



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Memorial Day May observed

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) schools and offices will be closed Monday, May 27 in observance of Memorial Day.

Project Grad donations

Monetary donations and donations of items that a graduating high school senior can use are being accepted for Project Graduation. Restaurants can sign up to donate food for the three-night event held May 30 to June 1. Monetary donations may be made by check to Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) with Project Graduation in the memo. Send checks to CCPS, Attn: Patti Feldman, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646. Contact Jenn Conte at jconte@ccboe.com for more information.

Water testing continues

CCPS is testing schools and centers for the presence of lead in school drinking water to comply with a new state regulation, HB 270, which was signed into law in May 2017 and requires schools served by public water to test for the presence of lead. The testing is not the result of any concerns with drinking water in Charles County schools. Stay updated at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/water-quality-reports>.

Graduations planned

Graduation ceremonies for high school seniors in the Class of 2019 are planned for May 30, May 31 and June 1 at the CCPS Convocation Center located at North Point High School in Waldorf. The ceremony for North Point is Thursday, May 30. Ceremonies for St. Charles, La Plata and Thomas Stone high schools are Friday, May 31. Seniors from Westlake, Henry E. Lackey and Maurice J. McDonough high schools graduate on Saturday, June 1. The ceremonies will be streamed live on [ccboe.com](https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/graduation-2019). For more information about graduations, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/graduation-2019>.



Relay hits the bull's-eye

Relay for Life of Charles County was May 18 at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Twenty-eight teams made up of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees and students raised \$47,598 this year for the nonprofit. Among the activities were a dunk tank, a silent auction, face painting and a bounce house. Walkers participated in theme laps including a patriotic lap, Elvis/50's lap and birthday lap. Linda Forrest, a Reading Resource teacher at General Smallwood Middle School, prepares to go for a dip during her stint in the dunk tank. The last day to submit donations is June 30.

Lackey's Perriello named CCPS Principal of the Year

Lackey's Perriello named Charles County Principal of the Year

School has always been a place where Kathy Perriello feels comfortable. "I had wonderful experiences at school, wonderful teachers and administrators," she said. "School was always a good place for me."

Perriello was recently named the 2019 Charles County Principal of the Year and a finalist in the Washington Post's Principal of the Year program. It's the latest milestone in a career that started after Perriello graduated from Towson State University with a degree in Spanish and secondary education. After earning a Bachelor of Arts, she received a call from the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) office of human resources asking if

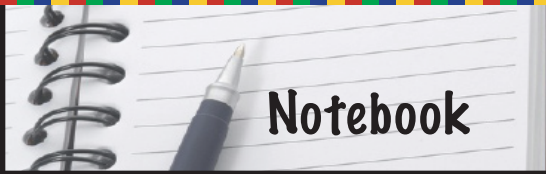
she wanted to teach in the county. A product of the county's public schools — she graduated from Thomas Stone High School — Perriello accepted a job as a Spanish teacher at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.

"My first year of teaching was the best experience anyone could have," she said. At Stoddert, she found wonderful colleagues, students and a great community, she said. She also found herself learning leadership skills from Dr. Bill Wise, the principal.



Kathy Perriello

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored May 14 by the Board of Education during its regular monthly meeting. From left, are Julie Glorioso, special education teacher at Mary B. Neal Elementary School; Corey Specht, fifth-grade teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; and Kimberly Stackhouse-Isaac, math teacher at Mattawoman Middle School.

Estate planning seminar set

A Prudential Pathways seminar is set for 5 to 6 p.m. June 3 on the importance of estate planning. The seminar will be held at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y2abt7ly>.

Survey says ...

CCPS believes that schools should be measured by more than just test scores. Student achievement is important, but we also know that test scores are not the only way to measure the effectiveness of a school. Parents can take a survey through June 12 about what they think about their child's school. Tell CCPS what is going well and what can be improved. To take the survey in English, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxk8ypzy>. En Español, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxedvqun>.

Summer camp slots open

CCPS is sponsoring summer enrichment camps for students in kindergarten through Grade 9. Camps begin the week of June 24 and run through the week ending on Aug. 2. To register, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/summer-camps-2019>. Cost is \$90 per camp session.

Lunch on Us

Charles County Public Schools, in partnership with Charles County Advocacy Council for Children, Youth & Families, LifeStyles, Inc., Department of Social Services, No Kid Hungry, Department of Recreation, Charles County Public Library, Children's Aid Society, Tri-County Youth Services Bureau, Health Partners, The Arnold House, and other county agencies are offering a free summer lunch program for Charles County children 18 and younger. For a listing of times and locations, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/ss/summer-meals/>.

Darby named Middle School Advisor of the Year

Matthew Henson Middle School teacher Holly Darby is known among students as a "cool" teacher who is supportive, takes the time to explain things and makes learning fun. Darby teaches seventh and eighth grade language arts and serves as a co-sponsor to the Henson Student Government Association (SGA). In her role as an SGA advisor, Darby works with students on leadership skills and teaches them the importance of community service.

Darby has served as the SGA co-sponsor for the past five years and helped participation increase from three students to 45 members. She advocates for the student voice and is passionate about teaching students how to become leaders. Her passion for student leadership was recently recognized at the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Convention, where Darby was named the 2018-19 Middle School Advisor of the Year.

Darby was unaware she was nominated for the award and first learned about it at the MASC Convention. She said she and the SGA co-sponsor, Henson language arts teacher Heather Tonnessen, usually split SGA duties, with Darby overseeing school-based events and Tonnessen traveling to out-of-county events with students. It was Tonnessen who convinced Darby to attend the convention so she could receive her surprise honor.

"I had no idea I was nominated for the award. It is a great honor to receive this award. And, to be nominated by a former student makes it so very special," Darby said. She was nominated for the award by one of her former students, Emily Kerns. Kerns is a junior at Maurice J. McDonough High School and participated in the Henson SGA for three years with Darby as her advisor. Kerns, who is McDonough's student liaison to the Board of Education, credits Darby with fueling her love for student government.

"She is such an inspiring woman and I am so pleased to have experienced her leadership, which helped to foster my growth as a leader. She is truly an amazing advisor, and there is nobody who deserves this award more," Kerns wrote in a nomination letter.

To support Darby's nomination, Gary Winsett, the advisor to the Charles County



Holly Darby, a language arts teacher at Matthew Henson Middle School, is a co-sponsor of the school's SGA. She was recognized by the Maryland Association of Student Councils as the 2018-19 Middle School Advisor of the Year.

Association of Student Councils (CCASC), wrote a letter on her behalf.

"Mrs. Darby is the type of advisor who realizes how important an effective SGA can be for a school. Under her leadership, Matthew Henson has become a strong school of leaders that has shaped Henson into one of the top schools in our region," Winsett wrote in a nomination letter.

Darby said she chose to help with the Henson SGA several years ago because she values its purpose. From fundraisers and community service projects to school elections and parliamentary procedures, Darby strives to instill in students the value of leadership. Not only does Darby think it is important for students to learn about leadership, she works with students to understand the impact of caring about others.

"These kids someday may be our leaders. SGA is one of the ways we can prepare our kids for leadership and teach them that caring about others in the community is important. These kids need to know they have a voice at school to create change," Darby said.

Henson eighth grader Maxwell Gaynor is the SGA president and said Darby makes learning about government fun. "She finds fun activities for us to do and helps us manage our meetings to make sure we stay on track. She keeps us in line ... Mrs. Darby is cool," Gaynor said.

Perriello

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She left Stoddert to go to Westlake High School when it opened in 1992. "I did not want to leave Stoddert," Perriello said. "But I knew that opening a new school doesn't come around that often."

At Westlake, her principal was Dr. John Cox. He was the one who encouraged Perriello to consider a career in school administration. She worked as a teacher and administrative assistant before being named a vice principal at the school in 1997. When Cox was tapped to be the assistant superintendent, Perriello took a position working with him as an instructional specialist at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, a job she held for six years.

She returned to school leadership as vice principal at General Smallwood Middle School and was named CCPS Vice Principal of the Year in 2009. At Smallwood, Perriello worked with Principal Cynthia Baker, another administrator she said influenced her career. "I credit Dr. Wise, Dr. Cox and Ms. Baker. I have tried to take some of their attributes and mold them into my own," Perriello said.

She was also influenced by Peggy Stafford, the former CCPS coordinator for career and technology education, who worked with Perriello at Stoddert, Westlake and Starkey.

"I consider her a mentor. She is someone who I admire. I respect her tenacity and philosophy of education," she said. "Every child is important, every child has needs and the needs are different. But you do the best that you can. And you're not always going to get it right, but they know that you care."

Perriello was Smallwood's principal from 2011 to 2015. In 2015, she took the principal's position at Lackey. "I've been on the western side for 14 years between General Smallwood and Lackey high school," Perriello said. "This is a community that I love. We always talk about West Side Pride and there is a pride that exists in this community."

Perriello estimates about 65 percent of Lackey's current seniors have been with her since they were in sixth grade. "It's a unique opportunity and I'm grateful for the opportunity," Perriello said. "I've seen them grow from children to young adults."

Lackey also has students from Matthew Henson and Milton M. Somers middle schools and she works to ensure they feel like part of the family, as well.

Perriello encourages students and staff to become active in their community, beyond the classroom. She organized a donation to the Hospice of Charles County and a Thanksgiving donation to the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

This year, Perriello revived the school's Key Club — a Kiwanis Club offshoot for high school students — growing the membership from two to 20 students.

Jordyn Sinsel, a senior at Lackey, said it was her goal to stay away from the principal's office.

It was Perriello who changed her perspective on that. As the vice president of the Class of 2019 and a member of the Key Club, Sinsel has worked closely with Perriello. "It has been a pleasure to work with her, as we share similar values and ideas," Sinsel said. "Mrs. Perriello has gone above her duties as principal of Lackey. She has done more than her share in trying to make the best atmosphere both academically and socially in our school."

Perriello starts most mornings on bus duty welcoming students.



Xavier Oliver, a Henry E. Lackey High School senior, paints a kindness rock during a Key Club meeting. Lackey Principal Kathy Perriello, right, revived the service group this year increasing participation from two to 20 members.

Having a teenager say "good morning" or stop to give her a side hug is a positive part of the job. "That's what propels you to stay motivated and energetic, that positivity," she said.

"Every day is a new day. I'm a mom, so I want my children to have the best. I want the students here to have the best. The best teachers, the best opportunities for success," she said. "I believe in high expectations and students will rise to meet high expectations." She also expects her staff to strive to be the best.

"Mrs. Perriello by far is the strongest leader that I have ever worked with when it comes to instruction," Smallwood Principal Brenda Tillotson wrote in a letter of recommendation. Tillotson was a vice principal at Smallwood while Perriello was principal. "She not only talks it, but she walks it. She is able to give guidance to all teachers to develop into stronger educators. She develops a community of learners at her school." Lackey staff and students adhere to the acronym GREAT. Growth, Relationships, Excellence, Accountability and Teamwork. No one works in isolation, Perriello said. She credits the Lackey staff for the success the school has enjoyed.

"I feel like I've been surrounded by excellence. I've been able to work with great people and this recognition is not about me or my work," Perriello said. "It's really about the people with whom I work. You rely on the people in the building, from your support staff members to teachers to counselors, administrators. It's really a team. It's not about me, it's really about the school community."

As Principal of the Year, Perriello will be honored by the Board of Education at its May 14 meeting. Perriello was also the finalist from Charles County in the *Washington Post's* Principal of the Year awards program in which one regional winner is chosen. She will be honored by the *Post* later this year.

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Welcome home, sis

Sophia Sage, a Dr. Higdon Elementary School third grader, recently received a big surprise when her older sister, Savannah Sage, surprised her at school after being deployed. Savannah Sage is an airman in the U.S. Air Force.

*Submitted by Higdon's PR Liaison
Kristen Lednum.*

Mitchell's fair is one for the books

Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School recently held a Spring Book Fair. The Mitchell community embraces the need for school libraries to continue bringing a Book Fair in order to maintain its collection. Students become even more motivated to read by seeing new releases and engaging subjects that the fair provides. Mitchell had a record breaking Family Night on April 9. Fifth-grader teacher Corey Specht rings up the purchase of Nick Gardiner, a fifth-grade teacher.

Submitted by Mitchell's PR Liaison Belynda Jarboe.



Personnel

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

Building Service Worker — St. Charles High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required. Applicants must have a willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by May 27.

Administrative Instructional Assistant — Billingsley Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by May 29.

Life Skills Instructional Assistant — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required with experience working with children or adults who have special needs preferred. Apply by May 31.

Business Education Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Computer Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Early Childhood Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

ESOL Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Health Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Instrumental Music Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Language Arts Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Library Media Specialist — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Mathematics Teacher — Locations to be determined. 10-month position.

Spanish Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Special Education Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Speech and Language Pathologist — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Vocal Music Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Extra Pay Positions:

Assistant Tennis Coach — Westlake High School. Apply by June 7.

Boys Assistant Lacrosse Coach — Henry E. Lackey High School. Apply by June 14.

Head Varsity Field Hockey Coach — St. Charles High School. Apply by May 31.

Assistant Track Coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Apply by Sept. 27.

Boys Head Varsity Soccer Coach — North Point High School. Apply by Sept. 27.