



# School News

## Notebook

### Celebrating retirees

Charles County Public Schools and the Board of Education of Charles County held a Retirement Ceremony for 101 staff members Thursday, June 9, at North Point High School. Collectively, the retirees have more than 2,350 years of experience. Superintendent Maria Navarro thanked the staff members who dedicated their lives to the service of students. To read more, [click here](#).

### First Flight

First Flight, a daily two-hour program for children ages 3 to 5, has opened enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year. First Flight is part of North Point High School's early childhood training program for career and technical education (CTE) students studying education careers. First Flight is open four days a week — closed on Wednesdays from October to April. The morning session is 8:15 -10:15 a.m. with the afternoon session open from noon-2 p.m. Each session is open to 20 children.

The snack and supply fee is \$425 per year with a \$100 holding fee. To get an enrollment form, stop by North Point's main office, email [lwillet@ccboe.com](mailto:lwillet@ccboe.com) or go to [www.npectp.org](http://www.npectp.org). Call 301-753-1759, Ext. 159113 for more information.

### Trauma resources

Most people have experienced traumatic and stressful events in their lives. These times are marked by a sense of horror, helplessness, serious injury or the threat of serious injury or death.

Traumatic events affect survivors, rescue workers and the friends and relatives of victims. They may also have an impact on people who have seen the event either firsthand or on television. For resources to assist in coping with traumatic experiences, [click here](#).

## Class of 2022

Charles County Public Schools



Liz Lawless, English teacher at St. Charles High School, center, is pictured with graduates Khoury Carroll-Tanner, left, and Marquis Campbell at the May 31 ceremony for the Spartans.



Toluwanimi Dapo-Adeyemo celebrates receiving his diploma at North Point High School's graduation June 3.



Student Member of the Board of Education Ian Herd, left, and Superintendent Maria Navarro, Ed.D., are pictured at La Plata High School's graduation on June 2.



Left, Board of Education Chairperson Michael Lukas takes a selfie with his niece, Alyson Smallhorn, Thomas Stone High School's salutatorian before her June 2 graduation. Right, Maurice J. McDonough High School Principal Darnell Russell helms his first graduation as principal.



Henry E. Lackey High School vocal music teacher, Siobhan O'Brien, right, listens to Marc Brice II, practice the "Star Spangled Banner" prior to graduation.



Westlake High School instructional assistant and girls basketball coach, Lydia Ford, right, leads graduates to the staging area prior to the start of the school's graduation ceremony June 1.



### Lunch on Us

Lunch on Us is June 27 to Aug. 11 and is open to children ages 2 to 18 who live in Charles County. The program is not limited to CCPS students, however. Hot lunches are served noon to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and is offered free in partnership with No Kid Hungry. Hot lunches will be served at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Indian Head and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools; John Hanson, Mat-tawoman, Milton M. Somers middle schools; and St. Charles and Westlake high schools. Lunch on Us is closed July 4.

### Summer camps

Some Charles County Public Schools-sponsored summer camps are still open for registration. Advanced Placement (AP) Boot Camps have spots open, as well as the Summer Youth Camp held at Henry E. Lackey High School. The Charles County Sheriff's Office is holding sports camps for children, as well. To learn more, go to the summer camp page by [clicking here](#).

### Run, Run students

The Middle School Track and Field meet was held last month at Westlake High School. The girls meet was May 3 and the boys competed on May 6. Students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades competed in events such as the 100-meter dash, 4x100-meter relay, hurdles, shot put and long jump. To see the girls results, [click here](#). For the results of the boys' meet, [click here](#).



Dawn Murphy, school librarian at J.C. Parks Elementary School, helps kindergarten student Walter Alfaro collect items for his baseball charm. The activity, housed in the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation's mobile lab, teaches young children how agriculture impacts their lives.

## Bringing the farm to students with MAEF lab

Most fourth graders are familiar with cheese. Most have likely have seen wrapped slices and blocks of American, cheddar and Swiss lined up, illuminated in refrigerated grocery store shelves. But many fourth graders most likely haven't made cheese.

Fourth-grade students in Marisa Clements' class at J.C. Parks Elementary School are no longer among that number, having spent a recent class learning The Art of Making Cheese thanks to the Mobile Science Lab of the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation (MAEF). The trailer, along with instructor Joe McMahan, recently spent a week at Parks introducing students in prekindergarten through fifth grade to elements of agriculture via hands-on learning.

Dawn Murphy, school librarian at Parks, put the wheels in motion to bring the MAEF mobile lab to the school. Murphy took MAEF's Ag in the Classroom course led by Bethany Thornton, librarian at Westlake High School and winner of MAEF's Velma Clark Excellence in Teaching About Agri-



Parks fourth grader Jayden Andujar uses a mortar and pestle to powder rennet during a lesson on cheese making with the Maryland Agriculture Education Foundation mobile lab.

culture Award in 2021. "The course was a great way to learn about the importance of agriculture and integrating it into teaching," Murphy said. "Teaching science-type content leads me to some great collaborative lessons and activities."

To learn more about the MAEF mobile lab program and others offered by the foundation, visit [maefonline.com](http://maefonline.com). To read more about the lab's visit to Parks, [click here](#).

## Speed traps — Stone students test theories on energy conversion

Students in Jake Hinz’s Earth systems class at Thomas Stone High School recently felt the need for speed — or at least the need to see how far wheels made from discarded DVDs can travel.

Freshmen in Hinz’s class study energy conversion in class. Those lessons come to life through the designing, building and testing of Rube Goldberg machines and mousetrap cars. “They create an energy conversion device which just takes one form of energy and turns it into another one,” Hinz said. For the projects, “students design it, prototype it, redesign it and compete it,” he said.

Students work on their projects in class and at home, using whatever materials they think will perform best. They pick up pointers from YouTube tutorials and the engineering teacher at Stone, Hinz said. “In a follow up, the students have to write up their challenges, what worked, what didn’t,” Hinz said. “They answer how the energy transformed from the potential energy of the spring to the kinetic energy of the car and where there were energy losses.”

The recent mousetrap car races were held in the commons area and featured vehicles crafted by three students. Hinz’s students from other classes were invited to watch the races, joined by Principal Shanif Pearl. Freshmen Jordan Loeffler, Lukas Righter and Todd Waller lined up their designs on the starting line. Each car had its own set of issues.



Clockwise from top left, Thomas Stone High School science teacher, Jake Hinz, goes over scores with freshman Lamarion Johnson. Freshmen Todd Waller, left, Jordan Loeffler and Lukas Righter take to the track to test their mousetrap cars. Students designed and built mousetrap cars using materials found around the classroom and at home.

Waller’s car would stay straight, but not travel far. Righter’s car went the distance but would take a wide curve before coming to a stop and Loeffler’s design stopped about midway down the race lane. Ninth graders Eric Wheeler and Christina Monticquee served as judges, standing on either side of the finish line, while freshman Lamarion Johnson grabbed a measuring tape to record accurate readings.

Waller admitted to being a bit dejected by the performance of his car which featured two mousetraps. Hinz was having none of it and encouraged Waller to head back to the drawing board. “I’m teaching you how to think,”

Hinz told the student. “Something that looks like a failure in the beginning can be turned into a major success.”

Johnson and Waller leaned over the car, discussing options and edits that would improve its performance. “That’s what science is about,” Hinz said, listening to the two as they brainstormed tactics and fixes. “Learning from your mistakes and improving.”

## Maryland Art Education Association names Alo Career Art Educator of the Year

Theresa Alo, Ph.D., an art teacher at North Point High School, was named the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Career Art Educator of the Year by the Maryland Art Education Association.

Alo has been teaching at North Point since it opened in 2005, and is the chair of the school’s art department.

Her students have received awards in juried art shows, contests and have had their work displayed in various venues.

Prior to working at North Point, Alo started her career as an art teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School, where she worked for 16 years.

While there, she coached field hockey, softball and was involved with other sports when a clock needed to be run or a ticket need-



Theresa Alo

ed to be collected.

Alo sponsored many clubs including sign language club and the pottery club and organized many art-related field trips. She was a member of committees that promoted student learning, life skills and critical thinking.

Alo graduated from Alfred University with a bachelor’s in fine arts.

She earned her master’s of arts degree from Gallaudet University, her administrative degree from Trinity College, her educational specialist degree in leadership from Notre

Dame of Maryland University and went on to complete her doctoral degree contributing to the field of arts education through her research, “The Effect of Visual Arts Education on At-Risk Students’ Critical Thinking Skills and the Maryland English II High School Assessment,” where she found empirical evidence of the value of visual arts education.

Outside the classroom, Alo is a practicing artist allowing her to keep current for her students in the latest techniques, products and opportunities.

She also teaches evening pottery classes at the College of Southern Maryland.

The Maryland Art Education Association recognizes exemplary art educators for outstanding service, achievement and leadership to the field of art education at the state level.

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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).

## Second increment of CCPS one-time payment to be paid June 24

Earlier this year, the Board of Education authorized Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) to provide a one-time \$1,000 payment to active employees. The first \$500 payment was processed with the Nov. 26 payroll cycle.

The second \$500 payment will be paid to CCPS staff on the June 24 payroll.

Those eligible for the payment include full-time CCPS staff covered by the school system's contract with either the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) or American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) unions. To receive the \$500 payment, an employee must be active on the day the payment is made.

The payment was also extended to CCPS tem-

porary employees, contracted bus drivers and attendants, long-term substitutes and daily substitutes. To receive the \$500 payment, temporary employees and substitutes must have worked assignments for payment on the June 24 payroll cycle.

The income is taxable and the cost to CCPS for the one-time \$1,000 payment is \$4.5 million. Any CCPS employee who has questions about the payment should contact the Office of Human Resource at 301-934-7255.

As a reminder, the CCPS Employee Referral Incentive Program (ERIP) ends on Friday, June 30. Details about the program are posted on the school system website at <https://www.ccboc.com/staff/myccps/benefits-pay/employee-referral-incentive-program>.

## First days of work set for staff in the 22-23 school year

The start days for the 2022-2023 school year for every Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employee are listed on the MyCCPS page on [www.ccboc.com](http://www.ccboc.com).

Scroll down to the Workday Schedules section on the right side of the page.

**Certificated staff** who are 12-month administrators (261 days) start on July 1; 12-month certificated non-administration staff members start on July 11; 11-month certificated staff (210) days start on Aug. 8; 10.5-month certificated staff (200 days) start on Aug. 15; and 10-month certificated staff (190 days)

start the year on Aug. 22.

**Support staff** starting days are July 1 for 12-month (261 days) employees; Aug. 8 for 11-month (226 days) support staff employees; 10.5-month (217 days) support staff start on Aug. 15; 10-month (207 days) staff members begin Aug. 17; and Aug. 22 is the start date for 10-month instructional assistants (190 days).

**Food and nutrition service (FNS)** staff start dates are July 1 for 12-month staff; Aug. 22 for 10-month managers and assistant managers; and Aug. 24 for 10-month food and nutrition staff.

## Personnel

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

**Job openings**

**Human Resource Specialist** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's degree or juris doctor in human resources, business management or related field, and three-to-five years of successful supervisory experience in hiring, staffing, recruiting, human resources or related experience required Apply by June 13.

**Bilingual Family and Community Outreach Facilitator** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Associate's degree required; bachelor's degree preferred. Two years of related experience preferred.

Apply by June 14.

**Behavior Specialist** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree in education, psychology or a related field required. Current BCBA certification preferred. Apply by June 14.

**Secretary to the Principal** — William A. Diggs Elementary School, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required. Minimum of two years experience in bookkeeping or office management. Apply by June 15.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant Coach** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required, associate's degree or higher preferred. Apply by June 16.

**Title I Parent Liaison** — J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10-month position. High school

diploma or GED. General knowledge of Title I, Part A and Microsoft Office 365. Apply by June 17.

**Home and Hospital Instructor** — Location to be determined, hourly position. Bachelor's degree required. Apply by June 17.

**Educational Interpreter-World Languages** — Location to be determined, hourly position. Must be fluent in English and have strong verbal/written communication skills in second language of need to CCPS. Apply by June 30.

**Elementary Science Teacher** — All Elementary Schools, 10-month position. Apply by July 30.

**New Teacher Mentor** — All Schools, hourly position. Master's degree or an Advanced Professional Certificate. Apply by Sept. 2.