



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Tuesday, April 1. Afternoon pre-kindergarten students attend.

Third marking period ends

The third marking period ends on Monday, March 31; the fourth marking period begins on Tuesday, April 1.

Report cards mailed/issued

Elementary school report cards will be issued to students at school on Tuesday, April 8; report cards for middle and high school students will be mailed on April 8.

Two-hour delay schedule

CCPS recently modified the school calendar to make up for lost instructional time due to inclement weather. The following two-hour early dismissal days have been changed to full days of instruction for students: Friday, April 25; Wednesday, May 7; and Wednesday, May 21.

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. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

Airing this week

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak96, a show produced by the communications department. This episode highlights the Youth Art Month Show, the Charles County Science Fair, basketball state finals and a new policy discussed at the Board of Education's March meeting.



Student creativity on display

More than 119 teams from Charles County public elementary, middle and high schools, and regional private schools, competed in the regional Destination Imagination event held March 15. Teams, such as the Girl Power team pictured above from Malcolm Elementary School, work to solve challenges that require students to apply creativity, critical thinking skills and unique talents. The Girl Power team includes, from left, second grader Harlee Keen, first graders Markeisha Warren, Carly Roberts and Kirestin Brown, and kindergartner Kennedy Robertson.

School system pilots program to use personal devices

Fourth and fifth graders at Arthur Middleton Elementary Schools will soon be using laptops, tablets and maybe even Smart Phones in class. The students are part of a pilot program called Bring your own device (BYOD) that starts at Middleton in early May and will expand to Thomas Stone High School and General Smallwood Middle School before the end of the school year.

BYOD is a program that allows staff and students to use their personal device and connect to the Internet for approved classroom instructional activities. In a presentation to the Board of Education, Sylvia Lawson, assistant superintendent of school administration, said Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is committed to providing students and staff with a next generation learning environment in which every student has access to learning experiences and instruction

designed around discovery, connectivity and experience.

BYOD committee members, including principals, administrators and teachers, told the Board the school system is committed to immersing students in the creation of knowledge and empowering our students to collaborate, communicate and innovate with technology. Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill stressed that the technology does not replace the teacher, but will be used as a tool to enhance instruction.

According to guidelines developed by the committee, the length of the pilot program will depend on the success of adapting instruction and improving learning in the classroom; the success of students adhering to the guidelines and policies for use of their own technology at school; and the impact of load on the network infrastructure.

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at their March meeting. Pictured, from left, are Jason Mackey, administrative assistant, General Smallwood Middle School; Karen Elliott, media center instructional assistant, Thomas Stone High School; and Michael Hoffman, third-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School.

Now showing

Westlake High School hosts the first musical this spring with their version of “Shrek the Musical,” on March 27-29. Show time is 7 p.m. for all three performances. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, and \$6 for senior citizens and thespians. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$5. Charles County Public Schools staff are able to attend the show free, along with one guest, by showing their school system identification badge. Call 301-645-8857 for more information.

Henry E. Lackey High School presents “The Drowsy Chaperone,” on April 4-5 at 6:30 p.m., and 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 6. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$7 for students, senior citizens and military service members, and \$6 for thespians. Charles County Public Schools staff are able to attend the show for free, along with one guest. Call 301-743-5431 for more information.

The drama department at Maurice J. McDonough High School is presenting Rodgers and Hammerstein’s “The Sound of Music,” on April 3-5, at 6:30 p.m., and April 5-6 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$7 for thespians and children ages 2-12. Tickets can be ordered online at www.mcdonoughdrama.com.

North Point High School is hosting “Spamalot,” on April 3-5 at 7 p.m., and April 5 at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Staff members receive one free complementary ticket with their identification badge. Contact the school at 301-753-1759 for more information.

Thomas Stone High School is presenting “The Wiz,” the weekend of April 3-5 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students and senior citizens. Charles County Public Schools staff can receive two complimentary tickets by showing their identification badge. Call 301-645-2601 for more information.

School system seeks an outstanding vice principal

Charles County Public Schools is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Vice Principal of the Year Award, which will be presented to a vice principal who exemplifies excellence. Teachers, parents, students and administrators may submit nominations, and employees cannot nominate themselves.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony during the Board of Education’s June 10 meeting.

Nominees must be full-time employees, employed by Charles County Public Schools as a vice principal for at least three years, and have not received this award in the past five years. Nominees must meet criteria in the following areas:

- Educational leadership – nominee implements strategies for improving teaching by putting programs and improvement efforts into action; involves teachers and other staff members in achieving the goals of the school; and assists in ensuring school climate is positive and functions effectively as a member of the school leadership team.
- Resolving complex problems – nominee maintains awareness and the ability to resolve current and emerging issues, manages time and tasks efficiently, and utilizes technology to address educational situations.
- Developing self and others – nominee is committed to continued professional growth, teaches, coaches and helps others,

and demonstrates and fosters creativity and imagination.

• Community service – nominee involves the community in school events and uses community resources for students, establishes partnerships with community groups to strengthen programs and supports school goals.

Nomination materials must be submitted in a three-ring binder and include:

- a nomination cover page including a contact person and committee members;
- a maximum of 20 support statements, including a statement from the school principal;
- a brief career summary; and
- a description of contributions in each area of the nomination criteria.

Nomination packets should be forwarded to the attention of Cynthia Rivera in the office of human resources no later than Thursday, April 24. A committee composed of administrative personnel will make the final selection. The recipient of the award will be registered as a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals/National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP/NAESP) and must participate in the State and National Assistant Principal of the Year conference activities.

For more information, contact Cynthia Rivera at 301-934-7356 or crivera@ccboe.com.



Devices

Continued from page 1

Middleton Principal Sabrina Robinson-Taylor said she is excited to launch the program at her school. Robinson-Taylor has already surveyed parents to gauge participation interest, and she will further explain the program as part of a Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting on April 24. At Middleton, all fourth and fifth graders will participate in the program and Robinson-Taylor said teachers will jointly plan a lesson and students will have the option of bringing their personal device from home or using one of the school’s laptop computers.

According to guidelines developed by the BYOD committee, students may use

their personal devices in class as instructed by their teacher; however, it is not expected that a teacher will need students to bring devices every day. Students may use personal technology devices only when approved by a teacher or an administrator.

Robinson-Taylor said she is anxious to get started with the program. She has a strong interest in technology, and with testing moving online, Robinson-Taylor said it is important that students become more comfortable using technology for instruction.

More information about BYOD is available on the school system website at www.ccboe.com under the Academics tab.

Charles County Public Schools extends wellness program for employees this spring

As part of Charles County Public Schools wellness program for employees, two courses are available for registration for the spring session. Beginning on Monday, March 31, free personal training and yoga classes will be available at nearby schools and centers. Class schedules, including dates, times and locations, are available on the employee section of the school system website, InsideCCPS. A complete schedule of classes is also located in the table below. Space is limited to 20 participants per course.

Employees must use the InsideCCPS web page to sign up for a class. To access the system, visit www.cbboe.com and click on the words InsideCCPS located on the bottom, right-hand corner of the page. Employees with school system e-mail accounts will need to enter their e-mail address as their user name, and their password associated with their work account to access InsideCCPS. Employees without a system e-mail account can access InsideCCPS by using the guest login of charlescounty (all one word, no spaces) as the user name, and welcome as the password. Once you are logged into the site, select the "Wellness Program Sign Up" link located on the right-hand side of the page. The link takes users to a sign-up page that features a listing of classes being offered.

The program is sponsored by CareFirst, which is covering the cost of classes and instructors. The program was piloted with six classes last fall and the goal is to help employees prevent illness and disease,

reduce absenteeism and to cut health care costs through worksite health programs. The school system formed a wellness committee earlier this year to better plan wellness activities for employees. The committee coordinated a wellness survey for staff input to help plan the spring session. Based on survey results, personal training and yoga were the most popular classes requested and utilized in the fall session. The survey results also indicated that employees preferred classes to begin after-work hours.

The two courses available are open for enrollment by Charles County Public Schools staff only and regardless if they are enrolled in the CareFirst health insurance program. Based on the results of the wellness survey, locations and class times were coordinated to accommodate staff work schedules. The majority of classes run for six weeks. The first session of courses planned for the 2014-15 school year will begin in August, and run through November. Information on fall session offerings will be released at a later date.

Charles County Public Schools is self-insured, which means the school system and employees collectively pay for all health insurance claims. Employee health contributions increase when insurance claims rise, and the school system is exploring a number of ways, including the wellness program, to keep costs down. The Charles County Public Schools wellness program is coordinated by the office of human resources. For more information, call 301-934-7398.



Wellness program • New classes available

Classes	Location	Start time	Start date
Personal Training (1 hour per week for six weeks)	Milton M. Somers Middle School	3 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Thomas Stone High School	3 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Robert D. Stethem Educational Center	3 p.m.	Wednesday, April 2
	North Point High School	3:30 p.m.	Monday, March 31
	Milton M. Somers Middle School	4:15 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School	4:30 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Dr. James Craik Elementary School	4:30 p.m.	Wednesday, April 2
	Arthur Middleton Elementary School	4:45 p.m.	Monday, March 31
Yoga (1 hour per week for six weeks)	La Plata High School	5:30 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Milton M. Somers Middle School	3 p.m.	Thursday, April 3
	North Point High School	3:30 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Benjamin Stoddert Middle School	4 p.m.	Tuesday, April 1
	Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School	4 p.m.	Monday, March 31
	Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School	4:30 p.m.	Wednesday, April 2
	J.P. Ryon Elementary School	4:30 p.m.	Wednesday, April 2
	Berry Elementary School	4:30 p.m.	Thursday, April 3
	J.C. Parks Elementary School	4:30 p.m.	Monday, April 7
	Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School	4:45 p.m.	Monday, March 31
Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School	5:15 p.m.	Thursday, April 3	

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Board of Education announces April 1 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 1, 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. The following is a tentative meeting agenda and is subject to change.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Westlake High School JROTC

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Student athletes grade-point average
- CIP update
- Overview of TEAM's Dashboard
- Budget update
- Board policy on student discipline
- Legislative update

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff – Anne Zabel, instructional assistant, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; Angela McDonald, secretary to the principal, Indian Head Elementary School; Darlene Denny, secretary to the principal, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; Jennifer Posey, science teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Zohra Cherif, social studies teacher, Westlake High School.

- Resolutions: *Teacher Appreciation Week*; *Administrative Professionals Week*; *Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week*; and *National Physical Education and Sport Week*.

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2015-16 calendar
- Ninth grade Earth science textbook
- Middle school health textbooks
- High school government textbook

Adjournment

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.cchoe.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

Special Education Instructional Assistants

– Openings at Piccowaxen Middle School, Thomas Stone High School and the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month positions. Apply by March 28.

Principal – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 12-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate with administrator II endorsement and special education endorsement, three years of teaching experience and three years of vice principal experience required. Apply by April 1.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Facilitator – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Advanced professional certificate with special education endorsement and five

years special education teaching experience required. Master's degree preferred. Apply by April 1.

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

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

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

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

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@cchoe.com or Heather Neely at 301-392-7591 or hneely@cchoe.com by Friday, May 16 to apply.

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

Extra pay positions

North Point High School has the following openings:

- Head football coach
- Assistant girls' basketball coach

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

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Head cheerleading coach
- Assistant cheerleading coach
- Head boys' basketball coach
- Head girls' basketball coach

Contact Tony Mast, athletic director, 301-743-5431, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Head swimming coach

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