



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Two-hour early dismissal*

The next two-hour early dismissal is Thursday, Dec. 11. Afternoon prekindergarten students attend.

### *Winter break*

Schools will be closed for winter break starting on Monday, Dec. 22 and ending on Friday, Jan. 2. Students and teachers head back to the classroom on Monday, Jan. 5. Administrative offices are closed on Dec. 25-26, and again on Jan. 1-2. Charles County Public Schools posts all calendar information on the school system website, at [www.ccoeb.com](http://www.ccoeb.com).

### *Jump on the code wagon*

Charles County Public Schools celebrates Computer Science Education Week Dec. 8-14. Computer Science Education Week focuses on the importance of children learning computer science, mathematics, language and other skills to help them be successful.

Several schools are participating in Hour of Code events next week to highlight Computer Science Education Week. Hour of Code includes opportunities for students to try computer science for one hour through drag-and-drop programming. Students learn how to complete steps with video tutorials and Hour of Code offers interactive coding lessons for every age group.

Tutorials are available on the Hour of Code website at [www.code.org](http://www.code.org), free for anyone to try.

### *Farewell to the Board*

The Dec. 9 Board of Education meeting is the final meeting for the current Board members. A farewell event, open to all staff, is planned for 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 9 in the cafeteria at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.



### **La Plata's It's Academic team takes top spot at regionals**

La Plata High School's *It's Academic* team placed first at the annual Charles County Public Schools competition held Dec. 3 at the College of Southern Maryland's La Plata campus. Pictured from left are junior T.C. Martin; senior and team captain Matthew Kamin; and sophomore Justin Cortez. La Plata scored 270 points in the championship round against teams from Maurice J. McDonough and North Point high schools to earn the top spot. La Plata's team will compete in a regional competition against Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson high schools, which will air on NBC4 March 21. Michelle Schoenbauer, a science teacher at La Plata, is the team's coach. McDonough, which placed second, earned a spot to compete on NBC4 next fall.

### **Judge reminds students of social media perils**

If a student teacher posts a drunken picture on Facebook and a parent complains to the principal, should the teacher be removed from the classroom?

Thomas Stone High School students participating in a Civics and Law Academy unanimously voted no, but then had to defend their decision to Judge Pamila Brown, a Howard County District Court Judge. The judge was part of an educational panel of state and local judges and attorneys who volunteered Tuesday to lead students in discussion about Constitutional rights, the law and justice and free speech. Brown and two local attorneys led a Law in Cyber-age seminar and guided students through a 45-minute conversation about free speech, its possible consequences and the privacy of social media.

Those suggestive photos you post on social media today, Brown told the students, could reappear when you are 38 and ruin your career. "You may think you are sharing it with the love of your life today, but that love may share it with others tomorrow. It never goes away," Brown said. She cited a case of a 28-year-old television anchorwoman who was fired after spring break pictures taken when she was 21 surfaced. She had signed a contract with a morals clause, and the station was within its rights to dismiss her, Brown said. The judge also talked about the 18-year-old man who was charged with possessing child pornography when a nude photo of his 16-year-old girlfriend was found on his phone. "He is forever and a day registered as a sex offender," Brown said. She advised students to use the great-grandmother rule to

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**On the cover**

Pictured on the cover are staff members from Mary B. Neal Elementary School. Pictured from left, are Jeffrey Taylor, building service manager; Melissa Lea, second grade teacher; and JaNeil Pryor, special education teacher.

**New Board ceremony**

The Board of Education XVI will be sworn in at a Dec. 15 ceremony scheduled for 4 p.m. at St. Charles High School. The ceremony is open to the public. The new Board's first official meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 13. The new Board will elect a chairman and vice chairman at the January meeting. Results from the election will be posted as a press release on the school system website.

**Nominate your school's leader**

Charles County Public Schools is accepting nominations for its 2015 Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award (DELA). The annual award honors exemplary principals and recognizes those who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their position to create an exceptional educational environment.

Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators, or community members may submit nominations. Nominees must have a minimum of five years' experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves. Nomination materials are posted on the system website at <http://www.ccboc.com/jobs/emprec.php>. Nominations are due on Friday, Jan. 30.

**Dream to fly at Science Center**

The James E. Richmond Science Center is hosting two events just for Charles County Public Schools employees. Admission is free for staff and guests are \$5. Children ages three and under are free. Dates are Dec. 10 and Dec. 16, with start times of 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

The event will feature Dream to Fly and Let it Snow in the digital dome, presentations using the Science on a Sphere and hands-on activities using exploration stations. Visit <http://www.ccboc.com/sciencecenter/ccps/> to sign up and for more information.

**National Board Certified Teachers**

**Mary Beth Long**



**National Board Certification Area**  
Reading/Language Arts/Preschool through Middle School

**Position held:** Vice principal at J.P. Ryon Elementary School

**Years of teaching experience:** 25

**Years with Charles County Public Schools:** 25

**Education**

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, University of Maryland, Special Education Certification  
Administration & Supervision Certification I, McDaniel College  
Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction, McDaniel College  
Master of Science in Reading, McDaniel College

**Memorable Moment**

The most memorable moment would be during my first year of teaching. That was the day that the 'light bulb' turned on for a first grader who realized he had just learned how to read. His face was priceless, with wide eyes and a huge smile, he realized he actually read the words himself. I had taught him how to read. His name was Kenny. I have had students experience this same reaction over my many years of teaching non-readers, but Kenny helped me realize that I was truly a teacher.



**Law Academy**

*continued from page 1*

navigate safely on social media. "Is this a picture or text you would want her to see? If not, don't post or send it," she said.

Brown and her Charles County colleagues said they want to make sure students think about civics, get engaged in their society and think about social media traps that could have far-reaching impact on their lives.

The Maryland Judiciary, the Maryland Bar Association and the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program for the Schools of Maryland sponsor the Maryland Civics and Law Academy. It is designed to promote public understanding of the courts and justice and to engage high school students in learning about the law and society. The purpose is to further prepare young people to be positive, proactive participants in democracy. Charles County was the 14th

county to host the academy through a partnership with the Charles County Bar Association and Charles County Public Schools. Allison Heurich, president of the Charles County Bar Association, said she hopes the local association can replicate the program at another high school next year.

Andrew Hill, a Stone sophomore, said he learned more about what to not post on social media. Hill said he is already careful with his online profile, but after attending the seminar, "I'll make sure I am even more careful."

Nearly 120 students attended the seminar and selected two sessions, which included Rights and Responsibilities, Law and Justice, Free Speech, School Speech and Protected Speech, Power and Empowerment and Law in a Cyber-age.

# How to be prepared when inclement weather affects the school schedule

## Who reports to work and at what time when schools close?

If weather conditions pose a potential hazard, Charles County Public Schools officials may dismiss early, delay the opening of schools or close schools for the day. If no announcement is made, schools and offices open at regularly scheduled hours and all employees are expected to arrive at work on time. The chart below explains the code system for employees. Please note: school-based teachers, counselors and instructional assistants follow the student schedule and do not follow inclement weather employee codes. If school remains open, no announcements are made.

### Delayed openings and early dismissals

A delayed opening applies only to schools. All administrative office personnel report at their normal starting time unless a code accompanies the delay notification. See the chart for a complete code explanation. All non-teaching personnel are expected to work for the full business day unless a code announcement is made. If an employee is unable to arrive on time or needs to leave early, he or she must contact his or her immediate supervisor and submit a leave slip.

### How to stay updated

Employees should call the 24-hour information line, 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656, to determine whether they must report to work. Employees may also check their e-mail for a message sent by communications department staff. Employee information is also provided to radio and television stations listed on page 10 of the Parent/Handbook Calendar; however, stations determine when and if the information is posted. Updates are also posted on the home page of the school system website, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com), and as a status update on Twitter. Follow the school system on Twitter @ccps. Inclement weather and emergency updates will be available on the CCPS On the Go mobile App later this school year.

### E-mail and text message notification available

Employees and parents of Charles County Public Schools students can be notified by e-mail and text message when inclement weather or other events cause unscheduled delays, early dismissals or closings. Those interested can sign up for the Charles County Citizens Notification Service (CNS). Visit <http://www.charlescountymd.gov/CNS> to sign up. Subscribers can also select to receive breaking news from Charles County Public Schools by selecting the Breaking News option. E-mail notification is free; standard text message rates by your cell phone carrier apply. Parents and staff can also sign up for the Charles County Public Schools press release subscriber list to receive additional e-mail notification. Visit [www.ccboe.com/pr](http://www.ccboe.com/pr) to subscribe to the service. Weather alerts are posted under the press releases section within minutes of a decision being made.

### How decisions are made

The school system's transportation department monitors road conditions and weather reports; school employees regularly contact the state and county roads department, Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Maryland State Police for assessments of roads and weather. Every effort is made to make the decision to close or delay the opening of schools by 5 a.m. and, when possible, earlier. Once that decision is made, school officials place the information on the 24-hour information line, the CCPS website, as well as notify the Washington D.C. metropolitan area radio and television stations. If it is necessary to close schools during the day, local radio and television stations are notified and asked to make the announcements, usually by 10:30 a.m. The announcement is also placed on the website, 24-hour information line and Comcast Channel 96/Verizon FiOS Channel 12.

## When the weather outside is frightful, what codes do employees find delightful?

Codes	Who reports	When	Exceptions
Code 1	All personnel report**	1 hour late	Emergency personnel on time*
Code 2	All personnel report**	2 hours late	Emergency personnel on time*
Code Red	Emergency personnel only	On time	
Code Blue	System is shutdown; no staff report	All buildings are closed	
No code/schools closed	10.5, 11- and 12-month personnel**	On time	

\*\*Please note: Teachers and instructional assistants follow the student schedule and do not follow the code system, with the exception of days when schools are closed for students only and teachers are scheduled to report to work (i.e., staff development dates).

\*If emergency personnel are unable to report to work on time, they must submit a leave slip. Emergency personnel include operations supervisory staff, building service managers and assistant managers, building service workers, maintenance supervisory staff, all maintenance staff, security personnel and transportation supervisory staff.

\*\*10.5 and 11-month employees are expected to fulfill their contract days at the discretion of their supervisor. If they do not report to work and take liberal leave, they must submit a leave slip.

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## Board of Education announces December 9 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 9, 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. 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 [www.cchoe.com](http://www.cchoe.com). Select CCPS TV and then choose the Live Broadcast tab.

**Executive session** – 12 p.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Maurice J. McDonough High School

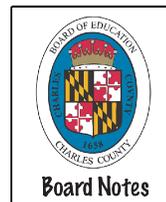
**Superintendent's update to the Board Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees update
- Student Board member's update
- CIP update
- Maryland's College and Career Ready Standards: The CCPS blueprint

**Unfinished business**

**New business and Future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items
- Presentation of plaques to outgoing Board**
- Board Farewell** – 3:30 p.m.
- Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.



Board Notes

- Students
- Employees – Timothy Remo, fifth-grade teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School; Carrie Lamb, reading resource teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; Bonnie Jenkins, third-grade teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School; Patricia Hodson, media specialist, John Hanson Middle School; and Camille Calloway, special education teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School.

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- New textbooks: Microsoft Office 2013
- Pension policy #3920
- Extra-curricular and athletic eligibility requirements policy #6431

**Adjournment**

## Personnel

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

**Job Openings**

**Literacy Instructional Assistant** – John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 10.

**Food Service Manager** – Piccowaxen Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 11.

**Building Service Worker** – Benjamin Stodert Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 12.

**Special Education Teacher** – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – Opening at the elementary school level, 10-month position.

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

**Mathematics Teacher** – Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position.

**English Teachers** – Theodore G. Davis Middle School and St. Charles High School, 10-month positions.

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

**Physical Education Teacher** – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

**Prekindergarten Teacher** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position.

**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.

**Science Teachers** – Openings at St. Charles and North Point high schools, 10-month positions.

**Special Education Teacher** – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

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

**Technology Education Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

**Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position.

**Extra pay positions**

**Thomas Stone High School** has the following opening:

- Head field hockey coach
- Contact Steve Lee, athletic director, at 301-645-2601 to apply.

**St. Charles High School** has the following openings:

- Head varsity girls' lacrosse coach
  - Head varsity boys' lacrosse coach
  - Head junior varsity girls' lacrosse coach
  - Head junior varsity boys' lacrosse coach
- Contact Jennifer Smith, athletic director, at 301-753-2090 to apply.