

School News



System seeks naming suggestions for new school

The Charles County Public School-Naming Advisory Committee is seeking community input and suggestions for naming a new elementary school that will open in 2008 and will be built off Piney Church Road in Fairway Village in St. Charles.

Board of Education policy requires that schools shall have names of either deceased persons or places of significance to Charles countians.

Anyone wishing to recommend a name to the committee must present written documentation, not to exceed one typewritten page, front and back, of the significance of the proposed name. Supporting

documents may also be included, but please do not send original copies. No materials will be returned. Send proposals no later than Aug. 28 to Katie O'Malley-Simpson, School-Naming Committee, Charles County Public Schools, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646 or e-mail boardmail@ccboe.com.

A committee, composed of eight members appointed by the Board, will research, screen and recommend names to the Board. The Board of Education will make the final selection of a name for the school after the committee presents its recommendations.

Lackey graduate creates *Suspension* with new book

Robert Westfield, a 1990 graduate of Henry E. Lackey High School, made his literary debut in bookstores this week with the publication of his book, *Suspension*.

Situated in New York City, the book is described as a "dark comedy about a young New Yorker's failed attempts to isolate himself from stalkers in a city filled with imposters, ax murderers and a fanatically religious, overprotective mother."

Westfield takes readers on a tour of New York City through a series of twists and turns and the

adventures of Andy Green, a multiple choice test writer. Local readers will get a hint of Westfield's Charles County roots through references to his hometown and Andy's recollection of childhood events.

After graduating from Lackey, Westfield received his degree in theater and English from Columbia University. He is a playwright and a Manhattan tour guide. He plans to visit Charles County in early November and will speak with AP English students as well as at several county events.

State offers AP tests as option to high school assessments

The Maryland State Department of Education, with support and preliminary approval from the U. S. Department of Education, will offer high school students another option for passing the State's end-of-course High School Assessments (HSA) this school year.

State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick said students who take certain Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be able to meet the HSA graduation requirement if they receive a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam. Students will need to take specific AP exams in order to make a substitution. Maryland is among the first states in the nation to offer this option to students.

"Maryland has the highest growth in AP participation in the nation," Dr. Grasmick said. "We believe that by allowing this substitution, we will be encouraging more of our students to take the

highly challenging AP and IB courses and tests, ensuring that more of our students have a world class high school experience."

According to the College Board, the number of Maryland students taking AP exams has increased by 70 percent in the last five years. In January 2005, the College Board ranked Maryland number two in the nation in the proportion of graduating seniors who received a college-mastery score on one or more AP exams.

Students who entered grade 9 in 2005, this year's tenth graders, are required to pass Maryland High School Assessments in English II, algebra/data analysis, biology and government to receive their high school diploma. Students in grades 11 and 12 are only required to take the assessments in order to graduate and may substitute taking the AP exams as well.

Board to meet

The Charles County Board of Education will meet Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1 p.m., at the Jesse Starkey Administration Building. Public Forum begins at 1 p.m. A complete agenda is posted online at www.ccboe.com.

Back-to-school news

Charles County Public Schools is publishing its back-to-school guide on Aug. 9. The guide will be printed in the *Maryland Independent* and includes open house/orientation information as well as what is new this year.

Website changes

The school system website is under reconstruction. Changes will appear on the first day of school, Aug. 28.

Calendar distribution

Parent Handbook/Calendars are at the printers and will be available for distribution the first week of school. A copy is posted on the school system website.

On the cover

Pictured above are Matthew Henson Middle School employees. From left: Chris Brown, physical education/health teacher; Lynn Nathan, gifted and talented resource teacher; and Linda Forrest, reading resource teacher.

Personnel

Apply online at www.ccboe.com

Job openings

Food Service Workers — Three hour, 10-month positions; openings available at North Point High School, Malcolm, William A. Diggs, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, J.C. Parks, Berry and Mary H. Matula elementary schools. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online. Positions open until filled.

NJROTC Instructor — Westlake High School; 11-month position; certified NJROTC instructor, bachelor's degree and a minimum of 20 years of active duty or have retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority required. Apply in writing to the human resources office or online. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — North Point High School; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 4.

Food Service, Assistant Manager — Milton Somers Middle School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 10.

Food Service, Assistant Manager — North Point High School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 10.

Food Service, Assistant Manager — Westlake High School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 10.

Food Service, Assistant Manager — Thomas Stone High School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 10.

Food Service, Assistant Manager — Jesse Starkey Administration Building; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 10.

Food Service, Assistant Manager — La Plata High School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 10.

Secretary — Matthew Henson Middle School; 11-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 9.

Payroll Accounting Analyst — Jesse Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Associate arts degree required; bachelor's degree in accounting preferred; 10 years of experience processing a high volume payroll/accounting environment, preferably in a large educational organization. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 11.

Secretary, Human Resources — Jesse Starkey Administration Building; 12-month

position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 11.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Henry E. Lackey High School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Aug. 15.

Apply online — Charles County Public Schools encourages applicants to apply online. Visit our website at www.ccboe.com and click on Employment at the top of the page. Once you are on the Employment web page, click on Apply Online near the top.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following position available:

- Assistant volleyball coach.

Call Principal L.C. Martin, 301-645-2601, to apply.

Staff notes

Houser attends conference

Rosellen Houser, social studies specialist, and coordinator for *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*, joined educators from across the nation in Washington, D.C. to participate in a leadership conference in late June. Coordinators shared ideas on how to bring the programs to more schools in their districts. *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution* is designed to educate young people about the history and principles of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education.

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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.