

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time.

September 1, 2006

R-252

## High School Assessment scores continue to rise

Far more Charles County Public Schools students passed the High School Assessments in 2006 than in any past year. Charles County students posted significant gains on the algebra, biology and government assessments, which are a graduation requirement for students in the class of 2009 and beyond.

Results of the High School Assessments, taken by students during the 2005-06 school year, show that 73.1 percent passed the algebra/data analysis test; 69.2 percent passed the biology test; and 77 percent passed the government test. The Maryland State Board of Education will release English 2 assessment scores and Adequate Yearly Progress information for high schools later in the fall.

Overall results include: students in middle school and grade nine who must pass the tests to graduate; and students in grades 10, 11 and 12 who do not need to pass the tests to graduate.

Results of the algebra test, which is both a high school assessment and fulfills the federal mathematics requirement as part of No Child Left Behind, show an increase of 20 percent, up from 53 percent the previous year. Additionally, the number of students who passed is even higher for students in grades 6-9, who must pass the test to graduate. The pass rate for students in grades 6-9 is 85.1 percent. According to MSDE, early numbers indicate that small numbers of students approaching the senior year will still need to pass HSAs.

Students also posted significant gains in biology and government. Biology scores increased 10.2 percent from 59 percent in 2005 to 69.2 percent in 2006. Typically, Charles County Public Schools students take biology in tenth grade, meaning the test becomes a graduation requirement for this year's rising sophomore class. A 14 percent gain was posted in government, with scores rising from 63 percent in 2005 to 77 percent in 2006. Most Charles County students take government in the ninth grade. The pass rate for students in the class of 2009 and beyond, who must pass in order to graduate, is 78.5 percent.

Student success is across the spectrum. Students in each racial subgroup, as specified by NCLB, increased scores. African American students made the largest gains in algebra, increasing scores from 37.6 percent in 2005 to 62.4 percent in 2006. White students increased scores from 65.7 percent to 83.1 percent and Hispanic students increased from 52.7 percent to 66.7 percent. Asian/Pacific Islander students increased scores from 75.4 percent to 84 percent and American Indian/Alaskan Native students went from 38.5 percent passing in 2005 to 83.3 percent.

Superintendent James E. Richmond said he is encouraged by the large gains in the scores and attributes the increase in algebra scores to a number of instructional programs and strategies. Charles County Public Schools has double periods for Algebra I; developed prescribed lessons for summer academies and students needing additional help; provided laptop-based Algebra I programs for middle and high school teachers; and extended training programs to provide additional support for beginning teachers.

Richmond said staff has started identifying students in the class of 2009 who must pass the assessments as a graduation requirement and need additional help. Remediation options have been developed to help students who were not successful on the assessment.

## SAT scores above state, nation

Charles County Public Schools average score on the SAT, a nationally known college entrance test, is 1537, which is above state and national averages.

Students' average in the mathematics section of the test is 515, the average score in the writing section is 510 and the average score on the critical reading portion is 512. The format of the SAT changed last year to include the addition of third-year college preparatory math, more critical reading and a new writing section. SAT tests are designed to demonstrate to colleges a student's mastery of certain subjects.

Charles County's score is 26 points above the state average of 1511 and 19 points above the national average of 1518. Only scores for graduating seniors are included in the 2006 report. Students in the class of 2006 were offered more than \$40 million in scholarships, up from \$32 million the previous year.

Maurice J. McDonough High School was the highest performing school with a score of 1602. La Plata High School students posted an average score of 1596 and Westlake High School students' average score is 1554. Thomas Stone students posted a 1527 average and Lackey students averaged 1417.

"This year's scores continue our trend of remaining above the state and national averages, which is our ultimate goal. This is the seventh consecutive year that our students have outpaced these averages, and I commend the students and staff at the high schools for their continued efforts in this area. This was a new test last year, and I am pleased with the preparation offered to students and their performance on this test. We know that scores are going to fluctuate from year to year, but it is imperative that we continue to offer a strong academic program and a consistent SAT preparation program systemwide," said Superintendent James Richmond.



## Notebook

### Information online

Charles County Public Schools now has online information for leave balances, paycheck information, deductions and direct deposit information.

This information can only be obtained on the Charles County Public Schools Intranet (in house). It is easy to pull up information. Go to the Charles County Public Schools home page and click on "Staff Services." There you will find a line that reads "Access the Employee Self Service Portal." Click on the underlined "Employee Self Service." Log on by entering your employee identification number, found on your latest direct deposit or payroll check remittance slip (the number is on the same line as your name). Use the last four digits of your social security number for the pin number. Change your pin number before leaving the site.

Changes to the basic information or on the assignment/contract information should be made to dgaddy@ccboe.com.

Changes to federal or state withholding amounts, or direct deposit information requires completion and submission of a form available at the school office or payroll department.

Changes to voluntary deductions can be e-mailed to: hhuff@ccboe.com

### Cover photos

Pictured on the cover are teachers from Eva Turner Elementary School. From left, Dan Fernandez, fourth-grade teacher; Latrice Chase, fourth-grade teacher; Kathy McGowan, kindergarten teacher; and Nick Adam, special education teacher.

## College Fair to host more than 125 institutions

More than 125 colleges plan to participate in the ninth annual Charles County College Fair on Sept. 18, 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, hosted by Charles County Public Schools, allows for high school juniors and seniors to attend the event during the day as part of the system's career readiness goal in the five-year plan. Students are

transported from school by bus and are able to speak with representatives and gather information from colleges from all over the east coast.

The public is invited to attend the evening session of the fair from 6-8 p.m. Parents are encouraged to bring their students to the fair. Additionally, a financial aid workshop will be held in the Militia Room at 7 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

## Board Agenda - Sept. 19

The Board of Education has set its tentative agenda for its meeting Sept. 19. The meeting is being held on the third Tuesday of the month rather than the second Tuesday in September to avoid conflicts with Primary Election Day.

**Executive session** - 12 p.m.

**Call to order** - 1 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Forum**

**Reports/information items**

- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Superintendent's Report to the Board
- Sheriff's Office update
- CIP update
- State FY 2007 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Curriculum briefing - Scott Foresman Elementary Math; AP; SAT; High School Freshman Seminar
- Budget update
- Hiring update

### Action items

- Approval of personnel
- Policy - #9365
- State 2008 CIP
- Intercategory transfers for FY 2006
- Recurring resolutions
  - American Education Week
  - American Freedom Week
  - The *Washington Post* Distinguished Educational Leader
  - African American History Month
  - Teacher Appreciation Week
  - The *Washington Post* Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award
  - Employees' Retirement
  - Charles County Teacher of the Year
  - Read Across Charles County
  - National Student Leadership Week

### Unfinished Business

### New Business and Future Agenda Items

- New business
- Future agenda items
- Adjournment

## Board approves administrative appointments

The Board of Education on Aug. 8 announced the appointment of several new vice principals and administrative appointments.

Cheryl Smith, a former vice principal in Montgomery County, has been assigned as vice principal at Piccowaxen Middle School. Sonja Jones, a former assistant principal with the Washington, D.C. public school system, has been hired as vice principal at Matthew Henson Middle School. Louis D'Ambrosio, a special education teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School, has been promoted to vice principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy

Elementary School. Lisa Morgan, a former early childhood intervention specialist with Anne Arundel County Public Schools, has been named vice principal at J.C. Parks Elementary School.

The Board also approved several administrative appointments. Sean McDonald, former vice principal at J.C. Parks, has been named as a personnel specialist and will be working with support personnel throughout the school system. Additionally, three instructional specialists were named. They are: Melissa Pascarella, Kimberly King and Rhayda Thomas.

## Register for staff development fall courses

The Office of Staff Development is accepting registrations for certificated professional development courses. Participants enrolled in a CCPS course will receive CPD credit(s), formerly called MSDE credit. Additionally, Charles County Public Schools has partnerships with local universities and colleges. Available courses are listed below.

To register for CCPS courses send a completed registration form located at <http://www.ccboe.com/staffdev/courses/reg.html>, by email [staffdevelopment@ccboe.com](mailto:staffdevelopment@ccboe.com), or by mail to Office of Staff Development, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646.

### **Charles County Public Schools - CPD Courses - Charles County**

**Course:** Classroom Organization Management Program

**Dates:** Sept. 5, 19, 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

**Time:** 4:45 – 7 p.m.

**Location:** Mattawoman Middle School

**Course:** Nuts and Bolts of Teaching from A-Z

**Dates:** Sep 12, 19, 26; Oct. 3 10, 17, 24, 31; Nov 7, 14, 21, 28;  
Dec. 5, 12

**Time:** 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Westlake High School

**Course:** Reading in the Content Areas – Part I

**Dates:** Sept., 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 (Nov 2)

**Time:** 4:30 – 9 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone High School

**Course:** Reading in the Content Areas – Part II

**Dates:** Sept. 16, 30; Oct 7, 14, 28

**Time:** 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Location:** Maurice J. McDonough High School

**Course:** Working Successfully with ESOL and Special Needs  
Students

in the Regular Classroom

**Dates:** Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16

**Time:** 4:15 – 6:15 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone High School

### **CPD Courses - St. Mary's County**

**Course:** Materials for Teaching Reading

**Dates:** Sept. 11, 18, 25; Oct. 2, 16, 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27

**Time:** 5 – 8 p.m.

**Location:** Leonardtown, St. Mary's Board of Education

### **CPD Courses - Prince George's County**

**Course:** Processes and Acquisitions of Reading

**Dates:** Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26; Oct. 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19

**Time:** 5 – 9 p.m.

**Location:** Riverdale Baptist School, Upper Marlboro

### **McDaniel College - Graduate Courses**

**Course:** Ideas Brained-Based Ways We Think and Learn

**Dates:** Sept. 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27

**Time:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone HS/Wkdays; John Hanson MS/Sat.

**Course:** Purposeful Learning Through Multiple Intelligences

**Dates:** Nov. 3, 4, 5, 17, 18, 19 (Dec. 2)

**Time:** 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone HS/Wkdays; John Hanson MS/Sat.

**Course:** Reading in the Content Areas – Part I

**Dates:** Sept., 7, 14, 21, 28; Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 (Nov. 2)

**Time:** 4:30 – 9 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone High School

### **Gratz College and Regional Training Center**

**Course:** Cooperative Discipline

**Dates:** Nov. 3, 4, 5, 18, 19

**Time:** 6 – 9:15 p.m. (Fridays); 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. (Sat./Sun.)

**Location:** John Hanson Middle School

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

**Dates:** Oct 6, 7, 8, 21, 22

**Time:** 6 – 9:15 p.m. (Fridays); 8 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. (Sat./Sun.)

**Location:** John Hanson Middle School

### **Bowie State University -**

#### **Graduate Courses**

**Course:** Appraisal, Assessment & Evaluation

**Dates:** Oct. 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20

**Time:** 4:55 – 9:55 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone High School

**Course:** Multicultural Counseling

**Dates:** Oct. 26; Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30; Dec. 7, 14, 21

**Time:** 4:55 – 9:55 p.m.

**Location:** Thomas Stone High School

### **Bowie State University -**

#### **Undergraduate Courses**

**Course:** Foundations of Education

**Dates:** Oct. 25; Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29; Dec. 6, 13, 21

**Time:** 4:55 – 9:55 p.m.

**Location:** Maurice J. McDonough High School

**Course:** Earth Science

**Dates:** Oct. 23, 30; Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27; Dec. 4, 11, 18

**Time:** 4:55 – 9:55 p.m.

**Location:** Maurice J. McDonough High School

*\*Dates enclosed in parentheses are make-up days for snow.*

## Personnel

Apply online at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com)

### Job openings

**Food Service Worker** — North Point High School; three-hour, 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online. Position open until filled.

**Locksmith/Carpenter** — Jesse Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 13.

**Food Service Worker** — William A. Diggs Elementary School; three-hour, 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online. Position open until filled.

**Special Ed IA - Life Skills** — John Hanson Middle School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 1.

**Secretary to the Principal** — Mary H. Matula Elementary School; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 1.

**Truck Driver I** — Warehouse; 12-month position; possession of valid Maryland Class Driver's Certificate (CDL) preferred; good driving record required. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 1.

**Special Ed IA - Life Skills** — Benjamin

Stoddert Middle School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 1.

**Media Instructional Assistant** — Mt. Hope Nanjemoy Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 7.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** — Maurice McDonough High School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 8.

**Purchasing Assistant** — Jesse Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position; associate of arts degree in business, marketing and or finance or a minimum of five-years school system purchasing experience required. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 8.

**Building Service Worker** — Westlake High School; 12-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 11.

**Technology Facilitator** — Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support personnel office or online by Sept. 11.

**Media Instructional Assistant** — Mattawoman Middle School; 10-month position. Apply in writing to the support

personnel office or online by Sept. 13.

### Extra pay positions

**La Plata High School** has the following positions available for the 2006-07 school year:

- Head swimming coach
- Head varsity winter cheerleading coach
- Head junior varsity winter cheerleading coach

Call Principal Garth Bowling, 301-753-1754, to apply.

### Staff notes

#### Sign up for direct deposit

Sign up for direct deposit to make sure your paycheck is deposited into your bank on time. In case of bad weather, sickness or leave, mailed checks may be delayed. Direct deposit is automatically deposited in your account on payday. Paychecks that are mailed are sent to the post office the day before payday; however, the post office may deliver these checks up to three or more days later.

All employees can sign up for direct deposit by filling out the form (available on the web, or from a school secretary), attaching a copy of your voided check and sending it to the payroll office.

**School News** is published by  
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Fax: 301-932-6651

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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.*