



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Board notes

Read the latest Board notes taken at the Sept. 8 meeting of the Board of Education of Charles County. To read the notes, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/board-agenda/131-about/boe/meetingnotes/920-board-meeting-notes-for-september-8-2020>.

Suicide awareness month

Suicide affects all ages and is a problem throughout the lifespan. September is used to reach out to those affected by suicide, raise awareness and connect individuals with suicidal ideation to treatment services. The truth is, all can benefit from honest conversations about mental health conditions and suicide — one conversation can change a life. Staff members in Student Services collected information and resources at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/suicide-prevention-awareness-month>.

If you know someone in crisis, reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) at 800-273-TALK (8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).

Heritage celebration

National Hispanic Heritage Month honors the achievements, contributions, culture and history of Hispanic and Latino American people. The month-long celebration — from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 — commemorates the independence anniversary of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The commemoration started as a week-long event in 1968. It expanded to Oct. 15 in 1988 to reflect the Independence Days of Mexico, Chile and Belize. For activity ideas that will appeal to students in kindergarten through 12th grade, contact the CCPS Office of Equity and Diversity at 301-934-7257 or 301-934-7245.



Welcome back

- *CCPS starts the school year virtually*

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) opened for students on Monday, Aug. 31. The start of the school year is taking place virtually with teachers and students connecting online.

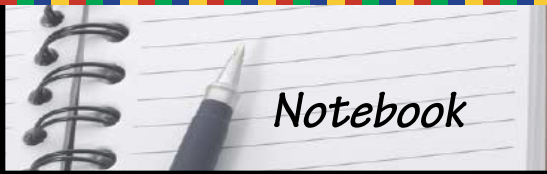
Some CCPS students — the children of staff members — set up laptops and other learning resources at learning centers held at CCPS schools. Top, kindergartners and first graders took over A Pod at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. Pictured clockwise front left, are Sydney Stoddard kindergarten student at Mitchell; Ashley Walker, Mitchell first grader; Chase Oliver, a kindergarten student at Mitchell, Ashton Carrington, kindergartner at T.C. Martin Elementary School; and Kourtney Duehring, a Mitchell kindergarten student. Mitch-



ell instructional assistants, Lori Otten and Sherry Winter oversee the students while they are at the school. Above, Braydon Smith, a Maurice J. McDonough High School student, set up his laptop in his mother's office at Mitchell. Jocelyn James-Smith is secretary to the principal at Mitchell.

Caleb Jackson, a McDonough sophomore using the learning center at Mitchell said he would prefer to be back in school rather than attending classes virtually.

Mitchell vice principal Christina Valenzuela-Carrington would like to see kids and teachers back in classrooms soon, too. "Having these kids in here makes it feel like a school," she said.



On the front cover

Pictured on the front cover from left are Ellen Dobry, registration secretary, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; Joseph Brawner, building service manager at Henry E. Lackey High School; and Stephanie Lloyd, kindergarten instructional assistant (IA) at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.

In-service day Sept. 18

A teacher in-service day is set for Friday, Sept. 18. The day is reserved for professional development for teachers. Students generally have the third Friday of September off for teacher professional development.

Mark your calendars

CCPS has canceled all early dismissal days for students during Phase 1, as all learning is virtual. Teachers will still have one early dismissal day.

Full day closures for students remain the same as listed in the calendar. The revised schedule is:

- Sept. 29:** Early dismissal day canceled
- Oct. 9:** Early dismissal day canceled
- Oct. 12:** Schools closed for students
 - School-based professional development
 - Parent conferences
 - Two hours of teacher planning
- Nov. 2:** End of the first quarter.

Reason to celebrate

Building Service Worker Day is Oct. 2. Nationally known as National Custodial Worker Day, it is set aside to thank those who take care of buildings and facilities. Use Oct. 2 to recognize the essential workers who strive to make sure everyone has a clean, hygienic and inviting experience at work.

FARMS applications due

The application for free and reduced price meals is open. The carryover period for free and reduced price meals for the 2020-21 school year ends Oct. 14. The carryover period is the time the USDA allows students to remain on the prior year's meal status. For meal applications, go to <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Home/PickDistrict>.



Zah'Niyah Dorsey, a kindergarten student at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, works on an assignment about her favorite animal at a work station set up at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy's internet family center.

Family internet centers open

A family internet center at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School opened earlier this month to aid students in virtual learning.

The Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy location joins one at Henry E. Lackey High School as an internet center focused on providing WiFi to students in need of the resource to complete their schoolwork.

The study hall-type spaces are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, in Lackey's gym and the gym/cafeteria of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy. Desks will be socially distanced with families able to sit together. Space is limited and must be reserved between 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. the day before you want to book a space by calling 301-934-7213. Families can schedule up to five consecutive days at once.

"My office staff prepared and distributed laptops and iPads along with countless hours of support to our families to help prepare them for virtual learning," Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Principal Nancy Seifert said. "Unfortunately, many of our families don't have a stable internet connection to sustain four hours of online instruction." Seifert calls Mt. Hope's center a Virtual Cafe and said it is another option to make sure children stay connected to their education and school.

"Our students are eager to get back to school. They miss their friends and their teachers and that social emotion connection," she said.

Students 15 or younger must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or adult who is a caregiver. The adult will fill out a health screening for themselves and their children before going into the center.

Charlotte Gilroy brought her granddaughter, Fawn, to the center. Fawn, a Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy kindergartener, would rather be back in her classroom with her teacher and friends.

"It's not the greatest situation," Gilroy said of virtual learning. "But it is what it is and you work with what you got."

Students using the centers must sign in and wear a face covering/mask when entering and leaving the space, and to and from the restrooms. Students must log on and stay connected to their scheduled instruction.

Students should bring their laptop or learning device to the center. A limited number of desktop computers may be available. Students should not make disruptive sounds or behaviors, and are asked to use headphones or earbuds.

Parents/guardians must remain with their child(ren) while at the school unless the student is 16 or older. Parents will sign in using a picture ID and wear a face covering/mask when entering and leaving the gym, and to and from the restrooms. Go to <https://www.ccboc.com/pr/family-internet-centers-open-sept-2-at-lackey-sept-3-at-mt-hopenanjemoy/>

North Point's James Ball named finalist in MD Teacher of the Year Program

James Ball, a longtime art teacher, mentor and coach with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), is one of seven finalists in the 2020 Maryland Teacher of the Year award program. A veteran teacher with 26 years of teaching experience with CCPS, Ball is Charles County's first state award finalist in more than a decade.

The designation of Charles County Public Schools 2020 Teacher of the Year, and now as a state finalist, is fitting for Ball who grew up in the community in which he teaches. It was at La Plata High School that Ball met Joseph Troy, a retired CCPS art teacher, as a student in Troy's class. Troy fueled Ball's passion for art and instilled in him a love for creativity. Ball has been teaching art for 26 years and has called North Point High School home since 2005. Ball also taught art for several years at Westlake High School.

Ball gives back to Charles County not only as a teacher and coach but also as a mentor to young adults and students. Ball realized his passion for working with children soon after he graduated high school. He took a position teaching at a Parks and Recreation summer camp. "After my first day teaching the kids, I knew this is what I wanted to do as a career," he said.

Aside from his love for art, Ball is a passionate advocate for youth athletic programs. He is known in the Charles County community as Coach Ball and often oversees a fall, winter and spring sport. His coaching resume includes nearly 29 years of coaching experience in basketball, cross-country track and lacrosse.

Anyone who has met Ball has seen the energy, excitement and passion he demonstrates in working with children. As a coach and mentor, he strives to ensure students learn and understand what it means to demonstrate pride, sportsmanship, personal responsibility and integrity. "His actions as a coach lead to one objective – the building up of young men and women," Andy Shattuck, athletic director at North Point, said.

Parents credit Ball with helping their children achieve academic and personal success. "Our son's freshmen and sophomore years of high school were a real struggle. Our family knows firsthand how Ball's mentorship through his study hall program has helped to mold and shape our son into the man he is today. Ball knows the right balance between discipline, guidance and motivation," wrote the parent of a North Point graduate in a nomination letter.

State finalists were chosen by a panel of judges from key educational organizations that represent principals, teachers, school boards,



James "Jimmy" Ball is one of seven finalists in the Maryland Teacher of the Year Program. He is an art teacher and coach at North Point High School.

parents, and institutions of higher education. The seven finalists were chosen based on a rigorous set of state and national criteria including: teaching philosophy and results, community involvement, knowledge of general education issues and desire for professional and instructional improvement.

Ball's next step in the awards program is to complete his finalist interview this weekend. "I look forward to it. I think I have a great shot," Ball said.

The 2020-2021 Maryland Teacher of the Year will be announced on Maryland Public Television (MPT) on Oct. 8 in a 30-minute special program airing at 8 p.m. on MPT2 and in a livestream on MPT's YouTube channel, MarylandPublicTV.

The winner will receive a cash award, technology equipment, national travel opportunities, and a new car donated by the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association.

The selected Maryland Teacher of the Year will go on to compete for the National Teacher of the Year Award and spend the coming year as an educational speaker and advisor.

School meals delivered via school bus to Charles County children

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering a meal program for Charles County children that delivers free, grab-and-go meals by school bus to select neighborhoods.

Meals will be available from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Wakefield Community Center at 2002 Nantucket Drive in Waldorf; Arthur Middleton Elementary School at 1109 Copley Ave. in Waldorf from noon to 12:30 p.m.; and from 12:20 to 12:50 p.m. at Smallwood Village Shopping Center, near Safeway, at 10 King St. in Waldorf.

The meals are free to children ages 2 to 18. Parents picking up meals without a child(ren) present will need to show proof of a child's

age — like a student identification badge or a copy of a report card.

If the child is not or not yet enrolled in CCPS, and is not present during pickup, the parent must show documentation of the child's age — such as a copy of a birth certificate or a report card from a private school.

While meals for children are currently free, families can fill out Free and Reduced Meal Benefit applications at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/Application>. Meal benefit applications affect other school programs such as Title 1, Maryland Meals for Achievement and other initiatives that benefit children.

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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).

School meal sites offer free meals to Charles County children

As it did over summer and throughout the school closure last spring, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is providing free meals to children ages 2 to 18 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

In anticipation of the waiver, students' accounts have not been charged. The SFSP will be used through Dec. 31. A cold breakfast and lunch will be provided to children each school day, including Wednesdays with no contact service available at all sites. Meals can be picked up from a table by those who walk to the sites, while drivers should remain in their car to receive the meals.

The meals are free for children ages 2 to 18. Parents picking up meals without their child present will need to show proof of a child's age — like a student identification badge or copy of a report card. If the child is not or not yet enrolled in CCPS, and is not present during pickup, the parent must show documentation of the child's age — such as a copy of a birth certificate or a report card from a private school.

Distribution sites open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday include:

- Henry E. Lackey High School;
- La Plata High School;
- Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- North Point High School;
- St. Charles High School;

- Thomas Stone High School;
- Westlake High School;
- Mattawoman Middle School;
- Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Billingsley Elementary School;
- Indian Head Elementary School;
- Malcolm Elementary School;
- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- J.C. Parks Elementary School; and
- J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

Seven sites host an evening pick-up window from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. They are Lackey, La Plata, North Point, St. Charles, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools, and Piccowaxen Middle School.

While meals for children are currently free, families who fill out Free and Reduced Meal Benefit applications should still complete and turn in the application. Meal benefit applications affect school programs such as Title 1, Maryland Meals for Achievement and other initiatives that benefit children. Families can apply now for free and reduced price meal benefits. An application is posted on the CCPS website at <https://www.myschoolapps.com/> Application.

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

School Bus Driver — Transportation office, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Five years of work experience as a school bus driver in Maryland, preferred Must annually pass the Maryland School Bus Drivers Physical Examination and meet all federal, state and local school bus driver requirements. Applicants should have or be able to get a Commercial Class B driver's license with P&S endorsements. Apply by Sept. 19.

Title I Family and Program Liaison — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school diploma or general education degree (GED) required, with three years of demonstrated experience in Title I and family engagement and experience working with federal grants compliance

regulations. Apply by Sept. 23.

Instructional Assistant — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 23.

Literacy Instructional Assistant — General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 25.

Computer Science Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

English Teacher — All high schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

ESOL Teacher — Location to be determined. 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

French Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Library Media Specialist — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Food Service Manager (8 hours) — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required.

A minimum of three years of experience in

food service management. Position open until filled.

Administrative Instructional Assistant — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school aged children. Position open until filled.

Special Education Instructional Assistant for ACHIEVE Program — Location to be determined, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with experience and aptitude for working with children or adults with significant cognitive and/or physical disabilities. Position open until filled.

Temporary Computer Analyst — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, temporary position. A high school diploma is required. A year of current work experience in information networks and user support desired. Position open until filled.