

School News



Spring break

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) spring break is April 14-21. Schools will be closed April 14 through 21, CCPS offices are closed April 18 and 21.

Days to celebrate

Earth Day is Tuesday, April 22. Celebrate Administrative Professionals' Day and CCPS Bus Driver and Attendant Appreciation Day on Wednesday, April 23. Arbor Day is Friday, April 25.

Learning launch

The CCPS Early Learning Launch is 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 26, at La Plata High School. CCPS staff will be at the event to help parents register their children for kindergarten and apply for pre-kindergarten 4 (Pre-K4). To RSVP, [click here](#).

Work session

The Board of Education of Charles County will hold a work session 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 28, at St. Charles High School. St. Charles is at 5305 Piney Church Road in Waldorf.

On the cover

The Board of Education honored eight staff members at its April 8 meeting. Included in the recognition were Dana Claassen, secretary, J.P. Ryon Elementary School, left; Amy Adams, behavior specialist, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center; and Shevonne Butler, special education teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School. Read more about the recognition at www.ccboe.com.



Second-grade teachers at William A. Diggs Elementary School help celebrate the Month of the Military Child. From left are Ashley Steinhauser, Meredith Parsons, Ashley Roberson, Amanda Nadeau, Ellen Tyler and Carrie Stubler.

Diggs Elementary 'purples' up for military kids

The symbol representing the child of a military member is the dandelion.

Dandelions put down roots almost anywhere they land, and they are almost impossible to destroy. They survive in almost any climate and have evolved to adapt and thrive.

William A. Diggs Elementary School recently celebrated the Month of the Military Child which is honored each April. The school has more than 60 students who are children of active or retired military members. Recently those parents were invited to a breakfast at the school.

Purple Up for the Military Child is a national campaign to spread awareness about the unique challenges and experiences of military members' children. Ellen Tyler, a second-grade teacher, and Justine Jewell, the pupil personnel worker (PPW) at Diggs, organized the April 4 event which included a selfie station and an oversized U.S. map on which students could color in the states where they have lived.

Because schools were closed on Veterans Day, staff looked for ways to celebrate veterans and members of the military. "We have a large military population," Jewell said of hosting the Purple Up event. "We wanted to celebrate both our kids and parents."

Tyler, who is a military spouse, said Maryland is the third state her children have lived in — her oldest is 8. Celebrating military children at Diggs was an easy pitch to administrators and staff.



Jhett Jovich, left, and Sommaiya Guy color outlines of states where they have lived before moving to Maryland as a member of a military family.

Several staff members at Diggs understand firsthand the challenges of being the child of a military member.

"I was a military child," Amanda Nadeau, a second-grade teacher, said. "I went to six different elementary schools. You learn to make friends fast." Ashley Roberson, another second-grade teacher, attended three different high schools due to her father's more than 20-year military career. "Military kids definitely know how to adjust quickly," she said.

Diggs Principal Ben Harrington said the Purple Up event celebrates students' resiliency and reminded parents that staff at the school will always be there to support their children.

"My hope is that if you're deployed, if you're working ... I hope you feel that you can depend on us. We got your back, we're caring for your kids," Harrington said to parents.

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301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

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CCPS spring musicals

Musicals will be staged at three high schools following spring break.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has "Mean Girls: High School Version," prepared for shows April 25 to 27. Shows are 7 p.m., April 25 and 26, and 2 p.m., April 26 and 27. Tickets are available at <https://mhsdrama303.booktix.com/>. McDonough is at 7165 Marshall Corner Road in Pomfret.

"Matilda: The Musical," will be held at Henry E. Lackey High School at 6:30 p.m. May 1 through 3. Lackey is at 3000 Chicamuxen Road in Indian Head. For tickets, [click here](#).

La Plata High School will stage "Mamma Mia," a jukebox musical based on the hits of Abba, from May 1 to May 4. The show will be staged 6:30 p.m., May 1 through 3, with a 2:30 p.m. matinee May 4. La Plata is at 6035 Radio Station Road in La Plata. To book online tickets, [click here](#).

All schools will accept cash at the door for tickets.



Reality's tight (budget)

Cara Stonestreet, right, ESOL instructional specialist, explains the expense and responsibilities of pet ownership to Milton M. Somers Middle School seventh graders Liam Carsia, left, and Hrishi Soni, during a Reality Fair sponsored by CCPS and Cedar Point and Educational Systems federal credit unions at the College of Southern Maryland. The event simulated for students how far they could make a monthly budget stretch. Each student received a budget worksheet with a predetermined occupation and salary included. From there they visited stations representing elements of adult life such as housing, transportation and utilities, as well as stations representing wants like pet, travel and entertainment.

Personnel

Apply for positions online at <https://www.ccoe.com/careers>. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

Information sessions

- **Virtual sessions for those interested in becoming a teacher** will be held 3 to 4 p.m., May 13, and noon to 1 p.m., June 25. [Click here to register.](#)

Job openings

Plumber II — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month, PM crew, position. High school diploma or equivalent is required, along with a current Apprentice Plumber License issued by the Baltimore

Board of Commissioners of Practical Plumbing. Apply by April 16.

Web Content Design Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and at least five years of experience with website management. Apply by April 17.

Technology Facilitator — Margaret J. Thornton Elementary School, 10-month position. High school diploma or GED required along with an associate's degree. Apply by April 21.

Secretary — Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by April 21.

Instructional Assistant — Margaret J. Thornton Elementary School, 10-month position. High school diploma and experience working with children required. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — Jesse L. Star-

key Administration Building, 12-month position. Evening shift. High school diploma or GED required. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Mid-shift position. High school diploma or GED required. Position open until filled.

Building Service Worker — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Morning shift. High school diploma or GED required. Position open until filled.

Extra Pay, Hourly, Temporary Positions Varsity Volleyball Coach — La Plata High School. Apply by May 5.

Temporary Secretary — Parent Center.

Hourly Teacher — James E. Richmond Science Center.