



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Post's AP performance list*

Two Charles County Public high schools were among the nation's top 1,000 schools ranked for Advanced Placement (AP) performance by the *Washington Post* this week in its annual "America's Most Challenging High Schools" list for 2014, compiled by *Post* education columnist Jay Mathews.

Westlake High School's ranking is 973 and La Plata High School is ranked at 979. A total of 2,025 high schools were ranked in the list. North Point High School ranked at 1,323, followed by Henry E. Lackey High School at 1,354, Maurice J. McDonough High School at 1,552 and Thomas Stone High School at 1,804.

The list also ranks schools by state and region. Statewide rankings for the six Charles County high schools are Westlake, 61; La Plata, 62; North Point, 77; Lackey, 78; McDonough, 90; and Stone, 109. A total of 122 schools in Maryland were included in the list and used to rank schools by state.

Mathews began to rank public high schools in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area using the Challenge Index in 1998. The Challenge Index measures how effectively a school prepares students for college. In 2011, the *Post* expanded the rankings to include high schools nationwide.

Rankings on the list are formulated by dividing the number of AP, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education tests given at a school each year by the number of seniors who graduated in June. Schools included on the national list achieved a ratio of at least 1.00 for 2013, which meant they had as many tests in 2013 as they did graduates.

The list was published earlier this week on Monday and varies dependent upon additional data reported to the *Post*. The list including national, regional and local rankings is posted on the *Washington Post* website at <http://apps.washingtonpost.com/local/high-schoolchallenge/>.



**Alexandria Bumb**



**Kelly Craft**



**Rachel Frisbee**



**Sharon Hedrick**



**Charles Newcomb**



**Caitlin Sinclair**

## SMECO honors six teachers for accomplishments

Six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers were recently honored by the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) for their accomplishments in the area of mathematics and science teaching.

Honored as Outstanding Mathematics Teachers of the Year were Kelly Craft, T.C. Martin Elementary School; Caitlin Sinclair, Piccowaxen Middle School; and Rachel Frisbee, Maurice J. McDonough High School.

Honored as Outstanding Science Teachers of the Year were Sharon Hedrick, Mary B. Neal Elementary School; Alexandria Bumb, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Charles Newcomb, Westlake High School.

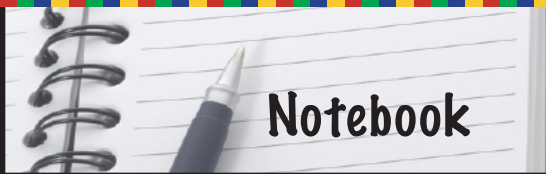
Craft is a fourth-grade teacher and works with her students on lessons in mathematics, reading, literacy and social studies. She was nominated for her dedication to making learning about math exciting for her students. Craft has been teaching at Martin for the past seven years and also taught at J.C. Parks Elementary School. She is the fourth-grade team leader at Martin and has served as a math master teacher for the Educator Effectiveness Academy with the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Craft has

also presented at several professional development sessions for CCPS teachers, helped write curriculum and served as a member of a lesson review team with MSDE.

Sinclair teaches grade-level math and also works with students in advanced math classes. She has been teaching at Piccowaxen, and with Charles County Public Schools, for the past seven years. Sinclair is a sixth-grade team leader and coaches the girls' volleyball team at Piccowaxen. She also serves as captain for the school's Relay for Life team and coordinates fundraising efforts for the American Cancer Society.

Frisbee has been teaching math at McDonough for the past four years and works with students in grades 9-12. She primarily teaches geometry and is the STARS – Scholars Targeting Academic Rigor With Success – program sponsor. Frisbee also teaches the STARS elective class and is the co-chair of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program at McDonough. Additionally, Frisbee is a member of the McDonough Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO), STEM Innovation Initiative and AVID teams, and sponsors the school's

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### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the April meeting. Pictured, from left, are Zohra Cherif, social studies teacher, Westlake High School; Angela McDonald, principal's secretary, Indian Head Elementary School; and Darlene Denny, principal's secretary, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.

### Early childhood registration

Registration for kindergarten students begins on Tuesday, April 22, at all Charles County public elementary schools. To be eligible for kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year, students must be five years old on or before Sept. 1. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will begin to accept applications for the prekindergarten program on April 22 at all elementary schools. To be eligible to apply for prekindergarten admission for the 2014-15 school year, students must be four years old by Sept. 1. The selection of prekindergarten students is based on criteria and guidelines set by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and CCPS. Visit the CCPS website at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) for more information.

### CRD breakfast

The Career Research and Development (CRD) Employee-Employer breakfast is Thursday, April 24 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.

### Board seeks Ethics Panel

The Board of Education is looking for county residents interested in serving on the Charles County Board of Education Ethics Panel. The panel interprets ethics regulations, provides advisory opinions to the Board and employees subject to the regulations, reviews complaints concerning any alleged ethics violation and receives and maintains all forms required to be filed under the regulations. Ethics panel members meet annually to review disclosure forms and as necessary to respond to inquiries. Anyone interested in serving should send a letter of interest and resume to Board Chairman Roberta Wise, Charles County Board of Education, Ethics Panel, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646, by May 2.



### La Plata's Unplugged group sings its way to the finals

The Unplugged a cappella group from La Plata High School is heading to the International Championship of High School a Cappella (ICHSA) finals as one of 10 nationwide event finalists. More than 100 high school a cappella groups from across the United States competed in one of 10 regional events. First-place regional winners advance to the final event scheduled for April 25 in New York City. The La Plata group, pictured above, earned first place in the ICHSA Northeast regional event, with a score of 407 points, and earned an award for outstanding choreography. This is Unplugged's first time competing in the event.

### School system to honor outstanding vice principal

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Vice Principal of the Year Award, which will be presented to a vice principal who exemplifies excellence. Teachers, parents, students and administrators may submit nominations, and employees cannot nominate themselves. The winner will be announced at the Board of Education's June 10 meeting.

Nominees must be full-time employees, employed by CCPS as a vice principal for at least three years, and have not received this award in the past five years. Nominees must meet criteria in the following areas:

- Educational leadership – implements strategies for improving teaching by putting programs and improvement efforts into action; involves teachers and other staff members in achieving goals of the school; and assists in ensuring school climate is positive and functions effectively as a member of the school leadership team.
- Resolving complex problems – maintains awareness and the ability to resolve issues, manages time and tasks efficiently, and utilizes technology to address educational situations.

- Developing self and others – committed to continued professional growth, teaches, coaches and helps others, and demonstrates and fosters creativity and imagination.

- Community service – involves the community in school events, uses community resources for students, establishes partnerships with community groups to strengthen programs and supports school goals.

Nomination materials must be submitted in a three-ring binder and include:

- a nomination cover page including a contact person and committee members;
- a maximum of 20 support statements, including a statement from the school principal;
- a brief career summary; and
- a description of contributions in each area of the nomination criteria.

Nomination packets should be sent to Cynthia Rivera in the office of human resources no later than April 24. A committee composed of administrative personnel will make the final selection. Contact Rivera at 301-934-7356 or [crivera@ccboe.com](mailto:crivera@ccboe.com) for more information.





## Seniors complete portfolio process

The senior portfolio process is a valuable learning tool for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students. Portfolios were implemented as a mandatory graduation requirement for seniors in 1999 and prepare students for careers and college. The process also prepares students for job and/or college interviews. As part of the process, seniors such as Westlake High School's Markus Childress, pictured left, participate in a mock interview with volunteers from the business and local communities. During the interview, students are asked to discuss their portfolio, academic career and plans for the future. Childress was interviewed by Diane Jenkins, an instructional specialist for English, left. Students work and complete their portfolios, which include a resume, and examples of personal responsibility and career readiness, in their English classes.

## Applications being accepted for 2014-15 National Board Certification program

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers and specialists who hold a Standard Professional or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience in Charles County on a Maryland professional certificate are eligible to apply for National Board Certification (NBC). Applicants must submit a candidate packet, which includes a letter of interest indicating the certification area they wish to pursue and why they want to pursue National Board Certification, a writing prompt activity (distributed by CCPS) in conjunction with NBC standards; a letter of recommendation from their principal or supervisor and a current resume.

Candidates are screened by a review committee to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in the 2014-15 program. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has updated the application process, starting with the 2014-15 program. Educators interested in pursuing National Board Cer-

tification must complete a demanding four-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills over a three-year period by developing a portfolio component that reflects aspects of their teaching. Candidates are also required to attend an assessment center.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) limits the number of applicants for the school system to 10 candidates, and the \$1,900 application fee is funded by MSDE and CCPS. There are 25 certification areas and educators who earn National Board Certification earn six approved professional development credits and may receive an annual stipend (pending funding/negotiated agreement approval).

Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Pamela Murphy, executive director of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25. E-mail submissions will not be accepted. For more information, visit the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards website at [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org) or call 301-934-7239.

## SMECO

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Divine Ladies organization. She is also part of the geometry Common Core writing team and piloted the curriculum in her classroom.

Hedrick has been teaching science at Neal since the school opened in 2008. She teaches elementary science to students in grades kindergarten through third, and has also served as a classroom teacher. Hedrick has been a teacher with Charles County Public Schools for the past 26 years and also taught at Mary H. Matula and Indian Head elementary schools. Additionally, Hedrick has helped write science curriculum, served as a STEM and MESA advisor and has led science-related professional development sessions.

Bumb has been teaching with Charles County Public Schools and at Somers for the past six years. During her time at Somers, she has taught eighth grade physical science. Bumb is also the PBIS leader at Somers, which has been recognized for their program efforts with gold level awards from MSDE. Bumb is also the chess club sponsor at Somers

and coordinates practice sessions and matches for student members. Additionally, she attends professional development sessions and has helped write curriculum for eighth grade science.

Newcomb has been teaching with Charles County Public Schools at Westlake for the past 13 years. He teaches several science classes including Earth science, astronomy and Advanced Placement (AP) environmental science. Newcomb leads the Green School program at Westlake and serves as the co-coordinator of the recycling program. Additionally, he is also a Space Foundation teacher liaison.

The teachers were nominated for the award by staff, students and parents. Each was chosen for their outstanding performance in the areas of creativity, rapport with students, enthusiasm for teaching, professionalism and innovative teaching methods. They were honored by SMECO April 2 during a ceremony.

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## Nominate a support staff employee for recognition

Charles County Public Schools is looking for award nominees for the 2014 Outstanding Classified Personnel Awards program. Awards are given in six categories: building service, food service, instructional support, secretary, maintenance and information technology. Award winners will be announced and recognized at the June 10 Board of Education meeting.

Staff, students and parents can submit nominations. Employees may not nominate themselves. 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 criteria in the following areas:

- 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 awards 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 and information technology 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 the office of human resources by Thursday, April 24. Contact Cynthia Rivera at 301-934-7356 or [crivera@ccboe.com](mailto:crivera@ccboe.com) for more information. Nomination information is also posted on the school system website at <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/emprec.php>.



## Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php](http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php). All teaching positions require a Bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

### Job Openings

**High School Resource Teacher** – St. Charles High School, 11-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate and five years of secondary teaching experience required. Apply by April 15.

**Building Service Workers** – Openings at Thomas Stone and Henry E. Lackey high schools, 12-month positions. Apply by April 15.

**Computer Analyst II** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by April 17.

**Food Service Assistant Manager** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by April 18.

**Food Service Substitute** – Location to be determined, hourly position. Apply by April 18.

**Science 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.

**Special Education Teacher** – Opening at the elementary school level, 10-month position.

**Occupational Therapist** – Location to be determined, 10- or 11-month position.

**Physical Therapist** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – Opening at the secondary level, 10-month position.

**Speech and Language Pathologist** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in speech pathology and a Maryland state license in speech and language pathology required.

### Extra pay positions

**St. Charles High School** has the following openings:

- Head freshman football coach
- Fall cheerleading junior varsity/pom sponsor
- Fall cheerleading sponsor
- Head junior varsity field hockey coach
- Head varsity field hockey coach
- Assistant football coach
- Head junior varsity football coach
- Head varsity football coach
- Golf coach
- Head junior varsity boys' soccer coach
- Head varsity boys' soccer coach
- Assistant girls' soccer coach
- Head junior varsity girls' soccer coach
- Head varsity girls' soccer coach
- Head junior varsity assistant volleyball coach
- Head varsity volleyball coach
- Assistant boys' soccer coach
- Assistant volleyball coach

Contact Richard Conley, principal, at 301-753-2090.