

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Board meeting

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet June 11 in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting starts at 1 p.m., with public forum at 6 p.m. The new Student Board Member DeJuan Woods Jr. will be sworn in at the meeting. During the recognition portion of the meeting, several employees will be recognized for their contributions to CCPS.

Binge watch alert

Asante Ma'at, a 2019 North Point High School graduate, is among the leads of Netflix's limited series, "When They See Us," a dramatization of the 1989 arrests of a group of teens the media called the Central Park 5. Ma'at, who is professionally known as Asante Blackk, was involved in North Point's theater program and instrumental in developing a social media presence for the program.

Picture it

If you know a Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) 2019 high school graduate, their photo might be featured in a new online gallery. To see pictures taken at the seven graduations and the five Parades of Success, go to <https://charlescountypublicschools.zenfolio.com/>. The photos are free to download.

SMAD survey

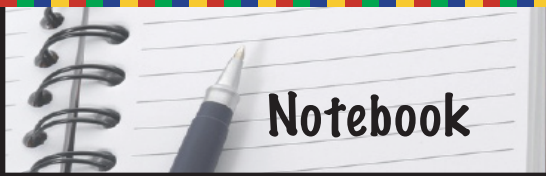
Student achievement is important, but CCPS also knows that test scores are not the only way to measure the effectiveness of a school. Parents can take a survey through June 12 about what they think about their child's school. To take the survey in English, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxk8ypzy>. En Español, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxedvqun>.



Congrats to the Class of 2019

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) held commencement exercises May 30 to June 1 for its seven high schools. Pictured clockwise from top left are North Point High School graduates Francesca Bruce, left and Marshall Brown; Maurice J. McDonough High School graduates Jasmine Jordan, left, Bree Middleton, Shannon Massie, Kayla Matthews and Alliyah Ottley; Jalin McCloud, left, Justin McIntyre and Clement Muhoka graduated from Henry E. Lackey High School; Kush Patel of St. Charles High School admires his diploma; Thomas Stone High School graduate Madalyn Peets smiles for the camera; La Plata High School Alex Deneault graduate waves hello; and Westlake High School graduates Chrissiah Bromfield, left, Erin Counts, Eriyon Brown, Jazmin Cunningham and Ta'layshia Burkentine celebrate their classmates. See story Page 2.





On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are Melissa Palmer, Education Careers Career and Technology Education (CTE) program teacher at North Point High School, who was honored by the Board at its May 14 meeting; Matthew Chisholm, social studies teacher at St. Charles High School; and Stephanie Hill, third-grade teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School. Chisholm and Hill were their schools nominees for the Charles County Teacher of the Year Award.

Camp registration 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.

Summer school

Summer School registration is open through June 25. A required online registration process through ParentVUE is new this year. To register a child for a summer school course, parents must have an active ParentVUE account. Parents who have not activated their ParentVUE account must contact their child's school to receive an activation code. Go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/summer-school> for more information.

Lunch on Us

Charles County Public Schools, in partnership with several agencies and organizations is 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/>.

Get crabby

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) is holding its crab feast 3:30- 8 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Tickets are only available online at <https://teameacc.org/>. Tickets are \$25 until June 25 and \$35 through Aug. 23. Guests must bring their CCPS identification badge and ticket and can bring one guest who is not a CCPS employee. Guests must enter with the employee, there is no will call. This is a 21 and older event.

Grad earn nearly \$120 million in scholarships

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Class of 2019 earned a record number of scholarship offers totaling nearly \$120 million. Class of 2019 valedictorians and salutatorians were announced earlier this week and represent the top academic achievers among graduates at each school. These positions are determined by student grade-point averages. The Class of 2019 earned a total number of \$119,857,363 in scholarship offers.

Leading the Henry E. Lackey High School graduating class are co-valedictorians Garrett Batchelor and Samuel Guzzone. Class salutatorian for Lackey is Ashley Herbert.

Batchelor plans to study mechanical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, better known as Virginia Tech. Guzzone also plans to study mechanical engineering and will begin his undergraduate studies in the fall at the University of Maryland, College Park. Herbert is also an engineering major, but plans to focus on civil and infrastructure engineering. She will attend George Mason University.

La Plata High School Class of 2019 leaders include valedictorian Se Eun "Grace" Na and salutatorian Aashka Patel. In the fall, Na will begin her studies in psychology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Patel will double major in neurobiology and physiology at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Peyton Carney leads the Maurice J. McDonough High School graduating class as valedictorian. She plans to study biomedical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, a private university better known as RPI. Marie Bennett is this year's salutatorian at McDonough. She plans to study neuroscience in the fall at George Mason University.

The North Point High School Class of 2019 is led by valedictorian Sydney Marohn-Johnson and co-salutatorians Adolf Jerald "A.J." Accad and Matteo Marchi. All three class leaders plan to major in engineering. Marohn-Johnson will attend Vanderbilt University. Accad will major in mechanical engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park and Marchi also plans to attend the University of Maryland, College Park to study engineering.

St. Charles High School senior Stephen Duranske leads the Spartan Class of 2019 as valedictorian. He will attend the University of Maryland, College Park and plans to major in architecture and minor in theater. Katherine O'Meara is class salutatorian at St. Charles. She is set to attend the University of Pittsburgh and plans to major in nursing.

Valedictorian for the Class of 2019 at Thomas Stone High School is William Runyon, and class salutatorian is Chloe Cooke. Runyon plans to major in computer science and philosophy at Georgia State University. Cooke is set to attend Randolph-Macon College and plans to major in mathematics with a double minor in elementary education and Spanish.

The graduating class from Westlake High School is led by valedictorian Migue Darcera and co-salutatorians Krisha Patel and Brianna Wilson. Darcera is taking a gap year after graduation. Patel is set to attend the University of Maryland, College Park and plans to major in economics and finance. Wilson also plans to major in economics and is set to attend Wellesley College.

2019 graduation numbers by school (scholarship totals may increase as offers are received)

Henry E. Lackey High School

Total graduates: 240

Scholarship offers: \$14,600,000

La Plata High School

Total graduates: 260

Scholarship offers: \$12,280,241

Maurice J. McDonough High School

Total graduates: 227

Scholarship offers: \$8,439,001

North Point High School

Total graduates: 392

Scholarship offers: \$24,606,110

St. Charles High School

Total graduates: 320

Scholarship offers: \$23,345,215

Thomas Stone High School

Total graduates: 260

Scholarship offers: \$18,312,180

Westlake High School

Total graduates: 298

Scholarship offers: \$18,274,616.

Visit <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/graduation-2019> for more on Graduation 2019.

Jenkins named Maryland Pupil Personnel Worker of the Year

Pam Jenkins, the pupil personnel worker at Milton M. Somers Middle School, believes in building relationships with students and their families.

"I heard a quote once at a conference, 'Relationships heal what relationships harm,'" Jenkins said. "A lot of children have had traumatic experiences or relationships with adults or other children that have created some form of harm. The only way you're going to get them the help they need is to build a relationship. I can't control the relationships they have with other people, but I can control the relationship they have with me."

Jenkins was named the Maryland Pupil Personnel Worker of the Year by the Maryland Association of Pupil Personnel (MAPP) during a conference earlier this month in Ocean City. Founded in 1947, MAPP provides opportunities for PPWs to build skills and network while sharing experiences in the field of student services.

After college, Jenkins was the school counselor at Malcolm Elementary School for 10 years. "I thought I'm going to be a counselor for my whole life, and I was going to do it at Malcolm," she said. But after a while, she was looking to move on, maybe go into administration.

"I'm one of those stars align, doors open for a reason type of person," she said. "I ended up getting the PPW endorsement and the next day a PPW position opened up."

She spent less than a year serving as the PPW for Piccowaxen Middle School and Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School before landing at Somers. She has been there for three years. Going from counseling elementary school students to working as a PPW with middle school kids is a bit different. As a counselor, Jenkins said she felt like she was helping to prune flowers, as a PPW she's trying to enrich the soil.

"My reality is that I work with a smaller group of students, but you never know when at any point you're going to become one of my students," said Jenkins, who helps students with absentee issues, whose families are living in or on the brink of poverty, have mental health or other issues. "I want them to know who I am, so when I approach them about their attendance or about their behaviors, they feel comfortable talking with me."

The relationships she builds with students are evident.

"I love her," said Jaliyah Wade, a Somers eighth grader. "Every time I'm having a rough day, she's my go-to person."

"She tells us what's up," eighth grader Sanyah Brown said. "What's real," Jaliyah added.

The two girls are best friends. "Where you see one, you'll see the other," Jenkins said. "They're always together." Next year, the girls will go to different high schools and Jenkins hopes they continue to grow as they have over the years at Somers. "What I love about this job is I get to know the families so much closer. So maybe I'm not working with as many students, but the relationships are deeper," Jenkins said.

Beyond building relationships, she makes sure students have food over the weekends and stocks hygiene products and household supplies in case students and families need them.

"A big part of the PPW role is to advocate for our students and their families," Jenkins said.



Pam Jenkins, center, has been the pupil personnel worker at Milton M. Somers Middle School for three years. She is pictured with eighth graders and best friends Jaliyah Wade, left, and Sanyah Brown. "I love her," Jaliyah said of Jenkins. "Every time I'm having a rough day, she's my go-to person."

"And to serve as the connection between school, home and community." She drives parents and students to IEP and ICIEP meetings and attends school and PTSO events. She spearheaded a Secret Santa program that pairs staff and parent volunteers with needy students to ensure the kids have a happy holiday. Jenkins helps lead Mental Health First Aid training for CCPS employees and has attended conferences and trainings to stay up-to-date in her field.

"Pam has always been a co-worker that can be counted on to support not only her school, but fellow co-workers and PPWs," said Donna McPherson, a PPW with CCPS. "Pam exemplifies so many characteristics of a leader, advocate and all-around exemplary individual."

"On any given day, Mrs. Jenkins' office is a revolving door of students stopping in," said Vice Principal Nichole Bolden in a nomination letter. "Some students come to just say 'Hi,' or they want to share some positive news ... others stop in to chat about some of their struggles."

Jenkins bristles when she hears others labeling some students as "bad kids."

"There aren't any bad kids, there are kids who have bad behavior for a variety of different reasons," she said. "There's some really challenging kids, but they have something to offer. It's just about tapping into it."

Being on the perimeter of traumatic events and crises can be emotionally taxing, but Jenkins tries not to carry it around with her. "One of the things students appreciate is that I'm positive," she said. "I'm friendly, but I'm going to check you when you're wrong. Students like structure and accountability, as long as it's consistent. When kids know what to expect from you, they feel comfortable with you."

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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

Superintendent of Schools
Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers
Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Mackey
Sara K. Taylor

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.



Top of their class

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) announced valedictorians and salutatorians for the Class of 2019 last week. These students represent the top academic achievers among graduates at each school. Positions are determined by student grade-point averages. The Class of 2019 earned a total of \$119,857,363 in scholarship offers. Pictured are the valedictorians and salutatorians for the Class of 2019. Back row, from left are Migue Darcera, Westlake High School valedictorian; Brianna Wilson, Westlake co-salutatorian; Krisha Patel, Westlake co-salutatorian; Stephen Duranske, St. Charles High School valedictorian; Katherine O'Meara, St. Charles salutatorian; Marie Bennett, Maurice J. McDonough High School salutatorian; and Peyton Carney, McDonough valedictorian. Middle row, from left are Aashka Patel, La Plata High School salutatorian; Se Eun "Grace" Na, La Plata valedictorian; Matteo Marchi, North Point High School co-salutatorian; Adolf Jerald "A.J." Accad, North Point co-salutatorian; Sydney Marohn-Johnson, North Point valedictorian; and William Runyon, Thomas Stone High School valedictorian. Front row, from left are Garrett Batchelor, Henry E. Lackey High School co-valedictorian; Ashley Herbert, Lackey salutatorian; Samuel Guzzone, Lackey co-valedictorian; and Chloe Cooke, Stone salutatorian.

Personnel

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

A Teacher Job Fair is 9 a.m.-noon June 14 at St. Charles High School. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree or higher, meet MSDE certification, be eligible for Maryland certification through reciprocity, complete and submit an application at www.ccboe.com and register for the fair via Eventbrite. For more information, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/current-openings>.

A building service and food service work-er job fair will be 1-3 p.m. June 14 at St.

Charles High School. Applicants must apply online at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/current-openings> prior to the event.

Bus Driver Attendant — Hourly position. A high school diploma is required, and applicants must be 18 or older. Five years of experience as a school bus attendant in Maryland is preferred. Apply by June 12.

Food Service Assistant Manager — All schools, 10-month position. A high school diploma or the equivalent is required. A minimum of three years of food service experience is preferred. Position open until filled.

Related Services Liaison — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month posi-

tion. High school diploma or GED required with an associate's degree preferred. Five years of experience in an education or agency setting, two of which must include experience management projects or programs independently, is required. Apply by June 12.

English Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Computer Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

French Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.