



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Last day of school

Students' last day of school for the 2011-12 school year is Monday, June 11. Two-hour early dismissal days are June 6, 7, 8 and 11. The last day of school for students in the Three's Program is Tuesday, June 5. The last day of school for teachers is Thursday, June 14. Teachers will attend in-service activities on Tuesday, June 12, and Wednesday, June 13.

Charles County Public Schools used three of the four student days built into the calendar during the first two weeks of school year for inclement weather. The Board of Education approved three make-up days for students – Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 2 – to restore days for possible use during the winter. Two of the days were teacher in-service days, leaving teachers to make-up those dates on June 12 and June 13.

Important dates for the 2012-13 school year have been finalized by the Board of Education and are listed on the school system Web site, under the calendars section. Two-hour early dismissal dates listed are subject to change. Copies of the Parent Handbook/Calendar are distributed to staff during the week when teachers return to the classroom.

Spring break

Spring break for students and teachers is April 2-9. Administrative offices are closed Friday, April 6, and Monday, April 9.

Report cards mailed/issued

Report cards for middle and high school students will be mailed home on Wednesday, April 4. Elementary school report cards will be issued to students on Tuesday, April 10.

MAC meeting

The next Minority Achievement Committee (MAC) meeting is Wednesday, April 11, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7309 for additional information.

Weirich is the CCPS 2012 Principal of the Year

Thomas Weirich, principal at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, makes it a point to be visible in his building at all times. Whether he is talking with a student or with a staff member, he is friendly and approachable. He has an open door policy to foster communication among students and staff, and promotes a familial atmosphere at his school. His passion for providing all students with the tools for success – either in a college classroom or in the world of work – is what his coworkers say is his best quality.

It is his passion, and commitment to the success of children, that earned Weirich the *Washington Post's* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and the title of the 2012 Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year. His nomination was a group effort among Stethem staff, who say that Weirich's ability to think outside of the box has reached all types of learners.

"Mr. Weirich is a persistent man when it comes to thinking out of the box and

recognizing potential where others do not," Cheryl Richards, middle school team leader and instructional specialist, wrote in a nomination letter. Weirich recognizes that not all students are visual learners and implemented programs in which hands-on opportunities are available. His goal is to provide opportunities for students to succeed in either college or in the workforce.

"I've always been a child at heart and feel fortunate to have found a career in education that allowed me to continue being around young people. I enjoy the opportunity to shape a child's future every day in every way," Weirich said.

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Thomas Weirich

Bradshaw receives Post's Agnes Meyer Award

At Maurice J. McDonough High School, David Bradshaw – a longtime physical education teacher – is known for his kindness and is well respected by both students and staff members. He is a leader among his colleagues and instills in his students the belief that "character is who you are when no one is looking," a motto he has displayed in his classroom. The passion he has to work with children and build their confidence levels is evident in all that he does.

Students say Bradshaw has the ability to bestow upon them a "secret strength" that drives their will to become successful in life. Many view him as more than a teacher, and consider him their mentor, role model or their own personal coach because he pushes each and every student to do their best. For these qualities, he was named the 2012 *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award recipient for Charles County.

Bradshaw, a native of New York, has spent the past 19 years teaching at McDonough, where he was first hired after graduating from college. During his career, he has held several leadership positions, including physical education department chair and acting athletic director, and has worked with students after hours as a varsity football, golf, baseball and track coach. McDonough Principal Bradley Snow said Bradshaw is one of the most respected staff members at the school.

"His extraordinary level of caring for all students can be seen each and every day in the classroom, hallways and on the field



David Bradshaw

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On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored at the March Board of Education meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Nancy Buter, language arts teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School; Leroy Pressley, vocal music teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School; and Tamra Nissen, mathematics teacher, General Smallwood Middle School.

Summer centers registration

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) summer centers program is offering unique instructional experiences for gifted and talented students entering grades three through 12. The program offers one- to three-week residential and non-residential programs with a focus on the arts, sciences, technology, computer science and engineering. The activities are designed to encourage critical thinking, creativity and problem solving while challenging students academically. An online brochure and application forms are available from local gifted and talented education coordinators or on the MSDE Web site at www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/summercenters. Applications must be postmarked by April 15, with the exception of Arts Centers, which have earlier deadlines. Contact Stephanie Zenker at 410-767-0821 for more information.

Educational Showcase

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is hosting its second annual Educational Showcase on Saturday, April 21, at North Point High School. The event begins at 9 a.m. and will feature more than 30 educational presentations on popular topics for elementary, middle and high school students, as well as general sessions targeted for students of all ages. Entertainment will be provided by student performers, such as school bands and choirs, and children in attendance can participate in story time with guest readers from the local libraries or have their faces painted by honor society students.

Each school will maintain a booth to provide attendees with specific school-related information from parental involvement opportunities to extra-curricular activities for students. Visit http://www2.ccboe.com/educational_showcase.cfm for more information.

School system seeking outstanding vice principal

Charles County Public Schools is looking for outstanding vice principals. The school system is accepting nominations for its annual Outstanding Vice Principal Award to be presented to a vice principal who has exemplified excellence. Teachers, parents, students and administrators may submit nominations, and employees cannot nominate themselves.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony during the Board of Education's June 12 meeting.

Nominees must be full-time employees, employed by Charles County Public Schools as a vice principal for at least three years, and have not received this award in the past five years. Nominees must meet criteria in the following areas:

- Educational leadership – Nominee implements strategies for improving teaching by putting programs and improvement efforts into action; involves teachers and other staff members in achieving the goals of the school; and assists in ensuring school climate is positive and functions effectively as a member of the school leadership team.

- Resolving Complex Problems – Nominee maintains awareness of current and emerging issues, manages time and tasks efficiently, and utilizes technology to address educational situations.

- Developing Self and Others – Nominee is committed to continued professional growth, teaches, coaches and helps others, and demonstrates and fosters creativity and imagination.

- Community Service – Nominee involves the community in school events and uses community resources for students, and establishes partnerships with community groups to strengthen programs and support school goals.

Nomination materials must be submitted in a three-ring binder and include:

- a minimum of three statements of support (must be current);
- a brief career summary; and
- a description of contributions in each area of the nomination criteria.

Nomination packets should be forwarded to the division of human resources by Monday, April 30. A committee composed of administrative personnel will make the final selection. The recipient of the award will be awarded \$2,000 and will be registered as a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

For more information, contact Jeanette Sudik at jsudik@ccboe.com. Nomination materials are also posted on the school system Web site at http://www2.ccboe.com/employment/emp_rec.cfm.

Nominate a staff member for recognition

Charles County Public Schools is looking for award nominees for the annual Outstanding Support Personnel Awards program. Awards are given in the following areas: Outstanding Building Service Employee; Outstanding Food Service Employee; Outstanding Instructional Support Employee; Outstanding Information Technology Employee; Outstanding Maintenance Employee; and Outstanding Secretary.

Nominees must meet the following criteria: works full-time, has been employed by CCPS for a minimum of three years and in their nominated position for three years, and not have been a recipient of this award within the past five years. Recipients of these awards will be announced at the June Board meeting.

Nominees must meet criteria in the following areas: resourceful in seeking and completing job responsibilities; seeks new knowledge and skills and understands aspects of position; utilizes technology when necessary; fosters cooperative relationships with students, colleagues and the community; and demonstrates outstanding leadership.

Nomination materials must include a brief career summary, a description of contributions in nomination criteria areas and a minimum of three support statements. Nomination packets are due by April 30 and should be sent to the division of human resources. Contact Jeanette Sudik at 301-934-7356 for more information. Nomination information is also posted at www2.ccboe.com/employment/emp_rec.cfm.

Weirich

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At Stethem, Weirich launched several alternative programs for high-school students and has implemented hands-on courses to offer learning opportunities to all students. These programs include NOV-EL, which stands for New Options-Visions for Effective Learning, and is a self-paced competency-based educational option for students who are interested in accelerating their academic program or pursuing course credit make-up. Weirich also created the Explorers program, in which students gain experience and skills through hands-on training in career areas such as graphic arts, horticulture, computer applications and industrial maintenance.

Another program Weirich launched to help students prepare for their future is the Contract for Success (CFS) program. Through the program, seniors who are missing graduation credits can take classes at Stethem to finish their requirements. Last school year, 20 students were enrolled in the CFS program and 19 graduated on time. The goal of each alternative program is for students to be successful, and it is a goal Weirich communicates to staff daily.

"He has brought programs to Stethem outside the alternative realm so that we can expand and offer students every opportunity to be successful, no matter what their circumstances are. Many times, I have seen a parent come in feeling helpless and upset. After meeting with Mr. Weirich, they leave with hope. The

end result is always what is best for the student and Mr. Weirich will find a way to make that happen," said Christine Hoepfl, a secretary at Stethem, in a nomination letter.

In addition to programs for high school students, Weirich introduced the Connections Program to help middle school students in need of assistance with problem solving, conflict resolution, anger management and goal setting in order to focus on academic achievement and personal responsibility. He also oversees the Home and Hospital Services and Teenage Parenting programs.

Weirich plans to retire at the end of the next school year and said receiving this award is the perfect honor to end his 47-year career with Charles County Public Schools. "I am honored for being selected to represent Charles County Public Schools as the Principal of the Year. I understand the commitment on behalf of the school community to recommend me for consideration and am humbly appreciative," he said.

The *Washington Post* each year honors outstanding principals throughout the metropolitan area through its educational foundation. A committee reviews nominations throughout the school system and one principal is chosen to represent Charles County in its program as its

Principal of the Year. Weirich will be honored by the Board of Education at its April meeting.



Thomas Weirich, principal at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center and 2012 CCPS Principal of the Year, talks with senior Brandon Henry, pictured right, about his plans for after graduation.

Bradshaw

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of play at McDonough. His call of duty has taken many forms that exemplify his willingness to get involved and to be a positive role model in our students' lives," Snow said in a nomination letter.

Bradshaw said he is deeply honored to be recognized for doing a job that he loves. "It was a very humbling experience to be nominated for this award by my peers, and to be selected amongst so many dedicated professionals. I feel fortunate to work at McDonough with so many wonderful people at a job that I love. I value the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our students," he said.

Bradshaw teaches weight training and conditioning, advanced physical education, health and adaptive physical education classes. He holds high expectations for his students and expects each of them to put forth their best effort in all that they do. Carley Flowers, a senior at McDonough, served as a student intern in Bradshaw's classroom and said he is highly respected among the student body because he treats his students as equals.

"Each of his students has nothing but positive things to share about his teaching skills and have said that he has made them into stronger individuals not only on the outside, but on the inside as well," Flowers wrote in a nomination letter.

Bradshaw has also been instrumental in the success of the Unified track and field team at McDonough. The Unified Sports pro-

gram combines students with cognitive disabilities, and students without disabilities on one sports team. Bradshaw is the head coach of the team at McDonough, which includes more than 40 students. The program at McDonough has also served as a model for other school districts interested in launching Unified Sports within their schools.

Bradshaw earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from The State University of New York, College at Brockport. The *Post* will honor him during a reception later this spring.

Bradshaw will be recognized by the Board of Education at its April meeting.



David Bradshaw helps senior Carley Flowers, pictured left, lift a set of weights. He was named the 2012 Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year for Charles County.

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Board of Education announces April meeting agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, April 10, 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, La Plata High School's JROTC unit

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- CIP update
- Reading Recovery program
- FY 2012 financial update
- Budget amendment FY 2012
- School calendar 2013-2014
- Legislative update
- Board goals

Unfinished business

- Superintendent's rule #5126

– student transfers

New business/future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Resolutions: *Teacher Appreciation Week*; *Administrative Professionals Week*; *National Physical Education and Sports Week*; *Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award*; and *Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leader Award*.

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Redistricting recommendations
- Non-discrimination policy
- Proposed FY 2013 operating budget

Adjournment

Work session

The Board of Education is holding a work session at 6 p.m., Monday, April 23, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.



Personnel

Job Openings

Building Service Assistant Manager – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by March 30.

Building Service Worker – Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by March 30.

Financial Secretary – Westlake High School, 11-month position. Apply by April 5.

Media Instructional Assistant – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position. Apply by April 6.

Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant – C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by April 6.

Director for Special Education Compliance, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Facilitation and Related Services – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree in special education, and five years experience with the IEP process and compliance is required.

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

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

Mathematics Teachers – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month positions.

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

Autism Resource Teacher – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years experience required.

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

Food Service Program Support Manager – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A minimum of three years experience required.

Extra pay positions

Westlake High School has the following opening:

- Head varsity cheerleading coach

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

Staff notes

National Board Certification

Teachers and specialists who hold a Standard Professional or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification. Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, April 27. E-mail submissions will not be accepted.

Application information is posted on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at www2.ccboe.com/pr/index.cfm/2012/3/21/Apply-for-National-Board-Certification.