



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### **Labor Day closure**

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.

### **September board meeting**

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m. Sept. 13 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

### **Tri-county cohort program**

St. Mary's County Public Schools and graduate and professional studies at McDaniel College have partnered to provide a tri-county cohort program. Classes will be at schools in St. Mary's county beginning October. Eligible Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's county employees receive a discounted tuition rate and direct billing. The master's in curriculum and instruction with a leadership focus is a 34.5 credit program. Those seeking Admin 1 certification must also complete a 4-credit internship. Go to [www.mcdaniel.edu/C&I](http://www.mcdaniel.edu/C&I) for more information. McDaniel's administrator I MSDE endorsement is a 19 credit graduate certificate designed for educators already holding a master's and aspiring for careers in administration or supervision. Go to [www.mcdaniel.edu/Admin1](http://www.mcdaniel.edu/Admin1) for more information.

### **Get SMART-er**

Workshops for teachers begin this month. Some workshops are available to instructional assistants. Workshops pay a stipend of \$25 an hour for teachers, \$15 an hour for salaried IAs and \$11.85 an hour for temporary or hourly IAs. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com>. Other workshops are on the way. A SMART board refresher will be 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 20 and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 18 at Mary B. Neal Elementary School's computer lab and a Creating Your Own Interactive Content sessions will be 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 21 and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 19 both at Neal.



## The secret's out — school is back in session

Dr. James Craik Elementary School first grade teacher Shannon Durst, left, listens to her student Cambrie Bernat speak during the first day of school. Nicholas Lewis, right, also is pictured. School started on Aug. 29 with more than 26,000 students heading back to class for the 2016-17 school year. To see more pictures from the first week of school, go to Page 3.

## One-room schoolhouse to rock centennial celebration

In 1916, a teacher not only taught classes, but also swept the floor and cleaned the blackboards daily, scrubbed the floor weekly and started a fire in the room by 7 a.m. so it would be warm by the time students arrived at 8 a.m.

There were a lot of other differences between a Charles County classroom in 1916 and today. The public can learn more about the changes in education over the past century during the Board of Education's first 100-year anniversary educational presentation, "Education: Then and Now." The presentation is tonight, Sept. 2, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Port Tobacco Courthouse and One-room Schoolhouse. The actual presentation begins at 6:15 p.m., followed by breakout sessions including a trip to the Port Tobacco one-room school, discussion about

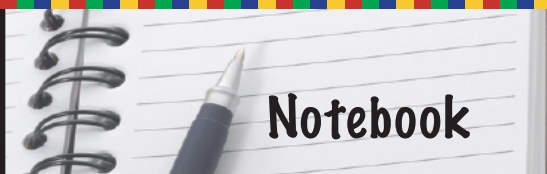
the changes in education, a hands-on lesson and more.

The Board is celebrating its 100-year anniversary and has planned three educational presentations throughout the next month.

Segregation and desegregation will be the focus of the second 100th-anniversary presentation on Friday, Sept. 16 and Saturday, Sept. 17 at the McConchie one-room school located at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Hear from teachers and students who attended segregated schools or went through desegregation — and how it impacted them. Several sessions are planned, and a schedule will be posted outside the one-room school during the Fair.

The Board will wrap up its educational series showing how the school system handles disasters — tornados, hurricanes

See 100 years, page 2



## On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees of the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center. From left are instructional assistant Rachel Wood, teacher Micah Coe and teacher Heather Mehallow.

## Guided reading workshops set

New teachers can get help with guided reading workshops that will be held in September.

The workshops are open to teachers who teach at the elementary level and in middle schools.

Workshops pay a stipend of \$25 an hour for teachers, \$15 an hour for salaried IAs and \$11.85 an hour for temporary or hourly IAs. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com>.

Guided Reading for Early and Emergent Readers for New Teachers will be 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Sept. 29 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building for first year teachers who teach Grades 1 and 2.

Guided Reading for Transitional and Fluent Readers for New Teachers will be 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. Sept. 21 at Starkey for first year teachers who teach Grades 3 to 5.

Better Prompting, Better Texts = Great Guided Reading — middle school language arts will be 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 22 and 29, and Oct. 6 and 31 at Matthew Henson Middle School at 3535 Livingston Road in Indian Head.

## Join the conversation

Stay connected with what's going on with the Charles County Board of Education on Facebook. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for the Charles County Board of Education, give the page a "like" to find out inclement weather notices, as well as information about closures, events and what's happening in schools around the county. Charles County Public Schools also is on Twitter. Follow @CCPS to see pictures of fun stuff going on in the schools, as well as breaking "need to know" information.

# Hogan signs executive order for post-Labor Day start

Gov. Larry Hogan on Wednesday signed an executive order requiring Maryland's public schools to start classes after Labor Day, beginning with the 2017-18 school year. The change will require the Board of Education of Charles County to adjust the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) 2017-18 school calendar, which it approved last spring.

The last time CCPS opened schools post-Labor Day was in 1991.

Board Chairman Virginia McGraw said she was disappointed with the governor's order, stating the development of a school calendar should be left with the local boards of education.

"The establishment of a school calendar is a local decision that includes input from stakeholders, including students, parents and staff. We believe that local boards of education should have autonomy over their school calendar. Our Board has established a calendar development process that includes a calendar survey and an opportunity for public input during Board meetings. Last year a majority of the more than 3,000

people who answered the CCPS calendar survey were in favor of a pre-Labor Day start date," McGraw said.

Superintendent Kimberly Hill said she believes educators should be involved in the development of school calendars. "We create a school-year calendar based on instructional needs and student priorities," she said.

Hogan's order also requires school systems to complete the state-mandated 180 student days and close schools for students by June 15. The executive order does permit school systems to apply for a waiver through the Maryland State Department of Education. The Governor cited the economic benefits of a post-Labor Day starting date, saying the additional \$74.3 million the change could generate could be reinvested in schools and toward other state priorities.

The Board of Education approves its calendar two years in advance. Based on Hogan's order, the Board will have to revise the school year 2017-18 approved calendar, which includes a start date of Aug. 28, 2017.

## 100 years

continued from page 1

and more — with a full-dome show at the James E. Richmond Science Center. See the special presentation, "When Disaster Strikes, We're Ready," at 6:30 p.m., Oct. 1.

The James E. Richmond Science Center is located inside St. Charles High School. The presentation also includes STEM activities, Science On a Sphere, weather stations and tornado models. Admission is free, but seating is limited. Reserve a seat online at [www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/RSVP-100-years](http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/RSVP-100-years).

### About the 100-year anniversary

The Board of Education of Charles County, along with Boards of Education across Maryland, was legally organized as a Public Body Corporate in 1916.

Previously, a Board of School Commissioners governed the county's schools, most of which were one-room

schoolhouses.

The first Board meeting minutes reflecting the name change were taken June 6, 1916, and signed by Superintendent of Schools Thomas M. Carpenter.

Between now and October, the Board will host a number of activities, including a three-part educational lecture series, an interactive history and event search, historic displays, and a reception recognizing the contributions of past Board members.

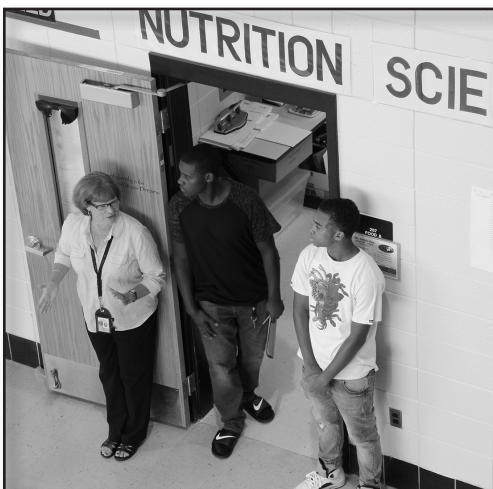
The Board is asking the public to share their stories and photos with the Board through email ([boardmail@ccboe.com](mailto:boardmail@ccboe.com)), the Charles County Board of Education Facebook page or its 100-year anniversary website at <http://www.ccboe.com/100years/>. The public also can follow the Board's centennial celebration news by following @ccps on Twitter and using #ccboe100.





## For the school system, August marks a New Year

Clockwise from top left are Malcolm Elementary School kindergartner Saniyah Arnold enjoying breakfast before class starts. Tiffany Nguyen, left, and Kennedy Thomas, eighth graders at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, line up for lunch on the second day of school. Gage Rohdert, left, and Clyde Agustin, second graders at Mary B. Neal Elementary School, escape the sun during recess by sitting under the equipment and talking. Debbie Hall, nutritional science teacher at North Point High School, chats with students Caleb Walker, a junior, and senior Amante Bell in between classes. Arthur Middleton Elementary School Principal Louis D'Ambrosio greets a parent on the first day of school.



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## Board of Education Members

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## School websites get fresh new look for the new year

Charles County Public Schools recently launched new websites for all schools. The new sites feature a school specific events calendar, photo slideshow and up-to-date news for parents, students and the school community. The new sites replace all school Edline websites and include a link to

the Edline/Grade Book portal where teachers and school staff, as well as parents and students, can log in to view their class assignments and grades. The new sites are managed by the school system's Communications Department and staff at each school.

## Slips, trips and falls, the highest leading and costliest accidents for CCPS

It's amazing what one small drip, a wet floor or one dropped pencil can lead to.

When it comes to safety, a slip, trip or fall can lead to serious injuries, lost time, costs and an overall impact to the school system, not just financially but educationally.

These hazards account for 49 percent of school accidents, ranging in severity — from minor pain to temporary or permanent disability, and even death.

Three main causes are 54 percent human factors, 25 percent wet or slippery surfaces and 16 percent housekeeping issues.

This has an average claims cost of \$47,000 and costs the school system more than a \$1 million annually. All staff members need to help prevent slips, trips and falls in their facilities.

Know where and why any slips, trips or falls commonly occur. If there is a wet floor, notify building service. If you need a ladder, ask for one.

Don't use a chair. If you see a carpet out of place or a tripping hazard, fix it or report it. Slips, trips and fall account for nine million emergency rooms visits annually. One in six account for lost time away from work.

## Direct deposit for payroll payments

Employees are encouraged to sign up for direct deposit to ensure receipt of pay on payday. At the initial setup of the bank account information or if an employee changes bank account information, they will receive one regular paycheck while the new account information is being verified by the bank.

Employees can switch to direct deposit at any time during the year. Forms are in the Payroll department at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building online at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). Go to the Staff tab, click forms and search for "direct deposit."

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**Financial Secretary** — Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma and be able to type accurately. Knowledge of efficient office practices and procedures, ability to react effectively to various simultaneous inquiries and a capacity to work with pupils, teachers, parents, administrative personnel and school visitors in a manner conducive to good working relationship is required. Apply by Sept. 6.

**Special Education Secretary** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma and experience with individuals with disabilities preferred. The ability to type accurately and multi-task is a must.

Knowledge of efficient office practices/procedures and strong organizational skills are required. Apply by Sept. 7.

**Instructional Assistant** — Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Job candidates must have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school aged children and have excellent human relations skills. Good oral and written communication skills and the ability to communicate effectively with staff, students and parents is a must. Apply by Sept. 9.

**Media Instructional Assistant** — Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 10-month position. Applicants must have the capacity to perform routine clerical procedures, have excellent human relations skills and excellent organizational and communications. They must have a basic knowledge of library organization and good oral and written communication skills. Apply by Sept. 9.

**Student Data Technician** — Theodore G.

Davis Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma and an average to above average proficiency in use of keyboard type equipment. A working knowledge of computers and data processing procedures and the ability to work independently is required. The technician will Assist in the development and implementation of the master schedules at the secondary level. enter and revise computerized student data for assigned schools and maintains basic student information, registrations and withdrawals on the computer at assigned high schools. Apply by Sept. 9.

**Floor Care Specialist** — Annex 1, 12-month position. Applicants must have a minimum five years of experience in floor care and are physically capable of performing manual labor. Good verbal communications and human relation skills are required and an ability to exercise good judgment and safety in performance of work. Apply by Sept. 15.