



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Semester break

Schools are closed for students on Tuesday, Jan. 24, for a semester break. It is a teacher in-service/report card preparation day.

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Tuesday, Jan. 31. Elementary school report cards will be issued Jan. 31, and middle and high school report cards will be mailed.

Marking period dates

The second marking period ends on Monday, Jan. 23; the third marking period begins on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

PAC meeting

The next Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 31, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Call 301-934-7364 for details.

Airing now

Airing now is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, a show produced by the communications department that highlights Charles County Public Schools students, staff and events. This episode features scholarship opportunities available through the Charles County Scholarship Fund, the school system's participation in the Student Space Flight Experiments Program (SSEP) mission patch design contest and a tribute to Ronald G. Cunningham, the former deputy superintendent for Charles County Public Schools.

Mid-year orientation

The mid-year new teacher orientation is Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at North Point High School.

Wise, Cook re-elected as Board chairman, vice chair

The Board of Education of Charles County re-elected Roberta Wise as chairman and Maura Cook as vice chairman at its Jan. 10 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 two years. In accepting the nomination, Wise said she would continue to keep the Board focused and united as the group works through the challenges of the coming year. "We will need to continue to strive for improvements in operations and most importantly, student achievement. Additionally, redistricting, construction of St. Charles High School and preparation for the selection of our next Superintendent are all issues that will require our focused attention," Wise said.



Roberta Wise

A second-term Board member, Wise also served as vice chairman of the Board for three years after first being elected in 2006. Wise thanked the Board members for their continuing support and trust in her as chairman. She is a retired Charles County Public Schools teacher with 34 years of experience. 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 second term as vice chairman. In accepting the nomination for the position, Cook said she has a strong work ethic, remains calm in the face of conflict and continues to be an advocate for high academic standards and instructional rigor for all students.

Cook is a nurse and a former award-winning Destination Imagination coach, parent-teacher association 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 is a registered nurse local care coordinator.



Maura Cook

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.

La Plata gains new space for athletics, instruction

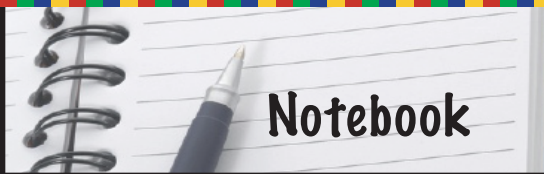
Vacant Navy housing near La Plata High School has been demolished, making way for future athletic fields and parking lots for students.

In November, the Interagency Committee on School Construction (IAC) approved the acquisition of the 19-acre site by Charles County Public Schools from the Federal

Government and Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action.

The site, which is adjacent to La Plata High School, will be used for athletic fields and outdoor curriculum support areas such as a cross country trail, walking for wellness classes, Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps training, a fine arts class, a nature trail, local

See Navy housing, page 2



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Henry E. Lackey High School. Pictured, from left, are: Gloria Heisserman, pupil personnel worker; Marlana Spurr, secretary to the principal; Tech. Sgt. Clarence Matthews, JROTC instructor; and Stephanie Tom, Spanish teacher.

Parent involvement matters

Comcast and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) are sponsoring the fifth annual Comcast Parent Involvement Matters Award (PIMA) program. The annual award recognizes parents and guardians whose contributions have led to improvements in Maryland public schools.

Nominees must be a parent/legal guardian of a child in a Maryland public school, and a consistent advocate of public education. Nominees must have also demonstrated involvement in one of the five following areas within the last 24 months: communicating; volunteering; learning; decision making; and/or community collaboration.

Nominations must include three letters of recommendation, a two-page narrative essay describing the nominee's contribution to public education and completed nomination forms. Five finalists will be selected and the winner will be announced at a celebration later this spring.

Nominations are due Jan. 31 and forms are available on MSDE's Web site at <http://marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/audiences/parents/pima.htm>. Incomplete applications will not be considered and submissions will not be accepted online or by e-mail. For more information, visit MSDE's Web site at www.marylandpublicschools.org.

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 Feb. 23, 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 3 edition of *School News*. For information about the ceremony, call 301-934-7356.

Board honors student for winning patch design

The Board of Education on Jan. 10 honored La Plata High School senior Nathan Freeman, pictured right, for his winning patch design as part of the 2011 Student Space Flight Experiments Program (SSEP) patch design contest. His patch flew aboard the last flight of the Space Shuttle Atlantis on the STS-135 mission.

The school system is again participating in the program. Last month, students submitted patch designs and they were put on display in the Starkey building for voting. Two will be selected to fly on a mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The winners will be announced later this month.



Nathan Freeman

Nominate an outstanding teacher for 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 2012 Charles County Teacher of the Year.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by March 2 to the office of human resources. Application information is located on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/TOY.cfm>. Applications should include the candidate's educational and professional development history; pro-

fessional biography; examples of community involvement; a statement on the candidate's philosophy/style of teaching; three letters of support from a principal, administrator, colleague, student or former student, parent or civic leader; and statements on education issues and trends, as well as the teaching profession. For additional application information, visit the school system Web site.

Each Maryland county and Baltimore City forwards one recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which selects the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

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



Navy housing

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community events, beautification and site clean up by student organizations, according to Superintendent James E. Richmond.

The property was owned by the federal government and contained 20 Navy townhouse units. The houses, built in 1952, were in serious disrepair, and had been vacant for many years. The property was transferred from the U.S. Department of Education as surplus federal real estate under a 1949 provision that allows to transfer educational institutions in return for the organization commitment to use the land

and buildings for approved educational programs.

The Board of Education of Charles County contracted to have the houses demolished. Approximately \$105,000 was used for asbestos removal and demolition of the existing housing. Site grounds maintenance will be absorbed within existing funding allocations.

Richmond said securing the property ensures space for a possible future renovation and expansion of La Plata High School.

Scholarships available for Charles County Public Schools students

The Charles County Scholarship Fund, Inc. is offering 40 scholarships to Charles County high school students. Applications for scholarships are available at all county high schools and must be submitted by March 2.

Applications are also available on the school system Web site, www.ccboe.com, under the students section, located on the left-hand side of the home page. 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);
- Apartments of St. Charles Scholarship, \$500;
- Michael J. Anderson Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for La Plata High School students);
- 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 (renewable);
- 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;
- 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;
- Grote Memorial Scholarship, \$500 (for La Plata High School students);
- William and Vivian King Scholarship, \$1,000;
- Thomas Kurtz Memorial Scholarship, \$1,000 (for Lackey students);
- Harold Allen Levy Scholarship, College of Southern Maryland, \$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, \$1,000;
- Stephen E. Mitchell Educational Scholarship, \$500;
- Thomas B. R. Mudd Nurse 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 Memorial 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);
- 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; one for a Westlake student; one for a student at any Charles County public high school); 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.

Maryland school system ranks number one for fourth consecutive year

The Maryland public school system was ranked number one in the nation for the fourth consecutive year by *Education Week*, a leading education newspaper.

Education Week analyzes each public school system in the following six categories: state education policies; student performance in prekindergarten through grade 12; state accountability standards; teacher effectiveness; work on school readiness and high school reform; and preparation for college and the workplace.

The results are published in the annual "Quality Counts" tally report, and Maryland received the only overall B+ rating. The report features more than 100 indicators used to rate each state.

Maryland tied with Arkansas with an A rating for its focus on

early childhood education, college readiness and workforce policies. Additionally, Maryland earned an A rating in the areas of providing early learning foundations for children, adult outcomes, standards and school accountability, and building and supporting capacity.

Most of the state-level data collected by *Education Week* comes from a policy survey of states conducted during the summer and fall of 2011. Additionally, the publication draws on data from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Census Bureau and the American Federation of Teachers.

For more information on *Education Week*, or to view the 2012 Quality Counts report, visit www.edweek.org.

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Board of Education announces February 14 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 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 Web site. 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, Maurice J. McDonough High School's JROTC unit

Superintendent's update

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Athletic trainers
- CIP update
- Redistricting update
- Educational Showcase
- Policy #3420: accounts (opening and closing accounts)
- Teacher evaluation pilot

- Legislative update
- Student transfer rules
- Non-discrimination policy

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: *Read Across Charles County*; *Women's History Month*; and *Fine and Performing Arts Month*
- Rotary Clubs of Waldorf and La Plata; recognition of dictionary donations to schools

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel

Adjournment

Future Meetings

Redistricting public hearings are scheduled at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 28, at Thomas Stone High School and 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, at North Point High School.



Personnel

Job Openings

Personnel Specialist – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and three years of experience in a personnel or management position required. Apply by Jan. 20.

Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent for Supporting Services – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Minimum of five years secretarial experience required. Apply by Jan. 27.

Media Specialist – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Master's degree required.

Special Education Teachers – Openings at Dr. James Craik and Mary B. Neal elementary schools, and Westlake High School; 10-month positions.

Instructional Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and five years of teaching experience required.

Food Service Program Support Manager – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position.

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

Autism Teacher (Early Childhood) – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Mathematics Teacher – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

Extra pay positions

La Plata High School has the following openings:

- Head junior varsity softball coach
- Head junior varsity baseball coach
- Assistant baseball coach
- Head junior varsity lacrosse coach

Contact Cliff Nagle, athletic director, at 301-753-1754 to apply.

Westlake High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity football coach
- Tennis coach

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

Staff Notes

System has a new EAP provider

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider. GHE HealthCare (GHE), a national provider of employee assistance programs, has been contracted by CCPS to offer services for employees.

The EAP is a benefit offered to CCPS employees to help with personal problems that may be upsetting your life, job or family. The program provides help for personal, emotional or family problems as well as alcohol or drug-related, job stress or other mental health issues. The EAP helps decrease absenteeism due to stress and personal problems.

To use GHE, employees can call 866-443-3277. Supply your zip code, name and phone number. A GHE counselor will then schedule a mutually convenient appointment.