

School News



Notebook



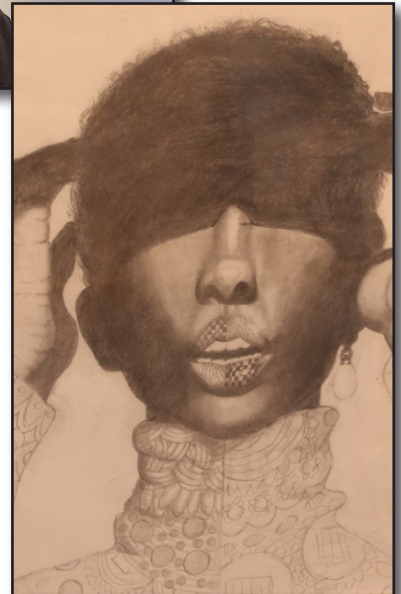
Bookmark winner

Avery Boarman, a second grade student at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, recently placed in the Maryland Judiciary's 17th annual Conflict Resolution Day bookmark art contest. Maryland's Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO) opens the contest to Maryland students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Boarman took second place in the kindergarten through second grade category with her design featuring "I am Kind" in green lettering surrounded by red hearts and a drawing of a girl. Boarman said she was inspired by thoughts of being kind and how she tries to be kind to others. To read more, [click here](#).

Scholarship fund open

The [Charles County Scholarship Fund](#) application for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high school seniors is now open. The Charles County Scholarship Fund is offering more than 60 scholarships this year to CCPS high school seniors. Students can apply for scholarships now through Wednesday, March 1, at 11:59 p.m. Late submissions are not accepted. The application is [posted here](#). Application requirements include a resume, personal statement that details academic and career goals, and two letters of recommendation.

To view all available scholarships and requirements, [click here](#).



(Seven) Up for a show?

Artwork by Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high school students will be on display through Feb. 5 during the Seven-Up+ art show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Marbury. Top left, Chris Cox, art teacher at La Plata High School, uses a digital level to ensure placement of a drawing. Top right, Westlake High School senior, Emely Pacheco, submitted a ceramic piece, "My Bestie," in the show. Right, a graphite drawing titled "Beauty," by St. Charles High School sophomore Anaya Cruse, is in the show. To read more about Seven-Up+, go to Page 2.

Board elects chairperson, vice chairperson

The Board of Education of Charles County elected Michael Lukas as its chairperson and Yonelle Moore Lee as its vice chairperson at the start of the Jan. 10 meeting. The Board votes annually in January to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson. Both Lukas and Moore Lee were elected unanimously by Board members. The chairperson and vice chairperson serve a one-year term.



Michael K. Lukas

The current Board was elected to office in November 2022. Lukas was first elected to the Board in 2010 and is embarking on his fourth term on the Board. He has held the positions as its chairperson and vice chairperson in the past, but recently as chairperson in 2022.

"I look forward to working with all of you and appreciate you," Lukas said. "As you consider



Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq.

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On the cover

[CCPS employees were honored by the Board](#) at its Dec. 13 meeting. Pictured on the front cover from left are Laura Silk, student data technician, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; and Cassandra Ament, instructional resource teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.

Early College Program

CCPS continues its partnership with the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) in the 2023-24 academic year by offering the Early College Program to high school students. Upcoming information sessions are planned for students and parents interested in learning more about the program and registration process.

Virtual meeting:

- Wednesday, Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m. [Click here to register.](#)

In-person session:

- Monday, Jan. 23, 6-7:30 p.m., Thomas Stone High School media center.

Parents and students can also learn more about the program at <https://www.csm.edu/apply-register/credit/high-school/early-college/>.

Educator Roundtable set

An Educator Virtual Roundtable is 6 p.m., Jan. 25, on YouTube. Hosted by the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education, the roundtable will be facilitated by Rachel McCusker, state board of education teacher member, and Sylvia Lawson, Ph.D., MSDE deputy superintendent of organizational effectiveness. Click here to view the YouTube live at <youtu.be/1cK3mnW1dmM>.

W-2 season

W-2s will be completed by the end of the month. For staff members who are based at a school, the form will be sent to the school.

Get down to art center for Seven-Up+ art show

More than 100 pieces of art will be on display through Feb. 5 during the Seven-Up+ 2023 art show at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center.

The show — which has been held for more than 25 years — highlights the work of students of the seven Charles County Public high schools and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

CCPS art teachers are invited to select five pieces created by students to bring to the show.

“I look for quality,” Leith Phillips, a St. Charles High School teacher of art and photography, said of how she chooses what makes it into the show. “You can tell when a student puts time and effort into a piece. You want to appreciate that and give students some recognition for doing that.”

The show will be judged by Andrew Wodzianski, an art instructor at the College of Southern Maryland. Prizes will be given out for first, second and third place in the categories of black and white drawing, colored drawing, mixed media, painting, photograph and sculpture.

“Having the kids be able to present their art in a juried show in a professional space — for some of them this will be the only time they would be able to do that,” Tim Bodamer, CCPS content specialist for the fine and performing arts, said. “It’s nice to have the opportunity to do that.”

A reception and awards ceremony are Sunday, Jan. 22, at the art center from 1 to 4 p.m. The center is in Smallwood State Park in Marbury with the show open through Feb. 5, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The center holds shows throughout the year featuring the work of local and regional artists.

For the past two years, a small number of select works from CCPS middle school artists are showcased in December during the center’s annual holiday show. According to center representatives, the Seven-Up+ show is the most attended single show at the center, Bodamer said.

CCPS art teachers stoke the importance of art in their students’ lives. “You have to



Christin Downie, art teacher at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, prepares materials for displaying student artwork at the Seven-Up+ art show that will run through Feb. 5.

If you go

An awards ceremony for the Seven-Up+ 2023 art show is 1-4 p.m., Jan. 22, at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center in Smallwood State Park, Marbury. The center is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. For more information, visit mattawomanart.org.

do math, you have to do science,” Phillips said. “Art class is a space where you can come and be creative. It doesn’t matter how well you do, just be in that creative space.” Christin Downie relays the same message to her students at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

“It’s not about being perfect, it’s a good outlet to be present and tune out some of the other garbage they have going on. Kids have so much going on every day, everyone does,” she said.

Downie teaches two students with ceramic works in the show. Being in the show is seen as an accomplishment, she said. “It’s built their confidence and it’s cool to give them some exposure, being in the alternative school they don’t feel seen or confident,” Downie said.

Beyond expressing creativity, art classes can bring out a person’s other skills. “It helps build critical thinking that they don’t even realize they are building,” Phillips said. “They have to problem solve while figuring out how to approach an assignment.”

Turner's Cheseldine earns recognition from state organization

Students in Kelly Hare's fourth grade class at Eva Turner Elementary School were recently on a mission to outmaneuver the Grinch's helpers and steal back fitness equipment, returning it to Whoville.

Four teams of Whos of Whoville stood at one end of Turner's gymnasium with boxes of fitness equipment at the other end. It was guarded by four of the Grinch's helpers armed with a pool noodle and prepared to defend the stash. While "How the Grinch Stole Fitmas" looks like a game, Valeri Cheseldine, Turner's physical education teacher, watches to see that students are demonstrating and improving their cardiovascular and muscular endurance, flexibility and strength. Each skill is a goal in the curriculum. The activity is part of January's adventure games unit which focuses on team building activities that use various gym equipment.

Cheseldine has been teaching PE since she graduated from Glenville State University. First at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, then at Caroline Middle School in Milford, Va. In 2020, Turner Principal Gary Lesko offered Cheseldine an opportunity she was hoping for. "My dream job is teaching elementary school," she said as students' cheers and squeals ricochet off the walls and the overly dramatic displays of the agony of defeat played out beside her. "This is my dream job." At Turner, Cheseldine interacts with children who are in prekindergarten through fifth grade. "Elementary physical education teachers are at the foundation of a child's development," she said. "Health and physical education are integral parts of a child's learning process as they encompass the whole child."

Cheseldine doesn't limit teaching to Turner students, she also leads professional learning for CCPS teachers and connects them with opportunities outside of the school system. "Mrs. Cheseldine is a team player who is always willing to contribute to the district's overall physical education program," Mat-



Valeri Cheseldine, center, calls for the end of How the Grinch Stole Fitmas at Eva Turner Elementary School. Students Khaliel Preston, left, and Aiyanna Flores, were on teams of Whos of Whoville who were taking back fitness equipment stolen by the Grinch and his helpers.

thew Golonka, CCPS content specialist for health and physical education, said.

Beyond the gym, Cheseldine stays busy as a member of the Society of Health and Physical Educators of Maryland (SHAPE) Maryland, an organization that promotes physical fitness for students in prekindergarten through 12th grade. Shortly after attending her first SHAPE Maryland meeting, Cheseldine was selected to fill in as the convention manager. She took on the responsibility again this year, and this month was elected to the organization's board of directors. Despite her short tenure with SHAPE Maryland, she received a Presidential Citation at its 2022 conference held in November.

The citation is given to a person who goes out of their way in support of the president and the organization. Karen Kart, SHAPE's past president, presented the citation to Cheseldine. She was cited for stepping up and filling the convention manager's role in the middle of the year and assisting Kart along the way. It's no surprise Cheseldine was honored

by SHAPE, Golonka said. "She epitomizes the organization's mission of advancing professional practice related to health, physical education, physical activity, dance and sport," he said.

Cheseldine is also active in SHAPE America where she is on the East District Leadership Council.

During her downtime, Cheseldine runs — she participated in cross country and track when she was in high school — and she pens blog posts for the [Gopher Contributing Network](#), a site for topics related to PE. She's also contributed a post to [slowchathealth.com](#), a blog for health education teachers.

"Ms. Cheseldine is without a doubt the most ambitious educator that I have ever worked with. She serves in a tremendous capacity at Eva Turner," Lesko said. "Her contributions to Turner and her students are immeasurable and she consistently earns my respect as her supervisor and as her colleague."

BOARD

choosing a vice chairperson, think about someone you consider in this [chairperson] role. I will work with you all closely to share my knowledge and experience with the Board."

Moore Lee, the mother of three CCPS students, thanked fellow

Board members for the chance to serve as the vice chairperson. "This is deeply personal for me," she said. Moore Lee said she has talked to past chairs to learn more about the role. "I look forward to it." To read more, [click here](#).

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Superintendent Navarro to participate as panelist in national discussion on equity-based leadership

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Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., will represent Charles County later this month as a panelist with the International Center for Leadership in Education to discuss her experience with equity-based leadership.

Navarro is helping to lead the webinar panel as part of, “A Framework for Equity-Based Leadership,” set for 4 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 31.

The panel is virtual and will feature superintendents who will discuss their work and experiences in helping to lead transformation in education, and the topic of creating a framework for equity-based leadership.

Dr. Navarro will share her experiences as a new superintendent in Charles County, and how she is applying her expertise to impact equity and student achievement.

The panel is open to the public and participants are encouraged to register in advance to access the webinar link.

[Click here](#) to register for the webinar. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will share a recording of the panel on the school system website at www.ccboe.com following the webinar.

Joining Navarro on the panel are Susan Enfield, Ed.D., superintendent, Washoe County School District, Nevada; Joel Boyd, Ed.D., superintendent, Lowell Public Schools, Massachusetts; and Joseph Davis, Ph.D., superintendent, Ferguson-Florissant School District, Missouri.



Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.

Board to hold work session on proposed FY2024 budget

The Board of Education of Charles County is holding a 6 p.m. work session on Monday, Jan. 23, in the boardroom at the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The work session will focus on the superintendent’s proposed FY2024 budget and an overview of the Student Member of the Board’s voting rights.

Public forum for this meeting will be held in a hybrid format of both in-person and virtual speak-

ers. Pre-registration is required in advance for any speaker who wants to provide comments virtually. Virtual speakers must register by 4 p.m., Jan. 20. [Click here](#) to register for virtual public forum. Late virtual registrations will not be accepted.

Any public forum speaker interested in providing comments to the Board in person should register on Monday by 6 p.m.

A meeting agenda is posted at www.ccboe.com.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Secretary to the Principal — Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 12-month position. High school diploma required, experience with Quicken or QuickBooks desirable. Experience with budgets, payroll, and cash handling preferred. Apply by Jan. 25.

Transportation Secretary — Annex 1, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required with an associate degree preferred. Two years of experience in effective office

practices and procedures preferred. Apply by Jan. 26.

College and Career Advisor — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. A minimum of two years of college with at least 60 college credits. Apply by Jan. 29.

Principal Pool 2023-24 — Location to be determined, 12-month position. A master’s degree from an accredited college or university is required and applicants must hold a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator II endorsement by March 1, 2023. Three years of satisfactory teaching experience and three years satisfactory experience as an assistant principal are required. Ap-

ply by Feb. 1.

Assistant Principal Pool 2023-24 — Location to be determined, 12-month position. A master’s degree from an accredited college or university is required and applicants must have a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator I endorsement by March 1, 2023. Three years satisfactory teaching experience is required. Apply by Feb. 1.

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.