



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

2016-17 calendar online

A draft calendar for the 2016-17 school year is posted on Inside CCPS, the employee-only section of the school system website. Log in to Inside CCPS and select the link posted on the Featured Link menu located on the right-hand side of the page. The calendar is a draft and subject to change.

Top MESA schools

Dr. James Craik Elementary and Milton M. Somers Middle schools are the 2016 overall state Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) schools in Maryland at their respective levels. Both schools earned the honors at the state-wide MESA competition held last week at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Schools earn the overall state title for earning the most points during the competition.

A MESA team from Matthew Henson Middle School earned a chance to compete at the national event next month after earning first place in the prosthetic arm challenge at the state event. Henson's team competes June 23-25 at the MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition.

Staff survey

School system leaders are interested in staff feedback about schools and centers. School-based and center-based employees received an invitation from the department of research assessment by email last week to complete a confidential survey. The survey is available until June 3.

Get your crab feast tickets

The annual Education Association of Charles County (EACC) crab feast is Friday, Aug. 26 from 3:30 to 8 p.m. at the Charles County Fairgrounds. Tickets are on sale at www.teameacc.org for \$20. Price goes up to \$30 after June 21. Attendees need to bring their school system identification badge and ticket to enter the feast.



Nice day for a parade

Maurice J. McDonough High School seniors visited Dr. James Craik Elementary and Matthew Henson Middle schools May 24 for a Parade of Success. About 30 graduating seniors, in caps and gowns, traveled to the schools to celebrate how hard work and dedication can lead to graduation. Craik and Henson students greeted the seniors with cheers, signs, high fives, hugs and balloons. Other area high school seniors will visit schools in June.

Savoy named county's History Day Teacher of the Year

Rochelle Savoy, a social studies teacher at St. Charles High School, was honored as the 2016 Charles County History Day Teacher of the Year.

Savoy has been teaching with Charles County Public Schools for the past seven years.

Prior to the opening of St. Charles last school year, Savoy spent the first part of her career at Westlake High School.

Savoy taught U.S. History at Westlake and now teaches both Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. history and U.S. history at St. Charles.

A committee at the county level selects the History Day Teacher of the Year annually.

Savoy was chosen for her support of the event, for encouraging her students to complete History Day projects and helping to secure special awards for students.

She served as the liaison this school year

with several agencies that donate awards to the regional event.

In her first year as serving as the liaison, Savoy secured 20 different awards from local agencies.

She was also instrumental in helping to plan the Charles County Public Schools History, Industry, Science and Technology (HITS) Expo held at St. Charles in March.

Maryland History Day was May 7 for middle and high school students. The event "sparks critical thinking, and helps develop skills in research and analysis, writing and public speaking," according to the Maryland Humanities Council's website. More than 465 educators participated statewide.



Rochelle Savoy



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the May 10 meeting. Pictured, from left are Joseph Greenawalt, computer resource teacher, North Point High School; Katrina Garvey, secretary to the principal, Mary B. Neal Elementary School; and Martin Margolis, physical education teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.

Learn classroom management

A classroom management workshop will be 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 20 to 22 at North Point High School at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf. The workshop is free. The course is sponsored by the Education Association of Charles County and the Maryland State Education Association. It is a new Maryland version of the I CAN DO IT! workshop which features vocabulary and instructional issues of the current educational reform movement and focuses on strategies and skills needed to manage a classroom including lesson planning, environment, student behavior and home school relationships. The registration deadline is June 2. To register, go to <http://bit.ly/1SLFtrY>. For questions or more information, email cdowling@mseane.org or mkozlowski@mseane.org with questions.

Summer's almost here

Official employee end dates have been finalized for summer. Eleven-month teachers get out on June 23, with 10.5-month teachers calling June 22 their last day and June 16 is the last day for 10-month employees. On the support side, June 28 is the last day for 11-month employees, June 21 for 10.5- and 10-month employees and 10-month instructional assistants get out on June 16. Credit will be given if an employee worked or used leave for any of the inclement weather days which were Jan. 21, 22, 25 and 26 and Feb. 16. Food service managers and assistant managers who are 10-month employees get out on June 21 and 10-month food service workers call June 16 their last day.

Social media awareness

For up-to-date information and to find out cool stuff that is going on in schools around the county, follow us on Twitter at @ccps. On Facebook, "Like" Charles County Board of Education.

Thompson, Winsett honored by student council group

As part of Charles County Public Schools focus on academic achievement and career readiness, students can participate in student council and student government activities. These activities include promoting leadership and teamwork, serving the community and are often overseen by teachers who are committed to nurturing future leaders.

Two of these committed Charles County Public Schools teachers – Gary Winsett of Thomas Stone High School and April Thompson from Milton M. Somers Middle School – were recently honored by the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) for their support of student leadership.

Winsett, a social studies teacher at Stone and advisor to the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC), was honored with the 2016 Nora Murray Unsung Hero Award. The award honors an individual selected by the MASC executive board who has gone above and beyond to promote student leadership and civic engagement. Winsett is a longtime teacher at Stone and is the CCASC regional advisor. As the CCASC advisor for the past six school years, Winsett oversees the middle and high school student leaders, student liaisons to the Board of Education and also works with student government advisors at the middle and high school levels.

Winsett was surprised with the honor April 7 during an awards banquet at the annual MASC convention. "It is a very prestigious award as it goes to someone who does a lot for the Maryland Association of Student Councils. That's why I was so honored to get it. It is a tremendous honor and was a total surprise," he said. The award was established in 2012, and named after Catherine Nora Murray, a former regional student council advisor and executive director of the MASC. Murray now oversees student council programs and works in parent and community engagement for Baltimore County Public Schools.

At the awards banquet, Thompson was named the MASC 2015-16 Maryland Middle School Advisor of the Year. She is a social studies teacher at Somers and serves as the student government associa-



April Thompson, left, and Gary Winsett were recently honored by the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

tion co-advisor at the school. She was recognized for her commitment to promote student involvement at school, as well as at regional and state levels, and for helping to inspire young leaders to become involved in student leadership activities.

Winsett wrote a letter on behalf of Thompson's nomination and referred to her enthusiasm as infectious.

"Her guidance and support are key ingredients to the success of the student leaders at Somers. She is a dedicated advisor who gives all of her energy, enthusiasm, and guidance to help shape her students into effective young leaders," Winsett wrote.

Under Thompson's guidance, Somers student leaders are active at the county level. The Somers delegation is one of the most active middle school student leader groups in CCASC activities.

Thompson encourages her students to be active leaders at school, in their communities and in statewide activities. Additionally, she is well respected among her colleagues for her role as a student government advisor and excellence in the classroom. This is the third consecutive year that a middle school student government advisor from Charles County Public Schools has received the state award. Winsett and Thompson were presented with their awards April 7 at the MASC Convention held in Ocean City.

More than 100 Charles County Public Schools students attended the convention. For more information about MASC, visit <http://mdstudentcouncils.com/>.

Telepresence robot allows students to attend class while in hospital or recovering at home

Kayla Kemp apologizes for the state of her iPad screen, the plastic splintering from being dropped. When she wakes it up, the screen shows a plain, concrete wall. "I'm in the closet," Kemp, a Westlake High School senior, said. "They come and get me when it's time for class."

It's quiet, but then after a minute or two, "I can hear people," she said, the screen on the iPad lightening as the closet door swings up and her statistics teacher Craig Heath greets her, "Hi, Kayla. Do you want to take yourself or do you want me to carry you?"

Free of the hallway closet confines, Kemp chooses to maneuver herself to the classroom.

Settled on the couch in her Waldorf living room with a stack of textbooks beside her, Kemp is waiting for Advanced Placement statistics to start.

Cahill, the robot she controls via an app on her personal iPad, allows her to roll down the school's hallway.

Students dodge out of her way, ignore her or say "Hi, Kayla" as she motors by, the base of the robot resembling a miniature Segway.

Other students, still giddy by the idea of a peer attending class via telepresence, follow her to Heath's room and take photos of the robot — an iPad, with Kemp's face on the screen, perched on an adjustable pole. "They're not even in this class," Kemp said, watching the laughing photographers turn and leave.

Kemp is piloting the robot program after a broken ankle landed her at home during the back end of her senior year; as a walker, she had no easy way to get to school everyday.

While arranging her schedule, a home and hospital instructor could be found for her other subjects, but locating a statistics tutor proved tricky.

"When students are unable to attend school, they often become disconnected with what is going on in their classes, even if they are given assignments to complete at home," said Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill. "In Charles County Public Schools we believe in the importance of relationships."

About a month ago, Hill was shown a virtual demonstration of a Double Robotics telepresence robot. The devices launched in 2012 and were originally designed to allow telecommuters and remote workers to have a physical presence in the office, said Sara Broyles, communications lead for Double Robotics.

"But its use has since expanded to education and healthcare," she said.

The California-based company has sold more than 6,000 Doubles worldwide with about 2,000 being used in schools, Broyles said.

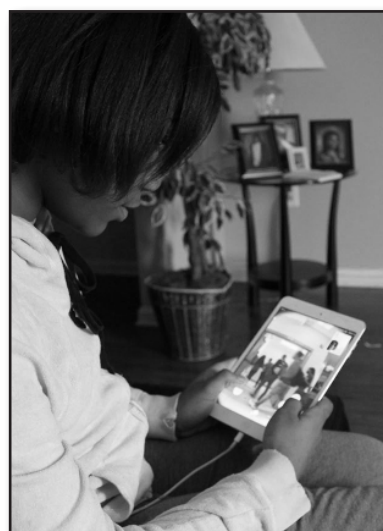
Seeing the positive implications it could have for students — especially those under home and hospital instruction — Hill said she would like Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) to test a program.

In 2015, a Poolesville elementary school used a similar robot to allow a fifth grader to attend class while undergoing treatment for cancer. Pete Cevenini, chief of instructional technology for CCPS, foresees the school system using the devices in a similar way.

So far, so good if Kemp's case proves standard. "I think it's going to be more and more common to hear about," Cevenini said. He added that although Kemp only attends one class using Cahill, other students could potentially use it to attend school all day while enrolled in home and hospital instruction.



Top, Westlake High School seniors Jasmine Andrade, left, Kayla Kemp and Efeho Suleman go over some Advanced Placement statistics work while Kemp attends class via a telepresence robot. Left, Kemp navigates the halls from her living room by using an app on her iPad.



All a student will need is a way to connect to the app through a phone, tablet or computer from their home or a hospital. Cevenini said after the robot arrived it took about two hours to get up and rolling. Getting other students used to

it took a bit longer.

"It took a couple of days for students to adjust to having the robot here," Heath said. "But after that, it's been pretty smooth."

"At first, it blew my mind," said senior Jalin Thomas. "But you get used to it." Ben Booker, a classmate of Kemp's agreed. "It was kind of surprising," he said. "We weren't expecting it."

Now classmates have no problem telling Kemp to fix her screen when they only see the top of her head. "You look like a potato," her friend Efeho Suleman joked.

Later, when Kemp is moving the robot around the table her friends have taken over among a smattering of books, papers and a lone baseball glove, Suleman admits that not everyone has the opportunity to share a textbook with a robot. "I think it's funny," she said, watching Kemp complete a three-point turn after getting stuck in a corner. "It's cool as well."

"Technology will never replace great teaching," Hill said. "But in this case, in certainly enhances our ability to meet the needs of our students."

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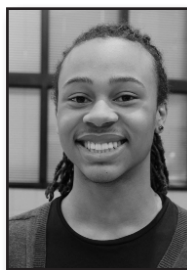
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Washington named Student Board Member for 2016-17 term

North Point High School's Da'Juon Washington is ready to tackle the role of Student Member to the Board of Education next school year. Chosen by his peers to represent their interests on the Board, Washington said he looks forward to talking about plans for students with Board members. "I want to help make a change. I would love to see plans I proposed during my campaign, and new plans, approved," he added.



Da'Juon Washington

Washington is finishing up his junior year at North Point and first year as the school's student liaison to the Board. One of two candidates for the student member position for school year 2016-17, Washington was elected to the role earlier this year at the Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) April meeting.

Each year, the top three students in the running for the position give a speech at the spring CCASC meeting and participate in a question and answer session with student delegates. Student delegates from all middle and high schools vote to elect the Student Member to the Board, as well as for the officers to represent the CCASC the following school year. In his speech to his CCASC peers, Washington talked about launching a program for students to help them find resources on handling stress. "Students need programs to help them deal with stress and issues with time management. Some stu-

dents do not realize that others have similar issues. I would love to develop discussion groups as part of the program so students can understand they are not the only ones dealing with stress," he said.

A total of 210 votes were cast during the elections in which Washington was named the new Student Member to the Board. During last week's Board of Education meeting, he shadowed Westlake junior Pearson Benson, the current student member to the Board, and will be sworn in to his new position at the Board's June 14 meeting. Washington said he looks forward to the swearing in process and the opportunity to learn from and work with Board members.

Washington is enrolled in the Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) program and several Advanced Placement (AP) classes. He is an honor roll student and plans to either study neurology or become a professor after he graduates. "I would also like to become a school superintendent or school board member someday," he added.

As the Student Board Member, Washington will work with a student liaison committee throughout the school year. Each high school is required to have a student liaison, which is selected by methods approved by the school's student government association (SGA) and principal. Liaisons will be announced next month.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Math, Social Studies, English and Special Education Teachers — Virtual Academy at Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month positions. Teachers will work 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Bachelor's degree and certification requirements established by the MSDE, advanced computer skills, interpersonal skills and ability to work with non-traditional students required. Teachers wishing to apply for a voluntary transfer must meet some requirements. Teachers will be responsible for assessing and assisting students in assigned coursework, plan and provide for appropriate learning experiences and develop, select and modify curriculum on a per student basis, as well as developing alter-

native options for students. Positions will be open until they are filled.

ESOL Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree and certification of requirements established by MSDE required, as well as knowledge of subject matter and appropriate instructional methodologies. Evidence of exemplary human relation skills, exemplary organizational and planning skills and ability to work effectively with students, parents and staff required. Job functions include planning and providing for appropriate learning experiences for children, supervising students in school-related settings and interacts with students, parents, staff and members of the community. Apply by Sept. 1.

Special Education Resource Teacher — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Advanced Professional Certificate with endorsement in Special Education or dual certification preferred and a

minimum of five years of teaching experience. Experience teaching students with disabilities with knowledge and training on best practices in working with students with disabilities, including co-teaching, differentiation and Response to Intervention preferred. Evidence of appropriate implementation of the IEP including IEP formation, monitoring of implementation and reporting of student progress.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant — openings at elementary schools, 10-month positions. Ability to work in an instructional support role with school-aged children preferred with excellent human relations skills and organizational and communication skills. High school diploma required. Associate's degree preferred. Apply by June 30.

Extra pay positions

Assistant football coach and head boys soccer coach — Maurice J. McDonough High School. Call Bradley Snow at 301-934-2944.