



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Calling all word sleuths

The annual Charles County Spelling Bee is Friday, Feb. 21 at Milton M. Somers Middle School in La Plata. The event begins at 6 p.m. and will be broadcast on the school system's educational television station the following week. Programming for the CCPS television station is accessible on either Comcast Channel 96 or Verizon FiOS Channel 12. Visit www.ccboe.com to access the television station website, which is located at the bottom of the home page.

Checkmate

The annual Charles County Public Schools winter chess tournament is Saturday, Feb. 22 at Thomas Stone High School. Students in grades kindergarten through 12 are invited to participate, and registered students must check in by 8:30 a.m. The tournament begins at 9 a.m. Results for the tournament are generally published on the Charles County Public Schools website, www.ccboe.com, the following week.

Robots taking over

North Point High School is hosting a local robotics challenge on Saturday, Feb. 22 as part of the Naval Warfare Center's in-school robotics program. The challenge begins at 9 a.m. and teams compete using a robot they build and program to participate in several challenges.

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 for a recorded message. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made. The hotline also features a Spanish-language option, which can be accessed by pressing one at the start of the message.



La Plata High School senior Sarah Holmes, left, and La Plata Principal Evelyn Arnold, right, talk with Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley on Feb. 10 through a Telepresence conference about the Advanced Placement (AP) program. During the conference, O'Malley announced that students in Maryland earned the top scores on AP exams nationwide.

Maryland AP scores continue to hold top spot

Governor Martin O'Malley took La Plata and North Point high school students on a victory lap Feb. 10 during a short Telepresence conference announcing Maryland as top in the nation for Advanced Placement (AP) success.

"Thank you. I get to do the victory lap for you, but you've done the hard work," O'Malley told AP teachers and students during the Telepresence chat. The governor announced Maryland students have led the nation in success on AP exams for eight consecutive years.

"This morning, the College Board's "10th Annual AP Report to the Nation" came out, and for the eighth year in a row, Maryland made the most success in students achieving three and above. Almost 30 percent of seniors scored three and above on one AP exam, well above the national average of 20 percent," O'Malley said.

At La Plata, where AP students and teachers participated in the conference, student success is even higher. La Plata seniors who

earned a score of 3 or higher on one or more AP exams reached 37.8 percent, a number that has steadily increased since 2008. The percentage of scores 3 and above for tests taken by all La Plata students in 2013 was 53.8 percent.

La Plata senior Sarah Holmes says La Plata students are successful because they work hard and have dedicated AP teachers. She said she strives to score a 3 or above, which is the score at which many higher education institutions award college credit for high school students. Holmes credits La Plata's AP teachers for her success, saying they work around student schedules, hold after-school study sessions and, "make it easy for students to succeed."

Holmes, who is taking multiple AP classes this year, shared experiences her AP teachers have made possible, including meeting via Telepresence with professors nationwide who relate real-world conflicts that help students make connections to what they are learning in AP Human Geography.

See Telepresence, page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. Pictured, from left, are Cherisa Martin, special education teacher; Kalyn Petrillo, physical education teacher; and Jerome Baker, school counselor.

Nominate a "Teacher of the Year"

Nominations for Charles County Public Schools' candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year award are due to the office of human resources on Thursday, Feb. 27. The selected teacher will also represent the school system as the 2014 Charles County Teacher of the Year. Nomination information is available on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Contact Cynthia Rivera in human resources at crivera@ccboe.com or 301-934-7356 for more information.

Airing now

Airing now is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a television show produced twice monthly by the Charles County Public Schools communications department. The latest episode features the regional Skills USA competition and the school system's partnership announcement with Code.org. Visit www.ccboe.com to view the show.

Follow us on Twitter

Did you now that CCPS maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on www.twitter.com/CCPS for system updates, news, facts and more. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill also maintains a Twitter page. Follow her @ccpsupt.

Schools celebrate reading

Charles County Public Schools celebrates Read Across Charles County this school year on Friday, Feb. 28. 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 (NEA) Read Across America Day activities. This is the 17th year that the NEA has celebrated reading through the nationwide event.

Sonya Ford named State Counselor of the Year

Sonya Ford, a school counselor at Matthew Henson Middle School, was recently named the 2014 Maryland Middle School Counselor of the Year by the Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA). The award recognizes school counselors for outstanding achievement and service to students, and for providing leadership in the development of existing and future counseling services.

Ford began her school counseling career with Charles County Public Schools in 2008 as a counselor at North Point High School, and transitioned to Henson in 2012. During the past six years as a CCPS middle and high school level counselor, Ford has worked with students on academic, personal and social goals, and career development. She also focuses on implementing and supporting programs that build positive relationships.

Last year, Ford launched a program called Lunch and Learn/Dine and Discover. As part of the program, parents are invited to visit Henson for one hour, either during lunch or after school hours, to meet with the counseling department. Ford also works with the counseling department to send monthly newsletters to parents, man-

age a girls mentoring and peer mediation program and coordinate schoolwide events such as College Day and Career Day.

Ford said she is proud to represent Henson. "I am humbled and honored to receive this award. However, I consider this award an award for all the school counselors in CCPS," Ford added.

This award is not the first recognition Ford has received for her work in school counseling. In 2011, she was nominated as a candidate for the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year award. In 2004, she was named the Maryland Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the MSCA. Prior to beginning her counseling career with CCPS, Ford held school counseling positions in both Howard and Prince George's counties.

Ford is a member of the Charles County Commission for Women and is the social media chair for the MSCA. She also holds national school counselor certification and served as an advisory team member for the College Board's National Office of School Counselor Advocacy.

She will be honored by the MSCA at their annual conference on March 28.



Sonya Ford



Telepresence

Continued from page 1

At North Point, senior Ethan Kriemelmeyer talked with O'Malley about his AP computer science class and explained how it allows students to enhance their ability to code and their computer science skills. The College Board has selected Charles County Public Schools to pilot AP Computer Science Principles, which will be offered at North Point and Westlake high schools next school year.

O'Malley urged the students to pursue computer science classes, saying there is a great new world waiting and jobs aplenty for those who learn computer science skills.

Mary Bailey, the Charles County Public Schools 2013 Teacher of the Year, joined the governor and State Superintendent of

Schools Lillian Lowery for the conference. Bailey commended the students for taking on the rigor and challenges of AP and AP testing. Superintendent Kimberly Hill echoed the praise to the La Plata students following the conference. She lauded them stepping up and choosing to take rigorous Advanced Placement Courses. "It's hard, and a lot of people don't take hard classes."

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program, which began in 1955, allows students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school. Charles County Public Schools offers 30 AP courses. In 2013, Charles County Public Schools administered 3,759 AP tests, which is 193.7 percent higher than in 2002.

Scholarship opportunities available for Charles County Public Schools students

The Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. is offering more than 40 scholarships to Charles County high school students. Applications for scholarships are available at all county high schools and must be submitted by Monday, March 3, to the student's College & Career Advisor. Award notification will be announced at each high school's senior awards ceremony later this spring.

Applications are also available on the school system website, www.ccboe.com, under the students/parents section. Each scholarship has specific eligibility criteria. Information on eligibility is located on page three of the application. The following scholarships are available:

- Apartments of St. Charles Scholarship, \$500;
- Ashley Jayne Younger Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Westlake High School students);
- Charles County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Charles County Health Department and School Nurses' Scholarship, \$250;
- Charles County Retired School Personnel Association Scholarship, \$500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Charles County Teacher Education Assistance Grant, \$1,000
- Edward Rorer Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Eric Sawchak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- GFWC, Charles County Woman's Club, \$500;
- Grote Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata High School students);
- Harding Memorial Future Educator Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Harold Allen Levy Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Jeremiah and Elijah Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- John H. Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- John Howie Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (two awards);
- Kate Donahue Scholarship, \$400 (for Henry E. Lackey High School students);
- Katherine D. Racey Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500 (for Lackey and Maurice J. McDonough High School students);
- La Plata Garden Club Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards);
- Lisa Michele Duckett Achievement Award, \$1,000;
- Maria A. Torres Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Thomas Stone High School students);
- Mary Matula Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata students);
- Michael J. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for La Plata students);

- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Music Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Nursing Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Mildred Rice O'Callaghan Scholarship, \$500 (for Lackey students);
- Nicole Pitonyak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for North Point High School students);
- Parker Financial Literacy Scholarship, \$250;
- Patricia Sugg Weiers Memorial Scholarship, \$250;
- Professor V. Phillips Weaver Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Rachel Myers Trade School Scholarship, \$500;
- Richard J. Abela Scholarship, \$2,000 (for North Point students);
- Robert Dean Stethem National Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Robert Dean Stethem Thomas Stone Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Thomas Stone students);
- Ronald G. Cunningham Scholarship, \$2,500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Ronald G. Cunningham Nursing Scholarship, \$500;
- St. Charles Community Scholarship, \$500 (three awards);
- Starkey Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Stephen E. Mitchell Educational Scholarship, \$500;
- Thomas B.R. Mudd Nurse Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas B.R. Mudd Teacher Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas Kurtz Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Lackey students);
- Thomas W. Weirich Scholar-Athlete Award, \$1,000;
- Timothy Minor Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Timothy Minor Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Tiny Hopes Scholarship, \$1,000 (three awards);
- Unnae Pak-Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500; and
- William and Vivian King Scholarship, \$1,000 (one for each Charles County public high school).

Visit the Charles County Public Schools website, www.ccboe.com, or contact Alicia Jones, Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc., at 301-934-7334, for more information.

School system hires Murphy as Executive Director of Human Resources

Pamela Murphy has accepted the position of Executive Director of Human Resources for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). Murphy has more than 16 years of senior management experience in public education human resources. She has held the positions of Senior Manager of Human Resources for Harford County Public Schools and Director of Human Capital for Baltimore City Public Schools.

Additionally, Murphy has a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in financial management. She has an Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) certificate from the Maryland Department

of Education and a Senior Professional in Human Resources Certificate (SPHRC) from HR Certification Institute. Murphy also has experience in all facets of human resources including recruitment, benefits administration, classification, compensation, collective bargaining (as a chief negotiator), staffing, compliance, employee relations, payroll and budget.

The Board of Education approved the appointment of Murphy on Feb. 11. She is expected to begin with CCPS in early March.

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

Board of Education Members

Roberta S. Wise, Chairman
Maura H. Cook, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Patricia Bowie
Michael K. Lukas
Pamela A. Pedersen
Donald M. Wade
Amit Patel, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools

Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers

Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Mackey
Kara Gross
Tara Wood

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Patricia Vaira, Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Connie W. Armstead, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646. 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

School system recognized for energy savings efforts

As part of Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO) Demand Response Program, Charles County Public Schools recently received a \$286,075 incentive for energy savings efforts. The Demand Response Program is coordinated through SMECO's contract with Comverge, Inc., an independent company that provides clean energy solutions through demand response and energy efficiency. Tripp Warner and Jennifer Raley, representatives from Comverge and SMECO, presented the school system with a check during the Feb. 11 Board of Education meeting.

The incentive is payable to the school system in two portions. Fifty percent is provided as a bill credit for Charles County Public Schools with SMECO. The remaining 50 percent is provided to the school system from Comverge, Inc. and is used for various system facility projects. The program focuses on reducing electricity use during peak demand hours, which results in energy savings, and is in place during the months of June through September.

This is the third consecutive year that Charles County Public Schools has participated in the program. In 2012, the school system received an incentive for more than \$262,000 from participation at

all schools, centers and buildings. The program was piloted at 12 schools and buildings in 2011 and initially resulted in an incentive totaling more than \$145,000. The program was launched systemwide in 2012.

Under EmPower Maryland, Maryland's five major utility companies developed and implemented energy efficiency and demand response programs that include electric bill rebates for energy efficiency investments, audits and services. The goal of EmPower Maryland is to reduce power consumption 15 percent by next year.

The school system also participates in SMECO's Business Solutions program, which provides incentives to businesses that make efficiency improvements to their facilities. All non-residential customers who receive SMECO service are eligible to participate in the Business Solutions program, but interested customers must apply for program participation.

To learn more about SMECO's Business Solutions programs, visit their website at <http://www.smeco.coop/saveEnergy/businessSolutions.aspx>.



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.cchoe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a Bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Instructional Specialist for Judy Center – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years teaching experience required. Apply by Feb. 20.

Building Service Worker – Milton M. Somers Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 25.

Computer Analysts – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month positions. Apply by Feb. 25.

Athletic Director – St. Charles High School, 11-month position. A minimum of five years teaching experience at the high school level, three years of high school coaching experience and a NIAAA registered athletic administrator certification required. Apply by Feb. 26.

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

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

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

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

Library Media Specialists – Openings at the elementary school level, 10-month positions.

Special Education Teacher – Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

North Point High School has the following openings:

- Head boys' track coach
- Assistant boys' lacrosse coach
- Assistant girls' lacrosse coach
- Assistant softball coach

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

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Varsity girls' soccer coach
- Head boys' lacrosse coach

Contact Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Assistant track coach

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

La Plata High School has the following opening:

- Head volleyball coach

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

Staff Notes

Buying, renting, or selling?

Submit an ad on the InsideCCPS employee website under the "Classified Ads" section. Ads are free and run for 20 days. Directions for posting are listed on the page.