



School News



Congratulations to Charles County Public Schools Class of 2011

Charles County Public Schools honored 2,153 seniors on June 6 and 7 during graduation ceremonies for six high schools. Students in the class of 2011 were offered nearly \$40 million in scholarships. Valedictorians and Salutatorians for the Class of 2011 are, from left: Joshua Boyd, Henry E. Lackey High School salutatorian; Andrew Bode, Lackey valedictorian; Katherine Huber, La Plata High School salutatorian; Colin Qualters, La Plata valedictorian; Melissa Bortner, Maurice J. McDonough High School salutatorian; Ross Gardiner, McDonough valedictorian; Emily Le, Thomas Stone High School salutatorian; Jennifer DeMarco, Stone valedictorian; Brittany Sewell, Westlake High School salutatorian; Asia Lamar, Westlake valedictorian; Audrey Springer, North Point High School salutatorian; and Erin Chapman and Nicholas Teleky, North Point co-valedictorians. See page 2 for graduation news.

Important Dates Coming Soon

Last day of school

The last day of school for students is Monday, June 20. The last day for teachers is Tuesday, June 21. June 15, 16, 17 and 20 are two-hour early dismissal dates for students.

School News

School News will not be mailed to employees during the summer. All newsletters can be accessed on the school system Web site at <http://www2.ccboe.com/staffservices/newsletters.cfm>. A link to each newsletter will be provided to employees by e-mail each payday and limited copies are available in schools/centers during the summer. Newsletters will be mailed to any employee who requests printed copies during the summer. E-mail your request, name and address to Kara Gross at ksgross@ccboe.com to be placed on the mailing list.

Lackey science experiment is out of this world

A scientific experiment created by Henry E. Lackey High School students is ready to blast off July 8 on the last flight of the Space Shuttle Atlantis (STS-135).

Also flying on the Atlantis will be a mission patch designed by Nathan Freeman, a junior at La Plata High School.

Lackey's team will conduct identical experiments – one on the shuttle and one at school – that compare the structural differences between *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small flowering plant, germinated on earth and in space, and to isolate the effects of microgravity on germination. The experiment, "Physiological effects of microgravity on germination and growth of *Arabidopsis thaliana*," is one of 11 nationwide that will be conducted by astronauts during the final Atlantis flight.

Lackey's experiment will fly aboard NASA's STS-135 mission, which will dock with the International Space Station. The experiment is part of a national STEM pro-

gram called the Student Spaceflight Experiment Program (SSEP).

Calling the space shuttle experiments a "way cool program," Jeff Goldstein, center director of the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education (NCESSE), said the placement of the Lackey experiment on the flight is a "stunningly historic opportunity" for students and Charles County Public Schools.

Lackey's team, composed of Courtney Buckman, Charles Campbell, Kristin Conyers, Devon Johnson, Christine Kim, Chinyere McKoy-Nwachukwu, Sam Paras, Sydney Scott, Paul Warren, and Deborah Cline, is under the direction of teachers Lara North and Romulo Gabriel. Students started on the proposal in March and learned on June 1 during a presentation ceremony at Maurice J. McDonough High School that their experiment was the first-place winner. Other finalists were teams from Piccowaxen and Milton M. Somers middle schools.

See Lackey, page 2

Class of 2011 offered \$40 million in scholarships

Charles County Public Schools honored 2,153 seniors on June 6 and June 7 during graduation ceremonies. Students in the Class of 2011 were offered nearly \$40 million in scholarships.

Valedictorians and salutatorians were announced last week. These positions are determined by students' grade point averages and represent the top academic achievers at each school.

Henry E. Lackey High School's valedictorian is Andrew Bode of Nanjemoy and salutatorian is Joshua Boyd of Indian Head.

La Plata High School's valedictorian is Colin Qualters of La Plata and salutatorian is Katherine Huber, also of La Plata.

Ross Gardiner of La Plata is Maurice J. McDonough High School's valedictorian, and Melissa Bortner of Waldorf is salutatorian.

North Point High School has two co-valedictorians – Erin Chapman of Waldorf and Nicholas Teleky, also of Waldorf. Salutatorian is Audrey Springer of Waldorf.

Representing Thomas Stone High School are Jennifer DeMarco of Waldorf as valedictorian and Emily Le of Waldorf as salutatorian.

Westlake High School's valedictorian is Asia Lamar of Waldorf and salutatorian is Brittany Sewell, also of Waldorf.

2011 graduation numbers by school

Henry E. Lackey High School

- Total graduates: 322
- Total scholarship money offered: \$6,120,000

La Plata High School

- Total graduates: 324
- Total scholarship money offered: \$5,492,644

Maurice J. McDonough High School

- Total graduates: 323
- Total scholarship money offered: \$6,689,277

North Point High School

- Total graduates: 514
- Total scholarship money offered: \$14,326,429

Thomas Stone High School

- Total graduates: 337
- Total scholarship money offered: \$2,320,000

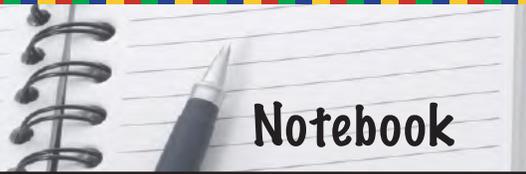
Westlake High School

- Total graduates: 333
- Total scholarship money offered: \$4,870,871

Charles County Public Schools Totals

- Total graduates: 2,153
- Total scholarship money offered: \$39,819,221

For more information on the Class of 2011, visit www.ccboe.com/pr.



On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees honored at the May Board of Education meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Kathryn Stapleton, gifted education resource teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School; Timothy Cerutti, mathematics teacher, North Point High School; and Maryann Bourassa, content specialist in gifted education, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Grote golf tournament

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association is sponsoring the 20th annual Ken Grote Open golf tournament on Monday, June 27. Interested participants should contact Dale Cornette at idcornette@yahoo.com for more details.

Airing on NewsBreak 96

This week's episode of NewsBreak 96 highlights the school system's participation in the Spaceflight program and also features farewell messages from each of our five student anchors who graduated this week. Episodes are also available to view on the school system Web site, <http://www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/vod/>. A new edition of NewsBreak 96 is posted every other week. NewsBreak is narrated by student anchors and produced by the communications department.

Board to meet June 14

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, June 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 4:15 p.m. On the agenda for recognition are the outstanding vice principal and support staff awards, as well as the Ruth Ann Hall award winners.

The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcasted throughout the week. Program schedules for Channel 96 are available on the Charles County Public Schools Web site, www2.ccboe.com/publicinfo/channel96/schedule.cfm. For a complete meeting agenda, visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/pr/>.

Lackey

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In March, teachers and students in grades 5-12 were asked to develop experiment proposals covering a diverse range of fields including seed germination, crystal growth, micro-aquatic life and physiology. The Maryland Space Grant Consortium is funding Charles County Public Schools participation and covering the costs of acquiring experiment space aboard the shuttle.

A local panel of educators, scientists and engineers, reviewed all student proposals. Experiments from Lackey, Piccowaxen and Somers were selected for final review by NCESSSE, which made the selection on which experiment would fly.

In a second part of the program, 46 students in grades K-12 designed mission patches to compete for a spot on Space Shuttle Atlantis (STS-135). The competi-

tion was open to students in kindergarten through grade 12, and patches were displayed in the lobby of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building and selected by open public voting. First patch design runner up is Troy Young and second runner up is Bradleigh Chance, both seniors at La Plata.

The Student Space Flight Experiments Program (SSEP) is undertaken by the National Center for Earth and Space Science Education, a project of the 501(c) (3) Tides Center, in partnership with NanoRacks, LLC. This on-orbit educational research opportunity is enabled through NanoRacks LLC, which is working in partnership with NASA under a Space Act Agreement as part of the utilization of the International Space Station as a National Laboratory.

Board honors retirees for years of service, working with students

The Board of Education will honor Charles County Public Schools employees, including Principals Deborah Hile of John Hanson Middle School, Peggy Mertes of Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School and Jervie Petty of Maurice J. McDonough High School, at a June 16 ceremony. The ceremony includes employees who have retired since June 30, 2010, and those who already announced their retirements at the end of this school year. Retirees are listed below by name, last position held, location, and years of service.

- **Ellen Abramson**, state coordinator -MMSR Project, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 33;
- **Marianna Albrightain**, computer teacher, Mattawoman Middle School, 33;
- **Barbara Allen**, Reading Recovery teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 22;
- **Richard Andrews**, elementary teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 34;
- **Louella Bailey**, vocal music teacher, Indian Head Elementary School, 33.5;
- **Burnell Bethea**, elementary teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 40.5;
- **Barbara Bowman**, instructional assistant, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10;
- **Barbara Brown**, mathematics teacher, John Hanson Middle School, 34.5;
- **Barbara Buckler**, media instructional assistant, Maurice J. McDonough High School, 23;
- **Sheryl Burke**, vocal music teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School, 31;
- **Ann Lydia Busch**, art teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 32;
- **Barbara Campbell**, instructional specialist, T. C. Martin Elementary School, 33;
- **Joyce Cannon**, elementary teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 24;
- **Doc Carroll**, building service manager, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center, 31.5;
- **Linda Cecil**, job placement coordinator, North Point High School, 35;
- **Judith Chandler**, school counselor, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 40;
- **Wiley Charles**, alternative school teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 40;
- **James Cobey**, building service assistant manager, General Smallwood Middle School, 36;
- **Linda Colton**, mathematics teacher, McDonough, 30.5;
- **Dinah Cord**, food service worker, Eva Turner Elementary School, 6;
- **Debra Coulby**, special education instructional assistant, Berry Elementary School, 30.5;
- **Anna Cowan**, art teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 29.5;
- **Sarah Cox**, kindergarten teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 37;
- **Delores Craig**, instructional assistant, Najemoy Creek, 10.5;
- **Mary Susan Craig**, attendance instructional assistant, La Plata High School, 27.5;
- **Shirlene Deal**, food service worker, La Plata, 9;
- **Lucy Detig**, adult education instructional specialist, Lifelong Learning Center, 11;
- **Daniel Devitis**, school counselor, La Plata, 37;
- **Santy DiSabatino**, director of transportation, Starkey, 36;
- **Margaret Dougherty**, food service assistant manager, North Point, 14;
- **Lawrence Dreher**, building service manager, Westlake High School, 14;
- **Austine Fink**, art teacher, Stethem, 20;
- **Doris Fluharty**, secretary to the principal, William B. Wade Elementary School, 38;
- **Wilson Ford**, electrician III, Radio Station Annex, 36.5;
- **Marilyn Ford**, IEP facilitator, Starkey, 30;
- **Ann Fucito**, elementary teacher, Higdon, 23;
- **Martha Gehring**, food service worker, Hanson, 23;
- **Zondra Gilliam**, family and consumer science teacher, Westlake, 30;
- **Michael Gingerich**, physical education teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School, 33;
- **Susan M. Gray**, special education teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 29;
- **Susan E. Gray**, content specialist for science, Starkey, 37;
- **Denise Grote**, gifted education teacher, Mitchell, 16;
- **Sharon Hanley**, media specialist, Hanson, 39;
- **Marietta Harris**, special education teacher, Neal, 38;
- **Beth Hastings**, technology education teacher, Thomas Stone High School, 31;
- **Homer Lee Hastings**, technology education teacher, Westlake, 31;
- **William Hayden**, security alarm technician III, Radio Station Annex, 12;
- **Anne Heffentreyer**, media instructional assistant, Hanson, 17.5;
- **James Higgs Sr.**, building service worker, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10;
- **Deborah Hile**, principal, Hanson, 35;
- **Mary Hortch**, pre-kindergarten teacher, Higdon, 33;
- **Linda Howard**, social studies teacher, Hanson, 41;
- **Gearleen James**, business education teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School, 39;
- **Clare Jenkins**, Spanish teacher, McDonough, 21;
- **Ralph Johnson**, building service manager, Indian Head, 21;
- **Kathryn Kavlick**, elementary teacher, Indian Head, 31;
- **Barbara Kelchner**, social studies teacher, Henson, 25.5;
- **Debra Kern**, kindergarten teacher, Brown, 15;
- **Luci Kidwell**, human resources certification secretary, Starkey, 40;
- **Judith Kuntz**, secretary to the director of student services, Starkey, 21;
- **Frederick Lancaster**, building service assistant manager, Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 8.5;
- **John MacLaughlin**, auto mechanics teacher, North Point, 27;
- **Timothy Maloy**, technology education teacher, Mattawoman, 30;
- **Sharon Matyas**, special education teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 14;
- **Evelyn McDowney**, food service worker, Lackey, 15.5;
- **Mary McPhaul**, mathematics teacher, McDonough, 33.5;
- **Peggy Mertes**, principal, Higdon, 32;
- **Moniera Meyer**, science teacher, Davis, 37;
- **James Moore**, English teacher, Lackey, 30;
- **Barbara O'Dell**, special education teacher, Mattawoman, 37;
- **Frank Paolotto**, special education teacher, Stethem, 22;
- **Elizabeth Patton**, science teacher, Lackey, 16;
- **Jervie Petty**, principal, McDonough, 40;
- **Mary Quesada-Embid**, media specialist, Higdon, 38;
- **Judith Rhode**, elementary teacher, Mitchell, 27.5;
- **Davis Rice**, Latin teacher, McDonough, 38;
- **Sharon Riley**, secretary to the principal, Turner, 26;
- **Beverly Rubain**, mathematics teacher, Stethem, 42.5;
- **John Sams**, hearing officer/court liaison, Starkey, 39;
- **Ina Sanford**, secretary, Starkey, 22;
- **Beth Searfoss**, English teacher, McDonough, 31;
- **Margaret Sherrod**, physical education teacher, Stoddert, 33;
- **Jean Sigmon**, secretary to the principal, Westlake, 19;
- **Brenda Simpson**, food service worker, Neal, 12;
- **Mary Springer**, technology facilitator, Higdon, 25;
- **Deborahann Strickland**, elementary teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, 26.5;
- **Ellen Sturgis**, vice principal, North Point, 30.5;
- **Shirley Summers**, food service worker, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, 18.5;
- **Joseph Swann**, building service assistant manager, Gwynn, 21;
- **Melanie Sweezy**, instructional specialist, Neal, 23;
- **Beth Thorsen**, recruitment/retention teacher, Starkey, 27;
- **Elsie Tingen**, food service worker, Barnhart, 11;
- **John Tipsword**, technology education teacher, McDonough, 34;
- **Margaret Tolson**, food service worker, Higdon, 11.5;
- **James Turner**, security alarm monitor, Radio Station Annex, 18;
- **Sharon Vaughan**, media specialist, Mitchell, 33;
- **Dale Ward**, technology facilitator, Brown, 29;
- **Katie Weber**, food service worker, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, 33;
- **Josephine White**, English teacher, Stone, 33;
- **Kathryn Wilkerson**, cooperative vocational education teacher, La Plata, 37;
- **Ismay Williams**, foreign language teacher, Henson, 32; and
- **Andrea Zimmerman**, Spanish teacher, McDonough, 39.5.

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Scoggins receives award for Mock Trial efforts

Debra Scoggins, a government resource teacher for Charles County Public Schools, was recently honored by the Charles County Bar Association as the 2011 recipient of the Liberty Bell Award. The award is given to a non-attorney whose work has served the legal needs and interests of the local community. Scoggins was recognized for her efforts in coordinating the Mock Trial program for students.

Scoggins said she was honored to be nominated for such an award that highlights work that she loves to do. "It is an honor to receive this award. As a social studies instructor, it has been very satisfying to work with the students and provide them with the opportunity to better understand and appreciate the internal workings of our form of government through the 'real-world' simulations of the mock trial competitions. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who are an integral part of this process every year," she said.

Students in Charles County's six public high schools compete in the Mock Trial program each year. The program allows students to experience a courtroom through hands-on opportunities, and to learn about the law, legal system court procedures, and the roles of judges and lawyers. Scoggins serves as the county coach and liaison to Cir-

cuit 7, which covers Prince Georges, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's counties, and has been involved in the program for more than 19 years. She also coordinates student use of courtrooms at the Charles County Courthouse and works with the Charles County Assistant Attorney Elizabeth Theobalds, Esq., who nominated Scoggins for the award. She was honored by the Bar Association during its 2011 Law Day celebration held May 6.

Scoggins started her career with Charles County Public Schools in 1991 as a social studies teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School. She has also worked at Westlake High School and helps coordinate social studies and government curriculum and supports social studies teachers in her current position.

She has a bachelor's degree in history from St. Mary's College and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Western Maryland College. The school system's participation in the Mock Trial program is supported by the Citizenship Law-Related Education Program.



Debra Scoggins



Staff notes

Job Openings

Title I Coordinator – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of three years teaching experience is required. Apply by June 15.

Reading Recovery Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree and three years of teaching experience is required. Apply by June 16.

Instructional Resource Teacher – Openings at the elementary school level, 11-month position. Master's degree and a minimum of five years teaching experience is required.

Staff Notes

Space available in space courses

Space is still available for teachers interested in signing up for the summer Space Across the Curriculum classes. Taught by National Space Foundation instructors, the

weeklong sessions begin July 18 and focus on rocketry, living in space, astronomy principles, space technologies and robots, the history and geology of Earth, and long-term space travel.

An early childhood space exploration course is already full.

The sessions are designed to give teachers across all content areas new tools to keep science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education interesting for students. Courses are open to all content area teachers from the three's program to grade 12. Graduate and CPD credit is also available.

Dates of classes are the weeks of July 18-22, July 25-29 and Aug. 1-5. Classes are held at Theodore G. Davis Middle School and are held 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Registration can be completed online at www2.ccboe.com/space_foundation.cfm.

The schedule is as follows:

July 18 - July 22

- Earth Systems Science: Our Earth Revealed

July 25 - July 29

- Biological and Physical Research: Long-Term Space Travel
- Lunar/Mars Exploration and Base Construction
- Rocketry: The Future of Human Space Exploration

Aug. 1 - 5

- Astronomy Principles for the Classroom: Kinesthetic Astronomy
- Space Technologies for the Classroom: Nanotechnology and Space Spin-Offs

Contact Monique Wilson, coordinator of STEM education, at mwilson@ccboe.com or 301-934-7287, for more information. To learn more about the Space Foundation, visit <http://www.spacefoundation.org/>.