



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Take a shortcut

Did you know that students can use a shortcut to StudentVue on their learning device to log in? To create a shortcut, open your preferred web browser (Google Chrome works best with StudentVue) and copy and paste this direct link — https://md-ccps-psv.edupoint.com/PXP2_Login_Student.aspx?regenerateSessionId=True. This is the main StudentVue login page for CCPS. Look to the left of this link in your web browser for a LOCK symbol. Click on the lock with your mouse and while holding your finger on the mouse, drag the link to your desktop. This creates a shortcut to the main login page. Students can then click on the shortcut to log in to StudentVue.

Free meals continue

CCPS provides free meal bags to children in Charles County ages 2 to 18 at different locations. Meal service will continue after Phase 2 begins. Students who return to in-person learning next month will have the option to receive a bagged breakfast or lunch, or both, at school each day. CCPS recently learned the free meal service has been extended to the end of this school year under the USDA's Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

2021 graduation

CCPS high school principals conducted a 2021 graduation planning survey between Sept. 17-23 asking the Class of 2021, their parents and school staff to weigh in on ceremony options in the spring. The majority of the 2,805 respondents indicated, if health conditions permit, they would prefer a traditional over a virtual ceremony with an in-person option for the Class of 2021. To read more, go to <https://www.cbboe.com/pr/class-of-2021-weigh-in-on-graduation-ceremonies/>.



On Wednesdays, we have a parade

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School staff missed seeing their students in person, so they planned a parade on Wednesday, Oct. 14, through the Bannister and Wakefield neighborhoods. Above, Kelley Perry, special education science teacher and science department chair, prepares to hit the parade route. Right, science teacher Nicole Vazquetelles holds a sign to bolster students' spirits.



Board approves Phase 2 of reopening plan

The Board of Education voted 5-2 on Tuesday, Oct. 13, to enter Phase 2 of its reopening plan, which includes special populations of students to return to school starting Nov. 9. There are 3,218 students whose parents have indicated to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) that their children will return to in-person learning in Phase 2. CCPS identified 7,256 students eligible to return in Phase 2, and provided parents a choice for in-person or virtual learning for their children.

As part of the motion, the Board approved an amendment that the school system will notify a school community when it receives notification of a positive case of COVID-19 at a school building.

Students in Phase 2 include:

- Students receiving special education services;
- English Learners (EL) students;
- Students who have a 504 plan;
- Students who do not have internet access at home;
- Students who are homeless or displaced/living in foster care;
- Students who are children of CCPS employees; and
- High school juniors and seniors enrolled in the following Career and Technical Educa-

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Aw-flu! Drive-thru vaccination clinics set

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and the Charles County Department of Health are collaborating to offer required vaccinations for students at no cost.

Maryland law requires students to have up-to-date immunizations, but with some physician's offices having altered schedules in effect to slow the spread of COVID-19, some students may not have received vaccinations yet.

Sites will be set up at CCPS schools with vaccines offered for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), chickenpox (varicella), hepatitis B, Tdap and MCV4, the meningitis vaccine. Students entering Grade 7 must have record of both a Tdap and meningococcal vaccine on file with the school system. Parents must schedule an appointment and complete an online consent form at www.marylandvax.org. To find a location in Charles County, type Charles County Health Department in the "Search by School Name or Location" bar. The four sites in Charles County will offer immunizations for children from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Click the blue "Sign Up for Childhood Vaccinations" button to schedule an appointment for childhood immunizations.

Each site will have drive-thru stations where parents will check in before nurses will administer vaccines to children who will remain in their vehicle.

Sites will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the following the locations:

- **Oct. 21** at La Plata High School, 6035 Radio Station Road, La Plata. The top of the page will read Sign Up for Childhood Vaccinations — Charles County Health Department on 10/21/20;
- **Oct. 28** at Westlake High School, 3300 Middletown Road, Waldorf (enter from Smallwood Drive W). The top of the page will read Sign Up for Childhood Vaccinations — Charles County Health Department on 10/28/20; and
- **Nov. 4** at General Smallwood Middle School, 4990 Indian Head Highway, Indian Head (enter from Glymont Road). The top of the page will read Sign Up for Childhood Vaccinations — Charles County Health Department on 11/04/20.

Flu clinics set up at schools

The Centers for Disease Control and



Peggy Bird, left, supervising school nurse, prepares to give a flu shot to Deputy Superintendent Amy Hollstein during a recent flu shot clinic held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Prevention (CDC) recommends people 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine by the end of October, if possible. The immunization clinics at the schools will transition to flu shot clinics from 2 to 6 p.m. at:

- **Oct. 21** at La Plata High School, 6035 Radio Station Road, La Plata. The top of the page will read Sign Up for Flu Vaccinations — Charles County Health Department on 10/21/20;
- **Oct. 28** at Westlake High School, 3300 Middletown Road, Waldorf (enter from Smallwood Drive W). The top of the page will read Sign Up for Flu Vaccinations — Charles County Health Department on 10/28/20; and
- **Nov. 4** at General Smallwood Middle School, 4990 Indian Head Highway, Indian Head. The top of the page will read Sign Up for Flu Vaccinations — Charles County Health Department on 11/04/20.

Register to make an appointment to receive the free flu vaccination by going to marylandvax.org, searching for Charles County Health Department in the "Search by School Name or Location" bar and clicking the blue "Sign Up for Flu Vaccinations" button at the preferred location.



On the front cover

Pictured on the front cover are CCPS staff members honored virtually by the Board of Education of Charles County during its Oct. 13 meeting. From left are Traci Blakeley, third-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; Alexandra Eichel, school counselor, Matthew Henson Middle School; and Ronald Douglas II, mathematics teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

Chess tournament Oct. 24

The Fall Charles County Chess Tournament is set for Oct. 24 at Thomas Stone High School. The tournament is open for fourth to 12th graders and will include several safety precautions due to guidelines in place to slow the spread of COVID-19. Among the precautions are no spectators will allowed — participants must be dropped off and picked up. Students will use the same chess pieces throughout the tournament and will be sanitized when necessary. Face masks will be worn and players will maintain a 6-foot distance. Register by Oct. 21 at <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/2020-ccps-fall-chess-tournament/>.

Redistricting meeting set

The Board of Education is holding its first middle school redistricting meeting on Monday, Oct. 26 to provide information about the process to develop new middle school attendance zones. Staff members will explain the redistricting timeline, committee selection process, how alternatives will be developed and provide opportunities for community input. The meeting is virtual through Zoom at 6 p.m. Oct. 26. A question/answer period will follow the presentation.

AP exam registration

CCPS students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) classes can take the accompanying exam in May. Some colleges and universities provide students with course credit for achieving a score of 4 or higher on AP exams. Any CCPS student enrolled in AP classes this year interested in taking the course exam in 2021 must register and pay the exam fee by Nov. 6.

Fly like an Eagle ... Scout. North Point junior takes on beautification project

About a year ago, Anthony Forrest was brainstorming ideas to complete his Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts. Forrest, an honor-roll student and junior engineering major at North Point High School, joined the Scouts program when he was a second grader at William B. Wade Elementary School. "I really wanted to try scouting and knew it was a good program and a lot of fun," he said.

Coupled with his interest to explore scouting, Forrest also was interested in learning about leadership and community service. Fast forward about nine years and Forrest is working toward his Eagle Scout rank, the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Scouts program. Eagle Scouts are required to complete an extensive service project from start to finish. Forrest wanted to find the perfect project to combine his love for community service with his passion for Boy Scouts. This led him to develop a beautification project at his former elementary school, Wade, where his scouting experience started.

"A teacher approached me about the idea and I thought it was great. Not only to do something for a school, but perfect because I went to this school," Forrest said. After talking with Wade Principal William Miller, Forrest took his vision and made it a reality.

The plan focused on renovating a courtyard area at the school to provide students and staff with outdoor learning space. The space was overrun by weeds, overgrown bushes and grasses, and included worn wooden benches not suitable for use. "My vision was to see this space restored for outdoor classroom use... as a learning center for kids to study things like bugs and plant projects," Miller said.

Forrest started to plan for the renovation project a year ago and planned to complete the updates in March 2020. "The project was planned for the second weekend in March," Forrest said. What Forrest could not prepare for was the school closure mandate due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He adjusted his plan and worked through COVID-19 restrictions. "I was finally able to complete the project in person the weekend before school started this year," Forrest said.

On Aug. 28 and Aug. 30, Forrest was joined by fellow members of his troop, Troop 417 of Waldorf, and other volunteers to complete the



Anthony Forrest, a junior at North Point High School, has been involved in Boy Scouts since he was in second grade.

project. The group removed bushes, grass, weeds and sod, power washed the surround-

ing areas, replaced top soil, laid mulch and installed the wood benches, which Forrest had refinished.

Forrest said the cost of the project was about \$1,500, all of which were paid by funds he raised as a scout. To save in other areas, volunteers who helped Forrest with the project provided tools for the group to use.

Miller said he could not be more pleased with the way the project turned out for Wade. "This area looks amazing and Anthony played a huge part in this. Our hope is that once students can return to school, the environmental and green clubs can meet here. I want to involve the kids and allow them to make this space their own. I hope to have them plant flowers and add to the garden," Miller said.

Stone named School of Excellence by the American College Application Campaign

Thomas Stone High School was named a 2019 School of Excellence by the American College Application Campaign (ACAC) through the ACT Center for Equity in Learning.

The campaign selects School of Excellence award recipients based on student success, being an exemplary model for a state's application campaign and timely submission of data, according to information provided by the ACAC.

Thomas Stone students earned the highest amount of scholarships for the Class of 2020 — with more than \$23.4 million in offers. Ava Morton, the school's college and career advisor, said as of early October, members of Stone's Class of 2021 have earned more than \$4.3 million in scholarships. The Virtual Maryland College Application Week is Oct. 26 to 30. "We want every students to understand the importance of how to fill out a college application," Morton said. "Whether they go to college, the work force ... we want them to have the application completed and have a college acceptance."



Pictured are Thomas Stone High School Principal Shanif Pearl, left; Ava Morton, college and career advisor; and Angie Prado, school counselor.

The College of Southern Maryland will hold a virtual parent night on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) 6 to 8 p.m. Oct. 28.

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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).

PHASE 2

tion (CTE) courses.

- **Robert D. Stethem Educational Center:** Virtual Academy (Grades 10-12), Automotive Technician, Academy of Health Professions Pharmacy Technician, Academy of Health Professions Physical Rehabilitation, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC).

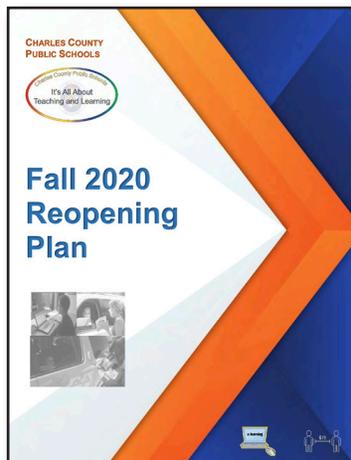
- **North Point High School:** Automotive Technician, Collision Repair, Academy of Health Professions Certified Nursing Assistant, Construction Design and Management, Electrical Construction, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts (ACF), Manufacturing and Welding.

- **Henry E. Lackey High School:** ProStart program

- **Maurice J. McDonough High School:** *Dance program (all students)

- **All high schools:** Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI) program

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“This is the hardest decision I have made in 16 years,” veteran Board Member Jennifer Abell said, prior to the vote. “It is important for our community—no matter which way this goes—to pull together and support our students and teachers as we move forward.”

Superintendent Kimberly Hill said the goal has always been to safely and incrementally bring

children back to school for in-person learning. Phase 2, she said, provides opportunities to provide a more equitable education for children who are not well served in the virtual environment or who do not have reliable internet connectivity at home. “As we move into phase 2, the safety of our staff and students is our highest priority, and we look forward to resuming in-person teaching and learning.”

There are five phases in the CCPS reopening plan. Each phase includes additional student populations eligible to return to in-person learning. Parents have the option of continuing virtual education for their child throughout the 2020-21 school year.

The CCPS reopening plan is posted on the school system website. A breakdown of data for Phase 2 students is posted on Board Docs at <https://tinyurl.com/y56qy9n2>.

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

Secretary for Special Education — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required, with experience with individuals with disabilities preferred. Apply by Oct. 21.

Literacy Instructional Assistant — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required with experience working with children preferred. Apply by Oct. 21.

Building Service Assistant Manager — Piccowaxen Middle School, 12-month position. A high school diploma and a year of experience are required. Applicants should be physically capable of performing manual labor and have a willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by 21.

Building Service Assistant Manager — Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma and a year of experience are required. Applicants should be physically capable of performing manual labor and have a willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by 21.

Building Service Worker — Westlake High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required. Applicants should be physically capable of performing manual labor and have a willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by Oct. 23.

Science Teacher — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Oct. 26.

Security Alarm Technician III — CCPS

Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Graduation from a two-year college or technical school with coursework in electronics and computers, and one year experience; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Knowledge of electronic principles and fundamentals of physics as applied in electronics required. Position open until filled.

Bus Driver — Annex I, 10-month position. A high school diploma required with five years of successful work experience as a school bus driver in Maryland preferred. Applicants must annually pass the Maryland school bus drivers physical examination and meet all federal, state and local school bus driver requirements. Position open until filled.

Computer Analyst I — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with one to three years of progressive current work experience in information networks and user support. Position open until filled.