

 *Where success is measured
one student at a time*



Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Sept. 29.

New teacher reception

The new teacher reception is 4 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 22, at Middleton Hall in Waldorf. The reception is hosted by Charles County Public Schools, the Charles County Branch of the NAACP and Nu Zeta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. Call 301-392-7580 for more information.

System hosts College Fair

Charles County Public Schools is hosting the 13th annual Charles County College Fair on Wednesday, Sept. 22, at North Point High School. Hours are 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. The public is invited to attend the evening session of the fair and parents are encouraged to bring their children.

Two financial aid workshops will be held, one at 6:15 p.m. and one at 7:15 p.m., for parents and students to learn about the financial aid application process. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call your child's school or 301-934-7314.

Retirement session

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association and division of human resources are hosting a retirement planning session 5 – 8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

The session will include guest speakers and retirement planning handouts. Light refreshments will also be available. An RSVP is required as space is limited. RSVP or direct questions to Janice Spotz, 301-934-2146 or jspotz@comcast.net.



Charles County Public Schools broke ground for its seventh high school on Sept. 8, celebrating final approval for construction funding. Pictured from left are Charles Carington, Board Member; Manny Bakare, student Board Member; Edith Patterson, Charles County Commissioner Vice President; James E. Richmond, Superintendent of Schools; Charles Wineland, Assistant Superintendent for Supporting Services; Sen. Thomas "Mac" Middleton; Roberta Wise, Board Chairman; and Maura Cook, Board Member. More than 80 people attended the ceremony, which officially kicks off the start of St. Charles High School. The school, located off Piney Church Road in Waldorf, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2013. For more photographs, see page 3.

School system launches parent communication site

Charles County Public Schools is launching a new parent communication system called Edline on Monday, Sept. 20. The site is a secure, Internet-based system parents and students can use to keep up-to-date with their child's records and classes. To access the system, parents will need to obtain an account activation code from their child's school. The system is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Teachers will now have the ability to create classroom pages, post lesson plans and homework assignments, as well as educational links for students. Each teacher is assigned a page for each class. All school sites are accessible to parents from the Charles County Public Schools Web site, www.cc-boe.com. To access the sites from the school system Web site, select the schools and centers tab located on the left-side navigation bar

on the home page.

Staff in the school system's communications department will continue to oversee and manage the school sites, and Web masters at each school update content included on each site. Additionally, data processing department staff manages student data, records and account activation.

The grading review system replaces the Parent at School program that was disabled two years ago due to security problems.

Middle and high school parents can now view their child's grades, class information, calendar of events and activities, and school-related news and updates. The system will be used by the school system and schools to also send e-mails and telephone updates to parents. This feature will be implemented in the coming months.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Piccowaxen Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Charla Hillyard, food service manager; Stefanie Buzby, language arts teacher; and Shawn Kostoff, special education teacher.

Seeking key communicators

The Charles County Public Schools communications department is seeking school key communicators for the 2010-11 school year. Key communicators are employees within the schools who let the communications department know the great things that are happening with students and staff.

If you have an interesting hands-on lesson, a professional accomplishment, or student success story, let your principal know. Information received from key communicators is often published on the school system Web site, featured on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, or sent to local media for publicity purposes. Call 301-934-7220 for more information.

Employee manual

An updated version of the Charles County Public Schools Employee Manual is located on the staff services page of the school system Web site, www.ccboe.com/staffservices. The manual outlines employee expectations, leave and payroll information, health benefits and additional information. The manual can also be accessed directly at http://www2.ccboe.com/PDF/employee_manual.pdf.

Airing this week ...

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, produced by the communications department. This episode features footage from the St. Charles High School groundbreaking ceremony, highlights from elementary school open houses and spotlights two exemplary Charles County Public Schools teachers up for state and national awards. The show is also available on demand on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/>.

Primary leaves 14 candidates vying for Board seats

The race for the Board of Education was narrowed to 14 candidates Tuesday evening. A primary election eliminated the five candidates with the lowest vote totals. Voters will now select seven from the field of 14 on General Election Day, Nov. 2. The new Board of Education will be sworn in to office 4 p.m., Dec. 20, at North Point High School.

Five incumbent Board members, Jennifer Abell, Maura Cook, Pamela Pedersen, Donald Wade and Roberta Wise, were among the 14 that voters selected to advance to the general election. Results are still unofficial. Two incumbents, Collins Bailey and Charles Carrington, did not run for re-election to the Board.

Still in the running, and listed in alphabetical order, are

- Jennifer Abell

- Patricia Bowie
- Maura Cook
- Barbara Cooksey-Feeney
- Paul Donato
- Michael Green
- Jason Henry Sr.
- Michael Lukas
- Narain Kumar Mathur
- Pamela Pedersen
- Sue Richards
- Donald Wade
- Michael Wilson
- Roberta Wise

Maryland added early voting for the first time this year. Early voting for the 2010 General Election is Oct. 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 and 28, 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., at the Charles County Board of Elections building in La Plata. On Nov. 2, polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m.

Class of 2010, high schools improve average SAT scores

Charles County Public Schools average score on the SAT, a nationally known college entrance test, is 1486, an increase of 22 points above last year's average. SAT scores at each of the six county high schools improved in 2010.

Students' average score on the critical reading section is 502, an increase of nine points from last year. Math scores improved to 497, with a seven point gain and writing scores increased six points to 487. SAT tests are designed to demonstrate a student's mastery of certain subjects to colleges. Many colleges use the test as a part of the admissions process.

Only scores for graduating seniors are included in the 2010 report. Students in the Class of 2010 were offered more than \$37 million in scholarships.

La Plata High School was the highest performing school with a score of 1645. Maurice J. McDonough High School students posted an average score of 1524 and Westlake High School students posted a 1501 average. Thomas Stone High School students' average score is 1471, North Point High School's average score is 1445 and Henry E. Lackey High School students averaged 1403. Average participation countywide is 35.7 percent, down from

2010 Average high school SAT scores

Henry E. Lackey	1403
La Plata	1645
Maurice J. McDonough	1524
North Point	1445
Thomas Stone	1471
Westlake	1501
Average county scores	
Critical reading	502
Math	497
Writing	487

39.8 percent in 2009.

Last fall, Charles County Public Schools began offering Kaplan Live Online, an interactive SAT preparation class, for seniors. In the spring, the opportunity was extended to juniors. The sessions were offered on Saturdays at three regional sites. The school system is again offering a Saturday Kaplan Live Online course for seniors this fall, and juniors will be able to participate in Saturday sessions in the spring. Additionally, each high school will offer a 50-hour Kaplan online course through an SAT prep course or after-school learning opportunity. The school system offered five, weeklong SAT preparation classes during the summer.



**St. Charles High School
Groundbreaking Ceremony**

School system staff, local delegates and community members celebrated St. Charles High School on Sept. 8 in a groundbreaking ceremony. Pictured, clockwise, from left: Former and current Board of Education members and guests arrive at the school site; Maurice J. McDonough High School's NJROTC prepare to present arms at the start of the ceremony; Superintendent James E. Richmond accepts a State of Maryland resolution from Dr. David Lever on behalf of Gov. Martin O'Malley; La Plata High School students Deanna Gilley and Justin Hancock sing "The Prayer" for guests; Board of Education members Charles Carrington, Jennifer Abell, Maura Cook, Pamela Pedersen and Col. Donald Wade listen in the audience; Superintendent Richmond and Board Chairman Roberta Wise, along with Sen. Thomas "Mac" Middleton, break ground at the site.



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Board of Education Members

Roberta S. Wise, Chairman
Donald M. Wade, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Collins A. Bailey
Charles E. Carrington
Maura H. Cook
Pamela A. Pedersen
Emmanuel Bakare, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools

James E. Richmond

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The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Patricia Vaira, Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator (students), or Keith Hettel, Section 504 Coordinator (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, Maryland 20646. 301-932-6610/870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

Board of Education meeting agenda - Sept. 21

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 21, 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 streamed live on the school system Web site at www.ccboe.com/boe/live. Program schedules are also available on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm.

Executive Session – 12 p.m.

Call to Order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – North Point High School's JROTC unit

Recognition – Health Careers month

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
- Update on fall sports
- Use of tasers – Sheriff Rex Coffey
- Review of the cell phone policy
- CIP update
- FY 2011 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Bridge to Excellence update

- Diversity training in the work place
- Food Services update
- Oral update on staffing
- Board Chairman Election Bylaw

Unfinished Business

New Business

Future Agenda Items

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action Items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- State CIP 2012
- Recurring Resolutions:

Health Careers Month; 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; Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

Adjournment



Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboe.com/hur. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job Openings

Title I Financial Secretary – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 17.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 22.

Special Education Instructional Assistant/Emotionally Adjusted (EA) Program – Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Special Education Teacher – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

Building Service Worker – Location to be determined, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Advisor, Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) – Position is responsible for the coordination and implementation of countywide student government activities, and works with student government advisors and student officers at all middle and high schools. The position also oversees the selection of student CCASC officers and the student member to the Board of Education, is the liaison to the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) and coordinates, schedules and plans all meetings and community activities. Master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate, and a minimum of three years successful teaching experience are required. To apply, submit a letter of interest to Charles County Public Schools, Attention: Human Resources Department, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD., 20646.

Secretary – Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10.5 month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Executive Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Business Administration and Technology – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Associate's degree and experience preferred. Apply by Sept. 21.

Speech Language Therapist – Opening at the elementary school level, 10-month position.

Spanish Teacher – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position.

Food Service Substitutes – Openings at county schools, hours and locations vary. Position is paid hourly at a rate of \$9.75. Apply by Sept. 28.

Environmental Education Assistant – Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, 11-month position. Bachelor's degree in natural science or similar field required, outdoor education experience preferred. Apply by Sept. 27.