



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Commodores play Lackey

Henry E. Lackey High School will host the Commodores, the U.S. Navy's premier jazz band, 7 p.m. Feb. 7 at the school at 3000 Chicamuxen Road in Indian Head. The concert is free. Call 301-743-5431.

Spring into NOVEL

Registration is open for the Spring NOVEL Financial Literacy original credit class at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. The course dates are Feb. 11 through May 30 (May 16 for seniors). Online registration is open until Feb. 7 with a withdraw window from Feb. 11 to 21. School counselors can answer questions.

Dual enrollment at CSM

A dual enrollment parent information night is 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM). Parents can learn more about in-school dual math, English and other classes. The dual enrollment program and the Career and Technology Education Program at CSM give high school students the opportunity to simultaneously earn college credits.

Chess tournament set

Charles County Public Schools is sponsoring a winter chess tournament Feb. 23 at Henry E. Lackey High School. Open to students in kindergarten to 12th grade, the registration deadline is Feb. 20. No walk-in registrations. To register, go to <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/ccps-2019-winter-chess-tournament/>.

Under the stars

The James E. Richmond Science Center is hosting Valentine's Day Under the Stars on Feb. 14. Open to couples 16 and older, the night will include chocolate and a planetarium show. Tickets are \$10 per couple. Go to www.ccboc.com/sciencecenter for tickets.



Stories are meant for sharing

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School first grader, Juwell Knott, left, shares a book with Principal William Miller. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy recently celebrated earning national recognition as a National ESEA Distinguished School, and is the first school in Charles County to receive the designation. Read more about the ESEA award on Page 2.

Teachers honored at recognition ceremony

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) held a unique recognition ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 22 to honor a group of special teachers. Honored during the ceremony were nominees for the 2019 *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year and Charles County Teacher of the Year award programs.

This is the first year in which a teacher was nominated from each Charles County public school and center. From among the nominees, CCPS chose five finalists to be eligible for either the *Washington Post* or Charles County Teacher of the Year designation. The *Washington Post* finalist from CCPS represents the school system in the overall awards program in which one teacher from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area is named the *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year. The Charles County Teacher of the Year represents CCPS

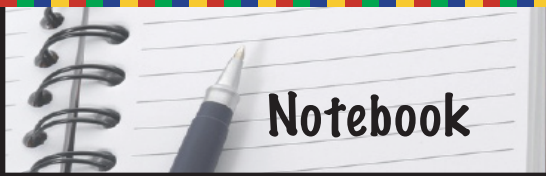
in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Maryland Teacher of the Year program in which one teacher receives the overall state honor.

The five finalists for both programs are:

- Erin Amore, third-grade teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School;
- Steven Baldo, special education teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- John Lush, English/AVID program teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Brooke Shnipes, English teacher, La Plata High School; and
- Melinda Wright, second-grade teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.

From among the finalists, CCPS will se-

See Teachers, Page 3



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are Meagan Fox, a fifth-grade teacher at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, left; and Kelly Kavlick, a reading resource teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, who were honored by the Board of Education at its Jan. 8 meeting. Kimberly Williams, kindergarten teacher, is Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School's nominee for the *Washington Post* and MSDE Maryland Teacher of the Year programs.

Scholarship fund open

High school seniors can apply for college scholarships by visiting the nonprofit 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. Seniors can get more information from their college and career advisors.

March for Our Schools

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) will have buses traveling to Annapolis on Monday, March 11 for the March for Our Schools event. At 6 p.m., a rally in front of the State House will be held.

The March for Our Schools calls for better pay for educators, more school staff — including counselors and psychologists, — universal pre-kindergarten, expanded career technical education, and adequate and equitable funding for all of our schools. To RSVP, go to MarchForOurSchools.com.

Members named to ethics panel

The Board of Education of Charles County in December appointed its ethics panel for a four-year term ending in 2022. The five-member ethics panel includes James Cornette, Adrienne Morgan Davis, Sandra Gott, Jessie Morris and William F. Olmsted.

The panel is appointed by the outgoing Board of Education members near the end of their term and serves for four years. It interprets ethics regulations and provides advisory opinions to Board Members and employees subject to the regulations. The panel reviews complaints concerning any alleged ethics violation and receives and maintains all forms required to be filed under the ethics regulation.

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy celebrates ESEA award

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School has received a national award in recognition of exceptional student achievement. The school now holds the title of National ESEA Distinguished School, and is the first school in Charles County to receive the designation. Schools are nominated for the honor by their respective state education agency and only two schools per state receive the designation annually.

The award recognizes schools in one of three categories: exceptional student performance for two consecutive years; closing the achievement gap between student groups; and excellence in serving special populations of students. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy was honored in the area of exceptional student performance for two consecutive years.

The award, administered by the National Association of ESEA, or Elementary and Secondary Education Act, State Program Administrators (NAESPA) recognizes Title I schools for outstanding achievements. According to Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Principal William Miller, student achievement increased because of several factors. Staff maintain their focus on high expectations and continue to develop student engagement strategies for use in areas such as guided reading and math. Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy also prioritizes family involvement.

The Parent-Teacher-Organization (PTO), as well as the school's parent liaison, works collaboratively with school staff to refine programs available for parents so they can support their children at home.

Some of the programs hosted by the school include a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) night, family game/behavior night and a family reading/art night. Another parental involvement goal for Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy was increasing a positive male role model presence in the school for students.

The school developed its Watch DOGS, or Dads of Great Students, program to invite father figures into the school on a weekly basis to work with students. Miller said Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy is unique in nature because it fits the definition of a true community school.

"Our school is truly a community-based school. Our families support our initiatives and value the time their children spend with us. We meet the needs of the whole child by building relationships, providing engaging and rigorous learning experiences as well as meeting social needs of our students. Our teachers care about our children and provide a nurturing environment of love and mutual respect," Miller said.

In her experience as an administrator, and now as a director over Title I schools in Charles County, Kristin Shields agrees that what makes Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy a unique school is teamwork.

"The school is located in a rural setting and is the hub of the community. The education of children in Nanjemoy is a team effort. The community takes great pride in the school and the school takes great pride in the community. The relationship between school and community is what makes the school so special," Shields said.



North Point on It's Academic

North Point High School came in second with a score of 410 points in a Jan. 12 "It's Academic" competition against Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and Centreville High School. The show will air 10:30 a.m. April 4 on NBC4. Bethesda-Chevy Chase placed first with 625 points and Centreville had 240 points. Competing North Point team members are Amara Gammon, left, captain Adam Cullen and Andrew Fan. They are pictured with one of the show's hosts, Hillary Howard.

Teachers

continued from page 1

lect its Charles County Teacher of the Year and its representative in the Washington Post Teacher of the Year program.

About the finalists

Erin Amore, third-grade teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School. Amore has been teaching with the school system for 12 years.

Steven Baldo, special education teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School. Baldo has been teaching with CCPS for 13 years.

John Lush, English/AVID program teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School. He teaches English I, II and III and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) classes. Lush also is the program coordinator.

Brooke Shnipes, English teacher, La Plata High School. She teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Literature and Composition, AP Language and Composition, and English III.

Melinda Wright, second-grade teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.

The nominees honored Jan. 22 include the following teachers.

Nominees from CCPS Centers

- Paula Schiller, Infants and Toddlers Program teacher, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.
- Timothy Headley, English teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

Elementary School Nominees

- Dawn Turner, kindergarten teacher at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.
- Samantha DeNardo, English as a Second Language (ESOL) Teacher, Berry Elementary School.
- Monique Richardson, third-grade teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School.
- April Moore, first-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School.
- Pamela Brannon, second-grade teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.
- Tricia Harrington, special education teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.
- Nancy Ahern, kindergarten teacher, Indian Head Elementary School
- Elaine Coombs, special education teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.
- Linda Hollomon, fifth-grade teacher, Malcolm Elementary School.
- Nina Capuano, third-grade teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School.
- Tracy Bell, third-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School.
- Theresa Gough, special education teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Kimberly Williams, kindergarten teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.
- Genevieve Gorman, first-grade teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.
- Danielle Nagle, fourth-grade teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School.
- Stephanie Hill, third-grade teacher, J.C. Parks Elementary



The finalists of the Teacher of the Year programs are Melinda Wright, second-grade teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, left; Brooke Shnipes, an English teacher at La Plata High School; Erin Amore, a third-grade teacher at Dr. James Craik Elementary School; Steven Baldo, a special education teacher at William B. Wade Elementary School; and John Lush, an English teacher and Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program coordinator at Henry E. Lackey High School.

School.

- Michelle Colbert, three-year-old program teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.
- Gretchen Collinson, special education teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School.

Middle School Nominees

- Christine Turner, language arts teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.
- Shay Crisp, language arts teacher, John Hanson Middle School.
- Siobhan O'Brien, vocal music teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School.
- Kimberly Stackhouse-Isaac, mathematics teacher, Mattawoman Middle School.
- Caitlin Timko, mathematics teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School.
- Richard Weis, special education teacher, General Smallwood Middle School.
- Natalie Gilliom, mathematics teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School.
- Jessica McCoy, language arts teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.

High School Nominees

- Nathan Mouli, social studies teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- Cary Smith, English teacher, North Point High School.
- Matthew Chisholm, social studies teacher, St. Charles High School.
- Niyati Green, English teacher, Thomas Stone High School.
- Stephen Warner, social studies teacher, Westlake High School.

To read brief biographies of all the nominated teachers, go to the Charles County Public Schools website at www.ccboe.com.

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Michelle Gelzer of Dr. James Craik Elementary School, left; Sonia Matthew of Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Tamra Nissen of Henry E. Lackey High School, secured the most parent participation in a Federal Impact Aid survey.

Schools participate in Federal Impact Aid Project

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), through the office of accountability, participates in the Federal Impact Aid (FIA) program. Parents receive survey forms in the fall with results helping to determine if the school system qualifies for additional federal funding through the Impact Aid program.

To receive Impact Aid funds, CCPS must provide a form to all parents that confirms residency and helps to determine if a student's parent or guardian is employed on federal property or is active duty military. Federal Impact Aid funds help lessen the impact of federal activity on school system budgets.

Each school's FIA representative distributes student forms and encourages 100 percent parent participation. The Office of Accountability awards the

school with the highest participation at each level – elementary, middle and high school – a congratulatory trophy.

Michelle Gelzer at Dr. James Craik Elementary School earned the overall elementary award. Gelzer, a secretary at Craik, secured 100 parent participation for her school.

Sonia Matthew, administrative assistant at Milton M. Somers Middle School, earned the overall middle school award with 87 percent of parent participation.

Tamra Nissen at Henry E. Lackey High School received the overall high school award. Nissen, a vice principal, secured 63 percent parent participation.

Personnel

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

Student Data Technician — John Hanson Middle School, 12-month position. A high school diploma, an average to above average proficiency in use of keyboard equipment, along with knowledge of computers and data processing procedures, are required. Apply by Feb. 1.

General Maintenance Worker — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. The ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals are required. Writing routine reports and simple correspondence are necessary. Apply by Feb. 5.

Principal Pool 2019-20 — All schools, 12-month position. A master's degree and

three years of satisfactory experience as a vice principal are required. Applicants must hold or be eligible for a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administration II endorsement. Apply by Feb. 5.

Parent Center Liaison — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, temporary position. Among a liaison's duties are referring families to appropriate community resources based on inquiries and coordinating trainings. Apply by Feb. 6.

Food Service Substitutes — Various locations, 10-month position. A high school diploma is desirable or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading and arithmetic. Position open until filled.

Temporary Special Education Instructional Assistant — St. Charles High School, temporary. A high school diploma is required. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with school-aged

children, along with excellent human relations skills. Position open until filled.

Health Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by April 30.

ESOL Teachers — all schools, 10-month positions. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by June 30.

Extra pay positions:

Art and Theater Event Lead Teacher — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7255.

Assistant Boys Lacrosse Coach — St. Charles High School. Call 301-753-2090.

Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call 301-743-5431.