



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Winter break

All Charles County public schools are closed for winter break from Dec. 24 to Jan. 1. Charles County Public Schools offices are closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1. Office hours over winter break are 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Look up to the sky

Make a date for the first Monday of each month to look to Our Sky Tonight at the James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School. On Jan. 7, stop by the center to see constellations, stars and planets. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the free show from 7 to 8 p.m. Go to <https://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/>.

### Board meets Jan. 8

The Board of Education will meet Tuesday, Jan. 8 in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. with members electing a chairman and vice chairman to serve a one-year term. Public forum begins at 6 p.m.

### Grading policy approved

The Board of Education on Dec. 11 unanimously approved a grading policy that standardizes the scale middle and high school teachers use to determine an "F" grade. Policy 5000 requires teachers to use a uniform grading scale that does not allow for minimum grades. The policy defines an F grade as 0 to 59 percent. Several high schools are using a minimum grading scale for an F, but the Board is requiring all schools to adopt the new grading scale at the start of the third quarter on Jan. 28. The Board considered a grading committee recommendation, conducted a grading survey and accepted comments during a Town Hall. Read more at <https://www.ccboe.com/pr/board-of-education-adopts-uniform-grading-scale/>.



### In the cards

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) holiday cards for 2018 feature the artwork of Maurice J. McDonough junior Aalyah Perry, top, and Alex Ellin, a Piccowaxen Middle School sixth grader.



## Board of Education XVII takes the oath of office

The new Board of Education of Charles County was sworn-in on Monday during a ceremony at North Point High School in Waldorf.

Four new members were elected into office last month. They are Elizabeth Brown, David Hancock, Tajala Battle-Lockhart and Latina Wilson. They join incumbents Jennifer Abell, Michael Lukas and Virginia McGraw, who were re-elected to their positions.

The Board begins a four-year term and elects its officers at its first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Jan. 8.

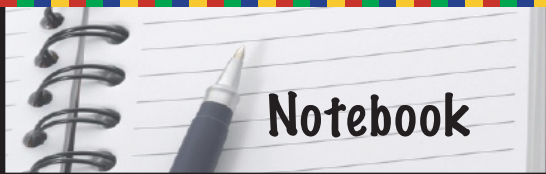
Officers include both the chairman and vice chairman positions and terms are for

one year.

Jennifer S. Abell is the Senior Development Manager for the March of Dimes Greater Washington, D.C., Market and a longtime resident of Charles County. Abell received her undergraduate degree at the College of Southern Maryland, lives in La Plata and has four children, all whom graduated from CCPS.

Battle-Lockhart is the chief executive officer of Simply Consulting, LLC and a certified hospitality educator. A resident of White Plains, Battle-Lockhart is the executive director of Phenomenal Young Women, a board member for the Arnold House and a member

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## On the cover

CCPS employees pictured on the front cover were honored by the Board of Education at its Dec. 11 meeting. From left are Eileen Holden, a third-grade teacher at Berry Elementary School; Keith Juarez, the technology facilitator at Eva Turner Elementary School; and Jennifer Joyner, a drama teacher at La Plata High School.

## Cars needed

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center's automotive technician program is in need of newer model vehicles to use as a teaching tool. To donate a vehicle to the program and take advantage of a tax deduction by Dec. 31, call 301-932-1003.

## Sweet Georgia Brown

Looking for a winter break activity? Get tickets to see the Harlem Globetrotters when they stop in the metro area. On Dec. 26, the team will be at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C., for a 2 and 7 p.m. game. On Dec. 28, they will be at Eagle Bank Arena in Fairfax, Va., for 2 and 7:30 p.m. games. Go to MyCCPS and click on the image of the tickets to get more information.

## Scholarship fund open

High school seniors can apply for college scholarships by visiting the Charles County Scholarship Fund at <https://www.ccboe.com/ss/charles-county-scholarship-fund-inc/>. All scholarship applications must be completed and submitted by March 1. Late applications will not be accepted. And just a word to the wise, the application progress cannot be saved. Applicants should have all required documents ready to upload to the application prior to starting to complete the form. Seniors can see their counselor or college and career advisor with questions.

## Give and take

Michaela Pape, a St. Charles High School junior and Girl Scout Ambassador, is working on her Gold Award project. She hopes to connect people in need of medical equipment with those who have it to sell or give away. Go to Facebook and search Charles County Online Medical Equipment Sale. The group helps put buyers and sellers in touch with each other.



**Members of the Board of Education XVII took the oath of office Monday. From left are Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill with Board members Virginia R. McGraw, David Hancock, Michael Lukas, Latina Wilson, Elizabeth C. Brown, Tajala Battle-Lockhart, Jennifer Abell and Krisha Patel, student member of the Board.**

## Board

**continued from page 1**

of Real Women of Charles County.

Brown is a retired Charles County Public Schools pupil personnel worker who also served a classroom teacher and for five years as president of the Education Association of Charles County. A resident of Waldorf, Brown is the mother of two and grandmother of four children.

Hancock is a small business owner and manages Hancock Family Farms in La Plata. Hancock is a 2008 graduate of the UA Mechanical Trade School through Montgomery College and a 2002 graduate of La Plata High School. He lives in Charles County with his wife, Kim, and their three children.

Lukas is an engineer and branch manager for the Department of the Navy where he has worked for 35 years. He attended Prince George's Community College, and the University of Maryland, College Park where he earned a degree in electrical engineering. He has lived in Charles County for 25 years with his wife, Kim, who is a teacher at the College of Southern Maryland and their son who is a 2016 CCPS graduate.

McGraw is a retired Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principal who also served as a teacher and vice principal dur-



**Student Member of the Board Krisha Patel served as emcee for the Dec. 17 swearing-in ceremony.**

ing her 25-year career with CCPS. She was the 2009 CCPS Principal of the Year, and is an elected member of the board of directors of the Maryland Association of School Boards. McGraw and her husband have been residents of Charles County for 43 years.

Wilson is a Gulf War veteran who retired from the U.S. Army after serving for 20 years. She earned her bachelor of science in business from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore.

Read complete biographies of Board members at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/member-profiles>.



# Five CCPS teachers achieve national certification through NBPTS

Five Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers recently achieved national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). National Board Certified Teachers complete a rigorous assessment process to be eligible for the designation.

Matthew Golonka, Juliana Herscher, Lynn Hopkins, Holly Walsh and Elaine Voltz join nearly 30 other school system teachers who completed the process to become nationally certified. The assessment measures what accomplished teachers know, and candidates must demonstrate how their instruction strengthens both student performance and achievement.

Golonka is a health and physical education teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. He earned National Board Certification in the area of physical education/early adolescence through young adulthood. Golonka works with students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades and has been teaching with CCPS for the past 14 years. He began his career at General Smallwood Middle School and transitioned to Davis in 2007. Golonka said he chose to pursue national certification to provide him with a greater impact on students. "I pursued certification to demonstrate my commitment to excellence, to become a better teacher and to have a greater positive impact on student learning," he said.



**Golonka**

Herscher is celebrating 20 years of teaching with CCPS and teaches first grade at T.C. Martin Elementary School. Herscher earned National Board Certification in the area of literacy: reading-language arts/early and middle childhood.



**Herscher**

She has also taught at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and Malcolm elementary schools, and loves teaching first grade. "You see so much progress from the beginning to the end of the year in your students as readers and writers," she said. Herscher has her master's degree in reading education and said she pursued national certification to help her grow her practice.

"As an educator I think it's important to continue to grow in order to improve your practice. I wanted to continue to improve my practice in and my students' learning of literacy. This is one of the highest levels of achievement for teachers," Herscher said.

Hopkins is a language arts teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School where she has spent her entire 16-year career with the school system. She earned National Board Certification in the area of English language arts/early adolescence. Hopkins teaches sixth-grade language arts, but has also taught both seventh and eighth grades throughout her career.



**Hopkins**

She said she pursued national certification so she could not only hone her teaching skills, but also to find strategies that best support her students. "I owe it to them to be the best teacher that I can be. They depend on me each and every day to do just that," Hopkins said.

Last school year, Hopkins was named the 2018 CCPS Teacher of the Year. She said the process of becoming nationally certified is rewarding because it causes teachers to reflect on their teaching practices, and believes it helped her earn the teacher of the year honor. "The process certainly helped me refine my teaching practices in many ways these last few years, which I truly feel have contributed to my being chosen for the honor. Reflection is necessary for community building in the classroom, and ultimately, overall success of both teacher and student," she said.

Voltz is a mathematics teacher at Mattawoman Middle School and earned National Board Certification in mathematics/early adolescence. She has worked for CCPS for the past 10 years and teaches sixth-grade math. Voltz pursued national certification after a colleague who is certified encouraged her to apply. "He mentioned it was one of the best personal professional developments that you can do, and I couldn't agree more," she said.



**Voltz**

Voltz said the biggest challenge of the process for her was reflecting on her lessons and teaching practices. But she said she walked away from the process with stronger lesson plans and as a better teacher.

Voltz loves being part of the Mattawoman teaching family and said the most rewarding aspect of teaching for her is hearing the success stories of former students. "I really enjoy having students come back after they graduate high school. Staying in one place allows me to keep in touch with former students and their families, and I can hear about their successes. This is the most rewarding aspect of teaching to me," she said.

Walsh is a language arts teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and earned National Board Certification in the area of literacy: reading-language arts/early and middle childhood. Walsh has been teaching at Stoddert for the past four years and teaches both sixth- and seventh-grade reading. Prior to joining the teaching team at Stoddert, Walsh taught early childhood at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School for eight years.



**Walsh**

For Walsh, her desire to teach comes down to the relationships she builds with her students. One of her main priorities in the classroom is getting to know each of her students, and watching them succeed as they advance through school. She said she has two students who made an impact on her that she will always remember.

"One I taught in kindergarten and is now a freshman with so much confidence and self-control. The other I met my first year at Stoddert. He would make me smile every day. Both of these students remind me that I am not just here to teach content, I am here to build relationships," Walsh said.

The five CCPS teachers join more than 5,000 nationwide teachers who completed the certification process in 2018. Read more at <https://www.ccboe.com/pr/five-ccps-teachers-earn-national-board-certification/>.

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## Board of Education Members

Jennifer S. Abell  
Tajala Battle-Lockhart  
Elizabeth C. Brown  
David Hancock  
Michael Lukas  
Virginia R. McGraw  
Latina Wilson  
Krisha Patel, *Student Member*

## Superintendent of Schools

Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.

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## Principals tighten the gears during bike building project

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principals recently worked a little magic during their monthly meeting when they were tasked to work in teams to build 40 children's bicycles.

"We know how important it is — taking care of the family we have made with our students and school communities," said Amy Hollstein, deputy superintendent of schools. Principals broke into groups of three to put together a boy's and a girl's bike. Once complete, the bikes were inspected by CCPS staff and each of the county's 21 elementary schools received two to give out to needy students. Hollstein and her team came up with the idea for the bike building activity with principals foregoing their annual holiday gift exchange to instead donate a bike accessory — baskets, cool license plates, spoke reflectors — to the project. Hollstein pitched the idea to Superintendent Kimberly A. Hill, who was enthusiastic about the project. But it wouldn't be cheap and there was no wiggle room in the budget to buy 42 bikes.

Enter Kelly Caplan, community outreach manager for Washington Gas. Caplan and Hill met at a community event and with the gas company's philanthropic outreach efforts focused on health education and the environment, the bike project fit right in. "It was an easy 'yes,'" Caplan said.

"You guys work so hard to take care of the incredible children in Charles County," Caplan said to



**William Miller, left, principal of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, and Sandra Taylor, principal of Milton M. Somers Middle School, work on assembling a bicycle during the December principals' meeting.**

the principals. "For children to have bikes — that's a big deal. And you guys all working together? I think it's going to be a labor of love."

"I thought it was wonderful," said Sabrina Robinson-Taylor, principal of Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. "First of all, to be able to provide an opportunity for students to receive the bikes and then to be able to work collaboratively with colleagues as we try to figure out how to put a bike together."

## Personnel

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

**Computer Analyst I** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A computer analyst performs installation, configuration, repair, maintenance, troubleshooting and security management of data communications, computer hardware and software within the school system. Apply by Dec. 28.

**ESOL Teacher** — location to be determined, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree is required, along with meeting the certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Experience as established by Maryland law and Board of Education policy is required. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Building Service Worker** — General Smallwood Middle School, 12-month position. The ability to read and write, while being physi-

cally capable of performing manual labor is required. Building service workers must be willing to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by Jan. 1.

**Building Service Worker** — Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. The ability to read and write, while being physically capable of performing manual labor is required. Building service workers must be willing to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by Jan. 1.

**Principal's Secretary** — Benjamin Stodert Middle School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required and experience with Quicken or QuickBooks is desirable. Experience with budgets, payroll and cash handling is preferred. Apply by Jan. 1.

**Literacy Instructional Assistant** — North Point High School, 10-month position. High school diploma and experience working with children are required. Apply by Jan. 2.

**Food Service Worker** — All schools, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required. Demonstrated aptitude for successful performance food preparation, food handling, collecting money and cleaning equipment among other functions. Apply by Jan. 4.

**Math Teacher** — location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required, along with meeting the certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Experience as established by Maryland law and Board of Education policy is required. Apply by March 30.

**Payroll Accounting Analyst** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years of experience in a high volume payroll/accounting environment required. Associate's degree or American Payroll Association certification preferred. Position open until filled.