



# School News

## Notebook

### Board meeting

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet 1 p.m., Nov. 15, in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

### Calendar notes

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) schools and offices are closed Wednesday, Nov. 23, through Friday, Nov. 25, for the Thanksgiving holiday. A two-hour early dismissal for students is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 7.

### Aflac information

CCPS employees have the opportunity to elect Aflac pre-tax supplemental insurance policies. Aflac supplemental insurance provides additional coverage that can be used to help with out-of-pocket expenses that may not be covered by medical insurance.

Aflac has a website to view coverage plans with an option to apply online. [Visit the Aflac website for Charles County Public Schools employees.](#) Aflac representatives have been visiting schools and centers virtually. To learn more, [click here.](#)

### Open enrollment

CCPS health benefits open enrollment period closes Tuesday, Nov. 15. During open enrollment, CCPS employees eligible to receive benefits can make changes to their current benefit elections. Employees should review their personal information, benefits offered by CCPS and the plans that they are enrolled in to determine if they would like to make any changes. Any benefit change made during open enrollment is effective Jan. 1, 2023.



### A very busy day at Dr. Brown Elementary

Staff and students of Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School had a busy day on Friday, Oct. 28. During the day, students participated in a Boosterthon Fun Run to raise money for activities and events at the school. At 5:30 p.m., Dr. Brown staff and students were joined by local officials for a ribbon cutting celebrating the renovation of the school. Dr. Brown spent a year at the Transition School while the renovation project was underway to add doors, walls and other updates to the school which opened in 1974. Following the ribbon cutting, students and their families donned costumes for a trunk-or-treat event. Pictured at the Oct. 28 ribbon cutting are Board of Education Chairperson Michael Lukas, left, Dr. Brown Assistant Principal Shay Crisp, Dr. Brown Principal Karen Lewis, Board Member Virginia McGraw and Superintendent Maria Navarro, Ed.D.

### Projected winners named in Board election

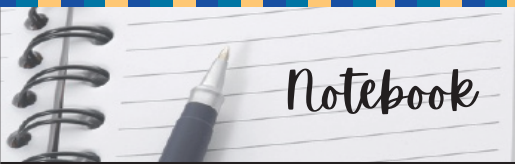
The XVIII Board of Education of Charles County will be sworn in on Dec. 19 during a ceremony at St. Charles High School and will be seated for its first meeting on Jan. 10. The projected winners of the 2022 election include returning members Michael Lukas and David Hancock. New to their roles as Board members are Dottery Butler-Washington, Cindy Coulby, Nicole Kreamer, Yonelle Moore Lee, Jamila Smith, Brenda Thomas and Linda Warren.

Amira Abujuma, a senior at North Point High School, is the Student Board Member. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students vote for the Student Board Member in

the spring, who serves from July to June each year.

The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation last year that changed the Board of Education election process. For the 2022 election cycle, two Board members were to be elected from each of the four Charles County Commissioner districts for a total of eight Board members to serve a four-year term.

One Board member was to be elected from the county at-large to serve an initial two-year term, and then is eligible to run for a four-year term in 2024. Elected Board members are limited to two terms.



## Managing holiday stress

The next virtual EAP session is 2:30 p.m., Dec. 7, and will touch on managing holiday stress. Maintaining balance and keeping stress from becoming overwhelming are the keys to an enjoyable holiday season. The Dec. 7 workshop provides an overview of common stressors people encounter during the holidays and offers tips to get the most enjoyment out of the season. To register for the session, [click here](#).

## Help United Way of SoMD

For the 2022-2023 school year, CCPS is again partnering with the United Way of Southern Maryland.

The United Way of Southern Maryland supports 76 local human service agencies with 36 in Charles County.

The services support families, adults and children in Charles County. CCPS staff can set up a donation to United Way and the agencies it serves through a one-time donation, or a pledge made through CCPS payroll deduction. Anyone can make a one-time donation online at <https://www.unitedwaysouthern-maryland.org/fund-cause>. CCPS staff can set up United Way donations through payroll deduction. Payroll deduction through United Way would begin with the Jan. 6, 2023, paycheck.

Kelli Whalen is the CCPS program point of contact for United Way donations. Completed pledge forms should be sent to Whalen at [kwhalen@ccboe.com](mailto:kwhalen@ccboe.com) through the pony by Dec. 9. Employees should write their school's ID number or name on the form, keep the pink copy of the form and send Whalen the yellow and white copies. Mark your envelope to the attention of Kelli Whalen, Office of Accountability, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

## Enrollment application open for charter school

Phoenix International School of the Arts, also known as PISOTA, is hosting virtual information sessions this month for community members interested in learning more about the new public middle school.

PISOTA will be the first public charter school within Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and is scheduled to open in August 2023.

PISOTA will open in La Plata as a middle school serving students in Grades 6-8. Students must apply for enrollment consideration for the 2023-2024 school year.

Interested families can complete an application online at the [PISOTA website](#).

In Maryland, public charter schools are part of their local school district with oversight of the local Board of Education. Maryland public charter schools are held accountable to the communities they serve, their local Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education. Charter schools are also publicly funded and do not require tuition or an entrance exam for students. PISOTA will have an arts-focused program of study using the Cambridge International Education curriculum that meets Maryland State Department of Education and CCPS course and assessment requirements.

The virtual information sessions are scheduled for Monday, Nov. 21, and Tuesday, Nov. 29, both at 6 p.m. Participants will need an active Zoom account to join the sessions. Interpreting assistance will also be available for community members who Session details are below; both sessions will cover the same information.

### Monday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m. information session

- <https://ccboe.zoom.us/j/89960570522?pwd=MGJZeEJ2OHF1VGVQ5MFFBOhdQ>



PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of the ARTS

### aFJIUT09

- Session passcode: 490870
- To hear the audio in Spanish, participants will need to select the interpretation setting in the Zoom once they join, select Spanish and then turn on the “mute other audio” option.

### Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m. information session

- <https://ccboe.zoom.us/j/89565519839?pwd=VHNaVzI0cFRiTWI4N3QxZ0tJTFdDZz09>

- Session passcode: 818543
- To hear the audio in Spanish, participants will need to select the interpretation setting in the Zoom once they join, select Spanish and then turn on the “mute other audio” option.

Students must complete an online application for PISOTA enrollment consideration. For students to be considered during the open enrollment period, an application must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16. The application is available at <https://pisota.org/apply>.

The application will remain open after the open enrollment period; any student who applies on Dec. 17 or after will be placed on a waitlist and considered for enrollment on a space available basis following the lottery selection process in January 2023.

To learn more, visit [Phoenix International School of the Arts \(PISOTA\)](#).

## Retirement webinars set for Nov. 15 and 17

Empower will hold free live webinars next week for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff members who are preparing for retirement. Webinars are scheduled for noon and 3 p.m. on Nov. 15 and at 1, 4 and 6 p.m. on Nov. 17. For direct links to an webinar, [click here](#) to scan a QR code. Empower will send a confirmation email

with a calendar invite, along with reminders about the upcoming webinar. Participants can click the invite link up to 10 minutes before the webinar is set to begin. For more information about an account, call 877-778-2100 from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday. For one-on-one virtual coaching, visit [www.empower.com/virtualcoach](http://www.empower.com/virtualcoach).



# CCPS receives coat donation from county bus drivers assoc.



Above, Sandra Mason-Savoy, secretary in student services, left, and pupil personnel workers Latonia Bowman and Monica Cherry carry a box of coats into the warehouse of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Right, PPWs Ronnie Richmond, left, and Neal Bankenstein help move a box of donated coats. The Charles County School Bus Contractors Association donated more than 200 coats to CCPS.

The Charles County School Bus Contractors Association (CCSBCA) recently collected more than 200 winter coats for the annual Drive Away the Cold coat drive for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students in need. Community members could drop off new winter coats to three Community Bank of the Chesapeake locations from Oct. 1 to 22. On Oct. 22, the coats were collected from the participating drop off locations, boxed and ready to give to CCPS.

Superintendent of Schools Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., Bethany Goodwin, CCPS Youth in Transition coordinator, along with CCPS pupil personnel workers (PPW) and CCPS department of Student Services staff, received the winter coats from CCSBCA ready to be organized and distributed to CCPS students. Superintendent Navarro expressed her thanks for the work that is impacting the students at CCPS. “Thank you to the CCSBCA and the Community Bank of the Chesapeake for the contributions that were made to provide winter coats for CCPS students in need this winter,” Navarro said. Partnerships with organizations such as the CCSBCA make it possible for us to maintain our mission — to support the well-being of children.”

“The coat drive is so important to us each year for the help it provides to families in our community. Thanks to this collaboration, our kids will be warmer for the upcoming winter and that is our goal,” Mark Koch, president of the Charles County School Bus Contractors Association said.

# North Point High School salon is open and booking appointments

North Point High School students in the cosmetology Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, under the direction of two instructors who are licensed cosmetologists, study to earn a Maryland State Board of Cosmetologist license. The license is one held by professional stylists and others in the cosmetology field allowing them to work in the industry.

In Maryland, a person must log 1,500 hours of training and pass a written exam to obtain the license. North Point cosmetology students who are juniors and seniors gain that training in the school’s salon.

Open to the public, students are taking appointments for salon services — hair, nail and skin care, along with texture and hair coloring services.

“It is important that students get to work hands on because it gives them real world experience and prepares them for the workforce. Working with diverse clients helps the students to feel confident and prepared in the industry on a professional level,” Erin Glover, cosmetology teacher, said. “It also familiariz-



North Point High School cosmetology instructor and professional stylist Erin Glover, center, talks with seniors Sherise Newson, left, and Joshua Vann, as they consult with a client of the school’s salon.

es them with a variety of different people and personality types.”

The salon is open by appointment only. Appointments are open 12:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with the last appointment booked at 3:30 p.m. Cash and credit payments will be taken at the time of service. For a listing of services and prices, [click here](#).

Customers can book an appointment [online here](#). Those who are not North Point students or staff must follow Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) visiting procedures and show photo identification before entering the building.

Once inside, customers will sign in at the main office and be escorted to the cosmetology salon. Only clients who are receiving salon services are permitted in the school. Salon services will be done under the supervision of the program instructors who will also pair the customer with a student who is best suited for the requested service. The North Point salon has been open for clients for about eight years with school staff, students and their families as customers, Glover said.

To be a licensed cosmetologist in Maryland a person must be at least 17 years old and have completed the ninth grade or received a GED. They must also submit proof that they have undergone 1,500 hours of training at a cosmetology school or have spent 24 months as a registered apprentice in a licensed beauty salon.



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

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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).

## Veterans Day program

La Plata High Schools' JROTC held a program Nov. 10 to honor military veterans. During the event, veterans — family members of staff and students — in attendance stood to be recognized by students and guests. The school has been hosting the program since 2001.



## Veterans Day parade

Students in Henry E. Lackey High School's JROTC program participated in La Plata's Salute to Veterans Parade on Nov. 6.

*Photo by Amani Beachum/Melanin Hymns Photography*



## Thank a vet

Arthur Middleton Elementary School held its annual Veterans Day program and parade this morning, Nov. 11. Top left, Isabel Neiman, left, escorts her grandfather, Rick Neiman during the parade. Left, kindergartner Maxwell Wallax thanks veterans.



## Breakfast with veterans

Gale-Bailey Elementary School held a breakfast honoring military veterans this morning.

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**IEP Clerk** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required and at least one year's experience as an IEP clerk is preferred. Apply by Nov. 14.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant** — Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma and experience working with children are required. Apply by Nov. 14.

**Carpenter II** — CCPS Maintenance Shop,

12-month position. A high school diploma or equivalent, and a minimum of six years of experience carpentry experience. Apply by Nov. 15.

**Work Based Learning Liaison** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, temporary, grant-funded position. A high school diploma is required with a bachelor's degree in special education, transition, counseling, rehabilitation or related field preferred. Apply by Nov. 15.

**Food and Nutrition Service Manager** — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required. A minimum of three years of experience in food service management and must be

ServSafe certified within 12 months of assuming position. Apply by Nov. 18.

**Prekindergarten Instructional Assistant** — T.C. Martin Elementary School, 10-month position. High school diploma is required with experience working with children preferred. Apply by Nov. 18.

**Financial Secretary** — Westlake High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by Nov. 19.

**Title I Nonpublic Tutor** — Location to be determined, temporary position. Bachelor's degree and professional certificate in early childhood or elementary education required. Ability and willingness to work evenings. Position open until filled.