



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Interims issued*

Interims will be issued to students on Monday, May 13.

### *It's testing time*

Elementary and middle school county assessments are May 13 through May 23. High school county assessments are May 20 through June 5. High School Assessments (HSA) begin on May 20 and end June 7.

### *Memorial Day closure*

Schools and offices are closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.

### *Website survey*

The Communications department would like input from staff members to redevelop the Charles County Public Schools website. A survey is posted on the school system website to collect and analyze information that will help the department define content changes, functionality and how to meet user expectations. There are two separate surveys – one for staff and one for the community. Staff members can access the survey on the home page of the system website, [www.cc-boe.com](http://www.cc-boe.com). The survey is posted on the middle of the home page. The deadline to fill out the survey is Friday, May 24.

### *Spring recognition programs*

Charles County Public Schools is hosting several spring recognition programs at area high schools on Tuesday, May 21, for students at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Award categories include student accomplishments in areas such as academic achievement and fine arts. Each elementary and middle school has been assigned to one of the six county high schools, which are hosting the programs. For more information, call 301-934-7365.

## Higdon's Bailey is the CCPS 2013 Teacher of the Year

At a young age, Mary Bailey learned through first-hand experiences that she wanted to be a teacher. She struggled as a student and had a supportive mother who not only advocated for her education, but pushed her to persevere and overcome her challenges. Bailey, who is a Reading Recovery teacher at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, said she became a teacher to help children overcome learning obstacles and to help advocate for their opportunity to equal education.

One example of Bailey's commitment to helping children succeed involved her serving as a tutor for a student who was undergoing treatment for cancer and could not attend school full time. This child's mother asked if she could request the tutor because she "had the perfect teacher in mind, Mary

Bailey." Bailey worked with this student, Brian Wathen, for more than two years and although he could not always come to school, she provided him with a strong learning foundation and important life skills that children learn in the school setting. At the recommendation of Brian's mother, Jill Wathen, Bailey was nominated for the Teacher of the Year award. For her outstanding commitment to children, Bailey was named the Charles County Public Schools 2013 Teacher of the Year.

Bailey said she is incredibly humbled by her nomination. "I was so honored to have been nominated by a parent. I don't do what I do for recognition, but I appreciate my work being recognized. I know that every child can

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**Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School Reading Recovery teacher Mary Bailey, left, helps kindergartner Omari Cole, right, with a reading lesson.**

## McDonough Rams welcome State Superintendent Lowery

Maurice J. McDonough High School students put on their best performance last week for a special visitor to the school – Dr. Lillian Lowery, Maryland State Superintendent of Schools. From a special presentation of "Cinderella" by the school's drama department to a classroom visit featuring robot programming, the agenda was packed with hands-on activities and classroom visits for Lowery to see educational and extracurricular opportunities available for Charles County's high school students.

While this was Dr. Lowery's fourth visit to Charles County Public Schools, the request to visit McDonough was initiated by three McDonough parents active in the school's Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO). Denise Glass, Maxine Griffin Somerville and Lisa Parker reached out

to Lowery earlier this year and urged her to visit a high school that has long been serving the Charles County community. Lowery took up their offer and visited the school on April 30. Two McDonough students – seniors Gage Butler and Mariah Lawson – served as tour guides and took Lowery to several classrooms. First on the agenda were visits to the school's auditorium to watch the drama group perform the first act of their spring play, and then on to the Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) classroom to see how students are prepared to work in education.

Lowery visited Charles Centivany's engineering class to talk with students about their latest projects and was shown how a robotic arm can be programmed to build a pyramid out of blocks. At the mid-point of Lowery's tour, she commended McDonough Principal

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## State Superintendent

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Bradley Snow on the excellence of his students and staff and said she would be happy to have her child in any school in Charles County. "You are doing some really incredible things with your students here. I would be happy to have my child in any of your schools," she added.

Superintendent James Richmond, along with Board of Education Chairman Roberta Wise, Vice Chairman Maura Cook and Board member Patricia Bowie, got a chance to talk with Lowery over lunch held in the school's media center. Lowery also got a chance to speak with Kimberly Hill, who will replace Richmond in July as Superintendent of Schools, and asked her how she was adjusting to her new role.

The remainder of the tour featured a visit to the school's Telepresence classroom, and several other areas, such as a Biology, English, art and business class. Members of the PTSO were also in attendance during the visit to thank Lowery for visiting McDonough. Glass serves as the PTSO President and thanked Lowery for taking the time to take the PTSO members up on their offer to see what other schools in Charles County have to offer the community and students. Earlier this school year, she met with Superintendent James Richmond and members of the Board of Education. She also visited North Point High School and helped hand out diplomas at the Adult Education graduation.



**State Superintendent Dr. Lillian Lowery, left, watches junior Nick Stottlemeyer program a robotic arm to build a pyramid of blocks.**

## Teacher of the Year

Continued from page 1

learn and I enjoy the challenge of piecing together the 'puzzle' that yields success," Bailey said.

Bailey has spent her 26-year teaching career working with students who need additional assistance and guidance, first as a special education teacher at Piccowaxen Middle School, and now as a Reading Recovery teacher. She primarily works with students in grades kindergarten through second, and also works with students in literacy clubs. When it comes to her accomplishments, Bailey measures hers through the successes of her students.

In her professional biography, Bailey recalls a letter she received from a former student she worked with at the middle school level. The student reached out to Bailey to thank her for providing students with the tools and positive support needed to be successful in life. She said it is this type of feedback from parents and students that makes teaching worthwhile.

Bailey is also active in the school community. From serving as captain of the Relay for Life team to organizing an annual book swap and ice cream social, Bailey commits her time to connecting families and the community with Higdon.

Brian Wathen is now a fifth grader at Higdon and Bailey still keeps a close eye on him. From reminding him to keep his desk and homework organized, to supporting his Race for Hope - D.C. team, Bailey continues to maintain a positive relationship with him. Jill Wathen said, "She makes a difference in children's lives."

As Charles County's Teacher of the Year, Bailey 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.

The Board of Education will recognize Bailey for her accomplishments at the June 11 meeting.

## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education April 9. Pictured, from left, are Holly Dolan, high school resource teacher, Westlake High School; Mildred Alexander-Moses, school counselor, Theodore G. Davis Middle School; and Shayna Pounds, fourth-grade teacher, Indian Head Elementary School.

### Last day for seniors

The last day of classes for seniors in the Class of 2013 is Friday, May 24.

### Redistricting hearing

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond is presenting his recommendations on high school redistricting to the Board of Education on May 14. The Board will receive public comments on the recommendations at a public hearing on May 20, from 6:30-9 p.m. at Westlake High School. Persons wishing to speak during the hearing must sign up in advance. The sign-up sheet will be available outside of the school's auditorium beginning 45 minutes prior to the start of the hearing. No one arriving after 6:30 p.m. will be allowed to sign in or speak. Information on the high school redistricting process is posted on the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/transportation/hsredistricting.cfm>.

### AIP graduation

Students in the Adult Independence Program (AIP) will graduate in a ceremony scheduled for May 17, 10 a.m., at North Point High School. The Adult Independence Program provides students with community learning experiences that parallel experiences of independent adults. Throughout the duration of the program, which is designed for student's ages 18 to 21; students acquire adult skills and apply them to community environments. Students in the program are trained to search for employment and to complete job applications, as well as how to access the public transportation system.

### Minority Achievement meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting is Wednesday, May 15, starting at 4:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.





## Teacher Appreciation

Thank you CCPS Teachers ...

*Charles County and Maryland  
are top in the nation because of your  
commitment to children*

*- Superintendent James E. Richmond and  
the Board of Education of Charles County*

Pictured clockwise, from top left, are William A. Diggs Elementary School art teacher Pamela Glover; John Hanson Middle School special education teacher Travis Chase; Westlake High School math teacher and the *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher award recipient Crystal Harney; Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School Reading Recovery teacher Pamella Gingerich; Mattawoman Middle School special education teacher Richard Kelly; Mitchell physical education teacher Marty Margolis; Thomas Stone High School family and consumer science teacher Janet Porter; Diggs prekindergarten teacher Jennifer Gimmel; and Hanson computer teacher Daniel Meltsner.





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## Board of Education Members

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# Board of Education announces May 14 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, May 14, 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.ccboc.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

## Executive session – 12 p.m.

## Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, JROTC, Maurice J. McDonough High School

## Recognition of student liaisons

## Superintendent's update

## Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Student athletes – state champions
- CIP update
- Educational facilities master plan
- Superintendent's redistricting recommendation

- Credit recovery
- Common Core curriculum
- Unfinished business**
- New business and future agenda items**

- New business – transfer of Pinefield unusable school sites to county government
- Future agenda items

## Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees – Pamela Wilhelm, technology facilitator, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; Catherine Curtis, instructional assistant, Mary B. Neal Elementary School; Patricia Changco, mathematics teacher, Mattawoman Middle School; and Jill Bodamer, health occupations teacher, North Point High School.

- Resolution – *Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership award* – Kimberly Hill

## Public Forum – 6 p.m.

## Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Policy 6000
- Sadlier grammar workshop and SpringBoard reading and mathematics

## Adjournment



# Personnel

Apply for positions online at [www.ccboc.com/hur](http://www.ccboc.com/hur). Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a Bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

## Job Openings

## Executive Assistant to the Superintendent

– Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A minimum of five years of experience in finances, budget, payroll and special event planning required. Apply by May 10.

**Early Childhood Liaison** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 12-month position. A minimum of five years of experience working directly with children age birth to kindergarten required. Apply by May 10.

**Reading Instructional Assistant** – General Smallwood Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by May 16.

**Transportation Financial Analyst** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month

position. Apply by May 16.

**Food Service Manager** – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by May 17.

**Student Services Specialist** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in education, administration or school counseling, and a minimum of five years of successful experience in an educational setting required.

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

**Science Teachers** – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

**Spanish Teachers** – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

**Math Teachers** – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

**Technology Education Teachers** – Openings at the high school and middle school levels, 10-month positions.

**Occupational Therapist** – Location to be determined, 10- or 11-month position. Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy and a Maryland State License are required.

**Student Intervention Programs Coordinator** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and Advanced Professional Certificate or Master's degree in relevant field and a minimum of five years experience in education required.

**School Psychologist** – Location to be determined, 10.5-month position. School Psychology Certification in Maryland required.

## Extra pay position

**Henry E. Lackey High School** has the following opening:

- Head varsity boys' soccer coach

Contact Doug Lamb, athletic director, at 301-743-5431, to apply.