

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time • September 14, 2007 • R-276

## School employees set the pace for United Way giving

Charles County Public Schools employees donated \$10,259 to the United Way of Charles County's Pacesetter campaign through gift contributions and payroll deductions. The school system was the top donor in the county.

A majority of the donations were received during a pizza luncheon held Aug. 29 at the Jesse. L. Starkey Administration Building. Employees could purchase pizza and salad for a \$4 direct donation, give a one-time gift contribution or sign up for payroll deduction. Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond's executive staff also made donations to the campaign before the luncheon was held.

The Pacesetter campaign is held to moti-

vate other community members and businesses to become involved with the United Way, which begins its regular campaign Sept. 27.

A United Way campaign kickoff breakfast was held Thursday, Sept. 12 at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center. CCPS was presented with a plaque of appreciation for donations given during the Pacesetter campaign. The campaign raised more than \$48,500 for the United Way.

CCPS has been involved in the United Way of Charles County fundraising campaigns since 1995. The United Way of Charles County uses such funding to address needs and concerns of members in the community.

## CCPS holds first Title I Principal and Parent retreat

Charles County Public Schools held its first Title I Principal and Parent Liaison retreat Sept. 7 at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM).

The retreat's focus was to improve and discuss the importance of parent involvement and communication with school administration and staff. Charles County has seven elementary schools that offer the Title I federal education program. They are C. Paul Barnhart, Gale-Bailey, Indian Head, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, J.P. Ryon and Eva Turner elementary schools.

Principals and parent liaisons from these schools attended the retreat and participated in team building activities, such as a treasure hunt on the CSM campus. Also included in the retreat agenda were presentations from two guest speakers.

Susan Shaffer, the executive director of the Maryland State Parental Information Resource

Center, and Brenda Thomas, Maryland director of Partnership Program Development with John Hopkins National Network of Partnership

Schools, spoke to participants about the importance of teamwork, challenges involved in increasing parent involvement and ways to focus on communication.

Annie Blount from Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, Toni Melton-Trainor from Indian Head, Kathleen Morgan from Eva Turner, Robert Opiekun from Mudd, Carolyn Richardson from Gale-Bailey and Timothy Rosin from Barnhart participated.

Parent liaisons who participated were: Marble Campbell, Barnhart; Laura Hamby, Mudd; Pilar Lepe, Turner; Sara Parent, Ryon; Beth Phillips, Indian Head; Janyce Van De Weert, Mt. Hope and Cindy Viering, Gale-Bailey.



From left, Michael Pheulpin, Family Involvement Support Facilitator for CCPS, Indian Head Elementary School parent liaison Beth Phillips, Indian Head Principal Toni Melton-Trainor and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School parent liaison Janyce Van De Weert participate in a treasure hunt.

## Football game broadcasts

CCPS will air high school football games on Channel 96, the school system's educational channel, with the exception of times when there are live broadcasts and rebroadcasts of the Board of Education meetings. The game-of-the-week schedule for the first half of the football season includes:

- Friday, Sept. 14 – Great Mills High School at La Plata High School;
- Thursday, Sept. 20 – Westlake High School at Maurice J. McDonough High School;
- Friday, Sept. 28 – Chopticon High School at Thomas Stone High School; and
- Friday, Oct. 5 – North Point High School at Westlake.

Games six through eight will be determined at a future date.

## Character education awards

Three CCPS schools will be recognized Sept. 27 for their character education programs by the Maryland Center for Character Education (MCCE). Mary H. Matula Elementary School will be recognized as a 2007 Maryland School of Character. J.P. Ryon Elementary School and Milton M. Somers Middle School will each receive a Maryland Center for Character Education School of the Year award.

## Board work session

The next meeting of the Charles County Board of Education is Monday, Sept. 24, 7 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting is a work session and includes agenda items covering discussion on operating costs for new schools as well as final approval of the intercategory budget.



## Notebook

### College Fair planned

More than 130 colleges will participate in the tenth annual Charles County College Fair on Sept. 17, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., at the Greater Waldorf Jaycees Community Center on Crain Highway in Waldorf. The fair is hosted by CCPS and high school juniors and seniors attend the event during the school day as part of the system's career readiness goal in the five-year plan.

Students are able to speak with representatives and gather information from colleges from all over the east coast.

### State plans HSA hearing

The Maryland State Board of Education will host a regional hearing Sept. 18 at North Point High School to hear public comments on the Maryland High School Assessment (HSA).

The hearing is at 7 p.m. and the Board will only hear comments on the HSAs. The maximum speaking time is three minutes and time has been scheduled for approximately 40 speakers.

### Board meeting change

Times for the Board of Education meetings have been changed to accommodate the live broadcast. Executive session begins at 3:30 p.m., followed by recognition at 4:30 p.m. The public portion of the meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by Public Forum at 6:30 p.m.

### On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees from Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School. From left are: Muriel Werking, speech therapist, Tavion Foster, teacher, Kathryn Barry, teacher, Jason Peer, guidance counselor and Laura Kelly, art teacher.

## In memoriam – Nels William Marvin

Nels Marvin, a computer science/CISCO teacher at North Point High School, passed away Sept. 1, 2007.

Mr. Marvin began his teaching career in Charles County Public Schools at North Point in August 2006. He previously taught at Rappahannock Community College, Germanna Community College and King George High School in King George, Va.

Mr. Marvin grew up in the Wisconsin area and earned a bachelor's degree in engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He was also in the process of completing his master's degree in computer science at George Mason University.

Mr. Marvin lived in King George with his wife, Jane, and their two dogs, Tasha and Samantha. Services were held Saturday, Sept. 8, in Waldorf.



Nels Marvin

## 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 3

William B. Wade Elementary School, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 4

Thomas Stone High School, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Henry E. Lackey High School, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 5

Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

### October 8

William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 9

Westlake High School, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Maurice J. McDonough High School, 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

### October 10

J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

North Point High School, 7:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

Malcolm Elementary School, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 11

Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 8:45 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 12

Arthur Middleton Elementary, 9 a.m -4 p.m.

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### October 15

Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10:30

a.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

### October 16

La Plata High School, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Indian Head Elementary School, 8:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

### October 17

Eva Turner Elementary School, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

General Smallwood Middle School, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

### October 18

James Craik Elementary School, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 22

Berry Elementary School, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

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

### October 23

Mattawoman Middle School, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Theodore Davis Middle School, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### October 24

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 25

Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

T. C. Martin Elementary School, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 26

Piccowaxen Middle School, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Milton M. Somers Middle School, 7:30 a.m. -2:30 p.m.

### October 29-30

Starkey Administration Building, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Oct. 30, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

### October 31

Maintenance, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

F.B. Gwynn Center, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

# A classroom for the 21st Century

## Superintendent unveils proposal for digital classroom in next new high school

Charles County Public Schools is preparing to open its next new high school in 2011. Already, plans are underway to develop the programs and design of the new facility, which will be built in Waldorf off Piney Church Road. Superintendent James E. Richmond hopes to include a dig-

ital classroom in the new facility, that will be used not only by the new high school, but all teachers and students throughout the school system. It will also be open for community programs.

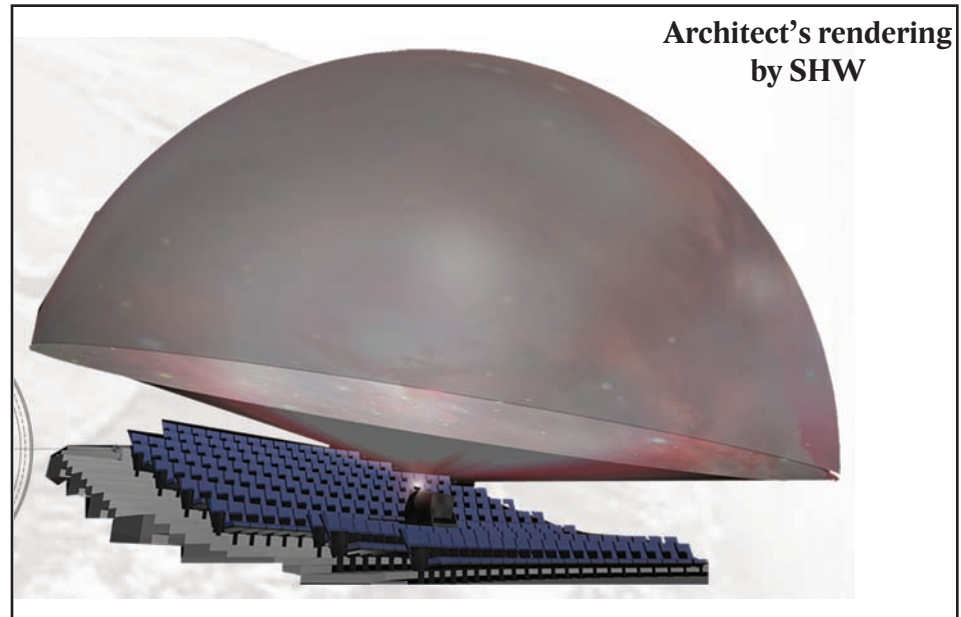
To learn more about the digital classroom, visit [www.ccboc.com/digitalclassroom](http://www.ccboc.com/digitalclassroom).

### Vision

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) plans to include a digital classroom in its next new high school. The classroom is equipped to provide learning experiences that better prepare students for higher education and careers while enhancing critical thinking and literacy skills needed in the 21st century.

### Digital Classroom

A digital classroom is a multi-use dome theater that uses high resolution, three-dimensional graphics and surround sound to enhance learning experiences for students. Technology in the classroom serves as a teaching tool and a focal point for instructional programs for students in kindergarten through grade 12. The dome can serve as a planetarium, but its use extends beyond astronomy. The classroom provides opportunities for lessons that build on information available from teachers and textbooks. Response pads and hands-on use of technology allow students and teachers to develop, plan and present assignments. The digital classroom contains state-of-the-art technology, which is essential to the development of 21st century skills. The dome theater is a tool that gives teachers the option of advancing lessons from lecture and drill to interactive classes using technology and three-dimensional visuals. Classroom space includes 150-180 seats. Cost of the new high school, without the digital classroom, is estimated at \$97.6 million. The cost of the digital classroom dome and technology is estimated at \$3 million, which the school system plans to fund through grants or internally. Use of the digital classroom is not limited to students at the new high school. Instructional programs for students



at all CCPS schools, as well as the community, will be available.

### School Program

The new high school will offer the same program of study available to all high school students enrolled with CCPS. Courses offered will meet the requirements for students to obtain a Maryland State Board of Education diploma. Students can pursue a scholar's course of study, enroll in Advanced Placement courses and participate in after-school activities such as sports and clubs. The digital classroom is a specialized area in the school; however, the new high school will also house traditional classrooms, an auditorium, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, a media center and administrative areas.

### School Facts

The school is being built for additional capacity to handle growing enrollments at

the high school level. State-rated capacity for the high school is 1,600 students. The 285,000-square foot school is planned to serve students living east of U.S. 301, and will be built on a 99-acre site off Piney Church Road in Waldorf. Anticipated opening date is August 2011. Plans include a digital classroom that will be used by all county schools, students and the community.

### Instructional Partnerships

Charles County Public Schools has established partnerships with local and state agencies to ensure that the school system is offering courses that are relevant and lead to college and university success as well as science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers. Partners include the College of Southern Maryland, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Naval Surface Warfare Center, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Charles County Chamber of Commerce.

## Personnel

Apply for positions at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://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

**Special Education Teacher/Regular Teacher** – Opening for a special education teacher or regular education teacher to work with elementary school-aged students who are emotionally and/or behaviorally challenged. Position is with the STAY Program, located at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center. Bachelor's degree required.

**Computer Analyst** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 26.

**RPG/JAVA Programmer Analyst** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Bachelor's degree required.

**Food Service Worker** – Openings at Theodore G. Davis Middle, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary schools; three-hour positions. Davis position is open until filled; apply by Sept. 26 for both Mitchell and Mt. Hope.

**Food Service Driver** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant** –

Berry Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 20.

**External Diploma Program Advisor/Assessor** – Adult Services/Stone Annex; temporary position. Bachelor's degree required.

**Intervention Resource Counselor** – General Smallwood Middle School; Master's degree preferred, Bachelor's degree in education required; 12-month position. Apply by Sept. 19.

**Gifted Education Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; two 11-month positions open. Master's degree preferred. Apply by Sept. 24.

**Life Skills Teacher** – Gale-Bailey Elementary School.

**Title I Instructional Specialist for Early Childhood Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month-position; bachelor's degree and five years experience required.

**Speech Language Pathologists** – Openings at county elementary schools.

**NJROTC Instructor** – North Point and Westlake high schools.

**IEP Facilitators** – Openings at all age levels.

### Teacher openings

Charles County Public Schools is seeking teacher candidates who meet the certification requirements established by the

MSDE for the following subject areas:

- Mathematics
- Science
- Family and Consumer Science
- Computer Science/CISCO teacher
- Language Arts
- Special Education

### Staff notes

#### Get paperwork completed

New teachers are reminded to complete all paperwork and to get it to the office of Teacher Services as soon as possible. Any employee needing assistance with any paperwork should call extension 7289.

#### Direct deposit available

Charles County Public Schools encourages employees to use direct deposit for pay checks. Use of direct deposit eliminates concerns about receiving checks in a timely manner on snow days and during the summer. To sign up for direct deposit, fill out the Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposits – Credits which is available at your school office or on the school system's website. Attach a voided or cancelled check to the form and forward to the payroll office. Allow one payroll cycle for information verification and checks will be deposited on the second payroll cycle, pending bank approval of your information.

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.

**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  
Ashin Shah, Student Member

**Superintendent of Schools**  
James E. Richmond

**Editor/Writers**  
Katie O'Malley-Simpson  
Shelley Buter

**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.*