



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *School change request changes for employees*

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees who have a special exception for their child to attend an elementary school other than the school zoned for their neighborhood must resubmit a school change request form and turn it in to student services by May 1, 2019. The change is due to Billingsley Elementary School opening in August, and the redistricting of 2,500 elementary school students in pre-kindergarten to Grade 5. The form includes information about documents now required for a school change request. The form is at <https://www.ccooe.com/ss/wp-content/uploads/schoolchangerequest2019-20.pdf>.

### *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.

### *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/>.

### *Stethem plans open house*

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center will hold an open house 6 to 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20 to showcase its Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs. Current sophomores are eligible to apply to start in the fall of their junior year. The application window opens March 4 and closes at 3 p.m. March 22. Stethem is at 7775 Marshall Corner Road in Pomfret.



## 100 school days young

Chloe Moore, left, and Journey Bass-Craven, kindergartners in Hannah Godissart's class at Berry Elementary School, dress up as centenarians to celebrate the 100th day of school on Tuesday, Feb. 12. Staff and students around the county honored the milestone by participating in instructional activities with a theme centered around the number 100.

## Teachers honored at recognition ceremony

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education honored five Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers — Kelly Craft, Karen Dempsey, Kristen Lednum, Jane Marchione and Sean Pearson — for their efforts and accomplishments in gifted education.

Michelle Beckwith, principal of Dr. James Craik Elementary School, was named an outstanding school administrator and Ann Taylor, CCPS content specialist for gifted education, was honored as a gifted and talented program coordinator.

They were recognized at a Feb. 5 ceremony held to honor the governor's proclamation of February as Gifted and Talented Educa-

tion Month. The ceremony was sponsored by MSDE and the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education.

Craft, a learning resource teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School, moved from a smaller elementary school in the county to one of the largest, without missing a beat. Craft expanded the gifted program at Neal and can often be found co-teaching or working with



**Craft**

## Board adopts proposed 2020 budget

The Board of Education unanimously adopted its fiscal year 2020 operating budget request of \$392.3 million during its monthly meeting Feb. 12. The budget request is an increase of \$22.7 million, or 6.1 percent more than FY 2019.

The budget prioritizes employee compensation, and also adds funds for the opening of Billingsley Elementary School, mental health supports, transportation increases, an alternative elementary program and school safety enhancements.

A budget summary is available at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/budget>. State funds are projected to increase about \$8.6 million due in part to continued enrollment increases.

The request includes a local contribution increase of \$15.1 million. The official 2018-19 student enrollment is 27,108, an increase of 217 students. Last school year, CCPS grew by 501 students.

"This budget proposal will help ensure that Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students are provided with the educational opportunities they need to succeed. It invests in our teachers and staff as well as the educational and support services programs we need to fulfill our mission and meet our goals," Hill said.

There is a \$9.5 million reserve for salary and benefit negotiations for the school system's 3,500 staff members. Nearly 81 percent of the school system's budget goes to employee compensation — 60 percent for salaries and wages and 21 percent for benefits. CCPS negotiates with two employee groups: The Education Association of Charles County (EACC), which represents teachers and other certificated staff; and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which represents non-certificated or support staff.

For every dollar, CCPS spends 67 cents on classroom instruction; 12 cents on maintenance and operation of school facilities; 9 cents on school administration; 8 cents on transportation; 3 cents on central administration; and 1 cent on student and community services. The cost per pupil this school year is \$13,923.

CCPS is opening its 22nd elementary school in August 2019. The Board's bud-

### Upcoming dates

- Board submits budget to county — Feb. 28.
- Collective bargaining — mid-March.
- Charles County Commissioners' public hearing — April 9, County Government Building, La Plata (time to be announced).
- Board adopts final budget — June 11, Starkey Building.

get includes nearly \$5 million in operating costs for Billingsley Elementary School.

The amount funds a projected enrollment of 677 students and funds a net of about 67 teachers, which assumes transfers of 16 teachers from other schools and an average class size of 25 students.

Transportation increases of \$2.7 million will replace 36 buses and add six bus routes to accommodate new routes and student needs. The proposal also funds contract changes with the school system's 26 independent bus contractors.

Safety enhancements include \$378,600 to fund the new safety and security office, including costs for an internal investigator, enhanced background checks and other expenses of the school safety and security office.

During the past year, the school system began requiring background checks for volunteers and additional checks for substitutes and temporary workers.

Funding for mental health supports and a new elementary program address the discipline and mental health needs of some of the school system's youngest students.

CCPS is working on the rollout of an alternative elementary program called Fresh Start Academy for students needing to grow socially and emotionally, and who are now causing significant disruption to a school.

Students in kindergarten through Grade 2 will receive an instructional program supported with therapeutic and behavior supports. The budget includes \$452,200 to provide staffing, including a behavioral specialist, three teachers and support staff.

## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are Kathleen Stafford, a reading resource teacher at Malcolm Elementary School, left; and Vincent Batts, a building service worker at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; and Dana Moyer, a learning resource teacher at Dr. James Craik Elementary School. The Board of Education honored them during its Feb. 12 meeting for their commitment to teaching and learning.

### Jazz on the Lake Feb. 23

Westlake High School is hosting Jazz on the Lake Feb. 23. The concert — featuring the Glenn Dewey Quintet — has a theme of An Evening in Paris. Jazz ensembles from Westlake, Henry E. Lackey, Maurice J. McDonough, North Point and Thomas Stone high schools, and Benjamin Stoddert and Piccowaxen middle schools will perform. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with performances starting at 6. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students and children and \$30 for families. Westlake is at 3300 Middletown Road in Waldorf.

### 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 online and submitted by March 1.

### 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](http://MarchForOurSchools.com). The State House is at 100 State Circle in Annapolis.



a small group of gifted students. She has attended numerous conferences focused on gifted education, bringing with her teachers from the gifted cluster. Craft works with the CCPS fourth-grade curriculum writing team, is a Destination Imagination (DI) sponsor and volunteers with the school system's chess tournaments.

Dempsey has more than a decade of experience as a gifted resource teacher. She works with teachers of advanced and gifted students at Malcolm Elementary School. While the gifted program focuses on third, fourth and fifth graders in elementary schools, Dempsey makes a point of reaching out to all advanced learners at Malcolm, working in small groups with kindergarten, first- and second-grade students. Dempsey has attended many gifted education conferences and is a leader among gifted teachers in CCPS. She writes curriculum for the gifted program curriculum and has spent hours writing and reading third-grade gifted reading curriculum. Dempsey works with Malcolm's chess club and volunteers for chess tournaments sponsored by the school system. She has completed master course work for the Maryland State Gifted Specialist Certification.



Dempsey

Lednum is a gifted resource teacher at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School where she works with teachers of advanced and gifted students. Working with small groups of gifted cluster students, Lednum often models lessons for all teachers at Higdon, and creates and leads professional learning sessions on gifted issues for all teachers at the school. Recently, Lednum advocated for a student to advance to middle-school level math and helped the student adjust to middle school, both academically and emotionally. She is on track to complete the Maryland State Gifted Specialist Certification work in December. Lednum is a leader among gifted teachers in Charles County and creates professional development for all gifted teachers to use. She supports Higdon's chess club and helps out with the chess tournament. Over the summer, she keeps her students engaged through online blog entries about a novel they all read during the break.



Lednum

Marchione is a Matthew Henson Middle School's seventh-grade gifted language arts teacher and has been teaching the school's gifted students for the past nine years. She is also a member of the identification committee for students being recommended in seventh grade for gifted services. In addition to writing and evaluating the gifted curriculum for CCPS, Marchione offers support to gifted language arts teachers at Henson as the department chair. She helps new teachers navigate gifted resources and maintains the gifted book



Marchione

room at Henson. Her classroom is always open for teachers around the county to come and observe her working with students.

Pearson is a learning resource teacher focused on gifted students and services at Milton M. Somers Middle School. He works with students as well as teachers and is often found in classrooms engaging in book discussions, problem-based activities and station activities. He assists gifted students who are struggling in math and other classes, and monitors gifted students to help them be more successful. Pearson meets bi-weekly with teachers to work on strategies they can use when presenting a lesson to their gifted learners. Pearson also works with special education staff to assure students receive services and leads the school's gifted identification process to identify students who might be downplaying their academic abilities. Pearson has attended state conferences and was active in a book study using "Differentiation for Gifted Learners," by Diane Heacox and Richard M. Cash. He took information gleaned from the study and used it as professional development with other teachers at Somers.



Pearson

Prior to becoming an administrator, Beckwith was a reading resource teacher and has always supported rigorous and accelerated programs at Dr. James Craik Elementary School where she is the principal. Her goal is to enhance and strengthen the gifted program, and she is on the forefront of initiating writing, reading and math into the kindergarten programs. By strengthening academic skills at the primary level, Beckwith believes students are building a solid foundation for continued learning. At Craik, prekindergarten and kindergarten students, along with first graders, are provided enrichment activities and throughout the year students will subject skip to another grade level to ensure their educational needs are being met.



Beckwith

Taylor is the coordinator for the CCPS gifted program in middle schools. She continues to expand and improve the services and events offered by the program. Taylor has worked extensively on updating curriculum by supplementing it with more technology and supports new resources. Taylor continues to learn more about the field of gifted education by attending conferences and professional development classes. Beyond Charles County, Taylor volunteered to assist with the new statewide gifted education website and was invited to be part of the EGATE committee.



Taylor

During the ceremony in which the teachers were honored, nine CCPS students were recognized for their accomplishments in gifted education.

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## For all the marbles

Jaccari Ingram, a prekindergarten student at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, works with his teacher Susan Opalach on a STEM activity that asks students to build a magnetic pathway for a marble to travel down.

*Submitted by Barnhart's PR liaison Alycia Smith.*

## Green group at Lackey

Henry E. Lackey High School is working toward earning designation as a Green School through the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE). Rachael Rizor, a science teacher at the school, and Jennifer Young, an environmental education assistant with the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, provided information at a recent meeting. The group is comprised of nine teachers, an instructional assistant, a vice principal and the School Resource Officer. The school's MAEOE application is focused on energy conservation, solid waste reduction, water conservation and structures for environmental learning, Rizor said.

*Submitted by Lackey's PR liaison Heather Alvarez.*



## 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.*

**Carpenter II** — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A high school diploma or any combination equivalent to completion of an apprenticeship or other formal training program, and six years' journey-level carpentry experience are required. A minimum of six years experience carpentry experience and the ability to establish and maintain cooperative and effective working relationships with others are a must. Apply by Feb. 19.

**Building Service Worker** — North Point High School, 12-month position. The work days are Wednesday to Sunday. A high school diploma is required, along with the ability to read and write effectively. Candidates must be physically capable of performing manual labor and have a willingness to work overtime

as required in cases of emergency. Apply by Feb. 21.

**Office of Instruction Secretary** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma or general education degree (GED) required, along with one to three years demonstrated secretarial experience. Apply by Feb. 21.

**Summer Enrichment Camp Site Coordinator** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, temporary position. Advanced Professional Certificate and master's degree or equivalent are required. A minimum of five years successful teaching experience and a demonstrated leadership capability with effective written and oral communication skills required. Apply by Feb. 21.

**Pupil Personnel Worker** — location to be determined. Candidate's must have a master's degree in pupil personnel, counseling, guidance services, early childhood, elementary or

secondary education, human growth and development, sociology, social work, psychology, special education or administration and supervision. Twenty-one semester hours of graduate credit or state approved CPDs from select areas of study is required. Apply by Feb. 28.

**Food service substitute** — various locations, 10-month position. A high school diploma is desirable or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading, record keeping, and arithmetic. Position open until filled.

### Extra Pay Positions

**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.

**Assistant Tennis Coach** — Westlake High School. Call 301-645-8857.

**Head Varsity Football Coach** — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call 301-743-5431.