



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

School menus online

Have you seen the new school meals menu available online? Food and nutrition services has put an improved menu on www.ccboe.com.

Pick your school, pick your meal. You can hover over the items on the menu and get nutritional and allergen information.

You can print the menu by the day or month. The new menu also has links to MyPaymentsPlus to allow parents to monitor student meals accounts and a link to apply for free and reduced meals on line.

Retirement meeting

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

The session will be 5 to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16, in the cafeteria at St. Charles High School.

Guest speakers and retirement planning handouts, as well as light refreshments, will be provided.

Contact the Office of Employee Benefits at 301-934-7289 or email BenHotline@ccboe.com to RSVP by Oct. 20.

Development classes offered

Staff development classes are being offered, many to first- and second-year teachers. There also are classes for teachers new to a content area or a grade level. Go to http://www.ccboe.com/Departments/staffdevelopment/course_offerings.php for more information. To register, login to <http://registration.ccboe.com> with username and email password. If your plans change and you cannot attend, go online and drop the course. Login and click My Schedule to drop out.



Giving it the college try

Jonathan Moss, a junior at St. Charles High School, left, talks to Ashley Woodward, associate director of admissions for University of Mary Washington, during the 19th annual Charles County Public Schools College Fair held Sept. 21 at North Point High School. High school juniors and seniors had a chance to stop by during the school day to visit representatives from more than 140 colleges and universities.

Watts recalls career; lecture series wraps up Oct. 1

Harold Watts was playing gigs at nightclubs like the Flamingo Club at 14th & W in Washington, D.C. A saxophone player, he was booking jobs in Baltimore too, and was a member of the band at the Howard Theatre.

It was at Howard where he met someone who mentioned a high school in Charles County was looking for a band director. Watts, an educator in his native South Carolina, figured he could look into the job.

He traveled to Pomonkey High School and met the principal, Charles Coates, who offered him the position.

During a presentation Friday at the Charles County Fair, Watts recalled his career as a band teacher at the segregated, then integrated, Pomonkey. Watts was one of several speakers participating in the Board

of Education's second of three presentations highlighting the history of education in Charles County.

By taking the Pomonkey job, Watts joined what he considered an elite group of educators. "I've never seen a faculty like that faculty," he said, adding that he had worked in other school systems before coming to Charles County. "There were some brilliant minds that taught at that school."

He said the band "was a site to behold." There were hardly any instruments, prompting him to ask friends, businesses and the Board of Education to help procure some. "People would pass by the band room — they thought things were going crazy in there with the bad notes and everything that was coming out," he said.

At first, the students made more noise

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees of the Mattawoman Middle School. Pictured from left is physical education teacher Tyler Miller; computer teacher Lowanda Buck; and Gateway to Technology teacher Derrick Thornton.

October board meeting

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Public forum will begin at 6 p.m.

Tri-county cohort program

St. Mary's County Public Schools and graduate and professional studies at McDaniel College have partnered to provide a tri-county cohort program. Classes will be at schools in St. Mary's county beginning October. Eligible Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's County employees receive a discounted tuition rate and direct billing.

The master's in curriculum and instruction with a leadership focus is a 34.5 credit program. Those seeking Admin 1 certification must also complete a 4-credit internship.

Go to www.mcdaniel.edu/C&I for more information. McDaniel's administrator I MSDE endorsement is a 19 credit graduate certificate designed for educators already holding a master's and aspiring for careers in administration or supervision. Go to www.mcdaniel.edu/Admin1 for more information.

Get social

Stay connected with what's going on with the Charles County Board of Education on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and search for the Charles County Board of Education, give the page a "like" to find out inclement weather notices, as well as information about closures, events and what's happening in schools around the county.

Charles County Public Schools also is on Twitter. Follow @CCPS to see pictures of what is going on in the schools, as well as breaking "need to know" information.

Nominate a student for 2017 Prudential Spirit Award

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students can apply for the 2017 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, which honors middle and high school student volunteers. The annual program recognizes students for exemplary acts of volunteer service in their communities. The awards are given to students for serving their communities through volunteer activities, such as helping the less fortunate, promoting health and safety or protecting the environment.

Students in grades five through 12 are eligible to apply and must have participated in a volunteer activity that occurred in the past 12 months. Students can apply online at <http://spirit.prudential.com> or at www.nassp.org/spirit. Applications must be completed by Nov. 8 and submitted to the student's principal. Two state-level honorees – one at the middle-school level and one at the high-school level – will be announced in February. Finalists at

the state level receive bronze medallions and runner-ups receive Certificates of Excellence awards.

State-level honorees receive \$1,000 awards and travel to Washington, D.C., in the spring for recognition events. Ten national honorees will be selected from the finalist group to receive an additional \$5,000 award. Additionally, \$5,000 grants will be awarded on behalf of national honorees by the Prudential Foundation to the nonprofit, charitable organization of their choice.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program was created by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and Prudential Financial in 1995 to honor both middle and high school students for outstanding acts of community service. The program is the largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service. Visit www.nassp.org/spirit for additional program information.

100 years

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than music, Watts said.

By the second year, the band was marching in local parades, playing the three songs it knew. In time, the talent grew. Parents formed a booster club and bought the group uniforms. "Those kids I had in the band were some of the brightest kids, some of the best kids I had," he said.

In his seventh year at Pomonkey, the school began to integrate by bringing in white students. Mary Mosher was one of them, attending Pomonkey in seventh and eighth grades. "Mr. Watts was one of my favorite teachers," said Mosher, who attended his presentation at the McConchie One-room Schoolhouse. Mosher, who studied science in college, continued to keep up with her music — she played the flute in school, but now focuses on obscure medieval instruments.

"Band directors are especially cool and Mr. Watts was way cool," she said. "He had a lasting influence on me."

Watts went on to teach at Thomas Stone and Gwynn Park high schools. He

also joined the Washington Redskins band and was a member of the team's singing group for more than 30 years, traveling to five Super Bowls and performing at three.

Other presenters for the segregation and desegregation presentation at the Fair included Anna Kephart, Board member Margaret Marshall, Russell Lee, Mary Louise Webb, Marlene Jamieson, Margie Posey, Dorothea and George Smith and Conchita Walls.

The Board will wrap up its educational series showing how the school system handles disasters — tornados, hurricanes and more — with a full-dome show at the James E. Richmond Science Center. See the special presentation, "When Disaster Strikes, We're Ready," at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 1.

The James E. Richmond Science Center is inside St. Charles High School. The presentation also includes STEM activities, Science On a Sphere, weather stations and tornado models. Admission is free, but seating is limited.

North Point's Calloway honored by Maryland Sheriff's Association

High standards and expectations, striving to excel and putting your best forward in all you do are just a few of the lifelong lessons Master Cpl. Roger "Rhett" Calloway emphasizes in his North Point High School criminal justice classroom.

He is well known among the student body as an instructor who not only pushes students to excel academically, but challenges them to be independent and responsible role models for their peers.

Calloway has served as the lead instructor over the criminal justice program at North Point for the past eight school years and spends countless hours ensuring his students are prepared for the future.

Additionally, Master Cpl. Calloway oversees the Charles County Sheriff's Office Explorer Post, a program in which children ages 14-21 who are interested in law enforcement can participate in community service events such as fingerprinting assignments, and traffic and crowd control.

In both of these roles, Calloway's commitment to the success of young people is clear.

His level of commitment and dedication to the Charles County community are qualities deserving of recognition.

Calloway's colleagues agree and nominated him for an award through the Maryland Sheriff's Association (MSA). In just two weeks, he travels to the Maryland Chiefs/Sheriffs Training Seminar in Ocean City where he will be recognized as the 2015 Deputy of the Year in the Community Service category of the MSA's awards program.

Calloway said he is honored to represent his community and be highlighted for something he loves to do.

"It is an honor to represent the Sheriff's Office and to be recognized for my efforts on receiving this award. It would not be possible without the support from the agency, my advisors, the young people in the programs and especially my wife," he added.

The award honors an individual with an outstanding performance record in service to their community. Calloway's nomination was submitted by Charles County Lt. Charles Baker and describes him as a natural leader who goes above and beyond to provide positive learning experiences for teens.

"Master Cpl. Calloway is a selfless officer. He makes the programs he is involved in a priority. He has a reputation for forming and transforming students into high character/high standard members of society.

With Calloway's efforts, his students have gone on to careers in law enforcement and the military."

As the lead instructor over the criminal justice program at North Point, Calloway teaches lessons that include aspects of law-abiding behavior, developing informed and responsible citizens, and challenges students to use their critical thinking and organizational skills.

Calloway strives to teach students about self-reliance, individual discipline and leadership. The program is a career and technology education (CTE) program at North Point and interested students must apply for admittance.

Students who enroll in the program graduate with the necessary skills to enter the workforce and experience toward a college degree in law enforcement.

Many of Calloway's criminal justice students also participate in Skills USA, a CTE-based performance program in which students demonstrate their mastery of topics such as education lesson planning, welding, culinary arts and criminal justice, and compete for local, state and national awards.

He works with his students during the school day to prepare them for the competition, but can often be found working after hours to ensure his students are prepared to compete. Under his direction, Calloway's students regularly receive first- or second-place awards in the program.

In addition to working with his students in the classroom and preparing them for Skills USA events, Calloway also provides them with opportunities in the community so they can learn about giving and helping others.

"These students learn what it means to give of their time. They give hundreds of hours to help the citizens of the county. Many of these events could not go on if it wasn't for the great help this group provides," according to Calloway's nomination.

Calloway joined the Charles County Sheriff's Office in 1993 as a correctional officer and started his time in the classroom at North Point during the 2008-09 school year. He was honored with the award on Sept. 12.



Cpl. Roger Calloway

What's in a name? School naming committee to hold public hearing on Oct. 17

The Charles County Board of Education's School Naming Advisory Committee is holding a public hearing to accept information or comment on names submitted and to accept additional school naming suggestions from the public. The hearing is set for Monday, Oct. 17, 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata.

The School Naming Advisory Committee is considering names for the new elementary school to be built off Billingsley Road in White Plains. The school is scheduled to open at the start of the 2018-19 school year.

Board policy requires names of new schools to be of persons or places of significance to Charles County residents and community

members. A person must be deceased to be eligible for consideration as a school name.

Residents may begin to sign up to speak at 6 p.m. The committee will begin hearing testimony at 6:30 p.m. but will allow speakers to sign up until 7 p.m. Speakers will have three minutes to present, and committee members may ask questions about their nominee. The committee asks that speakers leave a copy of their written testimony for the record.

The hearing will be aired live on the system website at www.ccboe.com and televised on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12. A complete list of naming suggestions submitted to the committee will be posted on the Charles County Public Schools website prior to the hearing.

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Turning the focus on chronic absenteeism

Missing a school day here or there can be managed with some focused catch-up, but chronic absenteeism — missing at least 10 percent, or 18 days a school year — widens a gulf that many cannot bridge.

Over time, gaps in a child's education as a result of not showing up — excused or not — may result in falling behind academically and failing to graduate.

September is Attendance Awareness Month. Nationwide, more than 3 million, or 18 percent, of high school students were chronically absent in 2013-14, according to the U.S. Department of Education's Civil Rights Data Collection. By high school, regular attendance is a better dropout indicator than test scores, the data revealed.

Missing days from high school can be learned behavior for a student who was chronically absent in elementary and middle school.

"Trends start in elementary school and it becomes a pattern," Sheri Morrison, pupil personnel worker for Indian Head and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools, said. A student racking up one or two absences a month as a youngster will likely carry the trait on to middle and high school. "They miss so many opportunities," Morrison said.

"The gaps in their education are hard to make up," said William Miller, principal of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy. "When they get older, it's even harder to fill those gaps."

To excite students, Mt. Hope and Indian Head held a Spirit Week Sept. 12 to 15. Students took part in Shades Day by wearing their favorite sunglasses. Hat Day, Pirate Day and Super Hero Day also were held.

Every Student, Every Day is a national initiative to address and combat chronic absenteeism. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education and with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Justice, the program aims to address chronic absenteeism among vulnerable students.

In Charles County, more than 2,300 children missed 20 or more days of school in 2015-16, said Sue DelaCruz, supervising pupil personnel worker. "That works out to an entire month of school," she said. "Many parents don't realize that missing one or two days a month leads to 20 or more days in one school year." Children between the ages of 5 and 17 are required by law to attend school, DelaCruz said. Parents who do not ensure that their children are in school every day and on time, can be charged, she added. "Every day of school that [a] child misses is a missed opportunity for emotional and intellectual growth," DelaCruz said. "Make-up work does not replace the instruction and discussions that occur in the classroom."

Personnel

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

Job openings

Student Data Technician — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma, average to above proficiency in use of keyboard type equipment and a working knowledge of computers and data processing procedures. Apply by Oct. 3.

Supervising Pupil Personnel Worker — Jesse Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a master's degree and hold or be eligible for a Maryland Advance Professional Certificate with pupil personnel worker endorsement; supervising pupil personnel worker endorsement, preferred. Three years of experience as a PPW or school administrator is preferred and a demonstrated ability to work professionally and discretely. Apply by Oct. 6.

Instructional Assistant — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. Applicants must have an interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school aged children and excellent human relations skills and good communication skills. IAs assist teachers in planning instructional activities and works with people or small groups of students. Apply by Nov. 30.

Art Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. A knowledge of the subject matter and proper instructional methodologies is a must. The position will remain open until filled.

ESOL Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education for certification

in English for Speakers of Other Languages, Prek-12 (ESOL). Knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies and evidence of exemplary human relations skills is required. Position will be open until filled.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — all elementary schools, 10-month position. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with school aged children and the ability to work with students with a variety of mental abilities and disabilities. High school diploma and experience working with children is required. The position will be open until filled.

Extra pay positions

Head Coach for Girls Lacrosse — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call Tony Mast at 301-743-5431 to apply.

Assistant JV Cheerleading Coach — Thomas Stone High School. Call Brad Criss at 301-843-0074 to apply.