



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Third paycheck of the month*

Today's paycheck is the third for January. 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. A complete list of pay dates for the 2013-14 school year is located in the forms database, which can be accessed from the InsideCCPS employee website.

To access InsideCCPS, visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) and click on the InsideCCPS area located on the bottom, right-hand side of the home page. A log-in screen will appear. Employees with CCPS e-mail accounts use their user name and password associated with their @ccboe.com e-mail account.

### *Teacher in-service day*

Schools are closed for students only on Wednesday, Feb. 5, for a teacher in-service day.

### *Tri-County concerts*

The annual Tri-County Concerts are Sunday, Feb. 9 at the Mary Harrison Cultural Arts Center in Calvert County. The chorus concert is at 2 p.m.; the band concert starts at 4 p.m. followed by the orchestra concert at 6 p.m. The center is located at 2950 Chaneyville Road, Owings, Md. Call 301-934-7452 for more information.

### *YouTube available for use*

Teachers now have access to YouTube for use in the classroom to meet curricular needs. Access to the website is limited to authorized users and for educational purposes. Teachers must preview video content to ensure it supports the instructional program and relates to lesson objectives. A complete guide for YouTube use is available on the V drive located at V:\SchoolAdministrator\Handbook\SchoolAdministration\PrincipalsVicePrincipalsFormsandInformation.



Westlake High School senior Jerry Brownell, left, gives a computer science demonstration with Westlake teacher Dianne O'Grady-Cunniff, second from left. Commissioner Debra Davis, second from right, and Commissioner Ken Robinson, right, volunteer to help with the demonstration during the Code.org partnership announcement event held on Thursday, Jan. 30, at Westlake.

## School system cracks the code to create partnership

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students are getting into computer coding, and it is not just in a computer science class. A new partnership with Code.org is helping CCPS infuse computer science and coding in math, science and computer classes for all students, from kindergarteners to high school seniors.

Superintendent Kimberly Hill announced a partnership agreement with Code.org Jan. 30 at Westlake High School during a program that began in Dianne O'Grady-Cunniff's computer science class and moved to the auditorium for a joint statement by Code.org and CCPS officials. The partnership provides training for teachers, expands computer science class offerings and upgrades curriculum.

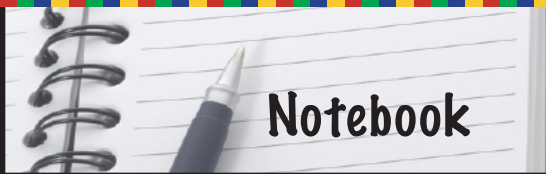
The announcement included lessons in computer science. Four elementary school students who participated in the recent Code.org-sponsored Hour of Code taught Charles County Sheriff Rex Coffey and Charles County Commissioner Vice President Reu-

ben Collins how to write code. The students used an Angry Bird app to teach Coffey how to create the bird's moves one line of code at a time. Collins learned how to create an animated cartoon figure using coding in a program called Scratch.

Pat Yongpradit, Code.org's education director, called CCPS a model district saying the school system is a national leader in the promotion of computer science for students. "There are only a few school systems nationwide implementing computer science in such an aggressive way. Every single kid in high school will have the opportunity to take a computer science class. This shows Charles County's commitment to give all students an opportunity to learn computer science," Yongpradit said in an interview.

"Computer science helps students create, not simply use, new technologies ... Code.org is dedicated to inspiring students to learn computer science and for schools to teach it. We are dedicated to enhancing Science,

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### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the Jan. 14 meeting. Pictured, from left, are Brenda Coombs, special education instructional assistant, Matthew Henson Middle School; Tracy Cundiff, secretary, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; and Carol Briscoe, kindergarten instructional assistant, T.C. Martin Elementary School.

### Increase retirement savings

Payroll deductions to tax sheltered retirement accounts are often used for retirement savings. Employees can contribute to a tax sheltered retirement account for as little as \$25 per pay period. There are three vendors to choose from: 403 b accounts – MetLife and 457 accounts VALIC and TIAA-CREF. A list of phone numbers and agents is available on the InsideCCPS employee website. Select the Benefits Information link to access the list.

### Report card date change

Charles County Public Schools has rescheduled the upcoming report card issue date from Friday, Jan. 31 to Monday, Feb. 3. The change was made to accommodate instructional and grading time lost due to inclement weather closings.

Elementary school report cards will be issued to students at school on Feb. 3; report cards for middle and high school students will be mailed Feb. 3.

The date replaces what is printed in the *2013-14 Parent Handbook/Calendar*. Please make a note of the change on your copy.

### Bon Appetit

The culinary arts program at North Point High School was recently named to the Hospitality 100 list of nationwide secondary school culinary programs for the 2013-14 school year. Each year, the Hospitality 100 list recognizes secondary schools that demonstrate a commitment to excellence in culinary arts education. The list features high school and technology centers that excel in the areas of culinary arts, baking and pastry arts and/or hospitality management. Schools are selected for the recognition by a team from the National Center for Hospitality Studies at Sullivan University. For more information, visit [www.hospitality100.org](http://www.hospitality100.org).

## Nominations needed for 2014 Teacher of the Year

Charles County Public Schools is seeking nominations for the school system's Maryland 2014-15 Teacher of the Year candidate. The nominated teacher must be a classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and has a minimum of five years teaching experience. The selected candidate will also be named the 2014 Charles County Teacher of the Year.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by Feb. 27 to the office of human resources. Application information is available on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/emprec.php>. Applications should include the candidate's educational and professional development history; professional biography; examples of community involvement; a statement on the candidate's philosophy/style of teaching; three letters of support from a principal, administrator, colleague, student or former student, parent or civic leader; and statements on education issues and trends,

as well as the teaching profession. For additional application information, visit the school system website.

The 2014 Charles County Teacher of the Year will have opportunities to speak to students and staff during events such as New Teacher Orientation, and will also attend the state Teacher of the Year ceremony and gala.

There is a two-tiered process for the selection of the candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year. The first step is at the county level where applications are received, semi-finalists are selected and interviewed by a panel of school system staff, and one candidate is selected to represent Charles County as its Teacher of the Year.

Each Maryland county and Baltimore City forwards one recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which selects the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

For additional information, contact Cynthia Rivera, 301-934-7356 or [crivera@ccboe.com](mailto:crivera@ccboe.com).

## Code.org

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Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) offerings and demystifying computer science and code. The partnership with Code.org will help us expose all students to computer science, a skill essential for our students' success," Hill said in an interview.

Code.org is a non-profit organization backed by companies like Google, Amazon, Dropbox, Microsoft and others, and will pay for curriculum materials and teacher training. The CCPS partnership with Code.org is a multi-year commitment that uses a master teacher model to build a professional development standard for years to come without reliance on Code.org. Teacher training begins in the spring, and students may sign up for courses in the 2014-15 school year. As part of the initiative, CCPS is piloting a new Advanced Placement course, Computer Science Principles.

"This is not just one computer science course. It is a package. This is the beginning of standardizing computer sci-

ence skills within Charles County Public Schools," Hill said.

"Every student in Charles County Public Schools will be exposed to the skills that computer science has to offer. Every student will learn how to think critically, how to analyze a problem and how to come up with a solution. Instead of being intimidated by computer science, Charles County Public Schools students will learn about how much fun computer science can be," Hill said during remarks at the program.

Hill commended three teachers, Joseph Greenawalt and Janet Bondelid of North Point High School and O'Grady-Cunniff, for their work that led to the partnership.

"In Charles County Public Schools, we believe that we can be the difference in the life of a child. We believe that we can teach children that they are capable of changing the world. Our partnership with Code.org enhances our ability to impact children and their future, and we are proud to announce this partnership today," Hill said.



## Miller, Joshi receive recognition for efforts in gifted and talented education

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and the Maryland Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education recently honored two Charles County Public Schools educators – T. C. Martin Elementary School Principal Greg Miller and Aparna Joshi, a gifted education resource teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School – for their efforts in gifted education. Miller received the 2013 Outstanding Educator – School Administrator award and Joshi was honored with the 2013 Teacher as Leader in Gifted and Talented Education award.

The Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education annually honors educators, students and community organizations for their contributions in developing the talents of Maryland students from all populations in gifted education. Miller is one of six Maryland school administrators recognized this year, and Joshi is one of 20 Maryland teachers honored with a Teacher as Leader award.



**Gregory Miller**

Miller has been the principal at Martin since 2011. He was nominated for the award by Kathy Stapleson, a gifted education resource teacher at Martin, for his efforts in expanding the gifted program. In 2013, the school received an Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) award, which honors elementary, middle and high schools that offer gifted and talented programs that model excellence and focus on improving levels of student achievement. Stapleson said Miller was instrumental in Martin's selection for the award.

"He shows leadership in expanding and improving the gifted program and services in our school. His support of the gifted committee, passion for the EGATE award and his willingness to allocate time and materials to the gifted program make him eligible for this prestigious award," Stapleson wrote in a nomination letter. Miller also works with Stapleson to present gifted information to parents at school events and encourages teachers to seek additional training opportunities to enhance their knowledge of gifted education practices.

Last school year, Miller coordinated a schoolwide event to celebrate Martin's selection as an EGATE award recipient and recognized students and staff for their accomplishments in gifted education. As an administrator, Miller also participates in gifted identification screening meetings, dedicates time during staff meetings to discuss gifted services and monitors the delivery of instruction with students identified for gifted services.

Joshi has been the gifted education resource teacher at Somers for the past three school years. She was nominated for the award by Mary Seremet, a gifted education resource teacher for Charles County Public Schools. Seremet works with gifted education teachers at the middle-school level and said Joshi is an exemplary leader. "In her role as the gifted resource teacher, Joshi has distinguished herself as an enthusiastic educator with a passionate commitment to student development and success. She is masterful in developing and adapting curriculum in order to meet both the cognitive and affective needs of gifted learners," Seremet wrote in a nomination letter.



**Aparna Joshi**

As the gifted education teacher at Somers, Joshi collaborates with teachers of identified students to implement instructional practices for high student achievement. She encourages her students to explore their passions and coordinates several extended-learning opportunities, from advanced book clubs and robotics-team events to essay contests. Joshi also leads systemwide workshops and has helped write curriculum for gifted language arts, earth science and Algebra I.

She is a national certified teacher, holds the Maryland gifted and talented education specialist certification, and holds a certificate in space studies. Joshi was also recognized for her efforts in utilizing technology in the classroom and was named a teacher liaison as part of Charles County Public Schools partnership with the Space Foundation.

## Somers honored for excellence with gifted and talented education award

The Maryland State Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented Education and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) recently named Milton M. Somers Middle School as one of nine Maryland schools selected for a 2013 Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) school award. The recognition program honors elementary, middle and high schools that offer gifted and talented programs that model excellence and focus on improving levels of student achievement.

The awards program was launched in 2010 by MSDE and the State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education. To be considered for the program, schools submit a comprehensive application that includes documentation that demonstrates their program is aligned with criteria outlined in the Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted and Talented Program Guidelines. All public elementary, middle and high schools in Maryland are eligible to apply.

Criteria are focused on each of the four Maryland EGATE objectives and corresponding criteria, which include: student identification;

curriculum and instruction, including a focus on content, instructional strategies, products and the learning environment; professional qualified teachers and professional development; and program management and evaluation.

Somers is Charles County's fourth school to receive the award recognition and will be honored at a state reception Feb. 27. As an EGATE recipient, Somers will also receive a Governor's citation, EGATE school banner and plaque. Additionally, Somers will serve as a model EGATE school and must reapply every five years in order to maintain their EGATE status.

Other Charles County EGATE schools are Dr. James Craik, T.C. Martin and William B. Wade elementary schools. Details on the program and supporting criteria, as well as the application to apply for the 2014 awards program, are located on MSDE's website at [http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/programs/giftedtalented/docs/EGATE\\_Application2014.pdf](http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/programs/giftedtalented/docs/EGATE_Application2014.pdf).

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# Board of Education announces February 11 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 11, 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](http://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, North Point High School's JROTC

**Superintendent's update**

**Reports of officers/boards/committees**

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- CIP update
- Middle school health textbooks
- High school government textbooks
- Budget update
- Technology planning for PARCC assessments
- SY 2015-2016 calendar

• Legislative update

**Unfinished business**

**New business and future agenda items**

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

• Students

• Employees – Olivia Coffey, school counselor, Berry Elementary School; Stephanie Boyer, music teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School; Sandra Chisholm, computer teacher, Picco-waxen Middle School; Chief Larry Adams, Air Force ROTC instructor, Henry E. Lackey High School; Vicki Kenworthy, instructional assistant, La Plata High School; and Cynthia Fitzsimmons, special education teacher, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.

• Resolutions: *Read Across Charles County*; *Women's History Month*; and *Fine and Performing Arts Month*

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

**Action items**

- Minutes
  - Personnel
  - Superintendent's proposed FY 2015 budget
- Adjournment**



# Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php](http://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.

## Job Openings

**Pupil Personnel Worker** – Location to be determined, 11-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

**Secretary** – Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10.5-month position. Apply by Feb. 10.

**Prekindergarten Teacher** – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position.

**Science Teacher** – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

**Computer Teacher** – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

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

**Library Media Specialists** – Openings at the elementary school level, 10-month positions.

**English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 10-month position.

## Extra pay positions

**Thomas Stone High School** has the following openings:

- Assistant baseball coach
- Head girls' soccer coach

Contact Steve Lee, athletic director, 301-645-2601, to apply.

## Staff Notes

**Do you want to buy, rent or sell something?**

Check out the CCPS classified page for employees and by employees, located on the InsideCCPS page through a link called "Classified Ads." Employees can post an ad for free. Ads run for 20 days. If you want your ad deleted prior to 20 days, you are responsible for deleting it. Directions for posting are listed on the page.

## Celebrate school counselors

Charles County Public Schools celebrates National School Counseling Week Feb. 3-7. This year's theme is "School Counseling: Building Magical Futures" and focuses on the contributions of nationwide school counselors. National School Counseling Week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association and highlights the impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

Charles County Public Schools employs 76 counselors: 25 at the elementary school level, 23 at the middle school level and 28 at the high school level.

## W-2 statements

The school system released all W-2 statements to employees this week. Copies of 2013 W-2 statements are also available for view on the employee web portal. To access the portal, visit the InsideCCPS employee website.