

# School News

## AI & education

The [Office of Technology](#) recently hosted a virtual event with guest speakers from the Maryland Center for Computer Education. The beginner-friendly webinar teachers and helped parents and educators explore the essentials of [AI in education](#). It included learning how to foster digital literacy, staying informed about AI developments and integrating technology responsibly into classrooms and homes. If you missed the event, you can view the recording or presentation at the [CCPS Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) for K-12 website](#).

## Local ACT-SO

High school students of African descent can showcase talents in several fields in the upcoming [local ACT-SO competition](#) April 27. There are more than 30 competitive fields among the interest areas in the competition. From performing and culinary arts to STEM, students can demonstrate their prowess in up to three competition areas out of the more than 30 fields represented. Students can advance to the national stage at the [NAACP convention](#) in Las Vegas in July. Learn more about [www.cbboe.com](http://www.cbboe.com).

## Professional learning

Professional learning opportunities are available this month. Canvas training is set for March 19. Also on March 19 are a Moreland University information session and an information session for Towson University. For more information, visit the [MyCCPS section](#) of [www.cbboe.com](http://www.cbboe.com).



From left, Malcolm Elementary School building service manager Lawrence Gross, Joy Hill, executive officer of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maryland, Michael K. Lukas, member of the Board of Education, Del. Kevin M. Harris (Dist. 27A), Malcolm Principal Scott Hangey, Sen. Michael A. Jackson (Dist. 27), Michael Heim, chief of operations and supporting services, Christine Chinault, St. Charles High School art teacher, Mary Finneran, former Malcolm principal, Tavon Myers, Malcolm assistant principal, David Hancock, Board member, and Jaime Whitfield-Coffen, executive director of schools.

## Malcolm holds ribbon cutting for new marquee

Malcolm Elementary School recently held a ribbon cutting celebrating the addition of a new digital sign at the entrance of the school. “The marquee is more than a marquee. It says something about the commitment to the people outside the school to our school and to our community,” Malcolm Principal Scott Hangey said.

The project was funded with the support of Sen. Michael A. Jackson and Del. Kevin M.

Harris and their staffs which guided it through the funding and approval process. The marquee project started as an idea of former Malcolm principal Mary Finneran and was shepherded along by Hangey and Tavon Myers, assistant principal. “This idea started with a pebble into a pond and it had a ripple effect,” Hangey said.

“If we didn’t have the marquee, we could put the names up on a regular sign ... but to have

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## CCPS staff salaries are public information

Under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA), some information about public employees is considered public information.

All Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff are considered public employees.


Under MPIA and through a formal request, any individual can request public information about any CCPS staff member, including the employee’s job title, work location, CCPS email address, dates of employment, and salary. These items are not considered a part of an employee’s personnel record, which includes confidential information that may not be released to the public under the MPIA.

CCPS staff routinely receives requests for CCPS staff information, typically from media outlets or agencies that support transparency in government spending at the federal, state and/or local levels.

Be mindful that staff salary and other information related to a position with CCPS is considered public information.

Additional information about MPIA is available at <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Pages/OpenGov/piaManual.aspx>.

CCPS has a public information page on its website at <https://www.cbboe.com/about/public-info-media/public-information-act-requests>.

 **Notebook**

**On the cover**

The Board of Education [recognized outstanding employees](#) at its March 12 meeting. Eight staff members were honored due to January’s Board meeting held virtually because of inclement weather. From left are John Brown, social studies teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; Glenda Miller, secretary to the principal, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; Stacey Oliver, prekindergarten teacher, Early Learning Center, La Plata; and Donna Day, instructional resource teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School.

**First day reminder**

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](#).

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the visuals to go with them? That is the difference. Whether parents are dropping off their children in the morning, or members of the community are driving by the school, they are seeing the great things that are happening here. It means a great deal that Malcolm has that presence in our community,” Hangey said.

**In Memoriam  
Margaret Marshall**



Margaret Marshall, a former member of the Board of Education of Charles County and retired Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teacher, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024.

Marshall served as a Board member for one, four-year term. She was elected to the Board in November 2014 and prior to running for the Board, Marshall served as an educator with CCPS for more than 25 years.

Marshall began her education career in 1961 at Lemmel Junior High School in Baltimore, where she taught enrichment social studies for five years. In 1966, Marshall took a fifth-grade teaching position at Rolling Knolls Elementary School in Annapolis and later taught enrichment history and English at Arundel Junior High School in Odenton. In 1970, Marshall had moved to Texas and was teaching at Westbury High School in Houston. In 1972, Marshall began teaching history, sociology and Advanced Placement (AP) courses at Seneca Valley High School in Harmony, Pa.

She remained in Pennsylvania until 1987, when she and her family moved to Charles County. For Marshall, moving to Charles County was a return to home, as she was from Charles County and a graduate of Pomonkey High School. Her husband, Cecil, also became involved in Charles County education while serving as a substitute teacher, instructional assistant, and job placement coordinator at the high school level with CCPS. Cecil also spent some time serving the Board of Education as an elected Board member from 2002 to 2006. He passed away in 2017.

Marshall began her career with CCPS in 1987 as a social studies teacher at Thomas Stone High School. In 1988, Marshall took a social studies position at Maurice J. McDonough High School where she taught local, state and national (LSN) government and civics courses to students in Grades 9-12. Marshall also taught AP courses at McDonough.

In 1997, Marshall sought advancement in her teaching career and took a position as an instructional resource teacher for social studies at the CCPS administrative level. In this role, her work in all areas of social studies, civics, history and government made an impact on students countywide. Marshall also served as a government remediator and assistant test coordinator.

In 2003, Marshall retired from her position with CCPS. But she continued to engage in Charles County education. She was instrumental in working with CCPS to launch a pilot intervention and teacher mentoring program to support new educators at the start of their careers. Marshall also spent some time supporting students at La Plata High School after her retirement.

Throughout her retirement and time as a Board Member, Marshall was active with the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association. She was also a member of the Pomonkey High School Alumni Association, charter member of Alpha Sigma chapter and member of Nu Zeta Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. In comments she presented at the December 2018 – one of her last as a Board member – Marshall shared that her time on the Board was special and one of the highlights of her career in working to support children. “During the past four years, the community has been supportive of me. When I look at the student liaisons in front me, I know the future is in great hands. I see their smiling faces, I hear their questions, I see their enthusiasm. And I know the future is in good hands.”

Marshall also credited her late husband with her success in being elected. “I got elected, and over the past four years I truly hope that at this point in time that Cecil can say, Margaret job well done,” she said.



# CCPS celebrates staff members for years of service

The Board of Education of Charles County and Superintendent of Schools Maria Navarro, Ed.D., honored several Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees on March 14 for their years of service to the school system and commitment to education during a ceremony held at North Point High School. Honored were employees with careers that span a period of 45, 45, 40, 35, 30 and 25 years.

Lee Clark, Sr., a mail truck driver for CCPS, graduated from La Plata High School and a couple of months later, on Sept. 8, 1978, he was working for the school system. He started as a building service worker at Thomas Stone High School but moved into driving for food service by the next year. Back then, food was distributed from the central office to schools, shuttled by drivers.

Clark has been the pony driver for CCPS for several years, many of which he did solo. It was hard work to manage and deliver mail for more than 40 schools throughout the whole county. Now he shares the route with another driver.

They split the day delivering mail and warehouse supplies and most days are pretty good, if the weather and traffic are decent. Traversing the county day in and day out gives Clark a unique perspective on progress. He sees neighborhoods spring up seemingly overnight, and swaths of trees disappear almost as fast. "I've definitely seen how the county has grown," he said. He has a simple and straightforward secret to his longevity at work. "Treat people how you want to be treated," Clark said. "And they will treat you with respect."

## Employees with 45 years of service

- Melbourne "Butch" Arbin III, career and technology resource teacher, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.
- Lee Clark Sr., mail truck driver, CCPS warehouse.
- Charles Kelly, foreman – athletic fields/grounds, CCPS maintenance shop.

## Employee with 40 years of service

- Joseph Brawner, building service manager, Henry E. Lackey High School.

## Employees with 35 years of service

- Diane Bicknell, assistive technology facilitator, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.

- Diane Brawner, building service worker, Westlake High School.
- Melanie Cole, business education teacher, North Point High School.
- Donna Depamphilis, IEP facilitator, William A. Diggs Elementary School.
- Janice Earnshaw, ESOL teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.
- Carol Hamilton, carpenter II, CCPS Maintenance Shop.
- Beverly Hoy, psychologist, Henry E. Lackey High School.
- Larry Johnson, building service assistant manager, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Jean Proctor, kindergarten teacher, Berry Elementary School.
- Cherie Reynolds, secretary to the principal, Piccowaxen Middle School.
- Carrie Richardson, principal, Mary H. Matula Elementary School.
- Ernestine Swann, student data technician, Milton M. Somers Middle School.
- Katrina Thompson, student data technician, Henry E. Lackey High School.
- Renee Ward, accounting assistant, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

## Employees with 30 years of services

- James Baker, general maintenance worker II, CCPS Maintenance Shop.
- David Bradshaw, physical education teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- John Brooks, first-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.
- Denise Childers, English teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.
- Christina Coulby, social studies teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School.
- Rebecca Franch, art teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Apryl Gray, business education teacher, La Plata High School.
- Sean Heyl, EACC president, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.
- Patricia Mooring, assistant principal, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- Darlene Thornton, supervising specialist of transportation, CCPS Annex 1.
- Lisa Wehausen, instructional spe-

cialist, William A. Diggs Elementary School.

## Employees with 25 years of services

- Barbara Anderson, Title 1 resource teacher, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.
- Tracy Blake, reading resource teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School.
- Rose Burroughs, food service manager, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.
- Christina Caballero, principal, Matthew Henson Middle School.
- Brandy Dennison, ESOL teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.
- Franco Foraci, physical education teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.
- Patricia Fulcher, art teacher, Westlake High School.
- Catherine Graff, prekindergarten teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.
- Alexis Howell, second-grade teacher, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.
- Luis Island, student data technician, Westlake High School.
- Jonna Jarboe, fourth-grade teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.
- Cornelia Jerman-Webb, special education instructional assistant, Gale-Bailey Elementary School.
- Aparna Joshi, social studies teacher, St. Charles High School.
- Theresa Kidd, food service assistant manager, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.
- Barbara Kirkum, educational interpreter, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.
- Matthew Loyd, assistant principal, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- Kristi Nelson, mathematics teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School.
- Wendie Newcamp, language arts teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.
- Karen Rowledge, family and consumer science teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- Rachel Ruiz, secretary to the principal, Berry Elementary School.
- Michelle Sains, third-grade teacher,

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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).

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- Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.
- Joseph Sbordone, language arts teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School.
  - Kelly Short, special education secretary, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.
  - Kim Smoot, food service worker, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School.
  - Shellia Soderstrom, assistant principal, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.
  - Shawn Starcher, science teacher, La Plata High School.
  - Stephanie Sullivan, third-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School.
  - Laura Taylor, environmental education assistant, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center.
  - Tiffany VanDyke, Virtual Academy high school specialist, Robert. D. Stethem Educational Center.
  - Ivy Wade, pre-school instructional assistant, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.
  - Curry Werkheiser, assistant principal, Thomas Stone High School.

## Spring play cheat sheet

Plan to support the arts this spring at Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high schools. Shows stretch from March to May this season.

- “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” — 6:30 p.m., March 15 and 16, **Thomas Stone High School**, 3785 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf. The show includes audience participation. Tickets are for sale at the door. Cash only.
  - “A Wrinkle in Time,” — March 15-17, **Maurice J. McDonough High School**, 7165 Marshall Corner Road, Pomfret. For tickets, go to [mhsdrama303.boektix.net](http://mhsdrama303.boektix.net).
  - “The Lightening Thief — The Percy Jackson Musical,” — 7 p.m., April 4 and 5, and 1 and 7 p.m. April 6, **North Point High School**, 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf. For tickets, go to [nphs7040.ludus.com](http://nphs7040.ludus.com).
  - “Dreamgirls,” — 7 p.m., April 11-13, and 2:30 p.m., April 14, **Westlake High School**, 3300 Middletown Road, Waldorf. Show is rated PG-13. Go to [www.westlake.ccboe.com](http://www.westlake.ccboe.com).
  - “She Kills Monsters — Teen Edition,” April 18-21, **Maurice J. McDonough High School**, 7165 Marshall Corner Road, Pomfret. For tickets, go to [mhsdrama303.boektix.net](http://mhsdrama303.boektix.net).
  - “Disney’s Freaky Friday — The Musical,” 7 p.m., April 25-27, **Henry E. Lackey High School**, 3000 Chicamuxen Road, Indian Head.
  - “Les Misérables — School Edition,” 6:30 p.m., April 25-27, and 2:30 p.m., April 28, **La Plata High School**, 6035 Radio Station Road, La Plata.
  - “Footloose — The Musical,” 7 p.m., April 26 and 27, and 2 p.m., April 28, **St. Charles High School**, 5305 Piney Church Road, Waldorf. The show is rated PG-13. For tickets, go to [www.gofan.co](http://www.gofan.co).
  - “12 Angry Jurors,” May 2-3, **Maurice J. McDonough High School**, 7165 Marshall Corner Road, Pomfret. For tickets, go to [mhsdrama303.boektix.net](http://mhsdrama303.boektix.net).
- For more information about the shows, visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

## Personnel

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

### Job openings

**Community Resource Liaison for the 2024-2025 School Year** — St. Charles High School, 10-month position. A bachelor’s degree in special education, transition, counseling, rehabilitation, or a related field required, master’s degree preferred. Experience providing transition services for individuals with developmental disabilities required. At least five years of experience working with transitioning youth with developmental disabilities preferred. Apply by March 19.

**Building Service Worker** — C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by March 19.

**Office of Teaching and Learning Secretary**

— Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required along with one to three years of secretarial experience. Applicants must have experience with Microsoft products. Apply by March 27.

**Operations Secretary** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required along with one to three years of secretarial experience. Applicants should have a valid driver’s license. Apply by March 27

**Secretary to the Principal** — F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED is required, and a minimum of two years of experience in book-keeping or office management is required. Applicants should have experience with budgets, payroll and cash handling preferred. Position open until filled.