



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Ready for spring sports

Spring sports begin on Saturday, March 1. Visit <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/calendar/sports.php> to view sports schedules for Charles County's six high schools.

Interim Reports

Interim reports will be issued to students on Monday, March 3.

MSA testing

Students in grades three through eight will take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in reading on Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5. The MSA mathematics exam will be administered to students on Tuesday, March 11, and Wednesday, March 12. Students in fifth and seventh grades will take the reading MSA online between March 3 and March 21.

Spring forward

Daylight Saving Time is Sunday, March 9. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour. The first day of spring is Thursday, March 20.

Third marking period

The third marking period ends on Tuesday, April 1. The fourth marking period begins Wednesday, April 2. Report cards will be issued on Tuesday, April 8.

St. Charles pool approved

The Charles County Commissioners on Feb. 26 voted 4 to 1 in favor of the addition of an indoor pool at St. Charles High School. Construction on St. Charles is underway and the school will open for students on Aug. 25, 2014. Cost of the pool, which will be the third indoor pool at a Charles County high school, is \$6.9 million. Construction on the pool will begin shortly.



T.C. Martin teachers turn 100 on 100th day

February 19 marked the 100th day of school for Charles County Public Schools students. Schools planned activities to highlight the event, such as "100" counting sessions and creating paper hats that displayed the number 100. The first-grade team at T.C. Martin Elementary School celebrated the milestone by dressing up as 100-year-old teachers. Pictured from left are Martin teachers Luckett (Lucky) Emory, Ashley Valenzuela and Jolie Whitehead.

Employees, St. Charles High School top budget items

Salary step and scale increases, health insurance, St. Charles High School and learning resource teachers are among the Board's priorities in a \$342.7 million funding request sent this week to the Charles County Commissioners.

The Board of Education on Feb. 11 approved its fiscal year 2015 operating budget, adopting Superintendent Kimberly Hill's proposal for the next school year. The proposed operating budget represents a 6.4 percent increase from this school year's budget, or \$20.7 million. State funding is expected to increase by about \$2.4 million, and the Board is asking the county to fund the remaining \$19.7 million, or a 12.4 percent increase.

Costs for employee compensation and the opening of St. Charles High School compose the majority of the Board's requested in-

crease. The Board is requesting \$8.8 million for contract negotiations, including two step/level increases and salary scale compression with the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The reserve amount includes two step/level increases, which were deferred in fiscal year 2011.

Additionally, the budget request includes \$7.7 million for phase one of the recurring operating costs for St. Charles High School, which opens in August 2014. Expected enrollment the first year is 1,000 students. A total of 74.8 new staff positions were created to support the school, in addition to the 44 positions that will be transferred from other high schools. The request excludes start-up costs.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the Feb. 11 meeting. Pictured, from left, are Chief Larry Adams, Air Force ROTC instructor, Henry E. Lackey High School; Olivia Coffey, school counselor, Berry Elementary School; and Stephanie Boyer, vocal music teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School.

High school computer bowl

The high school computer bowl is Saturday, March 1, at North Point High School. Student teams in the tri-county area compete in the event and participate in two rounds of competition. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Wellness survey

Charles County Public Schools and Blue Cross/Blue Shield have partnered this year to offer wellness classes for employees. A committee, composed of staff from across the county, has developed a survey to gather input on staff preferences for future classes. The school system hopes to begin the next series of classes in late March. Visit the InsideCCPS employee section of the website to complete the survey by March 4.

Retirement session

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association and the Office of Human Resources are hosting a retirement planning session 5 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 12, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The session will focus on the retirement forms required for employees who are considering retirement at the end of this school year.

The meeting will include guest speakers and handouts. Light refreshments will also be available. An RSVP is required as space is limited. RSVP to Janice Spotz, 301-934-2146 or jspotz@comcast.net.

Airing Now ...

Airing now is a new episode of NewsBreak 96. The latest episode highlights gifted education programs and the Board of Education's February meeting. Also featured is a Telepresence chat between Advanced Placement (AP) students and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. Visit www.ccboe.com to view the show.



Patel spells her way to National Spelling Bee

Aashka Patel, a seventh-grade student at Milton M. Somers Middle School, above, earned the title of the county's top speller at the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) 36th annual Spelling Bee held Feb. 21 at Somers. Patel spelled the word "cynosure," which means something that strongly attracts attention by its brilliance or something serving for guide or direction, to earn first place. As the Charles County winner, Patel advances to the 2014 Scripps National Spelling Bee scheduled for May 25-31 in Washington, D.C.



Regional program to increase ELL services

Charles County Public Schools is launching a regional program for high-school level English Language Learners (ELL) at Maurice J. McDonough High School. The program, the Secondary Academy of International Languages (SAIL), will open at the start of the 2014-15 school year and all ELL students enrolled in high school, with the exception of seniors, will attend McDonough. The program provides an opportunity for the school system to better serve students with limited English proficiency by placing all ELL students and services in one location.

Highlights of the program include:

- Central services for ELL students including registration, classes, extracurricular activities, and parent and student support.
- A full-time ELL teacher who will co-teach most English, mathematics, science and social studies classes.
- ELL students will attend blended classes as a group, along with other classmates.
- A community of students who can support each other and teachers specifically

trained to work with students with limited English proficiency.

In addition to instructional and school-based support, the center will also provide outreach such as the use of translators for direct and indirect language assistance between non-English background families, teachers and the school, and the school system. A bilingual counselor will also be on McDonough's staff to work directly with students and parents.

Although ELL students entering their senior year at the start of the 2014-15 school year will not be required to attend McDonough they may choose to attend McDonough to take advantage of the centralized ELL services. Charles County Public Schools anticipates more than 50 ELL students will attend McDonough to participate in the SAIL program next school year. Additionally, with the start of the 2014-15 school year, McDonough will handle all registrations and testing for high school ELL students.

An information session is being held on Thursday, March 27, 6 p.m. at McDonough.

Charles County Public Schools recognizes employees for years of service

The Board of Education on Thursday, Feb. 27, honored Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees for their years of service to the school system and children during a ceremony held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Honored were those employees who have contributed to the school system with careers that total either 45, 40, 35, 30 and 25 years.

Maria “Mollie” Johnson is the supervising pupil personnel worker (PPW) for CCPS and was honored for 45 years of service. She began her career with the school system as a teacher at Indian Head Elementary School in 1968. Johnson also worked for several years as a special education teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, and then served as an IEP facilitator at Gale-Bailey, Indian Head and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools, General Smallwood Middle School and Henry E. Lackey High School.

Johnson became a PPW in 1988 and worked with students and families at Indian Head, Gale-Bailey, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, Smallwood and Lackey. She was named the supervising PPW in 1998.

Additionally, the Board of Education honored 79 other CCPS employees with 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service.

Employees with 40 years of service are:

- James Morrow, pupil personnel worker, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Barbara Pennington, physical education teacher, John Hanson Middle School;
- Sandra Shegogue, secretary, Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Henry Sinkey, instructional resource teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; and
- Brenda Warren, media specialist, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

Employees with 35 years of service are:

- Melbourne “Butch” Arbin, career and technology resource teacher, Starkey;
- Brenda Bivins, pre-school instructional assistant, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- Frances Bugin, staff accountant-investment accounts, Starkey;
- Lee Clark, mail truck driver, Starkey;
- James Dunleavy, physical education teacher, La Plata High School;
- Clifford Eichel, director of research and assessment, Starkey;
- Catherine Flowers, kindergarten teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- Charles Kelly, acting maintenance foreman, Maintenance Shop;
- Nicolette Kirby, child care teacher, North Point High School;
- Billie Laub, speech therapist, Matula;
- Diane McGuire, second-grade teacher, Berry Elementary School;
- Arnold Miller, physical education teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Oksana Mouchyn-Dobbs, special education teacher, La Plata;
- Jerome Petty, vice principal, Somers;
- Patricia Pugliese, science teacher, Hanson;
- Dawn Schaeffer, coordinator of staff development, Starkey;
- Mary Seremet, gifted education resource teacher, Starkey; and
- Dell Simmons, building service manager, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

Employees with 30 years of service are:

- Roberta Bragunier, special education teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Joseph Brawner, building service manager, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Constance Conover, third-grade teacher, Mitchell;
- Thomas Edwards, physical education teacher, Wade;
- Mary Ann Farmer, printing technician, Starkey;
- Debra Haan, physical education teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School;
- Carol Leveillee, principal, Mary B. Neal Elementary School;

- Linda Lund, kindergarten teacher, Wade;
- Elizabeth Miller, accounting manager, Starkey; and
- Wanda Scott, secretary to director, Starkey.

Employees with 25 years of service are:

- Suzanne Alpert, student data accounting clerk, Somers;
- Gerard Barrett, coordinating supervisor of planning and construction, Annex Building;
- Diane Bicknell, physical therapist, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center;
- Andrea Binetti, psychologist, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School and Piccowaxen;
- Diane Brawner, building service manager, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;
- Melanie Cole, business education teacher, North Point;
- Richard Conn, pupil personnel worker, Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Sue DelaCruz, pupil personnel worker, Higdon and Piccowaxen;
- Armand DelaCruz, Spanish teacher, Westlake High School;
- Karen Dempsey, gifted education teacher, Berry;
- Levi Dent, building service manager, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School;
- Donna DePamphilis, special education IEP facilitator, Gale-Bailey;
- Ernest Downs, foreman of electrical-mechanical group, Maintenance Shop;
- Janice Earnshaw, third-grade teacher, Higdon;
- Ellen Estevez, science teacher, North Point;
- Donna Griffin, fourth-grade teacher, Wade;
- Carl Hamilton, carpenter II, Maintenance Shop;
- Connie Harris, physical education teacher, Westlake;
- Beverly Hoy, psychologist, Lackey;
- Pamela Jackson, special education instructional assistant, Mitchell;
- Elizabeth Jameson, second-grade teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School;
- Larry Johnson, building service worker, Lackey;
- Jennifer Jolliffe, fifth-grade teacher, Wade;
- Anita Latham, guidance secretary, Thomas Stone High School;
- Angela MacKay, fourth-grade teacher, Mitchell;
- Nancy Mathena, special education instructional assistant, Lackey;
- Betty Mazzeo, music teacher-vocal, McDonough;
- Andrew McKibbins, English teacher, Westlake;
- Katherine Miles, mathematics teacher, La Plata;
- Jeannie Proctor, kindergarten teacher, Berry;
- Mary Quade, food service manager, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Victoria Ramos, fifth-grade teacher, Martin;
- Cherie Reynolds, secretary to the principal, Piccowaxen;
- Carolyn Richardson, principal, Matula;
- George Risko, HVAC mechanic II, Maintenance Shop;
- Scott Sisolak, specialist in mathematics, Starkey;
- Constance Sorzano, media instructional assistant, Martin;
- Glenn Stergar, computer resource teacher, North Point;
- Maureen Stewart, Spanish teacher, North Point;
- Michael Sturman, physical education teacher, La Plata;
- Sherella Swann, secretary in instruction, Starkey;
- Ernestine Swann, guidance secretary, Somers;
- John Thompson, painter II, Maintenance Shop;
- Katrina Thompson, student data accounting clerk, Lackey;
- Gloria Ward, head of accounts payable, Starkey; and
- Jean Washington, reading instructional assistant, McDonough.

The Board of Education honors employees annually for years of service to Charles County Public Schools.

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Board of Education announces March 11 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 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. and student and staff recognition starts at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. The following is a tentative agenda.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Thomas Stone High School JROTC

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees update
- Student Board Member update
- CIP update
- Fine and performing arts opportunities for students
- Ninth-grade Earth science textbook

- Technology upgrades
- 2015-16 school calendar
- Board policy on student discipline

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff – Leigha Pehlivan, art teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Michael Hoffman, third-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; Jason Mackey, administrative assistant, General Smallwood Middle School; Charlotte Kelton, reading instructional assistant, John Hanson Middle School; and Karen Elliott, media instructional assistant, Thomas Stone High School.

- Resolutions: *Month of the Young Child* and *National Student Leadership Week*

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Middle school health textbooks
- High school government textbook

Adjournment

Personnel

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

Job Openings

Secretary to the Director of the James E. Richmond Science Center – St. Charles High School, 12-month position. Apply by March 7.

Learning Resource Teachers – Openings at the elementary and middle school levels, 10-month positions. Master's degree/advanced and a minimum of five years teaching experience required. Apply by March 7.

Extended School Year Positions – Direct service providers are needed to provide extended school year services to special education students during the summer. Positions are available for special educators, regular educators, speech/language therapists and occupational therapists. Contact Amanda Burgess at 301-934-7397 or aburgess@ccboe.com or Heather

Neely at 301-392-7591 or hneely@ccboe.com by May 16 to apply.

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

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

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

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

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 required.

Staff Notes

Summer School opportunities

CCPS has the following openings for the 2014 Summer School program: foundations of technology; high school English; geometry; personal financial literacy; middle school

language arts/reading; middle school science; middle school math; and middle school social studies. Interested applicants should be current CCPS teachers and be certificated in the area of interest. Contact Brian McCarthy at bmccarthy@ccboe.com or Sandy Rooney at srooney@ccboe.com for to apply.

InsideCCPS

Charles County Public Schools maintains an employee-only website, InsideCCPS, at www.ccboe.com. To access the site, visit www.ccboe.com and click on the InsideCCPS area located on the bottom, right-hand side of the home page. A log-in screen will appear. Employees with CCPS e-mail accounts use their user name and password associated with their @ccboe.com e-mail account.

Staff who do not have an e-mail account with CCPS can access the system by using charlescounty, all one word, as the user name and welcome as the password.