight. The banner words include self-control, responsibility, respect, gratitude, caring, perseverance, unity, integrity, service and citizenship. Through the words, the school promotes core ethical and performance values among students and staff. During October, respect was the banner word to correlate with bullying prevention month, and in December, caring was the highlighted word. To highlight caring, the school held a doorway decorating contest for students and staff.

Stone also adopted Capturing Kids Hearts in 2009, a program that focuses on teaching students how to model positive behavior, develop self-management skills and learn structure for conflict management. As part of the program, students sign social contracts with their teachers and teachers use this process to introduce character education principles in their lessons. Additionally, Stone hosts several school and community involvement activities for students such as their fall festival, Green School initiatives and recycling programs.

Both schools will be recognized in the fall for their character education programs by the MCCE. The Maryland Schools of Character awards program is sponsored collaboratively through the MCCE, the Character Education Partnership and the Maryland State Department of Education. For more information on character education, visit <http://www.mdctrcharacter.org/>.



Nominate a support staff member for dedication to school system, position

Charles County Public Schools is looking for award nominees for the 2013 Outstanding Support Personnel Awards program. Awards are given in six categories: building service, food service, instructional support, secretary, maintenance and information technology. Award winners will be announced and recognized at the June 11 Board of Education meeting.

Staff, students and parents can submit nominations. Employees may not nominate themselves. Nominees must meet the following criteria: works full-time, has been employed with the school system for a minimum of three school years in the area for which they were nominated, and not have received this award within the past five years. Nominees must also meet criteria in the following areas:

- Resourceful in seeking and completing job duties;
- Seeks new knowledge and skills;
- Knows and understands all aspects of their assigned jobs;
- Utilizes technology where appropriate;
- Fosters cooperative relationships with students, colleagues and the community; and

- Demonstrates outstanding leadership.

Nomination materials must be included in a presentation binder and should not exceed 15 pages. All binders must include a cover page, career summary, description of contributions in the nomination criteria areas, and statements of support. Nomination binders for the building service, food service, instructional support and secretary awards must include a minimum of 10 letters of support, including one from the principal/supervisor, three from co-workers and six from students, staff or the community. Binders for the maintenance and information technology award nominations must include a minimum of eight letters of support, including one from the division supervisor and immediate supervisor, three from other department supervisors and three from co-workers or staff.

Binders are due to the division of human resources by Friday, April 26. Contact Jeanette Sudik at 301-934-7356 or jsudik@ccboe.com for more information. Nomination information is also posted on the school system website at http://www2.ccboe.com/PDF/recognition/outstanding_support_staff_2013.pdf.

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Westlake named top recycler among Maryland schools

Westlake High School was recently named Maryland's first-place winner in the national 2012 Recycle-Bowl competition, sponsored by the Keep America Beautiful organization. This is the second consecutive year that Westlake has earned the top spot for Maryland. As Maryland's winner, Westlake was eligible to compete at the national level for the national title.

Westlake was one of 14 Maryland schools to participate in the event this year and was awarded \$1,000 for their efforts. In 2011, Westlake was one of only five Maryland schools to participate in the competition. To participate in the competition, Westlake had to collect and record recyclable materials during a time-frame specifically designated by Keep America Beautiful – Oct. 15 through Nov. 9. State winners were selected based on the total amount of goods collected per person. To determine this amount, schools had to divide the total weight of goods collected, in pounds, by the school's total number of students and teachers.

Each school was responsible for tracking and

accurately reporting amounts of recyclable materials in order to be eligible for awards. Participating schools register to compete in the event in advance. Schools also receive incentives for submitting completed collection reports as part of the competition.

The competition is open to nationwide elementary, middle and high schools, and also includes a community competition portion. Visit <http://recycle-bowl.org/overview/> for a description of the program.

Recycle-Bowl is a school recycling competition for grades kindergarten through

12 established to help new recycling programs in schools, increase recycling rates in schools that currently recycle and provide teacher/student educational opportunities about recycling and waste reduction.

The competition is operated by Keep America Beautiful Inc., a volunteer-based community action and education organization. The competition is sponsored by Nestle Waters North American, Inc.



Personnel

Job Openings

Special Education Instructional Assistant

– Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 15.

Food Service Manager – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 19.

Human Resources Personnel Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree, administrator I certificate and three years in an administrative position is required. Apply by Feb. 20.

Building Service Worker – John Hanson Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 26.

Food Service Assistant Manager – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 27.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Feb. 27.

Youth In Transition/Foster Care Coordinator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree in education, social work or related field, and a minimum of three years of experience in an educational setting required. Apply by Feb. 27.

Occupational Therapist – Location to be determined, 10- or 11-month position. Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a Maryland State License required.

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

Spanish Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

School Psychology Internship – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, one-year position.

Contract Administrator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of experience as a contract administrator or senior buyer and a CPPO, CPPB,

CPM or CACM certification required.

Extra pay positions

North Point High School has the following openings:

- Head boys' outside track coach
- Assistant outdoor track coach
- Head boys' soccer coach
- Assistant girls' soccer coach

Contact Andrew Shattuck, athletic director, 301-753-1759, to apply.

La Plata High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity girls' lacrosse coach
- Head junior varsity softball coach

Contact Cliff Nagle, athletic director, 301-753-1754, to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity football coach

Send resumes to Jason Bursick, athletic director, at jbursick@ccboe.com. Apply by Feb. 15.