



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Students have a day off

Schools will be closed for students Friday, Sept. 15, 2017. The Charles County Fair will run from Sept. 14 to 17 at the fairgrounds at 8440 Fairgrounds Road in La Plata. Charles County Public Schools has plenty of activities and programs at the fair. At the school building, there will be coding and STEM activities, a scavenger hunt, rock painting and fidget spinner making. Student art work will be on display and schools will hold robotics demonstrations noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 15.

Go to college

The 20th annual College Fair of Charles County is Monday, Sept. 18 at North Point High School. High school students will be able to visit during the day between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The fair is open to families and the public from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday. Two financial aid workshops will be held — one at 6:15 p.m. and the other at 7:15 p.m. Representatives of more than 140 colleges are attending.

Check this out

Registration for the Charles County Public Schools annual fall chess tournament, set for 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 21 at Thomas Stone High School, is now open for students. The tournament features a four round Swiss Style format. Students compete in five divisions of play, depending on their grade level of enrollment: kindergarten through second grade, grades 3-4, grades 5-6, grades 7-8 and grades 9-12. The tournament is for students in grades kindergarten through 12. Interested participants must register online at <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/ccps-2017-fall-chess-tournament/> by Wednesday, Oct. 18. Walk-in registrations will not be accepted. For more information, contact Ann Taylor at ataylor@ccboe.com or 301-934-7378.



Welcome back

The school year kicked off Sept. 5. Clockwise from top right, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School eighth graders Tyne Kidd, left, and Mahi Shah are happy to reconnect with friends on the first day of school. Henry E. Lackey High School Principal Kathy Perriello, right, helps freshman Chris Moore find his classroom. Second grader Sarah Roszell, left, and first grader Jamie Ollom, walk into Malcolm Elementary School. Indian Head Elementary School students show off their interests via backpacks. John Hanson Middle School eighth grader Taya Eastman talks with Vice Principal Philip Genua. Westlake High School students pick up lunch. Eva Turner Elementary School Principal Ingrid Williams-Horton greets Zion Whitaker, a second grader.



Social media Rule revised, applies to all CCPS employees

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has guidelines for acceptable employee use of social media and electronic communication methods. Superintendent's Rule 1111 includes the guidelines and was recently updated to include all electronic communication methods.

The Rule, which applies to all CCPS employees, defines electronic communication and social media to include such tools as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat, text messages, emails, instant messaging, group messaging, chat room use and online apps used for messaging.

CCPS prohibits the use of communication between students and staff except for reasons outlined in the Rule. The information below is a summary of the Rule.

A link to the updated Rule is posted on the CCPS employee-only website, MyCCPS.

The Rule is also directly accessible at <http://bit.ly/2jo2onc>. Employees may communicate with students or groups of students through social media as long as the communication is intended for and available to the general public.

Teachers who use social media as a form of communication with students as part of their instructional program must include an explanation of the use in a class syllabus and notify school administrators of their plans to use social media in the classroom.

Administrators must approve social media use in the classroom at the start of each new school year. The classroom syllabus should include rules and expectations of acceptable language for student use on social media.

Additionally, teachers must notify parents of social media tools used in the classroom, how they are being used to communicate with students and expecta-



Social media rules have changed for the 2017-18 school year. The revisions cover all electronic communications.

tions for appropriate student behavior and language.

Teacher use of social media is optional, and parents can opt their child out of use at any time during the school year. Employees who use social media for CCPS purposes should not personally identify a student in any post, or share any personally identifiable information about a student or students on social media.

Employees should also be aware that they will be identified as working for and as a representative of CCPS and communications should be professional, appropriate and within context of the student/teacher relationship.

Social media should not be used by CCPS employees to communicate one-on-one with students. There are exceptions to this guideline outlined in the Rule.

Additionally, all online communications must be kept according to the record retentions policy and can be monitored. Employees can review the complete Rule and guidelines at the link posted on MyCCPS.

Financial aid nights set at high schools, college fair

Charles County Public Schools is hosting financial aid nights at its seven high schools next month to provide students and parents with strategies and tips on paying for college.

Staff from the College of Southern

Maryland (CSM) will present on the college fund search as well as share tips and other helpful resources about scholarships and the college planning process.

For a schedule of the upcoming financial aid nights, visit www.ccboe.com.

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are teachers at Mary H. Matula Elementary School. Pictured from left are Jennifer Cooke, a second-grade teacher; Jessica Meador, a fourth-grade teacher; and Megan Thomas, an art teacher.

Camera ready

The first day of school has come and gone, but we have the pictures. More than 200 pictures are in the Back to School photo gallery at www.ccboe.com. This year, parents sent the Communications office pictures of their children who were heading back to school and going for the first time. Using the hashtag #btsccps17, Charles County was able to wish our students a "happy new (school) year."

Fall into the science center

Fall hours have started at the James E. Richmond Science Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays with the fulldome show starting at 6:45 p.m. Exploration stations open from 6 to 7:45 p.m. The first and third Saturdays, the doors open at 9 a.m. with fulldome shows at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. and noon. Exploration stations are open at 9 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Go to www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter for more information.

Diversity is a strength

National Hispanic Heritage Month is Sept. 15 to Oct. 15. The month is designated to shine a spotlight on the Latino/a experience that is vital to America's past, present and future. The Office of Minority Achievement and Equity has a resource folder on the V Drive for educators to pull resources in order to enrich student learning from a multicultural and equitable perspective. The office would like to hear about events, projects and lessons teachers use to recognize Hispanic Heritage Month at schools. Email Kim Hairston, director of Minority Achievement and Equity, at khairston@ccboe.com for more information.

Be social

Stay connected with what's going on with Charles County Public Schools on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and search for the Charles County Board of Education.

Mattawoman MS sixth graders report to boot camp before heading to their classrooms

Middle school is a whole new ballgame.

When sixth graders walk through the doors at the beginning of the year, they're no longer the oldest kids in school, they're the new ones. Ones who didn't need a combination to get into a locker, or read a class schedule and move room-to-room several times a day.

To ease the anxiety of first-day jitters, Mattawoman Middle School held a three-day boot camp for its incoming sixth graders. Principal Sonia Jones hoped for about 100 kids, 175 signed up — more than half of the sixth grade class. The camp — held from 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 22 to 24 — went through the basics.

Opening a locker, reading a schedule, who's who on the administration team and staff, meeting the school resource officer, researching clubs and activities, and touring the school were among the activities.

On the last day of the program, students participated in a Shopping for the Future activity to help them see the connection between future success and current academic achievement. They were given Mattawoman Bucks in an amount corresponding with their grades and told to "shop" for housing with utilities, transportation, clothes, recreation and other odds and ends.

Each station had four options from luxurious to economy. Every A earned the student \$1,000, each B was rewarded with \$800, down to \$200 for any E.



Paige Todd, left, and Kayla Pratt go over their budgets while participating in Mattawoman Middle School's sixth grade boot camp.

"All of this is based on grades," said Niya Cox, counting out her Mattawoman Bucks and working on a budget. "You have to get good grades so you can get a really good job." Jones had the idea for the boot camp for a while.

Tiyata Winters, the school's administrative intern, ran with it. Teachers staffed the boot camp as volunteers. "The teachers volunteered their time just because they believe in the vision," Jones said.

Joseph Evans, an eighth grade science teacher, said being a kind face in the hallway can help ease the stress of starting at a new school as the youngest students. "They're meeting new people, you want to be a familiar



Matthew Lewis sports the T-shirt Mattawoman Middle School sixth graders wore on the last day of boot camp.

face on the first day of school," he said.

Five elementary schools feed into Mattawoman. The boot camp not only introduced the kids to the school, but to each other, Jones said. "We're covering every aspect of life as a sixth grader at Mattawoman Middle School," she said.

Charles County students, staff head back to school for the 2017-18 year

No one was "too cool for school" Sept. 5 when students reported back to classes around Charles County.

Members of Thomas Stone High School's drumline provided a soundtrack during a Welcome Back celebration at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School. Classmates who lost track of each other over summer hugged hello or exchanged intricate handshakes.

Teachers held up encouraging hand-drawn signs and posters as confetti rained down as sixth, seventh and eighth graders headed into school.

More than 26,400 students returned to school Sept. 5, seeing teachers they knew and some new faces. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) hired nearly 289 new teachers for the 2017-18 school year.

Kindergartners who attended Jumpstart to Kindergarten at Eva Turner Elementary School were familiar with their classrooms, teachers and friends on the first day.

While waiting for their classmates to finish breakfast, kindergartners grabbed a book and started leafing through them. They read to

each other or pointed out funny things about the stories they choose.

Turner students also met their new principal, Ingrid Williams-Horton, who along with members of the school staff, helped students find their classrooms and greeted them as they arrived.

CCPS's student population jumped to 26,500 when prekindergartners started school Tuesday, an increase of 110 students from last year's official Sept. 30 enrollment.

At Malcolm Elementary School, the second day was almost as exciting as the first. With some students still getting the hang of it. "Wait. Is this the school I go into," kindergartner Michael Hatcher asked art teacher Christine Chinault. "Yep, this is the school," she answered.

Members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office joined Superintendent Kimberly Hill and Principal Michael Meiser at Westlake High School early Sept. 7 to remind students to drive safely.

Students received "We Care" fliers reminding them to obey speed limits, wear seatbelts and stow phones while driving.

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

Board of Education Members
Michael Lukas, *Chairman*
Barbara S. Palko, *Vice Chairman*
Jennifer S. Abell
Mark Crawford
Victoria T. Kelly
Margaret T. Marshall
Virginia R. McGraw
Drew Carter, *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 Dr. Patricia Vaira, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Marvin L. Jones, 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.



Denver Bennett, left, a Project Lead the Way student at Maurice J. McDonough High School, explains his internship project to representatives of the Department of the U.S. Navy and Charles County Public Schools.

Students complete science and engineering internships

Seven Charles County high school students recently participated in research at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head laboratory.

The students were part of the Science and Engineering Apprenticeship Program (SEAP) which encourages students to pursue science and engineering careers.

SEAP offers students an opportunity to see research and technology used by the U.S. Department of Navy.

"This 8-week internship transforms students' views of what opportunities are available to them with the Department of the Navy [and] additionally, the abundance of opportunities within the Charles County community," Traci Chappellear, coordinator of CTE, said.

The students held a brief-out at NSWC head-

quarters on Aug. 11 for Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill and Career and Technology Education (CTE) representatives.

They presented the projects and modules they worked on during the 8-week internship.

The students who participated were Denver Bennett, a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) student at Maurice J. McDonough High School, Joshua Carson, a Cisco networking student at North Point High School, William Davis, an engineering student at North Point, Noah Kidwell, an engineering at North Point, Michael Meade, an engineering student at North Point, Nya Medley, a PLTW biomedical sciences student at Thomas Stone High School and Andrew Wright, a PLTW Pathway to Engineering student at Henry E. Lackey High School

Personnel

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

Job openings

Computer Analyst I — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. The job requires the ability to perform work in the installation, configuration, repair, maintenance, troubleshooting and security management of data communications, computer hardware and software within the school system. Applicants must have high school diploma and one to three years of technically progressive current work experience in information networks and user support. Apply by Sept. 21.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required and applicants must have experience working with children or adults who have special

needs. Apply by Sept. 22.

Building Service Worker — La Plata High School, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Good verbal communications and human relation skills are required and a willingness to work overtime as required in cases of emergency. Apply by Sept. 25.

Building Service Worker — Matthew Henson Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Apply by Sept. 25.

Food Service Substitute — 10-month position. A high school diploma is desirable or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading, record keeping and arithmetic. The position requires cooking and food handling with cashier experience preferred. Knowledge of principles of sanitation and kitchen

safety is required.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Applicants must have an interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school aged children, along with excellent human relations skills and good oral and written communication skills. Apply by Sept. 26.

Building Service Worker — Piccowaxen Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively, and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Apply by Sept. 27.

Extra pay positions

Football Assistant — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call 301-934-2944.

Head Tennis Coach — La Plata High School. Call 301-934-1100.