



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Report cards issued/mailed

Report cards for middle and high school students will be mailed home on Wednesday, April 15. Elementary school report cards will be issued to students at school on April 15.

MSA science testing

The science Maryland School Assessment (MSA) will be administered to students in grades five and eight from April 13 through April 17.

CRD breakfast

The Career Research and Development (CRD) Employee-Employer breakfast is Friday, April 17 at 8 a.m. at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. Each year, the school system sponsors the event to recognize students in the program and one student is selected as the CRD Student of the Year.

All-county concerts

The All-County Elementary Band, Chorus and Orchestra concerts are scheduled for the middle of April. The All-County Chorus concert is Thursday, April 23, at St. Charles High School. Concerts for both the All-County Band and Orchestra groups are broken up into two events: one event for schools on the west side of the county, and another for schools on the east side of the county. The west All-County Band and Orchestra concert is Tuesday, April 21, at Westlake High School. The east All-County Band and Orchestra concert is Wednesday, April 15, at Thomas Stone High School. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Thursday, April 23. Morning pre-kindergarten students attend.



Early childhood registration begins next week

Kindergarten registration begins April 13 at all elementary schools. The application process for the Three's and prekindergarten programs also starts April 13. Visit www.ccboe.com/community/parents/register.php for details on all early childhood education programs. Pictured above is Berry Elementary School prekindergarten student Adriana Nguyen practicing writing the alphabet with the Magna Doodle.

Graduations move back to Charles County

For the first time in more than a decade, all graduation ceremonies will be held in Charles County.

More than 2,195 seniors are expected to graduate May 29 and May 30 in ceremonies held at the Convocation Center at North Point High School. "Graduation is the culmination of hard work by Charles County students and families. Now that we have venues in Charles County comparable to the Show Place Arena, we decided to hold these events in our own county," Hill said.

La Plata High School starts graduation weekend on May 29 at 8:30 a.m., followed by Thomas Stone High School at 2 p.m. and Westlake High School at 7:30 p.m.

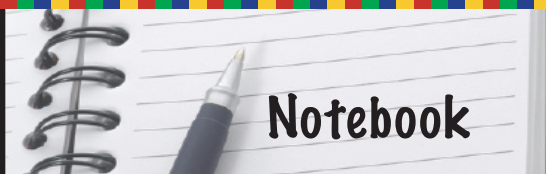
North Point seniors kick off the ceremonies on May 30 at 8:30 a.m., followed by Maurice J. McDonough High School at 2 p.m. and Henry E. Lackey High School at 7:30 p.m.

The decision to move the 2015 graduations back to Charles County was made in 2013 and partly due to a change in policy at the Show Place Arena, which Charles County

Public Schools started using after class sizes grew and school facilities were no longer large enough for ceremonies. Show Place Arena changed its rules two years ago to only allow two graduations per day at the facility.

Principals at each high school conducted a survey of its junior class students and parents and convened graduation committees to explore the best option for each school. Venues considered by schools included school gymnasiums and stadiums, Regency Furniture Stadium, the St. Charles High School auditorium, the College of Southern Maryland and the Convocation Center at North Point. All six schools eventually decided to hold commencement exercises at the Convocation Center because it has the largest indoor capacity.

The *Maryland Independent* is publishing a Graduation 2015 guide on May 6, which will also be mailed to parents of all seniors. CCPS has posted a Graduation 2015 website at www.ccboe.com/community/graduation/ that has more graduation information and facts.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from Maurice J. McDonough High School. Pictured from left, are John Hairston, pupil personnel worker; Kristina Blakeslee, art teacher; and Edilberto Perez, Spanish teacher.

Stone hosting navy band

The United States Navy Band will be performing at Thomas Stone High School on Thursday, April 16. The concert is free and begins at 7 p.m. For more information call 301-753-1765.

SECAC award nominations

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) is seeking nominations for their annual staff appreciation awards program. The program recognizes Charles County Public Schools staff who make the difference in the lives of children with special needs. Staff members cannot nominate colleagues. Nominations are due by April 17 and additional information is posted on the SECAC Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/CharlesCoSECAC>. Contact charles-countysecac@gmail.com with questions.

Seniors receive scholarships

Two North Point High School seniors – Christain Barnes and Njuguna Thande – were recently selected for scholarships through the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Both students receive a single-payment scholarship of \$2,500 and are two of 700 finalists recognized through the program. Students are considered for the scholarship program, which is supported by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, when they take the preliminary SAT as high school juniors. Barnes plans to study aerospace engineering after he graduates. Thande is interested in pursuing a career in mechanical engineering.

Community Connection

Charles County Public Schools is publishing a monthly community newsletter for parents, community members and staff. Community Connection is an email newsletter that provides brief information with opportunities to link to more information. If you missed the April edition, it is posted at www.ccboe.com/enews/.

National Board Certified Teachers

Wendie Newcamp



National Board Certification Area
English Language Arts/Early Adolescence

Position held: Language arts teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School

Years of teaching experience: 17

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 17

Education:

Bachelor of Science in English Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Maryland Writing Project, Towson University
Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction, McDaniel College
CASENex, North Georgia College

Memorable Moment:

"My most memorable moment was earning my National Board Certification. I needed to have one more lesson taped before I went out on maternity leave. December 14 was my deadline. My daughter was born on December 14."

New category added for personnel awards

Charles County Public Schools is looking for award nominees for the 2015 Outstanding Classified Personnel Awards program. In addition to the six nomination categories of building service, food service, instructional support, secretary, maintenance and information technology, a seventh award category has just been added – central office support staff. This includes staff who work at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, or the Annex I or Annex 2 buildings. Award winners will be announced and recognized at the June 9 Board of Education meeting.

Nominees must meet the following criteria: works full-time, has been employed with the school system for a minimum of three school years in the area for which they were nominated, and not have received this award within the past five years. Nominees must also meet the following criteria:

- Resourceful in seeking and completing job duties;
- Seeks new knowledge and skills;
- Knows and understands all aspects of their assigned jobs;
- Utilizes technology where appropriate;
- Fosters cooperative relationships with

students, colleagues and the community; and

- Demonstrates outstanding leadership.

Nomination materials must be included in a presentation binder and should not exceed 15 pages. All binders must include a cover page, career summary, description of contributions in the nomination criteria areas and statements of support. Nomination binders for the **building service, food service, instructional support** and **secretary** award nominations must include a minimum of 10 letters of support, including one from the principal/supervisor, three from co-workers and six from students, staff or the community. Binders for the **maintenance, information technology** and **central office support staff** award nominations must include a minimum of eight letters of support, including one from the division supervisor and immediate supervisor, three from other department supervisors, and three from co-workers or staff.

Binders are due to Pam Mucciolo in the office of human resources by Friday, April 24. Contact Mucciolo at 301-934-7242 or pmucciolo@ccboe.com for more information. Nominations submitted with incomplete binders will not be considered.



Jason Miller



Jeana Stanley



Corrie Wutka



Jennifer Elder



Holly Fallica



Matthew Watkoski

Six teachers recognized for accomplishments in science, mathematics

Six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers were recently named 2015 Outstanding Math and Science Teacher Honorees by the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) for their accomplishments in the area of mathematics and science teaching. One teacher is selected annually at each level – elementary, middle and high school – for excellence in mathematics and science teaching.

Honored as Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year are Jason Miller, St. Charles High School; Jeana Stanley, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Corrie Wutka, William A. Diggs Elementary School.

Honored as Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year are Jennifer Elder, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; Holly Fallica, General Smallwood Middle School; and Matthew Watkoski, Maurice J. McDonough High School.

Miller teaches Algebra I at St. Charles and works with ninth-grade students. Prior to the opening of St. Charles this school year, Miller taught mathematics at Thomas Stone High School. He began his teaching career with CCPS in 2010 at Stone and was nominated for the SMECO award for his efforts in helping his students excel in math. Algebra I is a content area in which high school students are tested as a graduation requirement, and Miller works with all of his students to make sure they not only understand the content, but meet the requirement. He helps with curriculum writing and has led the portion on math during new teacher orientation for the past two years. He also volunteers to work with new teachers on classroom management, math curriculum and planning, and has assisted with several professional development sessions.

Stanley teaches sixth-grade mathematics at Davis. Her classes include students in both accelerated math and grade-level inclusion math. She has also taught seventh grade math, pre-algebra and Algebra I. Stanley has been teaching at Davis since 2007, and taught at Mattawoman Middle School prior to the opening of Davis. She has been a teacher with CCPS for 11 years and sponsors the Destination Imagination team at Davis. Stanley is active on the school's Relay for Life team and has also held other leadership positions that include team leader, math department chair and Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) sponsor. Throughout her career, Stanley has also served on several curriculum writing committees.

Wutka is a third-grade teacher at Diggs and works with different levels of learners, including gifted education and special education students, as well as students who are on grade level in math. She has been teaching third graders since 2009 and previously worked with second-grade students for nearly four school years. She began her teaching

career with CCPS in 2005 at J.C. Parks Elementary School, and transferred to Diggs when the school opened in 2006. Wutka has also taught accelerated math classes and classes during summer reading and gifted summer academies. For the past four years, Wutka has mentored students from North Point High School who are interested in becoming teachers. In addition to her nomination for the SMECO award, Wutka has been nominated for recognition through the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) awards program three times.

Elder teaches science at Middleton and works with students in grades two through five. She has been teaching at Middleton for the past six school years and has also taught at Indian Head and Gale-Bailey elementary schools. She began her teaching career with CCPS in 2002 at Indian Head. In addition to teaching elementary school science, Elder has served on curriculum writing teams for science, as well as for reading and math. She has sponsored several student organizations and clubs including Destination Imagination, math teams, Just Say No and MESA. Additionally, Elder is in the process of completing an internship to finish her administrative certification.

Fallica has been teaching sixth grade Earth and space science at Smallwood for the past four school years and began her teaching career with CCPS in 2011. She is the co-team leader for the sixth-grade and sponsors the school's environmental club. She also coaches the girls' volleyball team and is an Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program mentor, in which she helps students prepare for college. In 2014, Fallica applied for funding through the Lowes in Education grant program and helped secure \$5,000 to support an outdoor classroom area at Smallwood. She was also instrumental in helping Smallwood achieve a 2014 Maryland Green School designation, in which schools must complete a two-year application process to be eligible.

Watkoski teaches ninth grade Earth and space science and teaches honors level, inclusion and grade-level courses. He began his teaching career with CCPS at McDonough in 2009. In addition to teaching Earth and space science, Watkoski has also taught introductory engineering, advanced technology education, and college and career ready courses. He is an active participant in the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education and worked with staff from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center to create science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) based lessons for STEMnet, Maryland's STEM Innovation Network for educators. The partnership helped McDonough earn recognition as a Maryland STEM Innovation School.

The teachers were nominated for the awards by staff, students and parents. They will be honored at a SMECO reception on April 15.

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Board of Education announces April 14 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 14, 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 – 10:30 a.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Henry E. Lackey High School JROTC

Recognition of winter athletes

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
- Winter sports update
- St. Charles High School pool update
- Testing overview
- 2016-17 school calendar
- Legislative update

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
 - Future agenda items
- Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff
- Resolutions: *Teacher Appreciation Week, Administrative Professionals Week, Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, and National Physical Education and Sport 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

Special Education Instructional Assistant for the Emotionally Adjusted (EA) Program – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by April 15.

Building Service Manager – North Point High School, 12-month position. Apply by April 15.

Building Service Workers – Openings at William B. Wade Elementary School and Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month positions. Apply by April 15.

Guidance Secretary – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 11-month position. Apply by April 15.

Food Service Manager – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by April 22.

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

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

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

Teacher Candidates – Locations to be determined, 10-month positions.

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.

Library Media Specialist – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

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

School Bus Attendant Substitute – Annex I, temporary position.

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

Extra pay position

La Plata High School has the following opening:

- Varsity football head coach

Contact Cliff Nagle, athletic director, at 301-753-1754 to apply.