

# School News



## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *School News information*

The June 13 edition of *School News* is the last printed edition for the 2013-2014 school year. Limited copies will be provided this summer for 12-month employees. Staff members can keep up with the latest school news with online editions of *School News*, which are posted on the staff section of the school system website. Publications feature job openings, changes, calendar items and other staff information. Throughout the summer, the communications department sends important information to employees by e-mail.

### *Last day of school*

The last day of school for students is Wednesday, June 18. The last day for teachers is Friday, June 20. Report cards are issued to elementary school students on June 18. Middle and high school report cards will be mailed on June 25.

### *Camp discount for staff*

The Henry E. Lackey High School Summer Youth Camp offers full-time school system staff a 50 percent enrollment discount for their children. The camp will be held June 23 to July 18 and provides supervised activities including soccer, touch football and swimming. A brochure and registration materials are posted on the school system website at <http://www.ccboe.com/community/2014LackeySummerCamp.pdf>.

Employees should include their identification number and the amount of the discounted price on each registration form. Contact Don Layton, program coordinator, at 301-753-5431 for more information.

### *Schedule change reminder*

The two-hour early dismissal day originally scheduled for Wednesday, May 21 is a full day of school. Morning and afternoon prekindergarten students attend; three-year-old program students do not attend May 21.

## School system celebrates National Certification

Charles County Public Schools honored 31 teachers on April 28 in a ceremony held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building to recognize their work to attain National Board Certification.

At the start of the ceremony, Superintendent Kimberly Hill thanked the National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT) for their dedication to excellence in teaching and learning. "You are at the heart of what we do," Hill said before inviting each teacher to the front of the room to be recognized, congratulated and receive a NBCT pin.

"To be able to honor those in our profession who have chosen to pursue National

Board Certification is a treat for all of us. The rigorous process that these teachers have engaged in not only improves their practice, it has the potential to improve the practice of others as they share the insights they have gained," Hill said.

Charles County Public Schools has 31 National Board Certified Teachers. The process is open annually to any Charles County Public Schools teacher or specialist who holds a Standard Professional or Advanced Professional Certificate and has a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience.

"National Board Certification is a prestigious designation that is earned through hard

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**Thomas Stone High School science teacher Janis Milman, left, is congratulated by Superintendent Kimberly Hill, right, at the National Board Certified Teachers recognition held April 28. Milman is one of 31 Charles County Public Schools National Board Certified Teachers.**

## Kimberly King is the 2014 Teacher of the Year

For many teachers, their passion and love for education comes from personal learning experiences. For Kimberly King, a mathematics teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School, her desire to teach started at a young age when she began to maintain a makeshift classroom full of dolls, stuffed animals and a chalkboard. Throughout her childhood, King came across several influential educators who fueled her desire to teach, including her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Tickell, and Mrs. Williams, one of her high school teachers.

King credits these two teachers, as well as her parents, with her desire to teach children to love math and to always do what is best for her students. "These influential people are embedded in me and are directly responsible for my contributions in education," she said. According to Somers staff, King's educational contributions range in modeling

high standards and expectations for students to her nurturing and caring demeanor she displays in the classroom. She is known for her natural ability to instill her students with a love for math. For her outstanding abilities as a teacher, King was named the 2014 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year.

King learned of her selection as Charles County's top teacher in a surprise announcement in her classroom. Somers Principal Stephanie Wesolowski came in her classroom one afternoon to bring her students snacks, and then a few school secretaries came in with cameras and an iPad. Unbeknownst to King, her daughter, who is a producer on the

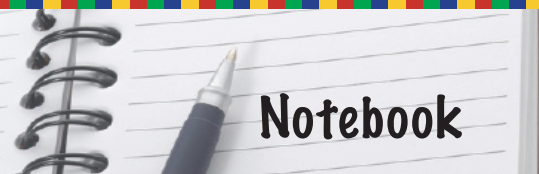
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**Kimberly King**

# King

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## On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Mary H. Matula Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are Rachel Martin, school nurse; Blonda Tillman, reading resource teacher; and Carolyn Fisher, vocal music teacher.

## State MESA winners

Dr. James Craik Elementary School was named the state overall winner at the elementary-school level at the statewide Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) competition held May 1 at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. Teams from John Hanson Middle School and Henry E. Lackey High School also won first place in the Prosthetic Arm challenge, and earned a place to compete at the national competition next month.

Awards are given for first-, second-, and third-place teams and one overall state elementary, middle and high school winner is chosen. The school that earns the most points throughout the competition is chosen as the overall winner. Craik placed in all four of the elementary events: first place in the Balsawood Bridge challenge; first place in the SCRATCH – Computer Programming challenge; third place in the Effective Communications challenge; and third place in the Storybook Theme Park Ride challenge.

Hanson's team won first place in the Prosthetic Arm challenge, making the school the overall statewide winner in that challenge at the middle school level. First-place winners at the state level in the Prosthetic Arm Challenge advance to the MESA USA National Engineering Design Competition, scheduled for June 20-22 in Portland, Oregon.

Lackey's team won first place in the Prosthetic Arm challenge at the high-school level, and was named the overall statewide winner in that challenge among competing high school teams. They also advance to the national event next month.

At the high-school level, Lackey also earned second place in the Basswood Bridge challenge. Piccowaxen Middle School also competed at the state level and earned a second-place award in the Basswood Bridge challenge among competing middle schools.

For more information on Maryland MESA, visit <http://www.jhuapl.edu/mesa/home/default.asp>.

Rachel Ray Show, was video streaming live on the iPad for her mom's surprise announcement. "I was so excited to see her and thought perhaps we were going to meet a celebrity or Rachel Ray," King said.

King's classroom was then joined by Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill, who asked the class if they knew why she was visiting them. Hill began to ask students about King and what made her a great teacher. Several students replied with positive comments and one student in particular shared an emotional story about a time King helped her through the loss of a family member. The student said, "Mrs. King just doesn't teach us math – she truly cares about us." Hill then told King and the class that she was picked to represent the school system as the Teacher of the Year.

King said she was excited to learn of her selection for the award. "I was elated and extremely proud. Being in the presence of my students, my supportive principal, my office friends, and my daughter during this announcement was like being on stage accepting an Oscar," she added.

Her teaching philosophy highlights the importance of collaboration in order to build trust and confidence, and showing children she cares about them and their success. "I recently read a quote – 'Children learn best when they like their teacher and they think their teacher likes them.' I could not agree more. When my students give an answer or explanation, they must feel validated. It is my responsibility to make sure they feel that way and it is also my responsibility to instill the respect for other students," she said.

One of the ways King facilitates respect among her students is the use of compassion bags in the classroom. Each student has a compassion bag hanging in her room in which their peers fill the bags with compliments or kind words about their class-

mates. King also uses a happy thoughts board in which students can share happy posts. Both the compassion bags and happy thoughts board help King establish solid relationships with her students that she says are responsible for the respect and effort she sees daily.

Wesolowski said King exhibits admirable qualities and is an exemplary role model for her peers. "She is unquestionably one of the most respected and admired teachers on my staff. Her energy, leadership qualities and positive attitude are truly admired and emulated among my staff," Wesolowski wrote in a nomination letter.

As Charles County's Teacher of the Year, King 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 King at their June 10 meeting.

Prior to teaching at Somers, King was an instructional specialist at John Hanson Middle School. She also served as an instructional specialist and administrative assistant at Somers. From 2001 to 2005, she taught sixth-grade math at Hanson and worked at the elementary school level as a first- and fifth-grade teacher at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and Malcolm elementary schools for three years. King has been recognized by the Board of Education as an exemplary employee twice and was recognized in 2005 by the Maryland Council of Teachers of Mathematics as a Maryland Math Teacher of the Year.

For more information on the Teacher of the Year awards program, visit the MSDE website at [http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/programs/recognition-partnerships/toy\\_1/](http://www.msde.maryland.gov/MSDE/programs/recognition-partnerships/toy_1/).



**King, pictured left, works with Somers sixth grader Kajuan Neale on a class exercise. She has been teaching mathematics at Somers since 2010.**

## School Resource Officer program recognized for building a culture of trust

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) spotlighted Charles County's School Resource Officers (SRO) last month, providing attention to a program DOJ officials called a model for the nation.

DOJ officials were here April 25 to research how Charles County's successful School Resource program works, and officers shared policies and methods and classroom visits to provide a broad overview.

Visitors first arrived at John Hanson Middle School where the health class teacher of the day was Cpl. Bill Welch, a SRO who is certified in and teaches Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE). Welch is as comfortable as a teacher as he is patrolling the hallways of Hanson, a place he calls his beat. Students are also comfortable with Welch and engage in easy conversation with their SRO who knows them by name and is teaching how the media influences the use of drugs like cigarettes and alcohol.

"You are building a culture of trust because of your SROs," said Karol Mason, an assistant U.S. attorney general, following a presentation that included a video about the SRO program and testimony from parents and students. Student Chris Johnson talked about PFC P.J. Mann, the SRO at Matthew Hanson Middle School, who made a difference in his life by mentoring and including him in a group called the "Distinguished Dozen." Now a junior at North Point High School, Johnson said Mann helped him through tough times and taught him "It's okay to do the right thing."

Thomas Stone High School was the next stop, and DOJ officials joined Cpl. Jared Cooney as he taught a Truth and Consequences class about the affects of marijuana. Using Telepresence, officials joined PFC Sheilagh Cook at T.C. Martin Elementary School as she worked with a fifth-grade DARE class. SRO supervisor Sgt. Carl Rye and other officers explained the multitude of programs they offer students including sports and summer programs, Crime Solvers, gang awareness, bullying and training.

"You are role models for what success looks like and a model of how this should work nationwide," Mason said.



**Karol Mason, an Assistant U.S. Attorney General, left, called Charles County's School Resource Officer program a model for the nation during a recent visit to schools. Joining Mason, from left were Department of Justice officials Calvin Hodnett, a COPS and School Resource Officer expert, and Robin Delaney-Shabazz from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. School Resource Officer Cpl. Bill Welch, right photo, speaks about Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) to students at Hanson.**



The visit was arranged as a result of a joint letter and invitation to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder from Sheriff Rex Coffey and former Superintendent James Richmond. Coffey and Richmond invited Holder to visit Charles County Public Schools following the tragic mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2013. President Obama has directed the DOJ to study how School Resource Officers are best utilized in schools. "Our program is massively successful. We believe in a balanced approach that increases security at the schools while also fostering positive police-student relationships and providing outreach programs that encourage good decision making," Coffey wrote in the letter.

"It's wonderful to see this in practice. We want to know how we can service you. When Sheriff Coffey wrote to the Attorney General about what you are doing here he didn't oversell it, he undersold it," Mason said.

## NBCT

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work and self-reflection. Reflecting on our work is something that we should all do. Reflection helps to inform improvements in teaching and learning. I hope that more of our teachers will consider taking on the challenge of becoming a National Board Certified Teacher," Hill said.

The National Board Certification process was launched in 1993 and developed by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). It was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers and to generate ongoing improvement in schools nationwide. Completion of National Board Certification signifies that teachers have developed and demonstrated the advanced knowledge, skills and practices required of an outstanding educator. The process is performance-based, peer-reviewed and built on high standards.

There are 25 certification areas that span grades prekindergarten through 12. Standards for each content area and developmental level

are created by teachers and represent a consensus among educators about what accomplished, effective teachers should know and be able to do to improve student learning and achievement. The certification process consists of four components: written assessment of content knowledge, reflection on student work samples, video and analysis of teaching practice, and documented impact and accomplishments as a teaching professional.

*School News* will highlight one of the 31 CCPS National Board Certified Teachers in each edition starting May 23. By receiving National Board Certification, Charles County teachers are eligible for a possible stipend added to their annual salary as long as they maintain their National Board Certification status. For more information on the National Board Certification process, visit [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

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## Board of Education announces May 13 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 13 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 and is subject to change.

**Executive session** – 11:30 a.m.

**Call to order** – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Henry E. Lackey High School JROTC

**Recognition of 2013-14 student liaisons**

**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

- Project Graduation
- Principal evaluations
- CIP update
- GWWO school survey update
- Digital radio update
- Educational Facilities Master Plan
- Advanced Placement test
- Legislative update
- Board policies on nondiscrimination

## Unfinished business

## New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

**Recognition** – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff
- Resolutions: *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award – Kristin Shields, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School

**Public Forum** – 6 p.m.

## Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Board policy on student discipline

## Adjournment

## 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

**Building Service Assistant Manager** – Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month position. Apply by May 13.

**School Bus Driver** – Annex I, hourly position. Apply by May 13.

**School Bus Attendant** – Annex I, hourly position. Apply by May 13.

**Extended School Year Positions** – Direct service providers are needed to provide extended school year services to special education students during the summer. Positions are available for special educators, regular educators, speech/language therapists and occupational therapists. Contact Amanda Burgess at 301-934-7397 or [aburgess@ccboe.com](mailto:aburgess@ccboe.com) or Heather Neely at 301-392-7591 or [hneely@ccboe.com](mailto:hneely@ccboe.com) by May 16 to apply.

**Resource Teacher** – St. Charles High School, 11-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate and a minimum of five years of teaching experience at the secondary level required. Apply by May 20.

**Painter** – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Hours are 2 - 10 p.m. Apply by May 21.

**Staff Accountant (Investing Accounts)** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in accounting or finance required, master's degree preferred. A minimum of five years of experience in governmental accounting preferred. Apply by May 21.

**Principal** – Location to be determined, 12-month position. Master's degree and advanced professional certificate with administrator II endorsement, three years of teaching experience and three years as a vice principal required.

**Human Resources Generalist-Project Management** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration

Building, 12-month position. Three years of human resources experience required. Senior Professional Human Resources Certification or Professional Human Resources Certifications preferred.

**Human Resources Generalist** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Three years of human resources experience required. Senior Professional Human Resources Certification or Professional Human Resources Certifications preferred.

**JROTC Instructors** – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

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

## Extra pay positions

**North Point High School** has the following openings:

- Head field hockey coach
- Assistant field hockey coach

Contact Andy Shattuck, athletic director, at 301-753-1759 to apply.