



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

End of school year dates

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.

Get SMART(er)

Professional development opportunities are coming up to learn more about SMART Boards. Getting Started with SMART is 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. May 14 at Mary B. Neal Elementary School. Learn how the SMART Board interactive whiteboard works and get information on basic functions of the equipment. From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. May 15 at Neal, learn about integrating SMART into the classroom with a session about how to use the board in class. The stipend is \$50 for each session. Go to <http://www.ccboe.com/index.php/staff-development> to learn more.

Class of 2018 graduates

Graduations for the Class of 2018 begin in May. North Point High School is graduating 7 p.m. Friday, May 31. On June 1, Westlake High School graduates at 9 a.m.; Henry E. Lackey High School's ceremony is 2 p.m.; and Maurice J. McDonough High School graduates at 7 p.m. St. Charles High School will graduate at 9 a.m. June 2; Thomas Stone High School graduates at 2 p.m.; and La Plata High School's ceremony is at 7 p.m.

All graduations will take place at the Charles County Convocation Center at North Point High School.



Just a drill

La Plata High School held an emergency drill last month. At the suggestion of high school students, the drill was held at a time that is not usually designated for emergency drills. Drills are held to prepare students and staff to follow protocol in case of an emergency during the school day. La Plata Principal Douglass Dolan foresees holding more drills during class changes or lunch to keep students and staff aware of procedures in the event of an emergency.

Hopkins named CCPS 2018 Teacher of the Year

If you don't love Shakespeare, then you have never been a student in Lynn Hopkins' language arts class. The longtime Milton M. Somers Middle School teacher has a knack for turning what some say is hard-to-read content into stories that students grow to love.

For Hopkins, this is an easy feat because she loves what she teaches. "Working with people was my life 'calling' in the sense of sharing something I love with those around me, like the love of literature and writing," Hopkins said of her choice to become a teacher.

Not only does Hopkins share her passion for teaching and literature with her classes; her passion for education is visible in all that

she does.

She exudes kindness, compassion and a commitment to help her students reach their highest potential.

For these reasons and more, Hopkins was named the Charles County Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year.

Although Hopkins knew she was an award finalist, she had no idea she was selected for the honor until school staff arranged a special ceremony to surprise her with the news.

Somers Principal Carrie Akins arranged for several of Hopkins' students to help in the surprise. Hopkins said she was shocked by the news.

"I had absolutely no idea. Ms. Akins did

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members recognized by the Board of Education at its April meeting. From left are Ashley Lyles, an instructional assistant (IA) with the SOAR program at J.C. Parks Elementary School; Tiyata Winters, administrative intern at Mattawoman Middle School; and Debra Coates, a kindergarten IA at Malcolm Elementary School.

Volunteer for Project Grad

High school graduations are fast approaching, and the party planned for after will be epic — but only with the help of volunteers. Project Graduation will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. May 31, June 1 and 2 at the PE building on the La Plata campus of the College of Southern Maryland. If you have a donation of a raffle prize, money or time, contact Jennifer Conte at 301-934-7335 or jconte@ccboe.com.

Sign up for summer camp

Registration is open for Charles County Public Schools Summer Enrichment camps. 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. Camps are offered in the mornings from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. 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>.

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, hot dogs, hamburgers and sides, and 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.team-eacc.org and click on the registration tab.



Lynn Hopkins, right, a language arts teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School, talks with sixth grader Kyra Shafer during class. Hopkins was named the Charles County Public Schools 2018 Teacher of the Year.

Hopkins

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such a beautiful job keeping the announcement secret until the big reveal, and I have to admit — having my students be a part of it was overwhelming and wonderful. I wouldn't want it any other way. It's always about them and this award goes to my students just as much as it does to me," Hopkins said.

Somers sixth grader Kyra Shafer helped to surprise her language arts teacher with the news and said Hopkins is the type of teacher who stands out. "She was in shock and started to cry. She is such an amazing teacher. If you are having a bad day and then walk in to Mrs. Hopkins class, it immediately changes to a positive day. She 110 percent deserves the Teacher of the Year award," Shafer said.

In a recent lesson, Hopkins asked her students to develop Shakespearean "insults" to share with their classmates.

Students lined up, faced a partner and traded their insults using words commonly found in Shakespearean works, such as frothy, dizzy eyed and haggard. The class erupted in laughter while sharing their insults, which Hopkins told her students is an important part of the learning process for understanding literature.

"This gives you a chance to learn the language, how you can present words with emotion and shows you that the way you

speak — the diction — can have an effect on others," Hopkins said to her class.

The way Hopkins presents content and how she speaks to her students has a positive impact on them, which in turn pushes them to grasp class lessons and take ownership in their learning. Her students are confident learners who eagerly await her class. Hopkins goes out of her way to make sure her students know that they matter and are supported.

Sixth grader Evan Adams enjoys Hopkins' class because he said she makes learning fun and incorporates content for students with different learning needs. "She makes class interactive. She introduces things, like Shakespeare, in a fun way. We learn in lots of different ways, which helps to keep us focused," Adams said.

One of fun ways in which Hopkins approaches teaching is through the occasional use of an alter ego, "Lady Hipkins," who hails from Shakespearean times.

Hopkins turns on the alter ego to engage students in learning about diction and literature. Lady Hipkins challenges her students to use higher-level thinking and questioning skills and to work together during fun and engaging classroom activities. To read more about Hopkins, go to <http://www.ccboe.com/pr/lynn-hopkins-named-ccps-teacher-of-the-year/>.

Board approves administrative appointments, transfers

Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill today announced administrative, principal and vice principal changes for the 2018-19 school year. All appointments are effective July 1.

Elementary school principal changes are:

- Brian King, vice principal at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, as principal at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.
- Ben Harrington, vice principal at Dr. James Craik Elementary School, as principal at Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Lou D'Ambrosio, principal of Middleton, as principal of Berry Elementary School.
- Shane Blanford, vice principal at Mary H. Matula Elementary School, to principal at Indian Head Elementary School.
- Mary Finneran, vice principal at Mary B. Neal Elementary School, to principal at Malcolm Elementary School. She replaces longtime Malcolm Principal Wilhelmina Pugh, who is retiring at the end of this school year.
- Karen Lewis, vice principal at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, to principal at Dr. Brown.
- Sabrina Robinson-Taylor, current principal at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, will serve as principal at Billingsley Elementary School when the school opens at the start of the 2019-20 school year. Her position with Billingsley begins on Jan. 2, 2019.
- Nicholas Adam, a current vice principal at William A. Diggs Elementary School, will serve as principal at Mitchell starting Jan. 2, 2019.

Middle school changes

Current Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Principals Benjamin Kohlhorst, Sandra Taylor and Christienne Warren are moving from their current elementary school to the middle-school level.

- Kohlhorst, principal of Barnhart, moves to John Hanson Middle School. He replaces Susan McCormick, who is retiring at the end of this school year.
- Taylor is leaving Berry to take over as principal at Milton M. Somers Middle School.
- Warren is leaving Dr. Brown to become principal at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, which operated with an interim principal during the past school year.
- Brenda Tillotson, vice principal at Hanson, moves to principal at General Smallwood Middle School.

High school change

The Board approved one high school principal change:

- Diane Roberts, vice principal at Thomas Stone High School, to principal at Westlake High School.

Administrative appointments

- Carrie Akins, principal of Somers, will be an instructional specialist for Career and Technology Education (CTE).
- Smallwood Principal Kathy Kiessling has accepted a position as the CCPS Director of Student Services. Kiessling replaces Dr. Patricia Vaira, who will retire at the end of the school year.
- Michael Meiser, principal of Westlake, has accepted the position as the director of the Lifelong Learning Center (LLC). Meiser replaces longtime LLC coordinator Elizabeth Sinnes, who will retire at the end of this school year.

The Board approved the following new vice principal appointments:

Elementary-school level

- Diedra Barnett, reading resource teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, as vice principal at J.P. Ryon Elementary

School;

- Jason Peer, school counselor at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, to vice principal at Eva Turner Elementary School;
- Jennifer Posey, fifth-grade teacher at Gale-Bailey, to vice principal at Matula;
- Timothy Rosin, principal at Indian Head to vice principal of Gale-Bailey;
- Ashley Valenzuela-Carrington, first-grade teacher at T.C. Martin Elementary School, to vice principal at Mitchell; and
- Candice Vallandingham-Adam, instructional resource teacher at Middleton, to vice principal at Neal.

Middle-school level

- Ethel Hosendorf, administrative intern at North Point High School, to vice principal at Hanson;
- Portia Parker, administrative intern at Stoddert, to vice principal at Stoddert;
- Keisha Rock, new to CCPS, vice principal at Davis; and
- Anthony Sgro, science teacher at Mattawoman Middle School, to vice principal at Somers.

High-school level

- Sonja Djossou, administrative assistant at Davis, to vice principal at Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Corey Dobbins, administrative assistant at North Point, to vice principal at North Point; and
- Darnell Lewis-Russell, administrative assistant at Stone, to vice principal at Henry E. Lackey High School.

The following vice principal transfers were made:

Elementary-school level

- Jason Deihl, vice principal at Turner to vice principal at Craik;
- Scott Hangey, vice principal at Gale-Bailey to vice principal at Ryon;
- Keri Loyd, vice principal at Somers to vice principal at William B. Wade Elementary School;
- Jean Ritter, vice principal at Indian Head to vice principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Joseph Rubilotta, vice principal at Wade to vice principal at Indian Head;
- Erica Watson, vice principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy to vice principal at J.C. Parks Elementary School; and
- Todd Wonderling, vice principal at Mitchell to vice principal at Dr. Brown.

Middle-school level

- Robert Baker, vice principal at Somers to vice principal at Mattawoman Middle School;
- J.T. Hanley, vice principal at Mattawoman to vice principal at Stoddert;
- Kevin Reisinger, vice principal at McDonough to vice principal at Davis; and
- Erica Williams, vice principal at Stoddert to vice principal at Somers.

High-school level

- Jason Mackey, vice principal at Lackey to vice principal at St. Charles High School; and
- Melissa Miesowitz, vice principal at St. Charles to vice principal at Stone.

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*PR
Liaisons
in
Focus*



Brusha-brusha

The Tooth Fairy — Rebecca Newkirk — visited Mary B. Neal Elementary School prekindergarten and kindergarten students to teach them about the importance of good oral health.

Submitted by Katrina Garvey, Neal's PR liaison.

Water works

General Smallwood Middle School teachers Britany Johnson and Stephen Skiscim recently took their seventh-grade students on a field trip. The students learned how the water quality in the Chesapeake Bay is determined based on the macroinvertebrate species that live in the water.

Submitted by Michelle Mandley, Smallwood's PR liaison.



Personnel

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

Job Openings

Food Nutritional Service Training/Development Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Assists in development and planning of menus and responsible for the culinary training throughout the county. Associate's degree in culinary arts with minimum of five years of experience preferred. Apply by May 15.

Building Service Worker — General Smallwood Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. A willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency is required. Apply by May 21.

French Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Applicants must

have a bachelor's degree and meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Other experience as established by Maryland Law and Board of Education policy is required along with knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methods. Apply by June 29.

Language Arts Teacher — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required and applicants must meet certification requirements established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methods are required. Apply by June 29.

English Teacher — La Plata High School, 10-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Other experience as established by Maryland Law

and Board of Education policy is required along with knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies. Apply by June 30.

Technology Education Teacher — locations to be determined, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree and meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education is required. Other experience as established by Maryland Law and Board of Education policy, and knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies is required. Apply by Sept. 30.

ESOL Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree and meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Other experience as established by Maryland Law and Board of Education policy is required along with knowledge of subject matter. Apply by Sept. 30.