



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Interim report date change

Due to recent weather-related school closings, interim reports will now be issued to students on Wednesday, March 4.

PARCC testing begins

PARCC assessments for students in grades 3-11 begin on Monday, March 2. The school system maintains a PARCC resource page on the website at www.ccboe.com.

Science projects abound

Check out Charles County's student scientists at the annual Charles County Public Schools Science Fair, Saturday, March 7, at Maurice J. McDonough High School. Judging begins at 8 a.m. and the awards ceremony starts at 5 p.m.

Spring forward

Daylight Saving Time is Sunday, March 8. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour. The first day of spring is Friday, March 20.

Youth Art Month

Charles County Public Schools celebrates Youth Art Month in March. Student artists will be honored during a March 12 reception at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The reception starts at 5 p.m. and the awards ceremony begins at 5:30 p.m.

CCPS On the Go App

CCPS has a free mobile App that puts all school system information in one easy to use location. Staff, students and community members can download the App from the Apple or Google Play App stores. The App also provides inclement weather push notifications. Visit the CCPS website at <http://www.ccboe.com/ccpsotg/> for more information on how to download the App.



Japanese student teachers visit CCPS to teach and learn

More than 30 student teachers from Bunkyo University in Japan visited several Charles County public schools to teach students lessons about Japanese writing and history, and to learn about the American education system. Pictured above is Bunkyo University student teacher Hiroki Shimizu, left, as he works with William A. Diggs Elementary School third graders Amare Day, center, and Collin Farmer, right on a lesson about characters used to write in Japanese. Shimizu's lesson featured the three different writing styles in Japan - Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji.

Board proposes budget for next school year

The Board of Education recently passed its fiscal year 2016 budget proposal channeling funding increases to employee salaries, the addition of a senior class at St. Charles High School and new instructional programs.

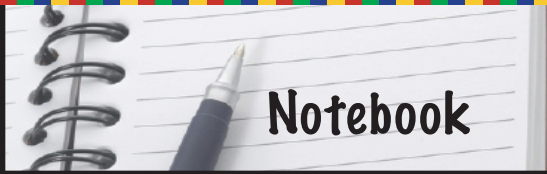
The Board voted earlier this month to approve an operating budget request of \$353.6 million, an 8 percent or \$26.3 million increase over FY 2015. The budget proposes a \$25.6 million or 15.8 percent increase from the county and anticipates reductions to the state's Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) as proposed in Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's budget.

The top recommendation, according to Superintendent Kimberly Hill is for staff compensation to make whole school employees who are currently two STEPS/Levels behind and who have not received a

cost of living increase since 2009. The bulk of the \$26 million increase is earmarked for employee negotiations, with the \$19 million employee compensation request providing \$13.2 million for three STEP/Level increases and \$6 million for rising health care costs. Employees did not receive a salary increase last year. Hill told the Board the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) starting teacher salary is the lowest in Southern Maryland.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Business Paul Balides said the budget covers the mandatory expenses of the school system and advances several new instructional initiatives. "We realize this request is ambitious, but we feel it articulates the needs of the system and continues to provide high quality education for children," Balides said during a budget presentation.

See Budget, page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are staff members from Dr. James Craik Elementary School. Pictured from left, are Dana Moyer, learning resource teacher; John Paust, physical education teacher; and Susan Steinmetz, vocal music teacher.

Airing now

Airing now is a new episode of NewsBreak, a bi-monthly news show that highlights Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff. This episode features programs available at the Judy Centers, two athletes involved in National Signing Day at Thomas Stone High School and news from the Board of Education's February meeting. Episodes of NewsBreak can be viewed on Comcast Channel 96 or Verizon FiOS Channel 12. For a programming schedule, visit the CCPSTV section of the website at www.ccboe.com/ccboetv/.

24-hour information line

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and delays, and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

Follow us on Twitter

Did you know that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on www.twitter.com/CCPS for system updates, news, facts and more. The school system also announces weather-related closings on Twitter. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill also maintains a Twitter page. Follow her @ccpsupt.

Employees can buy, rent or sell

CCPS maintains an employee-only website, InsideCCPS. Staff can post classified ads on the website for free. Employees are responsible for deleting their ad. Directions for posting are listed on the page. To access InsideCCPS, visit the school system website, www.ccboe.com, and select InsideCCPS located in the lower right-hand side of the page. To access the website, users will need to use their CCPS email account address and password.

National Board Certified Teachers



Lauren Mudd



**National Board Certification Area
World Languages/Early Adolescence
through Young Adulthood**

Position held: Spanish teacher at La Plata High School

Years of teaching experience: 8

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 8

Education:

Bachelor's degree in Spanish Education, University of Delaware
Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, McDaniel College

Memorable Moment:

There is not one moment that really sticks out. The one thing I enjoy the most, however, is watching students grow, not only as they advance in Spanish but as individuals. I have had the good fortune of teaching Spanish 2 and AP so I get to know the students when they enter high school as freshman and leave as seniors. I see them grow as people over four years and become young adults entering college, military or the work force.

Budget

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The budget proposal was created knowing that Maryland continues to experience a budget shortfall, and there is no negotiation in regard to state funding. Whatever the school system does not receive from the state becomes a burden for the Charles County Commissioners to address, Balides said.

Other new costs

Phase II of the opening costs of St. Charles High School includes funding for the addition of a senior class. St. Charles opened this year with grades 9 through 11, and the Board is requesting \$1.6 million to provide for 24 new staff positions and 392 more students. St. Charles enrollment is expected to reach 1,370 next school year.

Balides said the school system has done a lot to control health care expenses, but CCPS still experienced a larger than normal increase in claims this year.

The school system is also seeing an increase in the number of people enrolling in its plan. "We are not alone in this. Other school systems are facing the same thing," Balides said.

The school system must replace 17 aging buses at an estimated cost of \$780,000.

Instructional initiatives include permanent funding for Project Lead the Way, creation of a Positive Alternative to School Suspension (PASS) program and nine additional computer analyst positions. PASS is designed to help high schools meet the new discipline criteria outlined by the Maryland State Department of Education. Additional computer analysts are requested to provide support for PARCC testing and instruction at the elementary and middle school levels.

The operating cost per pupil requested in FY16 is \$12,774, an increase of \$321. Balides said 96 percent of the budget is school based and provides direct classroom support.

The Board must submit its budget to the county by today. The county government public hearing is set for April 22.

Details about the FY 2016 operating budget are available online at <http://www.ccboe.com/aboutus/boe/budget.php>.

Board will honor employees for years of service to school system

The Board of Education will honor several Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees in a years of service ceremony on March 5 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Those honored will include employees who have contributed to the school system with careers that total 45, 40, 35, 30 or 25 years.

Six employees will be honored for 45 years of service to the school system. They are Garnet Anderson, school counselor, John Hanson Middle School; Daniel Fenwick, truck driver, school system warehouse; Rosalee Reeves, third-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Barbara Tillman, secretary to the principal, Berry Elementary School; Concitta Walls, college and career advisor, Henry E. Lackey High School; and Mary Young, accounting assistant, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Employees with 40 years of service are:

- Cynthia Baker, director hearing officer/court liaison, Starkey;
- William Fisher, fifth-grade teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School;
- Lucile Rice, instructional specialist, Piccowaxen Middle School;
- Joseph Thomas, English teacher, La Plata High School; and
- Mary Woodland, kindergarten instructional assistant, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.

Employees with 35 years of service are:

- Carol Briscoe, kindergarten instructional assistant, T.C. Martin Elementary School;
- Bonnie Brown, science teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Joyce Campbell, gifted education resource teacher, Starkey;
- Kim Debora Taylor, kindergarten teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- Judith Howell, mathematics teacher, La Plata;
- Mark Howell, social studies teacher, Westlake High School;
- Drew Jepsky, director of instructional assessment, Starkey;
- Paul Jones, maintenance worker, Radio Station Road Annex Building;
- Mary McCauley, kindergarten teacher, Martin;
- Varlenia McCoy-Scott, business education teacher, Lackey;
- Diane Morgan, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- Sylvia Neale, kindergarten instructional assistant, Mary B. Neal Elementary School;
- Shirley Olup, kindergarten instructional assistant, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Debra Patterson, kindergarten teacher, Mitchell;
- Anita Riggans, special education teacher, General Smallwood Middle School; and
- Jane Thoman, specialist in mathematics, Starkey.

Employees with 30 years of service are:

- Sandy Andrews, secretary to the principal, Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
- Carolyn Crouse, food service manager, Neal;
- Marsha Dawes, special education instructional assistant, Thomas Stone High School;
- Mary Downs, business education teacher, Lackey;
- Shirley Farren, secretary, Radio Station Road Annex I Building;
- Linda Hollomon, fifth-grade teacher, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Richard Kelly, special education teacher, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Clifford Nagle, athletic director, La Plata;
- Vivian Nelson, special education teacher, Stone;

- Pomie Radcliff, physical education teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- Louis Sweetney, building service assistant manager, North Point High School; and
- Joy Thompson, middle school reading teacher, Somers.

Employees with 25 years of service are:

- Hassan Adeeb, social studies teacher, Westlake;
- Bonnetta Adeeb, special education teacher, Stone;
- Theresa Alo, art teacher, North Point;
- Joanne Anderson, media instructional assistant, Ryon;
- Kimberly Bean, first-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School;
- Jody Beard, reading kindergarten instructional assistant, Indian Head Elementary School;
- Carol Brock, reading middle school instructional assistant, Somers;
- Debra Calvert, principal, Dr. James Craik Elementary School;
- Valerie Chase, second-grade teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School;
- Elaine Coombs, special education teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School;
- Jacqueline Couvillon, vice principal, Martin;
- Paul Dunlevy, science teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- Linda Dunlevy, language arts teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Ann Fabian, job placement technical specialist, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center;
- Karen Fowler, pupil personnel worker, Starkey;
- Dorothy Gannon, science teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School;
- Debra Gent, pupil personnel worker, Starkey;
- Bridgette Greathouse, food service worker, Somers;
- Kerry Grosche, auto collision repair teacher, North Point;
- James Gross, building service worker, Berry;
- John Haldeman, art teacher, Wade;
- Pamela Hawkins, building service manager, Higdon;
- Nancy Jeffrey, German teacher, Stone;
- Linda Keyton, third-grade teacher, Wade;
- Carrie Lamb, instructional resource teacher, Brown;
- Donald Layton, physical education teacher, Lackey;
- Mary Long, vice principal, Ryon;
- Janet Lutz, third-grade teacher, Malcolm;
- Joseph McMahan, third-grade teacher, Brown;
- Cynthia McRoy, fixed asset/purchasing analyst, Starkey;
- Amy Miller, reading resource teacher, Mattawoman;
- Kathy Perriello, principal, Smallwood;
- Linnea Proctor, building service manager, Mitchell;
- Karen Robertson, secretary to the principal, Diggs;
- Christina Saylor, secretary, La Plata;
- Joy Sheff, secretary, Gale-Bailey;
- Thomas Smallwood, building service assistant manager, Brown;
- Patricia Trader, pre-school instructional assistant, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School;
- Wendy Wenk, food service worker, La Plata;
- Stephanie Wesolowski, principal, Theodore G. Davis Middle School;
- Deanna Wheeler, science teacher, J.C. Parks Elementary School;
- Olivia Willis, second-grade teacher, Brown; and
- Thadine Wright, principal, Parks.

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301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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Editor/Writers

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Shelley Mackey
Kara Gross

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Board of Education announces March 10 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 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. and student and staff recognition starts at 4:30 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 at www.ccboe.com. Select CCPS TV and then choose the Live Broadcast tab. The following is a tentative meeting agenda.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Westlake High School JROTC

Superintendent's update

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 update

- CIP update
- Budget update
- 2016-17 calendar
- Legislative update

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff – Jennifer Jenkins, special education instructional assistant, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; Jacqueline Stancliff, fourth-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; Anita Riggans, special education teacher, General Smallwood Middle School; and Nancy Jeffrey, German teacher, Thomas Stone High School

- Resolutions: *Month of the Young Child*; and *National Student Leadership Week*

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel

Adjournment

Personnel

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

Job Openings

First-grade Teacher – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by March 3.

Food Service Worker – North Point High School, 10-month position. Apply by March 4.

Learning Resource Teachers – Master's degree and a minimum of five years teaching experience required, 10-month positions. Apply by March 6.

Aquatic Pool Manager – St. Charles High School, 11-month position. Five years of relevant experience and certifications in pool operations, life guarding, CPR, First Aid and WSI required. Apply by March 10.

Special Education Teachers – Openings at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Eva Turner

elementary schools, 10-month positions.

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

French Teacher – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate with endorsement in special education and a minimum of three years teaching experience with the Life Skills population required.

Mathematics Teachers – Milton M. Somers Middle School and North Point High School, 10-month positions.

Prekindergarten Teacher – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position.

Reading Recovery Teacher – 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 with Reading Recovery preferred.

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

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

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

Staff Notes

Nominate a building leader for recognition

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is looking for nominations for the 2015 Vice Principal of the Year. Nominees must have at least three years of experience as a vice principal with CCPS. Additional nominee criteria is posted on the school system website, under the employee recognition area of the Jobs section. Nominations are due to the Office of Human Resources by Friday, April 24. Contact Pam Mucciolo at pmucciolo@ccboe.com or 301-934-7242 for additional information.