



School News

Notebook

Memorial Day

Schools and offices are closed Monday, May 29, for Memorial Day.

Last days of school

The last day of school for students is Thursday, June 8. The last day for teachers is Friday, June 9. Two-hour early dismissal days for students are set for June 5 through 8. Report cards for students will be posted online in ParentVue and StudentVue by Thursday, June 15. To learn more about the [end-of-year dates](#) that apply to all other CCPS staff members, go to www.ccboe.com.

Baseball Bash Aug. 26

The 2023 Back-to-School Baseball Bash is set for Aug. 26 at Regency Furniture Stadium. Sponsored by the Education Association of Charles County (EACC), CCPS and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), the event is open to all CCPS employees and their families. Tickets are available for purchase through Aug. 1. To purchase tickets to the Baseball Bash, [click here](#).

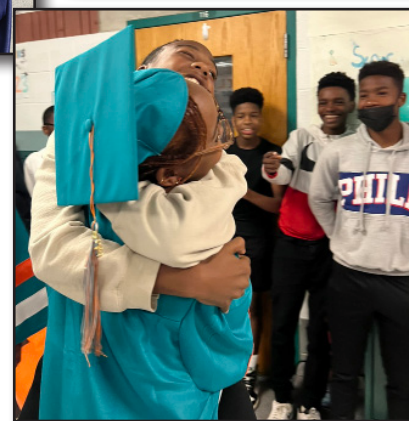
Summer learning

Check out the Staff page at www.ccboe.com to register for mandatory and additional professional learning opportunities this summer. Workshops are available for teachers and administrators with some tailored for support staff. Enrollment must be completed online at [Power School](#).



Parade of Success

Members of the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Class of 2023 carried on the tradition of participating in Parades of Success. Seniors visit their former elementary and middle schools to inspire younger students. This year Henry E. Lackey, La Plata, North Point, St. Charles, Thomas Stone* and Westlake high schools held parades.



* Stone's parade is scheduled for May 31.

Richardson named 2023 CCPS Principal of the Year

For most of her life, Carrie Richardson wanted to be a teacher. "I always knew," said the principal of Mary H. Matula Elementary School who was recently named the 2023 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Principal of the Year. Yet, after landing on the campus of the University of Maryland, College Park in her freshman year, she questioned her future.

Business and finance started to sound like a more interesting major. It was the 1980s, and that field of study "seemed so much more glamorous," Richardson said. Business majors looked like they were setting themselves up for a life of wealth and luxury. "So, I switched my major," Richardson said. "And I hated it." She went back to education. "I told my parents, 'I am meant to be a teacher. That's what I want to do.'"

This marks Richardson's 35th year in education, a career launched when she accepted a job teaching kindergarten at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School. "I always knew I wanted to teach kindergarten," she said. "The children still love their teachers when they are that age. They still love

See RICHARDSON, Page 3

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored May 9 by the Board of Education including Valerie Benton, school counselor, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Glen Ball, special education teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School; and Pamela Brannon, second-grade teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.



Raising awareness

Kathy Reamy, inset right, the counseling department chair at La Plata High School, helped organize schoolwide activities May 7-14 for Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, including encouraging students and staff to wear green to raise awareness for the issue.



Public forum information

The Board of Education of Charles County holds its regular meeting on the second Tuesday of each month (except for July, when no meeting is held.) Public forum begins at 6 p.m. at each regular meeting. Those who wish to speak during public forum must sign up before 6 p.m., and [follow the rules of public forum](#). Virtual speakers must sign up by 4 p.m. on the Monday before the meeting. Directions on how to sign up for virtual and in-person public forum are always included in the press release posted each month announcing the meeting agenda. The news release is posted a week before the meeting. While school system and Board meetings are often announced on social media, social media platforms are not a stable forum to learn the most accurate and recent information on meetings and procedures. For the most up-to-date information about CCPS, visit the [Latest News](#) section of [www.ccboe.com](#).



ESOL Night

The Olympic Games was the theme at a recent ESOL Community Night held at John Hanson Middle School. Families gathered to have dinner, play games, visit representatives of community service organizations and celebrate seniors in the ESOL program who are set to graduate in the Class of 2023. Clockwise from above left, Hanson Principal Ben Kohlhorst, Jenny Herrera, bilingual family and community outreach facilitator, and Cara Stonestreet, ESOL instructional specialist, celebrate; Gale-Bailey Elementary School students and brothers Oscar Cornelio Chicas, left, Diego Chicas Orellana and Enrique Orellana Chicas, test their knowledge during a trivia game; North Point High School students Jeimmy Rivas, left, and Julianne Tinana, volunteered to help with the face painting station; families and guests visit activity stations during the event.

CCPS to hold graduation ceremonies next week

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will [celebrate the graduating high school Class of 2023](#) during seven ceremonies at Regency Furniture Stadium in Waldorf. Set for May 30 through June 2, ceremonies will take place outdoors in partnership with Regency Furniture Stadium, Charles County Government and the Charles County Sheriff's Office.

The following is the graduation schedule and information about a possible inclement weather plan.

All CCPS high school graduation ceremonies will stream live to the school system website, [www.ccboe.com](#), and CCPS YouTube channel.

Graduation schedule

- Tuesday, May 30: North Point High School, 9 a.m.
- Tuesday, May 30: Henry E. Lackey High School, 1 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 31: St. Charles High School, 9 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 31: Maurice J.

McDonough High School, 1 p.m.

- Thursday, June 1: Westlake High School, 9 a.m.
- Thursday, June 1: La Plata High School, 1 p.m.
- Friday, June 2: Thomas Stone High School, 9 a.m.

Each graduating senior will receive eight tickets to graduation. No ticket exceptions will be made.

On the day of a school's graduation ceremony, the school building is closed. North Point and Lackey are closed on May 30; St. Charles and McDonough are closed on May 31; Westlake and La Plata are closed on June 1; and Thomas Stone is closed on June 2.

Possible inclement weather plans

If inclement weather causes a change to the start time of any ceremony, the following five inclement weather dates and times have been identified: May 30, 5 p.m.; May 31, 5 p.m.; June 1, 5 p.m.; and June 2, 1 p.m. and 5 p.m.

RICHARDSON

continued from Page 1

school,” Richardson said. “Everything is new and exciting, and you can see the growth so much more readily because they’re like little sponges who soak up so much.”

As much as she enjoyed being in the classroom — after seven years as a kindergarten teacher, she spent one more at Dr. Mudd teaching in a multi-year classroom — Richardson knew she could do more.

“I had a plan,” she said. “I’m an organized person who needs to have a plan, and I need to have goals.” First, within five years of graduation, she would earn her master’s. Second, within 10 years, she would be an administrator. She secured her master’s within four years of graduation and was named vice principal of Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School eight years after getting her bachelor’s degree. She served as vice principal at Jenifer, Walter J. Mitchell and J.C. Parks elementary schools before she was named principal at Gale-Bailey Elementary School in 2002.

“One of her first priorities was to make meaningful connections with staff, parents and students,” Carol Eaton, a retired first-grade teacher who worked with Richardson at Gale-Bailey, said. “[It] was a grand undertaking, indeed. She accomplished that.”

It was while at Gale-Bailey that one of the highlights of Richardson’s career took



Carrie Richardson, center started her career in education as a kindergarten teacher at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School. She regularly visits classrooms at Mary H. Matula Elementary School, including Tabitha Reckeweg’s kindergarten classroom.

place. “The Polar Express” movie — based on Chris Van Allsburg’s children’s book of the same name — was released in 2004. The entire school attended a theater screening. Every grade, every teacher, every staff member including food and nutrition and building service workers, piled into a theater and watched a favorite book among students and staff come to life. “That was a good day,” Richardson said.

Richardson left Gale-Bailey in 2013 to

become principal of Matula where she has remained. “She has created a safe and nurturing environment within Matula, and I cannot think of a better school for my children to attend,” Sarah R. Michael, president of the school’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), said. “Her positive leadership has helped strengthen our school and community.”

[Click here](http://www.ccboe.com) to read the complete article at www.ccboe.com.

School system announces administrative appointments

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) recently announces 14 new administrative appointments for the 2023-2024 school year. The appointments take effect July 1 and include appointments at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

The following appointments were approved by the Board of Education earlier this month.

- Asa Daniels, assistant principal at North Point High School. Daniels is currently a principal at a charter high school in Washington, D.C.
- Tanya Fox, assistant principal at Eva Turner Elementary School. She is currently an instructional resource teacher at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.
- Kherry Guy, assistant principal at William A. Diggs Elementary School. She is currently an instructional lead teacher with Prince George’s County Public Schools.
- Morghan Hungerford, assistant principal at Mary B. Neal Elementary School. She is currently a second-grade teacher at Arthur Middleton Elementary School.

- Davita Itsuokor, assistant principal at Matthew Henson Middle School. She is currently an assistant principal with Howard County Public Schools.
- Salim King, assistant principal at Billingsley Elementary School. He is currently a social studies teacher with Prince George’s County Public Schools.
- Nyesha Lanes-Sherman, assistant principal at J.C. Parks Elementary School. She is currently a Title I coordinator for CCPS.
- Anthony Mast, assistant principal at Theodore G. Davis Middle School. He is currently the administrative intern at Davis.
- Daniel Mosey, assistant principal at General Smallwood Middle School. He is currently the administrative intern at Henry E. Lackey High School.
- Zachary Ortolano, assistant principal at Mattawoman Middle School. He is currently the administrative intern at Milton M. Somers Middle School.
- Brittani Peterson, assistant principal at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School. She is currently a reading resource teacher at T.C.

See APPOINTMENTS, Page 4

APPOINTMENTS

continued from Page 3

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Martin Elementary School.

- Kimberly Riley-Dade, assistant principal at Mary H. Matula Elementary School. She is currently the administrative intern at St. Charles High School.
- Jessica Steck, assistant principal at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. She is currently an English as a Second Language (ESOL) teacher at J.P. Ryon Elementary School.

Additionally, the following administrative transfers take effect July 1 for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Tawfik Adams, assistant principal at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, moves to an assistant principal role at General Smallwood Middle School.
- Brad Buzby, assistant principal at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at Billingsley Elementary School.
- Shay Crisp, assistant principal at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.
- Ryan Erickson, assistant principal at Westlake High School, moves to an assistant principal role at Henry E. Lackey High School.
- Shayna Gold, assistant principal at Piccowaxen Middle School, moves to an assistant principal role at John Hanson Middle School.
- Kayla Hawkins, assistant principal at Billingsley Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at J.P. Ryon Elementary School.
- Bryan Hill, assistant principal at Berry Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.

• Nancy Hines, assistant principal at Milton M. Somers Middle School, moves to an assistant principal role at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.

- Adam Kennedy, assistant principal at J.P. Ryon Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at Matthew Henson Middle School.
- Douglas Lamb, assistant principal at Thomas Stone High School, moves to an assistant principal role at Piccowaxen Middle School.
- Kerri Loyd, assistant principal at General Smallwood Middle School, moves to an assistant principal role at Thomas Stone High School.
- Sonia Matthew, assistant principal at General Smallwood Middle School, moves to an assistant principal role at Mary B. Neal Elementary School.
- Jason Peer, assistant principal at Eva Turner Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at Berry Elementary School.
- Jennifer Posey, assistant principal at Mary H. Matula Elementary School, moves to an assistant principal role at William B. Wade Elementary School.
- William Skallerup, assistant principal at John Hanson Middle School, moves to an assistant principal role at Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Jessika Washington, assistant principal at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, moves to an assistant principal role at General Smallwood Middle School.
- Peter Wilt, assistant principal at Henry E. Lackey High School, moves to an assistant principal role at Westlake High School.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at www.cc-boe.com/jobs/currentopenings.php. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Job openings

Registration and Records Secretary — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Previous experience in an educational setting and/or interpreting for Spanish speaking families preferred. Apply by May 31.



St. Charles High School boasts two teams that placed in a recent college hackathon. Pictured from far left, front row are Terence Stone, computer science teacher and coach, Miracle Washington, Nevaeh McKinney and Nishtha Patel. Left to right, back row, Thomas Wills, Zephaniah Seaforth and Dylan Bridgewater.

SCHS places in hackathon

Six students from St. Charles High School recently competed in the VelocityX: Climate Innovation Hackathon hosted by the College of Southern Maryland. Twenty-five participants from CSM, local high schools and other colleges competed for prizes at the event. The EcoAlert Team from St. Charles won first place in the competition and received the grand prize. The Interactive Map App team from St. Charles placed third at the competition. Both teams were coached by Terence Stone, computer science teacher at St. Charles.

"The marketing team won the first-place prize and the data visualization team placed third in the challenge," Stone said. "We are very happy with the results as they were unexpected."