



School News



School plays

Westlake High School will stage “[Dreamgirls](#)” April 12, 13 and 14 at the school. The show is rated PG-13. Shows are 7 p.m. on April 12 and 13, and 2:30 p.m., April 14. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students. For tickets, visit <https://www.showtix4u.com/event-details/81934>. Westlake is at 3300 Middletown Road in Waldorf.

Maurice J. McDonough High School will perform “She Kills Monsters — Teen Edition” 7 p.m. April 19 and 20 and 2 p.m. 21. The show is rated PG-13. Tickets are \$15. For tickets and more information, go to <https://mhsdrama303.booktix.net/>. McDonough will stage “12 Angry Jurors” May 2 and 3.

Henry E. Lackey High School will stage “Freaky Friday the Musical” at 7 p.m. April 25 through 27 at the school at 3000 Chicamuxen Road in Indian Head.

La Plata High School will perform “Les Misérables School Edition” 6:30 p.m. April 25, 26 and 27 and 2:30 p.m., April 28 at the school, 6035 Radio Station Road in La Plata.

St. Charles High School will perform “Footloose the Musical,” at 7 p.m. April 26 and 27, and 2 p.m. April 28 at the school at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf. The show is rated PG-13. To buy tickets, visit www.gofan.co.

Board meeting

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m., Tuesday, April 16, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata. Public forum starts at 6 p.m. [View the agenda at www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).



Shade for days

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff enjoy a total(ish) eclipse of the sun on Monday, April 8. Above, Edie Kans, left, Annemarie Murphy and Angel Willett view the eclipse at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Right, Stephanie Mooneyham, science teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, organized a schoolwide event, inviting parents to view the eclipse with students and staff on school grounds. A total solar eclipse will not be visible again from the contiguous U.S. until Aug. 22, 2044, but totality will only occur over North Dakota, Montana and northern Canada, according to CNN.



Virtual town hall set to discuss Blueprint

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is holding a [virtual town hall](#), Thursday, April 25, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., to discuss the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future.

The town hall allows parents, students and community members to provide feedback on the CCPS Systemwide Implementation Plan.

There were two town halls on the Blueprint held earlier this year and late last year during which CCPS staff gave a brief overview of the school system’s plan and gathered input from stakeholders.

Staff also provided updates and the development of the Blueprint plan during the meetings.

During the April meeting attendees can listen to a presentation on the CCPS Blueprint plan, ask questions and provide feedback before the plan is submitted on May 1.

The meeting will be held on the Zoom platform and is open to any CCPS parent, student, staff or community member. Anyone joining the meeting will need an active Zoom account to participate. A Spanish interpreter will be present during the meeting. Meeting details are below.

Link to join — <https://ccboe.zoom.us/j/81266678299?pwd=WWJrUHNXVVISTXVpYWU3ZmFDUjJnZz09>.

The Blueprint of Maryland’s Future was legislation passed in 2021. Aiming to accelerate student outcomes while improving the overall quality of education in Maryland, the Blueprint increases education funding by \$3.8 billion a year over the next decade.

To learn more about the Blueprint, [click here](#).



Notebook

Time changes

CCPS is changing start and end times for four schools that will take effect at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. CCPS has also established operating times for the Early Learning Center, Waldorf, which is expected to open in August. Times for William A. Diggs, T.C. Martin and J.P. Ryon elementary schools, and Theodore G. Davis Middle School are being adjusted for the 2024-2025 school year. All time changes take effect August 2024. CCPS is making the changes to accommodate and maximize transportation route efficiency, address traffic overlap in the area of the J.P. Ryon campus, and the movement of T.C. Martin students from the Transition School in Waldorf back to the newly renovated school campus. [Click here to learn more details and the new start and end times for the schools listed above.](#)

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 hard-copy 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. 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](#).

Summer camps

Summer is approaching and there are plenty of opportunities for children to attend summer camps that will keep their minds engaged. There's enrichment camps, the Lackey Youth Camp, sports camps run by the Charles County Sheriff's Office, AP Boot Camps for high school students looking to get a leg up on their academics, STEAM camps at the James E. Richmond Science Center and nature-based offerings at the Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center. Visit the [Summer Camps 2024 page](#) to learn more.

CCPS employee manual updated

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Employee Manual was recently updated with all CCPS employees expected to adhere to the guidelines outlined in the manual daily when they log into their CCPS-issued device.

The CCPS Employee Manual outlines policies and expectations for staff.

It includes policies, procedures, benefits, working conditions and more.

Additional trainings related to the Employee Manual content will be provided in the future.

To read the manual, [click here](#) or visit the Document menu on the left-hand side of the [Staff page of www.ccboe.com](#).

Charles County Public Schools

Employee Manual
Revised: April 2024



Charles County Public Schools

Colorful Language: Poetry Collection



North Point High School will hold a poetry festival and book signing on Saturday, April 27, celebrating the release of the school's fourth-annual poetry book.

"Colorful Language: A Color Your Own Poetry Collection," is a color-your-own collection of student poetry. The event starts at 2 p.m. and will feature panel discussions with the poets, slam performances, interactive live art, kids' activities, including a build-a-book session, and a pop-up shop (cash only), while supplies last. A current schedule of events is available [here](#).

The book is available for purchase at <https://tinyurl.com/2s3dn8j6>.

To purchase Colorful Language merch, visit <https://tinyurl.com/58a2aeef>.

North Point is at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

Employee Assistance Program benefits staff

ComPsych GuidanceResources is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). The EAP benefit is no cost to employees and their dependents, and it is also confidential. ComPsych representatives 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. They can also provide additional assistance with

finding child and elder care, hiring movers or home repair contractors, divorce, adoption, family law, wills and trusts, retirement planning, taxes, relocation, mortgage and insurance, budgeting, debt and bankruptcy. ComPsych GuidanceResources is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and will also coordinate with CCPS's health plan for cases that require treatment under your medical benefit. Call 877-465-0865 or go to www.guidanceresources.com.

To create an account, click Register and use the web ID: CCPSEAP.

You better be-leaf it

CCPS staff, students dig deep to plant trees native to county

The Resilience Authority of Charles County, an office established to respond to the impacts of climate change in Charles County and around the state, was awarded multiple grants from the Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee to plant trees on school campuses in Charles County.

Earlier in the school year, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff at Theodore G. Davis, John Hanson and Mattawoman middle schools, and North Point and Westlake high schools planted 75 trees native to the county — 15 per school — to reduce the environmental effects of heat islands. The schools are in areas known as heat islands, zones that are urbanized, with more concrete and buildings than outlying locations. Conditions found in heat islands lead to higher daytime temperatures and reduced cooling at night. Because of higher air pollution found in heat islands, heat-related health concerns and detrimental environmental impacts can increase.

Recently, additional grants were awarded that allowed trees to be planted on the campuses of the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, Dr. James Craik Elementary School and the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

The Resilience Authority and the Student Conservation Authority (SAC) partnered to form the Resilience Authority Youth Corps (RAYC). Through an initiative called RAYC Ahead, SAC staff will provide paid job train-



Mckenzie McGhee, left, Heaven Saxton, both juniors at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, plant a tree on the center’s grounds as part of a project to establish native tree canopies on Charles County Public Schools campuses to reduce environmental effects of heat islands.

ing and environmental programming for CCPS high school students and young adults who will care for and maintain the newly planted urban tree canopies, according to a Charles County Government news release.

CCPS is partnering with the Resilience Authority, the county government, the Maryland Forestry Service, the Student Conservation Association and Maryland’s 5 Million Trees Initiative to continue to plant and maintain urban tree canopies and pocket forests — fast-growing native trees, with layered, mixed plants mimicking layers of a natural forest — at schools and other areas around the county.

The Resilience Authority is planning to plant another urban tree canopy this spring at Thomas Stone High School.



Bernard Barnes, left, and Kevin Reisinger, team up to plant a tree on the grounds of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Starkey staff planted 15 native trees Wednesday at the central office.



Every 15 Minutes

Thomas Stone High School hosted the two-day Every 15 Minutes program on Thursday and Friday this week, leading up to the school’s prom on Friday, April 19. The program demonstrates for young drivers and passengers the risks of impaired and distracted driving. Emergency medical services personnel and law enforcement work with school staff and students to coordinate the event.

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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).

Board to host Town Hall on proposed 2025 operating budget

The Board of Education of Charles County is hosting a Town Hall on Tuesday, April 23, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the boardroom at the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The Starkey Building is located at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata.

Parents, staff, students and community members are encouraged to attend to ask questions or provide comments about the Town Hall topic – the Fiscal Year 2025 proposed operating budget, or any other education-related topic. [A summary of the 2025 proposed operating budget request is posted on the CCPS website here.](#)

The event is open to the public and will livestream on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. There will also be a virtual option for questions and comments.

Superintendent of Schools Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., and CCPS staff will provide an overview of the budget request for next school year.

The remaining time is reserved for questions, answers and comments from Board members, staff and attendees.

Questions, comments and/or other ideas shared should reference education-related topics.

Attendees will be asked to limit their time to

three minutes to provide adequate time for other attendees to participate.

Attendees interested in speaking in person must register on site at the Town Hall. A sign-up sheet will be posted outside of the boardroom. Virtual speakers must sign up by 5 p.m., April 23 and have an active Zoom account. [Click here to register for virtual participation.](#)

Depending on how many registrations the Board receives on site, in-person sign-ups may close after 7:30 p.m. to allow as many speakers as possible an opportunity to speak.

Anyone who signs up to speak will receive an assigned number and be called to speak by that number. Virtual speakers will be rotated with in-person speakers.

The Board encourages community members to submit questions or comments in advance.

The form will close for submissions at 11:59 p.m., April 21. [Submit a question or comment/topic in advance using the form here.](#)

The Town Hall format will follow the Board of Education's guidelines for public forum. Questions, comments and/or other ideas shared should reference education-related topics.

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

Student Record Coordinator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school diploma or general education degree (GED) required. Apply by April 22.

Student Data Technician — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by April 23.

JROTC Instructor — North Point High School, 11-month position. Bachelor's degree required and a minimum of 20 years of active duty or have retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA). Apply by April 25.

Academy of Health Professions Teacher

— North Point High School, 10-month position. Applicants must be a registered nurse licensed to practice in Maryland, with at least a Bachelor of Science, a minimum of two years of nursing experience, at least one year of which was in caring for elderly or chronically ill in the past five years, along with other criteria. Position open until filled.

Budget Position Control Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in finance, accounting, business administration or a related field required, master's degree or CPA preferred. Position open until filled.

Compliance Facilitator — North Point High School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree and a Maryland Standard Professional License with special education endorsement, along with three years of special education classroom teaching experience required. Position open until filled.

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

Bus Driver — Annex I, 10-month employee. High school diploma or GED required. Five years of success work experience as a school bus driver in Maryland. Driver must have or have the ability to secure a Commercial Class B Driver's License with P&S endorsements within the period of time specified required. Position open until filled.

ESOL Teacher — All Elementary Schools, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher required and must meet licensure requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Other experience as established by Maryland Law and Board of Education policy required. Position open until filled.