

# School News



## Grading Mock Exams

Jamie Rivenburg, left, and Katie Van Gilst, both teachers at La Plata High School, discuss an answer on a mock High School Assessment taken by a student the week of March 12. Teachers throughout the county recently spent evenings and a Saturday to grade the mock tests. The results are used to help teachers and students determine their strengths and weaknesses before taking the state tests in May.

## Board plans meetings

The Board of Education has scheduled several meetings for April. The regular Board meeting is set for April 3. The new evening meeting time takes effect. A full agenda is listed on Page 2.

The Board will hold the second of two redistricting public hearings. The meeting, set for April 19, 7 p.m., at Thomas Stone High School, is to gather public input on the Superintendent's recommendation for redistricting for the new Mary B. Neal Elementary School to be built off Piney Church Road in Waldorf. The Superintendent is recommending Alternative A to the Board at its April 3 meeting.

The Board will hold a public hearing on the school visitation policy and rule at its work session on April 23. The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Regular public forum rules apply for the hearing. Speakers will have three minutes and must sign up in person prior to the start of the hearing at 7 p.m. Discussion is limited to the visitation policy.

## Jenifer celebrates anniversary

Staff and students at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School are celebrating 20 years of excellence in an anniversary celebration on May 20, 2 p.m., at the school.

This event is open to the public and all former Jenifer employees are invited to attend. The school is compiling a display and memory book with comments by current and former students and staff. Those who are interested in sharing memories or artifacts should contact Principal Susan Fowler, 301-753-1768.

## Last day of school for students is June 13

The last day for Charles County Public Schools students, as long as there are no more closings, is set for Wednesday, June 13. The last day for teachers is June 14. June 8, 11, 12, 13 are two-hour early dismissal days.

Schools were closed three days for

inclement weather. Those days were Feb. 7, Feb. 14 and Feb. 15. Four inclement weather days are built into the calendar each year, leaving one to be deducted from the end of the school year.

Summer school is scheduled to begin June 26 at Henry E. Lackey High School.

## Kindergarten, pre-kindergarten registration begins

Charles County public elementary schools began early childhood registration on Wednesday, March 28. Parents and guardians can register their children for placement in CCPS pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first-grade classes.

Pre-kindergarten students must be 4 years old, kindergarten students must be 5

years old, and first-grade students must be 6 years old by September 1.

The selection of pre-kindergarten students is based on factors outlined in the registration information. For more information, visit the registration section on the CCPS website, [www2.ccboe.com/register/register.cfm](http://www2.ccboe.com/register/register.cfm).

## Notebook

### Diggs plans dedication

William A. Diggs Elementary School, which opened in August 2006, is planning a dedication ceremony on May 4, 6:30 p.m., at the school. The public is invited to attend.

### Students earn scholarships

Four Charles County Public Schools students are receiving \$1,000 college scholarships through the 2007 Carson Scholars program.

Those who were awarded scholarships are:

- Alex Lateulere, fourth grade, Gale-Bailey Elementary School;
- Devin Williams, fifth grade, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Tanaisha Harrison, eighth grade, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School;
- Hannah Lynch, tenth grade, North Point High School;

The scholarship award recognizes students in grades 4-11 for academic excellence and community commitment. The award recipients were nominated by their schools and were required to have a 3.75 grade point average or higher, complete two essays and demonstrate a strong commitment to school activities.

Lateulere, Williams, Harrison and Lynch, along with other Maryland-area recipients, will be honored April 22.

### On the cover

Pictured on the front page are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education March 13. From left to right: Teresa F. Getgen, physical education teacher, La Plata High School; Stephanie A. Boyer, vocal music teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School; Jamie M. Bidby, first-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; and Duania V. Darby, fourth-grade teacher, Berry Elementary School.

Craig Darragh, a special education teacher at Matthew Henson Middle School, attempts to guard Harlem Wizards team member "DP" David Paul. The Wizards were invited to play against Henson faculty members March 26 as an eighth-grade incentive and as part of the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) Program.



## Board of Education agenda - April 3, 2007

The Board of Education has changed its meeting time to begin at 4:30 p.m. to make meetings more accessible to the public. Meetings start at 4:30 p.m. with recognition of employees and students, followed by executive session at 5:30 p.m. and public business beginning with public forum at 6:30 p.m. The Board has released its tentative agenda for April 3. Board meetings are held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

### Call to Order – 4:30 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance –Maurice J. McDonough High School

### Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

#### - Employees

- Deidra L. Fuller, secretary to the principal, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School;
- Deborah A. Williams, guidance counselor, William B. Wade Elementary School;
- Elvear A. Jones, vice principal, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- Marcellus A. Pailen, instructional music teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Joseph Greenawalt, computer science teacher, Outstanding Technology-Using Educator, Westlake High School; and
- Alesha Guechati, instructional specialist, Outstanding Technology Leader, William B. Wade Elementary School.

#### - Students

- James Mason, fifth grade, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, academic achievement;
- Bianca Fuller, fourth grade, William B.

Wade Elementary School, academic achievement;

- Malik Coley, fifth grade, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School, personal responsibility; and
- Cayley Dymond, seventh grade, Matthew Henson Middle School, career readiness.

#### - Resolutions

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Salute to School Food and Nutrition Service Personnel
- Professional Administrators' Week
- National Physical Education and Sport Week

### Executive session – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

### Public Forum – 6:30 p.m.

#### Approval of minutes

#### Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- Superintendent's report to the Board
- Report Item: Superintendent's redistricting recommendation to Board on Neal Elementary
- Technology update
- CIP update
- Curriculum update – Autism
- Report item: 2008-2009 calendar

#### Action Items

- Personnel

#### Unfinished Business

#### New Business and Future Agenda Items

- New business
- Future agenda items

#### Adjournment

## County schools place in Math, Engineering, Science Achievement contest

Eleven Charles County Public Schools teams placed in the Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Regional competition held March 26 and 27 at North Point High School. Students from Charles, St. Mary's and Calvert counties competed in a variety of competitions that tested their abilities in mathematics and science.

The high school teams could participate in the following six competitions: Bass Wood Bridge, Model Science – The Heart, Chemistry competition – The Atomic Model, Effective Communications, Electric Powered Cargo Plane and Multi-Task Trebuchet.

The following teams placed at the high school level:

- Westlake, Bass Wood Bridge, second place;
- La Plata, Bass Wood Bridge, third place;
- North Point, The Heart, second place;
- La Plata, The Atomic Model, first place;
- North Point, Effective Communications, first place;
- Westlake, Effective Communications, second place;
- Westlake, Electric Powered Cargo Plane, second place; and
- La Plata, Multi-Task Trebuchet, second place.

The middle school teams could participate in the following six competitions: On-Site Mathematics: Slope/Rate of Change, Balsa Wood Glider, Hovercraft, Effective Communications, Bass Wood Bridge and Multi-Task Trebuchet.

The following teams placed at the middle school level:

- Benjamin Stoddert, Slope/Rate of Change, second place;
- Piccowaxen, Slope/Rate of Change, third place;
- Mattawoman, Slope/Rate of Change, third place;
- Piccowaxen, Effective Communications, first place;
- Stoddert, Effective Communications, third place;

- Mattawoman, Bass Wood Bridge, first place;
- General Smallwood, Bass Wood Bridge, second place; and
- Smallwood, Multi-Task Trebuchet, second place.

The elementary school teams could participate in the following six competitions: Banner, Theme Park Ride, On-Site Mathematics: Slope/Rate of Change, Effective Communications, Paper Airplane and Balsa Wood Bridge.

The following teams placed at the elementary school level:

- Mary H. Matula, Banner, first place;
- Arthur Middleton, Banner, third place;
- Dr. James Craik, Theme Park Ride, third place;
- T.C. Martin, Slope/Rate of Change, first place;
- Craik, Effective Communications, second place;
- Matula, Effective Communications, third place;
- Martin, Paper Airplane, second place;
- Middleton, Paper Airplane, third place;
- Middleton, Balsa Wood Bridge, first place; and
- Matula, Balsa Wood Bridge, second place.

The team from Matula also was the overall winner at the elementary school level. One overall winner is chosen at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The school that earns the most points in each of the six competitions is chosen as the overall winner.

Maryland MESA is designed to prepare students for academic and professional careers in mathematics, engineering, science, and technology. The program's goals are to increase the number of engineers, scientists, mathematicians, and related professionals at technical and management levels; and to serve as a driving force in encouraging and assisting minorities and females in achieving success in these fields.

## Teachers have opportunity to work toward National Board Certification

Charles County Public Schools teachers have the opportunity to work toward National Board Teacher Certification.

Teachers with a standard or advanced professional certificate who have a minimum of three years successful teaching experience in Charles County are eligible to apply for National Board Certification.

Charles County Public Schools recommends nominees to the Maryland State Department of Education. Selections from each of the Maryland counties and Baltimore City are made by the Maryland State Department of Education to the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards as candidates for National Board Certification.

The application fee of \$2,500 per candidate is fully funded, by the Maryland State Department of Education and Charles County Public Schools.

### Important dates

**Work session - April 24**

**Deadline to apply - April 27**

There are 24 certificate areas for the 2007-08 cycle. Principals have been sent a list of certificate areas for review. Those interested in finding out additional information regarding the National Board Certification process should visit the NPBTS website at [www.npbts.org/candidates](http://www.npbts.org/candidates) before submitting a letter of interest.

Teachers interested in applying should submit a letter of interest indicating the certification area they wish to pursue, a signed recommendation from their principal and a resume highlighting their teaching experiences and accomplishments.

Teachers choosing to seek National Board Certification must complete a demanding two-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills by developing a portfolio that reflects various aspects of their teaching and attend an assessment center during the spring or summer of 2008 where they will complete intensive, timed exercises.

All application information must be addressed to Keith Hettel, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and received by 4:30 p.m., April 27. An informal information session is planned for April 24 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Board room of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

E-mail [earnold@ccboe.com](mailto:earnold@ccboe.com) if you wish to attend the information session. Call 301-934-7241 for more information regarding national certification.

## 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

**Instructional Assistant** – Adult Education – Lifelong Learning Center; five-hour, part-time position. Apply by April 3.

**Senior Project Manager** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; full-time position; bachelor's degree required.

**Food Service Workers** – North Point High School, William A. Diggs Elementary School and William B. Wade Elementary School; three-hour and four-hour, 10-month positions.

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

**Building Service Workers** – Westlake High School and Henry E. Lackey High School; 12-month positions. Apply by April 11.

**Building Service Managers** – Robert E. Stethem Educational Center and Piccowaxen Middle School; 12-month positions. Apply by April 11.

**HVAC Mechanic II** – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Open until filled.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Positions open at La Plata High School and Mattawoman Middle School.

**Occupational Therapist** – Opening for all age levels; 10-month or 11-month positions; bachelor's degree required.

**Family & Consumer Science Teacher** – John Hanson Middle School.

**Power Reading Teacher** – General Smallwood Middle School.

**Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers** – Indian Head Elementary School. Speech Language Pathologist – All elementary schools; 10-month positions.

**Reading Resource Teacher** – Dr. James Craik Elementary School.

**Reading Recovery Teacher** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; 10-month position.

**English Teacher** – Robert E. Stethem Educational Center; 10-month position.

**Human Resources Intern** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; knowledge of special education preferred. Apply by April 5.

**High School Summer Academy Administrator** – All high schools; please submit a cover letter and updated resume to Human Resources via pony or e-mail.

**Summer School 2007 Teaching Staff** – Teachers needed for Summer School at

Henry E. Lackey High School. Apply to Jason Bursick at [jbursick@ccboe.com](mailto:jbursick@ccboe.com). Send background information including current teaching position, area of certification and course interested in teaching at summer school. The first staff day is June 25. The first student day is June 26.

### Extra pay positions

#### Maurice J. McDonough High School

has the following openings:

- Junior varsity field hockey coach
- Varsity cheerleading coach
- Junior varsity cheerleading coach
- Junior varsity girls' basketball coach
- Assistant junior varsity girls' basketball coach
- Freshman boys' basketball coach

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

### Staff notes

#### Years of Service ceremony rescheduled

The Years of Service ceremony, which was cancelled in February due to inclement weather, has been rescheduled to May 1, 5 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Employees who have completed 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service will be recognized.

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