



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

It's (almost) show time

The smell of the grease paint and the glow of the stage lights are growing stronger as schools ready their fall shows. Henry E. Lackey High School will stage "12 Angry Jurors" from Nov. 1 to 3. That same weekend, La Plata High School, will put on "Dog Eat Dog," a play that includes themes that may not be understood by audience members younger than 13. La Plata has a play for the kids too. It will stage the family-friendly show, "The Happy Elf" Dec. 17 and 18. Don't be late for the important dates Nov. 8 to 10 when Maurice J. McDonough High School's production of "Alice in Wonderland" is performed. North Point High School will stage "Fame" on Nov. 8 to 10. Thomas Stone High School will perform "High School (Non) Musical" Nov. 15 through 17. That same weekend — Nov. 15 to 17 — Westlake High School is tapped to stage "Spy School." St. Charles High School will wrap up the season Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 to 2 with "Jungalbook," a dramatization of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book." For more about the shows, tickets, times and other information, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycuklhf8>.

Board votes on grading policy

The Board of Education on Oct. 22 unanimously voted to standardize the scale middle and high school teachers use to determine grades. The Board agreed to draft policy requiring all middle and high school teachers to use a traditional grade scale that does not allow for minimum grades to be assigned. The motion for the new policy designates the following grading scale: an A equals 90 to 100; a B is 80 to 89; a C is 70 to 79; a D is 60 to 69; and an F is 0 to 59. The policy, once passed, will take effect when the second semester begins on Jan. 28. To read more, go to www.ccboe.com/pr/board-votes-to-create-policy-with-consistent-grading-scale/.



Gentlemen, to your markers

Clyde Agustin, left, a fourth grader at Mary B. Neal Elementary School, and Anthony Sweet, a fifth-grade student at Eva Turner Elementary School, brainstorm ideas to share with Superintendent Kimberly Hill during a recent Elementary School Advisory Council meeting. During the school year, Hill meets with student groups — elementary, middle and high — as well as teachers to talk about what is going well in schools and what needs work. She shares the insights with school principals.

Annual open enrollment is Oct. 29 to Nov. 30

The annual open enrollment period for health benefits, life insurance and flexible spending is open Oct. 29 through Nov. 30. There are no plan design or rate changes for 2019.

To access enrollment and to make changes, go to ccboe.hrntouch.com and click create an account. There is no need to re-enroll if you are not making changes to a medical or life plan.

New this year is supplemental group term life insurance for active employees only. Employees can elect up to \$250,000 of coverage without medical underwriting.

Employees participating in the flexible spending programs need to access the online benefit enrollment site — ccboe.hrntouch.com — to enroll in the unreimbursed medical expense and child care flexible spending accounts.

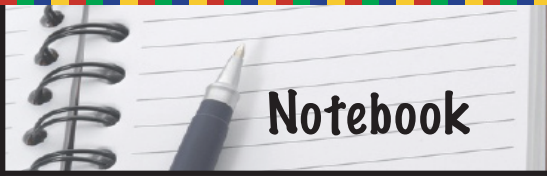
Go to MyCCPS under the Benefits menu and select flexible spending account. Enrollment in these programs is not automatic — you must sign up for a new account each year.

Aflac representatives will be available at schools and centers to sign up employees for new policies, update current policies or answer questions. The Aflac meeting dates and times can be found at MyCCPS under the Benefits & Pay tab, then under the Benefits tab.

Retirees are only required to submit a change form if they are changing their current health insurance plan election. The monthly insurance rates will remain the same for the 2019 calendar year.

For more information, contact the Office of Fiscal Services — Employee Benefits at 301-934-7289 or BenHotline@ccboe.com.

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On the cover

Pictured on the front of *School News* are teachers honored at the Oct. 9 Board meeting for their commitment to teaching and learning. From left are Gwendolyn Todd, a high school resource teacher at Thomas Stone High School; Elizabeth Adams, a language arts teacher at General Smallwood Middle School; and Natalie Wagner, a fifth-grade teacher at William A. Diggs Elementary School.

Teacher in-service day Nov. 6

Schools will be closed for students only on Tuesday, Nov. 6 for Election Day. It is a teacher in-service day with parent conferences scheduled.

Board meeting

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 13 with Public Forum set for 6 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

Girl Powered event held

Girls in Grades 3 to 8 spent Oct. 8 learning the ins and outs of robotics and other STEM-centric things when they attended Girl Powered, a VEX Robotics program aimed at getting more girls and women interested in the field. Read more at www.ccboe.com/pr/girl-powered-introduces-stem-to-young-students/.

Calling all student volunteers

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students can apply for the 2019 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program, which honors middle and high school student volunteers. Students in Grades 5 through 12 can apply and must have volunteered within the past 12 months. Students can apply online at <https://spirit.prudential.com/apply/2019>. Deadline is Nov. 6.

Liaisons report good news

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the state's pension system and CCPS's fiscal services is hosting a closed retirement planning session for CCPS employees enrolled in the state's pension system. The meeting is 5 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 15 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. RSVP by Nov. 9 to Jill Potter at 301-934-7202 or jpotter@ccboe.com.



CCPS educators present at MCTM

Three Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff members presented at the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics state conference in Baltimore last week. Ryan Amore of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, left, Arin Bonner of CCPS's Title I and Megan Maletto of Malcolm Elementary School presented. Maletto and Bonner headed "Everyday Math: Engaging Activities for Busy Families to Build Students' Mathematical Thinking." Amore presented "WTF: Why TEACH Fractions?"

Open enrollment

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Effective Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2019 — monthly insurance rates remain the same:

Carefirst BlueCross BlueShield Custom Comprehensive Plan	
Individual	\$210
Individual with Medicare Parts A&B	\$127
Two people both with Medicare Parts A&B	\$254
Family	\$567
Two Medicare Parts A&B + one individual* (three)	\$464
Carefirst Preferred Provider Plan	
Individual	\$204
Individual with Medicare Parts A&B	\$137
Two people both with Medicare Parts A&B	\$274
Family	\$546
Two Medicare Parts A&B + one individual* (three)	\$478
Blue Choice Opt-Out Open Access Plan	
Individual	\$150
Individual with Medicare Parts A&B	\$125
Two people both with Medicare Parts A&B	\$250
Family	\$432
Two Medicare Parts A&B + one individual* (three)	\$400

* These policies will be individual policies for the employee and spouse or child.

Gale-Bailey, Smallwood drop, cover and hold on during earthquake drills



Top, Gale-Bailey Elementary School second graders Noah Mendoza, left, and Joseph Rojas drop, cover and hold on during a recent earthquake drill at the school. Left, Kenzie Cheney, a second grader in Bailey Roscoe's class, is pictured.

Southern Maryland is no stranger to earthquakes. A 5.8 magnitude quake in Virginia on Aug. 23, 2011, was felt in Maryland.

And while most Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students might not remember it, or were even born yet, those who attend General Smallwood Middle School and Gale-Bailey Elementary School know what to do if another one rocks the area.

"Drop, cover and hold on," was the direction Oct. 18 at the two schools which took part in the Great SouthEast ShakeOut, an annual drill supported by state and federal emergency management agencies.

"The drill gives students another tool to have during emergency situations," Gale-Bailey Principal Verniece Rory said.

Students in Bailey Roscoe's second-grade classroom are well-versed in how to stay safe in various situations. "All of my students practice [drills] in case of emergency," Roscoe said. Recently, the class practiced running to its rally location, said Michael Jones, one of Roscoe's students.

The drill is practiced in the event students and staff have to run from the school due to an emergency and become separated. The rally point is a predetermined spot away from the school where class members can meet back up.

Schools across the state participate in a number of drills throughout the school year. CCPS holds 11 fire drills each year. Also held annually are four reverse evacuation drills, four lockdown exercises, four shelter-in-place drills and four for severe weather.

Community members needed for CTE advisory committee

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs are supported by a Professional Advisory Committee (PAC). Each of the 30 CTE programs offered to CCPS students has a PAC, a group of community members with expertise in the content area.

PAC members meet regularly with CCPS staff to review curriculum, program standards and course content to ensure instruction is meeting demands of industry needs.

The overall goal of CTE PAC groups is to ensure students who complete at CTE program graduate ready for post-secondary education and employment.

CCPS staff is currently seeking community members with experience and/or backgrounds in the following fields to serve on a CTE PAC group: accounting, engineering, finance, marketing, business administration, management, entrepreneurship, computer science and biomedical sciences.

Interested community members should call or email Traci Chappellear, coordinator for CTE, at 301-392-7501 or tchappellear@ccboe.com or Carrie Akins, instructional specialist for CTE, at 301-934-7205 or cakins@ccboe.com.

CCPS also welcomes community members with backgrounds in other fields who are interested in supporting CTE programs and activities. Contact Chappellear or Akins for more information.

To learn more about CTE programs offered to CCPS students, visit the CTE program website at www.ccboe.com/cte/index.php.



Lynn Hopkins, left, a Milton M. Somers Middle School language arts teacher and Denise Childers, an English teacher at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, were named the 2018 and 2017 Charles County Teacher of the Year, respectively.

Teacher of the Year noms due Dec. 7

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has updated the nomination process for the 2018-19 *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year and the 2019-20 Maryland Teacher of the Year awards. Principals will submit one electronic nomination per school. Go to MyCCPS at www.ccboe.com and click Employee Recognition for more information.

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PR Liaisons in Focus



Never too tired to give a hoot

La Plata High School juniors, Tyler Connolly, left, and Joey Heffernan joined other members of the school's Key Club last month to clean up the area of Rosewick Road the club adopted as part of the county's Adopt-A-Road program. The club cleans up the area once a month, said club co-sponsor Kelley Nicholl.

Submitted by La Plata PR Liaison Kevin Barry.



Green team unites

Student members of J.C. Parks Elementary School's Green Team worked together to prepare for the school's celebration of gaining designation as an Ocean Guardian School on Oct. 23 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). An Ocean Guardian School is committed to the protection and conservation of its local watersheds, the world's ocean and special ocean areas, according to NOAA.

Submitted by Parks PR Liaison Pelestene Rogers.

Personnel

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

Food Service Manager — C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent and a minimum of three years of experience in food service management is required. Knowledge of meal production, planning, scheduling, safety and sanitation preferred. Apply by Oct. 29.

Building Service Worker — Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. Applicants should have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Apply by Nov. 2.

Special Education Instructional Assistant (IA) — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, as well as an interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged children. Experience working with children is preferred.

Apply by Nov. 5.

Building Service Worker — North Point High School, 12-month position. Applicants should have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Apply by Nov. 6.

Boiler Mechanic III — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A high school diploma or General Education Development (GED) program certificate is required. A Maryland Stationary Engineer's license – Grade 1, 2 or 3 are acceptable. Journeyman license or higher in associated field preferred. Position open until filled.

New Teacher Mentor (elementary) — hourly position. Master's degree or an Advanced Professional Certificate is required and the mentor must hold a Maryland Teaching Certificate or be working toward renewal. Mentors should have minimum of five years of successful teaching experience. Minimum of two years of experience in related leadership

role and/or experience in providing training, mentoring and/or instructional assistance to staff is preferred.

Science Teacher — James E. Richmond Science Center, hourly, part-time position. Applicants must have a master's degree equivalent or Advanced Professional Certificate. A minimum of five years of successful teaching experience with a focus in STEM, math and/or science is required. Apply by Oct. 31.

Extra pay positions:

Art and Theater Event Lead Teacher — Apply by Nov. 1.

Head JV Boys Basketball Coach — St. Charles High School. Apply by Dec. 29. Call 301-753-2090.

Head Indoor Track Coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Apply by Dec. 29. Call 301-934-2944.

Assistant Softball Coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call 301-743-5431. Apply by March 29, 2019.