



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### ***BEE ready to spell***

The 2017 Charles County Spelling Bee is 6 p.m. Feb. 16 at Theodore G. Davis Middle School at 2495 Davis Road in Waldorf. The Bee will be televised live at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). Student spellers will face off to see who will make it to the 90th annual Scripps National Spelling Bee held this spring at the Gaylord Hotel at National Harbor.

### ***Schools closed***

Charles County Public Schools and offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 20 for Presidents Day.

### ***Bunkyo is back***

A group of 24 teaching students studying at Bunkyo University in Japan will visit Charles County Public Schools Feb. 20 to March 2 to learn about education in the States and student teach at some schools.

### ***Winter chess tourney set***

Charles County Public Schools will hold the Winter 2017 Chess Tournament Sat., Feb. 25 at Thomas Stone High School. The event will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with games for all grade levels from kindergarten to 12th grade. Register at <https://ccpsregistration.wufoo.com/forms/ccps-2017-winter-chess-tournament/>. Registration will close on Wednesday, Feb. 22. For more information, call 301-934-7369 or 301-934-7378 or email [rlaroque@ccboe.com](mailto:rlaroque@ccboe.com) or [ataylor@ccboe.com](mailto:ataylor@ccboe.com).

### ***Retirement workshop***

A retirement income strategies workshop will be 4:30 to 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 28 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The school system is partnering with VALIC to offer an educational workshop on retirement income strategies. Participants will learn important information associated with retirement. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/2lBq8ET>.



## 100 days smarter

Time flies when you're having fun learning. Kindergartners around the county celebrated the first 100 Days of School Monday, Feb. 6. Students at Berry Elementary School, including Aliy Cypress, left, Mason Kea and Jeremiah Haden, got into the theme of the day by dressing like centurions. Other students celebrated with funny hats, artwork and learning lessons that prepare them for first grade and a lifetime of learning.

## Accountability team to present at national conference

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Office of Accountability team of Cliff Eichel, Emily Cole-Bayer, Christina Miller and Karen Peters will present "The Little District That Could: How a Mid-Size District Implemented a Balanced Assessment System" at the National Conference on Student Assessment in June. The conference is organized annually by the Council of Chief State School Officers and presenters must submit presentation topics months in advance. A limited number of presentations are accepted for inclusion at the conference.

At the conference set for June 28-30 in Austin, Texas, the Office of Accountability team will present to more than 1,000 attendees. This is the first time the team will present at the national level. All four staff members

manage school system presentations and professional development sessions, as well as present at the state level. The presentation will feature how CCPS manages assessments to better support teaching and learning.

Eichel is the Director of Accountability and oversees assessments for CCPS. He has worked in the area of research and assessment for more than 20 years. In her role as Coordinator of Formative Assessment, Miller provides professional development sessions for teachers and school administrators to provide ideas and training for use in the classroom with students. Peters is the Coordinator of Testing and oversees interim and accountability assessments. Cole-Bayer is the Coordinator of Evaluation and manages the assessment evaluation piece to ensure

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## Accountability

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teachers have the tools and knowledge to determine where gaps in student learning occur.

The presentation will feature the school system's implementation of a balanced approach to assessments and its goal to change the way community stakeholders view testing. The CCPS assessment system uses benchmarks, classroom formative assessment and summative assessments to measure instruction and student performance. Examples of formative assessment in the classroom ranges from discussions, small group lessons and learning games to homework problems, warm-up activities and use of Smart Boards for question and answer sessions. Formative assessment helps teachers in the ongoing process of analyzing a student's understanding of content or a subject, and determining areas where lessons can be focused to allow students to better grasp the curriculum.

Summative assessments are those that measure comprehension over a longer period, such as at the end of a unit. Summative assessments help teachers determine a student's final grade at the end of a marking period, quarter and school year. Examples of summative assessments range from graded homework assignments, tests and quizzes to reports, essay submissions and class projects.

Teachers use both summative and for-

mative assessments to determine how well a student is doing in class.

New this school year to CCPS is the District Committee on Assessment that includes teachers, school administrators and parents. The committee meets monthly and is working to review Maryland's use of assessment and testing in public schools. The committee is also discussing recommendations for monitoring, evaluating and communicating the school system's assessment programs.

"Our biggest challenge is defining assessment for our stakeholders," Miller said. "Often times when people hear assessment, they think of a paper/pencil or computerized, multiple choice assessment. Our goal is to build capacity with our stakeholders so they understand the different types of assessments we use — mainly formative assessment."

To assist with better using a balanced approach to assessments, CCPS also participates in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Formative Assessment for Maryland Educators (FAME) program. The focal point of the yearlong program is to provide teachers with additional tools and strategies to use in the classroom to enhance student learning and comprehension.



Eichel



Cole-Bayer



Miller



Peters

## Deadline nears for Teacher of the Year nominations

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeking nominations for the school system's Maryland 2017-18 Teacher of the Year candidate.

The nominated teacher must be a classroom, resource or media teacher

who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and has a minimum of five years teaching experience. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 24.

For information, go to <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/teacheroftheyear.php>.

## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees who work at Milton M. Somers Middle School. Pictured from left are Colleen Longhi, secretary; Melissa Williams, physical education teacher; and Antonio Waugh, building service worker.

### Meet McDaniel

McDaniel College will hold information and advising days in March. Learn more about master's in administration or the Admin I Certification track and the master's in curriculum and instruction. Representatives will be on McDaniel's Carroll County campus 4 to 5 p.m. Monday, March 6 in Merritt Hall 237. A Calvert County session will be 4 to 5 p.m. Thursday, March 16 at the Calvert County Board of Education in Prince Frederick. Apply online at [www.mcdaniel.edu/gradapply](http://www.mcdaniel.edu/gradapply).

### Center sets open house

Southern Maryland Higher Education Center will hold an open house 4 to 7 p.m. April 5 at 44219 Airport Road in California. Learn about doctorates, bachelor's completion and master's degrees. For more information, call 301-737-2500, go to [www.smhec.org](http://www.smhec.org) or email [admin@smhec.org](mailto:admin@smhec.org).

### Learn about master's program

Towson University in Southern Maryland is offering a master's degree in early childhood education starting later this year. The 33-credit program is completed in three to four years and is designed to increase competence in a current career role or to prepare the degree candidate for a future professional role; it is not an initial teaching certification program. Email [azumpano@towson.edu](mailto:azumpano@towson.edu).

### Follow along

To keep on top of the latest CCPS news, including information about closings and delays due to weather, follow us on Twitter at @CCPS. We're also on Facebook — search for Charles County Board of Education.

## Somers math teacher selected for Space Foundation liaison program

Milton M. Somers Middle School teacher David Wood developed a love for space, science and math at a young age.

"I was always into space and math as a kid. I liked to use math and science to figure out connections and how things worked," he said.

Fast forward to 2017 and Wood is in his ninth year teaching Algebra to seventh- and eighth-grade students at Somers.

He serves as the math department chair and enjoys tying space and science into his lessons for students to help them visualize and learn real-world applications.

To further his passion for math and science, Wood recently applied to the Space Foundation's Flight of Teacher liaison program.

He was the only Maryland teacher selected for the 2017 program and one of only 28 teachers chosen nationwide.

Wood said he was ecstatic when he learned he was chosen for the program. "The experience of being selected is surreal. I get to go to Colorado, and learn from leaders in space such as Neil deGrasse Tyson," Wood added.

The Space Foundation is a nonprofit organization based in Colorado Springs that supports space activities, space professionals and education.

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has maintained a partnership with the Space Foundation for the past 11 years that includes summer professional development opportunities for teachers in all subject areas, co-teaching in the classroom with Space Foundation specialists and Educational Exchange events in which guests from organizations such as NASA and the Federal Aviation Administration serve as guest speakers.

Through the partnership, the Space Foundation helped CCPS expand its Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

curriculum.

As a teacher liaison, Wood will attend the Space Foundation's annual Space Symposium planned for April 3-6 in Colorado Springs. Wood, along with the other 27 new program liaisons, will be formally recognized at the event. Teacher liaisons also serve as a link between the Space Foundation, NASA, their school and their school system.

The teacher liaison program was launched by the Space Foundation in 2002 and more than 30 CCPS teachers have participated.

Wood was chosen for the program by a panel comprised of experienced teacher liaisons, and representatives from the U.S. Air Force Academy and space industry. The program is funded by Lockheed Martin.

Wood started his career with CCPS in 2008 as a math teacher at Somers. Last year, CCPS and the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) recognized Wood as a 2016 Outstanding Mathematics Teacher of the Year.

During his tenure at Somers, he has sponsored the Lego Robotics club and chess team, and coached both the boys and girls track teams.

Wood helps to write curriculum, formative assessment questions and presents at school- and countywide professional development sessions. He is enrolled in the CCPS Leadership Extension Application and Development (LEAP) program, which supports teachers interested in pursuing administrative opportunities.

To learn more about the Space Foundation's teacher liaison program, visit <https://www.discoverspace.org/>.



Wood

## The school system prepares to welcome, register the Class of 2030 for kindergarten

The registration process for the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) kindergarten program begins on Tuesday, April 18 at all Charles County public elementary schools. To be eligible for kindergarten for the 2017-18 school year, students must be 5 by Sept. 1.

Kindergarten registration for in-county students is held at the individual elementary schools. To find out what elementary school an address is zoned for, use the School Locator feature on the Charles County Public Schools website at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). Call your child's zoned school of attendance to ask about registration appointments. All children entering Charles County Public Schools must have the following information:

- A physical examination by a physician or a certified practitioner (physicals must be completed between nine months prior to and six months after entering school);
- Proof of required immunizations against communicable diseases (the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 896 form showing the required immunizations is available at any school);
- The child's birth certificate or other acceptable proof of birth (passport/visa; physician's certificate; baptismal or church cer-

tification; hospital certificate; or birth registration). If the child was born in Maryland, a copy of his/her birth certificate can be purchased from the Charles County Department of Health, 301-609-6900; and

- Two proofs of domicile (residency): deed, mortgage statement/bill or settlement papers (with appropriate signatures), current signed verifiable lease or rental agreement (with signatures of both parties), current utility bill (complete with name and address), completed Verification of Domicile form accompanied by two acceptable proofs of domicile for the owner/lessee of the property, property tax bill for domicile (not assessment), current pay check with name and address, property title record, current court document (with name, date, and home address), and current government issued documents that include name, date and home address such as documentation of benefits from the Social Security Administration.

Call the department of student services at 301-934-7326 with questions about proofs of domicile. For more information about the kindergarten registration process, visit the CCPS website at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) or contact the office of early childhood education at 301-934-7360.



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## Art beats at Picco

Five Piccowaxen Middle School students were recently honored by the Maryland Art Education Association (MAEA) through its 2017 Maryland Youth Art Month Flag contest. Pictured from left are Leann Asher, Jade Petty, Makayla Metz, Lauren Anderson and Emily Moon. Their work was entered in the contest by their teacher, Gayle Kraus, back. Anderson was named the overall winner at the middle school level and the other students received honorable mentions.



## Science teachers tour NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center

More than 20 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) elementary science teachers traveled to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center Jan. 25 to tour the facility.

Teachers visited the Spacecraft Systems Development and Integration facility, which is one of the world's largest Class 10,000 cleanrooms, or sterile spaces.

The 86,000 square foot facility was used to prepare the Hubble Telescope for its four missions and is now being used for the development and building of the new James Webb Space Telescope. NASA

plans to launch the telescope next year.

Also included in the visit was a tour of the Spacecraft Testing and Integration facility, a building that contains thermal vacuums, vibration platforms and acoustic chambers.

Leigh Ann Anderson, CCPS science resource teacher for grades kindergarten through eighth, said the experience was valuable for the teachers. "This trip provided the teachers with first-hand knowledge about space exploration that will be invaluable in the classroom," Anderson said.

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**Secretary** — Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Applicants must have a high school diploma and the ability to type accurately, along with the knowledge of efficient office practices and procedures. Proficient computer literacy skills and the ability to react effectively to various simultaneous inquiries are required. Applicants need to be able to work with pupils, teachers, parents, administrative personnel and school visitors in a manner conducive to good working relationship. Apply by Feb. 17.

**Building Service Worker** — North Point High School, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. Good verbal com-

munications and human relation skills are required. Applicants need to have a willingness to work overtime in cases of emergency. Apply by Feb. 17.

**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. Good verbal communications and human relation skills are required. Applicants need to have a willingness to work overtime in cases of emergency. Apply by Feb. 21.

**Food Service Substitute** — all schools, 10-month position. High school diploma desirable or sufficient education to have basic skills in reading, record keeping and math. Cooking, food handling and cashier experience is preferred and applicants must have a demonstrated aptitude for successful performance of duties and responsibilities of the position. Apply by Feb. 28.

**Electronics Technician III** — Annex I, 12-month position. High school diploma required with a degree from an accredited technical school or college preferred. The position involves the installation, repair, overhaul, fabrication, tuning, alignment, modification, calibration and testing of electronic equipment and related devices. Candidates should have two years minimum industry installation and repair technician experience, a valid driver's license, an insurable driving record and the availability to work weekends and evenings. Position will be open until filled.

### Extra pay positions

**Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach** — North Point High School. Call 301-753-1759 to apply.

**Assistant Softball Coach** — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call 301-934-2944 to apply.

**Head Cheerleading Coach** — Henry E. Lackey High School. Call 301-743-5431.