

School News

CCPS spring break

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) spring break is Monday, March 30, through Monday, April 6. Offices will be closed Friday, April 3, and Monday, April 6.

Proposed FY 2027 budget

The [Fiscal Year 2027 Proposed Operating Budget](#) request focuses on providing opportunities for CCPS students to achieve the highest levels of academic achievement. The request maintains foundational instruction programs, supports the school system's continuation of the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future policy areas and focuses on staff competitive compensation and retention. To learn more about the proposed budget, visit www.ccboe.com.

Comms, tech survey

CCPS is surveying parents and staff about the school system website, communication platforms, technology use and student technology access at home. [Click here to take the survey \(available in English and Spanish\)](#). Deadline to complete the survey is 11:59 p.m., Friday, April 3.

CCPS staff members who are parents of children who attend a CCPS school can take the survey twice as the questions differ depending on the role selected.

Prepare for job fair

A CCPS Teacher Job Fair Preparation Session is 4-6 p.m., April 9, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Current support staff employees, substitute teachers and temporary workers with a conferred bachelor's degree who are interested in teaching can register to prepare for interviews. [To register, visit the Staff page of www.ccboe.com](#).



Marlon Curtis, left, a physical education teacher and coach at Westlake High School, greets members of the Board of Education of Charles County and the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) senior leadership team, during a recent event celebrating staff members' years of service to the school system. Right, Brenda Garner, left, started working as a secretary in transportation shortly after graduating high school. She is the secretary to the director of transportation. Garner is pictured with Superintendent Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.

Years of Service



Board, CCPS celebrate staff's years of service

After graduating from La Plata High School, Brenda Garner was working at the fast food restaurant, Hardee's, when she got a call from her former secretarial teachers. They knew of an opening for a secretary/typist in the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) transportation office and thought Garner should apply.

"I interviewed and got the job," she said. "I started in November 1980." Garner is celebrating her 45th year with CCPS, and was among other staff members at a March 19 ceremony marking milestone years in their employment with the school system.

Garner worked as a secretary/typist for a while before moving into the role of stenographer. Then, following the retirement of transportation director Sharon Turner's secretary, she made another move. "I applied for the [secretary] position and here I am," Garner said. "Seven directors ... I'm on my eighth one now and I'm still here." She still talks with Turner,

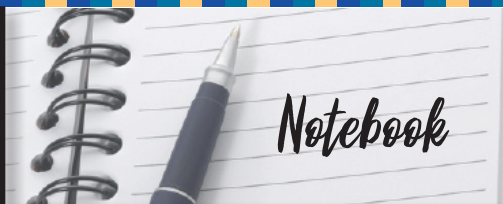
who was the first director of transportation for CCPS.

There are more than 600 bus drivers and attendants who work with CCPS and part of Garner's job is to ensure all drivers and attendants maintain their proper certifications through the county and state. She's also certified as a bus attendant who has been known to fill in where needed.

When she started her job in 1980, the office staff worked on typewriters and transportation staff handled bus contractors' payrolls, which were written out by hand. The county and school system have seen massive growth in the 45 years since Garner began working for CCPS. "Nothing has or will stay the same with growth," she said.

But some things don't change. "I love what I do and the people I work with," Garner said. "I have made lifelong friends, and we call ourselves a family in the office."

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On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County honored outstanding staff members at its March 10 meeting. Pictured on the cover are Rebecca Conner, special education teacher, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center; Susanti Martinez, art teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; and Henry Fors III, building service manager, Margaret J. Thornton Elementary School. To read more about the staff members honored, visit www.cbboe.com.

Bird Festival April 18

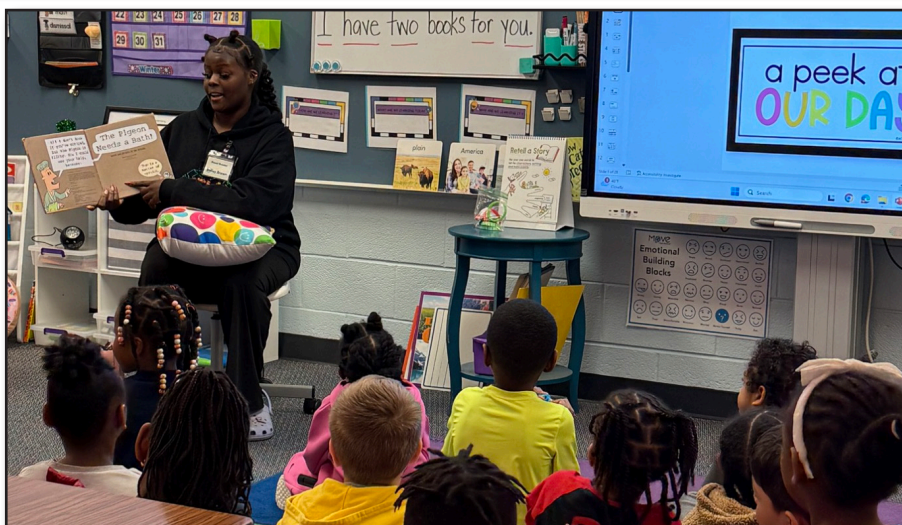
Westlake High School Environmental Club will hold a Bird Festival 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., April 18. The free event will celebrate owls, and there will be arts and craft stations, an opportunity to see live birds up close, activities for children, guest speakers, a birding field trip and food vendors. Westlake is at 3300 Middletown Road in Waldorf.

Early Learning Launch

The Early Learning Launch for families with children who are 5 and younger and will attend CCPS schools is set for 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, April 18. The event will be held at La Plata High School and feature assistance in the application and registration process, school readiness activities for children and parents, and free school resources. A Spanish-speaking interpreter will be present to assist families with a Spanish-speaking parent. To register, [click here](#).

Cultivating digital well-being

The Department of Community Engagement and Equity will host Empowering the Next Generation in a Connected World 5-7:30 p.m., April 20, at St. Charles High School. CCPS staff will lead a discussion with parents about artificial intelligence (AI), social media and raising kids in a digital world. Dinner will be provided, so registration is required. To register, visit www.cbboe.com.



Sharing a love of reading

Westlake High School students from Elite Black Men and My Sister's Keeper groups read to students at William B. Wade and Billingsley elementary schools earlier this month for Read Across America Month and Read Across Charles County Day. Westlake students read books such as "The Day the Crayons Quit" and "Pig Pug" to elementary students to encourage the importance of learning through reading.

Spring plays are blossoming at CCPS schools

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high schools will host plays in April and May. There are fairy tales, folk songs, fame and more this season for theatergoers.

"**Hadestown**" is a musical retelling of the Greek myth of Orpheus and Eurydice in a Depression-era setting. North Point High School will bring the play's folk score to life April 16 through 18. Shows are 7 p.m. on April 16, 17 and 18, with a 1 p.m. matinee on April 18. For tickets, [visit the North Point online box office](#).

Thomas Stone High School is on Easy Street 6:30 p.m., April 16 through 18, when it stages "**Annie Jr.**" An adaptation of the classic, "Annie," the musical is an abridged version of the story of an upbeat orphan adopted by the curmudgeon, Daddy Warbucks. Tickets will be available next month at Stone's [gofan.co page](#).

Novelist Jodi Picoult wrote "**Between the Lines**," about a girl in the real world falling in love with a prince in a fairy tale. Soon, the prince starts communicating with her through the pages of the book. Picoult's work was turned into a musical which will be performed at Maurice J. McDonough

High School 7 p.m. April 17 and 18, with a 2 p.m. matinee on April 19. For tickets, visit [McDonough's theater website](#).

Join Elle Woods for "**Legally Blonde Jr.**," at Henry E. Lackey High School April 23 through 25. What, like it's hard? Shows are 6:30 p.m. April 23 through 25, with a 1:30 p.m. matinee on April 25. For tickets, visit Lackey's [gofan.co page](#).

Learn how to fly with the students of the High School of Performing Arts when "**Fame, the Musical**," hits the stage at Westlake High School. Shows are 7 p.m. April 23, 24 and 25, and a 2 p.m. matinee April 26. For tickets, go to westlake.cbboe.com.

La Plata High School closes out the spring 2026 play season with "**Godspell**," April 30 through May 3. Shows are 6:30 p.m., April 30-May 2 and 2:30 p.m. May 3. Based mostly on the Book of Matthew, the musical first opened off-Broadway in 1971. For tickets, visit La Plata's [Eventbrite.com page](#).

St. Charles High School staged "**Punk Rock Girl**," in March.

Service

Employees recently recognized by CCPS and the Board of Education of Charles County are below.

Employees with 45 years of service

- **Brenda Garner**, secretary to the director of transportation, Annex I.

Employees with 40 years of service

- **Tony Chase**, building service manager, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.
- **John Farmer**, building service manager, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center.
- **Lisa Peters**, secretary, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.
- **George Simms**, pupil data specialist, Starkey.

Employees with 35 years of service

- **Tanya Ansell**, resource teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.
- **Heather Beaton**, media specialist, Glymont Middle School.
- **Glenn Belmore**, risk manager, Annex I.
- **Cheryl K. Davis**, principal, Henry E. Lackey High School.
- **Tanya Dorsey**, building service manager, Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School.
- **Lawrence Gross**, building service manager, Malcolm Elementary School.
- **Jana Heyl**, theatre arts teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School.
- **Lisa Love**, secretary, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.
- **Sheryl Morrison**, pupil personnel worker, J.C. Parks Elementary School.
- **Wendy Proctor**, building service worker, Gwynn.
- **Jean Walter**, instructional assistant (IA) for special education, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School.
- **Bruce Washington**, operations foreman, Annex I.
- **Julie Yowell**, second-grade teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School.

Employees with 30 years of service

- **Michael Blaine**, world language teacher, La Plata High School.

Employees with 25 years of service

- **Anisah Ansari**, language arts teacher,

Mattawoman Middle School.

- **Christine Baert**, payroll analyst, Starkey.
- **Clive Bailey**, JROTC instructor, La Plata.
- **Jeffrey Berkowitz**, mathematics teacher, Milton M. Somers Middle School.
- **Deborah Bracken**, food service worker, J.P. Ryon Elementary School.
- **Nicole Brock**, fourth-grade teacher, Wade.
- **Christopher Brown**, physical education teacher, Matthew Henson Middle School.
- **Teresa Buckmaster**, social studies teacher, Somers.
- **Roxane Burlack**, special education instructional specialist, Starkey.
- **Ray Scott Burton**, music teacher, Davis.
- **Dawn Chavez**, fifth-grade teacher, Mary H. Matula Elementary School.
- **Olivia Coffey**, school counselor, Billingsley Elementary School.
- **Geraldine Cooper**, building service manager, Dr. Brown.
- **Marlon Curtis**, physical education teacher, Westlake High School.
- **Heather Diable**, IEP facilitator, Starkey.
- **Megan Dooley**, instructional resource teacher, Malcolm Elementary School.
- **Jacqueline Douglas**, kindergarten IA, Billingsley.
- **Timothy Emhoff**, environmental education teacher, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Education Center.
- **Jennifer Fitzpatrick**, speech language pathologist, Gwynn.
- **Jo Ann Garner**, third-grade teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School.
- **Lori Gould**, kindergarten IA, Malcolm.
- **Shannon Grebe**, music teacher, Berry Elementary School.
- **Jo Lynn Griffith**, prekindergarten teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School.
- **Wanda Gross**, building service manager, Stethem.
- **Margaret Grove**, second-grade teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elemen-

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tary School.

- **Pamela Jenkins**, IA for prekindergarten, Dr. James Craik Elementary School.
- **Carlissa Jordan**, IA for mathematics, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.
- **Jill Locco**, science teacher, John Hanson Middle School.
- **Michael Keener**, social studies teacher, Piccowaxen Middle School.
- **John Kraft**, director of transportation, Annex I.
- **Tony Mast**, assistant principal, Davis.
- **Theresa McPherson**, supervisor for payroll, Starkey.
- **Suzanne Miles**, world language teacher, Thomas Stone High School.
- **Graham Paterson**, psychologist, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School.
- **Hope Ransom**, school counselor, Stone.
- **Diana Regis**, family and consumer science teacher, Westlake.
- **Leonard Rickett**, physical education teacher, Berry.
- **David Russell**, physical education teacher, La Plata.
- **Sherri Russell**, English teacher, Lackey.
- **Glenn Saluter**, HVAC mechanic, CCPS maintenance shop.
- **Jean Schenck**, mathematics teacher, Hanson.
- **LisaSue Smiroldo**, media specialist, Piccowaxen.
- **Bradley Snow**, assistant principal, Stethem.
- **Corey Specht**, fifth-grade teacher, Mitchell.
- **Terry Stotler**, secretary for guidance office, Hanson.
- **Nichole Thomas**, school counselor, Hanson.
- **Dedra Van Gelder**, content specialist for library media, Starkey.
- **Stephanie Walent**, language arts teacher, Somers.
- **Katheryne West**, kindergarten IA, Matula.
- **Steven Willett**, special education compliance facilitator, Somers.

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The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Dr. Mike Blanchard, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or 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 nondiscriminatory equal access to school facilities in accordance with its Use of Facilities rules to designated youth groups (including, but not limited to, the Boy Scouts).

Community partners

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Career and Technical Education (CTE) department is looking to partner with local organizations, businesses and industry leaders to provide career driven and work-based learning opportunities to CCPS students by becoming a community partner.

Community partners play a vital role in shaping students' futures by providing real-world experiences through apprenticeships, internships and career day participation. Learn more about the program at www.ccboe.com.

Building Possibilities for students

CCPS will hold Building Possibilities, a special education expo, Saturday, April 18. The event will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at North Point High School and offers parents and families of children who receive special education services resources, tools and strategies for every stage of a child's academic journey with CCPS.

Registration closes March 31. To register, [click here](#). The flier in Spanish is available at www.ccboe.com.

During the expo, CCPS staff and community partners will lead sessions focusing on learning, behavior, executive functioning and postsecondary planning. Families can connect with representatives of local organizations ready to support their child's growth and success. North Point is at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

Last day of school changes for students, staff — reminder

CCPS revised the 2025-2026 calendar to reflect the use of an inclement weather day for students and teachers. As of March 13, CCPS has used five inclement weather days. This moves the last day of school for students to Wednesday, June 17.

The updated schedule is below and is subject to change if additional inclement weather impacts the CCPS operating schedule.

• **Monday, June 15:** Full day of school for students.

• **Tuesday, June 16:** Two-hour early dismissal for students.

• **Wednesday, June 17:** Two-hour early dismissal for students.

• **Wednesday, June 17:** Last day of school for students (was previously June 16).

• **Thursday, June 18:** Last day of school for teachers (was previously June 17). The online CCPS calendar has been updated to reflect these changes at www.ccboe.com.

Personnel

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

Interview Day April 18

Teacher, Counselor and Related Services Interview Day is 9 a.m.-noon, **April 18**, at Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 2495 Davis Road, Waldorf.

CCPS is hiring teachers, school counselors, psychologists, speech language pathologists, IEP facilitators, social workers, occupational therapists and physical therapists. [Register online at www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

Job Openings

Building Service Manager — Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED is required with one to five years of supervisory experience. Apply by March 31.

Accounting Assistant — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Associate's degree or higher required with at least two years of professional accounting or bookkeeping experience. Apply by April 5.

HVAC Mechanic III — Annex I, 12-month position. High school diploma required, minimum of eight years of work experience installing, maintaining and repairing commercial HVAC equipment required. Apply by April 6.

Plumber III (PM) — Annex I, 12-month position. High school diploma or equivalen-

cy certificate is required. Holds and maintains a valid Maryland master plumber or journeyman plumber license required along with at least 10 years of progressive plumbing experience. Apply by April 6.

Plumber II (PM) — Annex I, 12-month position. A high school diploma or equivalent is required along with a current apprentice plumber. Apply by April 6.

Financial Secretary — La Plata High School, 12-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by April 8.

Media Specialist — Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month position. Position available for the 2026-2027 school year. Bachelor's degree, master's degree or higher and meets certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. [Click here to learn more](#). Apply by April 9.