



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

North Point is tickled pink

Students in the North Point High School Academy of Health Professions program are participating in a "Pink Goes Red" event from 4 to 8 p.m., this Friday, Feb. 5 at St. Charles Towne Center in Waldorf. The event will take place on the first floor of the mall, near the central escalators and main elevator. The students will help promote healthy habits to mall patrons and provide information about heart disease and prevention. The event also will feature registered nurses from the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center who will be on site to provide blood pressure screenings. The event is coordinated by the Nu Zeta Omega Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. annually.

State of the arts

The Mattawoman Creek Art Center is hosting the "Seven Up High School Exhibit" now through Sunday, Feb. 7. The exhibit features artwork from students at all seven Charles County public high schools and includes paintings, drawings, photography and multimedia pieces. The exhibit is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. A panel of judges selects student artwork to be included in the exhibit annually.

Unplugged goes uptown

La Plata High School's a cappella group Unplugged was selected for inclusion on the "Best of High School A Cappella 2016" album. "Love Lockdown/Love Runs Out" was chosen by Deke Sharon, the music director and arranger of the film "Pitch Perfect," and coach and music arranger on the television show, "The Sing-Off," out of hundreds of songs submitted from schools all across the country. The group's director, Denise Childers, has copies of the CD for \$10. The group's version of "Uptown Funk" is available on iTunes.



Receiving wise counsel

National School Counseling Week was Feb. 1 to 5. "School Counseling: The Recipe for Success," was celebrated to focus public attention on the contribution of school counselors in the country's school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, highlights how school counselors can help students achieve school success and plan for a career. National School Counseling Week is celebrated the first full week in February each year. John Hanson Middle School seventh-grade counselor April Magee, right, speaks with two students at the school.

Office 365 makes it easy to work from any device

A software upgrade will soon make it easier for Charles County Public Schools employees to access email, calendars and other tools from any computer, tablet, smartphone or device that has an Internet connection.

Office 365 is set to roll out in March, with every school and center having access to the system by the end of April, although the dates are subject to change.

"This upgrade will mean that email, and other tools like calendars and even word processing, will be available 99.99 percent of the time by CCPS employees," said Peter Cevenini, chief of instructional technology. "It will also mean that we can share documents with each other like curriculum

resources from wherever to wherever, not just within the CCPS network."

Storage will be increased by 200 percent with Office 365, Cevenini said.

The change will make an impact.

"First, the size of your email storage goes from 20 megabytes to 40 gigabytes. Second, CCPS employees will have 1 terabyte of storage for any other things like documents and resources. All of this will be accessible anywhere from any device," he said.

"We are just touching the capabilities that 365 has," Cevenini said. "CCPS staff will be able to take it to the next level by using tools and showing us how to improve instruction in Charles County Public Schools."



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are Charles County Public Schools employees honored by the Board of Education during its December and January meetings. Pictured, from left, are: Jamie Mucciolo, fifth-grade teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; Sandra Young, special education instructional assistant, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; and Pauline “Polly” Johnson, vice principal, Henry E. Lackey High School. The Board honors exemplary employees monthly.

Board to meet Feb. 9

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the board room of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration building. Public forum will start at 6 p.m.

Sharing skills

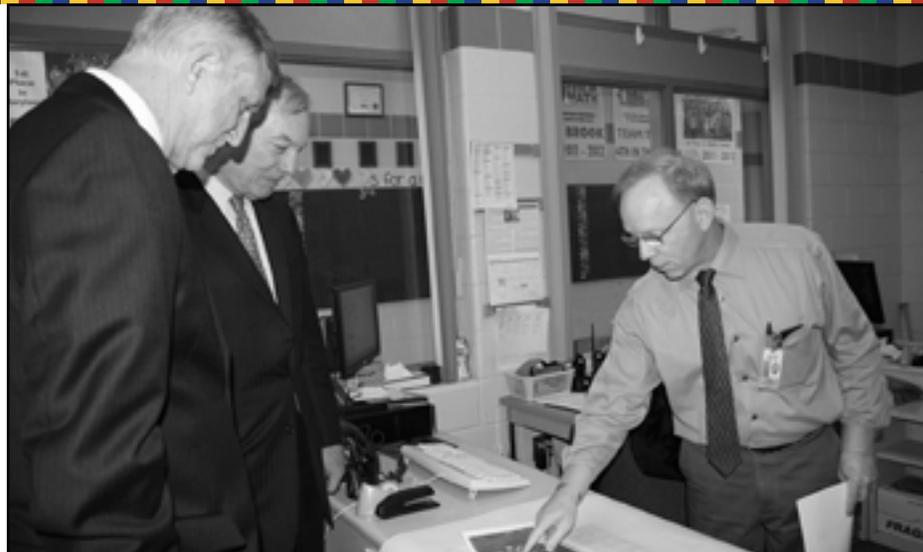
The North Point High School Skills USA chapter is hosting a meal at 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11 at Our Place, a soup kitchen at Good Shepherd Methodist Church in Waldorf. Meals will be prepared by the North Point Culinary Arts students, and Skills USA students will serve visitors. Visitors also will receive weekly care packages purchased through donations from the North Point CISCO Academy program and Our Place will receive additional donations from North Point students to help the nonprofit's efforts. To learn more about Our Place, visit <http://www.ourplacewaldorf.com/>.

Closed for President's Day

All schools and offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 15 for President's Day.

Strike up the band

Henry E. Lackey High School is hosting the U.S. Navy Band Commodores, the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26. Admission is free and the concert is open to the public. The 18-member group is led by Senior Chief Musician William C. Mulligan. Their performances feature a mix of traditional big band music, jazz vocal arrangements and new instrumental music written specifically for the Commodores. Visit <http://www.navyband.navy.mil/commodores.html> to learn more about the Commodores.



David Clements, supervisor of planning and construction for Charles County Public Schools, right, shows building plans to Comptroller Peter Franchot, center, and Charles County Commissioners' President Peter F. Murphy during a visit to Mary H. Matula Elementary School.

Comptroller Franchot visits Matula elementary

With the addition of full-day kindergarten blooming in every elementary school in the state more than eight years ago, some buildings have experienced growing pains.

But with construction projects on the books, two more Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will soon have additional space to accommodate students in kindergarten through fifth grade. Eight schools in the county have had additions built for full-day kindergarten programs.

Comptroller of Maryland Peter Franchot visited Mary H. Matula Elementary School Feb. 1 to see the “before” phase of a project that will add five enclosed kindergarten classrooms to the La Plata school.

The addition, which gained state contract approval in January, will likely start March 1, said David Clements, supervisor of planning and construction for CCPS.

If all goes according to plan, the construction will take about six months, Clements said, crossing his fingers. It is projected the addition will be complete by the first day of the 2016-17 school year, which is Monday, Aug. 29.

Even if the projects — Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School in Waldorf will undergo a similar addition this year — aren't 100 percent complete, they will be well on their way, Clements said.

When an all-day kindergarten program is introduced, “you automatically run out of space,” Clements said. “There's an immediate shortage of space throughout the school.”

“We are bursting at the seams,” said Matula Principal Carrie Richardson, adding that the school has enrolled 68 new students since the beginning of the school year.

Franchot was interested in portable classrooms, which at Matula are used for after-school club meetings, staff offices and testing space. Clements said the county's modular classrooms are equipped with whiteboards — some have smartboards — and the portables are outfitted with everything a classroom in the school's main building has including fire alarms and public address systems.

The kindergarten addition will extend off of Matula's main hallway, built on what is now the playground.

The recess area will be relocated on the property and the emergency vehicle lane will be moved, Clements said.

CCPS is awaiting planning approval from the state to start planning additions to Berry and Dr. James Craik elementary schools, Clements said.

A study will be needed to determine additions at other schools based on enrollment, future building work and state funding, he added.

More than 50 scholarships available to Charles County high school students

The Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. offers more than 50 scholarships to Charles County high school students. Applications for scholarships are available at all county high schools. Interested students must submit completed applications by Tuesday, March 1, to college and career advisors. Students need only to submit one application.

Applications also are available at www.ccboe.com, under the students/parents section.

Additional application requirements include a resume, personal statement that details academic and career goals, two letters of recommendation, a high school transcript and copy of the first semester senior year report card. Students who have received SAT/ACT scores can also include them with their application.

Students who apply for any scholarship that lists demonstrated financial need as criteria should also include a student aid report (SAR) form for the 2016-17 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The form is available at www.fafsa.gov. Students in need of assistance with the form or completing the FAFSA should contact their college and career advisor.

The following scholarships are available:

- Apartments of St. Charles Scholarship, \$500;
- Ashley Jayne Younger Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for Westlake High School students);
- Charles County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Charles County Health Department and School Nurses' Scholarship, \$250;
- Charles County Retired School Personnel Association Scholarship, \$500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Charles County Teacher Education Assistance Grant, \$1,000 (renewable);
- Darren A. Bowie Scholarship, \$1000 (for Henry E. Lackey High School students);
- Edward Rorer Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Eric Sawchak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- GFWC, Charles County Woman's Club, \$500;
- Grote Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata High School students);
- Guy and Blondell Toye Scholarship, \$200;
- Harding Memorial Future Educator Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Jeremiah and Elijah Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- John H. Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- John Howie Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (two awards);
- Kate Donahue Scholarship, \$400 (for Lackey students);
- Katherine D. Racey Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500 (for Lackey and Maurice J. McDonough High School students);
- Ken Stump Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Kenneth Bernard Proctor Sr. Scholarship, \$500;
- La Plata Garden Club Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards);

- Lisa Michele Duckett Achievement Award, \$1,000;
- Lizbeth Frazer-Fatig Helping Hand Scholarship, \$4,000 (for North Point students);
- Mary Matula Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata students);
- Michael J. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for La Plata students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Music Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Nursing Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Mildred Rice O'Callaghan Scholarship, \$500 (for Lackey students);
- Nicole Pitonyak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for North Point students);
- Parker Financial Literacy Scholarship, \$250;
- Patricia Sugg Weiers Memorial Scholarship, \$250;
- Professor V. Phillips Weaver Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Rachel Myers Trade School Scholarship, \$500;
- Richard J. Abela Scholarship, \$2,000 (for North Point students);
- Robert Dean Stethem National Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Robert Dean Stethem Thomas Stone Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Thomas Stone students);
- Ronald G. Cunningham Scholarship, \$2,500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Ronald G. Cunningham Nursing Scholarship, \$500;
- St. Charles Community Scholarship, \$500 (three awards);
- Starkey Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Stephen E. Mitchell Educational Scholarship, \$500;
- Thomas B.R. Mudd Nurse Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas B.R. Mudd Teacher Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas Kurtz Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Lackey students);
- Thomas W. Weirich Scholar-Athlete Award, \$1,000;
- Timothy Minor Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Timothy Minor Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Tiny Hopes Scholarship, \$1,000 (three awards);
- Unnae Pak-Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- William and Vivian King Scholarship, \$1,000 (one for each Charles County public high school); and
- Zonta of Charles County Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards).

Contact Alicia Jones at aajones@ccboe.com or 301-934-7334.

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Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeking nominations for the school system's Maryland 2016-17 Teacher of the Year candidate.

The nominated teacher must be a classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and has a minimum of five years teaching experience.

The selected candidate will also be named the 2016 Charles County Teacher of the Year.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 26 to Ramona DiBenedetto in the CCPS office of human resources.

Application information is available on the school system website at <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/teacheroftheyear.php>.

Applications should include the candidate's educational and professional development history; professional biography; examples of community involvement; a statement on the candidate's philosophy/style of teaching; three letters of support from a principal, administrator, colleague, student or former student, parent or community leader; and statements on education issues and trends, as well as the teaching profession.

For additional information and requirements, visit the CCPS website.

The 2016 Charles County Teacher of the Year will have opportunities to speak to students and staff during events such as New Teacher

Orientation, and will also attend the state Teacher of the Year ceremony and gala.

There is a two-tiered process for the selection of the candidate for the Maryland Teacher of Year.

The first step is at the county level where applications are received, semi-finalists are selected and interviewed by a panel of school system staff, and one candidate is selected to represent Charles County as its Teacher of the Year.

Each Maryland county and Baltimore City forwards one recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which selects the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

The state award is a highly recognized achievement, according to a MSDE news release. Maryland's Teacher of the Year holds a prominent position as a state education spokesperson and is Maryland's candidate for National Teacher of the Year.

"Teaching is, we believe, the most important of all professions. The Maryland Teacher of the Year Program gives us an opportunity to recognize outstanding teachers from all 24 Maryland districts and have them serve as leaders in Maryland," the release states.

For additional information, contact DiBenedetto at 301-934-7242 or rdibenedetto@ccboe.com.

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

Financial Secretary — La Plata High School, 12-month position. High school diploma. Ability to type 50 words per minute accurately. Computer literate in Word, Excel, Quicken and QuickBooks. AS400 experience preferred. Experience with budgets, payroll and cash handling preferred. Apply by Feb. 8.

Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant — Indian Head Elementary School, 10-month position. Minimum of 48 college credits, associate's degree or a passing score on Para-Pro test required. Experience working with children. Ability to work in an instructional support role with prekindergarten students. Excellent human relations, organizational and communication skills. Knowledge of developmental stages of children. Apply by Feb. 12.

Food Service Assistant Manager — location to be determined, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent. A minimum three years experience in food service. Ability to perform duties and responsibilities such as meal production, planning, scheduling, safety and sanitation. Good verbal communication and human relations skills. Must be ServeSafe certified within 12 months of assuming position. Apply by Feb. 29.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — location to be determined, 10-month position. High school diploma required. Experience working with children preferred. Ability to work and interact with a range of mental and physical disabilities. Knowledge of skills required to work with students having special needs. Excellent human relations skills, organizational and communication skills. Knowledge of developmental stages of children. Good oral and written communication skills. Apply by June 30.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant — 10-month position. High school diploma required with an associate's degree preferred. Evidence of experience working with children. Ability to work in an instructional support role with school-aged children. Excellent human relations, organizational and communication skills. Apply by June 30.

Special Educational Assistant-Life Skills — location to be determined, 10-month position. High school diploma required. Experience working with children with special needs. Ability to work and interact with students with significant mental and physical disabilities. Knowledge of special skills required to work with students having special needs. Excellent human relations and organizational skills. Apply by June 30.

School Bus Attendant Substitute — High school diploma required. Five years of preferred work experience as a school bus attendant in Maryland.