



School News

Notebook

Clothing drive

A clothing drive is being held at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building through April 28. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) pupil personnel workers (PPW) are collecting new or gently used clothing to be donated to families in need who attend the 2023 Community Day on May 18. Used clothing should be laundered before donation. Socks and undergarments must be new for donation. Clothes are needed for all sizes from adult to infant. For more information, contact Sandra Mason-Savoy, Shanelle Savoy or Garcia Dixon in Student Services.

NBCT info meetings

Information meetings for those interested in becoming a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) are set for April 18 and 20. The April 18 meeting will be 4:30-5:30 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. A virtual meeting is 4:30-5:30 p.m., April 20, on Zoom. Register in PowerSchool. For more information, visit nbpts.org or email lburks@ccboe.com.

Go-Getters April 19

Go-Getters — Growing Excellent Teachers will hold a professional learning opportunity for teachers of students in prekindergarten through fifth grade. The April 19 event is for teachers who are still early in their careers. Held at J.P. Ryon Elementary School from 4:30-6:30 p.m., the event includes dinner and a \$70 stipend for classroom teachers. [Click here](#) to view the sessions that are planned and how to register for the Go-Getters learning opportunity.



Driven by love

Billingsley Elementary School staff and students had a bittersweet start to Spring Break. On Friday, March 31, the Bobcats thanked longtime bus driver, Gary Weightman, for his service. Weightman, above left, who is retiring after several years of driving for CCPS, is the only school bus driver some of his young passengers have ever known. Billingsley staff oversaw the making of a banner, above right, homemade cards from students and other tokens of appreciation that they gave to Weightman when he arrived to take students home. Top, fourth-grade teacher, Shannon Gragg, helps fourth-grade student Mia Griffin add bubbles to the air.

Last day of school for students is June 8; June 9 for teachers

The last day of school for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students for the 2022-2023 school year is Thursday, June 8.

The last day of school for teachers is Friday, June 9. These dates are final, barring any unforeseen inclement weather as CCPS still has four inclement weather days left for use if needed.

The following is the end-of year schedule for students.

- **Monday, June 5:** Two-hour early dismissal for students.

missal for students.

- **Tuesday, June 6:** Two-hour early dismissal for students.
- **Wednesday, June 7:** Two-hour early dismissal for students.
- **Thursday, June 8:** Two-hour early dismissal for students, last day of school for students.

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On the cover

Employees honored March 14 by the Board of Education include Tiffany Gump, music teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School; J. Megan Maletto, instructional resource teacher, Billingsley Elementary School; and Kayla Marshall, special education teacher, Westlake High School. [Click here](#) to read more.

PPW Community Day

A CCPS Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) Community Day is set for May 18, rain or shine, at St. Charles High School. The event links community members to services and resources in the county including family support services, personal hygiene resources and services, housing and utility financial support, immunization clinic, employment opportunities, skills training information, food and school supplies giveaways, health and dental information, mental wellness support and prekindergarten application and international registration assistance.

Special education survey

Parents of students ages 3 to 21 who received special education services can take the [Maryland Special Education Parent Involvement Survey](#) online. All parents or guardians of children ages 3 to 21 who are receiving special education and related services through their local school system are invited to participate. The survey must be completed by May 19.

Celebrate Earth Day

The James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School is holding an Earth Day Celebration 10 a.m.-2 p.m., April 22. Held in partnership with the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Educational Center, the day will feature wetland stations at the on-site pond, a water filtration challenge, a STEM design challenge, raptor display and wind tunnel. General admission tickets are \$10, \$5 for science center members and CCPS staff, and free for children 3 and younger. For tickets and more information, [click here](#).



Food for thought

Members of Benjamin Stoddert Middle School's National Junior Honor Society, sponsored by Sherry Mervine, the school's vocal music teacher, and Jill Killby, school librarian, organized a recent food drive to benefit the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Students and staff donated 1,417 food items which will help feed more than 50 local families.

As seen on Stoddert's Twitter feed [@StoddertCCPS](#)

LAST DAY

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- **Friday, June 9:** Last day of school for teachers.

The last four days of school — June 5, 6, 7 and 8 — are early dismissal days for students to allow for report card preparation and include negotiated teacher planning time.

Report cards for students will be posted online in ParentVue and StudentVue by Thursday, June 15.

The following end-of-year dates apply to other CCPS staff.

- 12-month teachers' last day is June 21.
- 11-month certificated staff last day is June 26.
- 10.5-month certificated staff last day is June 16.
- 11-month support staff last day is June 28.
- 10.5-month support staff last day is June 22.
- 10-month support staff (10-month secretaries and IEP clerks) last day is June 12.
- 10-month instructional assistants' last day is June 9.
- 10-month food service manager/assistant manager last day is June 13.
- 10-month food service worker last day is June 9.

Employees with questions about their last workday should contact their supervisor.



Carol Jewell, left, secretary to the principal, and Holly Dolan, a staff growth and retention specialist, prepare for high fives from students on the last day of school at North Point High School last year.

Go back to school, hang out with the locals & sing along this play season

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high schools are soaring into the heights, Harvard Law (What? Like it's hard), and Crunchem Hall Elementary School's chokey this spring with a slate of stage shows.

The magic of staying on Ms. Trunchbull's good side will be tested at Roald Dahl's "Matilda the Musical," at Maurice J. McDonough High School April 14 through 16. Shows are 7 p.m. on April 14 and 15 with 2 p.m. shows April 15 and 16. Go to mhsdra-ma303.booktix.com to purchase tickets. McDonough is at 7165 Marshall Corner Road in Pomfret.

Sister Mary Clarence and the nuns of the Holy Order of the Little Sisters of Our Mother of Perpetual Faith take the stage at North Point High School April 20 to 22 for "Sister Act." The bonds of sisterhood will be solidified at 7 p.m. shows during the run of the play and a 1 p.m. matinee on April 22. North Point is at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf. General admission is \$10 with students and senior citizen tickets \$5.

The residents of Upper Manhattan's Washington Heights welcome audiences to West-



Westlake High School seniors, Jada Diggs, left, and EJ Jones, are "In the Heights," April 20-22 at the school.

lake High School April 20 through 22 when they stage, "In the Heights." The hottest day in the summer heats up a neighborhood's story. Shows are at 7 p.m. throughout its run. Westlake is at 3300 Middletown Road in Waldorf. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for students. CCPS staff with identification can get two complimentary tickets.

Bend and snap your way to St. Charles High School April 21 to 23 for "Legally

Blonde: The Musical," (but leave Bruiser Woods at home). Shows are 7 p.m. on April 21 and 22 and 2 p.m. on April 22 and 23. St. Charles is at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf. Call the school at 301-753-2090 for ticket information.

Brrrr — it's cold in here, there must be some Clovers at La Plata High School for "Bring it on: The Musical," April 27 to 29. Put some pep in your step for a show about rival cheerleading squads who recognize game when they see it. Shows are 6:30 p.m. on April 27 and 28 and 2:30 p.m. April 28 and 29. La Plata is at 6035 Radio Station Road in La Plata. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students with CCPS badges honored.

Don't turn into a pumpkin before Henry E. Lackey High School wraps up the season with "Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella: Youth Edition," April 27 through 29. The show starts at 6:30 p.m. during its three-night run. Lackey is at 3000 Chicamuxen Road in Indian Head. Call the school at 301-753-1753 for ticket information.

Thomas Stone High School performed "Disney's Aladdin" last month.

Nominate an outstanding CCPS volunteer who makes a difference

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is looking for outstanding volunteers who support children by contributing time and resources to schools and the school system. The 2023 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year "Be the Difference" awards program recognizes outstanding school volunteers for their valuable contributions to schools, students, staff and CCPS.

There are five award categories: elementary school parent volunteer, middle school parent volunteer, high school parent volunteer, Charles County business volunteer and community organization volunteer.

Nominees should be individuals, parents, businesses or community organizations who volunteer to give their time, energy or expertise to CCPS or a particular school that results in positive experiences for children. Volunteers are defined as people who give assistance to the CCPS community and receive no compensation for their efforts.

Any CCPS teacher, staff member, student, parent or community member can submit nominations. The nomination deadline is Friday, April 28. Nominations can be submitted using the online form here: <https://bit.ly/3U6xHAI>.

Submissions also can be sent by email to Sylvia Royster, CCPS director of community engagement and equity, at sroyster@ccboe.com or by mail to the attention of: Sylvia Royster, c/o Be the Difference Award Subcommittee, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD, 20646. Nominators who plan to submit nominations by email or regular mail can download the form to submit at <https://www.ccboe.com/departments/community-engagement-and-equity>.

Nominations must include a brief description of the nominee, and the type and quality of service by the volunteer. Submissions must be hand typed and must not exceed 300 words. Nominations must include two letters

of support, no longer than one page each. Letters may not be used to serve as both a letter of support and the nomination. Letters must be submitted by two individuals other than the nominator, and a letter by a relative is not admissible.

Award winners will be recognized at a recognition ceremony in June. All finalists and award winners, volunteers, school principals, nominators and volunteer's families are invited to attend the ceremony.

The goal of the awards program is to increase awareness of the importance of parent and community involvement in public education. The Board of Education and CCPS recognize contributions made by school volunteers and launched the program to highlight supporters. A Board of Education subcommittee will judge and select the finalists and award winners. CCPS employees and their families, as well as members of the Board of Education, are not eligible for nomination.

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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).



Coffee talk

Kerry Carter's students in the SOAR class at T.C. Martin Elementary School recently presented a check for \$201.90 to Martin Principal Todd Wonderling, far left. The funds, collected from staff who purchased coffee and snacks from the class's coffee cart, will benefit the school's Relay for Life team. Staff pictured from left are Wonderling, Juliana Herscher, first-grade teacher and Relay team coach, Carla Garrison, SOAR instructional assistant (IA), Katherine Lofton, an IA, and IA Carter.

As seen on Martin's Twitter feed [@twitter.com/TigersTCMartin](https://twitter.com/TigersTCMartin)

Making plans for warmer months? Check out CCPS summer camps

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is offering summer camps and other learning opportunities for children.

There are enrichment camps, and those focused on sports, academics and other interests. A complete list

of camps, including descriptions and times offered, is posted on the school system website at <https://www.ccboe.com/quick-links/summer-camps-2023>. Registration is now open.

Visit the site to learn more and to register.

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

Community School Coordinator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position (grant funded position, re-evaluated annually for renewal.) Applicants must have a master's in social work, counseling, pupil personnel or psychology/sociology, administration and supervision, or a related human service field. Apply by April 21.

Food and Nutrition Services Manager — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month, 8-hour position. A minimum of three years of experience in food service management is required and must be ServSafe certified within 12 months of assuming position. Apply by April 21.

Administrative Intern — Location to be determined, 11-month employment. A bachelor's degree and Standard Professional Certificate issued by MSDE are required along with three years of successful teaching experience. Apply by April 24.

Rebel Girls series now playing

The ESOL department of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) recently published a series



of videos based on the "Rebel Girls," book series. High school students in the ESOL program read entries from the book series in English, Spanish and French. The stories highlight the accomplishments of women and girls from around the world who have made or who are making a positive impact and difference on the world. Head to the [CCPS YouTube page](#) to start viewing.