



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Interims issued

Interim reports will be issued to students on Monday, May 11.

SECAC awards

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) awards ceremony will be held at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Hall. For more information, contact the Parent Center at 301-934-7456.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Thursday, May 21. Morning pre-kindergarten attends that day.

Last day for seniors

The last day of school for high school seniors is Friday, May 22.

Pay dates for 2015-16

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has established anticipated employee pay dates for the 2015-16 school year. Periodically, pay dates must be adjusted to keep the total number of pay dates to 26 days in both the calendar and fiscal year periods. This adjustment will be made in July 2015. Pay dates for July 2015 are Wednesday, July 8 and Friday, July 24. This means there will be a two and a half week time period instead of the normal two week time period between pay dates in July. Pay dates will then continue as follows below.

Aug. 7; Aug. 21; Sept. 4; Sept. 18; Oct. 2; Oct. 16; Oct. 30; Nov. 13; Nov. 27; Dec. 11; Dec. 24; Jan. 8; Jan. 22; Feb. 5; Feb. 19; March 4; March 18; April 1; April 15; April 29; May 13; May 27; June 10; and June 24.

A copy of pay dates for the 2015-16 school year is posted on the CCPS website, under the forms area, and on the employee portal.

Hopkins selected for Agnes Meyer award

At Milton M. Somers Middle School, students refer to Allen Hopkins' social studies classroom as a time machine. When he teaches, Hopkins brings history to life by using interactive strategies such as role playing to put his students in the place of historical figures so they can experience history for themselves. His ability to infuse curriculum and historical content into creative and engaging lessons excites his students and earns their full attention. "It is crucial that my students understand history isn't just important politicians, heroic generals, and vocal statesmen. History is all of us," Hopkins said.

Hopkins strives to present history as an interconnected series of stories so his students not only understand the content, but learn that events of the past affect the present and future. He is well respected among Somers staff, who admire his commitment to teaching and learning. For his passion for history education and student success, Hopkins was selected as the 2015 recipient of the *Washington Post's* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award.

Hopkins said he is honored to receive the recognition and credits his success as a teacher to the staff and students at Somers. "While the award recognizes individuals who demonstrate excellence in the classroom, I owe a lot of my success to the teachers, administrators, counselors, ILT, support staff, parents, and most of all, students of Milton Somers Middle School. There is no better place to work, learn, and grow as a student and professional," he said.

Hopkins began his teaching career with Charles County Public Schools at Somers in 2003 and is well liked among students. Deborah Simmons teaches math next to Hopkins' classroom and said she often overhears "lively discussions" about history among his students. "He makes history fun by planning engaging activities. Actually, I would like to take his class. I don't remember my history classes as being as engaging and

See Agnes Meyer, page 2



Allen Hopkins

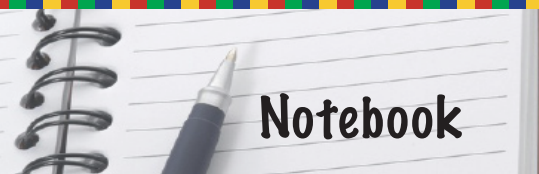
CCPS holds dedication for seventh high school

School system, county and state officials will join St. Charles High School students May 15 to officially dedicate Charles County's seventh high school, which opened in August. During the same ceremony, the school system will also dedicate the pool in memory of former Board Member Donald M. Wade, who is credited with securing the pool for St. Charles. The 6:30 p.m. dedication is open to the public.

St. Charles opened for students on Aug. 25 for the 2014-15 school year. Construction continues on the pool, which is expected to be open for use this summer and next school year. St. Charles is one of 36 schools in the Charles County Public Schools system. Built to house 1,600 students, St. Charles opened this year with grades 9, 10 and 11 and will

add a senior class next school year.

The St. Charles pool is in the final stages of construction and includes six competition-length lanes, spectator seating for 200 and separate locker rooms to make the pool available after hours for community use. The pool was cut from the original St. Charles building plans; however, midway through the high school construction project Col. Wade successfully asked the Charles County Commissioners to restore funding for the pool. The Board of Education last year voted to name the pool the Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center in memory of Wade. He passed away June 1, 2014, shortly before the end of his fourth term. Wade family members and Board members will cut the ribbon for the new pool during the May 15 school dedication ceremony.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from Arthur Middleton Elementary School. Pictured from left, are Emily Lindamood, secretary; Karen Ferruzza, media specialist; and Mariya Khan, third-grade teacher.

Stone earns breakfast honors

Thomas Stone High School was recently named the 2014-15 Maryland Breakfast Challenge winner for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). The recognition is supported by the No Kid Hungry campaign and honors schools for increased student breakfast participation. Stone will receive a special banner to display in the school, as well as a \$2,000 prize. For more information on the No Kid Hungry campaign, visit <http://md.nokidhungry.org/>.

Rowley authors article

An article authored by several writers, including Patrick Rowley, the technology facilitator at the James E. Richmond Science Center, was recently published in the Journal of Geoscience Education. The article, "The Effectiveness of Science on a Sphere Stories to Improve Climate Literacy Among the General Public," was featured in volume 62 in the August 2014 edition. Rowley co-authored the article with Stephanie Schollaert Uz, Wendy Ackerman, Jim O'Leary, Britta Culbertson and Phillip A.

Arkin. Rowley joined CCPS in 2014 and coordinates instructional programs for the Science on a Sphere technology at the Science Center. The article discusses the use of Science on a Sphere technology presentations in public engagement, and is posted online at <http://nagt-jge.org/doi/abs/10.5408/13-075.1?journalCode=jgee&>.

History Day Teacher of the Year

Daniel Hoefert, a social studies teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School, was chosen to represent Charles County at the Maryland History Fair last month as the 2015 Charles County History Day Teacher of the Year. More than 30 CCPS students competed in the state event after receiving a first- or second-place award at the county level. For more information on History Day activities, visit <http://www.nhd.org/>.

National Board Certified Teachers



Jessica Pratta



Social Studies-History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Position held: Social studies teacher at North Point High School

Years of teaching experience: 18

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 18

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in History, St. Mary's College of Maryland

Master's in Curriculum and Instruction, McDaniel College

Memorable Moment: I had a student in AP U.S. History who struggled with testing. Throughout the course of the year she worked incredibly hard and never missed a homework assignment or an opportunity to revise her work to improve her grade. We worked together and reflected on her study habits, testing strategies and keeping a positive attitude. When AP scores came out over the summer she emailed me to say she got a 3. She thanked me and said if it wasn't for me she wouldn't have gotten that score. I corrected her, it was because of her hard work and dedication that got her that score. I have used this experience as a motivational story for my current AP students who are struggling – keep an open mind, reflect on how to improve your academic success and own it when you achieve it.

Agnes Meyer

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exciting," Simmons wrote in her award nomination letter.

Somers Principal Carrie Akins is in her first year as the lead administrator at the school and said Hopkins' passion for teaching and commitment to professionalism are evident in all that he does. "As a building administrator, Mr. Hopkins is the type of teacher I treasure working with," Akins wrote in a letter of support of Hopkins' nomination.

Hopkins said his inspiration to pursue a career in education evolved when he was a high school student. He credits two of his former history teachers – Mr. Russell and Mr. Lisanti – with instilling in him a love for history. "These two men had a way of bringing the past to life for me in a way that no one had done before. The absolute passion for history and government that poured out of them every minute of the class period infected me with a love for history that continues to grow. It is this eagerness and love for learning that I aspire to instill in my own students," Hopkins said.

In addition to teaching United States history and co-sponsoring the National Junior Honor Society, Hopkins serves as the social studies department chair and eighth-grade team leader. He also coordinates the annual schoolwide geography bee and history fair, as well as quarterly student recognition programs and the eighth-grade promotion ceremony. In these roles, Hopkins is known for his commitment and dedication to student and school success.

This is the fourth consecutive year that Somers staff have nominated Hopkins for the *Post's* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. The *Washington Post* each year honors outstanding teachers throughout the metropolitan area through its educational foundation. A committee reviews nominations throughout the school system and one teacher is chosen to represent Charles County.

The *Washington Post* Education Foundation will honor Hopkins later this month. He will be recognized by the Board of Education at their June 9 meeting.



Teacher Appreciation

Thank you CCPS Teachers ...

for your commitment to be the difference in the lives of children, and for your dedication and passion to teaching and learning

- Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Hill and the Board of Education of Charles County



Pictured clockwise, from top left, are Destiny Sanders, third-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School; Erran Collins, fourth-grade teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; Caitlin Sowers, art teacher, North Point High School; Ericho Little, special education teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; Anthony Jones, carpentry teacher, North Point; Sarah Desrosiers, special education teacher, Davis; Carol Eaton, first-grade teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School; and Andrea Sims, prekindergarten teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.



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Board of Education announces May 12 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 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 re-broadcast 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, Thomas Stone 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

- Matthew Henson Middle School's anti-bullying initiative

- Principal evaluations
- Communications update
- Solar field projects
- Educational facilities master plan
- Teacher evaluations and curriculum repository
- Credit recovery at Thomas Stone High School
- 2016-17 calendar
- Legislative update

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

Resolution: *Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award* – Thadine Wright, principal, J.C. Parks Elementary School

- Students
- Staff
- Recognition of 2014-15 student liaisons

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- FY 2015 intercategory budget transfer request

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

Food Service Manager – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10-month position. Three years of food service management experience required. Apply by May 8.

Secretary – Charles County Public Schools Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by May 11.

Director of Transportation – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in education, transportation or related field and a minimum of two years experience in the field of transportation required. Experience in public education preferred. Apply by May 14.

In-School Retention Program Instructional Assistant – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by May 15.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 18.

Special Education Instructional Assistant Life Skills – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 18.

Painter – Charles County Public Schools Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by May 18.

Assistant Building Service Manager – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by May 20.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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