



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Gov't page program*

High school seniors with an interest in government and history can apply to be part of the Maryland General Assembly Student Page Program. Seniors who attend a Maryland public high school can apply for the page program at [www.ccboe.com/images/students/StudentPageApplication.pdf](http://www.ccboe.com/images/students/StudentPageApplication.pdf). The application deadline is Oct. 1.

### *First Flight openings*

The North Point High School Early Childhood Training Program has openings in the afternoon session of its First Flight Program.

The program is for 3 to 5 year olds and operates Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 12 to 2 p.m., October through April. Interested parents/guardians can go to [www.npectp.org](http://www.npectp.org) and select the Contact Us tab to provide contact information. Contact Lisa Willett at [lwillett@ccboe.com](mailto:lwillett@ccboe.com) or 301-753-1759.

### *Training set*

Wilson Reading System training is Oct. 1 and 2 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for elementary interventionists, including instructional assistants, who are teaching Grades 2-5. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/ybhgzrzw>. For questions, contact [lwjohnson@ccboe.com](mailto:lwjohnson@ccboe.com) or [lgreen@ccboe.com](mailto:lgreen@ccboe.com).

### *Weather Watch*

Keep an eye on inclement weather with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Weather Watch. Whether it is a hurricane, blizzard or other weather systems, the school system has its procedures posted for how it will announce closures and delays. Go to [www.ccboe.com/index.php/weather-alert](http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/weather-alert) to learn how decisions are made and how you can keep up to date with delays and closures. A staff fact sheet is at [www.ccboe.com/images/administrator/WeatherAlertsStaff2018.pdf](http://www.ccboe.com/images/administrator/WeatherAlertsStaff2018.pdf).



## Be kind — What if everybody did that?

Mary H. Matula Elementary School media specialist, Patricia Koch, right, reads the story "What if Everybody Did That?" to Laura Forinash's first-grade students during the school's Erase Meanness Day Sept. 19. The day was organized by school counselor, Nina Lynn Ogasawara. Students discussed what they can do to be kind and signed a pledge to express acts of kindness.

## Board considers changes to grading policy

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is asking the Board of Education to consider a grading change that would standardize the scale middle and high school teachers use to determine an F grade.

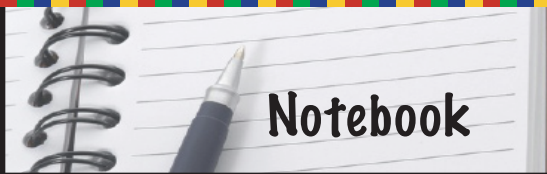
Should the F grade scale be 0 to 59 percent or 50 to 59 percent? Currently, the answer depends on which Charles County high school a student attends. CCPS Superintendent Kimberly Hill wants a uniform grading scale for all secondary schools.

The Board will hold a Town Hall on the grading policy prior to its Oct. 22 grading policy work session. Staff will provide a brief overview at 6 p.m.

Questions and comments will be accepted starting at 6:10 p.m. and the work session will follow at 7 p.m. Board meetings are held at 5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata, MD 20646.

Under consideration is the CCPS grading committee's recommendation that the Board consider a 10-point scale, 50 to 59 percent, as the universal scale for an F at secondary schools. La Plata, Maurice J. McDonough and North Point high schools base an F on a numerical value of 0 to 59 percent. So do all middle schools. Henry E. Lackey High School addresses the F scale on a case-by-case basis, but for the most part, adheres to the 0 to 59 percent scale. At St. Charles, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools, failure is indicated by an F based on 50 to 59 percent in the first three quarters and 0 to 59 percent in the fourth quarter, a practice the committee supports.

"A student should never reach a place where there is no point in doing any more work because failure is inevitable," Deputy Superintendent Amy Hollstein said.



## On the cover

Employees featured on the cover are Amber Sandy, a second-grade teacher at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; Julius Moore, a building service worker at St. Charles High School; and Jennifer Yurick, a special education teacher with the SOAR program at Jennifer.

## Volunteer procedures

As part of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) safety and security guidelines, the process for volunteering has been updated.

CCPS employees who volunteer in their child's school also will have to undergo training and a background check in order to volunteer. Go to [www.ccboe.com/index.php/volunteers](http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/volunteers) to view the new handbook and get more information.

## Make the most of 365

Office 365 training is being offered next month. Office 365: Organizing and Sharing with OneDrive is Oct. 3; Office 365: Assessment with FORMS is Oct. 10; and Office 365: Advanced Techniques with PowerPoint is Oct. 17. All workshops are 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in La Plata High School's Room M306. Sign up at [registration.ccboe.com](http://registration.ccboe.com) by searching 365.

## Just can't wait to be a king

Registration for the Fall Chess Tournament closes on Oct. 17. The tourney is Oct. 20 at Thomas Stone High School and is open to players in kindergarten through 12th grade. Sign-in for registered players begins at 8 a.m.; students must check in by 8:45 a.m. in order to be paired for play in the first round. To register, go to <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/ccps-2018-fall-chess-tournament/>. Questions can be directed to Susan Dobbs at [sfdobbs@ccboe.com](mailto:sfdobbs@ccboe.com) or Ann Taylor at [ataylor@ccboe.com](mailto:ataylor@ccboe.com).

## Spooky Science at center

Spooky Science is 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 20 at the James E. Richmond Science Center. Hands-on activities, fulldome movies and a Mad Scientist demonstration will be part of the day. Admission is \$8 with children 3 and younger, CCPS employees and science center members admitted free. Go to [www.ccboe.com/science-center/tickets-spooky-science/](http://www.ccboe.com/science-center/tickets-spooky-science/) for tickets.



**Berry Elementary School first grader Chase Deen-Turey reads a Barbershop Books offering while barber James Green cuts his hair at Jagr's Barbershop in White Plains.**

## Boys brush up on reading with Barbershop Books

The talk in area barbershops may soon veer from sports, cars and other topics to the latest adventures of Captain Underpants and what some wimpy kid is writing in his diary.

The Title I office of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is working with Barbershop Books to bring compact, boy-focused libraries and reading spaces into local barbershops. Title I staff and parent liaisons attended a U.S. Department of Education Engaging Families forum over the summer and were inspired to increase engagement of fathers and father figures in schools. The DADvisory Council, made up of fathers with children attending Title I schools, was formed and once the group learned of Barbershop Books, plans moved forward. The dads gave Title I staff a list of the barbershops in their communities and visited the shops to pitch the library idea. Seven shops signed up.

Alvin Irby, a former elementary school teacher, founded Barbershop Books in an effort to get more African-American boys reading. The nonprofit focuses on connecting boys between ages 4 to 8 with books in a male-centered space and involving men in a boy's early reading experiences.

Irby visited Charles County Aug. 6 to meet with CCPS staff members, interested barbers, DADvisory members and parent liaisons. Irby set up his first library in a Harlem barbershop in 2014. Now 100 reading spaces are in 30 cities in 20 states.

Getting barbers on board seemed like a natural choice for Irby. "Barbershops hold such significance in black culture," Irby said. "It's one of the intersections of the black community. All socio-economic backgrounds — everybody comes through the barbershop."

The books, provided by Barbershop Books, are changed out every year and titles are culled from the suggestions of children. The books are high energy and boy-centric with Irby suggesting the barbers read the books too in order to discuss them when it's time for the youngster to hop into his chair.

"It's important that boys know a man in their life values reading and thinks they should read," Irby said.

Tia Turey of Waldorf takes her sons, Anthoni, a seventh grader at Mattawoman Middle School, and Berry Elementary School first grader Chase, to James Green's Jagr's Barbershop in White Plains. Green attended Irby's presentation and signed up for Barbershop Books. He said his clients are like family, supporting a program to enhance children's education was a natural fit. Parents appreciate it too. "It's a nice option, and a distraction from the cell phones and the games," Turey said. Anthoni chose a graphic novel. "Reading makes you smarter," he said.

"It's going to be a great program," said Jennifer Bowling, a parent liaison for CCPS. "There's nothing else like it."



## No drill sergeants here. Westlake teachers organize AVID boot camp

While the new school year officially started Sept. 4, a handful of Westlake High School students headed back to school early for an AVID boot camp. First-year Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) students attended the program to get a leg up on their studies. “We needed to revamp and revitalize our AVID program,” said Holly Dolan, a resource teacher. “The boot camp is exposing first-year AVID students not only to the school and the physical space, but to the routines AVID has in place.”

Westlake is breathing new life into its AVID program, opening the program to kids who want to be there. AVID students are likely college-bound but might be the first generation in their family who will attend an institute of higher learning. Westlake also is focused on promoting AVID for students who are members of an underrepresented demographic in college populations or who come from a single-parent home.

After hearing feedback from teachers on what pieces of the school’s AVID’s program needed strengthening, the boot camp sessions found focus. One session zeroed in on how to best fill out a Tutorial Request Form (TRF).

The forms prompt students to become more reflective learners, Dolan said. Students fill out a TRF when they need some extra help in a subject. Their peers can then guide them through any points of confusion. However, students who fill out a TRF don’t only point out what they don’t know, they have to write out what they do know. “It encourages metacognitive thinking,” Dolan said.

During the boot camp, students worked on nonacademic puzzles and riddles to get their feet wet with AVID practices. “They’ll be familiar and able to apply the practices and use them for academic purposes,” Dolan said.

The AVID tutorials teach students how to get help and get the help they need, said Stephen Warner, a social studies teacher who worked with boot camp students. “If you lose money, you can make more money. If you lose friends, you can make new friends,” he said. “If you lose



**Westlake High School social studies teacher, Stephen Warner, left, discusses an assignment with freshman Kieron Best during a summer AVID boot camp.**

time? Don’t waste your time, don’t waste your classmate’s time. It’s the only thing you can’t make more of and you don’t know how much you have.”

He said that many of the lessons learned in high school AVID classes are things that college students do naturally. “High school is harder than middle school,” Warner said. “College is an even bigger step and sometimes you’re going to need help. College students come together to work in groups, they ask for help.”

Freshman Makayla Johnson said signing up for boot camp helped her get used to high school. “It’s preparing me for the upcoming school year,” she said. Johnson was among the more than 30 students who signed up for the three-day summer program. “By inviting kids in, they’re getting a more solid footing,” Dolan said.

## School system to offer free breakfast to all CCPS students in October

During the month of October, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will offer all students free breakfast as a jump-start to their school day. Beginning Oct. 1 and ending Oct. 26, all CCPS students can take advantage of the breakfast program to start the day with a free healthy breakfast. Items include milk, cereal, juice and fruit with an additional option of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for high school students.

This is the third consecutive year that CCPS has celebrated the school breakfast program by providing free meals to students in October.

The goal is to spread awareness of the benefits of eating breakfast and ensuring students have access to healthy meal choices.

“Our goal in offering free breakfast in

October is to ensure each child has an opportunity to start the learning day off right with healthy fuel for their bodies and minds. It is our hope that breakfast is part of a child’s normal daily routine. Students have a hard time focusing when they are hungry. I am excited to be able to offer free breakfast as a model for healthy eating habits,” Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill said.

The CCPS school breakfast program has more than doubled since 2012. Since 2011, the system has seen an increase of nearly 1.1 million breakfasts served to students.

At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, breakfasts served totaled 947,994. At the end of the 2017-18 school year, 1.8 million breakfasts had been served.

CCPS staff attribute the increase to several

factors including the expansion of breakfast offerings, opportunities for students to buy breakfast and the ability for some students to eat in the classroom. Several schools offer separate areas for students to buy breakfast, such as walk-up kiosks, or provide a second time for students to buy breakfast in the morning.

The free breakfast offering does not include a la carte items at the middle- or high-school levels. Additionally, offerings for students that attend Maryland Meals for Achievement (MMFA) schools will not change next month. This school year, CCPS has 14 schools that participate in the MMFA program, in which federal and state funding helps to provide free breakfast to students at those schools year round.

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## Board of Education Members

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## Mattawoman beautification

Before the start of the school year, staff, parents and volunteers spent Aug. 18 sprucing up Mattawoman Middle School. Landscaping, painting, laminating and decorating bulletin boards were on the to-do list. Parent volunteer Derrick Terry, left, and Ronald Watkins Jr., a building service worker, mulch trees in front of the school.

*Submitted by Mattawoman PR Liaison Joseph Evans.*



*PR  
Liaisons  
in  
Focus*

## Grandparent's Day at Malcolm ES

Malcolm Elementary School first grader, Kaitlyn Robertson, right, gets help on a project from her grandfather, Kevin Leveling. The school held Grandparents Day during which grandparents visited the school and participated in assignments.

*Submitted by Malcolm PR Liaison Christine Chinault.*



## Personnel

*Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php](http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php). All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.*

**Environmental Education Assistant** — Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, 11-month position. A bachelor's degree in natural science or equivalent is required, and teaching experience in environmental education in an outdoor setting is preferred. Apply by Sept. 25.

**Spanish Teacher** — location to be determined, 10-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and meet Maryland State Department of Education certification requirements. Knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies are required. Apply by Sept. 30.

**Building Service Worker** — St. Charles High School, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing

manual labor. A willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency is required. Apply by Oct. 1.

**Secretary** — Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma and the ability to type accurately is required. Knowledge of efficient office practices and procedures and proficiency in computer literacy skills is a must. Apply by Oct. 3.

**Building Service Worker** — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. A willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency is required. Apply by Oct. 3.

**Secretary** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Ability to read and interpret documents such as legal documents and procedure manuals is required.

To perform this job successfully, an individual must have experience with Microsoft Word,

Excel, Access and Publisher. Apply by Oct. 5.  
**Welding Teacher** — North Point High School, 10-month position. Applicants must have or be eligible for a teaching certificate from the Maryland State Department of Education. Certifications in OSHA or Certified Welding Inspector are optional. Knowledge of current events in the welding field is required. Apply by May 31, 2019.

**Degreed Title I Tutor** — location to be determined, temporary position. A bachelor's degree is required with a professional certificate in elementary education preferred. Applicants must have the ability to relate well to students, colleagues and parents.

**Food Nutrition Services Culinary Development and Training Specialist** — Associate degree in culinary arts, with a minimum of five years of experience preferred. Position open until filled.