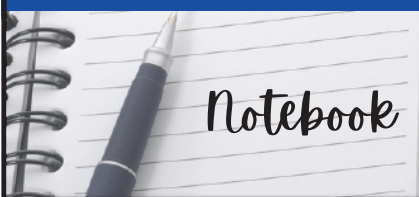




# School News



## Schools closed

Schools are closed for students only on Monday, Oct. 14.

## Board meeting Oct. 15

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 15, in the Boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Staff and student recognition will begin at 4:30 p.m., with public forum set to start at 6 p.m. An agenda is posted at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

## Unity Day is Oct. 16

Unity Day is Wednesday, Oct. 16. **Wear orange** to share a message of kindness, acceptance and inclusion, and to show that no child should experience bullying. To learn more about Unity Day, visit <https://www.pacer.org/bullying>.

## Homecoming games set

North Point, St. Charles and Thomas Stone high schools will hold homecoming games on Friday, Oct. 18.

**North Point and Thomas Stone** games start at 7 p.m., with the **St. Charles** game beginning at 6 p.m. La Plata High School's homecoming game will be Friday, Oct. 25, at 7 p.m. Go to <https://www.ccboe.com/about/calendar/high-school-sport-schedules> for more CCPS sports schedules.



## Miles of meals

North Point High School seniors Ryan McKelvin, left, and Keiourra Moore, prepare for customers to the CTE Express Food Bus during a recent stop at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. North Point students in the culinary arts program made and sold tacos and tres leche cake for a Hispanic Heritage event. Learn more about the CTE Express and where its headed next on Page 3.

## State of Schools outlines upcoming year

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Superintendent of Schools Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., hosted a [virtual State of Schools](#) event on Oct. 2.

During the event, Navarro shared a presentation about the state of the school system, the [CCPS strategic plan](#) and discussed important resources and tools for parents and students.

The presentation includes links to several helpful parent and student resources, including curriculum supports in English/language arts and math, as well as information about social and emotional wellness, multilingual learner and special education supports.

A copy of the presentation has been posted to all school/center websites. Each school also has an updated School Improvement Plan (SIP) posted to its site outlining specific goals and

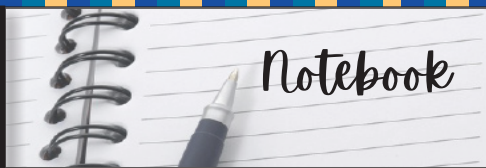
strategies the school will implement to aid in the academic success of students.

Parents and community members with questions about the information presented by Navarro can [submit them online using a linked form](#). Questions and answers will be added to the State of Schools page as needed.

The CCPS strategic plan includes three priority areas of focus: student learning and achievement; access and opportunities; and culture and climate.

Each priority area includes goals and strategies with built-in metrics to evaluate progress.

An overview of the plan and metrics can be found of the strategic plan webpage. The presentation can be viewed on the [CCPS YouTube channel](#).



### Chat with the Chief

The CCPS Office of Technology will hold a virtual Chat with the Chief Oct. 23. Charmaine Thompson, chief of instructional technology, will discuss “Understanding AI: Empowering Parents.” The discussion is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and will be held on the Zoom platform. To register, [click here](#).

### Pink Out is Oct. 25

CCPS will hold a “Pink Out” Friday, Oct. 25, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. **Wear shades of pink** to honor those who survived, who are fighting, who have passed away from or who are caring for someone with breast cancer. Use the hashtag #ccpspinkout24 to share your photos with CCPS. For more information about breast cancer, visit the [American Cancer Society’s website](#).

### Apply for minigrant

Grants are available to teachers through Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). The grants may be used on special projects or activities that are not funded through the school system or Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO). The [grant applications](#) need to be completed and returned to MRSPA by Nov. 1. Applications will be reviewed on Nov. 18, with winners notified by January. Six grants of up to \$500 will be awarded.

### Town Hall set Nov. 4

The Board will hold a virtual town hall 7 p.m., Nov. 4. The topic will be school climate. Superintendent of Schools Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., and CCPS staff will provide an overview presentation about school climate, with the remaining time reserved for questions, answers and comments. Learn more, including how to participate, at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

## CCPS kicks off Relay for Life fundraising season

The Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building kicked off the Relay for Life season on Monday, Sept. 30. Each Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) school and center should have a Relay for Life team, Stephanie Lawson, captain of Starkey Strong, the building’s Relay for Life team, said.

Lawson was in the Boardroom of the Starkey building to answer questions about this year’s Relay for Life campaign and share information on the Starkey Strong Wall of Honor which celebrates cancer survivors, those who are fighting cancer and those who have passed away from the disease.

Each paper ribbon honoring a person is \$2. For more information or to buy a ribbon, contact Lawson at 301-934-7298 or [slawson@ccboe.com](mailto:slawson@ccboe.com).

The Starkey Strong Relay for Life team holds several events throughout the year including payday jeans, Bowling for a Cure, a Souper Bowl, Taste of Charles County, a Halloween costume contest and bake sale and a winter action. Schools will hold fundraisers for Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society with Starkey Strong and school teams meeting up with other Relay teams in the county May 10 at St. Charles High School for the [Relay for Life for Charles County event](#).

For more information about the event,



**Relay for Life of Charles County will hold its walk on May 10 at St. Charles High School. Schools, centers and the Starkey building form teams to raise money for the American Cancer Society.**

visit [https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=109986](https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=109986).

### In the pink

To honor Breast Cancer Awareness Month, CCPS will have a “pink out” on Friday, Oct. 25.

CCPS officials are asking staff and students to wear shades of pink to honor those who have survived, who are living with, who have passed away from and who are caring for people with breast cancer. Use the hashtag #ccpspinkout24 on social media posts on the day.

## Moratorium to be placed for Middleton Elementary

Effective Jan. 2, 2025, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) will implement an approved moratorium for two specific address blocks in the current Arthur Middleton Elementary School zone.

Superintendent of Schools Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., approved the moratorium last month to help alleviate overcrowding at Middleton.

The moratorium will be in place Jan. 2, 2025, through the end of the 2024-2025 school year for Block 2643 in the Gleneagles South and Stone Haven neighborhoods, and Block 2711 in the Highlands neighborhood and areas along Demarr Road.

These blocks are in areas located off St. Charles Parkway in White Plains that are ex-

periencing rapid growth. Any student moving to these blocks on or after Jan. 2, 2025, will be registered to attend Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School for the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year.

Effective with the opening of Margaret Jamieson Thornton Elementary School in August 2025, students living in these blocks will attend the new school including those that currently attend Middleton. Any new student who moves into Block 2643 or Block 2711 and registers for CCPS after Jan. 2, 2025, through the end of the current school year will attend Dr. Brown and then begin at Thornton in August 2025.

To learn more and view maps of the areas impacted by the moratorium, [click here](#).

# CTE Express — A culinary classroom on wheels

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is rolling out a new community project tied to Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs – the CTE Express food truck.

Staffed by CCPS students in food service based CTE programs, the truck will be at upcoming events featuring students preparing and serving food items.

The truck made its debut on Monday, Oct. 7, as part of the CCPS Lunch and Learn staff event for Hispanic Heritage Month at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata.

The truck is a decommissioned school bus that was converted into a restaurant on wheels. Students enrolled in the Culinary Arts CTE program at North Point High School, as well as those in the ProStart: Food and Beverage Management pathway, obtain work-based learning hours while working in the truck.

The students will manage aspects of the food service industry such as food ordering, menu preparation, customer service, cost analysis and community engagement.

While the Culinary Arts program is limited to North Point students and is an acceptance-based CTE program, students can enroll in the ProStart food and beverage pathway at their zoned high school since each CCPS high school offers the program.

As CCPS continues to roll out the project, community members will be able to use the food truck at events in the future. Community members can contact Chris Willis, culinary arts instructor at North Point, at [cwillis@ccboe.com](mailto:cwillis@ccboe.com) or the ProStart instructor at the specific schools.

A listing of ProStart instructors by school is below.

- Henry E. Lackey High School: Susan Patterson, [spatterson@ccboe.com](mailto:spatterson@ccboe.com).



Top, North Point culinary students and seniors Taylor Beverly, left, and Deyen Yuan Jr., prepare to greet customers to the CTE Express food bus. Left, seniors Gabrielle Hunt, left, and Kaelyn Dors-ey write out the day's menu. The North Point students who work on the food bus are seniors who have after school jobs in the food service industry, CTE instructor Chris Willis said. They are familiar with the procedures and pressures of the environment.

- La Plata High School: Mary Winkler, [mwinkler@ccboe.com](mailto:mwinkler@ccboe.com).
- Maurice J. McDonough High School: Shelby Dyer, [sdyer@ccboe.com](mailto:sdyer@ccboe.com).
- North Point High School: Jillian Stackhouse, [jstackhouse@ccboe.com](mailto:jstackhouse@ccboe.com).
- St. Charles High School: Robert Paul, [rpaul@ccboe.com](mailto:rpaul@ccboe.com).
- Thomas Stone High School: De'anna Burris, [dburris@ccboe.com](mailto:dburris@ccboe.com).
- Westlake High School: Diana Regis, [dregis@ccboe.com](mailto:dregis@ccboe.com).

A tentative CTE Express schedule is as

follows.

- **Saturday, Oct. 12**, at Henry E. Lackey High School craft fair, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lackey ProStart students will provide service. This event is open to the public. Payment is by card only.
- **Saturday, Oct. 26**, Thomas Stone High School Trunk or Treat event, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Stone ProStart students will provide service. This event is open to the public. Payment is by card only.



## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff recently gathered at Berry Elementary School to join students in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. Pictured from left are Luciano Morales, youth engagement advocate at Thomas Stone High School, Jacquelyn Burch, third-grade teacher at Berry, Silvie Acevedo, Berry's attendance secretary, Clarissa Alequin, a first-grade teacher at Berry, Samantha Medina, a speech instructional assistant in speech at Berry and Jessica Martinez, a fourth-grade teacher at Berry. Acevedo began celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with students when she was a staff member at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School and brought the yearly tradition to Berry when she began working at the 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 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).



## Wacky Tacky

C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School held a Spirit Week to celebrate Attendance Awareness Month in September. A Wacky Tacky Day invited staff and students to dress their "clashiest." From left are Erin Travers, school counselor, fourth grader Alanna Stokes, Sandra Young, special education teacher, and Corinne Simmers, art teacher.

## They got 'IT'

General Smallwood Middle School recently celebrated National IT Professionals Day Sept. 17 by thanking Jodi Yorio, left, and Nick Scott, the school's computer analyst and temporary computer analyst, respectively. School-based computer analysts help maintain devices for students and staff, and troubleshoot and provide support related to technology issues.

*Submitted by Smallwood's PR liaison Heather Beaton.*



## 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.

### Upcoming job fairs

**Teacher and Counselor Job Fair** — All grade levels, all schools, 9 a.m. to noon, Oct. 19. Billingsley Elementary School, 10069 Billingsley Road, Waldorf. [RSVP here.](#)

**Temporary Instructional Assistant (IA) Job Fair** — All grade levels, all schools, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Nov. 14, Starkey building, [RSVP here.](#)

**Financial Secretary** — Early Learning Center, Waldorf, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED required. Apply by Oct. 25.

**Title I Teacher** — All Title I Schools, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Position open until filled.

**Title I Instructional Assistant** — All Title I Schools, 10-month position. High school diploma and 48 college credits or passing scores for the ParaPro required. Position open until filled.

**Special Education Prekindergarten Teacher** — Mary H. Matula Elementary School, 10.5-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Position open until filled.

**Reading Resource Teacher** — Location to be determined, 11-month position. Master's degree required, and applicants must have or be eligible for a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with an endorsement in reading. Five years satisfactory teaching experience required. Position open until filled.

**Staff Accountant** — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in accounting, finance or related field required. Master's degree and/or Certified Public Accountant (CPA) preferred. Position open until filled.

**Prekindergarten Teacher** — Early Learning Center, La Plata, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the MSDE. Position open until filled.