



## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Top, Board Chairperson Michael Lukas presented the National Hispanic Heritage Month (NHHM) resolution to Sylvia Royster, director of the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Office of Community Engagement and Equity at the Sept. 13 Board meeting. The month is celebrated Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. Royster, Lukas, Vice Chairperson Latina Wilson, Board members, Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro and CCPS staff members of Hispanic descent hold flags from Hispanic and Latin countries to recognize the resolution. Left, Christine Paul, far left, specialist in the CCPS Office of Community Engagement and Equity high fives Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School kindergarten student Cataleya Ochoa. Prekindergarten student Ariza Valenzuela, far right, and Maya Monares, a kindergarten student, are also pictured. Students at Jenifer who are of Hispanic descent recently gathered for a photo to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month.

## Notebook

### College Fair Sept. 21

The annual Charles County College Fair is set for Wednesday, Sept. 21, at North Point High School in Waldorf. The fair is open to the public 6-8 p.m. Sept. 21. The evening session features two financial aid workshops for parents and guardians. The workshops are 6:15 and 7:15 p.m., where parents and students will learn tips on how to apply for financial aid and scholarships, and requirements for financial aid. Contact the college and career advisor at each high school or Jacqueline Cheaves at [jcheaves@ccboe.com](mailto:jcheaves@ccboe.com) with questions.

## Superintendent, sheriff team up to show We Care

Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., and Charles County Sheriff Troy Berry recently greeted teen drivers as they arrived at North Point High School.

We Care is a collaboration between Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and the sheriff's office to remind young drivers to be safe on the road.

Started more than a decade ago to encourage teens to be part of the conversation around the subject of safe driving, We Care raises awareness about behaviors that increase the risk of accidents, injuries and deaths associated with motor vehicle incidents.

Sheriff's officers and CCPS staff held We Care events at all CCPS high schools on



**Superintendent of School Maria Navarro, Ed.D., right, talks with North Point High School junior Maxwell Gaynor about the We Care program as he arrives for classes.**

Sept. 7. To learn more about the program, visit [ccso.us/wecare](https://ccso.us/wecare).



## Torch Run set for Sept. 23

The Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics is 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 23, at Texas Roadhouse in La Plata. The running route is 2.8 miles with the walking route covering 2.5 miles. The family-friendly event allows strollers. All routes depart and return to Texas Roadhouse. Lunch and other refreshments will be provided. Registration is not required, but participants must purchase a T-shirt or hat, and arrive at the restaurant by 8:45 a.m. to be in a group photo. Participants must have on their Torch Run apparel. T-shirts and hats are \$15 each. For more information, contact Gus Proctor at [Proctora@ccso.us](mailto:Proctora@ccso.us), 301-932-3080 or 240-299-5207.

## Homecoming game plans

St. Charles and Thomas Stone high schools will hold their homecoming games at their respective schools Friday, Sept. 23. Each school will hold their homecoming dances on Saturday, Sept. 24. **North Point High School** will play its homecoming game on Friday, Sept. 30 with the dance on Saturday, Oct. 1. Previously, **Maurice J. McDonough High School's** homecoming dates were Sept. 30 and Oct. 1. They have changed from what is printed in the paper copy of the *Charles County Public Schools 2022-2023 Parent Handbook/Calendar*. The school's homecoming game is now Oct. 21, and the dance is Oct. 22.

## Two-hour early dismissal

A two-hour early dismissal is Wednesday, Sept. 28.

## BSW recognition day

Make time to honor building service workers for Building Service Worker Day in October. Each year, the day falls on Oct. 2. The recognition day encourages appreciation for employees who keep schools running smoothly.

## Employee Assistance Program available for staff

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, ComPsych GuidanceResources.

ComPsych is a national employee assistance and work/life company dedicated to helping Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees improve their health and well-being through quality services.

The EAP benefit is no cost to employees and their dependents, and it is also confidential. ComPsych representatives have considerable expertise and clinical knowledge. They are well versed in helping clients of all ages, from young children to the elderly.

The EAP can assist with many issues, including stress, depression, anxiety, workplace difficulties, substance abuse, marital problems, family or parenting conflicts, grief, violence and unhealthy lifestyles. They can also provide additional assistance with:

- Finding child and elder care.
- Hiring movers or home repair contractors
- Divorce, adoption, family law, wills and trusts.
- Retirement planning, taxes.
- Relocation, mortgage and insurance.
- Budgeting, debt and bankruptcy.

ComPsych GuidanceResources is available when you need it, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. ComPsych will also coordinate with CCPS's health plan for cases that require treatment under your medical benefit.

For additional information call toll-free at 1-877-465-0865. The TTY phone number is 800-697-0353. Online tools are available at [www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com). To create an account, click Register and use the web ID: CCPSEAP.

## CCPS pilots telework program

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is piloting a telework option to eligible employees for the 2022-2023 school year. The pilot ends June 30, 2023. Office of Human Resources staff worked with representatives from both the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) to explore telework options, identify CCPS staff eligible and develop program guidelines.

The Office of Human Resources is overseeing the program for CCPS and hosted staff trainings last month. All employees interested in applying to telework should review the [training videos](#) posted at MyCCPS.

A list of eligible CCPS positions that fall under either the EACC or AFSCME negotiated agreement is on [MyCCPS](#) Click on the Eligible Positions drop-down menu. The following is important information about the pilot telework program.

Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., has approved three types of telework arrangements for staff as part of the pilot program.

- Recurrent telework: telework which occurs on a regular, recurring basis at an alternate worksite (eligibility limited to some positions at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building).
- Intermittent telework: employee works regularly from their primary work site, but would telework for limited periods of time based on specific circumstances or job responsibilities that could be accommodated by teleworking.
- Situational telework: telework for an employee that is approved on a case-by-case basis, or that is not part of a regular telework schedule.

Eligible employees are required to agree to follow all telework guidelines and complete an electronic request form for manager/supervisor review.

For more details and information, [click here](#).





Thomas Stone High School resource teacher Melissa Veneracion, left, Curry Werkheiser, assistant principal, and Jasmine Bateman, assistant principal, far right, jot down notes on the design of Adali Hernandez's newspaper dress and accessories during a fashion show held by Hollis Hay's fashion design class.

# Stop the presses!

## Thomas Stone High School fashion design students take recycling to new levels

There's fast fashion and there's yesterday's news. Students in Thomas Stone High School's fashion design class embraced both with an assignment to create a garment and accessories using newspaper, ribbon, teamwork and ingenuity.

Hollis Hay, who teaches fashion design, financial literacy and architecture and interior design at Thomas Stone, said the assignment serves as an ice breaker and team builder at the start of the school year. "I start with newspaper dresses because sometimes you have to think outside the box," Hay said of getting students to collaborate creatively. "What a fun way to get to know the kids in your class and build relationships," Principal Shanif Pearl said.

A fashion show recently took place in the locker-lined hallway outside of Hay's classroom, the models walking a red carpet by judges — the judges at the morning show were Pearl, Assistant Principal Jasmine Bateman, Assistant Principal Curry Werkheiser and resource teacher Melissa Veneracion. The designs were scored on a scale of one to five focused on originality of design, originality in use of newspaper, craftsmanship, newspaper accessory and overall appearance. Each of the two fashion design



Thomas Stone High School sophomore Kennady Hawkins, left, Brielle Hooker, a freshman, and Jasmyn Long, a sophomore, put the finishing touches on their newspaper dress worn by senior Caitlyn Bromfield.

classes participated in a runway show. On Monday, each class's show resulted in a tie between two teams.

### Make it work

Before groups get to work, Hay goes over how newspaper can be folded, latticed, pleated, made into rosettes, fringe and other embellishments. Then in teams of four or five, students worked to create a garment and accessories with material emblazoned with bylines, sports scores and comic strips.

Fashion design is a fine art credit in which students learn the principles and elements of fashion and the history of fashion. Hay, who was a Family and Consumer Science major in college focused on textile and jewelry design, taught art and worked with students in a home and hospital program before coming to Charles County Public Schools.

She said she looks for assignments that will challenge students to analyze and use design principles while getting hands-on experience.

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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).

## North Point's First Flight program accepting applicants

First Flight, the daily two-hour program for children ages 3 to 5 at North Point High School, has openings. The program is led by North Point students in the school's early childhood training program.

The program runs four days a week (closed on Wednesdays) from October to April. The morning session is 8:15-10:15 a.m., and the afternoon session

is noon-2 p.m.

The snack and supply fee is \$425 a year and a \$100 holding fee will be applied to the payment for the year. North Point is at 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf.

To complete a contact information form, pick up a copy from the school's main office, email [lwillett@ccboe.com](mailto:lwillett@ccboe.com) or go to <https://www.npectp.org>.

## FASHION

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rience working with material to create a garment. It's just not a material that most would think to use. "This is why dresses are not made from newspaper," Cole Bergling, a sophomore, said.

"We did find it very challenging," Bergling's teammate, Adali Hernandez, a freshman, said. "But once we started to put things in place, we just did layers on layers until it came together."

Another lesson learned was a dress wasn't going to come together overnight. "Patience. I learned patience," Kennady Hawkins, a sophomore, said.

### Fashion forecast

Hawkins said she signed up for fashion design to try something different. "I want to explore different options and it seemed interesting," she said. Hawkins helped design a dress for teammate Caitlyn Bromfield, a senior, to wear in the show.

Hay would like to start off each quarter with some sort of challenge to stoke the creativity of students and get the wheels turning for future projects. The students are all for it, judging from the enthusiasm displayed at the fashion shows. "It's a reminder that the students' enthusiasm is what makes us all want to be teachers," Hay said.

Upcoming lessons include designing with plastic bags, magazines and unconventional materials — think dry pasta or fake flowers. Students will delve into line drawing, embroidery, silk screening, bead weaving and macramé.

After Monday's fashion show, students are ready to dive deeper and challenge themselves. "I thought this wasn't going to work," Bromfield said, looking down at her dress and around the room at other teams as they made last minute tweaks to their newspaper creations. "But it works."

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**Attendance Secretary** — William B. Wade Elementary School, 10.5-month position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by Sept. 20.

**High School Resource Teacher** — North Point High School, 10-month position. A master's degree in an appropriate field and advanced professional certificate are required along with at least five years of teaching experience at the secondary level. Apply by Sept. 20.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month

position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by Sept. 20.

**Building Service Assistant Manager** — North Point High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma and one or more years of experience required. Apply by Sept. 21.

**Building Service Worker** — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required. Apply by Sept. 27.

**Art Teacher** — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 29.

**Learning Management System Administrator** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in information technology, educational technology, instructional design or a related field is required, along with three or more years of

learning management system support experience. Apply by Sept. 29.

**Bus Driver** — Annex 1, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Five years of work experience as a school bus driver is preferred. Applicants must have or have the ability Commercial Class B Driver's License with P&S endorsements within the period of time specified. Position open until filled.

**HVAC Teacher** — Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. Minimum of three years of experience working in the HVAC operations industry and currently licensed HVAC technician in Maryland are required. Applicant must meet certification requirements or able to earn certification within two years as established by MSDE. Position open until filled.