



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Learn about cyber security*

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is hosting a free Internet safety program for parents, students and community members Oct. 7-8. Learn about cyberbullying, poor social media behavior and responsible use of social media. The Oct. 7 program is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at North Point High School, and the program on Oct. 8 is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at St. Charles High School.

### *Seniors learn about college*

CCPS is piloting the Maryland College Application Campaign Week this month to assist high-school seniors in applying to college, with the goal of each student submitting at least one application to the college, university or technical school. During the week of Oct. 19-23, seniors at Henry E. Lackey, La Plata, Maurice J. McDonough, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools will participate in the campaign by working with school staff and volunteers to submit a complete college application. For more information, visit [www.ccboe.com/pr/ccps-pilots-program-for-seniors-to-learn-college-application-process/](http://www.ccboe.com/pr/ccps-pilots-program-for-seniors-to-learn-college-application-process/).

### *Retirement planning session*

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the State of Maryland Pension System, along with the Office of Human Resources, is hosting a closed retirement planning session for CCPS employees who are enrolled in the State of Maryland Pension System.

The session will be from 5 – 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 18, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Guest speakers and retirement planning handouts, as well as light refreshments, will be provided. Contact Janice Spotz, 301-934-2146 or [jspotz@comcast.net](mailto:jspotz@comcast.net), to RSVP by Nov. 6. Questions about CCPS retirement benefits can be directed to [cwarner@ccboe.com](mailto:cwarner@ccboe.com) or 301-934-7459.



## Superintendent asks students for opinions

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill met with a high school Student Advisory Council Sept. 30 to network with students and talk about school-related issues. Three students from each high school were selected by their principal to participate, and will meet with Hill again later this school year. As part of the council's first meeting, students worked in groups to share ideas. Pictured is North Point High School senior Mariel Santos, who worked with her group to discuss what makes a school successful.

## Superintendent Hill named Honorary Commander

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill was treated like a military commander on Sept. 18. Joint Base Andrews invited Hill in June to be a part of the 2015 Honorary Commander program.

The Honorary Commander Program is a yearlong opportunity with the maintenance wing to create partnerships between leaders in surrounding communities and encourages an exchange of ideas and experiences. Hill is working to create a partnership with Joint Base Andrews to be able to provide experiences for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students to bring awareness to possible career opportunities.

Hill spent the day talking with members of the 113th Wing, D.C. Air National Guard unit, and experienced unforgettable moments

while participating in flight simulations and other hands-on demonstrations. "What a thrill to be named an honorary commander...to get to be up close and personal with an F-16 fighter was an experience I'll never forget. More importantly, the relationships we're building with the leadership of the D.C. Air National Guard will help us prepare our students for success after high school. Real world skills and sharing



**Board Member Mark Crawford, experiences what it is like to fly a jet.**

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**On the cover**

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from T.C. Martin Elementary School. Pictured from left, are Tawanya Hutchins, special education instructional assistant; Kellen Stiffler, fifth-grade teacher; and Sarah Naumann, second-grade teacher.

**Follow us on Twitter**

Did you now that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on [www.twitter.com/CCPS](http://www.twitter.com/CCPS) for system updates, news, facts and more. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill also maintains a Twitter page. Follow her @ccpsupt.

**24-hour information line**

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and delays, and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

**Now airing...**

Airing now on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of NewsBreak, a feature show that highlights CCPS students and staff. The episode features a special guest visiting from Annapolis, the North Point High School welding program and highlights the Superintendent serving as a military commander for the day. For a programming schedule, visit [www.cbcoe.com/ccboetv/](http://www.cbcoe.com/ccboetv/).

**Employee Manual updated**

An updated copy of the Charles County Public Schools employee manual is available on the employee only website, InsideCCPS. The manual includes information such as health benefits, contracted holidays and leave policies and expected standards of employee conduct. To access the employee-only website go to [cbcoe.com](http://cbcoe.com) and click on the link called InsideCCPS located in the lower right-hand corner of the home page. Enter your CCPS email user name and password to log in. The employee manual is located under the menu options on the right-hand side. Questions about the manual can be directed to the Office of Human Resources at 301-934-7255.

**National Board Certified Teachers**



**Melissa Veneracion**



**English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood**

**Position held:** English teacher at Thomas Stone High School

**Years of teaching experience:** 17

**Years with Charles County Public Schools:** 17

**Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (ELA), California University of PA  
Master's in Curriculum and Supervision, McDaniel College



**State to release PARCC data later this month**

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is releasing results next month from the first round of Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) exams taken by students during the 2014-15 school year. MSDE will release state-level data for high school student exams in English and algebra on Oct. 27, and state-level middle and elementary school student exam results on Dec. 8. Individual reports for all Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students will be distributed to parents in December.

Countywide PARCC data for CCPS students will be posted on the school system website on the Fast Facts page, [www.cbcoe.com/aboutus/fastfacts.php](http://www.cbcoe.com/aboutus/fastfacts.php) once it is made available by MSDE. CCPS piloted PARCC assessments in reading and mathematics for a year before fully implementing them countywide for all students in grades 3-11 during the 2014-15 school year.

The results will report PARCC assessment performance using five levels:

- Level 5 - Exceeded Expectations
- Level 4 - Met Expectations
- Level 3 - Approached Expectations
- Level 2 - Partially Met Expectations
- Level 1 - Did Not Yet Meet Expectations

The results will provide school systems with data on areas students need to improve

in to move on to the next grade level and to determine if older students are learning the skills and content necessary to graduate ready for college or to successfully enter the workforce. PARCC assessments are aligned to Maryland's College and Career Ready Standards, which set a higher bar for student learning and require students to write more and use analytical thinking.

According to MSDE, PARCC scores are not tied to school or teacher accountability in Maryland. The Maryland State Board of Education will review data and decide how to use results for future accountability purposes.

CCPS administered PARCC assessments during two testing windows last school year, but condensed the assessments this year to one testing window scheduled for April 4-29. The English/Language Arts portion of the assessment requires students to read several passages and provide written responses. The mathematics portion of the assessment requires students to express math reasoning and apply concepts to solve real-world problems.

The new PARCC assessments are designed to eliminate the need for additional coursework before students take credit-bearing courses beyond high school. Levels 4 and 5 indicate readiness for postsecondary education.

# Joint Base Andrews

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best practices in leadership are two immediate outcomes of this new partnership. We're looking forward to learning more about how we can bring these skills to our classrooms," Hill said.

While on the tour, Hill was introduced to two Air National Guard members who are also CCPS alumni, Senior Airman Paul James and Senior Airman Arthur Fortineau. Board Member Barbara Palko, who joined Hill on the tour, said she was impressed with the CCPS graduates. "My favorite part of our Joint Base Andrews tour was having two CCPS graduates as our tour escorts for the day. Senior Airman James and Senior Airman Fortineau were so proud of their positions and their work with the D.C. Air National Guard. They both contributed their success to the learning experiences received while attending school in Charles County. It doesn't get any better than that," Palko said.

James graduated from Westlake High School in 2006 and fixes electrical and environmental issues on aircrafts. He credits his success

to lessons he learned from his favorite teachers. "Mr. [Homer] Hastings' engineering class helped me get a good understanding of the engineering field and on the other side of the spectrum, choir taught me to be a leader. With choir, every person has a specific part and if one person is off, the whole choir is off. The same thing applies to my job here," James said.

Along with Hill and Palko, Board Members Jennifer Abell and Mark Crawford attended the tour. In the upcoming months, Hill plans to invite members of the 113th Wing to CCPS to experience Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs first hand and discuss leadership and ways to motivate and move students in the right direction.

"It was great to be able to interact with the men and women who serve with the D.C. Air National Guard. They were all top-notch people who do important work that often goes unnoticed," Hill said.



**Superintendent Dr. Kimberly A. Hill was invited by Joint Base Andrews to participate in a yearlong commander program with the 113th Wing, D.C. Air National Guard unit. As part of the program, Hill, Board members and CCPS staff members, were invited to tour the unit Sept. 18. Pictured, clockwise from right, are: Executive Director of School Administration Linda Gill, Board Members Mark Crawford and Jennifer Abell, Dr. Hill, Board Member Barbara Palko, Assistant Superintendent of Supporting Services Keith Hettel and Executive Director of School Administration Marvin Jones tour an aircraft wing where a plane bears Hill's name; Dr. Hill, Crawford and Palko learn from their tour guide about equipment on display as part of the 2015 Joint Base Andrews Air Show; and a member of the Para-Commandos team performs a precise freefall parachute demonstration.**



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# Board of Education announces October 13 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 13, 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.ccoeb.com](http://www.ccoeb.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 – Henry E. Lackey 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 update
- Career Advancement Program
- College application process
- College Fair
- Maryland College Application Week

- Project status update
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School timeline
- Certification of bus drivers and attendants
- Summary of Maryland use of assessments and testing
- Bridge to Excellence (BTE) master plan
- FY 2015 Independent Financial Audit
- 2016 Legislative positions
- Legislative update

**Unfinished Business**

**New business and Future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition – 4:30 p.m.**

- Resolutions – *American Education Week* and *American Freedom Week*
- Students
- Staff

**Public Forum – 6 p.m.**

**Action items**

- Minutes
- Personnel
- FY 2015 Comprehensive maintenance plan
- Social media policy

**Adjournment**

## Personnel

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

**Job Openings**

**Building Service Manager** – J.C. Parks Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

**Media Instructional Assistant** – John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 2.

**Building Service Worker** – Piccowaxen Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 6.

**Building Service Assistant Manager** – William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 7.

**Supervisor of Employee Services** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of supervisory experience in human resources, business management, finance or related field and a human resources

certification PHR or SHRM-CP certificate required. Master's degree and human resources certification SPHR or SHRM-SCP preferred. Apply by Oct. 9.

**Building Service Workers** – Openings at Henry E. Lackey and St. Charles high schools, 12-month positions. Apply by Oct. 13.

**Secretary** – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 11-month position. Apply by Oct. 13.

**School Psychologists** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10.5-month positions. School Psychology Certification required and Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential preferred.

**Third-grade Teacher** – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Family and Consumer Science Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

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

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

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

**Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Facilitator** – Location to be determined, 11-month position.

**Bilingual Family and Community Outreach Facilitator** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month, part-time position.

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

**Project Managers** – Annex 1, 12-month positions. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years experience in the construction industry required; or eight years of relevant experience in construction and trades in place of a bachelor's degree.

**Test Coordinators** – Openings at Maurice J. McDonough and North Point high schools, 10-month positions. Candidate must hold or be eligible for a professional teaching certification and have a minimum of five years teaching experience.