

# School News



## Semester break

A semester break is Monday, Jan. 22, with schools closed for students only.

## Work session set

The Board of Education will hold a work session 4:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22. The La Plata High School Marching Band that was named a state champion will be honored. Resolutions that were slated to be presented at the January meeting will also be presented. The January meeting was moved to a virtual format due to inclement weather. The meeting will be livestreamed at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

## Board town hall Feb. 6

The Board of Education of Charles County is hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the St. Charles High School auditorium. Community members are encouraged to attend to ask questions or provide comments about any education-related topics.

The overall topic for this Town Hall is school meals. To learn more about the format of the town hall, [click here](#). To submit a question or comment, [click here](#).

## Snow business

If [weather conditions pose a potential hazard](#) to students, school officials may dismiss students early, delay the opening of schools or close schools for the day. If conditions require the closing or delayed opening of schools, decisions are usually made by 5 a.m. The most reliable sources of school closing information are the school system's 24-hour information line and website. The 24-hour information line is 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656.



## Seven Up+ High School Art Show

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high school art teachers were at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center Wednesday morning to prepare the Seven Up+ — The Art of Charles County Public High School Students art show. Above, Jacqueline Thomas, art teacher at Westlake High School, prepares a piece of artwork to be displayed at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center. An opening reception for the show will be held 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28. To read more, go to Page 4.

## Moore Lee, Kreamer elected to Board leadership

The Board of Education of Charles County elected Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq., as its chairperson and Nicole M. Kreamer as its vice chairperson at the start of the Jan. 9 meeting. The Board votes annually in January to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson, who serve a one-year term.

The January Board meeting took place virtually due to inclement weather in the forecast. The meeting was streamed live on [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

The current Board was elected to office in November 2022, with Moore Lee and Kreamer first sworn into office in December 2022. Moore Lee served as the Board's vice chairperson from January 2023 until she was elected chair at the meeting.

Moore Lee said her time spent as vice chairperson was a great learning experience. "I want to remain focused on student learning and achievement,"



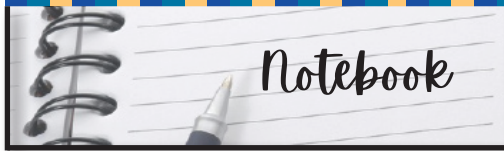
Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq.



Nicole M. Kreamer

she said. She described her leadership style as "collaborative" and believes in building a consensus. "I definitely believe in having difficult conversations when we need to and ensuring everyone

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## On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County recognized staff members for excellence at its Dec. 12 meeting. Pictured on the front cover from left are Stephenie Wash, business education teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School, and Keyanna Williams, first-grade teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School. Read more about the accomplishments of these and other staff members honored at the Dec. 12 Board meeting at the [Latest News](#) section of [www.cbcoe.com](http://www.cbcoe.com).

## Chess tournament

The kings and queens of CCPS can test strategies and skills at the winter chess tournament in February. Held at Henry E. Lackey High School on Saturday, Feb. 10, the tournament is open to students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Students in sixth through 12th grade will use chess clocks allowing for 15 minutes per match. Students must be signed up to compete by Feb. 7. No walk-in registrations will be accepted. [To learn more and to register, visit \[www.cbcoe.com\]\(http://www.cbcoe.com\).](#)

## Professional learning

A [classroom management course](#) is set to start Feb. 21. Recommended for teachers who have less than four years of teaching experience, the sessions will be held 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 21, March 13, April 3 and 17 at Mattawoman Middle School. [Register by Feb. 12.](#)

## EAP services

The [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) provider, ComPsych GuidanceResources, can assist staff who are having issues with mental health and substance use issues. The EAP can also assist staff with finding child and elder care, hiring movers or home repair contractors, divorce, adoption and other stressors that life can throw at a person. For additional information call 877-465-0865. Online tools are available at [www.guidanceresources.com](http://www.guidanceresources.com). To create an account, click Register and use the web ID: CCPSEAP.



## With the band

Alan Freeman, instructional music teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School, leads All-County Band rehearsal held at St. Charles High School. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) middle and high school students are tuning up for a concert 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25, at St. Charles.

## Community Overdose Action town hall set for Jan. 25

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is partnering with the Maryland Department of Health, the Charles County Department of Health and the Charles County Sheriff's Office for a Community Overdose Action town hall.

Held from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25, in the Boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administrative Building, panelists will include Superintendent of Schools Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., Dianne Abney, MD, county health officer, Sheriff Troy Berry, and Emily N. Keller, the state's special secretary of overdose response.

The town hall will feature a short presentation and allow members of the community to speak on topics related to substance use and awareness. Speakers can register in advance to speak at the event and are asked to keep comments to two minutes or less to allow for as many comments to be heard as time allows. Speakers will be called in the order they registered.

To register to provide comments during the town hall, visit <https://forms.gle/w88KJq2jbcwBBoAT6>.

The meeting will be livestreamed at [www.cbcoe.com](http://www.cbcoe.com) and at the [CCPS YouTube page](#). Comments cannot be submitted virtually during the meeting.

The sheriff's department's Heroin Overdose Prevention Education — HOPE — House will be on site for tours. The HOPE House is a mobile unit that features a recreation of a teen's bedroom designed to educate parents of where their children might be hiding drugs and other harmful items. The health department is expected to have information on naloxone, often called NARCAN, an over-the-counter opioid overdose treatment. The department will offer additional materials and resources for parents and caregivers.

For more information about substance use treatment and information, call SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services) at 800-662-4357. CCPS has a substance abuse awareness and prevention site at <https://www.cbcoe.com/parents/substance-abuse-awareness-and-prevention> with resources and information.

The Starkey building is at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) event set for parents, educators

Members of the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Office of Technology will be joined by staff from the Maryland Center for Computing Education at the University Systems of Maryland on Tuesday, Jan. 23, for an Introduction to Artificial Intelligence for Parents and Teachers.

The live virtual event will be from 6 to 7 p.m. on the Webex platform. The beginner-friendly webinar will explore the essentials of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education.

To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/CCPSandAI>.

# School system kicks off new athletic events safety plan

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is implementing a systemwide safety plan for school athletic events. The plan is effective immediately and is part of the school system’s commitment to providing safe experiences for participants at school events.

The plan was developed with input from high school athletic directors, principals and other staff from the CCPS offices of School Administration and Leadership and School Safety and Security. The plan includes a tiered protocol for schools to follow when changes to the format of an event or activity relating to security and spectators is needed. The implementation of any level of the safety plan is an individual school-based decision. Criteria administrators will consider when implementing the plan includes predicted spectator attendance; facility limits, parking lot layout, and lighting; incidents in the school community that may impact school activities; and school rivalries and history of incidents between schools and athletic teams.

CCPS currently uses an online ticketing platform, GoFan, for all ticket purchases.

Below are details of the tiered protocol.

## Level 1

- School-aged spectators may be subject to ID checks and must have their student ID cards available when attending athletic events.
- Bags, backpacks, coolers, outside food or drink, and sports equipment are not permitted.
- Spectators must pay to re-enter. Spectator capacity and ticket limits may apply.

- Time constraints may be enforced for admission to the event (i.e., schools may publish admission deadlines). Parents/guardians of student-athletes may be admitted after these posted times.
- Entrances and exits may be staggered and additional security coverage will be provided in congested areas.
- No gatherings outside of seating areas and concession stands will be allowed before, during or after the event. All spectators must be seated in the bleachers during the event.
- Spectators must use online GoFan ticketing to gain admission.

## Level 2

- All conditions from Level 1 apply, and:
- Students at all participating schools will be allowed to attend with proof of an online ticket purchase along with a valid school ID or StudentVue verification of their current schedule. All other school-aged spectators must be accompanied by a chaperone 21 or older who has purchased a ticket. Chaperones are required to stay and supervise students for the length of their stay at the event.
- Concession stand sales may be limited.
- Game times and dates may be changed to provide assistance with event management.

## Level 3

- All conditions from Level 1 apply, and:
- Only students of the home school will be allowed to attend with proof of an online ticket purchase along with a valid school

ID or StudentVue verification of their current schedule.

- Immediate family members (those who reside in the home of a participating student-athlete) of both home and away school student-athletes may attend. Family members younger than 21 must be accompanied by a chaperone 21 or older who has purchased a ticket. Chaperones are required to stay and supervise students for the length of their stay at the event.
- Concession stand sales may be limited or suspended.
- Game times and dates may be changed to provide assistance with event management.

## Level 4

- All conditions from Level 1 apply, and:
- Immediate family members (those who reside in the home of a participating student-athlete) of both home and away school student-athletes may attend. Family members younger than 21 must be accompanied by a chaperone 21 or older who has purchased a ticket. Chaperones are required to stay and supervise students for the length of their stay at the event.
- Concessions stand sales may be limited or suspended.
- Game times and dates may be changed to provide assistance with event management.
- In some cases, spectators will not be allowed.

## Leadership

has a voice,” Moore Lee said.

Kreamer said she agrees that collaboration is the key to a successful Board. “I am deeply invested in this work,” she said. She has lived in Charles County for more than 20 years and is the mother of a current CCPS student. As such, “I do not take this role lightly,” she said of serving on the Board. “I understand the impacts and value this role encompasses.”

Moore Lee is an attorney, mediator and part owner of an investment club and a real estate investment company.

She received a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University of D.C., and a juris doctor from Pepperdine University School of Law. Moore Lee is a graduate of both the Leadership Southern Maryland Executive Program and the Dorothy Irene Height Global Leadership Academy.

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She is married to her husband, Jonathan, and is the mother of three children — including two current CCPS students and a 2023 graduate.

Kreamer is a senior-level healthcare professional and has worked part-time as a substitute teacher for CCPS. A graduate of the University of Maryland, University College with a dual master’s in healthcare administration and an MBA, she is active in several community organizations including the Charles County Branch of the NAACP, and is a mentor with Stella’s Girls Inc., an alumni mentor for UMGC, certified facilitator for the Gals Lead Mentorship Program and a certified Blueprint Advocate with Strong Schools Maryland.

Kreamer has three children, including two CCPS graduates and a current student.

Read more about Boards of Education in Maryland on Page 4.



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### Board of Education Members

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## January named Maryland School Board Recognition Month

Maryland Gov. Wes Moore issued a proclamation naming the month as [Maryland School Board Recognition Month](#).

The proclamation recognizes school Board's work "to ensure a rigorous and world-class educational experience for every Maryland student."

It highlights how Maryland students benefit from their school Board's "providing access to essential academic, social, emotional, and economic supports."

The Maryland State Board of Education President Clarence C. Crawford is joining Milt Nagel, executive director of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE), in sharing a certificate of appreciation with each of the state's school boards for their leadership and hard work, dedication and achievement.

## High school art show at MCAC

[The Seven Up+ — The Art of Charles County Public Schools Students art show](#) will be on display at the Mattawoman Creek Art Center through early February. An opening reception — originally set to be held this Sunday — has been rescheduled to 1 to 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28.

Each year, high school art teachers select student work to be featured in the show which can be drawings — traditional and digital, mixed media pieces, paintings, photographs and sculpture.

Having their work displayed in a professional gallery is a boost for young artists, and a way to reach a broader audience. Student artwork is often showcased in the hallways of schools and at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. But those venues are not often accessed by those outside of the school system, Kristina Blakeslee, a Maurice J. McDonough High School art teacher, said. "This art show is special because it's held in a professional gallery and gives students the opportunity to showcase their work in a community space. A lot of our shows are at the Board of Education building where school employees and other staff get to see it, but other members of the community don't necessarily get to."

Throughout the school year, art teachers keep a mental list of the work that could make the cut and into the show featuring pieces from the seven CCPS high schools and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center. Some are shoo-ins, others are selected for different reasons. "A lot of times I look at their artist statements, the story behind the piece and the process they went through," Westlake High School art teacher Jacqueline Thomas said of determining the pieces she submits. "Sometimes it is knowing that a student needs that push to keep going, to keep making art." [Click here to read more about the art show.](#)

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**Building Service Worker** — Billingsley Elementary School, 12-month position. High school diploma required. Position open until filled.

**Elementary School Counselor** — Location to be determined, 10-month position. A master's in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling as determined by the MSDE are required. Position open until filled.

**Elementary School Principal** — J.C. Parks Elementary School, 12-month employee. A master's degree is required and applicants must hold a current Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administra-

tor II endorsement. Three years satisfactory teaching experience and three years of satisfactory experience as an assistant principal are required. Position open until filled.

**ESOL Teacher** — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher, and meets certification requirements. Position open until filled.

**Instructional Assistant** — Location to be determined, 10-month employee. High school diploma required, experience working with children preferred. Position open until filled.

**School Counselor** — Middle and high schools, locations to be determined. A master's in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling as determined by the MSDE are required. Position open until filled.

**Parent Liaison** — Indian Head Elementary

School, 10-month employee. High school diploma or equivalent required, and a general knowledge of the Title I program, Part A and Microsoft Office 365. Position open until filled.

**Reading Resource Teacher** — Location to be determined, 11-month employee. A master's degree is required. Position open until filled.

**School Technology Facilitator** — Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 10-month employee. High school diploma and associate of arts degree or passing grade on Para-Pro assessment. Position open until filled.

**Special Education Teacher** — Location to be determined, 10.5-month position. Position open until filled.

**Substitute Teacher** — Part-time position, location to be determined. Position open until filled.