

School News



Where success is measured one student at a time • August 29, 2008 • R-301

County welcomes teen drivers back to school with care

Charles County Public Schools greeted teen drivers back to school with reminders of driving safety and rules.

Charles County Sheriff Rex Coffey, sheriff's deputies and Superintendent James Richmond welcomed students at La Plata High School as they arrived for a new school year. Officers also handed each student driver a



Billy Caywood, left, commander of community services for the Charles County Sheriffs Office, hands La Plata High School senior Nina Wenzinger, right, a "We Care" flyer as she arrives on the first day of school Monday, Aug. 25.

flyer, outlining the rules of the road for young drivers and a message that "We Care" about their safety. Officers distributed flyers to drivers at each of the other five high schools on Aug. 25.

The school system sent a message out to parents and students of all junior and seniors prior to the start of the school year announcing the "We Care" campaign and letting them know that officers would be handing out information at the schools. "We are going to

School system opens doors for 2008-09 school year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) began the 2008-09 school year on Monday, Aug. 25, by welcoming more than 25,000 students in kindergarten through grade 12 to its 35 schools.

Opening its doors to students for the first time was Mary B. Neal Elementary School, Charles County's 21st public elementary school. Principal Carol Leveillee welcomed 557 students to Neal Monday morning.

County high school seniors also face additional graduation requirements this school year. Students in the Class of 2009 are required to pass the High School Assessment (HSA) exams in algebra, biology, English II

combine our resources to make sure our teens and their parents get the facts about teen driving safety," Richmond said.

Last year, nine teens died in traffic accidents in Charles County. "That's nine too many," Coffey said. "Students and parents should take a few minutes to read over the material and familiarize themselves with the laws."

Police plan to do spot checks in school parking lots throughout the school year to ensure students are buckling up, limiting their passengers to those allowed by law and not talking on cell phones while driving.

The school system and sheriff's office plan to continue the "We Care" campaign throughout the year with various activities that keep teen driving safety in the forefront.

and government. Some students also have the option of participating in the Bridge Plan, which was implemented in CCPS this summer. The Bridge Plan was developed by the Maryland Department of Education and is an alternative option for students who have met other graduation requirements but have not passed the assessments.

CCPS has 223 new teachers this year. On Monday, only four teaching positions remained, and offers have been made in two of the four positions. The school system employs more than 3,444 people. There are 2,021 teachers, 1,114 support staff, 76 technical employees and 233 administrators.

Calendar correction

An incorrect telephone number for Maurice J. McDonough High School was printed in the 2008/2009 Parent Handbook/Calendar. The correct contact numbers for the school are 301-934-2944 and 301-753-1755. The correct information is also located on the Charles County Public Schools Web site and the McDonough High School Web site. Make a note of the correct information on page 32 in your copy of the calendar.

"What Counts" meeting

The Board of Education will meet with more than 80 Charles County community members on Thursday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. at Maurice J. McDonough High School in Pomfret to solicit public opinion on the school system.

"What Counts" is the topic for discussion. Invitations have been sent out to a cross-section of county residents to ensure well-rounded participation, but the public is also invited to attend and participate.

The Board hopes to engage participants in small round-table discussions about what the community wants from its public schools.

Participants will fill out a handout listing quality school characteristics and be placed in small groups of six to 10 people. After each person has made their individual selections, a facilitator will ask participants to share their rationale for their selections.

Each group will have to decide on the top eight most important indicators, with a rationale for each. Following the forum, a summary report will be provided to each public school and participants.

To participate, e-mail kstubblefield@ccboe.com.



System hosts College Fair

Charles County Public Schools is sponsoring its 11th annual Mid-Atlantic College Fair on Monday, Sept. 15, at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. More than 130 colleges and universities are participating

The fair is open 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. for students and 6 - 8 p.m. for the public. Financial aid workshops will be held at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, call Jeanette Kaufmann, 301-934-7314.

Schools/offices closed

Schools and offices are closed Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Schools closed for students

Schools are closed on Friday, Sept. 12, for students only. It is an in-service day for teachers.

24-hour information line

CCPS posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closings and calendar information on our 24-hour information line. Call 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656. The line is updated at least twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Mary B. Neal Elementary School. Pictured, from left, are: Eric Williams, first-grade teacher; April Walker, instructional assistant; Brian Welfle, music teacher; and Corey Watson, acting building service assistant manager.

Tentative Board agenda - September 9, 2008

Executive Session - 12 p.m.
Call to order - 1 p.m.
• Pledge of Allegiance - Henry E. Lackey
High School JROTC
Superintendent's update to the Board
Reports of officers/boards/committees
Unfinished business
New business and future agenda items

Recognition - 4:30 p.m.
• Resolution: Health Careers Month
Public Forum - 6 p.m.
Action Items
Adjournment
A complete agenda is posted on the Charles County Public Schools Web site at www2.ccboe.com/pr.

Aflac schedules meeting times for open enrollment

Aflac, an insurance company, offers additional benefits for Charles County Public Schools employees. Open enrollment meetings are available at the following locations and times:

October 6
Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 7
Thomas Stone High School, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Henry E. Lackey High School, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 8
William A. Diggs Elementary School, 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 9
John Hanson Middle School, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Matthew Henson Middle School, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 10
Eva Turner Elementary School, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 13
Berry Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 14
Mattawoman Middle School, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 15
Westlake High School, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

October 16
Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 20
Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Malcolm Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 21
William B. Wade Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Indian Head Elementary School, 8:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 22
Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.
T.C. Martin Elementary School, 8:45 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 23
La Plata and North Point high schools, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (La Plata until 3 p.m.)

October 24
Piccowaxen Middle School, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Milton M. Somers Middle School, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

October 27
J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 28
Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

October 29
Maintenance Shop, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.
F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
General Smallwood Middle School, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

October 30
Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Oct. 31, 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Registration open for certificated staff development courses

The Office of Program Support is accepting registration for certified professional development (CPD) courses. Participants enrolled in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) courses can receive CPD credit(s). Additionally, CCPS has partnerships with local universities and colleges. Available courses are listed below.

To register for CPD courses, complete the registration form located on the school system Web site, under staff development, www.ccboc.com/staffdev/courses/index.cfm. To register for graduate courses, contact the college or university directly. Contact Barbara Palko, 301-392-7501, for more information.

McDaniel College

Graduate Courses/CPD Courses

Course: *Reading Process & Acquisitions*, RDG 521

Dates: Oct. 20, 27; Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Thomas Stone High School

Course: *Curriculum Analysis and Planning*, CUR 512

Dates: Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *Meaningful Activities to Generate Interesting Classrooms*, EDU 541

Dates: Sept. 20, 27; Oct. 4, 11, 25 (online); Final project due Nov. 8

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., John Hanson Middle School

Course: *Reading in the Content Areas – Part I*, RDG 532

Dates: Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4, 11

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *School Law*, PSI527

Dates: Oct. 21, 28; Nov. 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9, 16

Time/Location: 5 – 9:30 p.m., Stone

Course: *Learning & Instruction*, CUR 503

Dates: Aug. 19, 26; Sept. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; Oct. 7

Time/Location: 5 – 9 p.m., Stone

Course: *Introduction to Research Methodology*, EDU 550

Dates: Oct. 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20; Dec. 4

Time/Location: 5 – 7:30 p.m., Stone

Bowie State University

Graduate Courses

Course: *Counseling Theory & Practice*, PSYC 734.237

Dates: Sept. 3 – Oct. 22, Wed.

Time/Location: 4:55 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Course: *Appraisal, Assessment & Evaluation*, COUN 610.238

Dates: Oct. 28 – Dec. 23, Tues.

Time/Location: 4:55 – 9:55 p.m., Stone

Gratz College/Regional Training Center

Course: *It's All About You: Wellness and School*

Dates: Nov. 21, 22, 23; Dec. 6, 7

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. – Sun.; 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *Styles of Teaching: Personality type in the Classroom*

Dates: Oct. 24, 25, 26; Nov. 8, 9

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. – Sun.; 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

Course: *The Cooperative Classroom: Kagan's Instructional Practices*

Dates: Oct. 3, 4, 5, 18, 19

Time/Location: 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Sat. – Sun.; 6 – 9:15 p.m., Fri., Hanson

SAT average of 1511 remains above state and equal to national scores

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) average score on the SAT, a nationally known college entrance test, is 1511, which is above the state average and the same as the national average.

Students' average score in the mathematics section of the test is 505, the average score in the writing section is 500 and the average score on the critical reading portion is 506. SAT scores decreased 12 points from 1523 the previous year.

SAT tests are designed to demonstrate a student's mastery of certain subjects to colleges. Additionally, many colleges use the test as a part of the admissions process.

Charles County's score is 13 points above the state average of 1498 and the same as the national average of 1511. Only

scores for graduating seniors are included in the 2008 report. Students in the class of 2008 were offered more than \$27 million in scholarships.

Maurice J. McDonough High School was the highest performing school with a score of 1613. La Plata High School students posted an average score of 1602 and Thomas Stone High School students posted a 1495 average. Westlake High School students' average score is 1483 and Henry E. Lackey High School students averaged a score of 1427.

"This year's scores remain above state averages and are level with national scores. Our ultimate goal is to continue to exceed state and national averages. This enables our college-bound students to compete for

acceptance into the college or university of their choice," said Superintendent James E. Richmond.

Charles County Public Schools provides all high school students access to the on-line SAT preparation, which can be used as a classroom teaching aid, a component of English and math courses, a test-preparation resource or an independent study tool.

School staff helps students set up an account and profile. The school system also offers other in-school preparation programs, summer and after-school preparation programs and in-class preparation by teachers.

School-by-school results are posted on the CCPS Web site at www.ccboc.com/pr.

Personnel

Apply for positions at www.ccboe.com/hur, or in writing to the personnel office. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Manager of Planning, Department of Planning and Construction – Maintenance Shop/Annex 101 Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and experience required. Position is open until filled.

Special Education Instructional Assistant – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 29.

Building Service Assistant Manager – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Aug. 29.

Food Service Manager – La Plata High School, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Food Service Assistant Manager – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Reading Classroom Instructional Assistant – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Special Education Instructional Assistant, Life Skills – Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 3.

Food Service Worker – Openings in all county schools, three-hour positions.

Apply by Sept. 8.

Meeting in the Middle Instructional Assistant – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 8.

Secretary – Henry E. Lackey High School, 11-month position. Apply by Sept. 9.

Coordinator of Career Technology Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Minimum of five years teaching experience and master's degree required. Position is open until filled.

Instructional Assistant for Special Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 2.

Title 1 Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood Education – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 10.

Extra pay positions

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Two assistant boys' basketball coaches
- Head varsity tennis coach
- Head outdoor track coach
- Head varsity baseball coach

Call Principal Jervie Petty, 301-753-1755, to apply.

Henry E. Lackey High School has the following openings:

- Head varsity girls' basketball coach

- Head junior varsity girls' basketball coach

Call Principal James Short or David Anderson, athletic director, 301-753-1753, to apply.

Payroll announcement

Beginning Sept. 12, Met Life will be the exclusive tax sheltered annuity (TSA), or 403(b), account provider for Charles County Public Schools.

Contact the payroll department, 301-392-7564, before Sept. 1 to stop deductions if you do not want future TSA contributions to automatically be converted to MetLife. If you do not choose an investment allocation fund with a MetLife agent, your funds will automatically be placed in a target date fund based on your age and estimated retirement date. Existing TSA balances will remain in old accounts. Starting in October, employees will have opportunities to combine old and new accounts and should confirm their beneficiary information online.

CCPS is also required to update employee marital status with records conversions. Make sure your current marital status matches your Federal withholding status. Employees who are married and file as single must change their status to married and can request that payroll withhold an additional flat amount per pay period. This can be done by filling out a new W-4 form.

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

Board of Education Members
Donald M. Wade, Chairman
Roberta S. Wise, Vice Chairman
Jennifer S. Abell
Collins A. Bailey
Charles E. Carrington
Maura H. Cook
Pamela A. Pedersen
Diane Berringer, Student Member

Superintendent of Schools
James E. Richmond

Editor/Writers
Katie O'Malley-Simpson
Shelley Buter

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 Keith Grier, Title IX Coordinator, or Patricia Vaira, 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.

Charles County Public Schools
Post Office Box 2770
La Plata, Maryland 20646
(address service requested)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 66

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.