



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Homecoming schedule

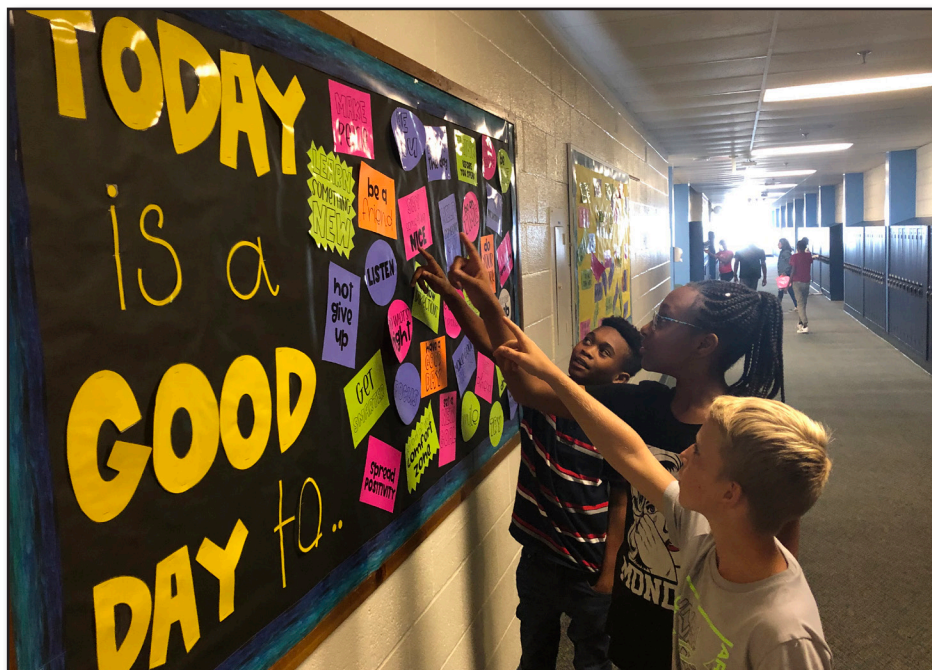
Homecoming game and dance season start today, Sept. 27. La Plata High School's game is Sept. 27 with the dance on Sept. 28. North Point and Westlake high schools will hold their homecoming games on Oct. 4 and their dances on Oct. 5. Thomas Stone High School will play its homecoming game on Oct. 11 with its dance on Oct. 12. On Oct. 18, Henry E. Lackey High School will host its homecoming game with the dance on Oct. 19. The following week, St. Charles High School will have its game on Oct. 25 and dance on Oct. 26. Maurice J. McDonough High School caps off homecoming with its game on Nov. 1 and dance Nov. 2.

Classroom management

Teachers who missed the August New Teacher Orientation can take the Classroom Management training 4:30-7:30 p.m. on Oct. 2 at Theodore G. Davis Middle School or on Feb. 4 at Westlake High School. The session is open to new teachers hired after the August New Teacher Orientation. The session will review classroom management concepts such as developing procedures, transitioning students and an introduction to engagement practices as well as working in groups. For more information, email Margo Alam at malam@ccboe.com. Register for the orientation make-up training at <http://registration.ccboe.com>. Search "New Teacher" to find the listing.

'It's Academic' airs Oct. 5

Tune into NBC4 at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 5 to see St. Charles High School's "It's Academic" team compete in the show's new studio at the National Harbor. The team of juniors Christian Gomez, Jamie Fleury and Rylee Josephs will compete.



Today is a good day to have a good day

Matthew Henson Middle School sixth graders Christopher Thomas, front, Taleya Williams and Omar Harrison pause to point out what they are going to do to make their day — and the day of those around them — a good one.

CCPS revises emergency response codes

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has revised how it responds to certain incidents in schools, making it clearer what students and teachers should do during an emergency.

Called a standard response, CCPS will use five actions developed by the "I Love U Guys" Foundation and adopted by the school system this year. Action items are lockout, lockdown, evacuate, shelter and hold. The protocols extend the actions principals can take when an incident occurs in or near a school.

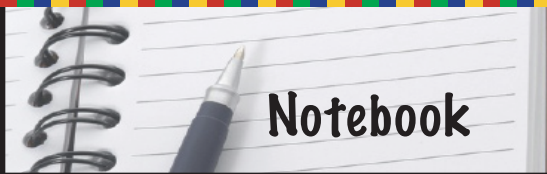
During a "lockout," teachers and students stay inside and lock all outside doors. A principal might place a school in lockout if there is a threat or hazard — such as a police

search — outside of the school building. For students, this means if they are outside, they return to the inside of a building and instruction continues as usual. No one is allowed in or out of the building during a lockout.

"Lockdown" means doors are locked, lights are out and students and staff are out of sight in a locked room. A principal would lockdown a school if there is a threat or hazard inside the school building. Examples could include an angry person who runs past the office staff or a wild animal that gets into a building. During a lockdown, students and staff will stay out of sight and silent until police or other emergency responders clear the school of the threat.

"Evacuate" means moving students and

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover from left are Laura Buzzell, a math teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School; Amanda Rourke, a math teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Joni Rooney, learning resource teacher at Indian Head Elementary School.

Look up, it's our sky tonight

The James E. Richmond Science Center holds free Our Sky Tonight shows throughout the year. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 7 p.m. The planetarium sky show features the month's constellations, stars and planets. Shows are set for Oct. 7, Dec. 2, Feb. 3, April 6 and June 1. Following the shows, the center's gift shop is open. The science center also has a new slate of shows for the season. Go to www.ccboe.org/sciencecenter to see what's playing. The science center is at St. Charles High School at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf.

Board to meet Oct. 8

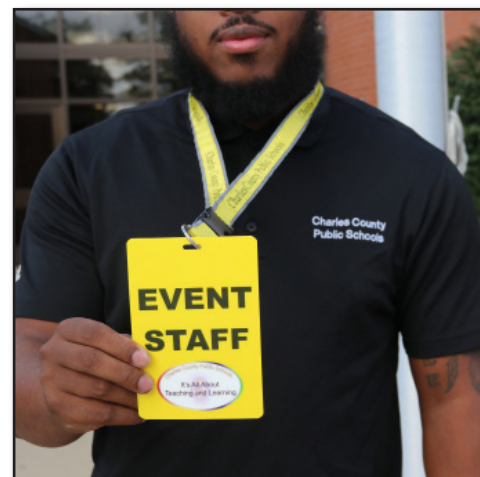
The Board of Education of Charles County meets Oct. 8 in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Stakey Administration Building. The meeting starts at 1 p.m., with public forum at 6 p.m.

Fall chess tourney planned

The fall chess tournament is Oct. 26 at Thomas Stone High School. The tournament is open to student in kindergarten through 12th grade and features a four-round Swiss Style format. Games start around 9, 10 and 11 a.m., and noon. An awards ceremony follows the noon match. Students compete in divisions based on their grade level. Students in seventh through 12th grade use chess clocks with 15 minutes allotted per game. Registered players can sign in starting at 8 a.m. with the first round beginning at 9 a.m. Students must be signed in by 8:45 a.m. to be paired for the first round. Anyone who signs in after 8:45 a.m. will be paired for the second round. Registration is open through Oct. 23. Walk ins will not be accommodated. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxmq4jff>. For more information, contact Ann Taylor at 301-934-7378 or ataylor@ccboe.com.

Can you see me now?

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has added another safety feature to help at special events. CCPS employees who are working athletic or other large school events are now required to wear a yellow reflective lanyard with a yellow "Event Staff" tag. The tag identifies employees who are working the event and makes them easily recognizable to first responders in case of an emergency.



SAFETY CODES

continued from page 1

staff from one place to another. Relocation could be to another area in the school or a predetermined outside site. Schools might evacuate if there is a fire, flooding or similar emergency that creates a potential hazard.

If there is a tornado warning, hazmat or other threat to personal protection, the school will ask students and teachers to "shelter." Shelter requires students to evacuate to a shelter area and seal the rooms. Students practice for different shelter events, including earthquakes, as part of their annual drills.

Sometimes it is necessary to clear a school hallway or outside area. In this instance, a principal might place the school on "hold," meaning students stay in their classrooms, but business continues as usual. A principal can "hold" if a medical helicopter is landing on the school site due to a nearby accident or someone in the school needs medical attention and privacy while emergency services render aid.

Standard protocol posters are on display in classrooms for easy reference. Jason Stoddard, director of school safety and security, said the new terminology provides more accurate descriptions of the procedures CCPS uses to keep schools and buildings safe while reducing confusion. Stoddard is presenting staff training on the new protocol at all schools, centers and offices.

State and county rules require schools to conduct 27 drills throughout the year including fire, reverse evacuation, lockdown, lockout and shelter.



Stay in touch

Get messages from Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) via email, phone calls and text messages. School Messenger uses data from the CCPS staff data systems.

Text message alerts are available as an opt-in feature, meaning staff must opt-in to receive messages. Text Y or YES to 67587. Text STOP to 67587 at any time to opt out.

Dig in! Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week starts Monday, Sept. 30

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is participating in Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week. During the week of Sept. 30 through Oct. 4, cafeterias at all schools and centers will have special menu items featuring products grown and produced locally.

Items using local products on the menu that week include fruits, vegetables, dairy and meat products. Featured meals for the week include the following:

- **Monday, Sept. 30** – beef hot dogs, mini pizza rolls, fresh local green beans and roasted local sweet potato wedges
- **Tuesday, Oct. 1** – pulled chicken barbecue sandwich, mini pizza rolls, texas beans and tater tots
- **Wednesday, Oct. 2** – sweet and sour pork with fried rice, mini pizza rolls, fresh steamed broccoli and carrots
- **Thursday, Oct. 3** – Piggy Mac – pulled pork served over macaroni and cheese with barbecue sauce, mini pizza rolls, local fresh corn on the cob and steamed spinach
- **Friday, Oct. 4** – Farm Fresh Friday – variety of local entrees served throughout the week, mini pizza rolls, chef salad, baked beans and cole slaw.

“It is important that our students see firsthand the impact of farming and the benefits of local agriculture. Our students benefit from this program through healthy meal options, including fresh fruits and vegetables, and have fun learning about their local environments. It is important for students to learn about agriculture and where foods come from,” Superintendent Kimberly Hill said.

This is the third school year that CCPS has participated in Maryland Farm to School Week. Produce vendors may include Serenity Farms, Parker Farms, Miller Farms and Casedy Farms.

Hoffman’s Quality Meats, located in Hagerstown, is set to provide the beef hot dogs, pulled chicken and pulled pork.

The program is part of the Maryland Farm to School initiative and seeks to provide students with locally grown and/or raised food options.

Maryland is the first state to have all public school systems participate in the Farm to School program, which marks its 12th year this month.



Eric Young, left, and Tredel Proctor, fifth graders at J.P. Ryon Elementary School, grab lunch together.

Farm to School also supports hands-on learning activities for students, such as farm visits, school gardening clubs and culinary classes, and the integration of food-related education into classroom curriculum.

Throughout the week, all schools will have fresh local fruit including red and green delicious apples, gala apples and peaches. Secondary schools will have weekly specials including local beef hot dogs, local beef spicy hot dogs and stuffed crust cheese pizza.

CCPS uses locally sourced foods as part of its food nutrition program during the school year.

Maryland Farm to School is sponsored by the Maryland Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).



College squad

The 22nd Charles County College Fair was held Sept. 18 at North Point High School. More than 1,700 high school juniors and seniors attended the fair during the day to meet with representatives of more than 100 colleges and universities. The team that helped the day run smoothly included college and career advisors and student services employees. Pictured in the front row are Janet Malherek of St. Charles High School, left, Beth Cusic of Maurice J. McDonough High School, Christina Jones of Henry E. Lackey High School, Tara Campbell of La Plata High School and Alicia Jones, supervising counselor for Charles County Public Schools. In the back row are Chris Zimmermann, financial aid director at the College of Southern Maryland, left, Ava Morton of Thomas Stone High School, Gail Stone of Westlake High School and Anna Grow of North Point High School.

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ICYMI — CCPS staff, schools share photos on social media



Ripped from the fashion pages

Dr. James Craik Elementary School first-grade teachers Kristina Hogston, left, Marissa Ackerman and Michelle Simone dressed as a "Paper Bag Princess" from the book by Robert Munsch. Team member Pamela Batchelor is not pictured.

Tweeted by Ackerman

Putting their heads together

Malcolm Elementary School teachers review Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results during a recent professional development session.

Posted on Malcolm's Facebook



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Guidance Secretary — La Plata High School, 11-month position. A high school diploma is required. Applicants should have positive human relation skills and good computer literacy skills. Apply by Sept. 30.

Striving Reader's Grant Manager — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. This is a two-year grant funded position without benefits. Graduation from an accredited college or university with an associate degree or bachelor's degree is preferred. Three years of demonstrated administrative and budget experience are a must. Apply by Sept. 30.

Special Education Instructional Assistant (IA) — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is

required and an ability to work effectively with students with special needs. IAs assist teachers in planning instructional activities and maintaining a safe and orderly environment. Apply by Oct. 1.

Building Service Assistant Manager — Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. The applicant must have the ability to read and write effectively. The ability to perform manual labor is a requirement of the job. Basic knowledge of heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems and supervisory ability are required. Apply by Oct. 1.

Secretary — Henry E. Lackey High School, 11-month position. A high school diploma is required. Applicants should have positive human relation skills and good computer literacy skills. Apply by Oct. 2.

Family Service Coordinator-Case Manager — Eva Turner Elementary School, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in social work,

psychology or a related field is preferred, along with experience in the delivery of case management services/counseling of children from infancy through kindergarten and their families. Applicants must have experience with Microsoft Office programs. Apply by Oct. 2.

Math Teacher — Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Oct. 31.

Technology Facilitator — All elementary schools, 10-month positions. A high school diploma is required along with an associate of arts degree or passing score on the Para-Pro Assessment. Applicants must have strong computer skills and an understanding of Microsoft Office Suite and instructional software. Positions are open until filled.