



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

April meetings planned

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet Tuesday, April 19 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The Board usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month; however, in April it will meet on the third Tuesday. The Board will hold a public Town Hall Monday, April 25 at the Starkey building.

The Board held its first Town Hall in September and the purpose remains the same — to provide parents, students and community members an opportunity to ask questions and discuss items about education and schools. Board members and Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff will be available to accept comments and answer questions from the audience. Residents are encouraged to email concerns, issues and questions to boardmail@ccboe.com before to the meeting, especially if they are unable to attend. A Town Hall page is set up on the CCPS website, <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/townhall.php> and all questions and answers will be posted following the meeting. The CCPS communications department will provide live streaming of the meeting on www.ccboe.com.

McDaniel College reps to visit

McDaniel College will hold an information and advising day 4 to 5 p.m. March 21 in the cafeteria of the Jesse L. Starkey building. It's an opportunity for prospective students to receive information about McDaniel's graduate programs and for current students to discuss their personal program.

Fling into spring

The first day of spring is officially Sunday, March 20. A two-hour early dismissal will be Wednesday, March 23 with morning prekindergarten students attending school. Spring break will start March 24 for students and teachers and last through Monday, March 28. Schools and offices will be closed Friday, March 25 and Monday, March 28.



Super-Visors meeting

Charles County Public School principals met March 9 for professional staff development which featured games designed to engage students. Above, Milton M. Somers Middle School Principal Carrie Akins, left, is pictured with Meighan Hungerford, acting director of elementary schools. Right, Malcolm Elementary School Principal Wilhelmina Pugh, left, and Piccowaxen Middle School Principal Wendell Martin take part in the learning and fun.



Full week of spring break restored for 2016-2017

This year's spring break begins with a two-hour early dismissal on Wednesday, March 23, a break from the usual six-day school holiday tradition.

It will be the last shortened spring break for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students, at least for the next two school years.

The Board of Education, on March 8, voted to restore a full week of spring break for students and teachers next school year — 2016-17 — and Board members indicated they will do the same in the 2017-18

calendar.

In making this change, the Board also voted against using spring break days next year for inclement weather make-up time. Six inclement weather days are built in to the 2016-17 school calendar.

Any additional make-up dates will be added to the end of the school year.

A partial calendar for next school year is posted on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/calendar/atagance.php>.

Two-hour early dismissal dates will be

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education during the February and March monthly meetings. Pictured, from left, are Patricia Stokes, special education teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; Kristi Nelson, mathematics teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School; and Sarah Gobe, library media specialist, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.

Time to sign up for courses

A Special Education Academy for General Educators — Universal Design for Learning will be 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 7. There are seven courses to choose from that will help develop practical strategies to help students with special needs. Universal Design for Learning is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all people based on scientific insights how students learn. To register, go to <http://registration.ccoeb.com>.

The play's the thing

High schools are readying spring plays and musicals.

Maurice J. McDonough High School will perform "Mary Poppins" 6:30 p.m., April 14, 15 and 16. There will be a matinee at 2 p.m., April 16. Call 301-934-2944.

North Point High School will stage "Willy Wonka" based on Roald Dahl's book "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" 7 p.m., April 14, 15 and 16 and 1 p.m., April 16. Call 301-753-1759.

Westlake High School will perform "The Wiz" 7 p.m. April 14, 15 and 16 and 3 p.m., April 17 at the school. Call 301-645-8857 or 301-753-1758.

Henry E. Lackey High School will perform the musical "Into the Woods" 6:30 p.m., April 15 and 16 and 2 p.m., April 17 at the school. Call 301-743-5431 or 301-753-1753.

Thomas Stone High School will perform "Once On This Island" 7 p.m., April 21, 22 and 23. Call 301-645-2601 or 301-753-1756.

La Plata High School will stage "Sweet Charity" at 6:30 p.m., April 28 and 29 at the school and also will be performed at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., April 30. For advance tickets, email jjoyner@ccoeb.com. Call 301-934-1100 or 301-753-1754.

Mattingly honored for work with gifted, talented

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education recently honored Connie Mattingly, a learning resource teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, for her work in gifted education.

She was named a recipient of a 2016 Teacher as Leader in Gifted and Talented Education Award.

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education annually honors educators and community organizations for their contributions in developing the talents of Maryland students from all populations in gifted education.

Mattingly, along with several Charles County Public Schools students, were honored at a Feb. 24 reception held to honor exemplary students and teachers for their accomplishments in gifted education.

As the learning resource teacher at Mitchell for the past three years, Mattingly coordinates both the testing and gifted education programs for students.

One of her goals as a teacher is to provide students with a rigorous curriculum that meets above grade-level standards and incorporates gifted education best practices.

She often can be found co-teaching with a gifted education teacher or working with a small group of advanced students. Mattingly plans weekly with all teachers and launched a second grade advanced math program for students.

She also works regularly with third through fifth graders in advanced math programs.

Mattingly was nominated for recognition of her work in gifted education by Joyce Campbell, a gifted education resource teacher at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building who works with learning resource teachers at the elementary school level to assist them in providing a quality gifted programs.

In her nomination, Campbell describes Mattingly as a teacher with a strong work ethic and a dedicated professional.

"Ms. Mattingly has spent many hours helping develop, rewriting and reviewing the gifted reading curriculum in our county. She also has led numerous professional

development sessions for teachers of advanced students and students identified for gifted services," Campbell wrote.

Campbell also notes Mattingly's pursuit in professional development opportunities in the area of gifted education.

In 2014 she attended the National Association for Gifted Education conference and participates in gifted conferences at the state level.

A career accomplishment of importance to Mattingly is helping five of her former students receive recognition as Carson Scholars.

The Carson Scholars Fund awards \$1,000 college scholarships to a select group of high achieving students in grades four through 11 who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement and humanitarian qualities.

These students must have a minimum 3.75 grade-point average to be considered.

The scholarships are invested for the students' college education.

Mattingly began her career with Charles County Public Schools in 1993 as a special education teacher at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.

She has also taught enrichment language arts at the middle-school level and transitioned to gifted education in 2002.

Prior to joining the teaching staff at Mitchell, Mattingly was a gifted education teacher at William B. Wade Elementary School.

In 2011 Wade was honored by MSDE for their excellence in gifted education.

Gifted and talented students honored at the February reception are Thomas Buckley, Kincade Burroughs, Rachel Chernoff, Madison Furman, Morgan Krauel, Kaelan Parkin, Alayna Steinmetz and Trinity Treadway.

For more information, visit the MSDE website at <http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/giftedtalented/index.html>.



Connie Mattingly

History, Science, Technology and Science Expo will be March 19 at St. Charles HS

Charles County Public Schools is hosting its first History, Industry, Technology and Science (HITS) Expo starting at 12 p.m., Saturday, March 19 at St. Charles High School in Waldorf.

The Expo replaces the annual Science and History Fairs, and will feature both science and history fair projects from Charles County Public Schools students, as well as private school students. The Expo will showcase several school system programs available for students.

These programs include robotics, the Code.org computer science partnership and offerings, Project Lead the Way, the Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM), interactive media production and more.

The goal of the Expo is to showcase student accomplishments in the area of science and history, as well as expose students, parents and the community to programs and extracurricular opportunities available.

"I'm excited and proud to be part of organizing an event that highlights many of the great projects and activities that our social studies, science and technology programs are doing every school year," said Jack Tuttle, content specialist for social studies. "In addition to the opportunity to recognize students for their exemplary work on Science Fair and History Day projects, the HITS Expo is a terrific showcase of the both school system and community-based organizations that promote the social and physical sciences."

Programs include activities and student skills in the areas of science, history, technology, computer science, Career Technology Education (CTE) and engineering. Expo presentations begin at 12 p.m. and conclude around 4 p.m. An awards ceremony to honor student winners in the History and Science Fair project portion of the Expo starts at 5 p.m. The Expo is open to the public and planned as part of the Expo are representatives from Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) science, technology and industry programs at North Point High School.

Staff from the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center also will be present to talk about CTE programs at Stethem for high school students. James E. Richmond Science Center staff will speak to attendees about enrichment opportunities for students and public engagement offerings. Several hands-on learning activities will be featured for attendees to participate in at the Expo. These activities range from a photo booth, strawberry DNA, physical science demonstrations and a hand-on S.T.E.A.M. activity to a polar ice and fingerprint activity, flinkers activity, a vortex wave cannon and dissection demonstration. Other hands-on activities include robotics and computer programming, an American Indian ceramics station, Code.org and several North Point

CTE programs.

"The public can also participate in the engaging activities and live the learning that our students are doing each day," said Ian Buter, content specialist for science. "We are happy to transform the History and Science Fairs into an interactive exhibit of the best that CCPS has to offer in the fields of history, technology and science."

Re-enactors from local historical organizations will lead several interactive demonstrations. Community groups such as the American Indian "Let's Dance" program, the Maryland Historical Society, the Thomas Stone Historic Site and the War of 1812 Traveling Trunk will hold activities. Interactive sessions are planned for CTE programs such as Pharmacy Tools, Interactive Media Production, Academy of Health Professions and Educational Careers, and from the popular Choose Your Own Path series featuring the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Additionally, several programs from the College of Southern Maryland including the Kids College, robotics team and Workforce Development are included in Expo presentations. Expo displays will also highlight community organizations such as the Maryland and Charles County Archeological societies, The Charles County Commission for Women, the Port Tobacco Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR), and the Alpha Kappa Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho sororities. Starting this school year, only students in ninth-grade honors Earth and space science courses complete a science fair project as a requirement. Students in all other grade levels can complete a science fair project as an enrichment opportunity for extra credit.

Also new this school year is a change to the history fair project requirement. Only students in seventh-grade enrichment social studies classes are required to complete a history fair project. Students in all other grade levels can complete a history fair project as an enrichment opportunity for extra credit. In prior years, science fair projects were required for students in grades 6-12 enrolled in enrichment and honors-level classes. History fair projects were required for middle school students enrolled in enrichment level courses, and high school students who took honors courses. As part of the annual CCPS Science and History fairs, students could submit their projects for judging in the local competition, and advance to the state and/or national levels. Students who participate in the Expo with a science or history fair project are still eligible to compete at the state and/or national levels.

Calendar

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added when they are finalized.

The Board approves school calendars two years in advance and is in the process of considering a calendar proposal for the 2017-18 school year. To gather feedback on calendar dates and the proposal, the Board annually provides the community with a calendar survey. CCPS posted a proposal for the 2017-18 school year at www.cchoe.com, from Feb. 2 through March 3 and emailed it to all parents and staff.

The 2017-18 proposal included a condensed spring break similar to the schedule occurring later this month. Nearly 3,400 people responded

to the survey and the top suggestion was to include one full week for spring break. The calendar for the coming school year was approved by the Board in 2015; however, a holiday change was proposed by CCPS staff, requiring the Board to revisit the 2016-17 school calendar.

The proposed change included providing students and teachers an additional holiday date on Jan. 2, 2017, to align with federal and state holiday schedules. The Board will vote on the 2017-18 school calendar at its April 19 meeting and have amended the proposal to include a full week off for students and teachers for spring break.

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Pop the hood: CCPS conducts spring bus inspections

Three times a year school buses that transport Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students are inspected for safety.

Over 11 days, CCPS department of transportation employees, Motor Vehicle Administration personnel and Charles County Sheriff's Office cadets will look over more than 300 school buses — 274 route buses that are on the road every day and 40 spare buses.

"They all come through inspection," Mike Heim, director of transportation for CCPS, said.

Bus inspections are held in August, November and March, he said.

The checks have been going on for decades, said Lt. Michael Groff of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA). He has an inspection book from the 1960s, and other than upgrades like LED lights and some other technologies, not much has changed.

CCPS mechanics Pat Murphy and Gary Stine spent a recent morning checking brakes and engines, while transportation staff looked at the cleanliness of the vehicles and safety equipment. MVA employees stop by once a year to check on the work being done by school system staff, Heim said.



Pat Murphy, a mechanic with Charles County Public Schools, gets an up-close look at a school bus.

Statewide, there are more than 9,500 school buses on the road, so far this school year MVA employees have seen about 4,500 of them, Groff said.

"Every county in the state, private schools too," he said about where the buses they inspect are from. "Pretty much every yellow school bus in the state."

School buses have a running life of 12 years, with some receiving an exemption to stay on the road for an additional three years, Groff said.

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

Computer Analyst II — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Associate's degree in information technology or a related field is preferred, along with at least a year of experience. In lieu of an associate's degree, three years of technically progressive responsible work experience in local and wide area networks, user and help desk support and/or training is required. Applicable industry certification desired. Knowledge of the Novell LAN and Cisco WAN networking systems preferred. Experience configuring Novell Netware, Microsoft Windows Server and Microsoft Windows Workstation. Skills in the use of IT testing equipment and materials. Apply by March 19.

Food Service Substitute — location to be determined, 10-month position. High school diploma or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading, record keeping and arithmetic required. Ability to work rapidly and efficiently in a range of temperature conditions, as well as being able to follow written recipes and oral instructions. Knowledge of principles of sanitation and kitchen safety preferred as well as knowledge of and ability to work with a variety of chemicals and other agents. Apply by March 22.

Multiple Intense Teaching Instructional Assistant — location to be determined, 10-month position. Experience with or a desire to work with young children with severe communication, social and behavior needs including children with Autism Spectrum Disorder, severe cognitive and motor delays, sensory impairments and health concerns required. Must be able to work well

as part of a team and able to communicate effectively. Must have experience or be willing to learn about augmentative communication and assisted technology including Boardmaker software. Apply by June 30.

Extra pay positions

Head boys' soccer coach — North Point High School. Call Andy Shattuck, athletic director, at 301-753-1759.

Assistant tennis coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast, athletic director, at 301-753-1753.

Assistant baseball coach — North Point High School. Call Andy Shattuck, athletic director, at 301-753-1759.

Head varsity boys' lacrosse coach — Westlake High School. Call Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, at 301-645-8857.

Varsity girls' lacrosse coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call the school at 301-934-2944.