



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Last day for seniors

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

Summer school jobs

Charles County Public Schools has the following openings for the 2015 Summer School program: Foundations of Technology; high school English, Algebra, Chemistry, Fit for Life, Geometry, Personal Financial Literacy, high school Spanish 1 and 2, and middle school math. Interested applicants should be current CCPS teachers and be certificated in the area of interest. Contact Sandy Rooney, srooney@ccboe.com, for additional information or to apply.

Memorial Day closure

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, May 25, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

Graduation weekend is near

Seniors from six Charles County public high schools are preparing to turn their tassels and graduate. The following schools will hold graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 29: La Plata, 8:30 a.m.; Thomas Stone, 2 p.m.; and Westlake, 7:30 p.m. The following schools will hold graduation ceremonies on Saturday, May 30: North Point, 8:30 a.m.; Maurice J. McDonough, 2 p.m.; and Henry E. Lackey, 7:30 p.m. All graduations will take place in the Convocation Center at North Point High School in Waldorf.

Airing now

Airing now on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak, a show about CCPS produced by the communications department. This episode features the St. Charles High School dedication, the Col. Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center ribbon cutting and highlights from the May Board of Education meeting.

Davis' Desrosiers named Teacher of the Year

In the Life Skills classroom at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, sunlight streams through a large glass window naturally brightening the learning environment. The light illuminates the descriptive words on cabinets, bookshelves full of materials and personalized bins for each student that include learning resources specialized just for them. The brightest light in the classroom is the Life Skills teacher, Sarah Desrosiers, who provides a spectrum of possibilities for her students.

Her gentle demeanor with children, mixed with her passion to provide instruction to all levels of learners, is evident in her interactions with students. From high fives and curtsies to doing the Hot Dog Dance from Mickey Mouse, Desrosiers connects with her students in exciting ways so they not only understand her expectations, but they know she truly cares for their well-being. To recognize her roles as teacher, advocate and cheerleader for children with special needs, Desrosiers was chosen by Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) as the 2015 Teacher of the Year.

Desrosiers learned of her selection as Teacher of the Year with a special visit from some of her former students and Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill. "Nothing is more humbling after receiving this news as when the visitors file out of the room and you are faced with your amazing special needs students and one looks at you and says, 'Ms. D. You won! When is lunch?'" My students don't truly understand what this means for me or really for them," she said.

Desrosiers said she knew from a young age that she wanted to work in an environment where she could be the difference in someone's life. Her parents both worked in education – her father was a teacher and school principal, and her mother taught kindergarten. As a young girl, she would visit her mother at her school where she encountered students with special needs. She volunteered to spend time with these students and said she had no idea then how those experiences would later

impact her life. Desrosiers has been working with special education students for the past 12 years, and believes that creativity, risk and compassion yield student success.

"I know they can learn. They know that I know they can learn. From this collective knowledge my compassion and creativity are the keys to determining how they will become better learners. Creativity involves risk, and those risks are tempered by compassion in my classroom. The totality of three – creativity, risk and compassion – yields student success. The success of my students is my reward," Desrosiers said.

Desrosiers strives to meet the needs of each student in her class from developing different ways to explain daily lessons and content to securing essential technology tools, such as iPads and iPods, to enhance learning. She models lessons using descriptive methods such as using the five basic senses to conduct scientific experiments, cutting shapes from paper to teach calculations and using sight words and short stories to learn language skills. Her students readily volunteer to solve problems at the Smart board, as they are eager to have fun while learning and cheer on their classmates.

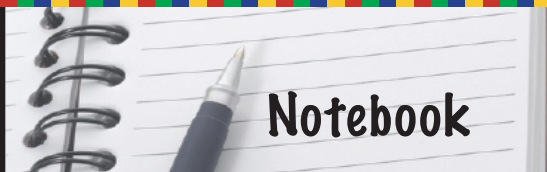
Some of the additional learning opportunities Desrosiers coordinates for her students include helping with the eighth-grade promotion ceremony, delivering newspapers to classrooms in the building, cooking in the Life Skills classroom, organizing school bulletin boards and serving as cashiers when the students sponsor the Davis Drive Thru to raise money. Desrosiers and her students are well known among the school community for their Davis spirit and eagerness to learn, and her coworkers find her to be "inspiring."

Trisha Volland is a world language teacher at Davis and has worked with Desrosiers for the past seven years. She said Desrosiers



**Sarah
Desrosiers**

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. Pictured from left, are Vicky Mullins, kindergarten instructional assistant; Pamela Gingerich, Reading Recovery teacher; and Diane Fiorilla, first-grade teacher.

Come enjoy Lunch on Us!

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) invites children to “Lunch on Us” again this summer from June 29 through Aug. 14. Lunch on Us is Charles County’s free summer meal program for children, which is part of the state and federal summer food service programs that provide children the nutrition they need to learn, play and grow during the summer months. Lunch is free to all Charles County children ages 18 and younger, and must be consumed at the site. There are no other restrictions, income guidelines or application forms. All lunch sites will be closed on July 3. For a list of participating locations, visit www.ccboc.com/community/parents/lunchonus/index.php.

Smallwood takes MESA state

General Smallwood Middle School was named the state overall winner at the middle-school level at the statewide Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) competition held May 7 at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Teams from Dr. James Craik Elementary School, Milton M. Somers Middle School and Westlake High School also placed at the state event.

Smallwood placed in three competition events: first place in the Hovercraft challenge, first place in the Basswood Bridge challenge and third place in the ALICE Interactive Game Design challenge. Smallwood competed at the state level after earning the overall middle school award at the county competition.

Follow @CCPS

Follow Charles County Public Schools 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.

National Board Certified Teachers



James Ressler



English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood

Position held: English teacher at Westlake High School

Years of teaching experience: 38

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 38

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in English, Thiel College

Master of Education, University of Maryland, College Park



Teacher of the Year

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instills in her students a strong desire to learn. “She challenges them in ways that make them think, plan ahead and really consider what is going on before they begin a task. She teaches students valuable social skills, gently reminds them when needed, and thanks them when they engage in conversations. It is inspiring to watch her interact with her students,” Volland wrote in a letter of support for Desrosiers.

Kim Coates, the parent of a former Davis student, attests to the care and compassion Desrosiers demonstrates in her classroom. Coates wrote a letter of support for Desrosiers award nomination and said her child learned to better develop his potential and reading and writing skills as a result of the exceptional care he was shown by Desrosiers. “I am forever grateful for her kindness and hard work. She not only taught Jalen to reach his potential but she also taught me that he is capable of so much more than I ever dreamed for him. She is a wonderful teacher who has gone above and beyond her duties,” Coates wrote in her letter.

In addition to working with special needs students in the classroom, Desrosiers implemented and sponsors the Best Buddies program at Davis in which students with and without disabilities are paired together to mentor one another. She launched the Unified Sports program among middle school students to ensure that students of all abilities have the opportunity to participate

in athletics. She also works with staff at The Goddard School in Waldorf to assist teachers with lesson plan writing, behavior modification and Smart board use.

Desrosiers credits her students and peers for her passion in education. “Looking at the road that has taken me here, it has been paved with amazing students and their families, administration, and irreplaceable instructional assistants. It is because of them that I can say that this has never been a job, but instead a passion,” she said.

As Charles County’s Teacher of the Year, Desrosiers is eligible for the Maryland Teacher of the Year award. The state winner is announced by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in the fall at a special ceremony held to honor all local recipients. The state winner is also considered for the National Teacher of the Year honor. The Board of Education will recognize Desrosiers at the June 9 meeting.

Prior to joining CCPS, Desrosiers was a special education teacher with Plainfield Public Schools in Connecticut and taught science to special needs students at Stonington Institute North, also in Connecticut.

She has a bachelor’s degree in American studies with a concentration in American history and elementary education from Franklin Pierce College, and a master’s degree in education from Southern Connecticut State University.

CCPS dedicates seventh high school, cuts ribbon for Aquatic Center

St. Charles High School celebrated its successful first year on May 15, formally dedicating the school and pool. Students and staff promoted the county's seventh and newest high school during a ceremony that included presentations, project overviews, student performances, a key passing ceremony, a ribbon cutting at the pool and remarks from school and county officials.

St. Charles Principal Richard Conley welcomed visitors with an overview of the 288,283 square-foot school that stacks four academic houses on four floors and contains 80 teaching stations. Conley noted the environmental features built into the school that make it a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver standard facility. The building design incorporates energy management features, including natural lighting, water efficient landscaping, and a geothermal heating and cooling system. Conley stressed, however, that it is not the building that makes a school. He talked about how students and staff are creating a school community through instruction, extracurricular activities and programs.

Superintendent Kimberly Hill talked about the process of opening St. Charles. Starting with approval of the building site just north of the baseball stadium on Piney Church Road in 2006, St. Charles faced a number of delays. Before opening its doors in August 2014, the state, county and school system twice delayed the school opening, largely due to the recession and the high cost of building a 1,600-capacity high school.

Hill concluded her remarks with reference to the high tech features in the James E. Richmond Science Center, the environmental qualities and the swimming pool that provide sound instructional opportunities for students. She said, "It's not the bricks and mortar that make the educational program excellent—it's the teachers, staff and students. But to quote Senator Barbara Mikulski, 'But kids cannot compete for 21st century jobs with 20th century equipment. No way. No how,'" Hill said.

Early in the building process, Mikulski secured a half million dollars in the Commerce, Justice and Science Funding Bill for the technology and construction of the digital dome at the Science Center.

Also attending the dedication were friends and family of the late Col. Donald M. Wade. The dedication included a ribbon cutting at the pool named for the former Board member who was instrumental in securing county funds to build the pool. The previous Board of Education named the pool area the "Col. Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center" in honor of Wade, who is credited with securing funding and approval to build the pool at St. Charles.

The pool was removed from the original St. Charles building plans. However, in Sept. 2013, even though construction on the high school was underway, Col. Wade successfully lobbied the Charles County Commissioners to restore funding and build the pool. During the St. Charles dedication ceremony, former Board member Roberta Wise said, "As usual, he (Wade) did this in his gentlemanly way but with the voice of determination and command of the officer he was."

Maurice Wade, speaking on behalf of the Wade family, thanked the school system for the recognition of his father's efforts that were always focused on education and children. Col. Wade passed away June 1, 2014, shortly before the end of his fourth term on the Board.

According to Steve Andritz, CCPS project manager, construction on the pool is complete. The pool at St. Charles is the third CCPS indoor pool, and the newest since 2005 when the North Point pool opened. It opens to the public on June 6. The pool is 19,183 square feet and includes six competition-length lanes; spectator seating for 338, including handicapped areas; and separate men's and women's locker rooms to make the pool available after hours for community use. The pool also contains many of the environmental features found at St. Charles, including: day lighting, geothermal heating and cooling, energy efficient lighting and rainwater harvesting from the pool roof.



The St. Charles High School a cappella group, the Spartones, performed "Some Nights/Say Something" arranged by Andy Beck and St. Charles vocal music teacher Brian Kuhn. Pictured above from left are Mya Perkins, freshman; Tatyana Smith, junior; Kristen Feaster, sophomore; and Alyssa Harley, junior.



A key passing ceremony is a CCPS school dedication tradition and includes representatives of those involved in the building process. Pictured above is Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill, left, as she accepts the St. Charles High School key from Board Chairman Virginia McGraw, right.



The Col. Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center was named in honor of the former Board member who pushed for additional pool funding. Pictured above is Wade's son, Maurice, who attended the ribbon-cutting event and spoke about his father's passion for education and children.

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Tentative 2015-16 calendar dates

The following is a partial calendar for the 2015-16 school year. The calendar is subject to change throughout the school year and any changes are announced on the Charles County Public Schools website, www.ccboe.com. The *2015-16 Parent Handbook/Calendar* will be available in August.

- Aug. 17, 2015 – New teacher orientation week
- Aug. 31, 2015 – First day of school for students, K-12
- Sept. 7, 2015 – Labor Day, schools and offices closed
- Sept. 8, 2015 – First day of school for prekindergarten students, Three's program students
- Sept. 18, 2015 – Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only
- Oct. 12, 2015 – Schools closed for students only, teacher in-service day
- Nov. 11, 2015 – Schools closed for students, teacher in-service day, elementary conferences
- Nov. 25-27, 2015 – Thanksgiving holiday, schools and offices closed
- Dec. 23, 2015 - Jan. 1, 2016 – Winter break, schools closed for students and teachers

- Dec. 24-25, 2015 – Offices closed for winter break
- Dec. 31, 2015 - Jan. 1, 2016 –Offices closed for winter break
- Jan. 18, 2016 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday observed, schools and offices closed
- Jan. 29, 2016 – Semester break, schools closed for students only
- Feb. 15, 2016 – Presidents Day, schools and offices closed
- March 24-28, 2016 – Spring break, schools closed for students and teachers
- March 25-28, 2016 – Offices closed for Good Friday/Easter Monday
- April 26, 2016 – Primary Election Day, schools closed for students and teachers
- May 30, 2016 – Memorial Day, schools and offices closed
- June 16, 2016 – Last day of school for students (with six inclement weather days built into the calendar)
- June 17, 2016 – Last day of school for teachers (with six inclement weather days built into the calendar)



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

Building Service Assistant Manager – T.C. Martin Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by May 22.

Reading Resource Teacher – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Master's degree and five years of teaching experience required. Apply by May 25.

Instructional Resource Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by May 25.

Food Service Worker – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 27.

Secretary to the Principal – Eva Turner Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by May 28.

Child Care Provider – North Point High

School, 10-month position. Apply by May 29.

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

Human Resources Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in human resources and three to five years of experience in hiring, staffing, recruiting, human resources, or related experience required. Professional human resources certification or senior professional human resources certificate preferred.

Special Education Teachers – Openings at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Eva Turner elementary schools, 10-month positions.

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

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

Mathematics Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month positions.

Science Teacher – North Point High School,

10-month position.

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

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.

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.

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

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