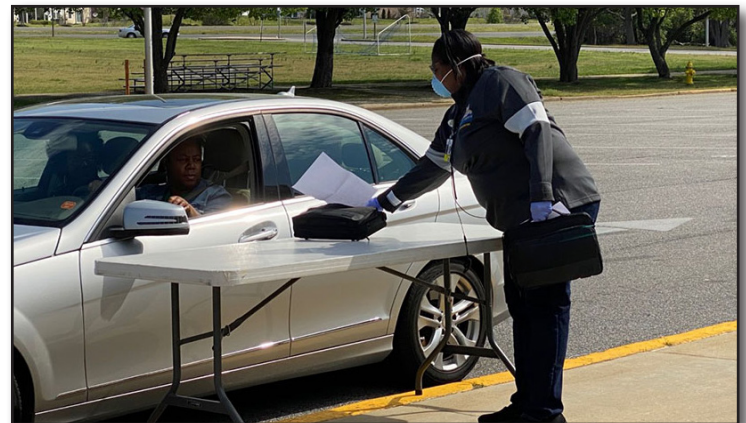
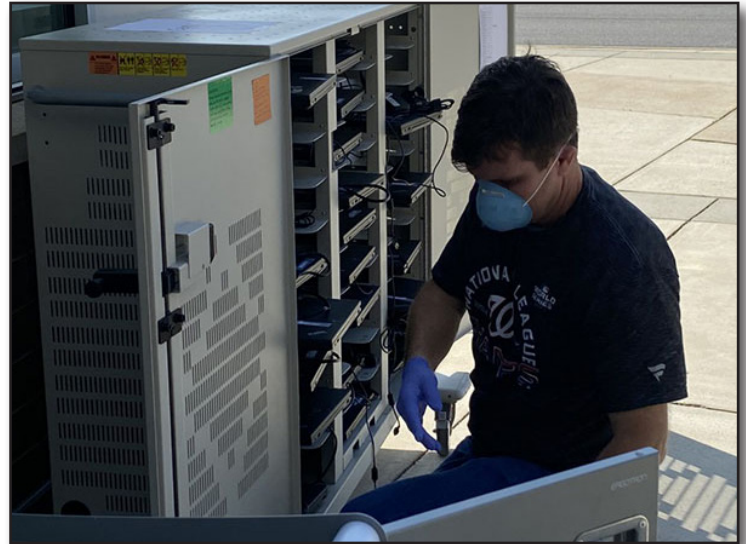
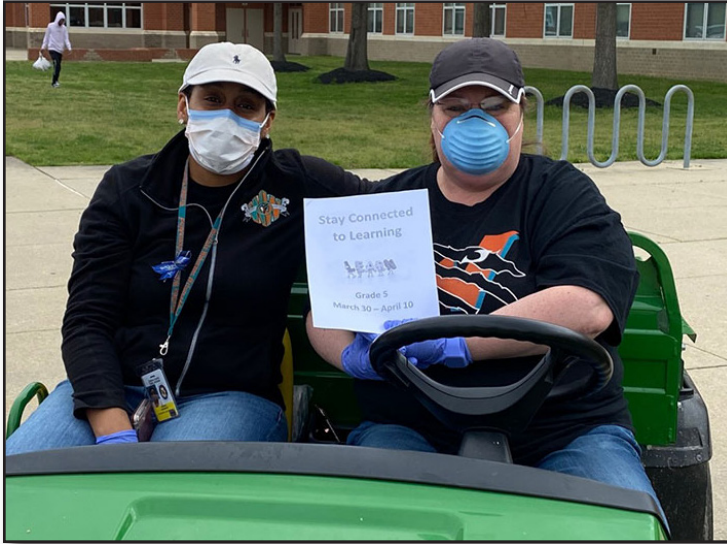


School News

It's All About
Teaching
and Learning.



Clockwise from top left, Renee Monroe, pictured left, secretary to the principal at Westlake High School, and Beth Shook, Westlake compliance facilitator, help staff hand out learning packets at the school. Matt Loyd, vice principal at St. Charles High School, arranges laptops on a cart at the school on Monday. Loyd, along with other St. Charles administrative staff, helped to distribute devices early this week to students who identified a need. Thomas Stone High School Principal Shanif Pearl hands off a laptop to a student's parent who stopped by the school Monday morning. At William B. Wade Elementary School Brandon Simpson, left, Wade's computer analyst, Vice Principal Kerri Loyd, and Principal William Miller stood outside to greet and provide about 40 families with laptops for students.

Schools hold distribution of instructional materials, laptops

Instructional materials were distributed this week as distance learning has started in the homes of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students.

Westlake High School was a hive of activity this week with two lanes for paper learning packet pick up, another lane for meal distribu-

tion and a line for those picking up a laptop. Staff members reported to the school to pitch in where they were needed. Westlake staff members were joined by their colleagues from Mattawoman Middle School.

"I am glad to be here and help," Scott Shuttleworth, Westlake's instrumental music teacher, said.

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Distributionpage 1

Notebook

Online registration open

The application process is open for the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) prekindergarten program for the 2020-21 school year. Students must be 4 years old by Sept. 1 to be eligible for prekindergarten. Admission is based on criteria and guidelines set by the Maryland State Department of Education and is not guaranteed. Due to the school closure mandate in place, CCPS is currently closed through April 24. During the closure, all prekindergarten applications for new families, as well as current CCPS families, must be completed through the online registration system. The system is available at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/online-registration>.

Registration is open for CCPS students entering kindergarten at the start of the 2020-21 school year. State law requires students entering kindergarten to be 5 years old by Sept. 1 in the school year in which the child is registered. Parents can find out what school their child is zoned to attend by entering their home address in School Locator, a mapping system available at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/school-locator>.

Because of the school closure through April 24, all kindergarten registrations for new families, as well as current CCPS families, must be completed through the online registration system. The system is available at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/online-registration>.

Cancelled events, activities

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has canceled several events due to the school closure through April 24. The following is a list of canceled events during the closure. Announcements of any make up activities or rescheduled events, as well as any newly canceled events, will be made as determined.

- April 15, Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee meeting;
- April 16-18, McDonough spring production;
- April 16-18, La Plata High School spring production;
- April 18, St. Charles High School prom;
- April 23, Reading Partner Luncheon;
- April 23-25, Westlake spring production;
- April 23, student mental health fair at St. Charles High School; and
- May 2, SAT at Westlake.

CCPS posts the most up-to-date information on its website, [ccboe.com](https://www.ccboe.com). Visit <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/coronavirus-information> for the latest information.

St. Charles High School is another multi-use pick up site – with meals, paper packets and laptops distributed. Principal Richard Conley and members of this administrative staff handed out laptops to students in need of a device to complete distance learning assignments.

Schools around the county held laptop distribution during the week of April 6. The first wave of distribution focused on supplying some 2,800 laptops to students who took a technology survey on March 13, the last day schools were open before the initial school closure last month. Another distribution will follow to lend laptops to those who requested a device via AskCCPS.

Principals communicated with parents and guardians about the time and date to pick up a laptop at each school, with proper safety protocols in place. The distribution was slow but steady Monday morning at Stone, Autem Clay, administrative intern, said. By 10:30 a.m. about 40 out of the school's 200 laptops had been loaned out.

Paper learning packets are also being distributed at the 11 meal sites.

"Today is my first day working out here. Mrs. Roberts asked for volunteers and we were happy to answer the call," Leah Smith, an academic mentor at Westlake, said. Elizabeth Stahl, an administra-



Staff took safety precautions and wore gloves and masks at distribution, including Autem Clay, administrative intern at Thomas Stone High School.

tive IA at Westlake, said she was glad she signed up to help. "We were not really sure what to expect. There has been a lot of traffic here this morning – lots of elementary school packets going out to people today. I am glad I came out to help," Stahl said.

Wednesday was the last day for parents to pick up the first two weeks of printed instructional materials at the meal sites. The CCPS print shop has started printing and assembling the paper packets for the third and fourth weeks. All assignments are online.



Food for thought

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) food and nutrition service workers are serving thousands of meals a week to children 18 and younger at 11 distribution sites. Top left, Anna Beyer, food and nutrition services manager at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, readies meals for pickup at Henry E. Lackey High School, to pickup. Below left, Susan Patterson, food service manager at Mattawoman Middle School, sports the latest FNS shirt with the hashtag #operationfeedthekids while working at Maurice J. McDonough High School. "We have our regulars, which is really cool," Theresa Kidd, food service manager at F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, said. Kidd is working at McDonough's distribution site.

CCPS launches Spanish hotline for distance learning questions

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has a Spanish hotline for the community. CCPS encourages parents and students to use the hotline for questions about distance learning. Callers will reach a staff member who speaks Spanish. The hotline can accept calls, voicemail, and text messages. If callers receive a busy signal, they can leave their name, phone number, and a brief summary of their question or concern. A CCPS staff member will return the call. The phone number for the Spanish hotline is 240-523-3032.

Las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Charles han abierto una línea telefónica directa en español para las familias de habla hispana de la comunidad de CCPS. Si tiene preguntas sobre el aprendizaje a distancia, utilice esta línea directa para hablar con alguien en español. La línea directa puede aceptar llamadas, mensajes de voz y de texto. Si la línea está ocupada, deje su nombre, número de teléfono y un breve resumen de su pregunta o inquietud para que el personal de CCPS le devuelva la llamada lo antes posible. El número de teléfono de la línea directa en español es: 1-240-523-3032.



Board approves opening Spring Break days for instruction, work

The Board of Education during its April 3 WebEx meeting approved opening schools during spring break for instruction days for students. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will be open April 10, April 13 and April 14 for distance learning instruction for students, and work days for staff.

CCPS will have to apply for a waiver from the Maryland State Board of Education to open April 10 and April 13, which are designated state holidays. The Board approved the opening of schools to support making up lost instructional days due to the mandatory school closure in place by Governor Hogan.

The Board also approved opening schools on Tuesday, April 28 as an instructional and work day for students and teachers.

This was originally a student and teacher day off due to the primary election. Gov. Hogan has moved primary election day to Tuesday, June 2.

Last week, the Board of Education and Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) launched a community survey to seek feedback on whether or not planned spring break days should be used for instructional time.

Maryland law requires students to attend 180 days of school.

Although Gov. Hogan implemented an executive order to close schools through April 24 and declared a state of emergency, CCPS has no indication the Maryland State Board of Education will provide a waiver of lost instructional time.

The following are the survey results; a total of 14,414 responses were recorded from the community.

Survey takers:

54 percent identified as parents;

24 percent identified as students (emailed to all secondary students);

21 percent identified as staff; and

1.6 percent identified as other (parent and staff member, grandparent, guardian, community member).

Spring break – should CCPS remain closed, open for distance learning/work, or provide a break?

The breakdown by respondents is as follows.

61 percent: eliminate spring break. Distance learning/work continues for students and staff.

14 percent: close April 10 and reopen April 13-14.

13 percent: keep it as scheduled – schools/offices closed April 10, 13 and 14.

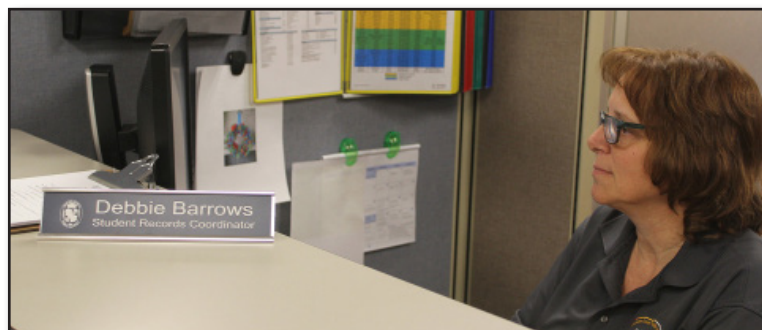
11 percent: close April 10 and April 13, reopen April 14.

.3 percent: no answer.

A recording of the Board's April 3 WebEx meeting is posted at <https://www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/?videos=board-meeting-april-3-2020>.

For the records

Need transcripts or student records? Debbie Barrows, a long-time Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employee, is here to help. Barrows is working both on site at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building and teleworking to meet the needs of students and parents. The Starkey Building is closed to the public, so please email Barrows at dbarrows@ccboe.com for assistance. Records are being sent via U.S. Mail.



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CCPS donates thermometers

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) donated no contact thermometers to the Charles County Department of Emergency Service for use in first responder wellness screenings. The thermometers were once housed in the offices of CCPS school nurses around the county. Pictured from left are Nick Ellis, special operations coordinator at Charles County Emergency Services, left, Jason Stoddard, director of School Safety and security for Charles County Public Schools, and John Flier, chief of Charles County Emergency Services.

Setting up for the day

Antonio Vaughn, a building service worker at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, shares a laugh with colleagues while setting up the meal distribution station at the school. Higdon is one of 11 meal distribution sites in Charles County. Children 18 and younger can receive a lunch, dinner and a breakfast kit from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Friday at Lackey, McDonough, St. Charles, Westlake, Somers, Higdon, Indian Head, Dr. Mudd, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, J.C. Parks and J.P. Ryon.



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

Administrative Intern – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Bachelor's degree and Standard Professional Certificate issued by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and three years of successful teaching experience are required. Apply by April 30.

Summer School Teacher (internal applicants only) - Location to be determined, temporary position July 6 to Aug. 5. Various subjects. Apply by May 1.

Building Service Worker – location to be determined, 12-month position. Applicants must be physically capable of performing manual labor and have a willingness to work overtime. Apply by May 29.

Food Service Manager – Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required. A minimum of three years of experience in food service management preferred. Apply by April 21.

High School Counselor (internal applicants only) – All high schools, 12-month position. A master's degree in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling as determined by the MSDE required. A minimum of a 600-hour practicum or experience teaching or counseling in a school setting are preferred. Apply by April 30.

IEP Facilitator (pool for future openings) – Location to be determined, 11-month position. A bachelor's degree required, master's degree preferred. Applicants should hold or be eligible for a Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement. Three years of satisfactory special

education classroom teaching experience is required. Apply by June 30.

Reading Recovery Teacher – All elementary schools, 10-month position. A degree in early childhood education, elementary education or reading is required and applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the MSDE. Three years of successful classroom teaching experience at the primary levels is required. Apply by July 1.

English Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 31.

Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher – St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Position is open until filled.

French Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Position is open until filled.

Language Arts Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Position is open until filled.