

# School News



## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *First Flight openings*

The North Point High School Early Childhood Education First Flight program has openings for the 2018-19 school year for children ages 3 to 5. The program features two sessions – 8:15 to 10:15 a.m., and 12 to 2 p.m. Each session runs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from October through April. Cost is \$425 with a \$100 non-transferable or refundable holding fee. Limited spots are available for the morning session; the afternoon session has more availability. Call Lisa Willett, program director, at 301-753-1759 or email [lwillett@ccboe.com](mailto:lwillett@ccboe.com) for program details.

### *Superhero Saturday*

Superhero Saturday is Saturday, June 16 at the James E. Richmond Science Center. From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., guests can watch the fulldome movie, “The Accidental Astronauts” and take part in hands-on activities. Go to <http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/superhero-saturday/>.

### *Summer camps*

CCPS Summer Enrichment camps will start up in June. Camps are for CCPS-enrolled students and residents of Charles County in kindergarten through ninth grade, according to the student’s 2018-19 school year grade level. The cost per camp session is \$90 per week with some camps requiring an extra \$10 fee to cover the cost of materials. Go to <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/summer-camp-2018>.

### *STEM camps*

Project-based learning camps are set for June and July at the James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School. The weeklong camps are for students in fourth through eighth grades. Camps start June 18 and focus on weather, chemistry, forensics and the solar system. To register, go to [www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter](http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter).



## Class of 2018 celebrates

Maurice J. McDonough High School seniors Jordan McDuffie, left, Kamryn Murphy and Jaylen McDuffie arrive at the Charles County Convocation Center at North Point High School June 1 excited to graduate. Graduations were held May 31 to June 2 with 2,071 students graduating. To see more pictures from the weekend, go to <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/graduation-2018>.

## CCPS Class of 2018 sets new scholarship record

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) honored 2,071 seniors during high school graduation ceremonies May 31 to June 2 at the Charles County Convocation Center at North Point High School.

Students in the Class of 2018 have earned a record amount of scholarship offers for a graduating class, with offers totaling nearly \$122 million. This is an increase of more than \$43 million from last school year.

Valedictorians and salutatorians represent the top academic achievers at each school. These positions are determined by student grade-point averages. The Class of 2018 earned a total number of \$121,523,748 in scholarship offers.

Leading the Henry E. Lackey High School Class of 2018 as valedictorian is David “DJ” Nelson of Indian Head. Helping to

lead the Lackey senior class is Eden Williams of Port Tobacco. Nelson will attend Penn State University in the fall and plans to study mechanical engineering. Williams was accepted to Towson University where she will study international relations.

La Plata High School’s valedictorian for the Class of 2018 is Elena Quartararo of La Plata, and salutatorian is Kyle Dunn, also of La Plata. Quartararo will attend the University of Maryland College Park in the fall and plans to major in engineering. Dunn also heads to the University of Maryland College Park in the fall and plans to study engineering.

Elizabeth Saoud of La Plata leads the Maurice J. McDonough High School senior class as valedictorian, followed by Charlie Shin, who is also from La Plata, as class

See Graduation, Page 2



**On the cover**

Pictured on the front cover are Pamela Jenkins, an prekindergarten instructional assistant at Dr. James Craik Elementary School; Suzi Hahn, a fifth-grade teacher at Craik who was awarded the Crystal Apple Award for excellence in teaching from the American Legion Auxiliary and Carla Joyner, a language arts teacher at General Smallwood Middle School, who was honored at the May 8 Board of Education meeting for her dedication to teaching and learning.

**When's your last day?**

The last day of school for students is June 15. The 2017-18 school year end dates for certificated employees are June 18 for 12-month teachers, June 28 for 11-month employees, June 22 for 10.5-month employees and June 18 for 10-month employees. The last day for 11-month support staff employees is June 28, June 29 for 10.5-month employees, June 18 for 10-month employees and June 18 for 10-month instructional assistants. The last day for 10-month food service managers and assistant managers is June 25 and June 18 for 10-month food service workers.

**Lunch on Us**

The summer meals program, Lunch on Us, starts June 25 at certain school and community locations. The meals are served free to Charles County children up to 18 years old. For information, times and locations, go to <http://www.ccoeb.com/ss/summer-meals/>.

**EACC crab feast Aug. 31**

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) will hold its annual crab feast 3:30 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31 at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Tickets are available from May 1 to Aug. 23 and must be purchased online. Early bird tickets are \$25 each through June 25. From June 26 to Aug. 23, tickets are \$35 per person. Admission includes all-you-can-eat crabs. Draught beer is \$1 with a maximum of four. Each employee can bring one guest who is not a CCPS employee and who must enter with the CCPS staff member — there will be no Will Call. Employees must have their staff identification and ticket to enter the event. For tickets, go to [www.teameacc.org](http://www.teameacc.org) and click on the registration tab.



The valedictorians and salutatorians for the Class of 2018 are pictured. In the front row from left are Margarita Santos, Jazmine Valentine, Kade Pruitt, Hunter Donn and Skyler Wells. In the second row are David "DJ" Nelson, Eden Williams, Elizabeth Saoud, Elena Quartararo, Charlie Shin, Noah Kidwell and Michael Meade. In the back row are Kyle Dunn and Semaj Rascoe.

**Graduation**

**continued from Page 1**

salutatorian. Saoud heads to Harvard University in the fall to study Biology and pre-medicine. Shin will attend the University of Maryland College Park and plans to study computer science.

Noah Kidwell of Pomfret leads the North Point High School Class of 2018 as valedictorian. Michael Meade of Waldorf is class salutatorian. Kidwell will attend The Ohio State University in the fall to study biomedical engineering. Meade will study materials science and engineering at NC State University in the fall.

Valedictorian of the St. Charles High School Class of 2018 is Kade Pruitt of Waldorf. Hunter Donn of Hughesville is class salutatorian. Pruitt will attend Texas A&M University in the fall and plans to study mechanical engineering. Donn heads to the University of Maryland College Park in the fall and will major in mechanical engineering.

Thomas Stone High School's valedictorian is Semaj Rascoe of Waldorf. Class salutatorian is Skyler Wells of Waldorf. Rascoe plans to study finance at Loyola University Maryland. Wells heads to York College of Pennsylvania in the fall and plans to study nursing.

Jazmine Valentine of White Plains is the valedictorian for Westlake High School's Class of 2018. Salutatorian is Margarita Santos of Waldorf. Valentine will attend

Hood College in the fall and plans to major in psychology. Santos heads to Mount St. Mary's University in the fall and plans to study Biology.

**2018 graduation numbers by school** (scholarship numbers may increase as offers are received)

- **Henry E. Lackey High School**  
Total graduates: 214  
Scholarship offers: \$12,713,138
- **La Plata High School**  
Total graduates: 285  
Scholarship offers: \$13,905,765
- **Maurice J. McDonough High School**  
Total graduates: 222  
Scholarship offers: \$9,654,212
- **North Point High School**  
Total graduates: 448  
Scholarship offers: \$37,857,312
- **St. Charles High School**  
Total graduates: 330  
Scholarship offers: \$21,402,231
- **Thomas Stone High School**  
Total graduates: 260  
Scholarship offers: \$10,055,503
- **Westlake High School**  
Total graduates: 312  
Scholarship offers: \$15,935,587
- **Charles County Public Schools Totals**  
Total graduates: 2,071  
Scholarship offers: \$121,523,748.

# Educators honored at SECAC annual staff appreciation awards

Teachers, instructional assistants (IA) and others who make a difference in the lives of special education students and their families were honored May 16 at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Staff Appreciation Awards given by the Charles County Special Education Advisory Committee (SECAC).

Awards were given in the categories of elementary, middle and high school teams; elementary, middle and high school individual educators; related services personnel and support service workers. Parents, families and students nominated the recipients, writing letters of support, detailing how educators have helped students — and by extension — the child’s family and community.

“It is such a great feeling to know that your child is in great hands, and is loved while safely at school, rather than to feel that he is just another number,” wrote parent Chris Bikowski on behalf of his family in nominating the William A. Diggs Elementary School team of fifth-grade teacher Natalie Wagner, special education IA Rebecca Bursheim-LaFontant and Jordan Hess, a special education teacher. “In this time in our country where teachers haven’t been shown the proper appreciation they deserve; we would like to show our gratitude for these three teachers who have provided such exceptional care to our son,” Bikowski said.

Paul Little, the father of a Milton M. Somers Middle School student, credited the team of Pamela Jenkins, a pupil personnel worker, Kathleen Burke, a compliance facilitator, and Karen Attick, the school counselor, with helping his daughter. “Without question, this team has gone above and beyond the call of duty to shepherd her down the path of recovery,” Little wrote in nomination materials. “I don’t know where she or I would be today without their help. This team may have saved her life.” He isn’t the only one who noticed the Somers’ team work. A doctor told Little, “I have never seen a school system in Maryland or Virginia try this hard,” he wrote.

Some educators all but become members of a student’s family.

Brandi Goldring, the mother of six children, said she was used to getting phone calls at work about her son’s behavior. The phone calls stressed her out and turned her day upside down. Once Mary B. Neal Elementary School special education teacher Shanita Watson entered the picture, things changed. The number of phone calls didn’t lessen, but they became less stressful. “To know that I can trust Ms. Watson with my child, and that he trusts her as well, means so much,” Goldring said. “I want to simply thank her for being a teacher who has become part of my family.”

Parents aren’t the only ones who recognize the impact teachers and others have on the lives of their children. Students understand it, too.

Gerik Babiarz, a freshman at St. Charles High School, honored his theater arts teacher Timothy LaBelle. Babiarz credits LaBelle with helping him become more sociable. “Last year I had three friends, now I have too many to count,” Babiarz said. He thanked LaBelle for helping him with communication skills. “He helps me understand when someone is joking or when they’re upset,” he said. “And the hardest of them all — sarcasm.”

Lydell Vines, a former Maurice J. McDonough High School student now at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, hailed Monique Robinson Poole, the center’s job coordinator, as someone who believes in him — a belief that goes a long way. “It’s amazing that she looks at me as a human, not like a nobody,” Vines wrote. He will be the first person in his family to graduate high school, an accomplishment he thanks

Poole for. It’s she who helped him set goals and strive for his diploma. “She has a great heart toward myself and others,” Vines said. “I wish I could do more than write this letter.”

Other teachers are credited with giving their students the boost of confidence they need when life gets overwhelming. The Davis family nominated Nicholas Gardiner, a fifth-grade teacher at Berry Elementary School, for guiding their son after he received a life-altering medical diagnosis.

After Gardiner spoke with the Davises, he “had a heart-to-heart with our son, speaking of how he’s a leader and recognizes those leadership qualities within him,” the nomination read. “His talk not only motivated our son, but resonated so much with him he began to cry. Not from sadness, but from hearing someone else say they believe in him.”

The SECAC received more than 100 nominations. The winners are:  
**Elementary school team** — William A. Diggs Elementary School  
 Natalie Wagner, fifth-grade teacher; Rebecca Bursheim-LaFontant, special education IA; and Jordan Hess, special education teacher.

**Middle school team** — Milton M. Somers Middle School  
 Pamela Jenkins, pupil personnel worker; Kathleen Burke, compliance facilitator; and Karen Attick, school counselor.

**High school team** — North Point High School  
 David Mitchell, special education teacher; Maryann Krayer, psychologist; and Albert Coleman, long-term substitute.

**Elementary school individual** — tie  
 Nicholas Gardiner, fifth-grade teacher, Berry Elementary School; and Shanita Watson, special education teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

**Middle school individual**  
 Katherine Fitzpatrick, special education teacher, Benjamin Stodert Middle School.

**High school individual** — tie  
 Nancy Anderson, special education teacher, North Point; and Timothy LaBelle, theater arts teacher, St. Charles High School.

**Related services**  
 Monique Robinson Poole, job placement coordinator, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

**Support services**  
 Jim Thorne, driver of Bus 332, Dr. James Craik Elementary School.

The Charles County Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee will meet 6:30 p.m. Sept. 18 at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center at 5998 Radio Station Road in La Plata. The group doesn’t meet in June, July, August, or December.

For more information about the group, go to <https://charlescounty-secac.com/>.



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301-932-6610  
301-934-7220  
Fax: 301-932-6651

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Shelley Mackey  
Sara K. Taylor

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## Board of Education's June 12 meeting agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, June 12 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. .

**Executive session** – 12 p.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Henry E. Lackey High School

**Swearing-in of new Student Board member**

**Recognition of student state winners; CCPS plaque award from Unified Sports**

**Contract signings with Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)**

**Superintendent's update**

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees update
- Student board member's update
- Revisit block schedule
- Pre- and post-test results
- Project status update
- Bus contract report
- Communications update

- Policy 3000 series committee update

- Be the Difference committee update

- Goals committee update

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future**

**agenda items**

- FY2019 Out-of-county tuition rates

- Daily/hourly wage rates

- Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

• Resolution: *Washington Post* Principal of the Year Awards program, Kathy Morgan, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary

- Outstanding Vice Principal Award

- *Washington Post* Teacher of the Year program

- Maryland Teacher of the Year

- Outstanding Support Staff Awards

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes

- Personnel

- Policy 4000

- Educational Facilities Master Plan

- Operating Budget

**Adjournment**

**Executive Session**



## Personnel

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

**Art Teacher** — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Drama Teacher** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Family and Consumer Science Teacher** — location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**French Teacher** — location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Geometry Teacher** — Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Language Arts Teacher** — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Language Arts Teacher** — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Language Arts Teacher** — Mattawoman

Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Language Arts Teacher** — General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Math Teacher** — La Plata High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Math Teacher** — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Seventh-Grade Math Teacher** — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Special Education Teacher** — La Plata High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 29.

**Math Teacher** — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 30.

**Physical Education Teacher** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 30.

**Physical Education Teacher** — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 30.

**Social Studies Teacher** — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by June 30.

**Spanish Teacher** — Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 3.

**Special Education Teacher** — Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 30.

**Special Education Teacher** — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. Apply by June 30.

**French Teacher** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 3.

**Math Teacher** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. Apply by July 3.

**ROTC Instructor** — La Plata High School, 11-month position. Apply by July 3.

**ROTC Instructor** — Westlake High School, 11-month position. Apply by July 3.

**New Teacher Coach** — location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 3.