

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.

SECAC meeting

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 14, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7456 or e-mail fps@ccboe.com.

Two-hour early dismissal

The first two-hour early dismissal of the 2011-12 school year is Wednesday, Sept. 14. Morning prekindergarten students attend.

Teacher in-service day

Schools are closed for students only on Friday, Sept. 16, for a teacher in-service day. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffdev/in-service/> for a schedule that lists times and locations.

Want to be in the know?

Subscribe to the Charles County Public Schools press releases subscriber list to receive the latest student and staff accomplishments, and school system information, including inclement weather and emergency closing announcements, directly to your e-mail account. All posts are delivered electronically within minutes of new updates. Visit www.ccboe.com/pr to sign up.

This Week in CCPS

This Week in Charles County Public Schools is a short news item compiled each Friday and sent via e-mail to all employees during the school year. This Week provides informational links to news items, school system accomplishments and facts, as well as upcoming events that employees might like to attend.



Henry E. Lackey High School seniors Latesha Sheff, left, and Jehnae Linkins, right, receive a safe driving flyer from Charles County Sheriff Rex Coffey, center, as they arrive for the first day of school on Aug. 30.

Hurricane stalls opening, but first day goes smoothly

School started a little late this year, but Tuesday's opening went smoothly, according to Superintendent James E. Richmond.

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) opened the doors at all of its 35 schools on Tuesday following a one-day delay due to power outages and road closures caused by Hurricane Irene, which blew through Charles County over the weekend. The opening day closing followed an early school system closing on Aug. 23, when an earthquake sent teachers home halfway through their first day back to work.

"Teachers got off to a shaky start and students got off to a stormy start, but it is smooth sailing for the next 180 days," Westlake Principal Chrystal Benson joked after a successful first day on Tuesday.

More than 3,000 CCPS employees in the classrooms and behind the scenes welcomed nearly 26,000 students to the new school year. Among the employees are 151 new teachers. The Human Resources division is working this week to fill a few teaching vacancies caused by last-minute resignations, Sean McDonald, personnel specialist, said.

At Mary B. Neal Elementary School,

staff captured the rock and roll spirit early by decorating guitars and playing rock and roll trivia during staff development last week. The activities were designed to help staff get to know each other and to develop this year's school theme, "Let's Rock and Roll into 2011-2012." Neal Principal Carol Leveillee said when the theme was chosen, "Little did we know that during the first week of 2011-2012 we'd have real rock and roll... an earthquake and a hurricane."

CCPS opened Tuesday with an enrollment around 25,500 students, a number that is slightly less than projected and missing prekindergarten and three's program students. The youngest students start on a staggered schedule after Labor Day.

Richmond and Sheriff Rex Coffey greeted Henry E. Lackey High School students on Tuesday with a message that "We Care" about safe driving. "We Care" is a four-year old safety program aimed at educating teen drivers through checkpoints in school parking lots and activities designed to help prevent teen crashes and fatalities.

The Superintendent and Sheriff, along with Principal James Short and school re-

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Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are three new CCPS teachers. Pictured, from left, are: Catrice Alleyne, CISCO systems teacher, North Point High School; Christopher McAllister, technology education teacher, Westlake High School; and Chloe Obando, foreign language teacher, Westlake High School.

Follow us on Twitter!

Did you now that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on www.twitter.com/CCPS for system updates, news, facts and more. The site can be accessed from the internal network by selecting the "view for work-related purposes only" under the options area of the Websense page.

Direct Deposit

The school system encourages employees to sign up for direct deposit for paychecks. Use of direct deposit eliminates concerns about receiving checks in a timely manner on snow days or during the summer. To sign up for direct deposit, fill out the authorization agreement, which is available on the school system Web site under the staff services page. Attach a voided check to the form and forward to the payroll department. Allow one payroll cycle for information verification.

24-hour information line

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and delays, and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410. The line is updated twice weekly and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

Now showing ...

Airing this week is a new episode of News-Break 96, a monthly show produced by the communications department that highlights school system events. This episode takes a look at the first day of school for Charles County Public Schools students, and highlights some of the school system's new principals. The show airs on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is available as a video on demand on the school system Web site.

source officer Kyle Evans, passed out flyers to students as they parked their cars and headed to class. The flyers challenge students to help save lives with safe driving. "Four years ago when you were in middle school and not yet old enough to drive, a series of car crashes took the lives of nine teenagers in Charles County. ... Now, as a student driver, it is your turn to choose safety," the flyer stated. School resource officers at each high school passed out flyers on opening day and will conduct spot checks in school parking lots throughout the year to ensure students are buckling up, limiting their passengers and not talking on cell phones while driving.

The new school year also brought principal changes following the appointment of six new principals and the reassignment of 12 elementary school principals.

Principal Thadine Wright, who was transferred from Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School to J.C. Parks Elementary School, said returning to Parks, where she previously worked as a vice principal, has been heartwarming. Parents and students have welcomed her, and Wright said, "Returning to Parks, I have had many students tell me that their siblings remembered me from my time

at Parks as a vice principal and how they think it is interesting that I am back as their principal. It makes me proud to be back in the community."

For most, Tuesday's opening was business as usual. At General Smallwood Middle School, new principal Kathy Perriello joined vice principals and administrators to welcome the school's 460 students at arrival time. As each bus stopped, administrators hopped on board to welcome students and let them know where to report. "We are excited to have you back," Perriello said over and over as students filed off the buses.

Richmond, who visited staff and welcomed students at several schools, said it was a great day. "Everything is running smoothly. It is as if schools never even closed for the summer," Richmond said.

Wright agreed, saying at Parks, instruction and learning started the first day. "To be honest, our staff and students have already done a great job developing positive learning communities in their classroom. We had a few e-mails and phone calls from parents saying that their students were tired this week but very happy to be back at school. That's nice to hear," Wright said.

System recognized for Relay for Life efforts

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff and students were recently recognized for their participation in the 2011 Relay for Life of Charles County campaign. Of the more than \$350,000 raised in Charles County, the school system contributed a total of \$168,103 to the 2011 campaign. Funds were raised through 48 school-, center- or building-based teams that included more than 700 participants.

The school system also had 100 percent participation, which means that teams from each school, center and building participated in the fundraiser. The top four fundraising schools were: Westlake High School - \$15,265; Piccowaxen Middle School - \$10,555; William A. Diggs Elementary School - \$10,215; and North Point High School - \$9,673.

Each year, student teams are also invited to participate in the campaign. A team

from Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School composed of 15 students in the Just Say No Club raised \$8,588. A team of 11 students from T.C. Martin Elementary School raised \$3,380, and a team from Benjamin Stoddert Middle School raised more than \$1,600.

"We are very thankful to Mr. Richmond, Mr. Cunningham, all of the principals and the school team captains for their continued support and involvement. This certainly was a record-breaking year," said Stephanie Hubbard, community manager for the American Cancer Society's South Atlantic Division.

Additionally, Relay for Life teams from all schools and centers participated in a regional event held in June at Regency Furniture Stadium.

For more information on Relay for Life, visit www.charlescountyrelay.org.



Charles County Public Schools welcomes students to the 2011-12 school year

Charles County Public Schools welcomed students on Tuesday, Aug. 30. Pictured, clockwise, from left: Students at Henry E. Lackey High School arrive for the first day; Glenda Clevon, right, a kindergarten instructional assistant at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, comforts kindergartner Ryon Price, left; La Plata High School social studies teacher Katherine Van Gilst, left, directs Ariel Barnes, a sophomore, right, to the correct classroom; Dr. James Craik Elementary School Principal Penny Nye welcomes a group of kindergartners and first graders to school; Maurice J. McDonough High School Vice Principal Steven Roberts, right, meets with senior Malcolm Bragg, left; and General Smallwood Middle School Principal Kathy Perriello, right, welcomes seventh-grader Kavon Green-Johnson, left, as he exits his bus Tuesday morning.



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301-932-6610
301-934-7220
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Katie O'Malley-Simpson
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Board of Education announces Sept. 13 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 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. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week. Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/>.

Executive session – 11 a.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – Thomas Stone High School's JROTC unit

Recognition of Project Graduation contributors

Superintendent's update to the board

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student board member's update
- Opening of schools
- Update on athletic program
- Capital Improvement Program (CIP) update
- Report item: FY 2012 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Update on annual Bridge to Excellence; Race to the Top

- Update on staffing
- Report item: Ethics policy

Unfinished business

New business

- Intercategory budget change FY 2011

Future agenda items

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- New Microsoft Office 2010 textbooks
- FY 2013 CIP state and local CIP program
- Recurring resolutions: *American Education Week; American Freedom Week; African-American History Month; Career and Technical Education Month; National School Counseling Week; Read Across America; Women's History Month; Fine and Performing Arts Month; Month of the Young Child; National Student Leadership Week; Teacher Appreciation Week; Administrative Professionals' Week; Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week; National Physical Education and Sport Week; Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader; Charles County Teacher of the Year; Employees' Retirement; and Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award*

Adjournment

Staff notes

Job Openings

Assistant in Transportation – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years of experience in transportation/operations required. Apply by Sept. 7.

Food Service Program Support Manager – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years of experience in food services or related field are required. Apply by Sept. 9.

Food Service Worker – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, four-hour position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Building Service Workers – Openings at North Point and Thomas Stone high schools, 12-month positions. Apply by Sept. 9.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistants – Openings at Dr. James Craik and Gale-Bailey elementary schools, 10-month positions. Apply by Sept. 9.

Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant – T.C. Martin Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant (Highly Qualified) – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. Associate degree or passing score on Para Pro test required. Apply by Sept. 9.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills – Westlake High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Secondary Instructional Assistant – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Mathematics Teacher – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Staff Notes

Employee portal

Charles County Public Schools features an employee web portal for employees to access payroll and benefits information electronically. Employees can create an account to access payroll information, leave balances, employer forms, education and teaching certificates, and benefits details. Paychecks are available for view a week prior to the actual pay date.

Users can follow these steps to create an account: access the portal on the staff services page of the CCPS Web site; select create an account; enter the required information, including your first and last name used for payroll purposes, your employee identification number and last four digits of your Social Security number; and create an account password and include a valid e-mail address. Call 301-934-7488 or e-mail EP@ccboe.com with questions.