



School News

Notebook

Last day information

The last day of school for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students for the 2021-2022 school year is Wednesday, June 15. The last day of school for teachers is Thursday, June 16. These dates are final, barring any unforeseen inclement weather as CCPS still has one inclement weather day left for use if needed. The following is the end-of-year schedule for students.

- **Friday, June 10:** two-hour early dismissal for students, afternoon pre-kindergarten students attend.
- **Monday, June 13:** two-hour early dismissal for students, morning pre-kindergarten students attend.
- **Tuesday, June 14:** two-hour early dismissal for students, afternoon prekindergarten students attend.
- **Wednesday, June 15:** two-hour early dismissal for students, last day of school for students, morning prekindergarten students attend.
- **Thursday, June 16:** last day of school for teachers.

The following end-of-year dates apply to other CCPS staff.

- 12-month teachers' last day is June 28.
- 11-month certificated staff last day is June 30.
- 10.5-month certificated staff last day is June 24.
- 11-month support staff last day is June 30.
- 10.5-month support staff last day is June 29.
- 10-month support staff (10-month secretaries and IEP clerks) last day is June 17.
- 10-month instructional assistants' last day is June 16.
- 10-month food service manager/assistant manager last day is June 21.
- 10-month food service worker last day is June 16.



CNAs in AHP with RNs

North Point High School students in Jill Bodamer's and Rita Koenig's class of the Academy of Health Professions (AHP) Career and Technical Education (CTE) program recently passed the exam for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license. Judging their skills during the lab portion of the exam were pictured right, Heather Edelen, left, Emili Kober and Rosemary Crowl. The three are North Point graduates who were AHP students and are currently registered nurses working in Maryland hospitals. To read more, [click here](#).



Superintendent announces new hires

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., announced last month two new hires to her leadership team – Chief of Schools and Director of Community Engagement and Equity. The hires are effective July 1 and part of the Superintendent's reorganization of the CCPS senior leadership team. Both positions are new to the school system.

The Board of Education at its April 12 meeting approved the appointment of Marvin Jones, Ed.D., as the Chief of Schools. Jones is currently an executive director of schools with CCPS.

Sylvia Royster, currently a vice princi-

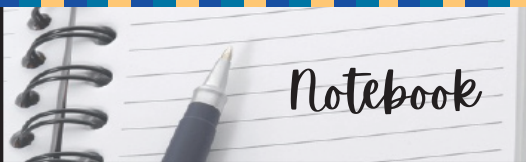
pal at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, was named Director of Community Engagement and Equity.

Both positions are effective July 1. As the chief of schools, Jones will oversee the CCPS office of school administration, including the executive directors of schools, principals, vice principals, the daily operations of schools and will also support school leader development.



Marvin Jones, Ed.D.

See NEW HIRES, Page 3



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are CCPS employees who were recently honored by the Board of Education at its May meeting. From left are J'Trenee Bryant, kindergarten teacher, Malcolm Elementary School; and Kimberly Cline, kindergarten teacher, J.C. Parks Elementary School. To read more about the staff members honored at the May meeting, [click here](#).

Graduation 2022 dates

CCPS will celebrate the Class of 2022 during in-person graduation ceremonies at Regency Furniture Stadium this spring.

Set for May 31 through June 3, CCPS has partnered once again with Regency Furniture Stadium and the Charles County Government to provide nearly 2,100 graduating seniors with graduation ceremonies.

Graduation schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, May 31 — **St. Charles High School**, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 31 — **Maurice J. McDonough High School**, 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 1 — **Henry E. Lackey High School**, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 1 — **Westlake High School**, 1 p.m.
- Thursday, June 2 — **La Plata High School**, 9 a.m.
- Thursday, June 2 — **Thomas Stone High School**, 1 p.m.
- Friday, June 3 — **North Point High School**, 9 a.m.

To learn more about graduation ceremonies, [click here](#).

HR information sessions

The CCPS Office of Human Resources will hold virtual information sessions in May. During the sessions, human resources staff will share information about employment with CCPS.

The sessions are set for 4 to 4:30 p.m. on May 18 and 25. To register by date, go to <https://forms.office.com/r/m1tJWMddQn>. A link to join the virtual meeting will be sent to the email address used to sign up.

In Memoriam Keith Hettel



Keith Hettel

Keith Hettel, a long-time educator with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) who retired in 2016 as the assistant superintendent of supporting services, passed away May 3.

Hettel retired from CCPS in 2016 after a 41-year career working with students, staff and families in Charles County. Hettel spent his entire education career with CCPS.

He was well known in the community for his friendly personality and kind demeanor, but also for his support of all students and staff.

Hettel was a member of the Bryans Road Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad where he was a past president and a member of its board of directors. He attended St. Catherine of Alexandria Church in McConchie.

When he retired in June 2016, Hettel was serving on former Superintendent Kimberly Hill's executive leadership team as the assistant superintendent of supporting services.

During his career with CCPS, Hettel served for many years in the roles of elementary school teacher and elementary school principal.

For most of his career, Hettel oversaw the operations of the CCPS office of human resources as an executive director and then as the assistant superintendent of human resources on former superintendent James E. Richmond's executive leadership team.

It was in his role with human resources that Hettel recruited Louis D'Ambrosio, principal of Berry Elementary School who was recently named 2022 Principal of the Year for Charles County Public Schools.

"Mr. Hettel recruited me — along with countless other educators — many of which are now serving in leadership roles for CCPS. He always opened his

heart and his home to anyone in the CCPS family," D'Ambrosio said. "He looked out for you and had a way of making you feel as though you are the only person in the room. CCPS lost a legend."

When Hill was appointed as superintendent in 2013, she sought Hettel's expertise in another area of focus — supporting services.

For the last three years of his career with CCPS, Hettel managed the maintenance and operations of all school system facilities, oversaw the construction of new schools and building renovations, and managed the transportation department.

No matter what role he filled for CCPS, Hettel built relationships and cared about the people he worked with.

"Keith knew how important it was for employees to feel valued, but more importantly he took time to get to know people because he sincerely cared about people. He always went out of his way to ask how you and your family were doing when he saw you," Mike Heim, assistant superintendent of supporting services, said. "Keith had a positive impact on thousands of students, teachers, and other CCPS employees during his 41 year career with CCPS."

Hettel is survived by his wife of 47 years, Kathleen; sons, Josh and his wife, Julie, and Scott and his wife, Sheila; grandchildren, Maggie, Noah, Eleanor, Hayden and Adeline; brother, Peter and his wife, Laurie of New Jersey; and other family and friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bryans Road Volunteer and Rescue, P.O. Box 111, Bryans Road, MD 20616; St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church P.O. Box 278 Port Tobacco, MD 20677; or St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Family, 4901 Eastern Ave. NE, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

NEW HIRES

continued from Page 1

Additionally, Jones will oversee school safety and security, school resource officers (SROs), CCPS athletic programs and extra-curricular activities, the community engagement and equity office, and the student disciplinary hearing process.

Jones, a longtime CCPS employee and administrator, said he is excited to take on his new role with the school system.

"I am excited about the opportunity to lead the charge to expand and elevate the leadership of Charles County Public Schools. Recognizing that our students will only achieve at the level of guidance and direction they receive, my goal will be to ensure our leaders continually raise the bar and challenge students to rise to the occasion, and with the partnership of our community, we will grow together," Jones said.

As the director of community engagement and equity, Royster will oversee CCPS community-building activities, programs and opportunities, equity programs and trainings, and targeted stakeholder engagement. Royster will also assist schools with community engagement programs and provide support to school administrators with specific school-community stakeholder engagement programs.

Royster said she looks forward to her new role with CCPS.

"I have always lived and lead by my favorite quote that is 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' Being able to serve as the Director of Community Engagement and Equity for CCPS will allow me the opportunity to be a part of this change for our school community. I am honored and privileged to learn, grow and build lasting connections within CCPS," Royster said.

The Board of Education at its May 10 meeting approved two administrative Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff appointments — Executive Director of Schools and Director of Title I Programs.

St. Charles High School Principal Richard Conley has been named as Executive Director

of Schools. The appointment is effective July 1.

Conley joins the CCPS Office of School Administration in the new role July 1 and will work alongside Linda Gill, Ed.D., who is also an executive director of schools. Conley's appointment fills the position of Jones, who transitions to the Chief of Schools position on July 1.

As an executive director of schools, Conley will serve on the school system leadership team for Superintendent Navarro.

Conley is a veteran CCPS educator. He first joined the school system as a Spanish teacher at Westlake High School in 2003. In 2007, Conley took on the role of administrative assistant at Westlake before transitioning to a vice principal role at Henry E. Lackey High School in 2008.

He was named principal at St. Charles High School in 2013 and led the school opening at the start of the 2014-15 school year. Additionally, Conley is a graduate of the school system.

As an executive director of schools, Conley will help to oversee daily school operations, supervise school administrators, coordinate high school graduations, student activities and athletics, coordinate hearings for student disciplinary matters, address parent and community school concerns, and serve as a point of contact for external and partner agencies, organizations and businesses requesting interaction with schools.

Conley said he is looking forward to his new role.

"During my time as a school-based teacher and administrator I've had the privilege to work with many supportive teachers, administrators, students, parents and other stakeholders who were all committed to the vision of helping our school be the best it could be. I'm excited to assume this new role and to be able to have that same experience at the county level as we work to make Charles County Public Schools the best it can be. I am grateful to the Board of Education, Dr. Navarro and Dr. Jones for their confidence in me, and look forward to



Richard Conley

starting this new journey," Conley said.

At the May meeting, the Board also approved the appointment of Arin Bonner as Director of Title I Programs.

Her appointment is effective immediately. Bonner has been serving in the Acting Director of Title I Programs role since February of this year.

Bonner is also a veteran CCPS educator. She first joined the school system in 2006 as a first-grade teacher at J.C. Parks Elementary School. During her career with CCPS, Bonner has also served as a Title I Program Instructional Specialist, Title I Program Coordinator and most recently as the Acting Director of Title I Programs.

During her time with CCPS, Bonner has helped write curriculum, facilitated program evaluations for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and served on committees focused on updating the Title I application process and MSDE program monitoring tools.

Bonner has also presented on CCPS Title I programs at the National ESEA Conference in support of the school system's Title I distinguished schools, as well as the Title I DADvisory Council.

Bonner said she is proud to support the school system in a new role.

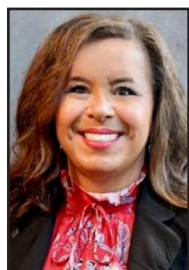
"As a product of Charles County Public Schools, I attended Eva Turner Elementary School, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School and Maurice J. McDonough High School. It is with great pride and honor that I step into the role of Director of Title I Programs," Bonner said.

"With a passion for students and families, I will continue to strengthen our CCPS programmatic, instructional and parent/family engagement initiatives while ensuring that Title I students have an equitable opportunity to receive a high-quality education," Bonner said.

Bonner holds a master's degree in mathematical leadership from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Maryland, College Park.



Arin Bonner



Sylvia Royster

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

Board of Education Members

Michael Lukas, *Chairperson*
Latina L. Wilson, *Vice Chairperson*
Jennifer S. Abell
Tajala Battle-Lockhart
Elizabeth C. Brown
David Hancock
Virginia McGraw
Ian Herd, *Student Member*

Superintendent of Schools

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers

Shelley Mackey
Sara K. Taylor
Jordan Wilson

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikkai M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees/ adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

CCPS provides nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

No Kid Hungry recognizes CCPS food & nutrition staff

Members of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Food and Nutrition staff (FNS) were recently recognized by No Kid Hungry Maryland for its hard work and dedication to the school system during the pandemic.

Since the closing of schools in March 2020 to the return of in-person learning in September 2021, CCPS FNS served over 1.1 million meals through the Summer Food Service Program.

CCPS also served more than 300,000 afterschool meals contributing to Maryland's highest percentage of students with afterschool meals, according to the Food Research and Action Report's 2021 Afterschool Nutrition Report.

Ayesha Holmes, director of No Kid Hungry MD, and Kara Panowitz, senior manager, expressed the dedication of CCPS FNS during the pandemic.

"Without their [CCPS FNS] efforts, many children and families would have a hard time accessing the food they need," Holmes and Panowitz said.

The immediate responses of CCPS Food and Nutrition staff members to fill in where help was needed when providing food for families during COVID-19 reflects the driving mission of CCPS FNS.

"Before I even asked, when everyone else was home and protected, these staff members immediately wanted to do whatever it would take to make sure the students that depend on us each day for meals, were taken care of during the shutdown," Crystal Richardson, director of CCPS food and nutrition,



Victoria Langley, food service manager at J.C. Parks Elementary School, right, led her team in serving meals to children while school buildings were closed to slow the spread of COVID-19. CCPS food service staff were recognized by No Kid Hungry for its dedication to children.

said. Rain or snow did not prevent food and nutrition staff to meet the needs of the community. "I think the hardest part of curbside was the weather. We were in extreme cold and summertime hot. We were out during rain and snow. I know that most of my staff look back on curbside and remember the good times," Victoria Langley, food and service manager at J.C. Parks Elementary School, said. "We would all do it again without hesitation."

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.ccboc.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Community School Coordinator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position (*grant-funded position, re-evaluated annually for renewal*). A master's degree in social work, counseling, pupil personnel, or psychology/sociology, administration and supervision, or a related human service field preferred. A minimum of three years of experience working in an educational setting required. Apply by May 16.

Secretary — William A. Diggs Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with the ability to type 50 words per minute accurately. Knowl-

edge of efficient office practices and procedures, and being proficient in computer literacy skills required. Apply by May 17.

Secretary — Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with the ability to type 50 words per minute accurately. Knowledge of efficient office practices and procedures, and being proficient in computer literacy skills required. Apply by May 18.

Title I Coordinator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree or advanced professional certificate from MSDE is required along with three years of successful teaching experience. Knowledge of Title I program is preferred. Apply by May 20.

Community Engagement and Equality

Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree and advanced professional certificate in education preferred. A minimum of five years of successful teaching experience a must, along with a minimum of two years of experience in related leadership role. Apply by May 20.

Automotive Mechanic III — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED is required with an Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Master Technician certification preferred. Applicants should have a working knowledge of automobile and small engine repair, and maintenance normally acquired through 10 years of related experience driver's license is required. Apply by May 20.