



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Sheriff's office warns of scam

The Charles County Sheriff's Office is warning about online scams that lead to armed robbery.

The sheriff's office received an armed robbery complaint where the victim arranged — by phone and computer — to meet an unknown person to complete the transaction to purchase an item.

Once the parties met, the victim was robbed of their money.

The sheriff's office recommends if you have to meet face-to-face to complete a transaction, arrange to meet at one of the sheriff's District stations.

The District 1 station is at 6855 Crain Highway in La Plata, District II station is in the Bryans Road Shopping Center in Bryans Road and the District III station is at 3670 Leonardtown Road in Waldorf.

Spartones to perform

St. Charles High School's a cappella group, the Spartones, will host Ball in the House 7 p.m. Friday, April 15 at the school at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf.

Ball in the House is a Boston-based five-member vocal band group which includes Montario "Monty" Hill, a native of Chopticon who attended Chopticon High School and was a choral music teacher at Great Mills High School.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the Spartones will perform and join Ball in the House for a final number.

Preordered tickets are \$5 for Charles County Public Schools badge holders and \$10 at the door.

To order tickets, go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1DsomU9TgKM9-CSjzdlxseUJC3pF0LQzGpX3kD6jEVE0/viewform#responses> or email schspformancetix@gmail.com with your name and number of tickets needed.



The fine art of writing

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School seventh graders learn about Chinese culture during the College of Southern Maryland's Passport to China event Tuesday, April 12. The students had lunch and visited a calligraphy display on loan to the college from the Midwest Institute for International and Intercultural Education. Bertrand Mao, left, an artist and calligraphy expert, demonstrates for students before they were given a chance to try their hand at calligraphy.

Shields named a National Distinguished Principal

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School is a community school, one that hosts an annual Thanksgiving dinner for senior citizens; sends needy students home with backpacks full of food on weekends and long breaks; one with a principal likely to show up on doorsteps over the summer dressed as a pirate, handing out treasure chests to her students.

"Someone who loves you more than you know and wants you to be successful," Steve Hagenbuch, executive director of Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals, said during a March 31 assembly at the school where Principal Kristin Shields was named the National Distinguished Principal for Maryland, an honor given annually to 50 elementary and middle school principals —

one per state — in the country.

Nominations for the National Distinguished Principal (NDP) award come in by the hundreds, Hagenbuch said. "But Maryland can only pick one."

Shields, who started her teaching career in Prince George's County and was a math specialist, credits her fourth-grade teacher with inspiring her to become an educator. "She changed my life," Shields said. "She was ahead of her time. She used cooperative learning and fun games that made learning so much fun."

Shields was the vice principal of J.C. Parks Elementary School before spending five years as vice principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy. She lives in the community with her husband Rick and their daughter Haley,

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the March meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Ruby Duehring, drama/theater arts teacher, Thomas Stone High School; Tara Cardano, language arts teacher, General Smallwood Middle School; and Kelly Suter, prekindergarten teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

Online summer courses offered

Online professional development course registration from the Maryland State Department of Education is open through May 25. For accounts and enrollment, email msdeblackboard.msde@maryland.gov. For general questions, email onlinepd.msde@maryland.gov.

Set sail for the digital harbor

The Digital Harbor Foundation will offer hands-on workshops for educators who want to learn the foundations of 3D printing and electronics. The workshops are designed for all types of educators, formal or informal, including teachers, afterschool instructors, science center staff, librarians and other educators interested in helping students to “learn by making.” The Digital Harbor Foundation’s Maker Workshops for Educators are designed to introduce educators to emerging technologies so they can help their students to be creators, and not just consumers. The knowledge gained in the workshops can be applied to a variety of age groups and across content areas from math and science, to art and technology. Each workshop is designed to teach the basics so educators can return to their own learning spaces and run projects and workshops. Participants receive a kit of physical supplies that they will learn how to use during the course, and then take home to use in their own classroom. In addition, participants have post-workshop access to an extensive collection of online materials that support and extend what they have learned. Workshops usually are held Friday evenings and Saturdays during the school year and mid-week in the summer. Workshops are approved for Maryland State Department of Education continuing professional development credit. For more information, contact Josh Doying at josh@digitalharbor.org or 203-253-5435.



Kristin Shields, principal of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School was named the 2016 National Distinguished Principal for Maryland during a surprise assembly March 31 at the school. Pictured are Kimberlyn Pratesi, president of the Maryland Association of Elementary Principals and a Howard County principal, left, Shields, Judy Walker, a member of the MAESP’s awards committee, and Erica Watson, vice principal of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy.

Shields

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13, who said her mother loves her students and the school.

“They are her life, this is all she thinks about,” Haley said. “She’s always here and supports the kids. She’s the person you go to if you have a problem. She’s very patient and caring.”

Fourth-grade teacher Barbara Anderson wrote the nomination letter to get the ball rolling for Shield’s NDP award. “She’s probably the most dedicated principal I’ve had in my 20 years of teaching,” Anderson said, adding Shields not only is devoted to students, but the community as well.

“You make it easy for me to be a principal,” Shields told her students and staff at the assembly, a surprise that she almost canceled because it would disrupt reading time. “You got me good,” she said.

“This is a community school,” Shields said. “The staff, students, parents and volunteers ... we have such a family feel here. The teachers do anything they need to do make the kids successful. [Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy] is the best kept secret.”

The NDP awards are given through the National Association of Elementary School Principals and honor outstanding administrators who “set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character and climate for students, families and staffs in their learning community,” according to information provided by the NAESP. The program was established in 1984. Along with the honor of being Maryland’s NDP representative, Shields was given \$5,000 by Mentoring Minds, an elementary education publishing company.

Kimberlyn Pratesi, president of the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals, said the material submitted nominating Shields highlighted her commitment to building a community around the school. “She’s very passionate and is making a great impact on children,” Pratesi said.

Erica Watson, vice principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy for two years, said she and Shields work well together. “I have learned a lot from her,” Watson said. “She’s an outstanding leader.”

Employees honored for commitment at a ceremony celebrating years of service

The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill on Thursday, March 31 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 40, 35, 30 and 25 years with CCPS. Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of supporting services, was honored for his 40-year career with the school system.

Hettel began his career at the elementary-school level as a teacher at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School and later served as a principal at Gale-Bailey and William B. Wade elementary schools.

In 1991, Hettel was honored by the Washington Post as a recipient of a Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and was the Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year.

At the district level, Hettel first took a position as Director of Educational Options at the Starkey Building and later became the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources.

In 2013, Hettel was named as the Assistant Superintendent of Supporting Services, and he oversees the maintenance and operations of all facilities within the school system.

The Board hosts a years of service ceremony annually to recognize CCPS employees. In addition to Hettel, the Board honored 64 employees.

Employees with 35 years of service are

- Barbara Davis, speech therapist, Indian Head Elementary School;
- Bryan Donahue, art teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Frederick Farley, in-school retention program instructional assistant, Westlake High School;
- Natalie Fenwick, kindergarten instructional assistant, Arthur Middleton Elementary School;
- Brenda Garner, secretary to the director of transportation, Annex 1 Building;
- Jill Morrow, physical education teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School;
- Clifton Posey, building service manager, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Wilhelmina Pugh, principal, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Michael Simms, principal, North Point High School;
- Elizabeth Wanzer, art teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and
- Richard Williams, computer teacher, La Plata High School.

Employees with 30 years of service are

- Susan Belmore, art teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School;
- Brian Chase, building service manager, Gale-Bailey;
- Tony Chase, building service manager, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center;
- Darrell Clark, building service worker, Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Karin Clark, third-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- John Farmer Jr., building service manager, F. B. Gwynn Educational Center;
- Pamela Gingerich, Reading Recovery teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Charlotte Goldsmith, special education instructional assistant Life Skills program, Somers;
- Kathryn Koch, reading resource teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Christine Mais, executive assistant to the assistant superintendent of school administration, Starkey;
- Mary Montgomery, fifth-grade teacher, Mitchell;

- Robert Opiekun, principal, J.P. Ryon Elementary School;
- Lisa Peters, secretary in special education, Starkey;
- George Simms, pupil data accounting specialist, Starkey; and
- Jack Tuttle, content specialist in social studies, Starkey.

Employees with 25 years of service are

- Robert Ansell Jr., pupil personnel worker, Starkey;
- Tanya Ansell, language arts teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School;
- Heather Beaton, social studies teacher, McDonough;
- Glenn Belmore, risk manager, Starkey;
- Frances Bryner, English as Second Language (ESOL) teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School;
- Mary Capper, physical education teacher, Martin;
- Nancy Carbone, in-school retention program instructional assistant, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School;
- Barbara Cooper, building service worker, Westlake;
- Cheryl Davis, vice principal, North Point;
- Tanya Dorsey, building service manager, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School;
- Ruby Duehring, drama/theater arts teacher, Thomas Stone High School;
- Cynthia Fitzsimmons, special education teacher, Gwynn;
- David Fulcher, building service worker, John Hanson Middle School;
- Linda Gill, executive director of school administration, Starkey;
- Todd Glasgow, physical education teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;
- Lawrence Gross, building service assistant manager, Malcolm;
- Jana Heyl, drama/theatre arts teacher, McDonough;
- Jeffrey Lambert, physical education teacher, General Smallwood Middle School;
- Evelyn Lavorgna, special education instructional assistant, Middleton;
- Cynthia Ledoux, drama/theatre arts teacher, Lackey;
- Lisa Love, secretary in instruction, Starkey;
- Martha Mayer, secretary to the principal, Malcolm;
- Steven Miller, supervising specialist in transportation, Annex 1 Building;
- Sheryl Morrison, pupil personnel worker, Starkey;
- Kathleen Parry, vocal music teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy;
- Nancy Pirner, acting director of compliance, Starkey;
- Patricia Pitonyak, special education teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Carroll Proctor, building service worker, J. C. Parks Elementary School;
- Wendy Proctor, building service worker, Gwynn;
- Leslie Schroeck, high school resource teacher, La Plata High School;
- Kathleen Staudmyer, special education teacher, Jenifer;
- Faye Stinehart, art teacher, Brown;
- Jean Walter, special education instructional assistant, Brown;
- Bruce Washington, building service manager, St. Charles High School;
- Margaret Woodley, library media specialist, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Barbara Woods-Miazza, Reading Recovery teacher, Middleton;
- Vera Young, content specialist in English/language arts, Starkey; and
- Julie Yowell, second-grade teacher, Wade.

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Board of Education April 19 meeting agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 19, 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 4:15 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Board meetings also are streamed live on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Select the live streaming image displayed in the center of the home page. 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
- Recognition of winter sports state champion athletes

Reports

- 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
- Review of partnership between the school system and Charles County Sheriff's Office
- Project status update
- Overview of Nanjemoy Creek program

- Student information system update
- New world language textbooks
- FY 2016 intercategory budget transfer request
- Transportation costs update
- Legislative update
- Plan for recognition of state champions during Board meetings



Unfinished business

- New business and future agenda items

Recognition – 4:15 p.m.

- Ruth Ann Hall scholarship awards
- Resolutions: *Teacher Appreciation Week*; *Administrative Professionals Week*; *Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week*; and *National Physical Education and Sport Week*
- Students
- Employees
- Kristin Shields, principal, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 2016 National Distinguished Principal for Maryland

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2017/18 school calendar

Adjournment

Personnel

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

Job openings

Project Manager — Annex 1, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in construction or related field and a minimum of three years experience in the construction industry or equivalent training and eight years of relevant experience in construction and trades in lieu of a bachelor's is required. Apply by April 20.

Planning and Construction Assistant — Annex 1, 12-month position. High school diploma, associate's degree in business, planning or related field preferred. A minimum of five years of experience with skills and knowledge of efficient bookkeeping and office practices as well as experience with managing budgets including creating financial reports and documentation required. Apply by April 21.

Building Service Worker Floater — various locations, temporary position. High school diploma or GED required. Ability to read and write effectively, physically capable of performing manual labor. May be required to work overtime.

Summer School Instructors — Charles County Public Schools has openings for summer school instructors in the subjects of high school Earth science, high school English, local, state and national government, chemistry, high school Spanish 1 and 2 and middle school science. There also are openings for a special education teacher and high school counselor. Interested applicants should be current CCPS teachers and be certificated in the area of interest. Email Sandy Rooney at srooney@ccboe.com for information or to apply no later than April 29.

ESOL Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree and certification of requirements established

by the Maryland State Department of Education required, as well as knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies. Apply by Sept. 1.

Extra pay positions

Assistant varsity girls' soccer coach and head junior varsity girls' soccer coach — Westlake High School. Call Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, at 301-645-8857.

Head varsity football coach — Thomas Stone High School. Call Brad Criss, athletic director, at 301-843-0074.

Head boys' basketball coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast, athletic director, at 301-743-5431.

Head varsity football coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call 301-934-2944.

Head girls' basketball coach, assistant girls' basketball coach and head junior varsity girls' basketball coach — St. Charles High School. Call Jennifer Smith, athletic director, at 301-753-2090.