



# School News

## Notebook

### Unity Day on Oct. 19

Wear orange on Wednesday, Oct. 19, to support Unity Day. The National Bullying Prevention Center hosts the day each year to show unity for kindness, acceptance and inclusion. Tag your pictures #ccpsunityday22 on social media so we can see them and share.

### Early dismissal Oct. 21

A two-hour early dismissal for students is set for Friday, Oct. 21. There is no school on early dismissal days for any 3-year-old student who attends a CCPS prekindergarten program.

### Fall chess tournament

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Fall Chess Tournament is Oct. 22 at Thomas Stone High School. The free tournament is open to players in kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade with students participating by grade level. The deadline to register is Oct. 19. Walk-in registrations will not be taken. Registration opens at 8:15 a.m., and the first round starts at 9 a.m. For more information, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

### Cross country meet

North Point High School's cross-country program is hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Middle School Cross Country Meet Oct. 22. Middle school students can register to participate in the 2-mile run. To register, [click here](#). Registration opens at 8 a.m. with a course walk. There will be an awards ceremony and pancake breakfast following the race. North Point is at 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf. For more information, email Coach Jimmy Ball at [jball@ccboe.com](mailto:jball@ccboe.com).



### Peace, Love & School Lunch

Victoria Langley, food and nutrition services (FNS) manager at John Hanson Middle School, and her groovy staff made lunch on Oct. 13 a far out event for students. Peace, Love & School Lunch was the theme for National School Lunch Week that was held Oct. 10-14. Representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) visited the school to see how students enjoyed Jivin' Spicy Chicken, the Boogie Down Big Daddy's Pizza and the Far Out Italian Chef Salad. Top, eighth grader London Reeder, left, Maleha Carroll, a sixth grader, and eighth grader Brennan Burnett were dared by Principal Ben Kohlhorst to try grapefruit. Left, Princess Adams, a FNS staff member at Hanson, embraced the theme of the day.

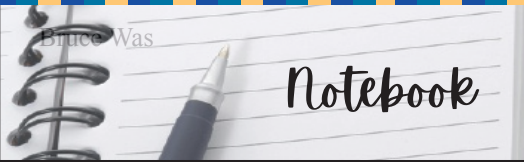
## Virtual community meeting on safety set for Oct. 17

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is hosting a 6 p.m. virtual community meeting about safety in schools on Monday, Oct. 17. The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform and is open to any CCPS parent, staff or community member. Anyone joining the meeting will need an active Zoom account to participate. To join the meeting, [click here](#).

Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., will open the meeting followed by staff providing a brief oral presentation about safety in schools. Topics of the meeting will include staff background checks, required training for CCPS staff, the CCPS visitor management system, CCPS social media rules for staff includ-

ing communication with students, the CCPS cell phone policy, age-appropriate instruction and curriculum, and counseling lessons and other mental health supports.

CCPS staff reserve the right to remove any participant from the meeting for inappropriate conduct. The meeting format is that of a Zoom webinar, in which participants will not automatically enter the meeting with audio and video controls. Staff will ask those who want to ask questions or provide comments to use the virtual hand raise tool in Zoom and/or the chat feature. Video and audio access will be provided to participants who wish to speak during the meeting.



Notebook

### Fun Fest on Oct. 22

A Healthy Kids Fun Fest will be 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22, at North Point High School, 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf. CCPS physical education staff, and those with Food and Nutrition Services (FNS), will be at the event. The Charles County branch of the NAACP, CCPS, the American Heart Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Charles County Department of Health and others are partnering to promote healthy eating and exercising habits among children. See Page 3 for more information about the partnership.

### Page program

CCPS is accepting applications from high school seniors interested in participating in the Maryland General Assembly Student Page Program. Each year, CCPS selects three high school seniors and one alternate to represent the school system in the program. Students must apply by completing an official application, and an essay explaining their interest and qualifications for the program. These forms can be obtained from the county coordinator by email at [llove@ccboe.com](mailto:llove@ccboe.com) or by phone at 301-934-7389. The application and essay template are also available at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). To access the application and essay template, [click here](#). Both completed documents must be submitted by email to [llove@ccboe.com](mailto:llove@ccboe.com) on or before 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 28.

### Apply for mini grants

Classroom teachers can apply for one of six mini grants offered by the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRS-PA). The mini grants — awarding up to \$300 per teacher — may be used on special projects or activities that are not funded through the school system, PTA or PTSO. Mini grant applications are due by Nov. 1 with winners notified in January. The funds will be sent directly to the teacher at their school for use during this school year. To learn more about the program, visit [www.mrspa.org](http://www.mrspa.org).



### What's the hoopla?

Presley Ferguson, right, a fourth grader in Robert Crowley's class at William B. Wade Elementary School, gives hula hoops a whirl as her physical education class with Kellee Shoemaker winds down. Amerie Brice, left, also gave it a try.

### Special education virtual discussions set

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) special education department is hosting two virtual discussions and one in-person meeting. Tia McKinnon, Ed.D., director of special education, will meet with families of CCPS students with disabilities to talk about what is working in CCPS regarding the specialized services it provides to their students through sessions called Collaboration Through Conversation. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences and different perspectives to assist in the continual growth of special education in CCPS.

The first virtual meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The second meeting is set for Feb.

6, at the same time. Parents and guardians who are interested in joining Collaboration Through Conversation can sign up here.

The special education department is also hosting an in-person Special Education Expo on March 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at North Point High School.

The event is focused on helping improve outcomes for individuals with disabilities from birth to 21 years old. Parents and guardians can attend in-person presentations and visit the vendor fair. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration for the event will be available in February.

North Point is at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

### Ways to support United Way of SoMD

The United Way organizations of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties have recently integrated, becoming the United Way of Southern Maryland to serve the tri-county community in a more effective and cost-efficient manner.

United Way representatives will visit

the Jesse L. Starkey Administration building 9:30 a.m., Oct. 21, to discuss ways staff members can donate to United Way.

Representatives will visit schools to talk to more CCPS staff.

Keep an eye on [MyCCPS](http://MyCCPS) for more information and a schedule.



## CCPS partners with community organizations for healthy children initiative

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., joined representatives of the Charles County Branch of the NAACP, Charles County Department of Health, the American Heart Association and the Center for Science in the Public Interest, on Oct. 4 to accept a proclamation recognizing October as National Children's Health Month.

Presented by the Charles County Commissioners, the proclamation recognizes that children need care and guidance to grow up healthy and safe.

The proclamation is the first step community organizations such as CCPS are taking to ensure children are introduced to and develop healthy eating and exercise habits that will benefit them throughout their lives.

"As educators, we are focused on fueling the minds of our students as they develop into critical thinkers," Navarro said. "As such, children and teens improve their decision making and refine their problem-solving abilities. These skills are exercised beyond the classroom. They are weaved into every aspect of a person's life. When a young person makes the decision to opt for healthy meals and take part in physical activities, they are making the decision to invest in their health and wellbeing."

CCPS will support its community part-



**Pictured with Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., far right, are Charles County Commissioners and representatives of Charles County NAACP, Charles County Department of Health, the American Heart Association and the Maryland State Conference of the NAACP. The Commissioners issued a proclamation on Oct. 4 recognizing October as National Children's Health Month.**

ners at an Oct. 22 event to celebrate ways in which children can making healthy choices, how families can support those choices and incorporate them at home, at school and in the community. The event will be held 10 a.m-2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, at North Point High

School. CCPS staff will be available to talk about healthy eating with free samples and lead physical education activities during specific times.

North Point is at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

## Virtual EAP meeting

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, ComPsych GuidanceResources. ComPsych is a national employee assistance and work/life company. ComPsych will hold a virtual session at 2:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 21.

The session will provide each participant with the understanding of different work-styles, preferences and how each generation expects to be treated as employees and colleagues. To register, [click here](#).

For additional information about the EAP, call toll-free at 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.

## Walk this way

**Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School students recently visited the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center for a field trip.**

**Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) fifth graders visit the center to participate in the Watershed Stewards program after studying the watershed in class with the help of their science teacher.**

*Spotted on @NCEEC on [Twitter](#).*



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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 Nikial 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).

# Nominate principal, teacher for honors

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is looking for nominees for its annual Principal of the Year award. The award honors exemplary leaders for not only their leadership, but for their commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment for students. The principal chosen for the honor will also represent CCPS as the county finalist for *The Washington Post* Principal of the Year award.

Each year, *The Post* selects an overall award recipient for its Principal of the Year award from among finalists in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. Principals can be nominated by staff, students, parents, colleagues or community members, but are not eligible if they have received the honor in the past.

Criteria for nominees includes five years of experience as a principal, three of which are required to be with CCPS, and a commitment to maintain their position as a principal with the school system for the 2023-2024 school year.

For more details about the nomination process, [click here](#). Deadline for submission of nominations is 2 p.m., Nov. 11. Materials should be sent by email to Ramona DiBenedetto in the CCPS Office of Human Resources at [rdibenedetto@ccboe.com](mailto:rdibenedetto@ccboe.com). Call 301-934-7242 with questions.

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for *The Washington Post* and Maryland Teacher of the Year awards programs. Nominated teachers will be considered as honorees in either one or the other awards program. Schools and centers should submit one teacher nominee annually.

Nomination criteria include a minimum of five complete years of teaching and must be a full-time classroom teacher in prekindergarten through Grade 12.

Submission suggestions can be made by teachers, students or community members. Anyone interested in suggesting a teacher for nomination should contact the school in which the teacher works. Nominees who have received either *The Post* teacher finalist award or were named Charles County Teacher of the Year in the past three years are not eligible. One CCPS teacher will be selected from the pool of nominees by a committee of school system staff to represent Charles County as the Charles County Teacher of the Year and finalist for the Maryland Teacher of the Year award. Additional information about the nomination process is posted on the [MyCCPS staff section](#) of the school website of [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com). Nominations are due by 2 p.m., Nov. 11 and must be submitted electronically. Contact Ramona DiBenedetto at 301-934-7242 or [rdibenedetto@ccboe.com](mailto:rdibenedetto@ccboe.com) for more details.

## 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**

**Building Service Worker** — William A. Diggs Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 17.

**Food and Nutrition Services Manager** — J.C. Parks Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 18.

**Reading Intervention Instructional Assistant** — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 19.

**Building Service Worker** — Matthew Henson Middle School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 19.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant** — C.

Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 24.

**Instructional Assistant for SOAR program** — Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 25.

**Instructional Assistant for SOAR program** — Billingsley Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 25.

**Learning Management System Administrator** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 26.

**Mathematics Teacher** — All schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Library Media Teacher** — All high schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Latin Teacher** — All high schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**Language Arts Teacher** — All elementary

schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**French Teacher** — All high schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**ESOL Teacher** — All schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

**AVID Tutor** — Location to be determined, temporary, part time. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by June 30.

**Engineering Teacher (during planning period)** — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. Position open until filled.

**Title I Tutor with a Degree** — Location to be determined, temporary, part time. Position open until filled.

**Educational Interpreter** — Location to be determined, temporary, part time. Professional proficiency level of English and a language of need. Position open until filled.