



Charles County Public Schools

# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Oct. 20.

### Graduation time

Graduation for students in the Adult Education program is 7 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 21, at Westlake High School.

### Assessment time

Charles County Public Schools first-quarter assessments are Oct. 18-29.

### Airing this week ...

Airing on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of Newsbreak 96, produced by the communications department. This episode features the Title I Family Fun Night, held at the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs Stadium, the school system's three-year-old program and J.C. Parks Elementary School's second annual Mustang Marathon. The show is available on demand on the school system Web site, [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com)

### Metlife Advisors

MetLife advisors will be available at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 1 - 3 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, in room 214. Representatives will be available to review account information, schedule appointments, set up new enrollments or answer questions. In addition to school visits and individual appointments, advisors will also schedule monthly on-site visits to the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

### Scholarship workshop

CCPS is hosting a scholarship workshop for high school students 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at North Point High School. Visit [www.ccboe.com/pr](http://www.ccboe.com/pr) for more information.



Elliot Pulham, the chief executive officer of the National Space Foundation, pictured left, participates in a biochemistry lab with North Point High School seniors Blaire Cope-land, center, and Bianca Varela, right, during his tour of the school with Principal Kim Hill on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

## Space Foundation shares vision, partnership

Carrie Lamb took what she learned this summer at the Space Discovery Institute back to Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and her earth and life science classes. She not only added new lessons, but is also introducing distance learning, a Rocketry Club and changing the Robotics Club to include a space focus.

That is what the Space Discovery Institute is all about – hands-on learning and exciting teachers about different ways to make learning fun – Elliot Pulham and Iain Probert of the Space Foundation told the Board of Education this week. Since 2007, Charles County's teachers have done more to infuse space in their classrooms after attending the Space Discovery Institute, which is part of a four-year partnership that has grown each year.

Pulham, who is the chief executive officer of the Space Foundation, visited Charles County Public Schools this week to review programs, talk about the Foundation's mission and discuss future partnerships with the school system. Pulham gave Board members an overview of the foundation's mis-

sion as an education industry that blends its work with research, a think tank operation and global partnerships to provide education about space, develop peaceful uses of outer space and to promote how developing products for space help make life on earth better.

The Space Foundation's partnership is on the verge of moving forward with the addition of St. Charles High School and Telepresence as a link, Pulham said. "Education is so central to who we are," he said, and added that the Space Foundation has done research on the effectiveness of introducing space into the classroom. "If you can make it about space, the students will be interested in what teachers are saying," Pulham said.

Probert, the Space Foundation's vice president of education, said the partnership with the school system involves prekindergarten through grade 12 and integrates space into the classroom to improve student interest and skills in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). He updated the Board on the foundation's partnership with School District 11 in Colorado, which includes working with an underperforming school to improve

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### On the cover:

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored by the Board of Education at the Oct. 12 meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Kaila Soltez, mathematics teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Creighton Williams, second-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School; Pamela Brannon, second-grade teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School; and Stephanie Harris, language arts teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School.

### Nominate your principal

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for its 2011 Principal of the Year and the *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. The annual award honors exemplary principals.

Teachers, students, former students, parents, administrators, or community members may submit nominations. Nominees must have a minimum of five year's experience as a principal and three of those years must have been with Charles County Public Schools. Principals may not nominate themselves.

Nomination materials must include a minimum of four statements of support, one of which must be submitted by a professional educator; a brief career summary; and a description of contributions in each of the nomination criteria categories.

The nomination criteria for principals are: manage effectively; demonstrate and encourage creativity; foster cooperation between the school and the community; maintain dialogue with students, parents, faculty and staff; encourage team spirit; demonstrate leadership and exemplify commitment; continue to play an active role in the classroom; and maintain their position as principal throughout the 2011-12 school year.

Nominees must also serve in schools that have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past two school years.

Nominations are due Friday, Jan. 14. Materials should be sent to Charles County Public Schools, Attention: Human Resources Division, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD., 20646.

Award recipients will be announced later this school year.

## Gaddy recognized for launching after-school program

Tameka Gaddy, an intervention resource facilitator for Charles County Public Schools, will be honored by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Oct. 15 through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. Gaddy was nominated for recognition by the Charles County Local Management Board, a division of the Department of Community Services, for implementing the After-School Youth Development Program at General Smallwood Middle School.

The program was launched during the 2008-09 school year at Smallwood, where Gaddy is based, to provide opportunities for students to work on their mathematics and reading skills, social skills and participate in school clubs and field trips. Gaddy enrolled more than 100 students in the program, who would stay after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays to participate. "On Tuesdays we would focus on mathematics and reading grade level skills, and on Thursdays students would participate in social skills lessons," Gaddy said. Groups of teachers at Smallwood also participated in the pro-

gram, and bus transportation was provided to students.

The program was funded by grants through the Department of Community Services, and Gaddy had to maintain and track student data to monitor how well the program served the students. "Students had to take a pre survey and post survey, and student grade point averages were compared from the first quarter to the fourth quarter," she said.

Gaddy also coordinates the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program at Smallwood, and oversees a mentoring program at the school called Adolescents in Motion. She assists other schools with PBIS

activities and events, and launching mentoring programs for students. "It is great to be recognized for something that you do every day to help students. I make sure that students learn while having fun too," Gaddy said.

Gaddy began her career with the school system in 2003. She has a bachelor's degree from Bowie State University and a Master's in Education in School Psychology from Howard University.



Tameka Gaddy

## Westlake's Howell celebrated at Teacher of the Year gala

Superintendent James E. Richmond accompanied Westlake High School social studies teacher Mark Howell, both pictured right, at the Maryland 2010 Teacher of the Year Gala held Oct. 8 in Baltimore. Howell was one of seven finalists for the state award and is the 2010 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. The state title was awarded to Michelle Shearer, a chemistry teacher with Frederick County Public Schools. Each year, Charles County's finalist is eligible for the state title. Howell is the second teacher from Charles County to be selected as a state finalist since 2000.





## Space Foundation

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instructional rigor through the use of space education. The school obtained, through grants, a space mission simulator, technology, a robotics lab and a Mars Yard that simulates Martian terrain and allows students to learn the basics of programming, operating and building robots. The students steer the robots in Mars across computer monitors.

"When students see teachers get excited about something, they get excited," Probert said as he updated the Board on the graduate level Space Institute courses the Space Foundation offers for Charles County teachers. Additionally he spoke about other joint programs including teacher liaisons who become advocates for space education; New Horizons, a community-centered science enrichment program for teachers and students; STARS, which introduces science, technology and academic readiness at the early childhood level; and National Space Symposium education events.

Superintendent James Richmond said as the partnership with the Space Foundation continues, he wants to involve more students. "We have to grow children to have a love of math and science. Beginning with early childhood, we have to ingrain in them that they can learn math and science. STEM is critical for higher learning skills," Richmond said.

Richmond also said he hopes the future of the partnership includes

a Charles County Aerospace Institute as well as a substation of the Space Foundation at the new high school.

Before leaving Charles County, Probert promised the Space Foundation would set up a remote opportunity for Charles County Public Schools by allowing Board members and students to operate the robots in the Colorado-based Mars Yard from La Plata.

That's a start, Richmond said, but his goal is for Charles County Public Schools students to have their own Mars Yard.

To learn more about the National Space Foundation, visit [www.SpaceFoundation.org](http://www.SpaceFoundation.org).



**Iain Probert, vice president of the Space Foundation's Education program, talks with North Point High School junior Cayley Dymond during a tour of the school.**

## Board places restrictions on political activity during school hours

Employees can get involved in politics, just not on school time.

The Board of Education recognizes the rights of employees to vote and engage in political activity. However, the Board has restrictions on political activity during working hours. Board policies 1311, 1312 and 4840 address political rules, and include:

- Political activities of employees must be conducted outside of school hours.
- Employees may serve on juries and assist as election judges and have the right to serve the political party of their choice in capacities such as party workers, delegates or officials, to campaign for candidates to public office and/or to seek, campaign for and hold public office.
- Employees may never include one-sided emphasis as part of work activities concerning political issues and personalities. No employee shall exploit pupils or fellow employees in the writing, addressing or distributing of political materials, nor shall he/she use the schools or offices as a political forum to impose personal political views on others.
- Employees are entitled to the same use of the school facilities that are afforded to any other citizen for political activity. Tenured employees may be granted a leave of absence without pay to campaign for or to hold elective office.
- No school system employee shall solicit support of any political candidate, partisan or nonpartisan, or support of any issue on any referendum matter during regular work hours or on school property. Employees may not use school property, resources or school equipment for political activities.
- School facilities, staff and students may not be used in any way

for advertising or promoting the interests of any commercial, political or other non-school agency, individual or organization. There are some exceptions; however, the Superintendent or the Board must approve those. Exceptions are listed in policy 1312. Religious and political advertisements may not be displayed in school facilities or be distributed through the inter-office pony.

### Election Day

Many public schools are used as polling places on Election Day. Candidates are allowed to post political signs on Election Day at schools used as polling places. The following are rules regarding the placement and display of political signs and paraphernalia prior to general election. Charles County Public Schools guidelines include:

- Political signs may not be placed or displayed on school property until after 6:30 p.m. on the Monday immediately prior to Election Day.
  - Political signs must be removed no later than 11 a.m. on the Wednesday immediately after Election Day.
  - If guidelines are not followed, the school system will remove and dispose of political signs.
- The Board of Elections also has the following guidelines:
- Political signs must be at least 100 feet away from the entrance and exit of the polling place.
  - The Board of Elections marks a line at each polling place as near as practicable to 100 feet from the entrance and exit of the polling place. These lines are not drawn until 6 a.m. on Election Day.
- Election Day is Nov. 2. Schools are closed for students and teachers. School offices are open.

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## Board of Education Members

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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.

## Parks shows school pride during second annual Mustang Marathon

Wellness, health and fun were on the agenda for students and staff at J.C. Parks Elementary School on Friday, Oct. 1, as part of the school's second annual Mustang Marathon wellness walk-a-thon. The school raised more than \$13,360 through students and staff, who walked laps around the school parking lot as a healthy way to raise funds.

During the month of September, students learned about the benefits of walking and living a healthy lifestyle, and how exercise can help students mentally prepare to learn. School staff also featured Wellness Wednesday morning announcements, in which tips and trivia notes about fitness were featured, and students had the opportunity to create exercise schedules in their computer classes.

The marathon featured 50-minute periods for groups of students, who were separated by grade

level, to walk laps in the parking lot. Water stations were set up to keep all participants hydrated, and parent volunteers helped record laps.

Parks Principal Kristin Shields said parents support the event because it also provides them with a chance to volunteer and participate in a school activity with their children. "My favorite part of the marathon is that everyone participates, and learns about the benefits of exercise. The event gives students the opportunity to go outside, get some fresh air, exercise and have fun," Shields said.



**Sunshine Barton, a kindergarten teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School, gives her team of students high fives for participating in the Mustang Marathon.**

Betsy Keesler, Parks' school nurse, and Melissa Moore-head, physical education teacher, coordinated the event this year, and organized the marathon last school year, which resulted in more than \$10,000.

Funds raised will help support assemblies, the purchase of physical education and music equipment, and supplement clubs and field trips.

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**Building Service Worker** – Berry Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 21.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 19.

**Job Placement Coordinator** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 19.

**Secretary to the Director of Special Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 19.

**Title 1 Program Assistant** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 21.

**Secretary to the Assistants in School Administration** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 20.

**Science Teacher** – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

**English Teacher** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

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

**Social Studies Teacher** – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Openings at Mattawoman Middle School and Thomas Stone High School, 10-month positions.

**Biology Teachers** – Future high school level openings, 10-month positions.

**Biology Teacher** – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

**Speech Language Therapist** – Elementary school level, 10-month position. Master's degree in Speech Pathology is required.

**Hiatus Teacher** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position.

**Counselor, Secondary** – North Point High School, 11-month position.

**Special Education Infant & Toddler Teacher** – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position.

**Supervising School Psychologist** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. This position is responsible for the development and implementation of programs related to substance abuse prevention, safe schools, PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support Program), and Student Support Teams. Master's degree/Advanced professional certificate and a minimum of three years successful teaching experience is required.

**Family & Consumer Science Teacher** – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

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