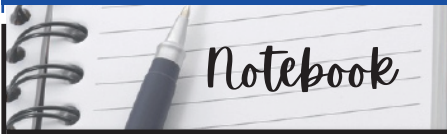




School News



HITS Expo

The History, Industry, Technology and Science (HITS) Expo is 1-5 p.m., Saturday, March 9*, at St. Charles High School. Along with the science and history projects on display, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff will operate stations with interactive presentations, displays and activities ranging from crafting paper boats to mixing a smoothie using a bicycle, creating a DNA model out of Twizzlers to writing lesson plans incorporating Taylor Swift (man, *she's everywhere, huh?*). St. Charles is at 5305 Piney Church Road, Waldorf. **The date and time of the event may change depending on the outcome of a scheduled St. Charles basketball game.*

It's show time

CCPS high schools are preparing for the spring show season. Thomas Stone High School and Maurice J. McDonough High School are up first. "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," will be staged at 6:30 p.m., March 14-16 at Thomas Stone. The show incorporates audience participation. Tickets are \$5 for kids and students, and \$10 for adults. Tickets are only available for cash at the door. Thomas Stone is at 3785 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf. McDonough will put up the time traveling classic "A Wrinkle in Time," 7 p.m., March 15-16, and 2 p.m., March 17. Ticket prices range from \$9 to \$12. For tickets, visit mhsdrama303.booktix.net. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming shows or visit www.ccboe.com.



Black History Month at Berry, Matula

Students at Berry and Mary H. Matula elementary schools celebrated Black History Month by studying famous African Americans who have contributed to society in the areas of entertainment, education, STEM, politics and more. Clockwise from top left, Matula fifth grader Ashton McBride researched Lonnie Johnson, inventor of the Super Soaker; Rylee Thompson, Berry second-grade student, portrayed ballet dancer Misty Copeland at the school's wax museum; Matula fifth grader Ashlyn Lee studied author and educator Booker T. Washington for her project; and Kamari Wagstaff, a second grader at Berry, chose Stevie Wonder as his research topic at Berry's wax museum.

Sharing stories at Early Learning Center



Superintendent Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., recently visited the Early Learning Center, La Plata, to share with students "I'm Going to Be a Princess," a book by Stephanie Taylor, illustrated by Jade Orlando. Friday, March 1, is Read Across Charles County.

Notebook

On the cover

The Board of Education [recognized outstanding employees](#) at its Feb. 13 meeting. Eight staff members were honored due to January's Board meeting held virtually because of inclement weather. The two additional staff members who were set to be honored at the January meeting will be recognized at the March meeting. From left are Kherna Granger, second-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; Stephanie Lane, registration secretary, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; Erica Boardley, mathematics teacher, Mattawoman Middle School; and A'leese Dickerson, English teacher, North Point High School.

Summer opportunities

Leadership and instructional positions are available at the elementary, middle and high school levels as well as with special education programs.

Those interested in applying for multiple programs will need to submit an application for each position. Applications are due by March 15. Questions may be directed to Meighan Hungerford, CCPS director of elementary education, at mhungerford@ccboe.com or 301-932-6610. [Learn more about summer opportunities at MyCCPS at \[www.ccboe.com\]\(http://www.ccboe.com\).](#)

Calendar update

Earlier this school year, the Board of Education voted to amend the 2024-2025 school calendar moving the first day of the next school year for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students from Aug. 19 — as printed in the 2023-2024 hardcopy of the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) [Parent Handbook/Calendar](#) — to Monday, Aug. 26, 2024. Teachers will return for the 2024-2025 school year on Monday, Aug. 19, 2024. Because the handbook/calendars must be printed in advance of the current school year, some information listed may be changed or amended. Parents, students and staff are urged to consult the online version of the calendar for the most up-to-date information at the [Calendar section of \[www.ccboe.com\]\(http://www.ccboe.com\)](#).

Surf's up for National School Breakfast Week

National School Breakfast Week (NSBW) is March 4 through 8 with all students in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) able to pick up a free breakfast at school if they choose before classes start for the day. Students will be offered a variety of hot entrees and cereal along with fruit, milk and juice.

"A healthy breakfast at the start of the day is a great way to ensure students are nourished and ready to learn," Crystal Richardson, CCPS supervisor of food and nutrition services, said. "National School Breakfast Week helps us educate parents and students about all the nutritious and delicious choices we offer."

Outside of NSBW, CCPS offers breakfast for purchase for \$1.35 daily at the elementary school level and \$1.50 each day in middle and high schools. Parents can monitor and deposit funds in their children's meal accounts at www.mypaymentsplus.com.

CCPS participates in the U.S. Department of Agriculture [Community Eligibility Provision \(CEP\) program](#) which provides meal funding at schools in areas where families meet a certain maximum income level. The CEP program is available at 12 schools.



Kaiden Taylor-Seaward, a second-grade student at William A. Diggs Elementary School, grabs a breakfast kit on his way into class last year.

The [Maryland Meals for Achievement \(MMFA\)](#) program which provides free breakfast during the school year is in several CCPS schools and centers this school year. The program is offered through the Maryland State Department of Education and provides funding that supplements federal reimbursements CCPS receives from the USDA School Breakfast Program. View school menus at schoolsmealfinder.com or follow the CCPS food and nutrition services X account at <https://twitter.com/CCPSFoodService> to see what cooking in school cafeterias around the county.

Calendar committee members sought

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeking volunteers — including CCPS staff — to serve on its calendar committee. Volunteers must be able to attend in-person meetings on Wednesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

The Starkey Building is located at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata. Meetings are set for March 13 and 20, and April 3. The calendar committee will review and work on calendar options for the 2025-2026 school year. The calendar committee provides recommendations to the Superintendent, who presents calendar options for review and ap-

proval by the Board of Education of Charles County. The Board of Education has already approved the 2024-2025 school year calendar. The Board typically approves the school calendar one year in advance.

Interested parent, student and staff volunteers should complete the calendar committee interest form. From submissions, staff will select three parent representatives, two high school student representatives and three staff members.

[Click here to complete the interest form.](#) Deadline to complete the interest form is noon, Friday, March 8.

Lackey's Clark named 2024 CCPS Teacher of the Year

Joshua Clark, a Spanish teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School, was named the recipient of the 2024 Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Teacher of the Year honor during a Feb. 22 recognition ceremony. The event, held at St. Charles High School, honors nominees for the 2024 Washington Post Teacher of the Year and CCPS Teacher of the Year award programs. This year, there more than 40 nominees and six finalists.

From the five remaining finalists, one will be named this spring to represent CCPS in The Washington Post Teacher of the Year program. Each CCPS school nominates an educator for the awards programs, touting their commitment to teaching and learning. In addition to Clark, the finalists for the 2024 CCPS Teacher of the Year program include:

- **Melissa Carpenter**, fifth-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School.
- **Jane Marchione**, school librarian, Matthew Henson Middle School
- **Wendie Newcamp**, language arts teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.
- **Susan Steinmetz**, music teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School.
- **Jacqueline Taylor**, English teacher, North Point High School.

The Charles County Teacher of the Year honoree represents CCPS in the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Maryland Teacher of the Year program in which one teacher receives the overall state honor. The Washington Post finalist from CCPS represents the school system in the overall awards program in which one teacher from the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area is named the newspaper's Teacher of the Year.

As the 2024 CCPS Teacher of the Year, Clark is eligible for the Maryland Teacher of the Year honors, which will be announced in the fall.

Joshua Clark

For Clark, teaching at Lackey is like coming home. He graduated from the school in 2014 and after earning a bachelor's degree from Frostburg State University, he returned to Lackey in 2018 to teach Spanish.

He spent the summer of 2019 in Córdoba, Argentina, as a volunteer English teacher, leading classes for students between the ages



Joshua Clark, fourth from right, a Spanish teacher, is the 2024 Charles County Public Schools Teacher of the Year. He is pictured with Superintendent Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., and members of the Board of Education of Charles County.

of 8 to 18 and collaborated with other teachers at Ricardo Palma School.

He has led or collaborated various professional learning opportunities for CCPS such as “The Recipe for Student Engagement in the Classroom,” and “Using the Interactive Model with Authentic Videos,” and was selected to present at a Chicago meeting of the American Council for Teaching Foreign Language. “Mr. Clark is highly regarded among both students and colleagues for his approachability, patience and willingness to provide additional support whenever needed,” Kimberly Moinet, compliance facilitator in Lackey’s special education department, said. “He fosters strong relationships with students.”

Clark was an assistant coach to the Little Rascals Destination Imagination (DI) Team for two years and twice went to the Global DI competition with the team. At Lackey, he is the coach of the school’s Polyglot Club, creating opportunities for students to increase their proficiency in Spanish and French. Clark is held in high regard among his students where he is not Mr. Clark, but Sr. Clark using the Spanish language prefix for señor. “I was lucky to have Sr. Clark for Spanish II as a freshman student,” Eliza Freundel, a sophomore, said. “He has high expectations for his students and encourages us every day. He is there when you need to talk and is known as the teacher you can rely on, as he is there not only to mentor his students but all the students at Lackey.”

Lackey Principal Cheryl K. Davis understands how students can feel comfortable and ready to learn in Clark’s classroom. “The room itself is calming and inviting,” she said. Davis described the classroom as lit by lamps rather than harsh overhead lighting and organized with a seating arrangement that makes it easy for students to collaborate and interact.

“Mr. Clark allows his students to think outside the box and develops innovative ways of bringing instruction to life,” John Lush, Lackey’s athletic director who first met Clark when the latter was a student, said. “He has an uncanny ability to meet each of his students at their individual ability level and make significant gains with each over the course of the year.” Clark is a role model for students and colleagues at Lackey. “Mr. Clark is an extremely committed teacher,” Lush said. “This is a man who embodies a strong set of values.” a teacher who is always available.”

Each school nominates a teacher for the CCPS Teacher of the Year Award program. Below is a complete list of teachers nominated for the 2024 school year.

Elementary schools

- **Keyanna Williams**, first-grade teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.
- **Jayne Emerson**, second-grade teacher, Berry Elementary School.
- **Kimberly Williams**, kindergarten teacher, Billingsley Elementary School.

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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).

TEACHER

- **Stephanie Blair**, art teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School.
- **Susan Steinmetz**, vocal music teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School.
- **Leigh Esmond**, first-grade teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School.
- **Yvette Thomas**, second-grade teacher, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.
- **Martha Peer**, special education teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.
- **Caitlyn Grimes**, third-grade teacher, Indian Head Elementary School.
- **Andrew Shanbarger**, science teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.
- **Bianca Valdez**, fifth-grade teacher, Malcolm Elementary School.
- **Nicholas Gardiner**, fifth-grade teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School.
- **Nicole Vigil**, fifth-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School.
- **Nichole Barker**, fourth-grade, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- **Jennifer Thomas Burrows**, second-grade teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School.
- **Catherine Graff**, prekindergarten teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.
- **Norma Williams**, prekindergarten teacher,

continued from Page 3

- Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.
- **JaNeil Pryor**, special education teacher, Mary B. Neal Elementary School.
- **Stephanie Hill**, third-grade teacher, J.C. Parks Elementary School.
- **Christina Gardiner**, first-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.
- **Jennifer Winters**, special education teacher, Eva Turner Elementary School.
- **Melissa Carpenter**, fifth-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School.

Middle schools

- **Wendie Newcamp**, language arts teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.
- **Letia Ballard**, social studies teacher, John Hanson Middle School.
- **Jane Marchione**, library media specialist, Matthew Henson Middle School.
- **Elaine Potter**, mathematics teacher, Mattawoman Middle School.
- **Lauren Washington**, social studies teacher, Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA).
- **Daniel Hoefert**, social studies teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School.
- **Sean Anderson**, mathematics teacher, General Smallwood Middle School.
- **Teresa Buckmaster**, social studies teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School.
- **Charles McCoy**, computer teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.

High schools

- **Joshua Clark**, Spanish teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School.
- **Rebecca Gibson**, science teacher, La Plata High School.
- **Vonda Hicks**, mathematics teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- **Jacqueline Taylor**, English teacher, North Point High School.
- **Elizabeth Lawless**, English teacher, St. Charles High School.
- **Elise McCoy**, literacy teacher, Thomas Stone High School.
- **Nikia Williams**, business education teacher, Westlake High School.

Centers

- **Timothy Rosin**, special education teacher, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.
- **Brinson Lundegard**, science teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Building Service Worker — William B. Wade Elementary School, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by March 7.

Painter II — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Five years of experience at a level equivalent to journeyman painter required. Apply by March 7.

French Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland

State Department of Education.

First-Grade Teacher — Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the MSDE.

Instructional Resource Teacher — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 11-month position. Master's degree required and must hold or be eligible for a Maryland Advance Professional Certificate with an endorsement in mathematics.

Extra Pay Positions

- **La Plata High School Softball Assistant Coach.**
- **North Point High School Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach.**
- **Westlake High School Girls Lacrosse Assistant Coach.**