



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Extra holiday

Employees scheduled to work Dec. 23 now have an additional day off. All school and center offices will be closed. This is a change from the Parent/Handbook Calendar and is a result of a negotiated agreement that provided an extra paid holiday this year.

Rams clinch state title

Congratulations to the Maurice J. McDonough High School Rams varsity football team for its Dec. 4 victory against Middletown High School. The 21-14 win earned the team the 2010 Maryland State Championship Title in the 2A division. Footage from the game will air on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 later this month. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/> for an up-to-date programming schedule.

Winter break schedule

Winter break for students and teachers begins Thursday, Dec. 23. There is a two-hour early dismissal Dec. 22. Students and teachers return to school on Monday, Jan. 3. Administrative offices will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during winter break and are closed Dec. 23-27, and Dec. 31.

Nominate a parent volunteer

Comcast and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) are sponsoring the fourth annual Parent Involvement Matters Award program. The award recognizes parents and guardians whose contributions have led to improvements in Maryland public schools. Award nomination information is available on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/pr/index.cfm/2010/11/30/Comcast-and-MSDE-announce-fourth-annual-parent-award>.



La Plata's It's Academic team triumphs at regionals

Congratulations to La Plata High School's *It's Academic* team for its first-place win at the annual Charles County Public Schools competition held Dec. 8 at the College of Southern Maryland. Pictured are: senior Colin Qualters, left, who serves as team captain, senior Melissa Reen, center, and sophomore Alex Smith, right. La Plata scored 310 points in the championship round against teams from North Point and Thomas Stone high schools to earn the top spot. They will compete in a regional competition against George Marshall and St. Albans high schools on Feb. 5, which will air on WRC TV (NBC 4) March 5. Corinne Fox, a science teacher at La Plata, is the team's coach.

Staff proposes high school redistricting timeline

The Board of Education, on Tuesday, will receive an update on future redistricting plans for high schools.

Superintendent James E. Richmond asked staff to prepare a timeline to establish new attendance areas for St. Charles and other high schools to relieve overcrowding at this level. He has also specified that the committee should complete its work so the Board can take action on the final attendance recommendations no later than June 2012. This is to provide a year's advance notice to students and parents about the attendance area changes, which will take effect in August 2013. It is expected that the new high school will open with grades 9, 10 and 11, which requires moving high school students to different schools.

A redistricting timeline calls for the committee to start work next fall. Principals will submit redistricting committee nominations in June, committee selection is set for July and the first committee meeting is scheduled for September.

The redistricting committee will create and finalize two alternatives by December 2011 and the report will be publicized and communicated to the public by March 1, 2012. The redistricting committee reports to the elected Board of Education at the March 2012 Board meeting. A public hearing will follow the report on the alternatives and a Superintendent's recommendation to the Board. A second public hearing will be held in April 2012 before the board makes its final decision.



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Tina Laury, school counselor; Timothy Remo, fifth-grade teacher; and Theresa Morton, special education teacher.

Airing on Comcast Channel 96

Airing this week is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a show produced by the communications department. This episode features the Taiko Drum Club at Piccowaxen Middle School, the accomplishments of La Plata's Leslie Schroeck and ideas about what several Charles County Public Schools students and staff are thankful for this holiday season. Visit www.cboe.com for program information.

Teacher's art featured

Niya Costley, a special education teacher at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, recently contributed more than 25 crocheted pieces to the Hyperbolic Crochet Coral Reef exhibit, a project organized by the Institute for Figuring in Los Angeles. The exhibit is on display Oct. 16 through April 2011 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. The exhibit features crocheted corals made of yarn and found materials that were constructed using particular techniques to create complex, natural-looking pieces. Costley's pieces were used as part of the Smithsonian Community Reef and include brain coral, lettuce coral, mushroom coral, sea pen and sea anemones. For more information on the exhibit, visit <http://www.mnh.si.edu/exhibits/hreef/>.

SEMS system upgrades

The SmartFind Express (SEMS) substitute system will be taken down Dec. 11 for upgrades. The system will be available Dec. 12 and users will be directed to a new login page as well as have access to additional menu options. Users can select the help tab on the login page to download a system reference guide. Additionally, links to tutorial videos are available on the staff services page of the school system Web site. Contact the system help desk at 301-934-7233 with questions or for more information.

In Memoriam Vicki L. Grimm

Vicki L. Grimm, a longtime special education teacher at Matthew Henson Middle School, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 23. She started her career with Charles County Public Schools in 1992 as a teacher at General Smallwood Middle School. She transferred to Matthew Henson Middle School the following year, in 1993. Ms. Grimm was also a longtime softball coach at Henry E. Lackey High School and served as a teacher mentor partner.

Ms. Grimm grew up in Connellsville, Pa., and graduated from California University of Pennsylvania in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in education. She also

held an Advanced Professional Certificate (APC).

She lived in Lusby and is survived by her mother, Freda, two brothers, Harry and Henry Grimm, and one sister, Debbie Grimm.

Visitation was held Nov. 27-28, followed by services at Brooks Funeral Home, Inc., on Nov. 29. Burial took place at Mt. Tabor Cemetery in Pennsylvania.



Vicki Grimm

Mayer received 2010 Umpire of the Year award

Donald Mayer, a secondary instructional assistant at Thomas Stone High School, was recently named the 2010 Maryland High School Umpire of the Year by the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches (MSABC). He was nominated for the award for his professionalism, knowledge of umpiring rules and regulations, and for his dedication to baseball.

"It is an honor to win this award. The coaches are the ones that pick for this award and that means a lot to me. I enjoy working at the high school level and plan to continue to do so as I also gain college level umpire experience," Mayer said.

Mayer was nominated for the award by Guy Smith, head baseball coach at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County. Smith has known Mayer for more than 10 years and said he was a natural choice for recognition. "He is a very knowledgeable and professional style umpire. He is always willing to provide help and assistance to players and coaches. As hard as it is for coaches to sometimes give officials praise, it was easy to provide this award to Donnie because of his umpiring skills," Smith said.

Mayer has extensive experience in serving as a baseball umpire. He is an official with the Southern District Umpires Association, the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate/Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires and the College

Baseball Umpires Assigning Organization. Mayer has also umpired at state events, such as the Maryland State All Star Game in 2007 and 2008 and the Maryland State High School Finals for the past four years.

Ed Glaeser, longtime varsity baseball coach at Stone, spoke on Mayer's behalf during the award nomination process and said he is an outstanding official. "This is an award usually given to older, more seasoned umpires but Donnie has climbed to the top in such a short time he made himself a worthy candidate and an easy winner," Glaeser.

He will be honored by the MSABC at a banquet planned at Oriole Park, Camden Yards in February. Mayer started his career with Charles County Public Schools in 1994 as a substitute and has worked at Stone as a secondary instructional assistant since 2004. He has also attended the College of Southern Maryland and the University of Maryland College Park.



Donald Mayer



JROTC Joint Military Ball

Charles County Public Schools hosted its fourth annual Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) Joint Services Military Ball on Dec. 4 at North Point High School. The event celebrates high school senior cadets and military traditions. Pictured, clockwise, from left: Lackey's Johnette Johnson, North Point's Tashayla Anderson, and La Plata's Richard Watkins and Mitchell Mills observe a moment of silence for military personnel who lost their lives; McDonough's Kyle Jefferson, Stone's Rebecca Flippin and North Point's Keith Jones remember prisoners of war from all branches of service with respective cover; Stone's William Turgeon and McDonough's Sydney Atchison are crowned king and queen; Board of Education Chairman Roberta S. Wise presents Turgeon with his crown; La Plata cadet Victoria Darnell accepts a certificate of appreciation from Gunnery Sgt. Clive Bailey; Westlake's Lindell Jefferson and La Plata's Raniesha Battle cut the cake; and Stone's Samantha Wright presents a toast.



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Board of Education announces December 14 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 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 recognition begins 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. Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system Web site at www.ccboe.com.

Executive session – 11:30 a.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Maurice J. McDonough High School's JROTC unit

Maurice J. McDonough High School Football Team – Class 2A State Champions

Superintendent's update to the Board

Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student board member update
- New student advisor update
- CIP update
- St. Charles High School redistricting timeline
- Navy housing
- Solar energy concepts
- Student exchange process, English Language Learners (ELL) intake process/handbook

- Budget update
- Board policy 4610 amendment
- Legislative update

Board farewell reception – Oasis Café, 3 – 4:30 p.m.

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees

Unfinished business

New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

Public Forum – 6 p.m.

Action Items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- 2011 Legislative issues packet

Adjournment



The swearing-in ceremony for the new Board of Education is set for 4 p.m., Dec. 20, at North Point High School. Two new Board of Education members, Patricia Bowie and Michael Lukas, were elected into office. They join incumbents Roberta S. Wise, Donald Wade, Jennifer Abell, Maura Cook and Pamela Pedersen, who were re-elected to their positions.

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

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

Life Skills Teacher – Piccowaxen Middle School, 10-month position.

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

Mathematics Teacher – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position.

Special Education Math for Self Contained and Inclusion – Thomas Stone High School, 10-month position.

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

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

Instructional Resource Teacher, Middle School Level – John Hanson Middle School, 11-month position.

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

Speech Language Therapist – Elementary school level, 10-month position.

Secretary – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 11-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Building Service Worker – La Plata High School, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – Berry Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Dec. 21.

Extra pay positions:

North Point High School has the follow-

ing openings:

- Varsity softball coach
- Junior varsity softball coach
- Head golf coach for 2011-12

Contact A.K. Johnson, athletic director, at 301-885-2012 to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following opening:

- Head junior varsity lacrosse coach

Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, at 301-934-2944 to apply.

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Girls' lacrosse coach
- Varsity girls' track coach
- Junior varsity girls' track
- Junior varsity boys' track
- Varsity indoor track

Contact David Anderson, athletic director, at 301-743-5431.