

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 21, in observance of Presidents Day.

Interims issued

Interims will be issued to students on Monday, Feb. 28.

Minority Achievement

The Minority Achievement Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 8, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

It's time for spring sports

Spring sports begin on Tuesday, March 1. Visit the school system Web site at www2.ccboe.com/sports/schedule.cfm to view sports schedules for Charles County's six high schools.

Reading is fun

Charles County Public Schools celebrates Read Across Charles County on Tuesday, March 1. School activities range from guest readers and door-decorating contests, to book character costume contests and student book swaps. Each year, the school system coordinates the event in conjunction with the National Education Association's Read Across America Day.

Airing now

Airing now is a new episode of News-Break 96, a bi-monthly news show produced by the communications department that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. Featured this week are Maurice J. McDonough High School's Instant Concert, La Plata High School's Thespian Troupe and highlights from the February Board of Education meeting.



Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, pictured above, met with staff from Duke University and Kaplan K-12 College Prep last month to discuss partnership possibilities involving the use of Telepresence to bring advanced learning opportunities to students.

Superintendent asks Duke to help system go green

Superintendent James E. Richmond wants to create a green curriculum for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS), and he is turning to Duke University for help.

The Superintendent recently met with William L. Chameides, dean of environmental studies and policy at Duke's Nicholas School. The two, along with staff, met during a daylong meeting last month that included a tour of North Point High School and a Telepresence demonstration. The day

ended with frank discussion about future partnership possibilities that would enhance green education for both CCPS and Duke students.

The meeting was a follow up to an August visit by Richmond and staff to North Carolina University to investigate uses for Telepresence, which is highly technical video conferencing equipment. While there, Chameides expressed strong interest in the development of St. Charles High School

See Duke, page 2

Piccowaxen receives Silver Hammer Award

Maryland Comptroller Peter Franchot recently recognized Piccowaxen Middle School for superior maintenance with a 2010 Silver Hammer Award. The award recognizes schools that demonstrate a commitment to fiscal responsibility through superior school maintenance and a sense of pride in their school. Piccowaxen is one of 15 schools in Maryland to receive the award.

"I am here to salute Mr. Raymond Lancaster and am delighted to present this rare award on behalf of Maryland. It takes a team effort to maintain older facilities and the faculty and students deserve a lot of credit for taking care of this building," Franchot said. He is a member of the Board of Public Works, which oversees the state's an-

nual Public School Construction Program, and recognizes that effective maintenance in schools impacts student performance.

Winners of the Silver Hammer Award are first recommended by the school system and in addition to the award presentation at the school, representatives are invited to the Comptroller's office in the spring for an end-of-year reception.

During his visit to the school, Franchot also visited with students in the Future Educators Association (FEA) and Principal's Advisory Committee, and toured a Gateway to Technology classroom. He spoke with several students about their aspirations to study politics and engineering.



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored by the Board of Education Feb. 8. Pictured, from left, are: Keya Young, building service assistant manager, Eva Turner Elementary School; Joseph Perriello, gifted education resource teacher, Berry Elementary School; and Janet Ryan, media instructional assistant, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.

Outstanding teachers wanted

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 2011 Charles County Teacher of the Year.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by March 31 to the office of human resources. Application information is located on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at www2.ccboe.com/TOY.cfm. Applications should include the candidate's educational and professional development history; professional biography; examples of community involvement; a statement on the candidate's philosophy/style of teaching; at least 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, www.ccboe.com.

There is a two-tiered process for the selection of the candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year. The first step is at the county level where applications are received, semi-finalists are selected and interview by a panel of school system staff, and one candidate is selected to represent the Teacher of the Year for Charles County.

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, 301-934-7356 or jsudik@ccboe.com.

In Memoriam

Christopher Hoefert, a technology education teacher at North Point High School, passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011.

He began his career with Charles County Public Schools in 2009 at North Point, where he was also an assistant track and Vex Robotics coach. He also worked with a group of students to create alternate energy sources, such as a wind turbine. Mr. Hoefert was assisting the school system in writing state curriculum for foundations of technology and with human resources recruitment trips.



Christopher Hoefert

Mr. Hoefert grew up in Conesus, New York and attended Monroe Community College before completing his bachelor's degree in technology education in May 2009 from the State University of New York, Buffalo State College. He was also working on his master's degree in curriculum and instruction from McDaniel College.

Mr. Hoefert lived in La Plata and has a brother, Daniel, who teaches at Mattawoman Middle School. Funeral arrangement information was not yet available.

Duke

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and the environmental study opportunities it presents.

St. Charles High School is located in the center of a planned, 11,000-home green community that is touted to be the largest green city in the nation. The high school, which is designed as a gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building, uses green building design, construction, operations and maintenance solutions. The 100-acre campus makes use of natural land and water and contains a four-story wing to reduce its carbon footprint. Plans are to cover the parking lot with solar panels and use rainwater collected in two 94,000-gallon underground water tanks to irrigate athletic fields. It also has 28,000 square feet of green roof and plans for geothermal heating and cooling as well as high use of daylight.

"Environmental study – or green education – is the future of this country. Our lives depend on it. We need Duke's expertise," Richmond told the Duke delegation. He said he is hoping for help developing the emerging green curriculum.

"You need us, and we need you. Your students are the beginning of the environmental solution," Chameides said.

Duke's Nicholas School, which focuses on the study of environmental science and policy, has an academic mission similar

to what Richmond would like for Charles County Public Schools. The school offers environmental education that combines classroom academics with an emphasis on practical, skills-based instruction. Richmond wants an environmental program for all students, and feels the building of the new high school and addition of Telepresence makes this the perfect time to partner with Duke. The school system is already working with the developers of St. Charles to provide hands-on experiences for high school students.

"We need to focus on one or two things we can do like programs that cater to the future and the environment. Our students need to be academically prepared. Environmental studies are new territory for us, and the real challenge comes in making it work. That's where Duke can help us," Richmond said.

The two groups of educators are now working to define the partnership. Possibilities include having CCPS students attend summer environmental studies at Duke and having Duke students serve hands-on internships with the St. Charles green development. Additionally, CCPS students may have the opportunity to participate in a Duke marine and aquatic life program in Delaware.

Charles County Board of Education honors employees for years of service

The Board of Education will honor 61 Charles County Public Schools employees at a Years of Service ceremony scheduled for 5 p.m., Feb. 24, in the Board Room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. Two teachers – Linda Howard, a social studies teacher at John Hanson Middle School, and Charles Jamieson, a physical education teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School – will be honored for 40 years of service to the school system. The Board each year recognizes employees with 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service to children and the school system.

Employees with 40 years of service

- Linda Howard, social studies teacher, John Hanson Middle School; and
- Charles Jamieson, physical education teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School.

Employees with 35 years of service

- James Cobey, building service assistant manager, General Smallwood Middle School;
- Santy DiSabatino, director of transportation, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building;
- Keith Hettel, assistant superintendent of human resources, Starkey;
- Glenn Jones, vice principal, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Charles Marshall, supervisor of operations, Radio Station Road, Building 101.

Employees with 30 years of service

- Burnell Bethea, elementary teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School;
- Maryann Bourassa, content specialist in gifted education, Starkey;
- Ann Busch, art teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Andre Butler, building service manager, Westlake High School;
- Barbara Davis, speech therapist, Indian Head Elementary School;
- Bryan Donahue, art teacher, Lackey;
- Frederick Farley, in-school retention program instructional assistant, Westlake;
- Natalie Fenwick, EEEP instructional assistant, T.C. Martin Elementary School;
- Brenda Garner, secretary to the director of transportation, Starkey;
- Lee Hastings, technology education teacher, Westlake;
- Beth Hastings, technology education teacher, Thomas Stone High School;
- Kathryn Kavlick, elementary teacher, Indian Head;
- Christine Latham, library media specialist, Indian Head;
- Jill Jowdy, physical education teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School;
- Clifton Posey, building service manager, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Wilhelmina Pugh, principal, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Terrance Queen, building service assistant manager, Indian Head;

- Joan Rogers, business education teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Claire Satta, English teacher, Lackey;
- Michael Simms, vice principal, North Point High School;
- Jimmie Swain, social studies teacher, McDonough;
- Libby Wanzer, art teacher, Somers;
- Richard Williams, computer teacher, La Plata High School;
- Alice Yutzy, art teacher, La Plata.

Employees with 25 years of service

- Susan Belmore, art teacher, Martin;
- Mary Brace, elementary teacher, Higdon;
- Joseph Butler, Jr., building service worker, La Plata;
- Brian Chase, building service manager, Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
- Tony Chase, building service manager, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center;
- Darrell Clark, building service worker, McDonough;
- Karin Clark, elementary teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School;
- John Farmer, Jr., building service manager, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center;
- Pamella Gingerich, Reading Recovery teacher, Mitchell;
- Charlotte Goldsmith, special education instructional assistant, Somers;
- Betty Horton, elementary teacher, Higdon;
- Susan Keith, instructional specialist, Somers;
- Kathryn Koch, language arts teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Webster Lee, building service manager, North Point;
- Christine Mais, executive assistant to the deputy superintendent, Starkey;
- Ruth Matlock, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- Toni Melton-Trainor, principal, Indian Head;
- Mary Montgomery, elementary teacher, Mitchell;
- Robert Opiekun, principal, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- Lisa Peters, secretary to special education, Starkey;
- Patricia Price, special education teacher, Higdon;
- Beatrice Ricks, Life Skills program instructional assistant, North Point;
- Sharon Riley, secretary to the principal, Eva Turner Elementary School;
- Rebecca Roussillon, literacy teacher, North Point;
- Diana Scott, social studies teacher, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Beth Searfoss, English teacher, McDonough;
- William Short, building service manager, J.C. Parks Elementary School;
- George Simms, pupil data accounting specialist, Starkey;
- Charles Thompson, painter, Radio Station Road Annex Building;
- Jack Tuttle, content specialist in social studies, Starkey.

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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.

John Hanson's Meltsner honored for technology use in classroom

Daniel Meltsner, a computer technology teacher at John Hanson Middle School, was recently named Charles County's Outstanding Educator Using Technology by the Maryland Society for Educational Technology (MSET).

The award recognizes outstanding prekindergarten through grade 12 teachers who have made an exemplary contribution to instructional computing practices through the use of technology in classroom lessons in a Maryland School. Meltsner was nominated for the award by Brenda Richards, a gifted education teacher at Hanson, on behalf of school staff.

Meltsner uses several computer software programs to enrich student learning in technology, such as the Microsoft Office suite, Movie Maker and Photo Story. He monitors lesson plans for other classroom teachers to ensure that his lessons incorporate content from other subject areas. For example, Meltsner uses Google Earth to enhance social studies curriculum and Google Sketch Up for engineering lessons.

"I would like to thank Ms. Hile and the staff at Hanson for nominating me. My years as a computer technology teacher and now Gateway to Technology teacher have given me opportunities to expand learning in many different ways," Meltsner said.

One of Meltsner's recent innovative lessons involved his sixth-grade students and the creation of

talking books for students at J.P. Ryon Elementary School. Students worked in groups to add pictures, background colors, write text and create hyperlinks with recorded audio. The books were given to Hanson's Future Educators Association (FEA), who shared them with Ryon students.

Meltsner also secured additional computer software and hardware to provide students with an additional computer lab at Hanson. Through the Federal Computers for Learning Project, Meltsner has applied for laptops, desktop computers and other software to support the school's technology needs.

The Gateway to Technology program at Hanson was also expanded this school year to students in seventh grade and Meltsner completed the necessary training to become eligible to teach the course.

In addition to teaching computer skills and technology courses, Meltsner is also the Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) coach and has assisted with several Summer Academy programs.

Visit <http://www.miccaonline.org/> for more information on MICCA.



Daniel Meltsner

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

Special Education Teacher for Inclusion and Resource – Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position.

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

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

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

Instructional Resource Teacher, Middle School Level – Location to be determined, 11-month position.

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

Speech Language Therapist – Elementary

school level, 10-month position.

Specialist in Athletics, Physical Education and Health Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree, a minimum of five years successful teaching experience and three years coaching or athletic director experience is required. Apply by March 2.

Principals – Seeking applicants at all age levels, 12-month positions. Five years of experience with a minimum of three years in the classroom is required. Administrative experience is also preferred. Apply by March 4.

Staff Notes

McDaniel College notice

Beginning this summer, McDaniel College will no longer accept prepayment for their internship course. The prepayment deadline for McDaniel College and Towson University at the Southern Maryland Higher Education Center is two weeks from the first day of each semester's start date – not the

individual course's start date. Contact human resources at 301-934-7255 for more information or with any questions.

Direct payment extended

Beginning next month, accounts payable reimbursements to system employees who are signed up for payroll direct deposit will be administered by direct payment to the bank account listed for payroll. Any request submitted to accounts payable by Friday of each week will be processed and deposited into the employee's account by the following Friday. All requests must include the employee vendor number, which is 90, then the employee's five-digit identification number. Copies of the check voucher will be sent through the pony, and will eventually be sent electronically. Employees who are not signed up for direct deposit will continue to receive a paper check for reimbursements. Contact the accounts payable department, 301-934-7362, for more information.