



School News



Labor Day

Schools and offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, for Labor Day. The first day of school for students in the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) prekindergarten program is Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Telework application

CCPS has a new telework application for the 2024-2025 school year. Any employee who is interested and eligible to telework must complete an application for supervisor review and approval. [Click here for information about the telework program](#), including a list of eligible employees.

Two-page calendar

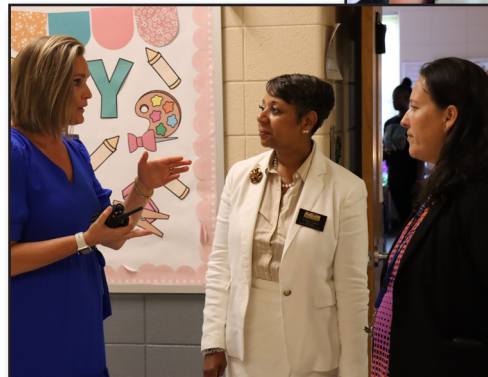
The two-page calendar for the 2024-2025 school year is available on the [Staff page of www.ccboe.com](#). The calendar highlights important dates such as those when report cards are posted, paydays, holidays and school events.

Little Eagles

North Point High School's Little Eagles Child Care has openings. The program is staffed by early childhood professionals and students in the Child Development Professions career and technical education (CTE) program at the school. Child care is open to children ages 3 to 5. Children of CCPS employees have priority. A maximum of 40 children will be enrolled. Spots are reserved through the payment of the holding fee. For more information contact Lisa Willett at Lwillett@ccboe.com. For more information about the program visit <https://www.npceptp.org/>

First day of School

2024-2025



Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students in kindergarten through 12th grade returned to school on Monday, Aug. 26. Clockwise from top, Matthew Henson Middle School students arrive in the morning. Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) students in art class listen to their teacher. Friends stop for a first day picture at La Plata High School. Students share a laugh on the way into school at Henry E. Lackey High School. The members of the Sigma Alpha Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity welcome J.C. Parks Elementary School students who are car riders. Earlier in the morning, the fraternity members were at Westlake High School. Berry Elementary School Principal LeighAnn McLaud, left, talks with Monica Goldson, Ed.D., vice president of the Maryland Board of Education and Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., superintendent of schools.



Open houses set

Schools will hold [open house events](#) next month. To learn more details about a specific event, call the school with questions about its open house.

Volunteer opportunity

CCPS is working with Pure Play Every Day to showcase the importance playing has on a child's development, which can improve their cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills.

At the Charles County Fair, held Sept. 9, and Sept. 12 to 15, representatives of Pure Play Every Day and CCPS will be available to share activities with children and information with families about the importance of playing and engaging the mind.

Pure Play Every Day and CCPS are seeking people to volunteer during the fair overseeing play equipment and monitoring the Pure Play Every Day information table. The volunteer shifts are in increments of two-to-four hours.

To sign up to volunteer, [visit Signup Genius](#). Find out more information by contacting Pure Play Every Day at 240-416-9727 or info@pureplayeveryday.com.

EAP benefit

It's a new year — sort of. Don't wait until January to make a resolution or two. [ComPsych](#) is a national employee assistance and work/life company dedicated to helping Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees improve their health and well-being through quality services.

Right now, ComPsych has a [Back-to-School Toolkit](#) available for educators and families addressing different concerns among children. Areas covered include children's mental health and promoting acceptance.

There is a video [offering tips on increasing energy](#) and [ways to think more positively](#).

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.

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.



Can you 'Diggs' it?

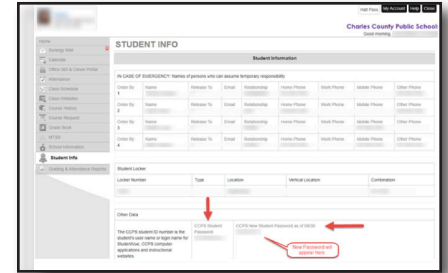
Staff of William A. Diggs Elementary School held a back-to-school block party Aug. 21 for students and families. While parents picked up transportation and other need-to-know information, students enjoyed games and other fun stuff. Left, second-grade teacher Ashley Steinhauser paints fourth-grade student Royal Mason's face.

The password is — Changing. Students may need assistance

Students will return to school on Tuesday, Sept. 3, with new passwords to access their devices. The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) technology department changed student passwords on Friday, Aug. 30. Teachers and other school staff could be called on to help students as they may face problems logging on next week.

Students use their password to log in to 1:1 laptops, Microsoft365 and StudentVue. The current and new passwords are visible to students in StudentVue. **Any student new to CCPS this school year will not have their password reset.**

Student password information is in StudentVue accounts under the Student Information menu area (using a web browser on a desktop platform). If using the mobile app, click on the Student Info/Additional Information menu to access the information. The new password is displayed in the same areas of StudentVue. Students are reminded not to share their passwords with others.



Science center celebrates a decade of star gazing

The James E. Richmond Science Center on July 26 hosted a 10-year anniversary event to commemorate the Center, its programming and learning opportunities for students and community members. The event also featured an educational roundtable and provided attendees with a look into the history behind the Center, its namesake former Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, and those instrumental in making the Center what it is today.

Joining Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and Science Center staff to celebrate the event were elected officials, past and present Science Center staff, teachers and students, and representatives from the Space Foundation, an educational organization that CCPS has partnered with for more than 15 years to offer cutting-edge training for staff, science and space-focused curriculum for teachers, and innovative programming for students.

U.S. Rep. Steny H. Hoyer provided



Staff from the James E. Richmond Science Center — past and present — receive a certificate from U.S. Rep Steny H. Hoyer, fourth from left, during the 10-year anniversary celebration of the center.

remarks and presented Science Center staff members with a recognition to honor their commitment to providing learning opportunities to the community.

Read more about the celebration at www.ccboe.com. To learn more about the Science Center, visit <https://sciencecenter.ccboe.com/>.

CCPS teachers participate in Equity in History professional learning

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) social studies department partnered with the Southern Maryland Equity in History Coalition and the Accokeek Foundation at Piscataway Park on Friday, Aug. 2, to host the third installment of a series of summer institutes for Grades 4-12 teachers in Southern Maryland, The Equity in History Summer Institute.

“Teachers [who attended] learned about the significance of local history from keynote speaker Julia King, Ph.D., anthropology department chair at St. Mary’s College, toured the Land Echoes program at Piscataway Park in Accokeek, met with representatives from a dozen local historical agencies and utilized the Equity Coalition’s new website to access historical resources that highlight the history of Black, Indigenous and other people of color (BIPOC) in Southern Maryland,” Jack Tuttle, CCPS content specialist for social studies, said.

“The Equity in History website provides accessible resources for understanding the contributions of BIPOC populations in Southern Maryland. This will help engage students in local history. The presenters were knowledgeable and have decades of experience,”

Nate Mouli, social studies teacher at Maurice J. McDonough High School, said. Teachers are set to implement the resources learned at the summer institute during the 2024-2025 school year by developing classroom lesson plans that highlight contributions of BIPOC in Southern Maryland. Thirty CCPS teachers attended one of the three sessions this summer.

The CCPS social studies program merges instruction on government principles and civics into the curriculum for students in PreK through Grade 12. The content taught at each grade is determined by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) frameworks for social studies. In PreK through third grade, students learn about civics and government principles such as cooperation, community and problem-solving. Third graders apply their knowledge of these principles to other concepts learned. Fourth- and fifth-grade students then continue to apply their knowledge and expand into a deeper understanding of the concepts learned.

In middle school, government and civics concepts are taught in the context of ancient world history, world cultures and geography, and the early U.S. history courses. At the high school level, students learn about the



role of government and civic participation in the modern U.S. history, local/state/national (LSN) government and modern world history courses. Advanced placement (AP) courses also include government and civics topics in the standards.

“The presentations were incredibly informative and essential for social studies teachers. I deeply appreciated the insightful content and the engaging presenters,” Sophia Goddard, social studies teacher at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, said. “The interactive learning sessions and discussions on indigenous people, people of color, and marginalized communities were truly eye-opening. I am eagerly looking forward to participating again if given the opportunity.”

Know what they did this summer?

During a season of rest, some CCPS students were busy over the summer months

Many Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students spent the summer expanding their knowledge, improving their skills and sharing their talents.

Marching to the beat

Two La Plata High School students, sophomore David Mason and freshman Andrew Cook, participated in the [Raiders Drum Corps](#), a competitive ensemble band based in New Jersey and the Philadelphia area.

They took part in several performances during the six-week camp.

“This is a huge accomplishment [for the students],” La Plata High School band director Wesley Harler said. [Check out a video on the Raiders team this summer.](#)

Juneteenth scholarships

Nine Charles County high school graduates were recently awarded scholarships through the Charles County Juneteenth Foundation Inc. Each received a \$750 scholarship after meeting specific criteria and submitting a short essay, a final high school transcript and a college acceptance letter to qualify for the award. [To read more, click here.](#)

Perseverance, determination

Sixty [high school students received their diplomas](#) Aug. 2 during a ceremony at St. Charles High School after completing graduation requirements during summer school.

“Today is a celebration — we highlight a great accomplishment today,” Maria V. Na-

varro, Ed.D., superintendent of schools, said. “We are here to celebrate 60 kids.”

Navarro spoke of perseverance and motivation, traits the graduates of the seven CCPS high schools possessed to earn their diplomas. “For each of you, today marks not just the culmination of your high school journey but is also the acknowledgement of the many challenges you faced and overcame to arrive at this moment,” she said. Find a complete list of the graduate’s names at [www.ccboc.com](#).

ACT-SO competition

Two CCPS students earned medals in the [National NAACP ACT-SO Competition](#) held this summer. ACT-SO – the NAACP’s Afro-Academic, Culture, Technological and Scien-

See SUMMER, Page 4

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

Board of Education Members
Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq., *Chairperson*
Nicole M. Kreamer, *Vice Chairperson*
Dottery Butler-Washington
David Hancock
Michael K. Lukas
Jamila Smith
Brenda Thomas
Samichie K. Thomas
Linda Warren
Samarjeet "Sam" Virk, *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 Dr. Mike Blanchard, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Niki 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).

Summer

tific Olympics – is an achievement program open to high school students of African American descent who are in Grades 9-12.

Mohamed Keita, a 2024 North Point High School graduate, earned a gold medal in the Medicine and Health category. La Plata High School senior Isaiah DeLeonard earned a silver medal in the Music Composition category. This is the third consecutive year that DeLeonard has competed at the national ACT-SO level. He previously medaled at the national level in 2022 and 2023.

Haili Powell, a 2024 graduate of La Plata, received a "Write Your Future," \$10,000 scholarship from Lancôme. She competed at the national level after receiving a gold medal in the music vocal contemporary category at the Charles County ACT-SO event. Five other CCPS students competed at the national level after earning a gold medal at the Charles County competition. Five other CCPS students competed in the local ACT-SO competition. Head to www.ccboe.com to learn more.

Fair guide

Samiya Moss, a sophomore at Maurice J. McDonough High School, was overall winner of the [2024 Charles County Fair catalog cover art contest](#). Her artwork is featured on the cover of the 2024 Charles County Fair Guide. CCPS students can enter the contest annually.

continued from Page 3

Theater festival

CCPS high school students in school-based theater programs recently took their skills to the [International Thespian Festival](#) at Indiana University in Bloomington, IN. The 28 students who attended were accompanied by five CCPS theater teachers. For the first time in seven years, students competed in the festival's closing ceremony showcase. Four McDonough students placed in the Solo Musical Theatre category, two North Point students received superior ratings, two St. Charles students competed in solo categories with several from the school earning a superior rating in the group musical theatre category in showcase. Two 2024 Westlake High School graduates earned a Thespy Award, which is a perfect score, in the duet musical performance category, and a Westlake junior received an excellent rating in the solo musical performance category.

JAR contest

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) recently honored CCPS students who participated in its [Junior American Citizens Contest](#). The organization includes a Junior American Citizens Committee, which supports contests for children that promote patriotic development. Students could enter banners, poems and posters to short stories and stamp designs.

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

Auto Mechanics Teacher — North Point High School, 10-month position. A minimum of three years of experience working in the automotive mechanic/repair industry is required. Applicants must meet licensure requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education and must obtain or have ASE certifications. Apply by Sept. 3.

Human Resources Generalist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in human resources, business management or related field and three years of human resources or related experience required (preferably in a union environment).

Apply by Sept. 3.

Secretary — North Point High School, 10-month position. A high school diploma or GED is required. Apply by Sept. 4.

Building Service Manager — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 12-month employee. A high school diploma or GED is required. Applicants must have one-to-five years (depending on size of school) of supervisory experience in this or a related field. Apply by Sept. 4.

School Counselor — Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position. A master's degree in school counseling and eligibility for licensure in school counseling as determined by the Maryland State Department of Education are required, along with a minimum of a 600-hour practicum or experience teaching or counseling in a school setting. Apply by Sept. 6.

IEP Facilitator — Jesse L. Starkey Ad-

ministration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree required; master's degree preferred. Applicants must hold or be eligible for a Maryland Standard Professional Certificate with special education endorsement. Three years of special education classroom teaching experience required. Position open until filled.

Temporary Instructional Assistant — Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 10.5-month position. High school diploma and experience working with children required. Position open until filled.

Elementary Education Family Case Manager — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Associate's degree, or combination of education and experience in the field from an accredited college or university, preferred. Bilingual preferred. Position open until filled.