



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Jan. 21, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

Report cards

Elementary school report cards will be issued to students on Monday, Jan. 28, and middle and high school report cards will be mailed home.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 29, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7364 for details.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Jan. 30. Morning prekindergarten students attend that day.

W-2 statements

The school system plans to release W-2 statements to employees by Thursday, Jan. 31. Copies of 2012 W-2 statements will be available for view on the employee web portal after Jan. 31.

Mid-year orientation

The mid-year new teacher orientation is Friday, Feb. 1, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

CCASC meeting

The Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) will meet on Friday, Feb. 1, at Thomas Stone High School. The high school portion starts at 9 a.m., and the middle school meeting begins at 11 a.m. Visit <http://www2.ccboc.com/ccasc/index.cfm> to learn more about the CCASC.



Davis students find the missing link to kindness

Students at Theodore G. Davis Middle School recently created a “Chain of Promises” as part of the school’s Rachel’s Challenge presentation. Rachel’s Challenge is based on an educational philosophy that focuses on three H’s – the heart, the head and hands. The idea is that if teachers can capture the hearts of their students, then their students will show interest in learning and being successful, which will then help them serve their communities and respect others. The chain at Davis is created from individual links, in which students wrote down pledges that mirror the philosophy behind Rachel’s Challenge, and hangs in the school’s main hallway. For the remainder of the school year, student pledges will be added to the chain, which also serves as a reminder to students and staff to be respectful. Pictured above is Niyah Matrinez as she connects her link to the rest of the Davis chain.

Superintendent Richmond presents 2014 budget

Superintendent James E. Richmond presented a \$339.6 million budget proposal to the Board of Education last week, stressing the need for increases in salaries, safety and security upgrades and staffing for St. Charles High School.

The Superintendent’s fiscal year (FY) 2014 proposal reflects an increase in funding of \$23.9 million or 7.6 percent over FY2013. Richmond is proposing an increase of \$23.4 million or 15 percent from the Charles County Commissioners and assuming the state increase will be 1 percent, or \$1.5 million.

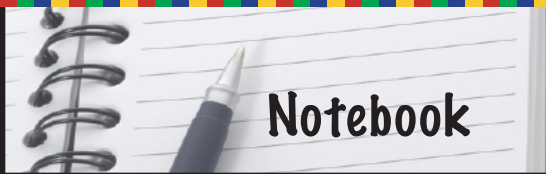
“This budget covers the basic needs of our system, but still requires a significant increase from the county. This is still in the early stages, as we have not started nego-

tiations with our employee groups,” Paul Balides, assistant superintendent of finance, business administration and technology, told the Board during a budget presentation. “We are committed to the notion of maintaining employment, core academic programs and class size,” Balides said.

Cost increases in the budget include a \$9.5 million reserve for contract negotiations that includes two STEPs and salary scale compression. Employees remain one step behind. Richmond said he hopes he can bring employees to scale before he leaves the school system at the end of this school year.

New to the budget are security upgrades. Richmond has asked for \$2 million for security cameras, door and lock upgrades, and

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored at the Board of Education's January meeting. Pictured, from left, are Lisa Campbell, secretary, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; Alfreda Johnson, secretary to the principal, Matthew Henson Middle School; and Dean Lawless, school counselor, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.

Calendar change

The Feb. 20 Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting listed in the *2012-13 Parent Handbook/Calendar* has been rescheduled to Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7245 for more information.

Employees to be honored

The Board of Education will honor more than 30 employees for their years of service to the school system in a ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 5 p.m., in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

A complete listing of those to be honored will be featured in the March 1 edition of *School News*. For information about the ceremony, call 301-934-7356.

Employee portal

The Charles County Public Schools employee web portal features payroll information a week prior to the actual pay date. Through the portal, employees can also access employer forms, education and teaching certificates, and benefits details. E-mail EP@ccboe.com with questions.

Celebrate school counselors

National School Counseling Week is celebrated Feb. 4-8, and highlights the impact school counselors have on helping students achieve success and plan for a career. The theme for 2013 is "School Counseling: Liberty and Learning for All." National School Counseling Week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). Charles County Public Schools employs more than 75 school counselors at the elementary, middle and high school levels. For more information, visit <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/>.

Board of Education re-elects Wise and Cook

The Board of Education of Charles County re-elected Roberta Wise as chairman and Maura Cook as vice chairman at its Jan. 8 meeting. The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman each January. Officers serve one-year terms.

Board members unanimously re-elected Wise to the chairmanship position that she has held for the past three years. In accepting the nomination, Wise said she looks forward to working with the Board as they work to select a new superintendent



Roberta Wise

of schools, open a new high school and rezone schools at the high school level.

A second-term Board member, Wise also served as vice chairman of the Board for two years after first being elected in 2006. She is a retired Charles County Public Schools teacher with 34 years of experience. Wise is a former Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. She also received the *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer award for outstanding teachers in 1991. For most of her career, she served as a mathematics teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School. She was a coordinator of the Educational

Partnership Team and a math resource teacher before retiring in 1999.

The Board also unanimously re-elected Cook to a third term as vice chairman. In accepting the nomination for the position, Cook thanked the Board for their support and said she looks forward to working with Wise as vice chairman and her fellow Board members as they face several difficult decisions this school year.

Cook is a nurse, a parent-teacher-association (PTA) officer and parent volunteer. She is a co-founder of the Women's Exercise Research Center of the George Washington University and a past presenter at the American College of Sports Medicine's annual conference. Cook works as a registered nurse local care coordinator. She works with primary care physicians, assisting with care coordination, education and health promotion. She is active with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education. Mrs. Cook has a Bachelor's degree in science and nursing from St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, and a Master's degree in education and human development from George Washington University.



Maura Cook

Budget

Continued from page 1

signage and building access modifications. He also requested \$600,000 to phase in elementary school resource officers to provide coverage of elementary schools and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. The school system already has a successful school resource officer program that provides a Charles County Sheriff's Office deputy at each of the county's middle and high schools.

Additionally, Richmond asked for a \$3.1 million cost increase for health insurance, \$725,000 to reinstate the Summer Reading Academy program and \$1.8 million for technology infrastructure for online testing requirements mandated by the federal Race to the Top. Increases also in-

clude funding for Other Post Employment Benefit contributions, student transportation, St. Charles High School staffing and the automated substitute calling system.

Included in the proposed budget is \$15.5 million in supplemental items such as classroom supplies, technology, instructional positions, training and textbooks, maintenance projects and additional data clerks and psychologists.

The Board has a Feb. 12 work session planned and will submit its request to the Charles County Commissioners by Feb. 28.

"The likelihood of us seeing this kind of increase is not great, but in the absence of state funding, the burden falls on Charles County," Balides said.

Three school system employees earn national board certification for teaching

Three Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers recently joined the ranks of accomplished teachers nationwide who achieved national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).



Christina Cockerham

The teachers – Christina Cockerham, Pamela Mengel and Lauren Mudd – completed a yearlong performance-based assessment series to become National Board Certified Teachers, according to a Jan. 9 release by the NBPTS. They join 31 other Charles County Public Schools teachers who hold current national certification status.

Cockerham is a special education teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School and earned her certification in the area of exceptional needs specialist/early childhood through young adulthood. She started her career with Charles County Public Schools in

2007 at Davis and teaches eighth-grade math and physical science. She is also the eighth-grade team leader.

Mengel is a third-grade teacher at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School and earned her certificate in the generalist/middle childhood area. Mengel began her career with the school system in 2005 at Mitchell and has also served as a team leader.

Mudd is a Spanish teacher at La Plata High School and earned certification in the area of world languages other than English/early adolescence through young adulthood. She started her career with CCPS in 2006 at La Plata and has also served as a class sponsor.

National Board Certified Teachers must complete a rigorous review of their skills and work, which includes teacher portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, and thorough analysis of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter

knowledge and their understanding of how to teach that material to students.

These teachers join the 4,980 teachers nationwide who were certified in 2012. Certification is valid for 10 years, after which a teacher may seek renewal. Maryland has 2,421 teachers who are nationally certified and is one of the top 10 states with the highest participation in the certification process. Over the past five years, Maryland's number of National Board Certified Teachers has more than doubled.

By achieving National Board Certification, Charles County teachers are eligible for a \$2,500 stipend added to their annual salary as well as an annual \$1,000 incentive from the Maryland State Department of Education as long as they remain in the classroom and maintain their National Board Certification status.

"I commend these teachers for successfully completing the rigorous application process to earn national board certification status. Their hard work and dedication to the teaching profession speaks to their commitment to the success of children and their students," said Superintendent James E. Richmond.

Only teachers with a standard or advanced professional certificate who have a minimum of three years successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Information about the application process is available on the NBPTS website at www.nbpts.org.



Pamela Mengel



Lauren Mudd

Thomas Stone High School's Paul Alvarez is service-learning fellow



Paul Alvarez

Paul Alvarez, a social studies teacher at Thomas Stone High School, was recently named a 2013 Maryland Service-Learning Fellow by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). He is one of five fellows that were selected statewide and the only teacher in Charles County to receive the honor.

Service-Learning Fellows are selected for recognition by MSDE for coordinating outstanding service learning programs within their schools. This school year, Alvarez has

coordinated activities for his students that involve working with the Green School committee to create an orchard garden. Several juniors and seniors at Stone helped plant peach, pear and apple trees during the fall. The next major project planned for students at Stone is the upcoming Earth Day celebration, in which students will work to beau-

tify school grounds, construct rain barrels, collect compost and plant foliage around the school.

As a Service-Learning Fellow, Alvarez will help train and mentor other teachers in service learning, work with local service learning teams and help write project curriculum. He will also meet annually with other state fellows during retreats and conferences. He joins approximately 230 other teachers who have been selected for the honor by MSDE.

Alvarez started his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2006 at Stone as a health teacher. He teaches United States and world history at Stone and is taking courses from McDaniel College to finish his master's degree in curriculum and instruction with a focus on administration.

For more information on MSDE's Service-Learning Fellow program, visit their website at <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/programs/servicelearning/>.

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Maryland school system ranks number one for fifth year

The Maryland public school system ranked number one in the nation for the fifth consecutive year by *Education Week*, a leading education newspaper. In their annual Quality Counts report, Education Week analyzes each public school system in six distinct areas of policy and performance. These areas include the following:

- Chance for success – this category focuses on factors such as parental education, family income, student performance and graduation rates.
- Student achievement in grades kindergarten through grade 12 – this category includes National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores and an analysis of achievement gaps.
- Transitions and alignment – examines the role of early childhood education, college readiness policies and workforce policies.
- Standards, assessments and accountability – this category examines state standards and state-wide accountability programs.
- School finance – this category is based on school funding and equity in finance.
- The teaching profession – focuses on accountability for quality, incentives and allocation and building and supporting capacity of the education workforce.

In the 2013 report, Maryland received the only B+ rating. The report features more than 100 indicators used to rate each state. State ratings are determined by the average of the scores for the six highlighted categories of focus.

Maryland earned an A rating in the transitions and alignment category; a B+ rating in the chance for success and assessments categories; and a B rating in the remaining four areas of focus. Additionally, Maryland received the second highest rating among schools nationwide in the transitions and alignment category, and the third highest rating nationwide in the areas of student achievement in grades kindergarten through 12, and the teaching profession.

The annual report is a collaborative effort between *Education Week* and the Editorial Projects in Education (EPE) Research Center. Most of the state-level data collected comes from a policy survey of states conducted in the summer and fall of 2012. Additionally, the publication uses data from organizations such as the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau and the American Federation of Teachers. For more information, or to view the 2013 Quality Counts report, visit www.edweek.org.



Personnel

Job Openings

Literacy Instructional Assistant – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 18.

Parent Resource Coordinator – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, part-time position. Apply by Jan. 18.

Building Service Worker – Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. Apply by Jan. 23.

Non-Public Instructional Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years teaching experience and three years in the special education field are required. Position works with administrative and teaching staff of all non-public schools. Apply by Jan. 23.

Instructional Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years teaching experience and three years in the

special education field are required. Position works with public schools' regular and special education teachers. Apply by Jan. 23.

Web developer – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree required. Apply by Jan. 28.

Science Content Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) and a minimum of five years science teaching experience are required. Apply by Jan. 30.

Director of the St. Charles High School Science Center – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree, an administrator I certificate and a minimum of five years science teaching experience are required.

Athletic Director – Henry E. Lackey High School, 11-month position. Apply by Feb. 1.

Vice Principals – Possible future openings, 12-month positions. A master's degree, an

advanced professional certificate and three years of teaching experience are required.

Spanish Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

School Psychology Internship – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, one year position.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

Math Teachers – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month positions.

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

Special Education Teachers – Openings at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School and Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month positions.

Media Specialist – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position.

HVAC Teacher – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.