



Charles County Public Schools

Parent Handbook/ Calendar



2025-2026



Charles County
Public Schools

Working together to achieve excellence for every student.

Charles County Public Schools

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For other contacts, see Pages 36-37.

The *2025-26 Parent Handbook/Calendar* is produced by the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Office of Communications.

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Information included in the *Parent Handbook/Calendar* is subject to change throughout the school year. Visit the CCPS website, www.ccboe.com, for the most up-to-date calendar.

Pictured on the front cover clockwise from top left are Eva Turner Elementary School Principal Courtney Hrobak with Turner student Juliette Hernandez Alegria; Maurice J. McDonough High School Class of 2025 graduates (from left) D'Shawn Burton, Tristian Townes, Isaiah Belfield, Lantz Butler and Julio Caballero; Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School library media specialist Belynda Jarboe with students Mikael Bell and Donald Woodley; Matthew Henson Middle School students (from left) Quinn Kober, Sarah Simmons, Amanda Edgal, Brayden Mobley and Makayla Pugh; St. Charles High School Class of 2025 graduate Leah Harris; and Theodore G. Davis Middle School students Dylan Nguyen and David Trout.

Pictured on the back cover clockwise from top left are C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School ELD Teacher Steven Baldo with Barnhart student Melany Ramos Agustin; CCPS Food and Nutrition Service Workers Milagro Vega and Charmin Duncan Seepersad; William A. Diggs Elementary School second-grade teachers (from left) Ashley Steinhauer, Meredith Parsons, Ashley Roberson, Amanda Nadeau, Ellen Tyler and Carrie Stubler; La Plata High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher Mary Winkler and J.P. Ryon Elementary School student Delila Hood.

Please note photos used in the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar were taken during the 2024-2025 school year by CCPS Communications staff.

Superintendent's Welcome



Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
[@supt.navarro](https://www.instagram.com/supt.navarro)

Dear Parents and Guardians:

A new school year is a time of great excitement with the promise of discovery and opportunity that only education can offer. The staff of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is dedicated to challenging and encouraging the school system's more than 28,000 students to think critically and broadly, to inspire others and to grow into successful contributors to the community.

CCPS starts the 2025-2026 school year with an updated CCPS Strategic Plan, the opening of Margaret J. Thornton Elementary School, changes in the school system's device program, the expansion of a family engagement opportunity through the Family and Community Engagement program known as the FACE Academy and the addition of four schools to the Community Schools program.

The Strategic Plan guides the work of the school system. It outlines the work in place to enhance learning experiences for all students. Learn more about the new 2025-2029 Strategic Plan at www.ccboe.com.

CCPS recently implemented changes to the one-to-one device program for students. Please review the updates about student devices on Page 14.

Thornton opened its doors on the first day of school Aug. 25 for more than 600 students in prekindergarten through fifth grade. Glymont Middle School, formerly General Smallwood Middle School, also welcomed students back to school. The school was renamed earlier this year following Board Policy 7230.

The FACE Academy aims to better connect families to their school communities. Last school year, the program was piloted at Eva Turner Elementary School and featured educator-led workshops on topics related to student achievement, social-emotional learning and goal setting. The FACE Academy will expand to an elementary and secondary program this school year. To learn more, visit www.ccboe.com.

Parents and community members can continue to partner with the school system to provide increased opportunities for CCPS students. Volunteers are essential to ensuring students are well-rounded and introduced to engaging and enriching opportunities. All potential volunteers must undergo a background check and training which are both valid for one school year.

Please make sure your child's school has your most up-to-date contact information. CCPS uses the information to send phone call, email and text message notifications. Parents must sign up to receive texts. If you would like to receive texts related to the school system, text YES or Y to 67587. If you change your email or cell number, please remember to update your child's school.

I am looking forward to this school year, to seeing young minds at work with the guidance and care of our staff. Join us as we celebrate accomplishments and everyday victories. The education of children is a community responsibility, and I invite you into our schools, at our events and hope that you will support a collective goal of helping children think, inspire others and grow.

Sincerely,

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Nicholas Adam, principal at J.P. Ryon Elementary School, is the 2025 Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year.



Georgia Green, special education teacher at Gale-Bailey Elementary School, is Charles County's finalist in *The Washington Post* 2025 Teacher of the Year awards program.



Alison Cheney, adaptive physical education teacher at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, is the 2025 Maryland Teacher of the Year for Charles County.

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Admissions and immunizations

State law requires that persons ages 5 through 20 years be admitted, free-of-charge, to CCPS. Students must be domiciled with parents or legal guardians who live within Charles County's boundaries. Students attend a school based upon the location of their parents'/guardians' home. Contact the department of student services, 301-934-7326, or use School Locator on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com for school zone information. A request to attend a school other than where assigned must be submitted to the director of student services. School change request forms are available at www.ccboe.com.

State law requires children to attend kindergarten before they enter first grade. Children who are 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2025, must be registered for kindergarten or receive an exemption from the school system. Parents of children who are 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2025, can apply for prekindergarten.

At registration, a birth certificate (or other acceptable proof of a child's birth date), two proofs of domicile (see Page 32 for a complete list) and a record of the child's immunizations must be submitted to the school. CCPS requires from the registering parent/legal guardian two acceptable proofs of the domicile address when students enroll in school, and for transitioning students entering Grades 6 and 9. Students are not officially registered for the next year's sixth- or ninth-grade classes until the proofs are received. Families who are domiciled with another family and have no proofs of domicile in their name may complete an Application of Domicile Request Form accompanied by two acceptable proofs of domicile for the owner/lessee of the property. Requests must also include the student's birth certificate, owner/lessee photo identification showing current address, and a state-issued parent/guardian photo identification showing current address. These items must be provided within 15 days of the request.

Parents/guardians are responsible for promptly notifying the school system of any change in address. Failure to do so may result in the student being immediately transferred to the school zoned for the student's correct address. CCPS also requires parents or legal guardians enrolling students to certify their child is not under suspension or expulsion from another school system. Falsification or misrepresentation of enrollment documentation is considered fraud and may result in sanctions, including the charging of back tuition, the immediate unenrollment of the student from the school system with no credits awarded, and the pursuit of criminal and civil charges. Call your child's school or the department of student services at 301-934-7326 with questions.

State law requires minimum immunization levels to enter school. The number of vaccines required depends on the age and grade of the child. A list is posted on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. Students can be admitted to school without completed immunizations, but have to show proof of an appointment occurring within 20 calendar days. By law, if proof of immunization after the appointment is not provided, the student will be excluded except in unique circumstances.

Emergency card

Parents/guardians receive an emergency card during the first week of school. It should be completed immediately and returned to the child's school. Parents/guardians should ensure that accurate and working phone numbers are provided in the event an emergency occurs. Schools will call emergency contacts if a parent/guardian is unable to be reached. Listing an emergency contact does not allow the individual to pick up a student at any given time in a non-emergency situation without prior written authorization from the parent/guardian. Parents/guardians should notify the



Billingsley Elementary School students Madison Coffen, Evelyn Rose Duhon and Saanvi Patel take a recess break.

school promptly with any contact information changes. A valid email address should be provided to receive important CCPS notices and information from your child's school.

ParentVue/StudentVue

ParentVue and StudentVue are online platforms that allow parents, students, teachers and administrators to monitor grades, assignments and class information. Parents need their child's six-digit student identification number to use the system; student ID numbers are located at the top of report cards and are on file at school. Parents will need to register for initial system access at their child's school and provide photo identification. There are free apps in the Apple and Android stores. The system can be accessed from the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. ParentVue and StudentVue are connected to the CCPS Student Information System, Synergy, and are accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week. CCPS teachers use Synergy Mail to communicate with students and parents.

Publicity for student activities, right to opt out

CCPS regularly highlights the achievements of the school system, including sharing positive news about students and staff with the general public. Publicity helps to connect the community with the school system, aids in a positive school experience for students and builds school and community pride. Publicity may include different forms, including but not limited to: photographs and video shown in school; CCPS news releases; photos and videos submitted to local media outlets (television, newspapers and radio stations); school system displays; special events; posting on the CCPS website, www.ccboe.com; posting on school websites; posting on CCPS social media sites (Facebook and Instagram); photo or video use for television stories for publication on the CCPS YouTube Channel, or public television stations of Comcast Channel 96/Verizon Fios Channel 12; or publication in CCPS parent/staff newsletters.

Parents/guardians have a right to opt out of publicity for their child. Each student's publicity status is recorded in the CCPS student information system as either Approved or Denied. A parent/guardian can opt their child out of publicity at any time during the school year. For those parents/guardians who would like their child to be included in CCPS publicity opportunities, no action is needed.

Any parent/guardian who does not wish for their child to appear in publicity must notify the student's school in writing. Please note that if CCPS does not receive written notification from a parent/guardian **by Sept. 15 annually**, it is assumed the parent/guardian grants permission for their child to appear in publicity. Each school/center will maintain a list of students whose parents/guardians have opted out of publicity for the student. A student's opt out status should be updated as needed by the parent/guardian and remains in effect for the duration of the school year.

Please note that certain CCPS and school events are public in nature, and publicity in the form of photographs, video, social media posts, etc. is often not within control of CCPS or the school. This includes events such as concerts, awards programs, extracurricular activities and athletic events, county competitions, year-end events such as promotional events, Board of Education meetings and high school graduation ceremonies. Student names will appear in event programs, on honor roll lists, on artwork and in yearbooks (along with a photograph) unless the parent/guardian makes a separate specific written request that the student's name and/or image be withheld. Contact your child's school or the Office of Communications at 301-932-6610 with questions.

August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	September 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information about Charles County Public Schools, visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com; like us on Facebook at Charles County Public Schools; or call the 24-hour information line at 301-934-7410/301-932-6656. • An electronic copy of the <i>Parent Handbook/Calendar</i> is posted on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. 			1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 New Educator Orientation begins	12 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	13 Fall sports begin	14	15	16
17	18 First day for returning teachers	19	20	21	22	23 SAT
24 31	25 • First day of school for students, K-12 • Fall i-Ready assessments begin (Aug. 25-Oct. 3) • KRA assessments begin (Aug. 25-Oct. 10)	26	27	28	29	30

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-26 Parent Handbook/Calendar.



Yonelle Moore Lee, Esq.
Chairperson



Nicole M. Kreamer
Vice Chairperson



Dottery Butler-Washington
Member



David Hancock
Member



Letonya Smalls,
Ed.D.
Member



Jamila Smith
Member



Brenda Thomas
Member



Samichie K. Thomas
Member



Munachi Obinali
Student Board Member

Board functions

The Board of Education of Charles County establishes educational and fiscal policy, provides overall direction and governs Charles County Public Schools (CCPS). Board members are elected by registered voters. The next general election will be held in November 2026.

Two Board members are elected from each of the four Charles County Commissioner districts for a total of eight Board members to serve a four-year term. An at-large member is also elected every four years. The next at-large member election is November 2028. Elected Board members are limited to two terms.

The Student Board Member can vote on all matters before the Board except for legal appeals; personnel matters; collective bargaining; the hiring, salary and evaluation of the Superintendent; the operating and capital budgets; and school openings, closings and boundaries. The elected Board members can determine whether any motion is subject to the exclusions.

The Board generally meets the second Tuesday of most months during the school year at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building located at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata. Tuesday meetings begin with executive session, which is held typically at 12 p.m. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. Recognition begins at 4-4:30 p.m. and public forum is at 6 p.m. Board meetings are open to the public. Work sessions and special meetings are scheduled throughout the year, as needed. Board meeting agendas and times are subject to change.

Public forum

Community members are invited to participate in Board meetings by speaking at public forum, either in person or virtually. Virtual public forum registration closes at 4 p.m. on the business day preceding a Board meeting. In-person speakers must sign up before 6 p.m. the day of the meeting. All speakers have three minutes to address the Board about educational issues and must adhere to the rules of public forum. Public forum is generally held at 6 p.m. at both the monthly meetings and work sessions. The purpose of public forum is for the Board to receive information for review and consideration. Speakers should not expect an immediate response or verbal exchange with Board members. Speakers can provide copies of written information for the Board to review.

Board meetings

Tuesday meeting dates are as follows: Sept. 9, 2025; Oct. 14, 2025; Nov. 4, 2025; Dec. 9, 2025; Jan. 13, 2026; Feb. 10, 2026; March 10, 2026; April 14, 2026; May 12, 2026; June 9, 2026; Aug. 11, 2026; and Sept. 8, 2026. The Board of Education does not meet in July.

Schedules are subject to change. All Board meetings are televised live on the school system's educational television stations, Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 12, and streamed live on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Meetings are added to the Charles County Public Schools YouTube channel the day after they are televised.

Board of Education Core Values

1. The Board values collaborative, meaningful relationships with all stakeholders to include parents/legal guardians, students, teachers, staff, administrators, Board members, state and local elected officials, and members of the community at large.
2. The Board believes in equity for all students, understanding that some students require additional resources in order to receive a quality education.
3. The Board values equity as a personal and professional responsibility and will strive to create inclusive learning environments in which every child is able to achieve her/his highest potential.
4. The Board will maintain rigorous standards and high expectations for all students as keys to academic excellence and lifelong learning.
5. The Board believes there is value in diversity and all students and staff members are endowed with unique talents and entitled to mutual respect.
6. The Board values and promotes practices that ensure a safe and orderly learning and work environment.
7. The Board will responsibly advocate for funding to operate an outstanding school system, and expects to be held accountable for allocating that funding to meet system needs.

Board agenda/meeting reports

Meeting agendas are available online through BoardDocs, sent to local media and posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com prior to each meeting. BoardDocs is a website developed specifically for school boards, local governments and other private and public boards to provide transparent and up-to-date information. To access BoardDocs, visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com and look for the BoardDocs link under the Quick Links menu.

September 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 Labor Day Schools/offices closed	2 First day of school for prekindergarten (Pre-K3 and Pre-K4)	3	4	5	6 ACT
7 National Grandparents Day	8	9 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	10 National Suicide Prevention Day	11 Patriot Day	12 Teacher in-service day Schools closed for students only	13 SAT
14	15	16 National IT Professionals Day	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center • Constitution Day 	18 Title I DADvisory Council meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. @ Starkey Building	19 Thomas Stone homecoming game, 6 p.m.	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Stone homecoming dance • MASC Workshop Presenter Certification event
21	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board work session 4:30 p.m. • First day of Autumn 	23 Rosh Hashanah	24 Spanish Speaking Parent Advocacy Group, 6 p.m. @ Jenifer	25 Two-hour early dismissal for students	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Plata, McDonough and Westlake homecoming games, 6 p.m. • National Human Resources Professional Day 	27 La Plata, McDonough and Westlake homecoming dances
28	29 Interims posted	30	October 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Calendar Notes for September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Arts in Education Week, Sept. 8-12. • Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15-Oct. 15. • International Literacy Day, Sept. 8. • National Community School Coordinator Appreciation Week, Sept. 22-26. • Suicide Prevention Month. • Attendance Awareness Month. • National Sickle Cell Awareness Month. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland Homegrown School Lunch Week, Sept. 29-Oct. 3. • Most Jewish & Muslim religious observance dates begin at sundown on the evening prior to the dates noted and conclude at sundown the next evening.

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is vital to educational development. If students are absent from school due to mental or physical illness or for another legitimate reason, they must bring a written excuse signed by their parent, legal guardian or doctor. Students and parents/guardians have five days to verify tardiness or absences, after which they are coded as unlawful. Parents/guardians are expected to call the school by the third day of consecutive absences.

A student is counted present for a full day if the student is in attendance four or more hours of the school day. A student is counted present for one-half of the day if in attendance for at least two hours of the school day, but less than four hours. A student scheduled for less than a full day of classes is to be counted present based on the amount of time he/she is scheduled.

Parents are highly discouraged from scheduling vacations that result in unlawful absences from school. However, high school students visiting an institution of higher education in anticipation for potential future enrollment may be granted a lawful absence as long as the parents/guardians give a two-week notice, receive permission from the school principal and the trips are limited to no more than five days in any school year. Other lawful absences include: death in the immediate family; illness (whether physical health or behavioral health) of the student which requires a note from a parent/guardian or physician; court summons; hazardous weather conditions; work approved or sponsored by the school; observance of religious holidays; state emergencies; student suspension; lack of authorized transportation; health exclusion; and other emergencies or circumstances which in the judgment of the Superintendent provide a "good and sufficient cause for absence from school."

Students unlawfully absent more than 10% of the school days in any given marking period (4.5 days), semester (9 days) or academic year (18 days) may be considered for retention. Parents of students who have a history of chronic truancy may be referred for intervention at any time. Additionally, school officials adhere to the following communication plan: daily automated phone call; after five absences of any kind (excused or unexcused), the school will notify parents/guardians through a letter sent home, by phone or other electronic communication; after 10 absences (excused or unexcused), parents/guardians are contacted. A meeting may be set to develop an attendance improvement plan; after 15 absences (excused or unexcused), the student may be referred to the school's pupil personnel worker; additional absences may result in the student and their parent/guardian being referred to the State's Attorney's Office for possible legal action for chronic truancy.

Parent visitation/observation

Parents/guardians, as well as all visitors to schools and centers including staff, are asked to present photo identification upon arrival to gain access to the building. Each school/center has a doorbell and camera system in place to monitor visitor access. All visitors must report to the main office and sign in using photo identification through a visitor management system to obtain a visitor's badge. This process helps to ensure the safety and security of students and staff. Parents/guardians may either visit their child's classroom (including the playground) at the teacher's or school's invitation, or request a formal observation of their child's classroom. Making an appointment with the school at least two school days in advance of an observation is not only a courtesy, but a requirement, and it enables the parent/guardian to schedule the observation for the maximum



Henry E. Lackey High School instructional assistant (IA) Shayla Dancy greets student Juan Wilder, Jr. as he arrives at school.

benefit. Teachers cannot stop teaching to confer with parents/guardians who stop by without an appointment. Parents/guardians may schedule up to two classroom observations of up to 45 minutes in duration each grading period. Staff will accompany visitors to the classroom. Siblings should not attend. Teachers will be happy to discuss the observation at a mutually convenient time. Parents/guardians are welcome to visit the cafeteria and eat lunch with their child. This process is different than parent shadowing. Contact your child's school principal with questions about parent shadowing.

In order to protect the privacy of other students and in order to maintain a proper learning environment, parents/guardians and other visitors may not use any audio or visual recording device at any time during the visit and must turn off all cell phones. Principals have the authority to deny access to the school for any individual who has been disruptive or may disrupt or disturb the learning environment, or who lacks a valid or legal purpose for entering the school.

Where's the Bus?

All CCPS buses use GPS technology through the WheresTheBus app that can help parents and guardians keep track of their child's bus. The WheresTheBus app is free to download for families of students who ride a CCPS bus. The app allows users to see exactly where their child's bus is and the estimated time of arrival to their child's bus stop. The system also allows CCPS transportation staff to efficiently manage its bus fleet.

To access the app, download it from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store and create an account. Search the app store(s) for WheresTheBus. Select Charles County Public Schools from the dropdown menu and provide the required information: a child's student identification number (six-digit CCPS issued ID) and birth date. Users can also create an account to access the system using a desktop or laptop computer at <https://wheresthebus.com/>.

Transportation

Transportation to and from school for eligible students is provided by CCPS as a privilege, not a right. Parents, students and CCPS share the responsibility for transportation to and from school. Parents are responsible for their child's behavior and/or any damage caused to the bus or property of others. Students should be at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Bus assignments/stops are located at least .25 mile apart. Students are assigned to permanent stops closest to their residence. Transportation is provided to elementary and middle school students residing more than one mile from their school and to high school students residing more than 1.5 miles from their school. Prekindergarten and kindergarten students will not be left unattended when dropped off at bus stops. If the parent or other responsible adult is not present at the drop-off, the bus driver will return the child to their school.

All buses are equipped with two-way radios so drivers can keep in contact with schools. Any request for a short-term bus stop change needs to be approved by the school principal. Submit electronic requests for a long-term bus stop change on the CCPS website at www.ccboc.com. Unauthorized bus stops may not be independently made by students or parents.

CCPS may transport students by licensed school vehicles in the event of an emergency, or as part of the school program to school events such as athletic events, school orientations or other academic programs. CCPS reserves the right to randomly videotape/audiotape students on school buses. The videotapes/audiotapes help monitor student behavior and evaluate bus drivers.

October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Bullying Prevention Month. • National Principals Month (NAESP/AFSA/NASSP). • Learning Disabilities Awareness Month. • Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 5-11. • National School Lunch Week, Oct. 13-17. • National School Bus Safety Week, Oct. 20-24. • Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31. • Safe Schools Week, Oct. 19-25. 		September 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1 PSAT (Oct. 1-31)	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yom Kippur • Building Service Worker Appreciation Day 	3 Lackey homecoming game, 6 p.m.	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAT • Lackey homecoming dance
5	6 Child Health Day	7 All-County Chorus rehearsal	8 College Fair @ North Point daytime for students only, evening hours for families	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCASC meeting @ Stone, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. • North Point homecoming game, 6 p.m. 	11 North Point homecoming dance
12	13 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples Day <i>(schools open)</i>	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m. • All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsal 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Page interviews • All-County Chorus rehearsal • SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center 	16 St. Charles homecoming game, 6 p.m.	17 St. Charles homecoming dance	18 ACT
19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diwali/Deepavali • All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsal • HS math team meet 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight on CTE (open house) 5:30 p.m., @ Stethem • Middle school golf tournament, 9 a.m., at White Plains Golf Course 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight on CTE (open house) 6 p.m. @ North Point • All-County Chorus rehearsal • ELD Community Night 5:30 p.m. @ Hanson • Unity Day (wear orange) 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight on CTE (open house) 6 p.m. @ McDonough • All-County Chorus rehearsal and Concert, 6:30 p.m. • CTE application window opens (Oct. 23-Nov. 13) 	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCPS fall chess tournament @ Stone • Make a Difference Day
26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board work session 4:30 p.m. • All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsal • World Occupational Therapy Day 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First marking period ends • All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsal • All-County Orchestra Concert, 6:30 p.m. 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second marking period begins • All-County Band Concert, 6:30 p.m. 	30	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Halloween 	November 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.cboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Extracurricular activities

Students can participate in extracurricular activities that contribute to their overall development and enhance the academic program. CCPS determines eligibility every quarter and reports grades in four quarters during the school year. Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and no F's to be eligible. Students must also have fewer than five (5) unexcused absences in the previous quarter.

The CCPS eligibility policy is as follows: CCPS bases eligibility for fall activities on a student's final GPA, final report card grades (no F's) and attendance from the fourth quarter from the previous school year. Eighth-grade students promoted to high school as freshmen automatically meet the GPA and attendance requirements for the first semester. Starting with the second semester, freshmen must meet the 2.0 GPA requirement, have no F's and have fewer than five (5) unexcused absences during the second quarter. Winter activity eligibility is based on the first-quarter GPA, report card grades (no F's) and attendance; spring activity eligibility is based on second-quarter GPA, report card grades (no F's) and attendance. If a student receives an F in any quarter, they are ineligible for the remainder of the season, for post-season participation and the following quarter. Students cannot regain eligibility at interim report time or during the quarter, season or activity time frame. Students absent the entire day or during afternoon classes may not practice, compete or perform. Note: Students academically ineligible at the end of the school year due to a failing grade may regain eligibility by attending and passing any/all summer school class(es) offered that caused the student's ineligibility. Students may regain eligibility only by taking the same summer school class to improve a failing grade or the corresponding equivalent that meets graduation requirements. GPA requirements will be recalculated after the completion of summer school.

Students suspended from school are not eligible until they are reinstated by the principal and have attended more than one-half of their class periods for one day. Suspension days count against eligibility. Students absent for excused reasons other than illness have no restriction in that day's practice or contest. The school must approve the absence before participation.

Interims & report cards

Report cards and interim reports are posted online in ParentVue and StudentVue accounts. Report cards are posted under the Grading and Attendance Reports menu area. If a parent does not see a report card posted for their child by the close of business on the published date, they should contact their child's school. Parents who want a paper copy of their child's report card should call their child's school. * *Note: Issuance of interim reports is not limited to published dates. Interim progress reports may be issued at any time.*

Grading overview

The Board of Education is committed to high academic standards and a fair, transparent grading system that is consistent across all schools and understandable to families.

Grading Scale (Pre-K3 to Grade 2)

Prekindergarten students receive report cards two times a year. Students in kindergarten through second grade receive report cards four times a year. A parent conference for students is scheduled for November.



Dr. James Craik Elementary School students wave to staff members on the last day of school.

- M – Meets Expectations (84.5–100%)
- P – Progressing (69.5–84.4%)
- N – Not Yet / Needs Improvement (Below 69.5%)

Grading Scale (Grades 3-5)

Teachers evaluate the academic performance for each student four times a year using the following letter grades:

- A – Excellent (90–100%)
- B – Good (80–89%)
- C – Satisfactory (70–79%)
- D – Minimal (60–69%)
- F – Unsatisfactory (Below 60%)
- I – Incomplete

Performance Indicators (Elementary):

- 3 – Mastery
- 2 – Partial Mastery
- 1 – Not Showing Mastery

Grading Scale (Grades 6-12)

Teachers evaluate the academic performance for each student four times a year using the following letter grades:

- A – Superior (89.5–100%)
- B – Above Average (79.5–89.4%)
- C – Average (69.5–79.4%)
- D – Below Average (59.5–69.4%)
- F – Failure (Below 59.5%)
- I – Incomplete

Teachers give students a course description that includes information on how grades are calculated. CCPS uses a weighted grading system in high school, giving students the opportunity to earn additional quality points for specified honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. The weighted GPA is calculated and used to determine class rank and academic honors. See the *2025-26 High School Program of Studies* posted at www.ccboe.com for details.

Systemwide Policies

- **Minimum Grade:** No grade below 50% is given if a student shows a good faith effort (e.g., persistence, time on task).
- **Zeros:** Assigned only for no submission, academic dishonesty or no genuine attempt.
- **Reassessment:** Available and applied consistently across grade levels.
- **Citizenship Ratings:**
 - O – Outstanding
 - S – Satisfactory
 - N – Needs Improvement

Grading Practices Overview

Grading is a key part of the learning process. It reflects what students know and can do—their behavior or effort alone. Grades should be accurate, consistent, and meaningful for students, families and educators.

Purpose of Grading

- Communicates student progress on learning goals.
- Helps students set goals and monitor their learning.
- Aligns with curriculum standards and assessments.

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	December 2025 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Application Month. • Native American and Alaska Native Heritage Month. • National Homeless Youth Awareness Month. • National School Psychology Week, Nov. 3-7. • American Freedom Week, Nov. 10-15. • American Education Week, Nov. 17-21. • National Family Week, Nov. 23-29. • Benefits open enrollment window opens for CCPS staff. 				1
2 Standard Time begins <i>(turn clocks back one hour)</i>	3 CogAT Screener (Nov. 3-25)	4 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	5 It's Academic tournament @ St. Charles	6	7	8 • SAT • National Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Day
9	10 • Schools closed for students only • Fall parent/teacher conferences • Report cards posted	11 Veterans Day Schools/offices closed	12	13 • Middle school archery tournament, 9 a.m. @ Somers • CTE online application closes	14 National Superintendent Day	15 • Winter sports begin • America Recycles Day
16	17 HS math team meet	18	19 • Two-hour early dismissal for students • National Education Support Professionals Day • SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center	20 • Spanish Speaking Parent Advocacy Group, 6 p.m. @ Ryon • National Parental Involvement Day • Title I DADvisory Council meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. @ Starkey Building	21 Substitute Educators Day	22 Student leadership fall conference
23 30	24 Board work session (virtual), 4:30 p.m.	25	26 Thanksgiving holiday Schools/offices closed	27 Thanksgiving Schools/offices closed	28 Thanksgiving holiday Schools/offices closed	29

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Grading overview continued from Page 8

Grading Requirements

- At least five (5) process and five (5) product grades per quarter.
- No single assignment may count for more than 10% of the quarter grade.
- Grades must be updated every 10 business days.

Opportunities for Learning

- Students receive feedback before work is graded.
- Formative assessments guide learning and improvement.
- Feedback is based on the same criteria as final grades.

Reporting Achievement

- Report cards reflect academic mastery.
- Skills like behavior, collaboration, and attendance are reported separately under “Citizenship” or “Personal Responsibility.”

Reassessment Opportunities

- Available after re-teaching for at least one product grade per subject per quarter.
- Not allowed for major projects, essays or common assessments.
- Must occur within 5-10 days of the original assignment.
- Highest grade replaces the original.
- Students must complete original work and show readiness.

Make-Up Work

- Students have three (3) days after an excused absence to complete work.
- Extended absences require a plan from school staff.
- No grade is given if instruction was missed and work cannot be made up.

Homework

Homework is intended to reinforce classroom learning, build responsibility and keep families informed. It should be developmentally appropriate, accessible and not be assigned over holidays.

Grading Categories & Weighting: Grades 3-12

Course Type	Process	Product	Common Assessments
With Common Assessments	50%	40%	10%
Without Common Assessments	50%	50%	----

- **Process Assignments:** Practice and skill-building during instruction.
- **Product Assignments:** Final demonstrations of learning.

To reflect the rigor and academic expectations of CCPS curriculum, advanced courses and courses with state-mandated assessments may carry different weighting. Students and parents are encouraged to review individual course syllabi for specific information regarding the grading scale and weighting applied to each course.

Emergency/inclement weather closings

If weather conditions pose a potential hazard, CCPS officials may dismiss students early, delay the opening of schools or close schools for the day. If conditions require the closure or delayed opening of schools, decisions are usually made by 5 a.m. The most reliable source of school closing information is the CCPS website, www.ccboe.com. When possible, decisions are



Middle school students participate in sports competitions annually, including basketball tournaments. Pictured are Theodore G. Davis Middle School students Makayla Smith and Carmyn Corbin.

made the preceding evening. CCPS uses its mass notification system, School Messenger, to send email notification to parents with valid email addresses on file with their child’s school.

A delayed opening allows buses to operate in safer conditions after roads are salted and/or cleared. If it is necessary to close schools during the day, the school system will make an announcement, usually by 10:30 a.m., including email notification to parents of schedule changes. Afternoon and evening meetings and activities are canceled if schools close early or are closed for the day. If hazardous weather is predicted for later in the evening, afternoon activities may be allowed and evening activities may be canceled. Afternoon activities are those that end by 6 p.m. Evening activities begin at 6 p.m. or later.

If schools are closed, the AlphaBest program at county elementary schools does not operate. If the opening of schools is delayed by one hour, the AlphaBest program opens at 7 a.m. If the opening of schools is delayed by two hours, the AlphaBest program opens at 8 a.m. If schools close one- or two-hours early for inclement weather, all AlphaBest programs will close by 4 p.m. or until the last child is picked up for the day. Call AlphaBest at 301-632-6804 for more information.

When the forecast calls for inclement weather, the school system’s transportation department monitors road conditions and weather reports. School system staff work with the Charles County Sheriff’s Office, Maryland State Police, the county and state roads departments and the National Weather Service to monitor inclement weather threats and road conditions. Parents, staff and community members should monitor the CCPS website and social media accounts for any CCPS schedule change announcement. *While staff contacts local television stations with weather-related schedule changes, accurate content is not always reported.*

Parents and CCPS staff can opt-in to receive text message notifications from the school system. Parents and staff can text Y or YES to 67587 to sign up for CCPS text messages from School Messenger. School Messenger uses cell phone data from the CCPS student and staff information systems. Parents who have an email address and cell phone number on file with their child’s school should update the school with any changes in order to avoid notification issues.

Emergency closings affect the school calendar

Four emergency make-up days have been identified in June 2026 if schools must close during the school year for inclement weather or any other emergency. The days will be added to the end of the school year, if needed, as follows: June 12, 15, 16 and 17. If additional make-up days are needed, the Board of Education can add additional instructional days to the end of the school year.

How to find reliable school closure information

- Check the website at www.ccboe.com (*no announcements made when schools open on time*).
- Call the 24-hour information line at 301-934-7410/301-932-6656.
- Provide a valid email address to your child’s school; update as needed.
- Follow us on Facebook/Instagram for updates.
- Opt-in for instant text message notifications from CCPS: text Y or YES to 67587. (*Parents/staff only*).
- Sign up for Citizen Notification Service (CNS) for text/email notifications.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>November 2025</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CogAT Post Screener (Dec. 1-12) 1 • Fall block MCAP ELA & Math assessments (HS) (Dec. 1-Jan. 16) • Winter EOC Government & LS MISA assessments (HS) (Dec. 1-Jan. 16) 	<p>2</p> <p>National Special Education Day</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-hour early dismissal for students • JROTC Joint Services Military Ball @ North Point 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAT • DI Instant Challenge @ North Point • Tri-County Band auditions
<p>7</p> <p>Pearl Harbor Day</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Interims posted</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>CCASC meeting @ Stone 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>ACT</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanukkah begins • HS math team meet • Tri-County Band rehearsal 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Two-hour early dismissal for students</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>First day of Winter</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Winter break Schools closed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Winter break Schools closed</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve Schools/offices closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Schools/offices closed</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter break Schools closed • Kwanzaa begins 	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Winter break Schools closed</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Winter break Schools closed</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Year's Eve Schools closed</p>	<p>January 2026</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>Calendar Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Dec. 3. • Inclusive Schools Week, Dec. 8-12. • Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 8-14. • The <i>CCPS Parent Handbook/Calendar</i> is distributed to all students and staff during the first week of school. An electronic version is posted at www.ccboe.com in August. Visit www.ccboe.com for the most up-to-date information about the school system. 	

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Title I, Part A

Title I, Part A is the largest federally funded education program, providing financial support to school systems based on Free and Reduced-price Meals (FARMS) and Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) data. The program offers school readiness support, additional academic resources, and expanded learning and family engagement opportunities to ensure students receive a high-quality education and achieve state academic standards and assessments.

Title I services are provided to the following schools: C. Paul Barnhart, Dr. Gustavus Brown, Indian Head, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Arthur Middleton, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, J.C. Parks, J.P. Ryon, and Eva Turner elementary schools; Glymont Middle School; Early Learning Center, Waldorf; as well as participating nonpublic schools and eligible childcare providers. Contact the Title I Office at 301-392-5520 or visit www.ccboe.com for additional information.

Prekindergarten

The prekindergarten program develops language and literacy skills, mathematical thinking, scientific thinking and the social emotional skills of prekindergarten students. It also helps children develop and sustain the skills necessary for school readiness. CCPS operates full day Pre-K4 (4-year-old) programs in all 23 elementary schools as well as the Early Learning Center, La Plata. CCPS also operates full day Pre-K3 (3-year-old) programs at four locations: Early Learning Center, La Plata, Early Learning Center, Waldorf, and Mary H. Matula and Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy elementary schools. Selection criteria are based on state guidelines and application tiers. Students who have verified income eligibility, a current Individualized Education Program (IEP), or are experiencing homelessness are first priority.

Elementary mathematics program

The purpose of the elementary mathematics program in Charles County is to engage students in the process of problem solving. Their participation in the conceptual understanding of mathematical ideas, along with numerical fluency will lead to a deep understanding of counting and cardinality, operations in algebraic thinking, numbers and operations in base 10, numbers and operations in fractions, measurement and data, and geometry.

Reading program

The CCPS comprehensive reading program focuses on developing independent readers who use reading to further their knowledge and continue to read as a lifelong endeavor. Reading, writing, listening, speaking and language skills are blended in this program. The CCPS reading program focuses instruction on five components of reading: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. As students progress through grade levels, greater emphasis is placed on applying the skills they have acquired in all subject areas. Elementary and middle schools employ full-time reading resource teachers. Interventions provide additional help for struggling readers during the school day and beyond school hours. Extended day and enrichment programs are also offered at various schools.



Lance Christopher, a prekindergarten student at the Early Learning Center, Waldorf, learns through play.

Gifted education

CCPS screens students in Grades 2-8 for gifted services. Yearly broad-based gifted screening includes all second-grade students, new to CCPS students in Grades 3-8 and students referred for gifted services. Students who require learning experiences beyond the standard program are matched to the appropriate gifted services.

Gifted education screening referrals are available at every elementary and middle school and must be returned by December to be considered for the current school year. Students in Grades 3-8 identified for Reading/Language Arts and/or math gifted services receive differentiated instruction from their classroom teacher(s) with support from the learning resource teacher at every elementary and middle school. High school students may choose from a variety of advanced learning opportunities including Honors, Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Enrollment courses.

Food and Nutrition Services

Through the food and nutrition services program at schools/centers, students can select from several breakfast and lunch menu items. Menus are available on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. Students may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals. Eligibility is determined by guidelines developed by the USDA. The application is available at www.ccboe.com and provided to students the first week of school. All families should complete the application, as other benefits are available such as reduced testing fees for student exams and discounts on internet service. Meal prices for the 2025-2026 school year are: elementary breakfast is \$1.45 and lunch is \$2.90. Breakfast for secondary level students is \$1.60 and lunch is \$3.15.

The school system uses a cafeteria prepayment system through MySchoolBucks, a secure, online system that allows parents to deposit money electronically on their child's cafeteria account. Use of the system is optional and parents can sign up at www.myschoolbucks.com. Federal regulations for the National School Lunch Program (Regulation 210.20 (g)) require documentation from a medical authority for students requiring a substitution or elimination of a food in the school meal program. A doctor's note or order is required at the beginning of each school year. Once a doctor's note has been registered on the student account, it will remain on the account until the child is no longer enrolled in CCPS, or a note directing removal of the restriction is received from a medical authority. To better focus on children with medically necessary dietary needs, only those students with a doctor's order and severe medical needs will be listed on the food service point of sales terminal in the cafeteria serving line.

Parents are expected to keep their child's meal account funded throughout the school year to support the purchase of a complete meal and/or a la carte items. CCPS can extend minimal meal credits (not for optional items) to accounts with a negative balance. Parents of students with negative meal account balances will receive phone/email notifications from CCPS.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>December 2025</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>February 2026</p> <p>S M T W Th F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p>Calendar Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland School Board Appreciation Month. • National Mentoring Month. • Like us on Facebook at Charles County Public Schools. • Sign up for CCPS text alerts. Text Y or YES to 67587. • Calendar changes are posted at www.ccboe.com. • CCPS-TV broadcasts school-based features and other educational content. Visit www.ccboe.com or Comcast 96 and Verizon Fios 12 in Charles County. 		<p>1</p> <p>New Years Day Schools/offices closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Winter break Schools closed</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter i-Ready assessments begin (Jan. 5-Feb. 6) • Mock Trial season begins 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>English Language Proficiency Assessment begins (Jan. 7-March 3)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri-County Band rehearsal • State Theatre Festival 	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tri-County Band rehearsal • State Theatre Festival
<p>11</p> <p>Tri-County Band concert, 2 p.m.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>HS math team meet</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Scholarship Fair @ CSM</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Two-hour early dismissal for students</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Elementary and High School Chorus Instant Concert</p>
<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday observed Schools/offices closed</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Seventh-grade volleyball tournament, 9 a.m. Boys @ Lackey HS Girls @ La Plata HS</p>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second marking period/ first semester ends • SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third marking period begins • Eighth-grade volleyball tournament, 9 a.m. Boys @ Lackey HS Girls @ La Plata HS 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>MASC Winter Conference</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semester break Schools closed for students only • Board work session 4:30 p.m. 	<p>27</p> <p>Elementary All-County Chorus rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>MSP Polar Plunge @ Sandy Point State Park</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>DI Blue Crab Tournament @ North Point</p>

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Technology

The Office of Technology ensures a secure, reliable infrastructure that supports the school system's instructional, administrative and operational goals. The office provides digital learning devices, innovative classroom technology and professional development to enhance digital proficiency. Resources for staff, students, and families are designed to promote meaningful and effective use of educational technology.

Student Laptop Program

For the 2025–2026 school year, CCPS has updated student laptop allocations to balance accessibility with fiscal responsibility. See below.

- Pre-K & Kindergarten: Will continue using the shared iPad model.
- Grades 1–2: Devices will be shared at a 2:1 student-to-device ratio and remain at school.
- Grades 3–5: Each student will have a dedicated device for in-school use only.
- Grades 6–8: Devices will be available in shared carts for classroom use. Students can check out a device upon request for home use, as needed.
- Grades 9–12: Students will receive a one-to-one take-home device. Personal devices (excluding smart/cell phones) are allowed, but a school-issued device is required for state testing.

Digital Tools for Learning

CCPS uses a suite of digital tools to support learning in all settings. In 2024, CCPS launched Canvas as the systemwide Learning Management System (LMS), a central hub for assignments, course materials, collaboration and class calendars. Canvas complements face-to-face teaching and enhances access to instruction. Synergy remains the official Student Information System (SIS), with StudentVue and ParentVue used for registration, enrollment, schedules, attendance and grades. Students use Clever to access learning apps and Microsoft 365 for productivity tools. CCPS maintains a Technology Guides page at www.ccboe.com to support students and families. The guides will be updated with future guidance on the responsible use of AI in the classroom. Visit www.ccboe.com/academics/technology-guides-for-students-and-parents to learn more.

More Information and Technology Support

For more details about the Office of Technology, school-issued devices, and resources for students, parents, and teachers, visit the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com/departments/office-of-technology. For concerns about student devices, open a new support ticket on AskCCPS at <https://askccps.ccboe.com>. Parents, students, staff and community members in need of assistance can log on to the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com and look for the AskCCPS menu located under the photo slideshow. AskCCPS is a help desk for students, staff, parents and the community.

Special education

Special education programs provide services for children from birth to age 21. Each school offers special education and related services. Teachers who provide vision and hearing services, as well as speech therapists, and physical and occupational therapists, are available. Regional programs are also available at county schools to provide alternative curriculum approaches. If your child is deaf, blind, hard-of-hearing, orthopedically impaired, multihandicapped, emotionally disabled, visually handicapped, speech impaired, learning disabled, traumatic brain-injured, autistic or has other impairments, call the CCPS special education department at 301-392-7587.



Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School student Ezra Dang uses a laptop to complete class work.

ACHIEVE (Academics, Communication, and Heightened Independence for Education, Vocation and Engagement) is a regionalized program designed to meet the needs of students in kindergarten through age 21, with significant cognitive disabilities. The Emotional Adjustment (EA) program provides therapeutic behavioral supports. Communications classes are provided for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. The Adult Independence Program (AIP) offers job training and placement assistance for students who complete the program. The Early Intervention Program provides special education services for children ages 3-5 through Child Find and provides direct services for preschool children with identified needs. Any child suspected of developmental delays may be referred to the program by parents, teachers, physicians or county agencies.

The Charles County Infants and Toddlers Program provides assessment and direct services for infants and toddlers, birth through age 2, who are experiencing developmental delays. Services are offered through the Charles County Department of Health, CCPS and the Department of Social Services.

SOAR (Structured teaching, Opportunities for social inclusion, Active learning and Rigor) is a regionalized program for students with autism who require specialized instruction in order to develop skills essential to achieving independence, self-advocacy, flexibility and generalization. The program serves students in kindergarten through Grade 12 and utilizes evidence-based practices to support academic, communication, social, adaptive and behavioral development. Classrooms are arranged to integrate visual supports, principles of applied behavior analysis and structured work systems. Placement in the SOAR program is determined through an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting.

Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law designed to protect qualified individuals with disabilities from discrimination in programs and services that receive federal financial assistance. Students with disabilities may be eligible for a Section 504 Plan which provides accommodations to allow the student access to the same educational opportunities as their non-disabled peers. Call 301-392-7510 for more information.

Title VI: Indian Education

Title VI: Indian Education is designed for Native American students in prekindergarten through Grade 12. Federal law requires Native American students to have a 506 Form on record with CCPS. In compliance with the Title VI guidelines, the annual grant project addresses a range of questions on the history, traditions, customs, religion and family life of Native Americans, as well as promoting academic success. Call 301-932-6610 for more information.

Environmental Education Center

The Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center offers a specialized program which supports the state curriculum and work done by teachers and students in the classroom. Located on Nanjemoy Creek, the center provides students with an opportunity to study and experience Charles County's environmental issues and the student's relationship to wetlands, the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. The program encompasses science, social studies and the humanities. All fifth graders experience a field studies trip to the center where they investigate topics such as water quality, biodiversity of local plants and animals, and ecosystem studies focusing on watersheds. The center also hosts summer camps for students. Visit www.ccboe.com to learn more.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 National Freedom Day	2 • Report cards posted • Groundhog Day	3 Elementary All-County Chorus rehearsal	4 Spanish Speaking Parent Advocacy Group, 6 p.m. @ Dr. Brown	5 100th day of school**	6 CCASC meeting @ Stone 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	7 • Elementary Band and Strings Instant Concert • Tri-County Math Counts event, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
8	9	10 • Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m. • Elementary All-County Chorus rehearsal	11	12	13	14 • ACT • VEX IQ Robotics event, @ Great Mills HS • Valentine's Day
15 National School Resource Officer Appreciation Day	16 Presidents Day Schools/offices closed	17 • Maryland School Survey opens (Feb. 17-May 1) • Seal of Biliteracy exams (Feb. 17-27) • Elementary All-County Chorus rehearsal • National PTA Founders Day	18 • First day of Ramadan • SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center	19 Title I DADvisory Council meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. @ Starkey Building	20 Two-hour early dismissal for students (no Pre-K3 or Pre-K4 program; Pre-K3/Pre-K4 parent/teacher conferences)	21 • CCPS winter chess tournament @ Lackey • VEX Robotics event @ CSM
22	23 • Interims posted • Board work session 4:30 p.m. • HS math team meet	24 Elementary All-County Chorus rehearsal and concert, 6:30 p.m.	25	26	27 National Association of Student Councils LEAD Conference begins (Feb. 27-March 1)	28 • Spring sports begin • District Solo & Ensemble
January 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	March 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				Calendar Notes • National Black History Month. • National Children's Dental Health Month. • Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month. • National Gifted and Talented Education Month. • National School Counseling Week, Feb. 2-6. • Children's Mental Health Awareness Week, Feb. 9-15. • International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Feb. 11. • Public Schools Week, Feb. 24-28.	

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

** Dependent on the weather. If schools are closed due to inclement weather prior to Feb. 5, the 100th day of school will shift. Contact your child's school to confirm the date if necessary.

Testing

This school year, students in Grades 3-11 will participate in the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) English/Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics assessments. MCAP will be administered in December through January, and again in March through June. The winter assessments are for high school students only, and spring assessments are for elementary, middle and high school students. In the spring, students will be tested on content in Grades 3-8 and Grade 10 ELA, Grades 3-8 mathematics, Algebra I and Algebra II. For the MCAP ELA assessments, students read several passages and write several responses. The mathematics assessment requires students to solve problems, express math reasoning, and apply concepts to solve real world problems.

Students in certain grade levels will also take state assessments in science and social studies. Students in Grades 5 and 8 will take the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) in March, and students enrolled in high school biology courses will take the Life Science MISA in May. Students in Grade 8 will also take a social studies assessment in May, while students enrolled in high school Local, State and National Government courses will take the Government High School Assessment in May. For students in Grade 9-11, the score from the Government High School Assessment and the Life Science MISA will count as 20% of a student's final grade.

CCPS administers other assessments in reading and mathematics for students in kindergarten through Grade 12. The information from these tests is used to monitor student progress in mastering content and is also used by instructional staff to design programs that better prepare students for accountability testing. Testing windows are outlined throughout the *Parent Handbook/Calendar*. Testing schedules are subject to change. Information about exams administered to CCPS students is posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Information about graduation requirements is included in the *2025-26 High School Program of Studies* posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Student test results can be viewed on ParentVue and StudentVue, under the Testing tab located on the left-hand side after logging in to the account. Questions can be directed to the school test coordinator/learning resource teacher at individual schools.

James E. Richmond Science Center

The James E. Richmond Science Center is on the campus of St. Charles High School in Waldorf. The Science Center is a cutting edge experiential center that hosts school groups, family and community events. The Science Center's focal points include a 184-seat digital dome classroom, a 6-foot diameter NOAA Science On a Sphere® and a Discovery Lab. Students and visitors experience various levels of science, math, history and fine arts in new and exciting ways. The center specializes in STEM problem-based learning and can customize learning experiences for all ages. Visit the Science Center website at <https://sciencecenter.ccboe.com/>.

Field trips/school activities

Field trips and school activities are subject to last-minute cancellation by CCPS for student safety, local/national circumstances or other concerns. Charles County Public Schools, its agents and employees, are not responsible for any non-refundable monies paid by students, parents or guardians in the event a field trip is canceled or students are unable to attend (due to personal or disciplinary reasons).



Piccowaxen Middle School students Mason McConnell and Andrew Persaud work with STEM program materials.

While individual schools work with staff and students on the logistics of field trips or school-related activities, individual schools assume no financial responsibility in the event the trip must be canceled or individual students are not able to attend. All applicable school rules are in effect for students during field trips and school-related activities, including policies about the possession or use of tobacco, alcohol and controlled dangerous substances. During these types of activities, all students are expected to follow the directions of school system employees and chaperones. Consequences for violating school rules, policies or directions could result in appropriate discipline outlined in the CCPS *Code of Student Conduct*, as well as appropriate discipline during the trip, up to and including the removal of students from the trip at the expense of the parent or guardian.

Career and Technical Education programs

CCPS offers a variety of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs which provide high school students an opportunity to pursue a sequential, technical and academic program of study to earn marketable skills leading to either immediate employment upon graduation or enhanced college opportunities. There are several programs that can be entered through the course selection process such as Business Management, Career Research and Development, Computer Science, JROTC, ProStart: Food and Beverage Management, and Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM). Other programs require a student to submit an application.

In Grade 8, students can apply for Academy of Health Professions: Certified Clinical Medical Assistant, Automotive Technology, Biotechnology, Child Development Professions, Cisco: IT Networking, Collision Repair, Construction Design and Management, Cosmetology, Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Cyber Security, Dance, Drafting and Design, Electrical Technology, Graphic Communications, Interactive Media Productions, Theatre, Project Lead the Way (PLTW): Biomedical Science, PLTW: Engineering, or Welding.

In Grade 10, students can apply for Academy of Health Professions: Pharmacy Technician, Academy of Health Professions: Physical Rehabilitation, Automotive Technician, Barbering, CASE: Natural Resources, Heating, Ventilating, and Air Conditioning (HVAC), or Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute. All programs offer either industry certification and/or college credits through varying colleges and universities.

CCPS continues to grow the opportunity for students to experience work-based learning, internships, and apprenticeships through CTE programs. The Apprenticeship Maryland Program (AMP) is an additional program students can apply to in Grade 11. This program allows students to complete an apprenticeship in a variety of career fields during the school day. While in the program, students earn an industry recognized credential and are trained while earning an income.

Contact your child's school counselor for a complete list of program selections or visit www.ccboe.com/cte for more information.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA), Grades 5 & 8 (March 2-27)	3	4 • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Charles County Spelling Bee, 6 to 8 p.m. @ Piccowaxen	5 District Chorus Assessment	6 • District Chorus Assessment • Read Across Charles County	7
8 • Daylight Saving Time (turn clocks ahead one hour) • International Women's Day	9 • AP English Literature & Language mock exams (March 9-20) • Spring alternate MCAP assessment window opens (March 9-May 15)	10 • Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m. • District Band Assessment	11 Teacher in-service day Schools closed for students only	12	13	14 • SAT • State Destination Imagination tournament • Pi Day
15	16	17 • District Orchestra Assessment • St. Patrick's Day	18 • MASC Convention begins (March 18-20) • SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center	19	20 • Eid-al-Fitr • First day of Spring • Maryland Day celebration (March 20-22)	21 • North Point prom • World Down Syndrome Day • HITS Expo @ St. Charles • Polyglot Games @ St. Charles • Sea Perch Robotics event @ St. Charles
22	23 Board work session 4:30 p.m.	24	25 • All-County Jazz rehearsal • Middle school basketball tournament, 9 a.m. Potomac teams @ Davis Chesapeake teams @ Somers	26 • Middle school basketball tournament, 9 a.m. Girls' teams @ Davis Boys' teams @ Somers	27 • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Middle school basketball finals @ Lackey Girls' tournament, 5 p.m. Boys' tournament, 6:30 p.m.	28
29	30 Spring break Schools closed	31 Spring break Schools closed	February 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	April 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	Calendar Notes • Women's History Month. • National Nutrition Month. • National Middle Level Education Month. • National Music in Our Schools Month. • National School Social Work Week, March 1-7. • National School Breakfast Week, March 2-6. • National Music in Our Schools Month. • National Youth Art Month. • Fine and Performing Arts Month.	

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.cboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Student leaders

Munachi Obinali, a La Plata High School junior, is the Student Member of the Board of Education for the 2025-2026 school year. The Student Member has voting rights on most Board matters and works with a student liaison committee. Student liaisons this year are: Julianna Conte, junior, Henry E. Lackey High School; Elizabeth Tober, senior, La Plata High School; Kezia Reaves, senior, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Terra Newcamp, senior, North Point High School; Kennedy Young-Johnson, senior, St. Charles High School; Olivia Saint-Pierre, junior, Thomas Stone High School; and Essence Day, senior, Westlake High School.

CCASC

The Charles County Association of Student Councils (CCASC) is an organization consisting of student leaders from the county's seven high schools. The CCASC meets throughout the year to discuss issues and to provide input to school system leaders on programs and policies. CCASC provides opportunities for students to improve their leadership skills by presenting leadership workshops and coordinating annual community events.

CCASC officers for the 2025-2026 school year are: Riley Mullikin, sophomore, McDonough, president; Addison Elliott, freshman, Lackey, first vice president; Jonathan Compton, junior, La Plata, secretary; and Kendall Destry, sophomore, McDonough, charity coordinator. The middle school representative will be chosen Fall 2025.

Student exchange visitor program

CCPS has procedures for accepting student exchange visitors. The procedures comply with the requirements of the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The CCPS director of student services serves as the CCPS liaison for sponsoring organizations. More information is posted at www.ccboe.com.

Col. Wade Joint Services Military Ball

The Col. Donald M. Wade Joint Services Military Ball honors the commitment of graduating seniors enrolled in Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) programs. JROTC students have chosen an education steeped in traditions of honor, courage, patriotism and citizenship. The ball is held annually in December and is

Student Member of the Board and Student Liaisons



**Munachi
Obinali**



**Julianna
Conte**



**Elizabeth
Tober**



**Kezia
Reaves**



**Terra
Newcamp**



**Kennedi
Young-Johnson**



**Olivia
Saint-Pierre**



**Essence
Day**

CCASC Leadership



**Riley
Mullikin**



**Addison
Elliott**



**Jonathan
Compton**



**Kendall
Destry**

a traditional military celebration. The event is named in honor of the late Col. Donald M. Wade, a former Board of Education Chairperson and member. Wade was a retired U.S. Air Force colonel who was instrumental in bringing the JROTC program to CCPS students. Students who are seniors enrolled in a JROTC program attend the event.

Student publications

School-sponsored publications are subject to review by the school principal or by the faculty advisor or teacher assigned to the particular class or publication. Any student who wants to distribute a publication that is not officially recognized as a school publication shall submit such publication to the principal of the school for review and approval.

Maryland MESA

Maryland Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) is a structured pre-college program offered to Charles County Public Schools students in affiliation with the Maryland MESA central office at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. MESA is designed to build student interest in pursuing careers in the fields of mathematics, engineering, science and technology. Students participate in regional MESA Day competitions. Overall winners continue on to participate in the Maryland MESA state competition held annually in May. Call 301-934-7253 or visit <https://secwww.jhuapl.edu/stem/mesa> for more information about MESA.

Educators Rising

Educators Rising, formerly known as Future Educators Association (FEA), is a subsidiary of Phi Delta Kappa, the international professional educators' fraternity. Advisors for middle and high school chapters provide opportunities for students to explore careers in education. Each middle and high school has a chapter for students in Grades 6 through 12 who are interested in becoming educators.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Autism Month. • National School Library Month. • National Occupational Therapy and Poetry Month. • Month of the Military Child. • Arab American Heritage Month. • Volunteer Awareness Month. • National Assistant Principals Week, April 6-10. • Week of the Young Child is celebrated in April. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Library Week, April 19-25. • Administrative Professionals Week, April 19-25. • Public School Volunteer Week, April 20-24. • National Student Leadership Week, April 24-30. • CCPS Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, April 27-May 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring break Schools closed • Passover (begins at sunset-April 9) • Paraprofessionals Appreciation Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring break Schools closed • International Children's Book Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Friday Schools/offices closed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National School Librarian Day 	
5 Easter	6 Easter Monday Schools/offices closed	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third marking period ends • MCAP ELA & math assessments begin (April 7-May 29) • Parapro & ProStart exams (April 7-May 15) 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth marking period begins • All-County Jazz rehearsal 	9 Elementary All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsals	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Westlake prom 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACT • Elementary Math Challenge @ Davis
12	13	14 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K4 application opens/Kindergarten registration opens • Spanish Speaking Parent Advocacy Group, 6 p.m. @ Mudd • All-County Jazz rehearsal • Envirothon competition @ Gilbert Run Park • Elementary All-County Band & Orchestra rehearsals 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title I DADvisory Council meeting, 6 to 8 p.m. @ Starkey Building • Elementary All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsals 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MESA Showcase @ North Point • La Plata prom 	18 Early Learning Launch 10 a.m. to noon
19	20 Report cards posted	21 Elementary All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsals	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Professionals Day • All-County Jazz rehearsal • SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center • Earth Day 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-County Jazz rehearsal • Elementary All-County Band and Orchestra rehearsal and concert, 6:30 p.m. 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCPS/CSM Jazz Festival • CCASC meeting @ Stone 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Arbor Day 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Charles prom • All-County Jazz Concert 7 p.m. @ CSM
26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring i-Ready assessments begin (April 27-June 5) • Spring EOC Government & LS MISA begins (April 27-May 29) • Board work session 4:30 p.m. 	28 CCPS Bus Driver and Attendant Appreciation Day	29	30	March 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.



Pictured are the Class of 2025 valedictorians and salutatorians. Read more about these class leaders on Page 36.

* Students must enroll in and pass a math course every year in high school (COMAR 13A.04.12.01). Electives for students must be completed through one of the following two pathways: two credits of the same world language and three electives; or completion of a state-approved career and technical education (CTE) program and elective credits. The number of elective credits required may differ, depending on the CTE program. See the *2025-2026 High School Program of Studies* or visit the school system website at www.ccboc.com.

Additional requirements

The graduating Class of 2026 must participate in the MCAP Grade 10 English/Language Arts assessment, MCAP Algebra I assessment, High School Assessment in Government, and the Life Science Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA). Students must also pass the courses associated with each assessment. Students may participate in the winter or spring administration of an assessment to meet graduation requirements.

College and Career Centers

Through a partnership with the Tri-County Council of Southern Maryland, the College of Southern Maryland (CSM), and CCPS, a robust career exploration program is used in CCPS high schools. Students will learn to utilize the RIASEC taxonomy and framework to identify their interest and strengths in the world of work. Students start to explore their interests and strengths in elementary school.

Each middle school has a full-time Career Coach who supports classroom teachers as students develop their personal career pathway portfolio using the Xello online resource. The personal career pathway portfolio follows students throughout their time in CCPS and is used to influence course selection, and decisions students make concerning their future goals. Students can access Xello through their Clever account by using their CCPS Office 365 user name and password.

Each high school has a college and career center that is staffed by a full-time Career advisor, who offers one-on-one assistance to students as they examine their career goals and objectives. Students continue to build their personal career pathway portfolio. Career advisors provide informative programs for students and parents on the college and financial aid application process, arrange visits from higher education, military, apprenticeships, and business representatives, and maintain an updated list of all available scholarships.

Dual Enrollment program

Qualified juniors and seniors have the opportunity to earn college credit free of charge at the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) while also attending high school. Students must select approved college-level courses from CCPS. Students must be approved to participate in the Dual Enrollment program by CCPS and meet the requirements to participate in the Dual Enrollment program at CSM.

Early College program

CCPS partners with the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) to offer CCPS high school students and their families the CSM Early College Program. Open to qualified rising seniors and juniors, the tuition-free program is an opportunity to experience being a full-time college student, save money and earn college credits. Students take college classes on the CSM La Plata campus while simultaneously fulfilling their high school graduation requirements. Participating juniors will earn an Associate of Applied Science in Business Management (60 credits) degree and seniors will earn a General Studies: Transfer Certificate (31 credits).

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center

The Robert D. Stethem Educational Center offers alternative education programs for middle and high school students who are referred through the school system. High school students may apply for Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Stethem including Automotive Technician, Barbering, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC), Interactive Media Production, Pharmacy Technician and Physical Rehabilitation. Call 301-932-1003 for more information.

Virtual Academy

The Virtual Academy at the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center offers online high school courses and accepts students who are in Grades 9-12. Students must apply to attend the program. Virtual Academy students receive instruction through Synergy and Zoom, and also complete online course work. For additional information, contact your child's school counselor or call 301-932-6612 or 301-934-7391.

Graduation requirements

CCPS graduation requirements conform to state requirements and are designed to prepare students for college admission, further career study and entry into the workforce. For freshmen entering high school this year, the following credits are required as outlined below:

English (English I, II, III and IV)	4
Mathematics (two algebra credits and one geometry credit)*	4
Social Studies (U.S. history, government, world history)	3
Science (life science, physical science, Earth/space science)	3
Health	1
Physical Education	.5
Fine Arts	1
Technology Education (computer science, engineering or technology)	1
Financial Literacy	.5
Electives*	5

Scholarship totals for Class of 2025

Members of the CCPS Class of 2025 earned more than \$220 million in scholarship offers.

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	June 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30		Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. • Mental Health Awareness Month. • Jewish American Heritage Month. • Better Hearing and Speech Month. • National Physical Fitness and Sports Month. • National Music Week, May 3-10. • National Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8. • Pupil Personnel Worker (PPW) Week, May 4-8. • Learn more about the school system at www.ccboe.com. 		1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Lunch Hero Day • National School Principal Day 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAT • McDonough prom • Elementary Solo & Ensemble • Maryland History Day @ UMBC
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Placement (AP) testing window opens (May 4-21) • MCAP Grade 8 social studies assessment begins (May 4-29) • High school PLTW EOC exams begin (May 4-June 5) • High school CSM finals begin (select courses/May 4-22) 4	5 National Teacher Appreciation Day	6 National School Nurse Day	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Middle school track meet 1:30 p.m. @ Westlake HS 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools closed for students and teachers • National School Communicators Day 	9 Lackey prom
10 Mother's Day	11 Interims posted	12 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	13	14	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day for seniors • Pre-K3 application opens 	16 Thomas Stone prom
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Board work session 4:30 p.m. • CCPS PPW Community Resource Day • National Speech Pathologist Day 18	19	20 SECAC meeting, 6-7:30 p.m. @ Gwynn Center	21	22	23
24 31	25 Memorial Day Schools/offices closed	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High school graduations Regency Furniture Stadium (schedule TBD) • Eid al-Adha 	27 High school graduations Regency Furniture Stadium (schedule TBD)	28 High school graduations Regency Furniture Stadium (schedule TBD)	29 High school graduations Regency Furniture Stadium (schedule TBD)	30

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

School psychological services

Certified school psychologists are available at each school. School psychologists provide crisis intervention; counseling for individuals and groups; individual student assessments; and consultations with teachers, parents and administrators as well as referrals to, and consultations with, appropriate community agencies and professionals. For more information, call 301-934-7331.

Guidance and counseling services

Guidance and counseling services are available at each school. Certified school counselors can help parents and students in the areas of academics, personal decision making and career planning. School counselors work with parents, administrators, teachers and community resources to provide the best educational experiences for students. Parents may contact school counselors at the school or through the department of student services at 301-934-7334.

Pupil personnel workers

Pupil personnel workers (PPW) provide a variety of services to schools and students. The PPW serves as a resource and consultant to school personnel in matters of child safety, laws, local policies and procedures, and alternative programming. PPWs help with communication between home and school in matters of attendance, crisis situations or other issues that may concern students. The PPW also acts as the school system liaison in coordinating services to students and families provided by county agencies or community organizations. To contact a PPW, call your child's school or the department of student services at 301-934-7287.

School health program

The School Health Program is a collaborative effort between CCPS and the Charles County Department of Health. The program allows for nurses in each school, which helps students maintain their physical health, thus fostering their educational achievement. The role of the school nurse includes providing acute/emergency care, managing chronic health conditions, preparing plans of care for students with health conditions, initiating control measures to decrease the spread of communicable diseases, maintaining health records and reviewing records for compliance with state school entrance requirements. In accordance with Maryland law, new students entering CCPS, along with students in Grades 1 and 8, receive vision and hearing screenings. Parents who want to opt their child out of the screenings should notify the school in writing.

Assistive Medical Devices

If a student requires an assistive medical device such as but not limited to crutches, wheelchairs, medical scooters or other such device at any time during the school year, a physician's order with directions is necessary to ensure student safety during the school day.

Illness and medication

If a student becomes ill during the school day, the nurse or other school staff will notify a parent/legal guardian. If staff cannot reach parents, the individual(s) listed on the student's emergency card is called. Students are taken to the nearest medical treatment facility in emergency cases, when further medical care is required, and parent/guardian/emergency contact cannot be reached or is unable to pick up the child from school. The emergency card with a parent/guardian's signa-



John Hanson Middle School counselor Nichole Thomas talks with students Zadiel Middleton and Isaac Raub.

ture permits the principal to arrange emergency care for the student. School nurses follow Charles County Department of Health guidelines for communicable diseases and illness. The school nurse will send a student home from school if they meet criteria provided by the local health department or if the student's illness or injury does not allow the student to safely remain at school. Prior to returning to school from illness, students:

- **Need to be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.**
- **Need to have no occurrences of vomiting or diarrhea within 24 hours.**
- **Have completed 24 hours on antibiotics for infections such as conjunctivitis or strep throat.**

Efforts should be made to minimize the administration of medicine in schools. If possible, parents are urged to administer medication before or after school. Medication refers to all drugs prescribed by a physician, as well as over-the-counter, nonprescription drugs. Students on long-term medication must have a new Medication Administration Authorization Form completed by the physician and submitted at the beginning of each school year. Parents must pick up all medications at the end of the school year as specified by the school nurse or they will be discarded per state law.

To ensure the safe and efficient administration of medications to students, the following procedure is followed. If the physician deems it necessary for a child to receive medication during the school day, parents must provide the following:

- A completed Medication Administration Authorization Form containing complete written instructions from the prescribing physician, including the date of the order, identification of the drug by name, dose, time and circumstances of administration, length of time medication is to be continued, reason for prescription and possible side effects;
- A signature from parent/legal guardian on the Medication Administration Authorization Form in the designated area stating the desire to have medication administered and relieving the school, its agents, employees or representatives of any responsibility for ill effects resulting from proper administration of the prescribed drug. An adult must deliver the medication to the school in the original pharmacy container with all labeling information intact. By law, school nurses cannot administer unlabeled medications. The first dose of any medication cannot be given at school. Medications carried by students on school property without proper documentation will be confiscated and parents will be contacted; and
- Medical documentation is needed for students with food allergies. A physician must complete a Physician Order and Authorization for Food Allergy form in order for the child to have a flag in the cafeteria computer system. If the child's allergy changes, the school system will need an updated doctor's note to change or remove the restriction from the system. *(Due to allergies, students and their parents/guardians are not allowed to bring to school and distribute any outside food products unless the products are commercially manufactured, individually wrapped in single serving sizes and marked with the ingredients and the nutritional facts label.)*

By law, CCPS has orders for certain medications in the health suites for use on emergency basis. Each school is required to have Epi-pens and Naloxone available for emergency use. The Epi-pens are not intended to replace or substitute prescribed epinephrine for individual students. CCPS encourages parents to provide the school nurse with physician's orders and a three-day supply of critical medication routinely only given at home in case an emergency occurs that requires multi-day sheltering at school.

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5	6 SAT
7	8	9 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	10 Two-hour early dismissal for students	11 • Two-hour early dismissal for students • Last day of school for students	12 • Last day of school for teachers * Inclement weather make-up day 1	13 ACT
14 Flag Day	15 * Inclement weather make-up day 2	16 * Inclement weather make-up day 3	17 * Inclement weather make-up day 4	18	19 Juneteenth Schools/offices closed	20 First Day of Summer
21 Father's Day	22 •*Report cards posted (subject to change) • Board work session 4:30 p.m.	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	July 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Calendar Notes • Diversity and Inclusion Month. • Pride Month. • Caribbean American Heritage Month. • National History Week, June 14-18. • ** In the event of inclement weather, instructional days will be added to the end of the school year as follows: June 12, 15, 16 and 17. Please note, the last teacher day will also change if schools close during the year for inclement weather.		

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

PTOs, PTSOs

The purpose of a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) or a Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) is to foster collaboration among parents, teachers, and students to enhance the educational experience and overall well-being of the school community. The key objectives of the PTO/PTSO are to encourage community involvement, promote education, advocate for students and families, and support school activities. Overall, the PTO/PTSO aims to build a bridge between home and school, ensuring a cooperative and supportive environment for students to thrive.

In elementary schools, CCPS is comprised of a PTO that includes school staff and parents as members. In middle and high schools, CCPS is comprised of a PTSO that includes school staff, parents and students as members.

Learning partners

Learning partners are recruited from the community to read and play math games to reinforce skills with elementary school students. Senior citizens, members of church groups, grandparents and other volunteers make up the cadre of tutors who provide instruction and practice necessary to develop confident readers. To volunteer, call 301-934-7361.

Rules about gifts for school system employees

All CCPS employees, including teachers, are required to follow the Board of Education policy related to the acceptance of gifts. Board Policy 8160 outlines rules about gifts for CCPS employees. The policy prohibits employees from soliciting or accepting gifts from parent(s) of students or students where a conflict of interest may exist. Teachers may accept unsolicited nominal gifts for holidays, birthdays and teacher appreciation occasions according to the following guidelines: single gifts with a value of up to \$20 may be accepted; and a series of gifts may be accepted up to \$100 per year. Call your child's principal for more information. The full policy is posted on Board Docs, which is connected to the CCPS website under the Quick Links menu.

Communications

CCPS offers parents, community members, staff and students several ways to find information about schools, centers, programs and the school system. Printed items, including the CCPS *Parent Handbook/Calendar* and the *Code of Student Conduct*, are sent home with students the first week of school annually. Any calendar updates made throughout the school year are posted to the CCPS website, www.ccboc.com, and shared with the community.

CCPS regularly sends email, phone and text messages (*to those who opt-in for texts*) to the contact information listed on a student's emergency information card. Contact information is listed for students in the CCPS Student Information System, Synergy. Notifications are sent to the primary email and phone number listed for a student in Synergy for any identified parent/guardian. CCPS uses School Messenger for these notifications. Emails come from the email account sender message@ccboc.com. Parents/guardians may not opt out of receiving attendance, emergency or meal account balance notification phone calls. Communications staff manages



North Point High School students **Ti'Laisha Cooper** and **Sydney Ivory** complete a lab assignment in the biotechnology career and technical education (CTE) program.

www.ccboc.com, school websites, CCPS systemwide social media accounts, media relations, the livestreaming of events such as high school graduations and Board of Education meetings, Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) requests, internal and external communications, and Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 12.

Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 12 are public television stations that provide news and information about CCPS, student and staff accomplishments. The Office of Communications also supports a school public relations liaison program in which staff work with a liaison in each school and center to highlight school programs, staff, events and more. Liaisons help to manage social media accounts for schools and centers and provide website content. Communications staff oversee the CCPS social media accounts at Charles County Public Schools on Facebook and [@focusonccps](https://www.instagram.com/focusonccps) on Instagram. The school system monitors its social media platforms but is not responsible for content generated by users on these platforms. Learn more at www.ccboc.com.

Volunteer registration

CCPS believes volunteer service to schools is essential to student success. The support of parents, grandparents, other significant relatives, business partners and community members creates an environment filled with opportunities for students. Volunteers include, but are not limited to, people who serve as mentors, tutors, non-paid coaches or club sponsors, overnight and day trip chaperones, reading and math partners, and parent group organization officers like the PTO, boosters or team parents.

Anyone interested in volunteering with CCPS must undergo a background check and training, which are good for one year. There is no cost to volunteers for a background check. Parents interested in volunteering at their child's school should contact the school directly to express their interest. A registration link will be emailed from the school's volunteer coordinator when volunteers are needed. The link includes the required training materials, the prescreening questionnaire, a handbook that outlines guidelines, expectations and regulations for volunteers, and a link to submit information required for a background check.

If a parent/guardian wants to volunteer at a school their child does not attend they should complete the Community Member Volunteer Interest Form found on the CCPS website at www.ccboc.com/parents/volunteer-information. All volunteers will receive email confirmation when the background check is complete. The majority of volunteer registration submissions are processed within 48 hours. Volunteers who are cleared through the process are placed on a school or center list, but are not guaranteed to be called upon during the school year. School administrators will contact volunteers when there is a school/student need that matches a volunteer's interest or skills.

Volunteers should notify school administrators if they no longer wish to be on the volunteer list. CCPS reserves the right to discontinue a volunteer relationship with any individual at any time. Visit www.ccboc.com to learn more.

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month (FDA). Charles County Public Schools televises Board of Education meetings live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 12. Meetings are also streamed live at ccboe.com. CCPS <i>Parent Handbook/Calendar</i> is distributed to all students and staff during the first week of school. An electronic version is posted on the CCPS website in August. 		June 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	1	2	3 Independence Day observed Schools/offices closed	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 ACT
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	August 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Community Engagement and Equity

The CCPS Department of Community Engagement and Equity (DCEE) is dedicated to promoting collaboration between schools and the community to enrich learning experiences for families and students. The DCEE aims to offer workshops and resources and build meaningful community partnerships for the school system.

The department employs a systemwide strategy to support schools in the areas of academics, instruction and culture. The DCEE promotes respect and appreciation for all values, backgrounds and learning styles. The DCEE shares a unified vision for cultivating inclusive environments for all students, staff, families and communities.

The DCEE is committed to working with the collective community to make schools safe places where everyone is welcomed and appreciated. Stronger family and community engagement empowers families to become active partners in education, leading to improved student attendance, academic motivation and post-graduation readiness.

Be the Difference volunteer recognition

CCPS values volunteers who support children by contributing time and resources to schools and the school system. CCPS and the Board of Education of Charles County launched the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Be the Difference awards program in 2018 to recognize outstanding school volunteers for their valuable contributions to schools, students, staff and CCPS. The CCPS Department of Community Engagement and Equity oversees the awards program and works with a Board of Education subcommittee to select award finalists.

Schools can nominate volunteers for recognition through the program annually. The Be the Difference awards program features four award categories for volunteer recognition: elementary school, middle school, high school and central office.

Partners in Education

Building relationships and strengthening the ties between schools and the communities are beneficial and in the best interests of children. A foundation of cooperation and accountability can support a child's future and strengthen the relationships between educators and community members. The CCPS Department of Community Engagement and Equity (DCEE) has established an application process for organizations interested in becoming a CCPS Partner in Education including in-kind donations, education/tutoring programs, training/professional development programs and mentoring programs.

Applicants are required to complete an application for each Partners in Education category applicable to the organization. If the Partner in Education categories do not apply to the applicant's organization, the application process will prompt the representative to contact Traci Chappellear-Thomas, DCEE director, at tchappellear@ccboe.com. The application can be found at www.ccboe.com.

Community Schools Program

Community schools promote positive, equitable outcomes by providing students and families with the physical and mental health, academic, and extracurricular supports needed to thrive. While all schools provide support to students, community schools work in collaboration with community partners, local governments, and other stakeholders to provide wraparound services that address barriers to learning and success. In Maryland, a community school is any school found eligible by MSDE to receive Concentration of Poverty Grant funds. These funds are used to hire a Community School Coordinator and a professional healthcare practitioner at each identified Community School. After those positions are filled, the community school may use remaining funds to provide wrap-around services. CCPS has 14 Community Schools. For more information, contact the CCPS community school liaison at 301-934-7326 or visit www.ccboe.com.

School websites

Every Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) school and center has a website. Check out the sites for school events, accomplishments and need-to-know news.

Elementary Schools

- <https://barnhart.ccboe.com/>
- <https://berry.ccboe.com/>
- <https://billingsley.ccboe.com/>
- <https://brown.ccboe.com/>
- <https://craik.ccboe.com/>
- <https://diggs.ccboe.com/>
- <https://galebailey.ccboe.com/>
- <https://higdon.ccboe.com/>
- <https://indianhead.ccboe.com/>
- <https://jenifer.ccboe.com/>
- <https://malcolm.ccboe.com/>
- <https://martin.ccboe.com/>
- <https://matula.ccboe.com/>
- <https://middleton.ccboe.com/>
- <https://mitchell.ccboe.com/>
- <https://mthope.ccboe.com/>
- <https://mudd.ccboe.com/>
- <https://neal.ccboe.com/>
- <https://parks.ccboe.com/>
- <https://tyon.ccboe.com/>
- <https://thornton.ccboe.com/>
- <https://turner.ccboe.com/>
- <https://wade.ccboe.com/>

Middle Schools

- <https://davis.ccboe.com/>
- <https://glymont.ccboe.com/>
- <https://hanson.ccboe.com/>
- <https://henson.ccboe.com/>
- <https://mattawoman.ccboe.com/>
- <https://piccowaxen.ccboe.com/>
- <https://pisota.org/>
- <https://somers.ccboe.com/>
- <https://stoddert.ccboe.com/>

High Schools

- <https://lackey.ccboe.com/>
- <https://laplata.ccboe.com/>
- <https://mcdonough.ccboe.com/>
- <https://northpoint.ccboe.com/>
- <https://stcharles.ccboe.com/>
- <https://stone.ccboe.com/>
- <https://westlake.ccboe.com/>

Centers

- <https://elc-lp.ccboe.com/>
- <https://elc-waldorf.ccboe.com/>
- <https://gwynn.ccboe.com/>
- <https://sciencecenter.ccboe.com/>
- <https://nanjemoycreek.ccboe.com/>
- <https://stethem.ccboe.com/>

Glossary of often-used acronyms

- **AP:** Advanced Placement
- **AVID:** Advancement Via Individual Determination
- **CTE:** Career and Technical Education
- **CSM:** College of Southern Maryland
- **ELA:** English Language Arts
- **ELC:** Early Learning Center
- **ELD:** English Language Development
- **EOC:** End of Course
- **IEP:** Individualized Education Program
- **KRA:** Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- **MESA:** Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement
- **MCAP:** Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program
- **MISA:** Maryland Integrated Science Assessment
- **MSDE:** Maryland State Department of Education
- **PBIS:** Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support
- **PISOTA:** Phoenix International School of the Arts
- **SECAC:** Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee
- **SRO:** School Resource Officer
- **SST:** Student Support Team
- **STEAM:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics (also known as STEM)

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
July 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information about Charles County Public Schools, visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com; like us on Facebook at Charles County Public Schools or follow us on Instagram at @focusonccps; or call the 24-hour information line at 301-934-7410/301-932-6656. An electronic copy of the <i>Parent Handbook/Calendar</i> is posted on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. Most Jewish and Muslim religious observance dates begin at sundown on the evening prior to the dates noted and conclude at sundown the next evening. 				September 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10 New Educator Orientation begins	11 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	12	13	14	15 SAT		
16	17 First day for returning teachers	18	19	20	21	22		
23 30	24 First day of school for students, K-12 31	25	26	27	28	29		

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

See Something, Say Something

It takes everyone — parents, community members, students and staff — working together to keep schools safe. See Something, Say Something encourages students, parents, staff and community members to report anything they feel threatens the safety of others. All reports are thoroughly investigated, often with the assistance of School Resource Officers (SROs), who are sworn members of the Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO).

CCPS employs a Director of School Safety and Security, who provides safety training and works with the SROs and school administrators to plan for crisis response. CCPS manages an anonymous online reporting system on the school system website where anyone can report a safety threat at any time. The reporting page is available at <https://www.ccboe.com/community/see-something-say-something>. See Something, Say Something reports can be shared anonymously, and are investigated by designated CCPS staff and administrators. The school system also has an anonymous reporting hotline, 301-302-8305.

Staff/student training

CCPS staff participate in Safe Schools training. The training is mandated and includes blood borne pathogens, reporting of suspected child neglect/abuse, the CCPS drug and alcohol policy and more. Students and staff also participate in emergency trainings and drills throughout the school year, such as fire drills, tornado drills and active shooter drills. The trainings prepare students and staff for situations often associated with severe weather, community police activity, or the need for local emergency services to use a school campus for accident/emergency response. All schools have emergency plans that provide basic guidelines and procedures for staff to follow in the event of an emergency.

Under CCPS standard response protocols, schools may implement emergency status procedures at any time, such as a Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate or Shelter. A visual breakdown of the protocols is posted on the CCPS safety and security website at <https://www.ccboe.com/quick-links/safety-and-security>. CCPS updates, reviews and revises school plans and response protocols annually.

CCPS hiring practices

All candidates complete an employment application, including references. All new hires, including substitutes and temporary employees, are fingerprinted. These fingerprints are submitted to the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS), which searches both the Maryland and FBI databases. If there is a reportable incident, the Office of Human Resources determines whether the incident disqualifies someone from employment. Additionally, I-9 forms are completed to verify eligibility to work in the United States. CCPS requests a Child Protective Services background clearance. Child Protective Services notifies CCPS of any child abuse findings involving prospective employees.

State law requires criminal background checks of public school employees hired on or after Oct. 1, 1986. The CCPS Office of School Safety and Security will screen nearly 1,500 employees at random each year. Selected employees will be notified by email prior to the background check. Prior to 2018, CCPS relied on fingerprint identification technology to conduct initial and ongoing background screenings. To fill the gap, CCPS has contracted with a company to complete additional social-security based background screenings on employees.



Child abuse reporting

All CCPS employees and volunteers are required by state law and the Board of Education to report suspected child abuse or neglect cases to the Department of Social Services or appropriate law enforcement agency. CCPS staff participate in training to better recognize the symptoms of child abuse or the behaviors of someone who is possibly abusing a child. For students, CCPS has implemented age-appropriate lessons in the health and counseling curriculum to help children recognize and report inappropriate contact and/or conduct.

The school system also has a partnership with the Center for Children to offer mental health assistance. Any parent or student who would like to report child abuse or neglect is encouraged to call the Charles County Department of Social Services at 301-392-6400, the Charles County Sheriff's Office at 301-932-2222 or the National Child Abuse Hotline at 800-422-4453.

School resource officers (SROs)

The CCSO School Resource Unit assigns one officer to every high school and middle school in Charles County. The officers work closely with administrative staff and teachers to enhance school safety and address security matters. The officers also develop a rapport with students and present programs that encourage good decision-making, build self-esteem and teach students to be positive role models. In addition to fulfilling their responsibilities at their respective high school or middle school, each elementary school has an assigned SRO who works with school administrators to address security matters and present student programs.

The SROs provide crime prevention programs to CCPS students including Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) and Truth and Consequences. SROs also help to coordinate We Care, a program that has reduced teen traffic fatalities by using innovative methods to encourage young motorists to drive safely. Each summer, SROs host several camps including Badges for Baseball, a football camp, a Just Say No camp, the Summer Youth Achievement Program and the Ladies Leadership Soccer camp.

Conduct

CCPS distributes *Code of Student Conduct* booklets to students annually. The *Code* outlines acceptable behavior, systemwide conduct policies and transportation information. All students must read and sign the booklet with their parent/guardian. The *Code* booklet is used in conjunction with individual school handbooks. The *Code of Student Conduct* outlines behavioral infractions and includes a discipline outline with levels of response for each infraction. Student conduct rules apply to all students who are participating in a school-sponsored activity on or off school grounds. The *Code* is posted on the school system website at www.ccboe.com.

Youth Engagement Advocates

Each high school has a youth engagement advocate who is a member of the administrative team. The advocate's primary job duties include conducting *Code of Student Conduct* investigations, youth mentoring, relationship building, conflict resolution, physical security of the facility and crisis management.

Standard safety protocols

To learn how CCPS schools and offices handle emergency situations, including inclement weather, police activity in a surrounding neighborhood or medical situations, turn to Page 34. Students and staff practice drills associated with standard safety protocols regularly.

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	October 2026 S M T W Th F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day Schools/offices closed	8 Board meeting, 1 p.m. Public forum, 6 p.m.	9	10	11	12 SAT
13	14	15	16	17	18 Teacher in-service day Schools closed for students only	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Two-hour early dismissal for students	26
27	28 Interims posted	29	30	Calendar Notes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more information about Charles County Public Schools, visit the school system website at www.ccboe.com; like us on Facebook at Charles County Public Schools; or call the 24-hour information line at 301-934-7410/301-932-6656. • An electronic copy of the <i>Parent Handbook/Calendar</i> is posted on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. • Most Jewish and Muslim religious observance dates begin at sundown on the evening prior to the dates noted and conclude at sundown the next evening. 		

* Dates and times listed in this calendar are subject to change. Visit www.ccboe.com About, Calendar for the most up-to-date version of the 2025-2026 Parent Handbook/Calendar.

Accident insurance for students: The school system allows an insurance carrier to offer a student accident insurance plan. The forms are available on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. The plan does not replace a primary health insurance plan and should be considered as a supplement to other health and accident insurance coverage. CCPS does not handle claims or related issues. Parents are responsible for sending in premiums and for filing claims with the insurance carrier. Visit www.bobmccloskey.com/K12Voluntary.

Animals on school property: No dogs or other pets are permitted in school buildings or on school grounds without the direct permission of the school administration. Exceptions are service animals, and animals used for public school-sponsored programs approved by school administration. Anyone bringing an animal on to school property for a permitted and approved purpose must have the animal on a leash, under control at all times and clean up after the animal.

Anti-teasing/bullying/harassment programs: CCPS believes students must feel safe and comfortable to benefit from the educational program. Research states one of the most common reasons students feel negative and uneasy about their school environment is related to the existence of teasing, bullying and harassment activities by other students.

CCPS does not condone any form of teasing or bullying. Students who believe they are victims of teasing or bullying should inform a teacher or school administrator immediately. Anti-bullying/harassment programs have been put into effect at all Charles County public schools. Bullying/harassment behavior is not tolerated. The goal is to teach and require mutual respect among all students. Parents and students are strongly recommended to fill out a Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation Reporting Form if there is an incident of bullying or harassment in school. A copy of this form is sent home at the beginning of each school year in the *Code of Student Conduct*. The form is also located on the school system website at www.ccboe.com. Parents and students can call the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline at 800-422-0009 for additional information or assistance.

Asbestos: Public and private elementary and secondary schools are required to address asbestos in school buildings in accordance with the 1986 Asbestos Hazard Energy Response Act (AHERA). The act requires the school system to notify parents and others of any AHERA inspections, response actions and post-response activities that are planned or in progress. The Asbestos Management Plan for each building is on file in each school office and is available during regular office hours for review. As long as asbestos-containing materials are not disturbed, they pose no threat to building occupants or to the environment. For more information, call the Safety and Risk Management Office at 301-934-7275.

Before-and after-school care: Before- and after-school care is offered at all elementary schools. The program is operated by AlphaBest, a vendor contracted by the Charles County Department of Community Services. Centers are licensed and operate during the school year. Visit www.alphabest.org/charlescounty/ or call 301-632-6804 for more information.

Blueprint for Maryland's Future: The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a landmark state law passed in 2021, focuses on improving educational outcomes for students. The plan is based on five major policy areas. The policy areas include early childhood education, high quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, more resources to ensure students are successful, and accountability and governance. CCPS created a district plan in March 2023 focused on the five policy based areas on the recommendations of various stakeholder groups including educators, government employees, community members and parents. The CCPS plan was updated in May 2024. For more information, visit <https://www.ccboe.com/quick-links/blueprint-for-marylands-future>.

Budget: The 2025-26 operating budget totals \$529.5 million. It is a budget that enables the system to move forward with maintaining existing programs and funding mandatory costs. County revenues fund 45.8% of the Board's budget and the remaining money comes from state, federal and other sources. During scheduled public work sessions, Board members review the Superintendent's budget request. The Board then receives comments on the budget during a public hearing. All hearing dates are posted in advance on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. Board members submit their budget requests to the Charles County Commissioners, who have funding authority over the total budget and categories as defined by state law. Once set by the Commissioners, the Board must manage its approved budget according to state law. For budget information, call the chief financial officer at 301-934-7350.

Cell phone rule: Charles County Public Schools allows the possession and use of cell phones and other personal electronic devices by students. It is the intent of the Superintendent to ensure that this allowance does not disrupt the learning environment, after-school activities or the safe transportation of students. Students are permitted to use cell phones while attending (but not participating in) general public events that occur after-hours and are open to the community. The following conditions outline the standard expectations for the possession and/or use of cell phones by students at school, on the bus or on other school-chartered vehicles.

Elementary school students

- Students may only bring their phone or device with written approval from the principal.
- Once approved, student must keep their phone or device powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and inside their book bag, locker or cubby throughout the entirety of each school day, unless other storage arrangements are made with the teacher.
- Once approved for school, students may use their phone or device on the bus or school-chartered vehicle, but use must not be disruptive or cause a distraction to the driver at any time. Sound must only be audible through headphones. Phone conversations are prohibited.

Middle school students

- Students may bring their phone or device but once school begins must keep them powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and remain in a non-visible, secure location throughout the entirety of each school day.
- Students may use their phone or device on the bus or school-charted vehicle, but it must not be disruptive or cause a distraction to the driver at any time. Sound must only be audible through headphones. Phone conversations are prohibited.
- Students may use their phone or device at the end of the school day for the purpose of making transportation arrangements as it relates to after-school activities or events.

High school students

- Students may bring their phone or device but once school begins the device must be powered completely off (not on vibrate or silent mode) and must remain in a non-visible, secure location, with the exception of lunchtime or during an approved activity period.
- Phones and devices may be used during approved times but must not be disruptive or serve any inappropriate purposes; such as loud/explicit music or videos, recording, airdropping, sending or posting inappropriate messages or images (via text or social media), or any type of cyberbullying.
- At the end of the lunch or activity period, all phones and devices must be immediately powered back off and returned to a non-visible, secure location until the end of the school day.
- Students may use their phone or device at the end of the school day for the purpose of making transportation arrangements as it relates to after-school activities or events.
- Students may use their phone or device on the bus or school-charted vehicle, but it must not be disruptive or cause a distraction to the driver at any time. Sound must only be audible through headphones. Phone conversations are prohibited.

Please note the following additional guidelines governing all school levels:

- Cell phones or personal electronic devices with camera and/or video functions must not be used to take or transmit any image or video at any time, even if the use of the phone or device is otherwise permitted.
- Violations of these expectations will result in consequences as specified in the Levels of Response section of the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) *Code of Student Conduct* document.
- The use of a cell phone or personal electronic device to secretly record or intercept a private conversation is a violation of state law. Violations may be reported to the authorities.
- All cell phone rules (and discipline consequences) apply even if communicating with parents. Parents are highly discouraged from initiating or participating in any electronic communication with their children during the school day.

Collection of bad checks: CCPS uses Envision Payment Solutions to recover returned checks. The agency works directly with the check issuer to recover funds. There is no cost to the school system for this service, and the agency will work to collect the face amount of the check and up to a \$35 fee, which is allowed by Maryland law. Questions can be directed to Envision Payment Solutions at 1-877-290-5460 or customerservice@envisionpayments.com.

Community centers: Community centers are located at Billingsley, Margaret J. Thornton and William B. Wade elementary schools, and most county middle schools. They are operated by the Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism in partnership with Charles County Public Schools. Throughout the year, community centers offer leisure programs and activities for Charles County residents of all ages. Operating schedules may vary based on school system events and programs, and operating hours change by season. Community members interested in visiting a community center should call ahead to confirm the operating schedule or visit <https://www.charles-countyparks.com/recreation/recreation-facilities>.

Dress code: Suggestive, provocative or excessively tight clothing is not allowed to be worn to school or to school-sponsored activities. CCPS does not allow clothing to be worn on school property or to school-sponsored activities which displays messages or images that are offensive, vulgar, harassing, or otherwise inappropriate for the school setting. Clothing that is judged by the school administration to be disruptive to the orderly school process either by virtue of the design or in the manner in which it is worn is also forbidden. Members of the CCPS *Code of Student Conduct* Committee, in collaboration with parents, staff, and community members, developed the following system-wide dress code, as amended and approved by the Board of Education. *The responsibility for the dress and grooming of a student rests primarily with the student and their parent/guardian.*

Allowable Dress & Grooming

- Students must wear clothing including both a shirt with pants or skirt, or the equivalent and shoes.
- Shirts and dresses must have fabric in the front and on the sides, which fully covers the midriff at all times.
- Clothing must cover undergarments.
- Fabric covering all private parts must not be see through.
- Hats and other headwear must allow the face to be visible and not interfere with the line of sight to any student or staff. Hoodies must allow the student face and ears to be visible to staff at all times.
- Clothing must be suitable for all scheduled classroom activities including physical education, science labs, technical education, and other activities where unique hazards exist.
- Specialized courses may require specialized attire, such as sports uniforms or safety gear.

Non-Allowable Dress & Grooming

- Clothing may not depict, advertise, or advocate the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or other controlled substances.

- Clothing may not depict pornography, nudity, sexual acts or violence or obscenities.
- Clothing may not use or depict hate speech targeting groups based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious affiliation, or any other protected groups.
- Clothing may not include gang identifiers and must not threaten the health or safety of any other student or staff.
- If the student's attire or grooming threatens the health or safety of any other person, then discipline for dress or grooming violations should be consistent with discipline policies for similar violations.

Note: Administrators have the flexibility to exercise their judgment to determine if a student's attire is considered disruptive, distracting, or a safety hazard. Exceptions may be granted for medical or religious reasons.

Drug-free zones: The Maryland Youth Protection Act designates school property as drug-free zones. State law stiffens penalties given to individuals convicted of distributing, possessing and/or manufacturing controlled dangerous substances (CDS) within drug-free zones. Signs reminding the community of the law are posted at all schools and centers. Students who are found in possession of or to be distributing a CDS are subject to disciplinary actions outlined in the *Code of Student Conduct*. All CCPS schools have been supplied with Naloxone (Narcan) to assist trained staff in rescuing opioid overdose victims.

Home and hospital services: Home and hospital instruction is provided for eligible students who are unable to participate in their school of enrollment due to verified physical or emotional conditions. Students frequently absent due to a recurring illness may qualify for the Chronic Health Impairment Program for Students (CHIPS). All physical and emotional conditions must be verified by the appropriate medical professional. Call 301-934-7457 for assistance.

CCPS Homeless Education/Foster Care: Youth in Transition programs: CCPS provides educational services to children and youth experiencing homelessness and living in foster care. The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act defines homeless children and youth to be those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate night-time residence. A child or youth in the supervised care and custody of State agency is considered a student living in foster care. The agency must contact and submit a completed foster care enrollment form with required documents to the CCPS Youth in Transition/Foster Care Coordinator (YITFC) when a child or youth enters foster care. Contact the YITFC in the department of student services at 301-934-7326 for assistance with these programs.

Integrated pest management: CCPS uses a proactive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. The IPM program includes routine inspections or surveys of all school facilities to identify conditions conducive to pest invasion, to ensure early detection of pest presence and to monitor infestation levels. CCPS attempts to use alternatives to pesticide application, such as employee education, source reduction, inspection and identification of potential problem areas. Pesticides are used only as a last resort. State law requires that parents of all elementary school children be notified prior to all pesticide applications. Middle and high school parents who want to be notified prior to pesticide applications must request in writing that they be placed on the school system's pesticide notification list. Include your name, address, telephone number, child's name and school, and send it to April Murphy, Charles County Public Schools, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646.

The following are pesticides and bait stations, by common name, which may be used in schools: Brodifacoum, Beta-cyfluthrin, Imidacloprid, Indoxacarb, Chloromequat chloride, Bacillus subtilis GB03, Potassium bicarbonate, Azadirachtin A, Potassium oleate, Hydramethylnon, D-trans al-lerthrin, Fipronil, Phenothrin, Glysophosate, Siduron, Benefin, Trifluralin, DiThiopyr, Triclopyr, Clopyralid, Dicamba, 2-4-D, Prometon, Lambda-Cyhalothrin, Bromadiolone, Chlorfenapyr, Dinote-

-furan, S Hydroprene, Bifenthrin, Deltamethrin, Thiamethoxam, Pyrethrin, Prallethrin, Boron sodium oxide, Tetrahydrate, Pyriproxyfen, Abamectin B1 and Mecoprop-P. Copies of safety data sheets (SDS) and product labels for each pesticide and bait station used on school property are available. Call 301-934-7295 for more information.

Job Shadow Day: Job Shadow Day, held annually in February, is a national initiative that gives students a firsthand look at the world of work. Job shadowing can take many forms, but typically it encompasses a half-day visit by a student to a place of work. The student should have an opportunity to tour the site, “shadow” an employee for at least two hours and participate in workplace activities. For more information, call 301-932-6610. CCPS also participates in the national Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

Library media program: Each school, except for special centers, has a library media center staffed by a library media specialist. The library media program provides instruction in information literacy skills that include support and promotion of reading, the application of a research process and the effective use of information technologies. In addition to print and non-print resources, students have access from home and at school to the library catalog and subscription online databases that include magazine and newspaper articles, video clips and graphics.

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA): Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) is the first public charter school in Charles County and opened in August 2023. The school serves students in Grades 6 to 8. Along with taking traditional academic classes, students select a focus area to study: dance, instrumental music, theater, visual art and vocal music. To learn more, visit the PISOTA website at www.pisota.org.

Pregnant and parenting students: Pregnant and parenting students may contact their school principal: (1) to obtain resources to find safe, affordable and reliable child care, and early childhood education services and transportation to and from school; (2) to arrange for excused absences from school or from individual classes due to circumstances related to their pregnancy or parenting; (3) to obtain information concerning appropriate, private lactation spaces in their schools; and (4) provide for reasonable accommodations.

Proof of domicile: As part of the CCPS student registration process, the registering parent/legal guardian must provide two acceptable proofs of the domicile address when students enroll in school, and for transitioning students entering Grades 6 and 9. Acceptable proofs of domicile requires one each from categories one and two.

Category one proofs include: deed, current verifiable lease/rental agreement, current mortgage statement/bill, settlement papers (within 45 days, with signatures), foster care placement letter/McKinney-Vento documentation, assignment of ownership agreement, most recent property tax bill for domicile or Maryland Dept. of Assessment and Taxation form. Category two proofs include: recent utility bill (within 45 days) with name and service address, current verification of service statement for same utilities, current wage statement (within 45 days) with name and address of employee and employer, most recent W-2, 1098, 1099, government issued statement of benefits with name and address (within 45 days) from Social Security Administration/Department of Social Services or correspondence on letterhead from local, state or federal court.

A full listing of proofs can be found on the CCPS website at www.ccoeb.com or by contacting the department of student services. Families who are domiciled with another family and have no proofs of domicile in their name may complete an Application of Domicile Request form, located under the Parent tab on the CCPS website, accompanied by two acceptable proofs of domicile for the owner/lessee of the property. Call 301-934-7287 for more details.

Project Graduation: Project Graduation is a drug- and alcohol-free party for CCPS high school graduates. The event takes place on the nights of high school graduation ceremonies. Graduates participate in activities such as obstacle course races, airbrush tattoo;s, campfires with S’mores and other fun activities. Graduates are also treated to refreshments provided by local vendors. Attendees can also enter raffles for prizes such as gift cards and electronics. All activities and refreshments are free.

Project Graduation was started by a community organization called The Chemical People in 1986 to provide a substance-free event for high school graduates and their guests. CCPS took over planning the event in 2017 and is a partnership made up of CCPS, the Charles County Sheriff’s Office, CSM, Charles County Department of Health, Charles County Commissioners, Charles County States Attorney’s Office, the Greater Waldorf Jaycees and several other businesses and community organizations in Southern Maryland.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA): The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) provides parents with certain rights regarding the conduct of surveys, collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These rights transfer from the parents to a student who is 18 years old or to an emancipated minor under state law. These include the right to:

1. Consent before students submit to a survey that concerns one or more of the following protected areas (“protected information survey”) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education:
 - a. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or student’s parent;
 - b. Mental or psychological problems of the student or student’s family;
 - c. Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - d. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - e. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - f. Legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers;
 - g. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student’s parent’ or
 - h. Income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility.
2. Receive notice and an opportunity to opt a student out of:
 - a. Any protected information survey administered or distributed to a student by the school system if the protected information survey is either not funded as part of a program administered by the Department or is funded as part of a program administered by the Department but to which a student is not required to submit;
 - b. Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening required by the school system as a condition of attendance; administered by the school system and scheduled by the school system in advance; and, that is not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student, with some exceptions; and
 - c. Activities of the school system involving collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or sale (or to otherwise distribute such information to others for that purpose), with some exceptions.
3. Inspect, upon request and before administration or use:
 - a. Protected information surveys of students and surveys created by a third party;
 - b. Instruments used to collect personal information from students for any of the above marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes; and
 - c. Instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

Reading review committee: The CCPS reading review committee is comprised of parents, teachers and administrative personnel. The committee reads, reviews and discusses middle and high school books for the approved novel list. Members vote to recommend to approve the book uncon-

ditionally, approve the book with parent notification or disapprove the book. Titles deemed sensitive in nature will carry an asterisk denoting: “This work has been approved by the CCPS Review Committee for its literary merit and its appropriate alignment with theme and course objectives. It may include, within its historical and/or cultural context, material or language such as violence, profanity or sexual content that is intended for a mature reader. CCPS honors parental requests for alternative assignments.”

SAIL Program: The Secondary Academy of International Languages (SAIL) is a regionalized English language development (ELD) program for English Learners at Maurice J. McDonough, St. Charles, Thomas Stone and Westlake high schools. The program is designed to assist secondary English Learners, including immigrant youth, attain English proficiency and develop high levels of academic and language achievement in English.

School Locator: School Locator is an online system that allows the public to enter an address and see which three school zones — elementary, middle and high — an address is zoned for. The system also indicates if the address is eligible for bus service, what the bus number is and where the closest bus stop is located. School Locator can be accessed at www.ccboe.com under the Quick Links menu. The system uses mapping data from the county and filters it by school zones. In October 2025, CCPS will move from School Locator to a new platform called BusPlanner. The new platform will support the same functions as School Locator.

Searches of students: A principal, assistant principal or school youth engagement advocate may make a reasonable search of a student on the school premises or on a school-sponsored trip if the searcher has reasonable belief the individual student has at the time of the search possession of an item that is a criminal offense under Maryland law, a violation of any other state law or a rule or regulation of CCPS. The reasonable belief may be based on observations, reliable tips, suspicious actions, and the prevalence and seriousness of the concern. The reasonable belief may allow a search of an area where the student may otherwise have a reasonable expectation of privacy. The search shall be made in the presence of a third party and must be reasonable in its scope considering what is being searched for and who is being searched. If designated in writing by the principal, a teacher may make a reasonable search of a student on a school-sponsored trip if the same reasonable belief exists.

Following the search, the principal or principal’s designee will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to explain the reason for the search and any items found and inform the parent/guardian of any subsequent administrative actions. The purpose of the contact is to inform the parent of the administrative search, however prior parental consent to search is not required under the law. School lockers are considered school property and may be searched by school administrators at any time for any reason. A principal, assistant principal or school youth engagement advocate may also make a search of the physical school building at any time for any reason. Dogs trained to detect the presence of drugs, weapons or other contraband may be used on school property when deemed necessary or appropriate by school officials or law enforcement.

Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC): The mission of the Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) is to develop partnerships and facilitate discussions between parents, educators and school administrators to advocate for enhanced services and opportunities for students with disabilities in Charles County. The committee meets during the school year at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center and is open to anyone. For additional information, call the department of special education at 301-392-7587.

Student personal property: The Charles County public school system, and its employees, agents, and contractors, are not responsible for the loss, theft, damage or destruction of any item

brought into school, onto school property, to a school activity or onto a school bus by a student, whether allowed or prohibited. Similarly, staff should not be expected to initiate searches for any lost or stolen personal student property. Bags and backpacks are to be stored in lockers. Students may carry their laptops in a sleeve and may carry a small hand-sized bag between classes. Backpacks, satchels, fanny packs, large purses or other bags are not allowed to be carried during the school day.

Student records/copies and transcript requests: CCPS maintains a cumulative and comprehensive record of each student’s educational experience. Parents or legal guardians of minor students may review their child’s record. School personnel will be present during the review to offer assistance. Eligible students may also inspect and review their records. Copies may be made at a cost of \$0.15 per page upon request. Contact the school or the department of student services for an appointment to review the record within 30 days of the request. Alumni who need to request their transcripts should visit the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com to view online ordering procedures.

A student’s name appears in the child’s student record as it appears on their legal birth certificate. If a student, parent or guardian wants to change their given birth name, CCPS must be presented with a court order. For additional information, call the department of student services at 301-934-7326.

Student information is confidential except for directory information. Directory information is defined as the student’s name, school, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, academic honors and achievements, photographs or likeness and other similar information. The parent or guardian of a student has the right to refuse to permit any or all of these items to be included as directory information for a student by annually informing the director of student services in writing by Sept. 1, or upon enrollment, whichever is later. Access to confidential information is given only to system personnel with a need to know and to agencies, individuals or organizations as required or allowed by law (Section 4-313 of the General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland). Among those who may be given access to confidential student information are school administrators, instructors, support staff and legal representatives; law enforcement and court personnel; certain representatives from higher education; and a person or company covered by a memorandum of understanding or contracted to provide an education-related service or a special service such as a medical consultant or therapist.

Parents, guardians and/or eligible students have a right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the school system to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. They may contact Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Eleventh- and 12th-grade high school students’ names, addresses and telephone numbers will be available to the U.S. armed forces upon the request by military recruiters as required by law. The student, parent or guardian who wishes to have this information withheld may do so by checking the appropriate box on the student emergency card indicating they are “opting out” of this release of information. Contact the department of student services at 301-392-7510 for additional information.

Unless otherwise ordered by a court, CCPS grants a non-custodial parent the same rights as the custodial parent to review the student’s record and to receive copies of all student-related information. Questions concerning these rights should be directed to the department of student services. If parents/guardians or an eligible student believe the student record contains inaccurate or misleading information or is otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy rights, they may seek to add or amend the record. Contact the department of student services at 301-392-7510 with questions.

CCPS may agree to show parents/guardians videos of their child used by the school system but retains the authority not to provide a copy of the video to the parents. Disabled parents or guardians, or eligible students may contact the department of student services to receive assistance with student records and system procedures. Parents, guardians and eligible students who are identified as having a primary or home language other than English may receive assistance through the department

of student services. The department of student services may be contacted at Department of Student Services, Charles County Public Schools, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646 or 301-392-7510.

Summer school: Middle and high school students may enroll in make-up course work through the summer school program. The 2026 summer school program begins in July. Students who complete their high school graduation requirements during summer school may receive their diplomas at a graduation ceremony. Call your child’s school counselor for more information.

Taxis and ride-share services: CCPS does not allow or approve of the use of taxis, cars-for-hire or any form of ride-share services (such as Uber or Lyft) to pick up students from its schools or school-sponsored events. CCPS is not responsible for the use of such services by students, and any students who use these services do so at their own risk.

Teacher qualification requests: Parents can request the qualifications of their children’s teachers and any paraprofessional that has direct contact with the student. Requests must be made in writing and submitted to your child’s school principal. For further information contact the chief human resources officer at 301-934-7255.

Title III - Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students: Title III of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 provides federal financial support to state and local school systems to supplement English language development (ELD) programs in order to ensure that all English Learners (ELs), including immigrant children and youth, attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic language achievement in English and achieve at high levels in academic subjects so that all English Learners can meet the same challenging academic standards that all children are expected to meet.

Title IX: Charles County Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex and prohibits sex discrimination and sex-based harassment in any education program or activity that it operates, as required by Title IX and its regulations. Inquiries about Title IX may be referred to Dr. Mike Blanchard, CCPS Title IX Coordinator, 301-932-6610 or mblanchard@ccboe.com.

The CCPS Title IX grievance rule can be located at https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1636649508/ccboecom/jmqcu45hnyejh9gg5jzn/Superintendents-Rule-Title-IX-Procedure_1.pdf. To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination or sex-based harassment under Title IX, contact Dr. Mike Blanchard or the school principal.

Use of school facilities: Charles County community groups and nonprofit organizations may be permitted to use school facilities for worthwhile purposes when they do not interfere with the regular school program. Every effort is made to assure that facilities are available for use by Charles County nonprofit, non-school organizations as much as is practical on a priority basis, in the following order: CCPS gives preference to all school or extracurricular programs for students, as well as to programs and activities for employees of CCPS. Priority is next given to PTOs and PTSOs, and any parent or community group established by the school administration to support the instructional program, followed by Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism-sponsored activities (except those that conflict with local, state or federal law and Board of Education policy), and then other nonprofit programs. Applications and handbooks outlining rules and procedures are posted on the CCPS website at www.ccboe.com. For more information, contact the principal of the school in which you have an interest, or the chief of operations and supporting services at 301-934-7270.

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain in room or area until the “All Clear” is announced
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Close and lock door
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building
Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors
Lock outside doors
Increase situational awareness
Account for students and adults
Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible
Lock the classroom door
Turn out the lights
Move away from sight
Maintain silence
Do not open the door
Prepare to evade or defend



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

Leave stuff behind if required to
If possible, bring your phone
Follow instructions

ADULTS

Lead students to Evacuation location
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy
Account for students and adults
Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

Hazard

Tornado
Hazmat
Earthquake
Tsunami

Safety Strategy

Evacuate to shelter area
Seal the room
Drop, cover and hold
Get to high ground



Charles County Public Schools

2025-2026 Quick View Calendar

July 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

October 2025

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

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30						

December 2025

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28	29	30	31			

January 2026

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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March 2026

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

April 2026

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May 2026

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June 2026

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28	29	30				

Schools closed, students and teachers

- Quarter ends

First/last day of school for teachers

- Quarter begins

First/last day of school for students

- Schools closed, students only

- Two-hour early dismissal

- Schools/offices closed

July 4: Independence Day	August 18: Teachers return to work 25: 1st day of school for students	September 1: Labor Day, schools/offices closed 12: Schools closed for students only 25: 2-hour early dismissal	October 28: 1st quarter ends 29: 2nd quarter begins 31: 2-hour early dismissal
November 10: Schools closed for students only 11: Veterans Day, schools/offices closed 19: 2-hour early dismissal 26-28: Thanksgiving holiday	December 5: 2-hour early dismissal 19: 2-hour early dismissal 22-31: Winter break, schools closed 24-25: Winter break, offices closed	January 1: New Year's Day, schools/offices closed 2: Winter break, schools closed 16: 2-hour early dismissal	February 16: Presidents Day, schools/offices closed 20: 2-hour early dismissal
March 4: 2-hour early dismissal 11: Schools closed for students only 27: 2-hour early dismissal 30-31: Spring break, schools closed	April 1-2: Spring break, schools closed 3: Good Friday, schools/offices closed 6: Easter Monday, schools/offices closed 7: 3rd quarter ends 8: 4th quarter begins 10: 2-hour early dismissal	May 7: 2-hour early dismissal 8: Schools closed for students and teachers 18: 2-hour early dismissal 25: Memorial Day, schools/offices closed	June 10, 11: 2-hour early dismissal days 11: Last day of school for students 12: Last day for teachers 19: Juneteenth, schools/offices closed

High Schools

Henry E. Lackey
3000 Chicamuxen Road
Indian Head, MD 20640
Hours: 7:25 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1753
Fax: 301-743-9076
Cheryl K. Davis, Principal

La Plata
6035 Radio Station Road
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1754
Fax: 301-934-5657
Douglass Dolan, Principal

Maurice J. McDonough
7165 Marshall Corner Road
Pomfret, MD 20675
Hours: 7:25 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1755
Fax: 301-753-8408
Darnell Russell, Principal

North Point
2500 Davis Road
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 8:05 a.m. - 2:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1759
Fax: 301-885-2347
Daniel Kaple, Principal

St. Charles
5305 Piney Church Road
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 7:25 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2090
Fax: 301-396-4135
Tammika Little, Principal

Thomas Stone
3785 Leonardtown Road
Waldorf, MD 20601
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1756
Fax: 301-932-4278
Shanif Pearl, Principal

Westlake
3300 Middletown Road
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1758
Fax: 301-932-8583
Dana Fenwick, Principal

Educational Centers

F.B. Gwynn Educational Center
5998 Radio Station Road
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1745
Fax: 301-934-3692
Todd Wonderling, Principal

Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center
5300 Turkey Tayac Place
Nanjemoy, MD 20662
Phone: 301-743-3526
Fax: 301-246-9623
Timothy Emhoff,
Environmental Education
Resource Teacher

James E. Richmond Science Center
5305 Piney Church Road
Waldorf, MD 20602
Phone: 301-934-7464
Fax: 301-396-4135
Monique Wilson, Director

Robert D. Stethem Educational Center
7775 Marshall Corner Road
Pomfret, MD 20675
Hours: 7:50 a.m. - 1:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1757
Fax: 301-934-0165
Corey Dobbins, Principal

Middle Schools

Theodore G. Davis
2495 Davis Road
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 8:55 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2082
Fax: 301-638-3562
Robert Griffiths, Principal

Glymont
4990 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, MD 20640
Hours: 8:40 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1786
Fax: 301-743-3044
Orlena Whatley, Principal

John Hanson
3165 John Hanson Drive
Waldorf, MD 20601
Hours: 8:35 a.m. - 3:05 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1783
Fax: 301-870-1182
Benjamin Kohlhorst, Principal

Matthew Henson
3535 Livingston Road
Indian Head, MD 20640
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1784
Fax: 301-944-0793
Christina Caballero, Principal

Mattawoman
10145 Berry Road
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 8:25 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1789
Fax: 301-638-0043
Anthony Carroll, Principal

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA)
95 Catalpa Drive #100
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 7:50 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2098
Fax: 301-944-1006
Jasmine Bateman, Ed.D.,
Principal

Piccowaxen
12834 Rock Point Road
Newburg, MD 20664
Hours: 7:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1785
Fax: 301-934-1628
Wualanda Thenstead, Principal

Milton M. Somers
300 Willow Lane
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1787
Fax: 301-934-2982
Gary Lesko, Principal

Administrative Offices

Charles County Public Schools
Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building
301-932-6610/301-870-3814; Fax: 301-932-6651
TTY (*for Hearing Impaired*), 301-392-7579
5980 Radio Station Road, La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Anonymous reporting hotline, 301-302-8305
Athletics, 301-934-7323
Board of Education, 301-934-7224
Communications, 301-934-7221
Instruction, 301-934-7377
Human Resources, 301-934-7255
Fiscal Services, 301-934-7350
Food Nutrition Services, 301-392-5575
School Administration, 301-934-7365
Special Education, 301-392-7587
Student Services, 301-934-7326
Superintendent, 301-934-7223
Supporting Services, 301-934-7270
Technology, 301-934-7250
Testing, 301-934-7312
Transcripts, 301-392-7514
Transportation, 301-934-7262
988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, 988

Class of 2025 — Page 20

The Class of 2025 included 2,282 graduates and earned \$220 million in scholarship offers. Class leaders pictured on Page 20 include, top row from left, Samantha Kindall, valedictorian, Henry E. Lackey High School; Jordyn Oliver, salutatorian, Lackey; Claire Bright, Sarah Dang and James “Trey” Roberts III, co-valedictorians, La Plata High School; Ava Rowledge, valedictorian, Maurice J. McDonough High School; Julie Perriello, salutatorian, McDonough; Kelsey Garrity, co-valedictorian, North Point High School; Aidan Metzgar, salutatorian, North Point; Samarjeet “Sam” Virk, co-valedictorian, North Point; Tobi Ojo, valedictorian, St. Charles High School; Jada Massey, salutatorian, St. Charles; Jordan Loeffler, valedictorian, Thomas Stone High School; Maida Nazir, salutatorian, Stone; Maddox Cypress, valedictorian, Westlake High School; and Gesselle Treminio Reyes, salutatorian, Westlake.

Benjamin Stoddert
2040 St. Thomas Drive
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1788
Fax: 301-870-1183
Marquelle Peavy,
Principal

Elementary Schools

C. Paul Barnhart

4800 Lancaster Circle
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1781
Fax: 301-645-8970
Caroline Burke, Principal

Berry

10155 Berry Road
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1782
Fax: 301-638-3659
LeighAnn McLaud, Principal

Billingsley

10069 Billingsley Road
White Plains, MD 20695
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2088
Fax: 301-374-9224
Sabrina Robinson-Taylor, Principal

Dr. Gustavus Brown

421 University Drive
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1741
Fax: 301-374-9489
Karen Lewis, Principal

Dr. James Craik

7725 Marshall Corner Road
Pomfret, MD 20675
Hours: 9:20 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1742
Fax: 301-934-8096
Jason Deihl, Principal

William A. Diggs

2615 Davis Road
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2081
Fax: 301-944-0797
Benjamin Harrington, Principal

Gale-Bailey

4740 Pisgah-Marbury Road
Marbury, MD 20658
Hours: 9:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1743
Fax: 301-743-2119
R. Demetri Sermons, Ed.D.,
Principal

Dr. Thomas L. Higdon

12872 Rock Point Road
Newburg, MD 20664
Hours: 9:10 a.m. - 3:40 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1766
Fax: 301-934-1718
Jennifer Posey, Principal

Indian Head

4200 Indian Head Highway
Indian Head, MD 20640
Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1746
Fax: 301-743-5080
Shane Blandford, Principal

Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer

2820 Jenifer School Lane
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1768
Fax: 301-374-9496
LaZedrick Jemison, Ed.D.,
Principal

Malcolm

14760 Poplar Hill Road
Waldorf, MD 20601
Hours: 9:20 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1747
Fax: 301-638-0054
Scott Hangey, Principal

T.C. Martin

6315 Oliver Shop Road
Bryantown, MD 20617
Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1748
Fax: 301-274-3765
Ethel Hosendorf, Principal

Mary H. Matula

6025 Radio Station Road
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 9:20 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1780
Fax: 301-934-5414
Davita Itsuokor, Principal

Arthur Middleton

1109 Copley Avenue
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1749
Fax: 301-944-0881
Nicole Hawkins, Principal

Walter J. Mitchell

400 Willow Lane
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1760
Fax: 301-944-0880
Diedra Barnett, Principal

Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy

9275 Ironsides Road
Nanjemoy, MD 20662
Hours: 9:20 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1761
Fax: 301-246-9453
Louis D'Ambrosio, Principal

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd

820 Stone Avenue
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1762
Fax: 301-374-9581
Portia Parker, Principal

Mary B. Neal

12105 St. Georges Drive
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2086
Fax: 301-944-0796
Michael Hoffman, Principal

J.C. Parks

3505 Livingston Road
Indian Head, MD 20640
Hours: 9:15 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1763
Fax: 301-944-0877
Hughes Valmond, Principal

J.P. Ryon

12140 Vivian Adams Drive
Waldorf, MD 20601
Hours: 9:20 a.m. - 3:50 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1764
Fax: 301-374-9583
Nicholas Adam, Principal

Margaret J. Thornton

5860 St. David Drive
White Plains, MD 20695
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-2083
Fax: 301-944-0894
Brian King, Ed.D., Principal

Eva Turner

1000 Bannister Circle
Waldorf, MD 20602
Hours: 8:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1765
Fax: 301-944-0804
Courtney Gandee, Principal

William B. Wade

2300 Smallwood Drive West
Waldorf, MD 20603
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Phone: 301-753-1769
Fax: 301-645-8793
Tangela Scales, Ed.D., Principal

Early Learning Centers

Early Learning Center, La Plata

8730 Mitchell Road
La Plata, MD 20646
Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Phone: 240-776-5804
Fax: 301-944-1005
Candice Vallandingham-Adam,
Coordinator

Early Learning Center, Waldorf

3155 John Hanson Drive
Waldorf, MD 20601
Hours: 9:45 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Phone: 240-776-5803
Fax: 301-885-0057
Ashley Valenzuela-Carrington,
Coordinator

Charles County Public Schools Calendar 2025-2026 at a glance



Visit our website at www.ccboe.com

Contact us at 301-932-6610 or 301-870-3814

Watch Comcast Channel 96/Verizon Fios 12

Mission

The mission of Charles County Public Schools is to provide an opportunity for all school-aged children to receive an academically challenging, quality education that builds character, equips for leadership, and prepares for life, in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning.

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 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 non-discriminatory 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).

August 2025

18: First day of school for returning teachers

25: First day of school for students, K-12

September 2025

1: Labor Day, schools/offices closed

12: Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only

November 2025

10: Parent/teacher conferences, schools closed for students only

11: Veterans Day, schools/offices closed

26-28: Thanksgiving holiday, schools/offices closed

December 2025

22-31: Winter break, schools closed for students and teachers

January 2026

1: New Year's Day observed, schools/offices closed

2: Winter break, schools closed for students and teachers

19: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday observed, schools/offices closed

26: Semester break, schools closed for students only

February 2026

16: Presidents Day, schools/offices closed

March 2026

11: Teacher in-service day, schools closed for students only

30-31: Spring break, schools closed

April 2026

1-2: Spring break, schools closed

3: Good Friday, schools/offices closed

6: Easter Monday, schools/offices closed

May 2026

8: Schools closed for students and teachers

25: Memorial Day, schools/offices closed

June 2026

11: Last day of school for students**

12: Last day of school for teachers**

(** *four inclement weather days are identified in the calendar*)

19: Juneteenth, schools/offices closed