

School News



Notebook

Board to meet June 13

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 13, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The meeting will include recognition of outstanding employees including the assistant principal of the year, Ashley Valenzuela-Carrington, *The Washington Post* Teacher of the Year finalist Rachel Proctor, the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and finalist for Maryland Teacher of the Year Michelle Bradshaw and support staff Pamela Hawkins, Trina Short, Wayne Latimer, Brent Roberts, Beverley Jenkins, Deanna Gomez and Brenda Garner. Public forum is 6 p.m.

Juneteenth holiday

Schools and offices are closed Monday, June 19, for the Juneteenth holiday.

Professional learning

Learn more about professional learning this summer at the Staff page of www.ccboe.com. There are mandatory and additional opportunities and workshops available for teachers, administrators and some for support staff. Enrollment must be completed online at [Power School](#).

End-of-year dates

The end-of-year dates for staff are available to view on the Staff page at www.ccboe.com. Scroll down the page until you find the Staff End-of-Year Dates entry. For more information, visit the [Latest News](#) section of www.ccboe.com.



23 and me

Members of the Board of Education of Charles County, Superintendent Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., Charles County Commissioners, representatives of the Southern Maryland delegation, and CCPS students and staff gathered Tuesday, June 6, on the site of the next CCPS elementary school for a ground breaking ceremony. The future building is estimated to be 94,000 square-foot and have a state-rated capacity of 778 students.



Pictured top, Board members, Navarro, elected officials and their representatives attend the ceremonial ground breaking of Elementary School 23. Right, Board Chairman Michael K. Lukas, left, takes a selfie of Board member Brenda Thomas, Navarro, Board Vice Chairperson Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq., and Board members Nicole M. Kreamer and Jamila Smith.

The art of teaching

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy's Proctor is finalist for WaPo Teacher of the Year

When she was sketching out a plan for her life, Rachel Proctor knew art was going to be a vibrant element. Growing up, she was naturally drawn to art as a creative outlet, as a way to express herself. In school, art teachers helped Proctor shade in sections she was missing, introducing her to artists, mediums and skills she needed to advance her understanding of the subject.

Proctor, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School art teacher and the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) nominee for *The Washington Post's* Teacher of the Year awards program, started her career in 2008 as a fourth-grade teacher at Mt. Hope before becoming the school's art teacher in 2019.

"Rachel is one of the most creative teachers I have ever worked with, and she uses that creativity to engage and inspire her students," Margo Barbone,



Rachel Proctor

See PROCTOR, Page 3



Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored May 9 by the Board of Education. From left are Jennifer Walsh, speech pathologist, Mary H. Matula Elementary School and Kristiana Byers, kindergarten teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School. To read more, visit the [Latest News](#) section of www.cbboe.com.

Baseball Bash is 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](#).

EAP benefit available

ComPsych is a national employee assistance and work/life company dedicated to helping CCPS employees improve their health and well-being through quality services. The EAP benefit is no cost to employees and their dependents, and it is also confidential. ComPsych representatives have considerable expertise and clinical knowledge. They are well versed in helping clients of all ages, from young children to the elderly. The EAP can assist with many issues, including stress, depression, anxiety, workplace difficulties, substance abuse, marital problems, family or parenting conflicts, grief, violence and unhealthy lifestyles. To learn more visit the Employee Assistance Program page at www.cbboe.com or go to the website for [ComPsych Guidance Resources](#).

That's a wrap

This is the last issue of *School News* for the 2022-23 school year. The publication goes on hiatus over the summer. Be on the lookout for a new issue on Friday, Sept. 1 when school is back in session. The first day of school for 2023-24 is Monday, Aug. 28.

**Summer story hours set
Sessions open for kids 2-5**

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Office of Early Childhood Education is hosting summer story hours in July and early August. Charles County children ages two- to five-years-old can receive school readiness skills by attending a story hours group session. Families can register their child in one of the five available groups with each group meeting for four consecutive weeks. Registration is required to attend a summer story hour group. Registered participants should plan to attend all four weeks. A parent or caregiver must be present and participate alongside the registered child in each session.

All sessions are in person at the following CCPS elementary schools.

Group A: Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 9-10 a.m., Tuesday,



In this file photo from February 2022, students at Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School look through books during a book fair.

July 11, 18, 25 and Aug. 1. Register here: <https://bit.ly/43zrwBU>.

Group B: Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 9-10 a.m., Wednesday, July 5, 12, 19 and 26. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3CdVyX1>.

Group C: Berry Elementary School, 10-11 a.m., Thursday, July 6, 13, 20 and 27. Register here: <https://bit.ly/42pLwfW>.

Group D: Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 9-10 a.m., Friday, July 7, 14, 21 and 28. Register here: <https://bit.ly/3oKUXc8>.

Group E: Indian Head Elementary School, 10-11 a.m., Fri., July 7, 14, 21 and 28. Register here: <https://bit.ly/42poypa>.

CCPS students elect Perkins as SMOB

Treasure Perkins, a rising Thomas Stone High School junior, is the Student Member of the Board of Education of Charles County for the 2023-2024 school year.

A total of 1,175 student votes were cast in the election held May 1-30. Students in Grades 6-12 were eligible to vote in the election. The election vote was close, with Perkins receiving 614 votes (52.3%) and St. Charles High School rising senior Jamiyah Bonds receiving 561 votes (47.7%).

The Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) Election Oversight Committee verified the election results.

Both students participated in a primary

election and advanced to the final ballot.

Perkins will be sworn into the position at the June 26 Board of Education work session. Details outlining the election process are posted on the CCASC website linked here.

Amira Abujuma, the 2022-2023 Student Member of the Board of Education and Class of 2023 North Point High School graduate, will attend the University of Maryland, College Park in the fall.



Treasure Perkins

PROCTOR

continued from Page 1

retired science teacher, said. “She has a natural gift for creating lessons that are meaningful.”

Proctor steers lessons rather than allowing students to self-direct their projects. “I do like to do more guided projects,” she said referencing a painting project third-grade students were recently working on. “They do make some of their own choices, they pick the color scheme and what the end project is going to look like, but they have to follow along.” Once the project wraps up, students will see the final project, and some will be happy with the results while others will not. “Some of the kids over blended [the paints] and they’re not going to be happy with it, but that’s where the learning happens,” Proctor said.

Mt. Hope Principal Mike Hoffman calls Proctor’s classroom a “highly student-centered learning environment. As soon as you walk into Mrs. Proctor’s art classroom, you will easily see the fun and engaging lessons,” he said.

Proctor has been an artist since childhood. She was one of those kids who could create something out of nothing. Rifling around in the recycling bin, giving discarded items a new life, she developed into someone who literally could turn trash into treasure. Seeing

beyond a material’s original use, Proctor’s artist vision was being honed. “As a kid I was always doing something, I was always making stuff,” she said. “I would dig in the trash and recycling. Then I became the person who could make stuff.”

Throughout her time in school – she’s a product of CCPS, attending Indian Head Elementary, General Smallwood Middle and Henry E. Lackey High schools – she was shepherded by art teachers at all levels who cultivated her love of and interest in art. Her elementary school teacher entered Proctor’s work in an art show and drove her to the reception when her family couldn’t. A field trip to New York City in middle school allowed Proctor to visit museums, expanding her knowledge of art and artists. “It opened up my eyes to new materials and new ways to do things,” Proctor said.

By the time she was in high school, Proctor was delving into studying photography and ceramics. “Those art classes were the drivers for all my education,” she said. “I was never academically super strong, but I could shine that way through art.”

It was also in high school that she considered a career in education, thanks to an after-school job at a daycare. Of course, she



Rachel Proctor, left, helps Ashlee Bowie, a student at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, with an art project. Proctor guides students through art lessons to strengthen their skills.

would like to be an art teacher, but at the time, teaching was an ultra-competitive field and an advisor at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) encouraged Proctor to pursue a general education degree. She began classes at CSM before transferring to Bowie State University and in 2008 she started at Mt. Hope as a fourth-grade teacher. not just about tests

and grades. She made sure that the students were not just learning but enjoying what they were learning.”

To read more about Proctor and how she moved from a fourth-grade classroom to the art room, and how Proctor stays engaged in her art, visit the [Latest News](#) section of www.ccboe.com.

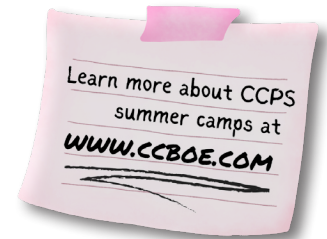
These camps are for the birds ... and the kids who want to learn about them

Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center will hold three camps this summer for students who will be in fourth, fifth and sixth grades in the 2023-24 school year. The center will have a five-day camp for students who are in middle school — sixth-eighth grades — exploring the “yucky” side of nature.

One-day camps for fourth-sixth graders include Birds of a Feather, Fishing for Fun and Art is Everywhere.

Birds of a Feather includes birdwatching in a variety of habitats, a bird show, games and crafts. During Fishing For Fun, campers will fish, and take part in crafts and games. Art is Everywhere will introduce

students to outside and inside projects such as, a nature hike, painting with natural objects, snake behavior observation, beach art and making paper bead snakes. Yuckology will focus on activities such as creating non-Newtonian fluid, making replica scat and investigating the world of worms. To learn more about the dates, times and cost of the camps, visit the [Summer Camp 2023](#) page at www.ccboe.com.



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

Board of Education Members
Michael K. Lukas, *Chairperson*
Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq.,
Vice Chairperson
Dottery Butler-Washington
David Hancock
Nicole M. Kreamer
Jamila Smith
Brenda Thomas
Linda Warren
Amira Abujuma, *Student Member*

Superintendent of Schools
Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers
Shelley Mackey
Sara K. Taylor
Jordan Wilson

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).



A tip of the cap to the Class of 2023

Decorated graduation caps started popping up with the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Class of 2020. That year, graduation ceremonies around the world were altered to accommodate COVID-19 protocols. CCPS held graduations outdoors in 2020 at its seven high school with limited contact. Decorated caps allowed graduating seniors a form of expression.

The tradition has been carried on since with CCPS students using their mortarboards to showcase their humor, interests, appreciation and love of family, friends and CCPS staff, future plans and artistic abilities. To view a slideshow featuring more caps, [click here](#).



Summer learning opportunities

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has several summer learning opportunities for students with one-on-one instruction provided by FEV Tutor.

A four-week [virtual Summer Boost program](#) for students who will be in fourth through ninth grades in the 2023-24 school year will run from July 10 to Aug. 3. The program will focus on strengthening math and English/language arts skills.

[An open tutoring program](#) for students who will be in fourth through 12th grades next school year is set for June 12 to Aug. 25. The program offers tutoring in math, English/language art, science and social studies. Scheduling two to three sessions a week is recommended.

High school students can sign up for a [SAT Prep program](#) running June 12 through Aug. 25. Participants should prepare to attend two to three sessions a week. The sessions are tailored to the student's specific needs and aligned to subjects of their choice.

To learn more, visit 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

Title I Parent Liaison — C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma or general educational degree required. Apply by June 12.

Director of Athletics and Student Activities — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master's in education or related field required. Apply by June 13.

Food and Nutrition Services Manager — Henry E. Lackey High School, 10-month position. A high school diploma or equivalent is required along with a minimum of three years of experience in food service management.

Apply by June 13.

Assistant Principal Pool — Location to be determined, 11- or 12-month position. Apply by June 15.

College and Career Specialist — Starkey, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in psychology, social work, education or a related field is required with a master's degree preferred. Apply by June 15.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by June 14.

Middle School Career Coach — All middle schools, 10-month position. A minimum of two years of college with at least 60 college credits required with a bachelor's degree is preferred. Apply by June 20.

Behavioral Health Clinician — Starkey, 12-month position. A master's degree in social work or counseling and/or doctorate in psychology required, as well as a licensure by a relevant state board of examiners/department of health required. Apply by June 30.

Title I Coordinator — Starkey, 12-month position. A master's degree or advanced professional certificate from the Maryland State Department of Education and five years of successful teaching experience are among the requirements. Apply by June 30.

Elementary School Mathematics Intervention Instructional Assistant — All Elementary Schools, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required with an associate or bachelor's degrees preferred. Apply by July 1.