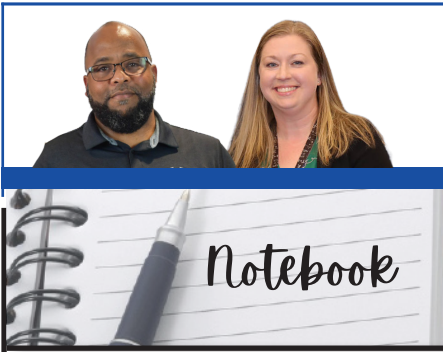


School News



Making room

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) staff in the Office of Human Resources department keeps an updated list of houses, apartments and rooms available to rent for members of CCPS staff. For more information, contact Louise Evans at levans@ccboe.com or 301-934-7462.

Board meeting Jan. 14

The Board of Education will meet 1 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building in La Plata. The Board will elect a chairperson and vice chairperson for 2025, and will welcome Letonya Smalls, Ed.D., as the new member at-large. Public forum is at 6 p.m. An agenda will be posted early next week at www.ccboe.com.

Two-hour early dismissal

A two-hour early dismissal for students is Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Professional learning

The [University of Maryland's Center for Environmental Science](http://www.universityofmaryland.edu) will offer professional learning through an online self-paced course for staff interested in effective data presentation and science communication and a course to help educators integrate graphics and the written word to allow students to ability to tell "the whole story."

Courses open Feb. 1 and close in May. To learn more about these courses and other professional learning opportunities, visit the [Staff page of www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

SHAPE honors CCPS physical education teachers

A Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) physical education teacher was named president of a state organization dedicated to promoting health and physical fitness to students in prekindergarten through 12th grade.

Valeri Cheseldine, PE teacher at Eva Turner Elementary School, began her term as president of the Society of Health and Physical Education (SHAPE) of Maryland on Dec. 1. Previously, she was on SHAPE's board of directors and received a Presidential Citation for filling in as convention manager during SHAPE's 2022 conference.



Valeri Cheseldine

Cheseldine taught PE at the middle school level before getting her "dream job" working with elementary school students. She has been at Turner since 2020. "Elementary physical education teachers are at the foundation of a child's development," she said in a 2023 interview. "Health and physical education



Amy Robinson, left, the CCPS aquatics lead, helps Alayah Briscoe, a Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School student, learn water rescue techniques.

are integral parts of a child's learning process as they encompass the whole child."

At SHAPE's October conference, three CCPS physical education teachers were honored with a Simon McNeely Award. Kyle Krupa of St. Charles High School, Amy Robinson, the CCPS aquatics lead, and Julie Snaveley of Milton M. Somers Middle School received the award for their leadership and innovative teaching practices while staying active in their communities.

See SHAPE, Page 3

Inclement weather cancellation, delay information

As cold weather season progresses, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students and staff can learn how to receive information about inclement weather delays and cancellations.

If weather conditions pose a potential hazard to students, school officials may dismiss students early, delay the opening of schools or close schools for the day.

If conditions require the closing or delayed opening of schools, decisions are usually made by 5:30 a.m.

The most reliable sources of school closing information are the school system's 24-hour information line and website.

The 24-hour information line is 301-934-7410 or 301-932-6656. Information will be

displayed in a pop-up box on the front pages of www.ccboe.com and school sites.

News about cancellations and delays is also shared on CCPS's social media accounts on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ccps), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](https://twitter.com/ccps) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ccps).

Television stations are also notified; however, they do not always report the most reliable information.

CCPS does **not** use the phone call system to announce school closings or delays. To receive text messages from CCPS, staff and parents must opt-in by typing Y or Yes to 67587.

CCPS staff members who follow the Code system, can learn more about delays and cancellations at the [Staff page of www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

Notebook

On the cover

The Board of Education honored five outstanding CCPS employees at its Dec. 10 meeting including Michael Brown, in-school intervention instructional assistant, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; and Laura Curry, instructional resource teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School. To read more, [click here](#).

Board work session

A Board work session will be 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 27. The meeting will be held at St. Charles High School at 5305 Piney Church Road, Waldorf. The meeting is being held at the school to accommodate the families of the students and staff who were recognized by the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) for winning fall championships. Those slated to be honored include the Unified Tennis team of La Plata High School, the 2A MPSSC fall cheerleading champions of Maurice J. McDonough High School and the North Point High School football team that won the 4A/3A football state championship.

What info is public?

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

All CCPS staff is 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. 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.

Staff salary and other information related to a position with CCPS is considered public information. Additional information about MPIA is available at the [website of Maryland's Attorney General](#).

Paging future leaders — seniors to take part in legislative session

Four Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) seniors are representing the school system this year in the Maryland General Assembly's Student Page Program. Students in the program, including the alternate, participate in the Maryland General Assembly's legislative session.

The following students were selected to participate in this year's program.

- **Gesselle Treminio Reyes**, senior, Westlake High School.
- **Emonee Rhynes**, senior, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- **Ava Rowledge**, senior, Maurice J. McDonough.
- **Leila Harrison**, senior, North Point High School, alternate.

Selected pages serve two nonconsecutive weeks during the 13 weeks of the legislative session. The session runs from the second week in January to early April, each page serves one week during the first seven weeks and returns for a second week of service during the last six.

More than 100 Maryland high school students participate in the program annually, each serving as a representative of their respective school system. Three representatives are chosen from each school system with a fourth student serving as an alternate. Students can apply during their senior year and the selection process is competitive. Applicants must demonstrate an interest in the program and interview before a panel of judges.

Students will be assigned to work with either the Maryland Senate or the House of Delegates during the session. The program allows students to participate in daily legislative sessions, follow-up discussions about law-making processes, presentations by, and discussions with, legislators and legislative staff, and to attend various committee hearings and proceedings.

If she's not reading books on philosophy or helping the Westlake theater program run smoothly, Treminio Reyes is acting as a defense lawyer on the school's Mock Trial team or volunteering at the Charles



**Gesselle
Treminio Reyes**

County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). She is a senior who has her eyes set on her future goals. After high school she wants to attend the University of Maryland, College Park, to major in criminal justice and criminology with hopes to work for CCSO after graduation. She currently volunteers with the Sheriff's Office as a safety cadet helping with traffic control at local events.

She applied for the student page program to help those who are not knowledgeable about the criminal justice system. She hopes to gain insight in the field through the program to eventually find what aspect of law she wants to practice in the future. Treminio Reyes was backstage during theater practice when her history teacher told her to check her mail at home. "I was hoping that what I sent them was strong enough," she said about applying for the page program. "When I saw the mail and [acceptance] card addressed to me I started jumping."

Rhynes is a jack of all trades as a member of McDonough's jazz band, varsity captain of the school's basketball and volleyball team, involved in Key Club, student council and Mock Trial. "I have always been interested in legislation and civic engagement and have a passion to volunteer in the community and get involved in politics," she said. "I heard that there was an opportunity to get involved in the deeper workings of legislation." After high school Rhynes wants to go to a four-year university and major in political science, go to law school and become a family attorney in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.

When she is not on the court or in the courtroom, Rhynes volunteers with local organizations. "My life has been changed ever since I started volunteering," she said. "I want to make an impact on youth in specific communities and uncover things that will put kids first."

You may have seen Rowledge in Unified Bocce, tennis or track, as president of McDonough's student government association (SGA) or leading the Class of 2025 as its president. Rowledge strives to make a glob-



**Emonee
Rhynes**

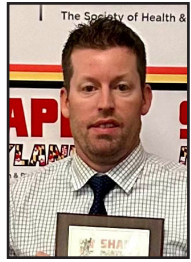
See PAGES, Page 4

SHAPE

continued from Page 1

Staying healthy

Krupa has been with CCPS for 20 years teaching at Mattawoman Middle School and William B. Wade and William A. Diggs elementary schools before landing at St. Charles. "I have enjoyed every level that I've taught," he said. "[I] want to help students move and work on their own health."



Kyle Krupa

Krupa said there are challenges when it comes to ensuring students are balancing fitness with screentime. Reliance on technology can lead lower participation in activities and shorter attention spans. It also can breed and promote misinformation about health. "Students tend to search for information online rather than read deeply, affecting their understanding of physical health and health topics," Krupa said. However, technology does have some beneficial health side effects. "Using fitness apps and creating a supportive environment can help make PE more engaging and motivating," he said.

Krupa has always been interested and active in sports, growing to appreciate how staying active translates to better health — and not just for people. He runs and bikes, usually accompanied by his dog. "It's a great way for both of us to get exercise and enjoy the outdoors," Krupa said. He also supports his children in their activities which keep him moving. "This combination of personal exercise and family involvement helps me maintain a healthy and active lifestyle," Krupa said.

Into the deep end

Before jumping into the pool at Henry E. Lackey High School, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School fifth graders must shed their winter coats and sweaters. The water safety program, headed up by Robinson, teaches CCPS fifth-grade students how to keep themselves and others safe around water. It is not a swimming class, instead it uses American



Julie Snavelly, a PE teacher at Milton M. Somers Middle School, practices pickleball skills with eighth-grade students during a recent class.

Red Cross practices of how to aid a drowning person or one in distress in the water. The first phase of the program is taught in the classroom, with a field trip to an indoor pool at Lackey, North Point or St. Charles high schools making up the second part. That's where Robinson dives in.

She and staff members, including high school students who are lifeguards, work with younger students to practice skills that could save a life. Robinson has been teaching for two decades, with the past 17 years with CCPS. She has taught PE at North Point and St. Charles before taking over the aquatics program.

The water safety program allows her to work with high school and elementary school students. "I get to have fun with kids and young adults," she said. "I love teaching new concepts, engaging in meaningful conversations, building relationships and doing everything I can to help kids not just learn but grow."

Robinson went in the field of physical education out of curiosity. "What drew me to the field is my fascination with anatomy and physiology," she said. "Teaching and exercise; I felt it was the perfect match."

Along with swimming, Robinson stays active by lifting weights and walking. "I do my best to make time for exercise and doing activities that I love outdoors such as gardening,

hiking, kayaking and fishing."

Robinson was recently voted in as a SHAPE Maryland board member and is working with representatives of Wicomico County Public Schools and members of the Ocean City Beach Patrol to create water safety curriculum that can be used by educators throughout the state.

In a pickle ... ball

A class of eighth graders take a lap on a mild November day before making their way to the tennis courts in front of Somers.

There they listen as Snavelly goes over what they need to accomplish to learn the basics of pickleball. Each student practices tapping the ball 10 times in a row, serving underhand across the net and other drills before breaking off into groups to play a match.

The uneven number of students meant Snavelly joined in as a partner. Student Brynn Barry appreciates Snavelly's willingness to demonstrate the skills she wants students to master. "She's really good at going step-by-step and going over things," Barry said, adding that she likes that Snavelly joins students in activities rather than sitting on the sidelines.

Snavelly went into teaching PE because she always liked sports and fitness. She has spent her entire teaching career — 23 years — at Somers. There's rarely a dull day in a middle school. "This level can be unique," Snavelly said. "They can keep you on your toes. I think that's why I like this grade level — it can and will vary from day to day."

Kids seem to be less active than they were 20 years ago, she said. Easy access to technology can lead to sedentary students and prompt Snavelly to get creative with lessons.

"It seems students are less skilled today," she said. "I try to build on the basics of skills and do a lot of modification when it comes to game play."

Her students find her class interesting and enjoyable. "She's literally such a good teacher," Kebron Endalamaw, an eighth-grade student, said. "She's very chill and really nice."

Upcoming school closures

CCPS offices and schools will be closed Monday, Jan. 20. Schools will be closed for students only on Monday, Jan. 27.

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Pages

al impact one day. From her passion for government and history coupled with hearing good things about the page program, she began to take interest in applying for the program.

"Seeing this opportunity as a learning experience, getting to meet new people all around Maryland, talking about shared interests, learning about government and potentially working in government in the future were all motivating factors to apply for the program," Rowledge said.

After high school graduation, she hopes to double major in international relations and political science and minor in business administration. She then wants to obtain her Juris Doctor and master's in business administration to then become an international policy maker.

When Rowledge isn't leading the school's National Honor Society (NHS) as vice president, she is crocheting blankets and donating them to Project Linus, an organization that donates blankets locally and distributes them to children up to 18 in "hospitals, shelters, social service agencies, or anywhere that a child might be in need of a big hug," according to <https://www.projectlinus.org/>. "My grandma



**Ava
Rowledge**

is the one who told me about them," Rowledge said of Project Linus. "She is into knitting and my mom likes to sew." She often finds ways to get involved and help others in the process.

From working at a restaurant to an internship at an automotive dealership and being an executive officer in North Point's JROTC program, Harrison did not miss an opportunity to apply for the student page program. If she is not on the softball field, or at a wrestling match, she is cheering on the North Point Eagles. She is a member of either math, science or Kitty Hawk honors societies. Kitty Hawk Honors Society is a national honor society for the Air Force JROTC.

She was interested in the student page program because she wants to make a difference in her community.

After high school she wants to enlist in the U.S. Air Force and after retirement from the military she strives to become a politician. Outside of her extracurricular activities she enjoys reading and painting.



**Leila
Harrison**

Personnel

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

Virtual Teacher

Informational Sessions

Human Resources staff hold virtual sessions for staff interested in becoming teachers. Sessions are scheduled throughout the school year. [Click here to register.](#)

Job Openings

Music Teacher — William B. Wade Elementary School, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Jan. 16.

Communications/Mailroom Clerk — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month employee. High school diploma or GED and Maryland Class C driver's license required. Preference for candidates who are bilingual in Spanish. Apply by Jan. 16.

Assistant Principal Pool — View the application process at www.ccboe.com/careers. Apply by Jan. 19.

Principal Pool — View the application process at www.ccboe.com/careers. Apply by Jan. 19.

Food Service Job Fair — 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. [Click to register.](#)

Food Service Job Fair — 9 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Jan. 28, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. [Click to register.](#)

Oracle Management Training set

The Office of Human Resources will offer virtual Oracle Performance Management Training starting this month to prepare for the upcoming evaluation season. Performance evaluations for non-certificated staff, UB scale employees, and administrative and supervisory personnel must be completed in Oracle.

Managers and employees are encouraged to participate in the training to familiarize themselves with the electronic evaluation process and learn how to use Oracle to complete evaluations. The training will cover goal setting, contributing reviewer feedback and the evaluation timeline.

Performance management training dates for managers and supervisors are set for 10-11 a.m., Jan. 14 and 16, with dates for all staff to learn self-evaluation training scheduled for 10-11 a.m., Jan. 21 and 24. To register for a session, [click here](#). Questions should be directed to Shirlene Ogburn, sogburn@ccboe.com.