



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

School calendar

The 2014-15 Parent Handbook/Calendar is posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com/calendar/201415calendar.pdf. Copies of the Parent Handbook/Calendar will be available to staff during the first week that teachers report back, which is Aug. 18-22. Requests for extra copies will not be honored until mid-September.

First day of school

Welcome back to teachers and staff. Veteran teachers return to the classroom on Monday, Aug. 18. Students in grades kindergarten through 12 begin school on Monday, Aug. 25. The first day for students in the Three's program and prekindergarten is Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Labor Day holiday

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day.

EACC crab feast

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) is hosting its annual crab feast on Friday, Aug. 22 from 3:30 to 8 p.m. at the Charles County Fairgrounds in La Plata. Tickets are available for purchase on the EACC website, www.teameacc.org, and are \$30. Tickets can also be purchased at the EACC office, located at 105 Centennial St., Suite H in La Plata (cash only). Tickets must be pre-ordered and purchased by Friday, Aug. 15. Tickets will not be sold at the gate.

Attendees must also have their CCPS badge with them upon entering. Attendees may bring one guest, but must purchase a ticket for their guest. The event is for adults only. The EACC will be honoring Liz Brown, past EACC President, and Meg MacDonald, past EACC UniServ Director. Call 301-392-0150 with questions or for more information.

System celebrates Science Center at grand opening

Tuesday, July 29 was no ordinary day of teaching and learning for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). At St. Charles High School, students and teachers had an opportunity to learn from Leroy Chiao, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut who has traveled to space on four different missions. Chiao was the keynote speaker at the annual Space Foundation Educational Exchange, but was also at St. Charles for another special event – one that has



Dr. Leroy Chiao, a NASA astronaut, speaks about space walks and missions.

been a longtime coming for Charles County Public Schools. Following the Exchange, a ribbon cutting and technology preview were held for the James E. Richmond Science Center, which is located in the main entry area of St. Charles High School.

The day's events began with the Space Foundation's Educational Exchange in which

Chiao shared his thoughts about the importance of education and the impact educators can make on the dreams of their students. Chiao serves as a special advisor to the Space Foundation and said that the organization's commitment to educating children is impressive. "Education plays such an important part in anything you want to do in the future. Teachers have the ability to

really touch a child's life. Education is very important to me and is one of the things that drew me to the Space Foundation," he added.

The Science Center unveiling was coordinated in connection with the Educational Exchange, which evolved from the school

See Science Center, page 3

New teachers begin journey to "Be the Difference"

John Paine loves Mattawoman Middle School. He loves his new classroom and he cannot wait to meet his new students and start his career as a physical science teacher.

Paine is one of 200 new teachers already hired for the 2014-15 school year and who attended a three-day new teacher orientation starting Aug. 11 at North Point High School.

"You have the opportunity every single day you go to work to be the difference in the life of a child," Superintendent Kimberly Hill said during opening remarks. The superintendent told the new teachers, who arrived from around the country, that Charles County Public Schools is a family that cares about people. She reminded teachers that the school system would support them in their classroom as they embark on their new careers.

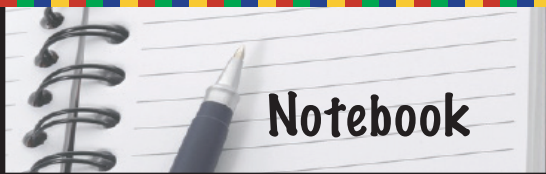
The message of the three-day orientation was "Be the Difference" and teaching and learning. Board Chairman Roberta Wise used Mary Madden's poem "Seashells" to

get her message across. The poem compares seashells to students providing the message that all children are unique, and each student in the teachers' classrooms will be unique. Wise, a former Teacher of the Year, asked teachers to keep the poem in mind as they teach and work with children. "Welcome to a great profession," Wise said.

"So far it is great. Everyone is really helpful and nice. I am looking forward to working with all these amazing people in the near future," Paine said following the orientation.

All Charles County Public Schools teachers report to work Monday, Aug. 18 to begin the new school year and to prepare for students to arrive Aug. 25. As schools prepare to open, hiring continues to fill 35 remaining vacancies, with the highest need for Spanish and special education teachers.

"I hope this year is amazing and that it is the beginning of a very long career," Paine said.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are four new Charles County Public Schools teachers. Pictured from left are Andrew Thomas, mathematics teacher, Westlake High School; Ashley Sparks, mathematics teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Michael McNeil, science teacher, La Plata High School; and Teresa Henderson, physical education teacher, Mattawoman Middle School.

Want to be in the know?

Subscribe to the CCPS press releases subscriber list to receive the latest school system information, including inclement weather and emergency closing announcements, directly to your e-mail account. Posts are delivered electronically within minutes of updates. Visit www.ccboe.com to sign up.

Now airing ...

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a show produced by the communications department. This episode features the opening of the James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School and highlights this year's Space Discovery Institute classes and Space Foundation Educational Exchange. Visit www.ccboe.com/ccboetv for a list of NewsBreak shows.

Direct deposit is available

The school system encourages employees to sign up for direct deposit for paychecks. Use of direct deposit eliminates concerns about receiving checks in a timely manner on snow days or during the summer. To sign up for direct deposit, fill out the authorization agreement which is available through the payroll department. Allow one payroll cycle for information verification. E-mail payroll@ccboe.com for more information.

24-hour information line

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656 for a recorded message.

In Memoriam Theresa O'Donovan

Theresa O'Donovan, a prekindergarten teacher at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, passed away on Aug. 13, 2014.

Ms. O'Donovan began her career with Charles County Public Schools as a kindergarten teacher at Dr. Mudd in 2007 and then moved to a prekindergarten classroom position in 2009, also at Dr. Mudd. Prior to joining the school system, she worked in the child development lab at Tennessee Technological University and as a substitute teacher at Cane Creek Elementary School in Cookeville, Tenn.

Ms. O'Donovan is a New York native and earned a Bachelor of Science in education with a concentration in early childhood and special education from Tennessee Technological University in 2007. She lived in Waldorf, and has four children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

No service information was available at the time of print.



**Theresa
O'Donovan**



National Board Certified Teachers



Erin Gartland



**National Board Certification Area
Early Science/Adolescence**

Teaches: Eighth-grade science at Milton M. Somers Middle School

Years of teaching experience: 8

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 8

Education

A bachelor's in secondary education biology with a minor in group science from Western Michigan University.

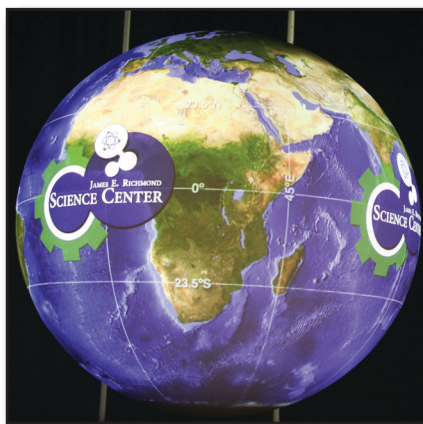
A master's in technology integration from Walden University.

Memorable Moment

My most memorable moment as a teacher was when I received the SMECO Science Teacher of the Year Award. Not because I was recognized, but because I received a binder full of letters from my students expressing how much they enjoy having me as their science teacher. These were the most honest and sincere letters. They did not have to write them; they chose to write them so that I knew how they felt, even if they don't tell me every day. Reading through them reaffirmed that teaching is what I am supposed to be doing and my students appreciate everything that I do each day in the classroom.



State Superintendent of Schools Lillian Lowery, left, attended the annual Space Foundation Educational Exchange at St. Charles High School on July 29. Pictured above with Lowery is Leroy Chiao, a NASA astronaut, center, and Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill, right. Chiao served as the event's keynote speaker.



The James E. Richmond Science Center offers hands-on activities for all CCPS students and the Charles County community. Pictured above is the Science on a Sphere, a learning tool featured at the Science Center.



St. Charles High School hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting event for the James E. Richmond Science Center on July 29. Pictured from left are Former CCPS Superintendent James Richmond; Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill; NASA Astronaut Leroy Chiao; and Iain Probert, vice president of education/discovery, Space Foundation.

Science Center

Continued from page 1

system's partnership with the Space Foundation. The eight-year partnership supports Charles County Public Schools' commitment to enhance learning experiences for students. CCPS also provides the Space Foundation Discovery Institute annually during the summer, which features classes for teachers across all curriculum areas. Through these courses, which range from astronomy and meteorology to space exploration and Mars travel, teachers can learn how to infuse space concepts and technologies into fun and exciting lessons for students.

With the opening of the Science Center this school year, additional technologies such as Science on a Sphere and the digital classroom will now be available for use by all CCPS students. The Science Center was named in honor of former longtime CCPS Superintendent James E. Richmond. During his tenure as superintendent, Richmond developed a vision about creating a "wow" factor in student learning, not only in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), but across all subject areas. His vision included the use of state-of-the-art technology and Richmond worked diligently to offer Science on a Sphere and digital classroom technology at the new high school for all students, as well as for use by the Charles County community.

Before the ribbon was cut, several guests in attendance, including Richmond, gave remarks about the long journey Charles County Public Schools experienced in providing futuristic learning opportunities for children. Richmond and his administrative team first talked about the concept of building a future center with enhanced learning opportunities for CCPS students nearly 18 years ago. During her remarks, Hill said she was excited for students to finally be able to experience enhanced technology available at the Science Center and credits Richmond as "the man behind the vision of the Science Center."

In his remarks before the ribbon cutting, Richmond said he was overwhelmed by the honor of the Science Center being named for him. "I am honored I had the chance for 47 years to help make a difference for children. We need to grow our future scientists by creating the very

best learning environment for our children. This center does that and I know Hill will continue to move the school system forward and push the envelope," he added.

Christos Michalopoulos, the deputy director for K-12 and informal education for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), said that CCPS is the first K-12 school system to install Science on a Sphere and use it for the benefit of a whole community. "Welcome to the network where we can share content and knowledge with others," he added. Science on a Sphere is a large interactive display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere. Researchers at NOAA developed Science on a Sphere as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth science to people of all ages. The digital classroom is a multi-use dome theater that uses three-dimensional graphics and surround sound.

Hill, Richmond and Chiao were joined by Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Lillian Lowery, Iain Probert, vice president of education/discovery for the Space Foundation, Charles Wineland, former CCPS assistant superintendent for supporting services and Charles County Commissioner Ken Robinson, to officially cut the ribbon. Following the ribbon cutting was the preview of the Science Center and its technology. Guests in attendance participated in a sneak preview of student lessons planned for the digital classroom, including a trip to the solar system and the experience of flying, as well as the demonstration of a real-life weather pattern during Hurricane Katrina through data projected off the Science on a Sphere.

The Science Center officially opens on Monday, Aug. 25 when St. Charles High School first opens its doors for students for the 2014-15 school year. A public event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tours of the school, including the Science Center, will be held every hour for a maximum of 180 guests at a time. Visit <http://www.ccboe.com/sciencecenter/> for more details.

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

Board of Education Members

Roberta S. Wise, Chairman
Maura H. Cook, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Patricia Bowie
Michael K. Lukas
Pamela A. Pedersen
Georgia Benson, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools

Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers

Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Mackey
Kara Gross

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 Pamela K. Murphy, 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.

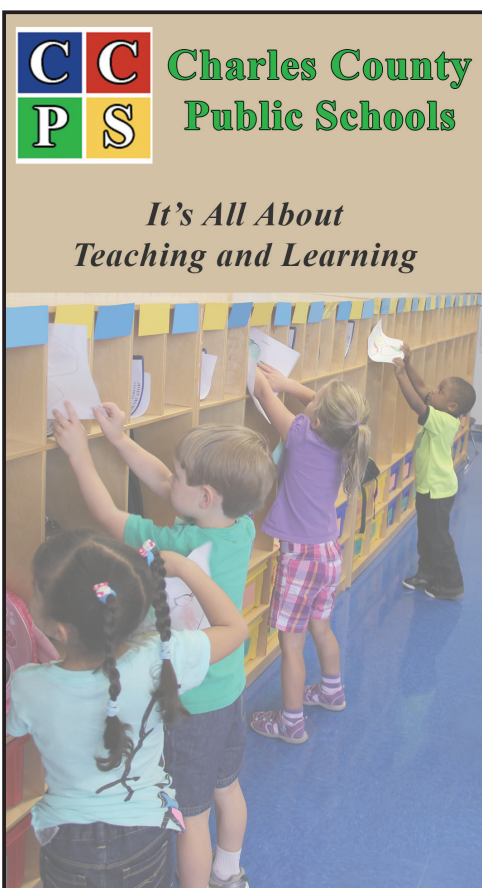
CCPS to launch BlackBoard learning app this fall

Soon, there will be a one-stop app for all of your Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) information needs. CCPS is creating CCPS On the Go, a new mobile app for the school system and schools that puts all of the important information in one, easy-to-use location. CCPS plans to launch the free app on Oct. 1.

CCPS on the Go is a free mobile school system application that brings vital school system and individual school information directly to smartphones and mobile devices. CCPS on the Go will keep parents, students and teachers connected wherever they are. Initially, the app will offer access to district/school/student grade books, calendars, meal payment program, athletics, electronic library, school news and CCPS news. In December, the school system's communications department will survey and solicit input from parents, teachers and students about what features they use, what they would like to see added and what features are not being used. Over winter break, CCPS staff plans to upgrade the app to meet the needs of its users and to reflect suggestions provided by feedback.

"We want to offer students and other members of our community the best in technology and access, and that means making Charles County Public Schools services and information available to mobile users," said Superintendent Kimberly Hill.

CCPS on the Go will be free, and available on Android and Apple iOS devices.



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboc.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a Bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Special Education Instructional Assistant – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 18.

Life Skills Instructional Assistants – Theodore G. Davis and Mattawoman middle schools, 10-month positions. Apply by Aug. 20.

High School Resource Teacher – North Point High School, 11-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certification and a minimum of five years' teaching experience required. Apply by Aug. 22.

Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 22.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Title I – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 22.
Building Service Workers – Openings at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, John Hanson and Matthew Henson middle schools and Westlake High School, 12-month positions. Apply by Aug. 22.

General Maintenance Worker I – CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 22.

Secretaries – Openings at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School and Milton M. Somers Middle School, 10.5-month positions. Apply by Aug. 25.

Media Instructional Assistant – Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 25.

Reading Recovery Teacher, Elementary School – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in early childhood education or reading, evidence of completion

of a Reading Recovery Training Program and three years' teaching experience at the primary level required. Experience working with Reading Recovery instruction preferred.

Food Service Substitute – Location to be determined, hourly position.

Mathematics Teachers – Openings at the middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.

English Teacher – Opening at the high school level, 10-month position.

Science Teachers – Openings at the middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.

Social Studies Teachers – Openings at the middle and high school levels, 10-month positions.

MCJROTC Senior Marine Instructor – St. Charles High School, 11-month position. Officer or warrant officer with a bachelor's degree and at least 20 years of active duty experience preferred. Applicants must be able to receive retirement pay upon release from active duty.