



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Elementary Math Challenge

The Elementary Math Challenge is Saturday, April 25, at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. The competition starts at 8:45 a.m. and the awards ceremony begins at 10:45 a.m.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 28, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7364 for details.

This week on Newsbreak

Airing this week on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak. This episode features the Career Research and Development (CRD) Breakfast, a North Point High School student welding project and the April Board of Education meeting. Visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/ for a programming schedule.

Cevenini appointed

Superintendent Kimberly A. Hill announced this week the appointment of Peter Cevenini as Chief of Instructional Technology for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

Cevenini, chief information officer for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), will focus on the use of technology for instruction while creating a technology vision for CCPS.

In his new role, Cevenini will supervise and monitor career and technology education, Project Lead the Way, technical education, business education and computer science programs. Additionally, he will oversee the technology department and act as the liaison with the MSDE on all technology initiatives. His position is part of the Office of Instruction. Cevenini starts July 1.

Wright named 2015 Principal of the Year

Strong values, a respectful demeanor, high expectations and a commitment to the success of all children are just a few of the leadership characteristics the J.C. Parks Elementary School community uses to describe their principal, Thadine Wright. On a daily basis, Wright takes the time to greet all students to and from school with hugs, handshakes and even the occasional high five. One of her goals as a leader is to maintain a positive and supportive dialogue with students, staff and parents. She makes herself available to listen to those in the Parks community and collaborates with all stakeholders to ensure the needs of each student are met.

She emulates what it takes to be a team and is the biggest supporter of her students. The vision she models at Parks is "to create the best environment where all students experience academic success, develop personal responsibility and achieve career readiness for the 21st century." Wright embodies this and is often described as a "cheerleader" because she is always there to motivate and encourage children. For these abilities and more, Wright was chosen as the 2015 Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year and recipient of this year's *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award.

Wright said she is honored and humbled by her selection for an award she feels rewards her for doing a job she loves. "It's a great honor to be recognized, and even just nominated, by the committee. It's quite humbling, because I come to school every day with the intention of serving and protecting the students," she added.

Wright began her career in education with Charles County Public Schools in 1989 as a special education teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. The first in her family to go to college, she studied early childhood education with the goals of working with young children and being able to make a difference in their lives. Her commitment to

making a difference is evident in all that she does, and her students see that what she does supports their well-being.

Parks fifth grader Morgan Martin wrote a letter in support of Wright's nomination and said students appreciate her hard work and see her commitment to their success. "I really appreciate all of the hard work she does for us

students daily. She even lets us do fun stuff like fundraisers and field trips. Every time I see her or any other students at Parks, she greets us with a smile and she knows us by name. She is committed to her job, and all of the students, staff, teachers, and parents love her," Martin wrote in her nomination letter.

To accommodate the needs of all learners, Wright works with Parks staff to customize programs

and lessons, and shares strategies for use in the classroom. She coordinates weekly team planning sessions and monthly team leader meetings to discuss instructional practices and concerns, and solutions to better engage students. Wright dedicates time in her schedule to model classroom lessons, demonstrate guided reading groups and fills in the classroom when a substitute is needed.

Ericka Akpeneye is a second-grade teacher at Parks. She said Wright not only leads by example, but helps her teachers grow as educators. "Mrs. Wright empowers her staff to strive for excellence by leading by example. She is equally dedicated to the needs of students and staff. She continually seeks ways to improve her craft. I have been fortunate that Mrs. Wright has helped me grow during my career," Akpeneye wrote in a nomination letter.

The *Washington Post* each year honors outstanding principals throughout the metropolitan area through its educational foundation, and will honor Wright during a ceremony and reception for the recipients of the Distinguished Educational Leadership Awards in May. She will be recognized by the Board of Education at the June 9 meeting.



Thadine Wright

MASC honors staff for student leadership

Westlake High School Principal Chrystal Benson was recently named the 2014-15 Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Wayne Perry Principal of the Year award recipient. The annual award recognizes principals who support student leaders and organizations as well as high learning standards for all students. Benson was nominated for the award by student leaders at Westlake for her commitment to student success and growth, and for her dedication to supporting a learning environment that provides students with leadership opportunities.

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School social studies teacher Danielle Carpenter, who also serves as the school's student government association (SGA) advisor, was named the MASC 2014-15 Maryland Middle School Advisor of the Year award recipient. Selected honorees are recognized for their commitment to promote student involvement at their school, as well as at regional and state levels, and for helping to inspire young leaders to become involved in student leadership activities.



Chrystal Benson

Benson was nominated by Andrew Williams, a senior at Westlake and the school's student liaison to the Board of Education of Charles County. He, along with Westlake junior Kiara Williams, who serves as the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) secretary, wrote a letter in support of Benson's award nomination that highlights recent successes at Westlake under her leadership.

"Ms. Benson has been the principal at Westlake since 2005. Her leadership has led Westlake to be ranked in the top 1,000 rigorous high schools in America. During her tenure, Westlake was also named as Maryland's recycle bowl state winner for two consecutive years. She fosters academic achievement, and promotes afterschool mentoring and tutoring professional development sessions. She has worked hard to create a hardworking, intelligent and academically dedicated and challenging high school," Williams wrote.

To support Benson's nomination, Gary Winsett, a social studies teacher at Thomas Stone High School and advisor to the CCASC, wrote a letter on her behalf. Winsett said Benson has been essential in the expansion of student leadership programs at Westlake. "Her guidance and support of advisors are key ingredients to the rising participation and success of all student leaders of Westlake. Ms. Benson gives all of her energy, enthusiasm, and guidance to help shape her students into effective young leaders. She is an invaluable asset to Charles County Public Schools and a great role model for present and future leaders," Winsett wrote in a nomination letter.

Carpenter was nominated for the middle school advisor award for her support of the student government and student leaders at Stoddert, as well as her support of the CCASC. At Stoddert, there is a high level of student involvement within the school community and Carpenter encourages the participation of her students at the local and state levels as well. Under Carpenter's leadership, Stoddert is well represented on the CCASC and student leaders are also active in several MASC-sponsored events. She demonstrates a commitment to helping students succeed and learn leadership skills to help them prepare for their future.



Danielle Carpenter

Winsett has worked with Carpenter for the past five school years and said her enthusiasm and dedication is infectious. "Stoddert is routinely one of the most involved delegations present from Charles County and their enthusiasm in our regional meetings is infectious. I truly appreciate Carpenter's professional approach to her responsibilities and sincerely believe that this is a main reason why the SGA at Stoddert is considered to be one of the finest in the state," Winsett wrote in a nomination letter for Carpenter.

Benson and Carpenter were honored with their respective awards at the annual MASC convention held March 25-27. For more information about MASC, visit <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/>.



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from La Plata High School. Pictured from left, are Crystal Briscoe-Hall, secretary; Monica Cherry, school counselor; and Creig Fallin, in-school retention program instructional assistant.

Summer positions available

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 Racheal Lindauer at 301-392-7591 or rlindauer@ccboe.com by May 16 to apply.

Community Connection

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is publishing a monthly community newsletter for parents, community members and staff. Community Connection is an email newsletter that provides brief information with opportunities to link to more information. If you missed the April edition, it is posted at www.ccboe.com/enews/.

Nominate a building leader

CCPS is looking for nominations for the 2015 Vice Principal of the Year. Nominees must have at least three years of experience as a vice principal with CCPS. Additional nominee criteria is posted on the school system website, under the employee recognition area of the Jobs section. Nominations are due to the Office of Human Resources by Friday, April 24. Contact Pam Mucciolo at pmucciolo@ccboe.com or 301-934-7242 for additional information.

Staff nominees due today

CCPS is looking for award nominees for the 2015 Outstanding Classified Personnel Awards program. Awards are given in seven categories: building service, food service, instructional support, secretary, maintenance, information technology and central office support staff. Award winners will be announced and recognized at the June 9 Board of Education meeting. Nominations are due April 24. Additional information is posted on the system website, www.ccboe.com.

Superintendent adjusts pay dates, final work days and 2015-16 calendar

Pay dates adjustment

Periodically, pay dates must be adjusted to keep the total number of pay dates to 26 days in both the calendar and fiscal year periods. This adjustment will be made in July 2015. The pay dates will be moved to Wednesday, July 8 and Friday, July 24. Pay dates will then continue every two weeks. This means there will be a 2-1/2 week time period instead of the normal two-week time period between pay dates in July 2015. If you have any questions, please email Elizabeth Miller at emiller@ccboe.com or payroll at payroll@ccboe.com.

Contracted salaried employees

Pay for contracted salaried employees will still be evenly distributed over 26 pay periods for both the calendar year and the fiscal year, and the total contract pay will not be affected. The only change is that the July paychecks will be 2-1/2 weeks apart.

Hourly employees and substitutes

Time worked will be paid as follows:

Pay for the two weeks of 6/8/15-6/19/15 will be issued Wednesday, July 8;

Pay for the three weeks of 6/22/15-7/10/15 will be issued on Friday, July 24.

Final days of work for employees have been adjusted based on time missed for inclement weather. CCPS calculates the final day for each contract group by adding the days schools were closed and subtracting the days made up during spring break.

| Certificated | |
|-------------------|---------|
| 12-month teachers | 6/25/15 |
| 11 month | 6/29/15 |
| 10.5 month | 6/23/15 |
| 10 month | 6/16/15 |

| Support Staff | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| 11 month | 6/29/15 |
| 10.5 month | 6/30/15 |
| 10 month | 6/23/15 |
| 10-month instructional assistants | 6/16/15 |

| Food Service | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| 10-month managers/assistant managers | 6/22/15 |
| 10-month workers | 6/17/15 |

If you have any questions, contact payroll at payroll@ccboe.com or Elizabeth Miller at emiller@ccboe.com.

The Board of Education at its April meeting unanimously voted in favor of changes to the coming school year calendar. Adjustments to the 2015-16 calendar include changes to spring break, the addition of two inclement weather days at the end of the school year and the opening of schools for students and teachers on the Friday in October that coordinates with the Maryland State Education Association (MSEA) convention. Additionally, two teacher in-service dates were moved.

The Board approved the following changes for the 2015-16 school year calendar.

- Schools will be closed for students only on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 12 for a teacher in-service day. Schools were originally scheduled to be closed for students only on Oct. 7.

- Schools will be open for students and teachers on Friday, Oct. 16. Teachers interested in attending the MSEA Convention will be able to use administrative leave to participate in associated events.

- Schools will be closed for students only on Veterans Day, Wednesday, Nov. 11, for a teacher in-service day and elementary school report card conferences. This was previously scheduled for Nov. 6, which is now a full day of school for students.

- Spring break for students and teachers is March 24-28, 2016. Offices will be closed on Friday, March 25 and Monday, March 28.

- Schools will be closed for students and teachers on Tuesday, April 26 for primary election day.

- The last day of school for students with six inclement weather days built into the calendar is Thursday, June 16.

- The last day of school for teachers with six inclement weather days built into the calendar is Friday, June 17.

- Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 15, will be used as an additional inclement weather make-up date, if needed.

A proposed calendar for the coming school year was included on the April 14 Board meeting agenda due to a change in the 2016 primary election day. Last week, the Maryland legislature announced a change of primary election day from April 5, which aligned with the approved 2016 spring break, to April 26. Schools are closed for students on primary election day, causing Charles County Public Schools staff to readjust the calendar to add another attendance day for students. Maryland law requires schools to operate 180 days each school year and the Board generally approves the calendar two years in advance.

Additional adjustments to the 2015-16 calendar were presented to the Board to better provide instructional time for students and to address community concerns expressed in calendar surveys published by the school system. Charles County Public Schools annually posts a calendar survey on the school system website to solicit input from the community. Staff reviewed comments and input received from the calendar survey to make adjustments to minimize disruption to the student schedule, and potential loss of instructional time due to inclement weather.

The deletion of school days in 2016 if they are not used will occur in the following order: June 16, June 15, June 14, June 13, June 10 and June 9. Days will not be added to spring break, allowing parents, teachers and the community to better plan for the approved time off.

A copy of the approved calendar is posted on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/calendar/201516ApprovedCalendar.pdf>. The school system recently conducted a calendar survey for the 2016-17 school year. A summary of those results is posted on the CCPS website at <http://www.ccboe.com/pr/school-system-provides-calendar-survey-results-summary>.

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National Board Certified Teachers



Shelly Posey



National Board Certification Area
World Languages Other Than English/ Early Adolescence
through Young Adulthood

Position held: Spanish teacher at La Plata High School

Years of teaching experience: 21

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 21

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Foreign Language Secondary Education, University of Maryland
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature, University of Maryland
Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, McDaniel College
Administrators Certificate I

Memorable Moment:

The day a former student, who was my worst behaved student and who continued to take Spanish with me against my recommendation (for three years), returned after several years of being out of high school. He came back, nicely dressed in a military uniform, gave me a hug, apologized for his past behavior and thanked me for my patience with him when he was in high school. I keep this memory up front always to remind me of the positive influence I can have on students and the fact that it doesn't always show up while you are teaching them, but is there nonetheless.

Personnel

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

Job Openings

Coordinator of Student Activities – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree, a minimum of five years teaching experience and a minimum of three years experience as a coach or athletic director required. Apply by April 26.

Director Hearing Officer/Court Liaison – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in education and experience as a principal or administrator required. Apply by April 26.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Facilitator – Location to be determined, 11-month position. A minimum of five years special education classroom teaching experience required. Master's degree preferred. Apply by April 29.

Building Service Assistant Manager – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by April 30.

Building Service Worker – St. Charles High School, 12-month position. Apply by May 5.

Secretary – Mattawoman Middle School, 10.5-month position. Apply by May 6.

Special Education Teachers – Openings at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Eva Turner elementary schools, 10-month positions.

Elementary School Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

French Teacher – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

Library Media Specialist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in early childhood education or reading, evidence of completion of a Reading Recovery training program and three years teaching

experience at the primary level required. Experience with Reading Recovery preferred.

Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate with endorsement in special education and a minimum of three years teaching experience with the Life Skills population required.

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

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

Food Service Substitute – Location to be determined, temporary position.

Extra pay positions

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Head girls' soccer coach
- Assistant girls' soccer coach

Contact Tony Mast, athletic director, at 301-753-1753 to apply.