



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Prek and Three's program

Students enrolled in the Three's and pre-kindergarten programs start school on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Two-hour early dismissal

The first two-hour early dismissal of the 2014-15 school year is Thursday, Sept. 4. Morning prekindergarten students attend.

Teacher in-service day

Schools are closed for students only on Friday, Sept. 12, for a teacher in-service day. Information about specific in-service activities is posted on the CCPS website, under the staff section.

Tutor training

The Charles County Literacy Council, Inc. is hosting a one-day tutor training for interested volunteers on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost of the training is \$30 and participants must be 18 or older to register. Registration is available online at www.charlescountyliteracy.org. Deadline to register is Sept. 19. Call 301-934-6488 for more information.

Three pay dates this month

There are three pay dates this month. The only deductions taken from the third paycheck are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third paycheck in months with three pay dates. Employees can view payroll information through the employee portal. The portal can be accessed on the employee-only section of the website, InsideCCPS.

Welcome back to school students and staff

School buses are once more visible on county roads as Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) opened for the 2014-15 school year on Monday. More than 25,000 students in grades kindergarten through 12 reported back to the classroom this week, with another round of students – pre-kindergarten and Three's program children – set to arrive for their first day on Tuesday, Sept. 2. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill said she is impressed with the hard work demonstrated by staff to prepare for a new school year.

"I've been so impressed by the hard work of our staff as we have prepared for the opening of the school year. All of the preparation

has paid off in a very smooth first week of teaching and learning for our students. This is



Dr. James Craik Elementary School physical education teacher Michael Paust, left, welcomes Nevaeh Simms, right, for her first day of kindergarten on Aug. 25.

why we do what we do," Hill said. Hill also said the energy and enthusiasm that accompanies a new school year demonstrates the high hopes for students. "This optimism about what we can do to help students learn is a powerful feeling, and an awesome responsibility. We really can be the difference in the life of a child... if we choose to," she added.

The start of a new school year also brings updated programs and services for students and parents. New this year is an updated building entry system that changes how visitors, students and staff enter the facility. The

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Board wants staff, public input on facilities study

The Board of Education on Monday reviewed a comprehensive facilities report evaluating all Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) schools and providing recommendations for nearly \$600 million in renovations and new buildings over the next decade.

Last school year, the Charles County Commissioners agreed to pay for a comprehensive survey to assess the physical condition of each school building and site to determine its ability to provide students with a modern education program aligned with CCPS educational specifications. CCPS contracted GWWO Architects to compile and analyze data including school capacity, student enrollment, physical building conditions, staff survey responses, mechanical system conditions and site characteristics.

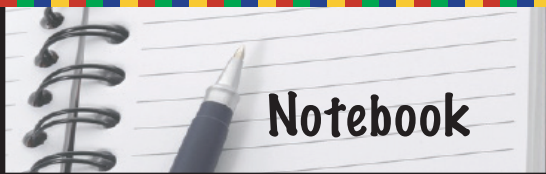
CCPS has scheduled the following sessions to present information to the public about the survey report, answer questions

and accept comments:

- Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 6 p.m., Sept. 22, in the cafeteria;
- La Plata High School, 6 p.m., Sept. 29, in the auditorium; and
- Maurice J. McDonough High School, 6 p.m., Oct. 13, in the auditorium.

Next steps, according to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of supporting services, are to analyze the GWWO report, inform the public and solicit input; discuss affordability and forecasts with county government staff; revise Capital Improvement Program (CIP) submissions at the county and state level, and work with the state on CCPS decisions on future renovations and new construction.

The draft report is posted on Board Docs at [www.boarddocs.com/mabe/ccpsmd/Board.nsf/files/9NBNWZ61FB52/\\$file/GWWO-Study-DRAFT-description%20sheets_4102014.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/mabe/ccpsmd/Board.nsf/files/9NBNWZ61FB52/$file/GWWO-Study-DRAFT-description%20sheets_4102014.pdf).



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are three staff members from Henry E. Lackey High School. Pictured from left are Nicole Clingman, social studies teacher; Chief Robert Castellano, ROTC Instructor; and Camille Calloway, special education teacher.

Now airing ...

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of NewsBreak, a show produced by the communications department. This episode features the opening of Charles County Public Schools seventh high school, St. Charles High School, introduces new school administrators and highlights the August Board of Education meeting. Visit www.ccboe.com/ccboetv for a list of NewsBreak shows. NewsBreak shows are also accessible from the home page of the CCPS website, www.ccboe.com.

CCRSP golf tournament

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association (CCRSPA) is hosting a golf tournament on Friday, Oct. 17 at Swan Point Golf Course. Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the tournament starts at 9 a.m. Cost is \$100 per person and includes continental breakfast, cart and green fees, and lunch. Prizes will be available and proceeds benefit the CCRSPA and J.P. Home. Contact Dale Cornette at idcornette@gmail.com for a registration form.

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.

Follow us on Twitter

Did you now that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on www.twitter.com/ccps or @ccps for system updates, news, facts and more. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill also maintains a Twitter page. Follow her @ccpsupt.

In Memoriam Debbie Soileau

Debbie Soileau, a special education instructional assistant in the Emotionally Adjusted (EA) program at North Point High School, passed away on Aug. 8, 2014.

Soileau began her career with Charles County Public Schools in 2005 as a substitute teacher and took a permanent special education instructional assistant position at Thomas Stone High School in 2008. She worked in the EA program at Stone for nearly five years before transferring to the EA program as an instructional assistant at North Point in 2013.

Prior to joining the school system, Soileau served as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and as a shelter associate at the Humane Society of Charles County. She also previously worked for the federal government and served on the Charles County Animal Control Board.

Soileau graduated from Potomac High School and took classes at Prince George's Community College. She lived in Bryantown with her husband, Randall, and has two sons and one daughter.

A celebration of life will be planned for a later date.



Debbie Soileau

National Board Certified Teachers



Tracie Gegan



**National Board Certification Area
Generalist/Early Childhood**

Teaches: Third-grade teacher at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School

Years of teaching experience: 20

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 20

Education

A bachelor's in early childhood education from the University of Maryland, College Park.

A master's in curriculum and instruction and administrative certificate from McDaniel College.

Memorable Moment

I have many memorable moments as a teacher, but I cherish the opportunity I had to teach three of my four children the most. I taught three of my four children, one in prekindergarten, one in kindergarten and one in first grade. I also enjoy hearing from my students after they graduate from college. Many former students return to thank me for teaching them or to remember special events or moments we shared during their early years of school.



First day of school

Charles County Public Schools welcomed students back to the classroom on Monday, Aug. 25. Pictured, from the top left: Matthew Henson Middle School seventh graders Taylor Proctor and Mikkaela Harrison are all smiles for their first day back to school; J.C. Parks Elementary School prekindergarten teacher Sharon Farri hugs kindergarten student Alana Wallace after not seeing her all summer; and Thomas Stone High School Principal Michael Meiser greets junior Ashlyn Egber as she arrives for the first day of school.

First day

Continued from page 1

system is intercom and video-based, and is programmable to match the bell schedules at each individual school. Most schools began use of the system on Monday with plans for additional schools to begin using the system later this fall.

Visitors are now required to use the intercom box to notify main office staff of their arrival to the school before staff will unlock the doors for entry. The system does not lock or unlock any interior doors in schools, including classroom doors, but controls specified access areas to the main building. CCPS is in the process of providing staff members with access badges to use during the school day when the system is active.

CCPS also expanded the grade reporting feature of Blackboard/Edline to all elementary schools this year. Elementary school teachers recently completed training on the new grading feature and elementary school parents will now be able to view their child's grades and academic progress online through Blackboard/Edline. On Oct. 1, the school system will launch a new app called CCPS On the Go that will give parents mobile access to CCPS news and information, as well as

to school specific updates and their child's Blackboard/Edline account.

The school system officially opened the county's seventh high school, St. Charles, on Monday with nearly 900 students in grades 9, 10 and 11. St. Charles is offering free tours of the school and the James E. Richmond Science Center on Saturday, Sept. 6 to provide the public a chance to see the new school. According to St. Charles Principal Richard Conley, one-hour tours will be held beginning at 12:30 p.m. Due to capacity restrictions in the digital classroom, each tour will be limited to the first 180 people arriving for each time slot. Tours will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

School resource officers at each high school helped to launch the "We Care" program today by handing out safety fliers to all student drivers. The program is a safe driving initiative for teens by teens with guidance from the Charles County Sheriff's Office and CCPS. The program continues to engage students in conversation about safe driving while promoting safety through a series of checkpoints in school parking lots and other activities.

For more back to school information, visit the CCPS website.

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Board of Education announces September 9 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system website www.ccboe.com. Select CCPS TV and then choose the Live Broadcast tab.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Westlake High School

Superintendent's update to the Board

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees update
- Student board member's update
- Opening of schools
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) update
- Report item: FY 2014 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan

Unfinished business

New business and Future agenda items

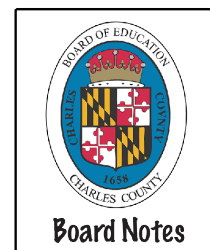
• New business

• Future agenda items

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
 - Personnel
 - FY 2015 CIP state and local CIP program
 - Policies 5161.1
 - Athletic eligibility grade-point average
 - Recurring resolutions: *American Education Week*; *American Freedom Week*; *African-American History Month*; *Career and Technology Education Month*; *Gifted and Talented Education Month*; *National School Counseling Week*; *Read Across America*; *Women's History Month*; *Fine and Performing Arts Month*; *Month of the Young Child*; *National Student Leadership Week*; *Teacher Appreciation Week*; *Administrative Professionals Week*; *Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week*; *National Physical Education and Sport Week*; *Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader*; *Charles County Teacher of the Year*; *Employees Retirement*; and *Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award*.
- ## Adjournment



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.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

Food Service Program Support Specialist

– Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A minimum of five years in food service management required. Apply by Sept. 2.

Food Service Assistant Managers – Locations to be determined, 10-month positions. Apply by Sept. 2.

Attendance Instructional Assistant – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Prekindergarten Title I Instructional Assistant – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Aquatics Pool Manager – North Point High School, 11-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Secretary – Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Student Data Accounting Clerk – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 4.

Technology Facilitator – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Building Service Manager – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 11.

Building Service Worker – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 11.

Spanish Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Automotive Mechanic Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. A minimum of five years experience with

automotive mechanic/repair required.

Business Education Teacher – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

Technology Education Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Special Education Teachers – Openings at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Extra pay positions

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following opening:

- Wrestling coach

Contact Tony Mast, athletic director, 301-753-1753, to apply.

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Head tennis coach
- Unified track coach
- Head boys' indoor track coach
- Head boys' outdoor track coach

Contact Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.