



It's All About Teaching and Learning.

Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Board to meet March 9

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet in person 1 p.m., March 9. The meeting will live stream at www.ccboe.com and air on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 12. Public Forum for the meeting is in person. No virtual format is offered. Interested speakers must register in advance using the [form here](#). The deadline to register to speak is noon March 8. Speakers must arrive to the Starkey building by 5:45 p.m., follow social distancing guidelines and wear a face mask. Speakers should not attend if they feel ill.

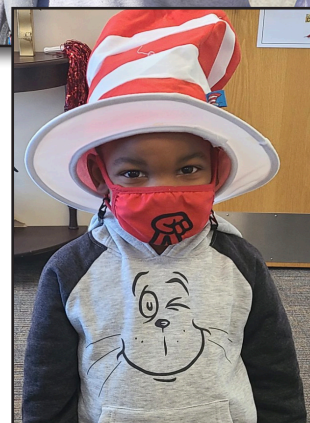
Seen on Twitter

The Milton M. Somers Middle School Twitter account (@MiltonSomersMS) tweeted out March 3 about CCPS supervising nurses Peggy Bird, left, and Missy Golden, preparing to welcome school nurses to a training held at Somers.



Read Across Charles County

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff celebrated Read Across Charles County this week. Staff and their family members don fun fashion for the day. Pictured clockwise from above are Birshona Wilkins, instructional assistant at General Smallwood Middle School; Kai-ley Howard, early intervention teacher at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; and Miles Mullings, son of J.P. Ryon Elementary School's psychologist Shideka Mullings.



State honors educators in area of gifted education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education honored eight Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) educators for their efforts and accomplishments in gifted education.

Kristen Modes, CCPS instructional specialist for gifted education, was honored with an Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Local School or School System Program Coordinator Award. Modes has been in her current role for the past two years and previously spent several years as a CCPS learning resource teacher. Program coordinators are recognized for their contri-

butions in expanding programs for gifted and talented students.

Seven CCPS teachers were honored with Outstanding Educator in Gifted and Talented Education – Teacher as Leader Awards. They are:

Elizabeth Adams, General Smallwood Middle School;

Carla Joyner, Smallwood;

Sabrina McCabe, William A. Diggs Elementary School;

Kathryn Neiles, John Hanson Middle School;

Teresa Schinasi, Dr. James Craik Elementary School;

See GIFTED EDUCATOR, Page 3



On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County honored outstanding employees at its February meeting including LisaSue Smioldo, library media specialist, Piccowaxen Middle School, left; and Adele Youngborg, food service manager, Eva Turner Elementary School.

Virtual Teacher Job Fairs

[CCPS is planning three virtual job fairs this month.](#) A job fair for elementary school teachers is set for 3 to 5 p.m. March 11. The RSVP is due by March 9 to bethedifference@ccboe.com. The job fair for middle school and high school teachers is 3 to 5 p.m. March 12 with RSVPs due to bethedifference@ccboe.com by March 10. Special education teachers of all grades and content areas will have a job fair from 3 to 5 p.m. March 15. RSVPs must be received by March 12 at bethedifference@ccboe.com.

A cappella contest March 12

Four high school a cappella groups will compete in the virtual International Championship of High School A Cappella (ICHSA) Varsity Vocals quarterfinals March 12. The groups competing include Takin' Charge from Henry E. Lackey High School, ThomasTones from Thomas Stone High School, Undefined from Maurice J. McDonough High School and The Screechin' Eagles from North Point High School. A live stream will start at 7 p.m. at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDLyCTf4yL0>

Higdon earns reading honor

Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School was named as one of six national winners of Beanstack's 2021 Winter Reading Challenge. The school's media specialist, Jacob Gerding, played a key role in helping Higdon achieve the honor. Gerding continuously encourages students and staff at Higdon to log their reading in Beanstack. As winners, Higdon will receive a set of 50 diverse books from Simon & Schuster and a virtual visit from an author.

Virtual art show

Check out the artwork done by CCPS students from PreK to 12th grade at the second quarter virtual art show. [Click here](#) to view the show.

Holiday named CTE New Teacher of the Year

The Maryland Career and Technical Administrators (MCTA) recently named North Point High School welding teacher Frank Holiday as the 2021 Maryland Association for Career and Technical Education New Teacher of the Year.

The award recognizes new Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers who make significant contributions to CTE programs. Holiday has been teaching in the welding program at North Point since 2019.

He said he was surprised to learn he was named teacher of the year. "When I heard that I had won new teacher of the year, I was surprised. I honestly do not feel that I do anything remarkable. I brought my experience from industry and applied it to this program. I am very humbled by this experience," Holiday said.

The MCTA is a state chapter of the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE). As the state recipient, Holiday is now in the running for the ACTE Region I level award.

Holiday got his start in welding at a steel mill in Ohio.

He followed in the footsteps of his father to join the trade. After college, Holiday joined the U.S. Steel mill at the Lorain in Ohio.

For 20 years, Holiday learned all aspects of the field through various positions

such as floor sweeper and fitter, to welder and quality assurance. Holiday worked his way up to a position with operations management.

In 2018, Holiday pursued a way to give back to the industry.

"I wanted to give back by teaching others the skills that could provide them a great paycheck and a good standard of living," Holiday said.

According to his students, Holiday has brought new life to the North Point welding program.

"He is very honest with us, has great communication skills, and thoroughly explains concepts to us in a way that is easy to understand. He relates to and understands his students and his teaching style shows this," wrote one of Holiday's students in a nomination submission.

He currently holds over 15 welding certifications and is an American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector. Holiday is also a certified welding educator and has taught at the Auburn Career Center in Ohio and the College of Southern Maryland (CSM).



Frank Holiday



Indian Head Elementary School celebrates Black History Month

Indian Head Elementary School recently celebrated Black History Month with trivia night and a poster contest. The trivia event was hosted by Catherine Powell, school counselor, with a poster contest organized by Jeanie Hayes-Warren, the school's parent liaison. Trivia took place over Zoom on Feb. 25 with families challenged in two rounds of trivia focusing on past and present events in American history and Black American contributions in entertainment, health and medicine, civil rights and politics. In between rounds of trivia, poster entries were shown. Third grader Keri Heyward, left, landed in the winner's circle in the poster contest.

Submitted by Indian Head PR Liaison Joni Rooney

GIFTED EDUCATORS

continued from Page 1

Holly Smigal, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; and
Heather White, Matthew Henson Middle School.

Teachers are honored with a Teacher as Leader Award for supporting gifted students, pursuing professional development in gifted education, and demonstrating peer leadership in gifted education.

All CCPS honorees were recognized during a Feb. 25 virtual ceremony hosted by MSDE and the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education.

Modes is known among her colleagues as an outstanding advocate for gifted education. She is passionate about education and helping students reach higher levels of achievement. In her role as instructional specialist for gifted education, Modes helps to oversee the CCPS gifted education program. She also serves as the regional director for the Destination Imagination (DI) program. Modes is consistent in her communication with CCPS learning resource teachers. Through weekly emails and meetings, she shares program updates and ways teachers can help advocate for gifted students. Modes offers help to teachers in need. Her nomination details a time when Modes helped a new learning resource teacher transition to the role, including helping her to organize, prepare and update program files at the school. Modes also connected the teacher with a mentor who would support her in the new role. Modes is well known for her commitment to advocating for the educational, social and emotional needs of students.

Adams has been teaching the seventh-grade gifted language arts class at Smallwood for the past five years. She is an advocate for gifted students and uses a variety of teaching styles to meet the needs of gifted learners. She encourages her students to seek enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom and helps her students prepare for high school level classes. Adams regularly attends gifted professional development activities and helps to write gifted education program curriculum. She is the language arts department chair at Smallwood and oversees the staff equity and diversity committee. Adams also supports other gifted teachers and shares successful strategies for use in the classroom.

Joyner teaches the eighth-grade gifted language arts class at Smallwood. She sets high expectations for her students and pushes them to use critical thinking and discussion skills. Joyner incorporates technology and assignments that require her students to think at a higher level. She works closely with the learning resource teacher at Smallwood and asks for help when needed. Joyner uses different strategies and teaching styles to make sure all gifted students are performing at a level they are capable of in the classroom. She stays current on gifted practices and regularly attends professional development opportunities. Joyner serves as the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program sponsor and works closely with students and their families. She also coordinates the school Spelling Bee and helps other gifted teachers.

Schinasi is a fourth-grade teacher and uses gifted curriculum to enrich, challenge and nurture her students. She can instruct her students beyond their grade level. Schinasi works hard to provide her students with the necessary rigor to expand their knowledge. Her students are thriving in the classroom. Schinasi continuously seeks opportunities for gifted education professional development and has helped to write reading, social studies and writing curriculum. She consistently volunteers to present at the county level and offers to share her knowledge

with other teachers. Schinasi also coordinates the Tiger Newspaper and provides a club for students to strengthen their writing skills.

Neiles is the learning resource teacher at Hanson. She has served in this position for the past six years and is devoted to helping students and teachers. She works closely with teachers to help them identify and work with gifted learners. Neiles constantly monitors student progress to ensure all are evaluated for gifted services. She meets with gifted students who need additional help and leads small group instruction. Neiles attends state and national professional development opportunities. She seeks out opportunities to expand her knowledge of helping gifted students. Neiles also leads county-level professional development and writes gifted education curriculum. She assists with other gifted programs such as Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) and It's Academic.

White is the learning resource teacher at Henson. She dedicates her time in working closely with teachers and students. She visits gifted classrooms to help model lessons, share discussions and co-teach to share her expertise. White is sought out by her colleagues for gifted education guidance. She is known as a true advocate for the gifted education program and gifted learners. White was instrumental in developing a new unit at Henson for gifted students in sixth grade. She presents at local, state and national conferences on gifted strategies. White is well known for her passion for gifted education and her willingness to take on any task that involves working with students and teachers.

Smigal is the learning resource teacher at Mitchell. She spends most of her time co-teaching with gifted cluster teachers, working in small groups and helping students with gifted potential. She is sought out by her colleagues for her expertise in instruction and gifted education. Smigal is known among Mitchell staff as a role model teacher because she effectively communicates with parents, staff and students about the needs of gifted students. She is an advocate for students and is dedicated to the success of all learners. Smigal earned the gifted and talented certification last year and presents at the county level on gifted education and nurturing students with potential. She has coached the school math team and helps to organize Read Across America activities at Mitchell annually.

McCabe is the learning resource teacher at Diggs. She spends most of her time co-teaching with gifted cluster teachers, working with small groups of gifted students and mentoring students. McCabe models differentiated lessons for teachers and ensures all advanced learners at Diggs are successful. She is known as a leader among her peers. She helps to plan and coordinate professional development activities for gifted education and enrichment teachers. McCabe has also been instrumental in developing gifted strategies for use with virtual learning. McCabe also serves as the school DI sponsor and math team coach.

During the recognition ceremony in which the CCPS educators were honored, 34 CCPS students were recognized for their accomplishments in gifted education. Read about the students on the CCPS website at ccboe.com.

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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).

Changes on the way for meal sites when Phase 2 begins

Beginning Monday, March 22, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will implement the following changes to its mobile meals and curbside meal distribution programs. The changes accommodate the reopening of schools for Phase 2 in-person instruction on March 22. Students returning for Phase 2 in person attend school Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Meal program changes

Friday, March 19, is the final day for morning curbside meal hours of 7 to 8 a.m.

Friday, March 19, is the final day for all curbside meal service at Malcolm Elementary School.

Starting March 22, curbside distribution sites will operate from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Service continues at the 16 locations listed below.

- 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;
- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- J.C. Parks Elementary School; and
- J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

The CCPS mobile meals program will continue at designated stops Monday through Friday. A route list is posted at ccboe.com/freemeals.

Students returning March 22 to in-person instruction will be offered free daily meal bags, including a breakfast bag and a lunch bag. Students will also be offered a free take-home meal bag with dinner and a snack.

All meal bags provided to students attending school in-person include the same items handed out at curbside meal sites and on mobile meal routes. Menus are posted at ccboe.com/freemeals.

Families of students attending school in person can pick up meals on Wednesdays or an extra meal bag for the weekend on Fridays at curbside sites or mobile routes. Families will be offered extra meal bags on Fridays at both curbside and mobile meal sites. Meal sites and mobile meal routes are closed April 2 through April 9 for spring break. Families will be offered two additional meal bags on Thursday, April 1. Meal service resumes Monday, April 12.

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

World Languages Lead Teacher — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree required. Applicants must meet certification requirements established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Apply by March 8.

Secretary for Office of Instruction — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and interpret legal documents and procedure manuals, write routine reports and correspondence. Apply by March 9.

Secretary to the Principal — Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required. Experience

with Quicken or QuickBooks is desirable and knowledge of budgets, payroll and cash handling preferred. Apply by March 9.

Family Service Coordinator for the Judy Center — Eva Turner Elementary School, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in social work, psychology or related field is required. Experience in case management services/counseling of children preferred. Apply by March 9.

SOAR Instructional Assistant — William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Applicants should have an interest in and aptitude for working with school-age children. Apply by March 9.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Berry Elementary School, 10-month position. High school diploma required. Applicants should have an interest in and aptitude

for working with school-age children. Apply by March 9.

Administrative Instructional Assistant — Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by March 9.

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 March 11.

School Bus Attendant — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Applicants must be 18 or older and have a high school diploma. Five years of experience as a school bus attendant in Maryland preferred. Apply by March 11.

Extra Pay Positions

Head Varsity Boys Lacrosse Coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Apply by April 2.