



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Chess tournament

Due to inclement weather last week, the Charles County Public Schools annual winter chess tournament was rescheduled to Saturday, Feb. 2. The event will take place at Thomas Stone High School and begins at 8 a.m.

Math does count

The annual Tri-County MathCounts competition will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., and the awards ceremony starts at 12:45 p.m. For more information about MathCounts, visit <https://mathcounts.org/>.

Lackey's Air Force Band

The United States Air Force Band will present the Air Force Strings and the Strolling Strings in concert on Monday, Feb. 4, 6:30 p.m., at Henry E. Lackey High School. Admission is free and the program includes musical pieces such as Percy Grainger's "Molly on the Shore," Bela Bartok's "Dances from Transylvania," Leos Janacek's "Suite for Strings," and Morton Gould's "Spirituals." Call 301-743-5431 for more information.

Staff-in-service day

Schools are closed for students only on Wednesday, Feb. 6, for a teacher in-service day. In-service schedules are posted on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/in-service/>.

Interested in hearing music?

The annual Tri-County concerts are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 10, at the Mary Harrison Cultural Arts Center located on the Northern High School campus in Calvert County. The center is located at 2950 Chaneyville Road in Owings. The concerts are free and begin at 2 p.m. Call 301-934-7315 for more information.



Celebrate School Counselors

National School Counseling Week is celebrated Feb. 4-8 and highlights the impact school counselors have on helping students achieve academic and personal success, and planning for their futures. This year's theme 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. Pictured above are Dean Lawless, left, school counselor at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, as he works on a counting lesson with Jenifer fourth-grader Ryan Brown, right. Visit www.schoolcounselor.org for more information.

Martin to be honored for gifted education program

T.C. Martin Elementary School was recently named a recipient of the Maryland Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) award by the Maryland State Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education. 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.

T.C. Martin is one of eight Maryland schools that received the EGATE award this year. Martin is Charles County's third elementary school to receive the award recognition. Last year, Dr. James Craik and William B. Wade elementary schools received the EGATE designation. The school will be honored at a state reception Feb. 28 at Johns

Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. As an EGATE recipient, Martin will receive a Governor's citation, EGATE school banner and plaque.

The program was launched in 2010 by the Maryland State Department of Education 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 Education program guidelines.

In addition to recognition, Martin will serve as a model EGATE school and must reapply every fourth year in order to maintain its EGATE status.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Derek Bumgarner, technology intern; Ericka Akpeneye, second-grade teacher; and Amanda Warner, fifth-grade teacher.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Thursday, Feb. 14. Afternoon prekindergarten students attend that day. Students in the Three's Program do not attend school on two-hour early dismissal dates.

Spellers prepare

The annual Charles County Spelling Bee is Friday, Feb. 15, at Matthew Henson Middle School. The event begins at 6 p.m., and the winner will compete in the televised Scripps National Spelling Bee planned for May 26 - June 1 in Washington, D.C. For more information about the national event, visit <http://www.spellingbee.com/>.

Airing this week on Channel 96

Airing this week on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, a biweekly show produced by the communications department. This episode features a compelling story about a 2004 Maurice J. McDonough High School graduate, a local student art exhibit, and how students at one school showed support for Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Access the episode by visiting the home page of the school system website, www.ccboe.com, and clicking on the NewsBreak 96 photo featured on the right-hand side of the home page.

Student art on display

The Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Smallwood State Park is hosting it's annual Six Picks High School Art Exhibit, which features artwork produced by Charles County Public Schools high school students. An independent judge selects the top submissions, which earn a spot in the exhibit. The exhibit is open for viewing from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., each Friday, Saturday and Sunday until Feb. 10.

Two teachers named Outstanding Gifted Educators

Two Charles County Public Schools gifted education resource teachers, Joyce Campbell and Mary Seremet, were recently named Outstanding Educators in Gifted and Talented Education – Teachers as Leaders – by the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) Maryland Advisory Council on Gifted and Talented Education. 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 in gifted education.



Joyce Campbell

Campbell works with a group of 15 gifted education resource teachers that serve the county's 21 elementary schools. She meets with them monthly to share information, discuss gifted identification processes, review data, provide professional development and serves as a leader for the elementary gifted program.

Campbell also works with resource and classroom teachers to help them adapt and develop curriculum for gifted students, and is the Destination Imagination regional director for Charles County. In her nomination statement, Bourassa said Campbell is highly respected among her peers. "Joyce has earned great respect from the teachers who work with her. The gifted staff depends on her extensive knowledge of gifted issues and her calm demeanor to provide guidance and support whenever needed," Bourassa said.

Campbell said she is honored to receive an award for her work in gifted education, and appreciates the support of school system leaders in expanding the program. "I work with wonderful gifted resource teachers in our schools who really are the ones

that have made the gifted program in our county an outstanding program. I appreciate the support that Mr. James Richmond and Mrs. Judy Estep have given to help expand the gifted programs in our county," she said.



Mary Seremet

Seremet works with the gifted resource teachers at the county's eight middle schools. In addition to meeting with these teachers monthly to review data and share information, Seremet also works with middle school reading and language arts teachers who work with advanced-level students. In her nomination statement, Bourassa said that Seremet is a continuous supporter of gifted education.

"The teachers who work with Mary have great respect for her professionalism and dedication to gifted education. Her expertise and passion are evident in her work," Bourassa said.

Seremet said she is honored to be nominated for the award. "I am honored to have been nominated for this award and feel privileged to be part of a school system that not only values but celebrates gifted education. With the leadership of Mr. Richmond and Mrs. Estep and the dedication of gifted resource teachers in every middle school, CCPS continues to demonstrate our commitment to providing exemplary gifted education programs for our students," Seremet said.

Last school year, Campbell and Seremet worked together to teach a free session of MSDE's The Gifted Learner course in which 25 classroom teachers and administrators earned professional development credits. The course was offered at no cost to participants because Campbell and Seremet volunteered to teach the course with no compensation.

Campbell and Seremet are two of 20 educators in Maryland to receive the Teacher as Leader award this year. They will both be honored at a Feb. 28 state reception at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory.

Scholarships available for Charles County Public Schools students

The Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. is offering more than 40 scholarships to Charles County high school students. Applications for scholarships are available at all county high schools and must be submitted by Friday, March 1. Award notification will be announced at each high school's senior awards ceremony later this spring.

Applications are also available on the school system website, www.ccboe.com, under the students section, located on the left-hand side of the home page. Click on the Scholarship & College information tab. Students can also contact their school counselor or College & Career Advisor for more information.

Each scholarship has specific eligibility criteria and information regarding eligibility is located on page two of the application.

The following scholarships are available:

- Richard J. Abela Scholarship, \$2,000 (for North Point High School students);
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity – Donald M. Wade Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Michael J. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for La Plata High School students);
- Apartments of St. Charles Scholarship, \$500;
- St. Charles Community Scholarship, \$500 (three awards);
- Jeremiah and Elijah Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Unnae Pak-Borgnis Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Charles County Health Department and School Nurses' Scholarship, \$250;
- Charles County Teacher Education Assistance Grant, \$1,000;
- Charles County Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, \$500;
- Charles County Retired School Personnel Association Scholarship, \$500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- John H. Cox Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Ronald G. Cunningham Nursing Scholarship, \$500;
- Ronald G. Cunningham Scholarship, \$2,500 (one for each Charles County public high school);
- Kate Donahue Scholarship, \$400 (for Henry E. Lackey High School students);
- Lisa Michele Duckett Achievement Award, \$1,000;
- Parker Financial, LLC Financial Literacy Scholarship, \$250;
- La Plata Garden Club Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Grote Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata High students);
- GRPA STEM Scholarship, \$1,000 (renewable for three years);
- William and Vivian King Scholarship, \$1,000 (one for each Charles

County public high school);

- Thomas Kurtz Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Lackey students);
- Harold Allen Levy Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Harding Memorial Future Educator Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Mary Matula Scholarship, \$300 (for La Plata students);
- Timothy Minor Criminal Justice Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Timothy Minor Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Stephen E. Mitchell Educational Scholarship, \$500;
- Thomas B. R. Mudd Nursing Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Thomas B. R. Mudd Teacher Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, full two years;
- Tiny Hopes Scholarship, \$1,000 (three awards);
- Mildred Rice O'Callaghan Scholarship, \$500 (two awards, for Lackey students);
- Nicole Pitonyak Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for North Point students);
- Katherine D. Racey Memorial Scholarship, \$1,500 (for McDonough or Lackey students);
- Edward Rorer Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for Science, Technology & Industry students);
- Charles Shelton Veterinarian Scholarship, \$2,500;
- Starkey Memorial Scholarship, \$500;
- Robert Dean Stethem National Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Robert Dean Stethem Thomas Stone Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Stone students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Michael S. Tayman Memorial Nursing Scholarship, \$1,000 (for McDonough students);
- Professor V. Phillips Weaver Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Patricia Sugg Weiers Memorial Scholarship, \$250;
- Woman's Club of Southern Maryland Scholarship, \$500;
- Ashley Jayne Younger Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards; for Westlake students); and
- Zonta of Charles County Scholarship, \$1,000 (two awards).

The Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships to Charles County students. The Charles County Commissioners, Charles County Public Schools, the College of Southern Maryland and the Chamber of Commerce are always represented on the Scholarship Fund Board. All other community members are selected from the community at large.

Nominate an outstanding teacher for county, state recognition

Charles County Public Schools is seeking nominations for the school system's Maryland 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 2013 Charles County Teacher of the Year. There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by March 1 to the office of human resources. Ap-

plication information is located on the Charles County Public Schools website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/TOY.cfm>. At the county level, 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. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) selects the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

For additional information, contact Jeanette Sudik, 301-934-7356 or jsudik@ccboe.com.

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Board of Education announces February 12 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 12, 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 rebroadcast throughout the week. The meeting is also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools website. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Westlake High School's JROTC unit

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Presentation by Wells Fargo on the Classified Retirement Plan
- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- CIP update
- SY 2014-2015 calendar
- Revisions of student transfer rule

• Legislative update
Unfinished business
New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

• Students - Jackson Tross, fifth grade, Berry Elementary School; Jacob Wadell, fifth grade, Eva Turner Elementary School; Conner Smith, eighth grade, Matthew Henson Middle School; Liam Vienneau, eighth grade, Piccowaxen Middle School; and John Bayer, senior, La Plata High School.

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

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Policy #3514 – green product cleaning supplies

Adjournment



Personnel

Job Openings

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

Guidance Secretary – John Hanson Middle School, 11-month position. Apply by Feb. 6.

Secretary to the Director of Science Instruction and Program Development – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Feb. 6.

Title I Coordinator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree or advanced professional certificate and three years of teaching experience required. Knowledge of the Title I Program is preferred. Apply by Feb. 11.

Vice Principals – Possible future openings, 12-month positions. A master's degree, an advanced professional certificate and three years of teaching experience are required.

Library Media Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years

of experience in a teaching or library media center position required. Three years of leadership experience is preferred.

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

Contract Administrator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Five years experience as a contract administrator or senior buyer and a CPPO, CPPB, CPM or CACM certification required.

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

Physics Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month 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 Teacher – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

School Counselor – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position.

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

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

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity volleyball coach
- Junior varsity baseball coach

Contact, Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director, 301-645-8857, to apply.

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Unified track coach

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