



Important Dates Coming Soon



Food for thought

Val Ashline, pictured above, assistant food and nutrition (FNS) manager at St. Charles High School, prepares side salads for lunch on the first day of school Aug. 30.

The USDA extended a waiver to school districts to provide free breakfast and lunch for all school-aged children this year. Students can receive one free breakfast and lunch daily.

Meal offerings will include items such as cereal, milk, juice and fruit. Returning to the menu this year are hot food items like chicken tenders, pizza and pancakes. While FNS staff plan menus, they report that food shortages are a nationwide concern, which could result in last minute changes or replacements to school menus.

While meals are free this year, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) continues to encourage all families to fill out the [free meals application](#) to ensure school staff and students receive all the benefits attached to the application.

School News info

School News is available to read in the MyCCPS section of [ccboe.com](#). Print copies will no longer be mailed, but if you would like a paper copy of an edition, contact Communications@ccboe.com.



Welcome back!

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff returned to school Aug. 30 for in-person learning. Clockwise from top, Mattawoman Middle School ESOL teacher, Tania Saguid, left, helps sixth grader Luisa Quispesivana Ravelo find her class. Amya Trice, a C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School first grader has breakfast before starting the day. Westlake High School junior Myla Weathers, left, talks with Vice Principal Anthony Peck before classes start. This is Fourth Grade — Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School student Keshawn Clark and his peers attend the Transition School this year while Dr. Brown undergoes an interior renovation. Clark is a student in Kimberly Gillum's class.



CCPS partners with new COVID-19 screening vendor

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is partnering with the Maryland Department of Health contracted vendor, 20/20 GeneSystems, to provide all preventative COVID-19 screenings. This includes the high school athletic screening program.

Testing began at all high schools the week of Aug. 30.

Voluntary testing at elementary and middle schools will be added by the week of Sept. 7. All parents who want their child to participate in the program (including student athletes) must complete a one-time registration using the new system. Click here to access the system. Parents of student athletes must register again using the new system.

Registration is available 24 hours a day and parents only need to register once for the duration of the program.

Testing will occur weekly and parents can opt their child in for screenings at any time.

In order for a student or staff member to be tested, the one-time registration must be completed by midnight of the Saturday prior to the week for testing.

At the elementary and middle school levels, testing will occur during lunch shifts

to avoid conflicts with instruction.

Testing at high schools will take place during lunch shifts, twice a week, and from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m., once per week, for athletes. School principals will share testing schedule details with families.

Licensed staff from GeneSystems will oversee the testing at schools and centers, and process all results. The test used is an anterior nasal swab PCR test, which a student or staff member may administer themselves. GeneSystems staff will also help any test taker, as needed.

Test results are shared directly with parents and staff who register for testing within 48 hours. Parents or staff members with questions about the program can contact Jason Stoddard, CCPS director of school safety and security, at jstoddard@ccboe.com or 301-392-5550.

Earlier this summer, the Maryland Department of Health contracted with GeneSystems to provide COVID-19 screening services to Maryland public schools.



Board of Education fills ethics panel vacancy

The Board of Education on Aug. 10 appointed a fifth member to its ethics panel. Janice Wilson of Waldorf joins the Board's ethics panel to serve a term of one year. Her term expires June 30, 2022.

The Board opened its search for an additional member earlier this year to fill a vacancy on the current panel.

Wilson joins current ethics panel members Adrienne Morgan Davis, Yonelle Moore Lee, Jessie Morris and William Olmsted. The term for each panel member expires June 30, 2022.

Wilson retired from the Central Intelligence Agency with more than 35 years of experience.

She is the immediate past president of the Charles County Branch of the NAACP and served as the third vice-president for the Maryland State NAACP for four years. She is a training consultant in areas such as diversity and inclusion and cultural com-

petency, and is a member of the Charles County Criminal Justice Reform Task and the College of Southern Maryland's Diversity Advisory Council.

Wilson was recently appointed to a four-year term by Gov. Larry Hogan to serve on the Maryland Judiciary Nominating Committee.

The ethics panel interprets ethics regulations and provides advisory opinions to Board members and employees subject to the regulations.

The ethics panel is appointed every four years prior to the election of Board of Education members.

The panel reviews complaints concerning any alleged ethics violation and receives and maintains all forms required to be filed under the ethics regulations.

Ethics panel members meet at least once annually to review disclosure forms and as necessary to respond to inquiries.

Notebook

New graphics available

Schools and offices looking to use the new Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) graphics can download images and find color codes at the [CCPS Graphics Toolkit](http://www.ccboe.com) at www.ccboe.com.

Nominate a principal

Nominate an outstanding leader for the annual [Principal of the Year award](#). Criteria for nomination includes five years of experience as a principal, three of which are with CCPS. Principals can be nominated by staff, students, parents, colleagues and community members. The deadline for submission is Nov. 12. Materials should be sent to Ramona DiBenedetto at rdibenedetto@ccboe.com. Call 301-934-7242 with questions.

Teacher of the Year awards

CCPS is now accepting nominations for the Maryland Teacher of the Year and *The Washington Post* Teacher of the Year award programs. The criteria for nomination includes at least five years of teaching and nominations must be a full-time classroom teacher. Nominations are submitted by school principals to CCPS staff who oversee the awards programs. Submission suggestions can be made by teachers, students or community members. More information can be found at [MyCCPS](#) and nominations are due by Nov. 12. Nominations must be submitted electronically to Ramona DiBenedetto at rdibenedetto@ccboe.com. Call 301-934-7242 with questions.

Referral program in place

CCPS has launched an [employee referral incentive program \(ERIP\)](#) to attract skilled educators and support staff to the school system. Current CCPS employees who refer candidates for employment can receive up to \$1,000 if the referred employee is hired by the school system. A payment of \$500 will be made to the referring employee after the newly hired person works for 30 days during the school year under a Board contract. That payment will be issued within 30 days after the newly hired staff member's 30th day of work. At the end of the school year, another \$500 will be paid to the referring employee within 30 days of the last workday for the newly hired staff member. The program ends on June 20, 2022.

Third middle school redistricting hearing set for Sept. 7

The Board of Education is hosting a virtual middle school redistricting hearing at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 7, through Zoom. Parents, staff and community members interested in providing feedback about the middle school redistricting process are encouraged to attend.

[Meeting access is available by clicking here.](#) Users must have an active Zoom account to access the hearing. Zoom will prompt meeting participants to use the sign-in with email feature using their Zoom account. The hearing will also stream live on the school system website, ccboe.com.

The middle school redistricting may revise attendance zones and reduce overcrowding at schools. It takes effect in August 2022 once the renovation and expansion of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School is complete. The redistricting is comprehensive and could affect students at all eight CCPS middle schools.

A complete overview of the redistricting process is posted on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/redistricting-middle-school-ql>.

Maps of the proposed changes to middle school zones are posted on the website. Parents and community members can use the maps to view any proposed changes for the middle school zoned for their home address.

At the Board of Education's Aug. 10 meeting, the CCPS redistricting committee presented two comprehensive middle school rezoning options to the Board and Superintendent Maria Navarro.

CCPS started the middle school redistricting process in 2020 but paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The committee resumed its work in May and presented two options to the Board in August for consideration.

Navarro will make her recommendation to the Board at its Sept. 14 meeting. The Board will accept public comment on the Superintendent's recommendation, and dates and times for the hearings on her recommendation are scheduled for Sept. 27 and 28.

Details are posted at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/redistricting-middle-school-ql>. The Board plans to take action on the middle school redistricting recommendation at its Oct. 12 meeting.

The redistricting committee is made up of 11 parents, three community members and four school principals. The committee develops and evaluates potential middle school



An artist's rendition of the renovation at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. Middle school redistricting will take effect in August 2022 once the expansion and renovation is complete at Stoddert.

attendance zones for consideration by the Superintendent and the Board. The Board selected the redistricting committee members at random from names of volunteers. Board policy requires the committee to submit two different proposals.

Parents and community members can email questions and comments to redistrict@ccboe.com. The Board also encourages the public to participate in the redistricting hearings.

Parents and students will be notified of school zone changes after the Board votes on its redistricting decision in October. The school system will notify parents about the chosen proposal.

The redistricting takes effect at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. CCPS posts all redistricting information on its website at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/redistricting-middle-school-ql>.

The following is the timeline for redistricting.

October 2020

Redistricting committee selected. Public information Town Hall session held Oct. 26, 2020, virtually.

November 2020

Redistricting committee begins meeting weekly. Meetings paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 2021

Committee resumes its weekly meetings.

July 2021

Redistricting committee completes work.

August 2021

Board receives a report on committee's recommendations at its Aug. 10 meeting. Public hearings are set for Monday, Aug. 23, 2021, from 6 to 8 p.m., virtually, and Tuesday, Aug. 24, 2021, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at La Plata High School.

September 2021

Superintendent presents recommendation to the Board at its Sept. 14 meeting. Public hearings on recommendation set for Monday, Sept. 27, 2021, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Westlake High School, and Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021, 6 to 8 p.m. virtually.

October 2021

Board takes action. Redistricting decision takes effect at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

How will comments be received?

The Board of Education believes community input is essential to a successful redistricting. There are several ways for residents to share ideas about the upcoming redistricting:

- Email ideas and comments to redistrict@ccboe.com. All correspondence will be shared with Board members and staff.
- Participate in the public hearings. For more information about the redistricting timeline, visit the CCPS website at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/redistricting-middle-school-ql>.

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CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

Herd sworn in for second term as Student Member of the Board

La Plata High School senior Ian Herd spent the 2020-21 school year advocating for students. As the current Student Member of the Charles County Board of Education, Herd has weighed in on Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) programs and policies for the past year.

He is passionate about government and politics, but most importantly ensuring the voices of students are heard.

Herd was recently voted by his peers to serve in the role again for the 2021-2022 school year. He is the first CCPS student in almost 20 years to serve in the role for two consecutive years. He was officially sworn in by Sherri Hancock, clerk of the circuit court, at the Board's Aug. 10 meeting.

Student members of the Board generally serve one-year terms. This year's election was done electronically and opened to middle- and high-school students. As part of the voting process, students were able to review Herd's campaign speech and ask questions.

"I am beyond humbled that my fellow students have once again put their faith and trust in me. I look forward to a year of hard work ahead," Herd said.

Recent legislation passed by the General Assembly now provides the student Board member the opportunity to vote on certain matters before the Board. Effective July 1, House Bill 1060/Senate



Ian Herd, left, a senior at La Plata High School, is sworn in as the Student Member of the Board at the August Board meeting by the Clerk of the Circuit Court Sherri Hancock.

Bill 749 provides student Board members a vote on most matters.

The legislation does not provide the student Board member with voting rights on legal appeals, personnel matters, collective bargaining, the hiring, salary and evaluation of the Superintendent, operating and capital budgets, school openings and closings, and redistricting.

Herd is a proponent of this legislation and is excited to be the first CCPS student to experience the process. "This is an enormous milestone for the student voice in Charles County. I am confident that Student Member voting rights will positively impact our Board's deliberative process for decades to come," Herd said. "It's been an honor and a privilege to collaborate with Chairperson Wilson and all Board members over this past year, and I'm excited to see where the future takes us," Herd said.

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

Coordinator of Evaluation — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree in the area of Educational Research and/or equivalent experience in education evaluation and statistics required. Apply by Sept. 5.

Secretary — Billingsley Elementary School, 10-month position. Applicants need a high school diploma and ability to type accurately at 50 wpm. Knowledge of efficient office practices and procedures required. Apply by Sept. 7.

Job Placement Coordinator — Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. A college degree is preferred with a minimum of 60 college credits required. Experience in working with high school students preferred, along

with knowledge of career technology education. Apply by Sept. 14.

School Bus Driver — Annex 1, 10-month position. A high school diploma and five years of successful work experience as a school bus driver in Maryland. Applicants must annually pass the Maryland school bus driver's physical examination and meet all federal, state and local school bus driver requirements. Apply by Sept. 14.

Temporary Website Assistant — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. A high school diploma is required with college coursework in the areas of website design, hosting, support preferred. Knowledge of content management systems (CMS) preferred. Position open until filled.

Diversity and Inclusion Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have experience driving large-scale organization change

through strategic programming. Experience working with, teaching and/or leading groups of diverse individuals in respectful, equitable and inclusive ways is preferred. Position open until filled.

Student Services Secretary — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. High school diploma or general education degree required. One-to-three years demonstrated administrative/secretarial experience preferred. Position open until filled.

Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant (IA) — All elementary schools, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required and experience working with children. Position open until filled.

Extra Pay Positions

Assistant Girls Soccer Coach — Henry E. Lackey High School.

Assistant Football Coach — North Point High School.