



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Way to go Class of 2013

Congratulations to the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Class of 2013. A total of 2,114 seniors were honored on June 3 and June 4 during graduation ceremonies for six high schools. Students in the Class of 2013 were offered more than \$57 million in scholarship offers, up almost \$5 million from 2012. For more information, read a complete press release posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com.

Board approves redistricting

The Board of Education last week approved the plan for the high school redistricting, which creates an attendance zone for St. Charles High School and relieves overcrowding at the six existing high schools. The Board approved Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond's recommendation of Proposal B with a modification. The high school redistricting takes effect in August 2014, when St. Charles opens for the 2014-15 school year. Maps and complete descriptions of the areas affected by redistricting are posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Click on the High School Redistricting link under the resources section.

Summer Meals program

CCPS in partnership with other local agencies, is offering a free summer lunch program June 24 through Aug. 9 at select schools and locations. Any child who is 18-years-old and under is eligible to receive a lunch, and meals are served Monday through Friday. A complete list of participating schools and locations is available on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com.

Holiday closure

Schools and offices are closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Summer school classes will also not be held July 4.

McCormick named Vice Principal of the year

Susan McCormick, a vice principal at Thomas Stone High School, was recently named the 2013 Charles County Public Schools Vice Principal of the Year. McCormick has been an educator with the school system for the past 32 years and a vice principal at Stone since 2005. Her nomination was a surprise and McCormick said she is honored to be selected from among a strong group of school system administrators.

"There are so many great vice principals in the county, I was surprised I was selected. This award is not just about me. I could never have received this honor without all the support of everyone at Thomas Stone," McCormick said.

She was nominated for the award by the administrative team at Stone and is known as the "go to" person with any questions related to the educational setting, and offers assistance and advice to all of her colleagues. She is the vice principal on staff that is in

charge of instruction and serves as a role model for instructional leadership.

Her nomination describes her as a strong leader who focuses on promoting a positive climate for students and staff, and an environment structured for learning and growth. She maintains an open-door policy for students and staff and is highly visible in the school. Her focus on academic rigor and personal responsibility is clear among students and staff are eager to meet her high, yet realistic, expectations.

Stone Principal Michael Meiser said McCormick is a key member of his administrative team and is dedicated to the success of Stone. "During the past six years the
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Susan McCormick

Richmond honored for career accomplishments

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond received several honors during the Board of Education's June 11 meeting, including the presentation of a citation from Gov. Martin O'Malley, to highlight his 47-year career in education with Charles County Public Schools.

Pat Foerster, education policy advisor with the governor's office, presented a citation to Richmond on behalf of Gov. O'Malley and the state of Maryland to recognize the successes the school system has experienced under his leadership. During her introductory comments, Foerster specifically acknowledged the reading program in Charles County and the high participation rate of the

school system in the TELL Maryland survey. "The people of Maryland celebrate your passion and vision," she added.

Richmond was humbled to accept the citation and thanked the Board members and staff for helping him make the school system successful. "Without the support of everyone and their dedication to the goals of the school system, we would not have experienced the successes we have seen over the years," Richmond said. In addition to the citation, Richmond was also honored during two additional presentations at the meeting.

Col. David Reilly, a JROTC instructor at Thomas Stone High School, presented Richmond with a plaque
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Pat Foerster, education policy advisor with Gov. Martin O'Malley's office, left, presents a citation to Superintendent Richmond.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from Berry Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Marissa Ellis, third-grade teacher; Leonard Rickett, physical education teacher; and Gaye Ramsey, fourth-grade teacher.

Student Board member named

Amit Patel, a senior at Maurice J. McDonough High School, is the student member of the Board of Education of Charles County for the 2013-14 school year. He was sworn in to the position by Board of Education Chairman Roberta S. Wise at their June 11 meeting.

As the Student Board Member, Patel will work with a student liaison committee throughout the school year. The following students were selected as members of the student liaison committee:

- Kim Jacks, junior, Henry E. Lackey High School liaison;
- Katherine Snee, senior, La Plata High School liaison;
- Katelyn Turner, senior, Maurice J. McDonough High School liaison;
- Thomas Lilly, senior, North Point High School liaison and alternate student board member;
- Maher Bousaba, senior, Thomas Stone High School liaison; and
- Susan Duncan, senior, Westlake High School liaison.

Each high school is required to have a student liaison and may be selected by methods approved by the school's Student Government Association (SGA) and principal. Each liaison can apply as a candidate for the position of Student Board Member. Candidates are required to submit an essay regarding a student concern and a detailed possible solution.

The essays are evaluated and candidates are interviewed by a committee composed of students and advisors. The liaison with the highest combined score on the essay and the interview is named the Student Board Member.

24-hour information line

CCPS 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.

Superintendent

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from the Charles County Junior Reserves Officers Training Corp (JROTC) program. The award was presented by Reilly on behalf of the JROTC faculty and student cadets, and honors Richmond for his efforts in establishing the program in all Charles County public high schools. In introducing the award, Board member Col. Donald Wade fought back tears as he expressed how proud he is of the contributions Richmond has made to the JROTC program. "As a son of Charles County, I have seen the area transition from back woods farms to cultured learning. That is where we are today as a result of programs such as the JROTC," Wade said.

The plaque honors service members for their contributions to JROTC programs. Wade worked with Reilly to make the surprise plaque presentation to Richmond at the Board meeting.

Richmond was also honored by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) local union with a surprise donation to a community organization in his honor. AFSCME President Bill McLaughlin, who

is an electrician with the school system, along with Guy Genovese, a Council 67 union representative for Charles County Public Schools, partnered with LifeStyles of Maryland, Inc. to sponsor a \$1,000 donation in Richmond's name. During the presentation, McLaughlin applauded Richmond's continuous support of education and for keeping employees a top priority. "Your vision and path of success has changed education in Charles County," he said.

LifeStyles is a non-profit organization that provides support and programs to the Charles County community. LifeStyles Executive Director Sandy Washington accepted the donation during the presentation, and Richmond thanked both AFSCME and LifeStyles for their support of the school system. "We could not ask for better partners than our employee unions and the community organizations that support the school system," Richmond said.

Richmond's fourth and final term as superintendent of schools comes to a close at the end of this month.

Vice Principal

Continued from page 1

members of the administrative team have changed frequently. McCormick has been very flexible in working with new team members and has served as a mentor to new team members. She works hand in hand with all levels of the school to ensure that Thomas Stone High School can be the best it can be," Meiser wrote in a nomination letter.

Seaton Fisher, a school counselor at Stone, said he regularly receives praise from parents and students about McCormick's professionalism, level of service and her commitment to ensuring all issues and questions are handled appropriately in a timely manner. Fisher also said McCormick serves as an indirect mentor to several Stone staff members, himself included, and is an integral part of the school community.

McCormick said that the staff at Stone truly understands the meaning of being a team. "I have learned so much from my mentors, Mr. Martin, the former principal and Mr. Meiser. The other administrators

are true team members and always help me out. The teachers and all of the support staff work as a family and are always willing to go the extra mile for the students," she added.

In addition to her role as vice principal, McCormick has participated in several professional development opportunities including the Aspiring Principals Leadership Institute and College Board Advanced Placement (AP) workshops, as well as worked on the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and School Improvement teams. Additionally, McCormick is a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and is active in the organization.

She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland College Park and a master's degree from Towson University. McCormick was honored by the Board of Education on June 11. The Board honors one outstanding vice principal each year.

Charles County Board of Education honors outstanding support staff

The Board of Education honored six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees with Outstanding Personnel Awards on June 11. Honored were: Ricky Rawls, building service assistant manager, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; Charles Ford, food service manager, North Point High School; Mary Long, computer technology instructional assistant, Piccowaxen Middle School; Joseph Dorsey, general maintenance worker, Radio Station Road Annex Building; Dorothy Johnson, secretary, General Smallwood Middle School; and Tak Cheng, network engineer, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Rawls is the 2013 Outstanding Building Service Employee. He is the building service assistant manager and has worked at Barnhart since 1997. Rawls was nominated by Barnhart staff, including Principal Amy Hollstein, Vice Principal Troy Barnes and Joseph Adams, the building service manager. In his award nomination letters, Rawls is described as dedicated, courteous, trustworthy, polite and professional. "He is willing to do whatever it takes to accommodate the needs of staff as well as ensuring building security, safety and cleanliness. Rawls demonstrates a deep understanding of his job, the requirements of his job, a desire to learn and leadership," Barnes wrote in a nomination letter. Rawls goes above and beyond to assist staff in any way necessary and has established cooperative relationships with students, colleagues and the community. He also ensures that the building is safe and well-maintained on a daily basis.

Ford is the 2013 Outstanding Food Service Employee. He has worked at North Point as a food service worker for the past five years and was nominated for the award by North Point staff, including former Principal Kimberly Hill, Acting Principal Michael Simms and Tony Mast, administrative assistant. He was nominated for demonstrating a positive attitude, for being dependable and hard-working, and for doing what is necessary to get his job done effectively. "Ford strives daily to ensure that students are offered the freshest meals possible and encourages staff to be welcoming and friendly toward students. His loyalty toward his job and the school is one of his best qualities," said Kim Wojnar, a food service worker at North Point, in a nomination letter. One of Ford's biggest accomplishments was helping to transition the school to a one-hour lunch model, which presented the challenge of feeding more than 2,200 students in a short amount of time. Ford worked creatively with staff to meet this challenge, and adapts well to day-to-day school schedule changes.

Long is the 2013 Outstanding Instructional Support Employee. She has worked for Charles County Public Schools for 17 years and was nominated by school staff, including Piccowaxen Vice Principal Charmaine Young-Waddy, and teachers Sandy Chisholm and Kerri Loyd. She is an instructional assistant in the media center and splits her time between the front office and school library. She was nominated for her positive attitude and her willingness to help faculty, students, and

parents with anything they need. She pays attention to detail and has excellent organizational skills that allow her to multitask and cover her various duties. When working with students in the media center, Long guides students conducting research and keeps them on task. Principal Kenneth Schroeck said Long is an example of a top-quality individual.



The Board of Education, on June 11, honored six support staff members with Outstanding Personnel Awards. From left are Dorothy Johnson, Tak Cheng, Ricky Rawls, Charles Ford and Mary Long. Not pictured is Joseph Dorsey.

Dorsey is the 2013 Outstanding Maintenance Employee. He has worked for Charles County Public Schools for the past six years and was nominated for the award by Wesley Guntow, a school system foreman with the facilities department. He was nominated for demonstrating good character and a strong work ethic. Dorsey consistently strives to better himself and his quality of work is exceptional. He helps to maintain maintenance department sensitive inventory and assists daily with work orders. Dorsey also takes on extra duties and is willing to help whenever he is needed. Guntow said Dorsey is an instrumental member of his department and a stand-out employee.

Johnson is the 2013 Outstanding Secretary and has worked for the school system for the past 30 years. Her nomination was a group effort and coordinated by Smallwood Principal Kathy Perriello. Johnson was nominated for her kind demeanor, positive rapport with staff, students and the community, and for her commitment to helping where she is needed. She always arrives early and stays late to ensure all tasks on her schedule are complete and the school is ready for the next day of business. Johnson is well known at Smallwood for her friendly personality and her ability to foster relationships with students and the community. She also assists the Parent-Teacher-Organization (PTO) with anything they need and often goes above and beyond her duties to get things done in an organized and efficient manner.

Cheng is the 2013 Outstanding Information Technology employee. He has worked for the school system for the past 17 years, and has been a network engineer at the Starkey Building since 2008. He was nominated for the award by technology staff for his commitment to ensuring that all school and system building servers are operating normally, assisting others by providing technological support and advice, and for his dedication to his position. Cheng takes a great deal of pride in his work and displays a professional and competent demeanor. He is the head of the local area network (LAN) team and helps manage all servers throughout the county. He also provides support to computer analysts and ensures that all staff members who work with technology are properly trained. Cheng also serves as a mentor to others in the technology department and is often sought out for assistance with technical difficulties.

The Board each year honors exemplary support staff in six different job categories: building services, food services, maintenance, secretarial services, instructional support, and information technology to encourage employees to provide creative and quality services that support the effective and efficient operations of the school system.

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301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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Shelley Mackey
Kara Gross
Amanda Burgess

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Board of Education signs contracts with employee groups

The Board of Education and its two employee groups – the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) – signed contracts last week for the next school year.

The contracts include a one-step increase for eligible employees, but do not include a cost-of-living adjustment. Costs for health care insurance will not increase, but will be re-examined in January when the benefit period renews itself for the January through December calendar year. Any recommended changes will begin in January 2014.

Highlights from the EACC contract include:

- All eligible employees will receive one step, and includes teachers, and administrative and supervisory staff.
- Any employee not eligible for a step or is at the top of their pay scale will receive up to a \$1,000 one-time payment by mid-November. Employees can also choose to put the one-time payment in a tax-deferred account.
- Compression of the teacher salary scale will continue.
- Rates on the extra duty pay scale increase by 2 percent.

• A committee is planned to study administrative and supervisory scales in comparison to other counties and the current pay scale structure. Results will be forwarded to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools.

Highlights from the AFSCME contract include:

- All eligible employees will receive a one-step and grade increase.
- Any employee who is at a step 16 and above will receive a one-time payment of up to \$300 by mid-November. Only employees hired as of June 30, 2013 are eligible for the one-time payment. No support staff hired on or after July 1, 2013 is eligible.
- A committee is planned to study certifications support employees can obtain to enhance their work skills above the requirements for their position, and will examine possible salary enhancements associated with the certification, if funding is available.

The cost of a step increase is \$4.4 million and covers both the EACC and AFSCME contracts. Also included is the two percent increase for extra-duty pay and scale compression for the EACC contract and the one-time payment for both employee groups.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/hur. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a Bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Building Service Worker – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by June 21.

Foreman: Athletic Fields/Grounds – Charles County Public Schools Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by July 1.

Administrative Assistant – North Point High School, 11-month position. Three years of successful teaching experience and enrollment in a school administration course of study at the master's level required. Apply by July 3.

New Teacher Mentors – Openings at all levels, 10-month positions. Master's degree, a minimum of five years of teaching experience and two years in a leadership role required.

Science Teachers – Openings at the high

school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

Spanish Teachers – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

Math Teachers – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

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

School Counselor – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Master's degree in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling.

Speech and Language Pathologist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in speech pathology and a Maryland state license in speech and language pathology.

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

Extra pay positions

La Plata High School has the following openings:

- Varsity football coach
- Junior varsity assistant football coach
- Junior varsity volleyball coach

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

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following opening:

- Cheerleading coach

Contact Doug Lamb, athletic director, 301-743-5431, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Head Wrestling Coach

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