



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Welcome back*

Welcome back to teachers and staff. Veteran teachers return to the classroom on Monday, Aug. 19. Students begin school on Monday, Aug. 26. The first day for students in the Three's program and prekindergarten is Tuesday, Sept. 3.

### *2013-14 Calendar*

The Charles County Public Schools 2013-14 Parent Handbook/Calendar is being delivered to all schools and centers this week. Requests for additional copies will not be honored until after the school year begins to ensure all students and staff members receive one copy. An electronic copy of the calendar will be posted on the school system website on Aug. 19 at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

### *Bus hotline*

The school system has a bus hotline for parents to call with questions about bus routes. Call 301-932-6655 to access the hotline, which is available Aug. 22-23, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Aug. 26-27, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Bus route information is also available on the School Locator feature on the school system website at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

### *Labor Day*

Schools and offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

### *Direct deposit*

The school system encourages employees to sign up for direct deposit for paychecks. Use of direct deposit eliminates concerns about receiving checks in a timely manner on snow days or during the summer. To sign up for direct deposit, fill out the authorization agreement which is available through the payroll department. Allow one payroll cycle for information verification.

## System welcomes new teachers for 2013-14 year

Superintendent Kimberly Hill told Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) 124 new teachers it's okay to be nervous. "Anyone who cares is going to be nervous," she said.

New teachers started their jobs Monday with an orientation and a welcome to Charles County Public Schools. So far this school year, CCPS has hired 124 teachers, including 61 secondary and related arts, 31 elementary, 23 special education, five counselors, one administra-

tive assistant, one speech language pathologist and two school psychologists.

Charles County's newest teachers gathered Monday through Wednesday at North Point High School to learn their role as teachers and for many, about their new home. While some new teachers grew up in Charles

County, others moved here this week from New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and other states.

"You are now starting your career as a teacher. There is no more powerful job in the world," Hill said, asking teachers to think back to their favorite teacher and how that person made them feel. "You have the power to be that person for children," the Superintendent said.

Board Chairman Roberta Wise, a retired CCPS teacher, said she still misses

the classroom. "Something about teaching keeps you young," she said. Wise encouraged teachers to find exciting ways to reach students while maintaining a professional relationship with them.

Mary Bailey, the 2013 CCPS Teacher of the Year, said no two days in her 27 years of

**See New teachers, page 2**



**Members of North Point High School's JROTC program opened the New Teacher orientation on Monday, Aug. 12, with a synchronized drill.**

## Wade honored for educational contributions

Donald M. Wade, a longtime Charles County Board of Education member and former chairman, was recently named the 2013 recipient of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) Charles W. Willis Award. The award is named for the first executive director of the Association and is presented to a board member in Maryland who has made outstanding contributions to the school Board and school system they serve. Wade was nominated for the award by Charles County Board of Education Chairman Roberta S. Wise, and was selected from a number of highly qualified candidates.

Wade was unaware that he had been nominated for the award and said he was shocked

when he received the phone call from MABE that he was this year's recipient.

"I was shocked when I was notified that I was the award winner this year. Honestly, it took me a few minutes to fully understand that I was nominated and selected. It is truly humbling to receive such a prestigious award. I am honored to represent the Charles County Board of Education and to work on behalf of children in the community. It all comes down to the children and making programs and opportunities accessible to them in order for them to achieve success," Wade said.

Wade is currently serving his fourth, four-year term with the Board of Education and was first elected in 1998. He was nomi-

**See Donald Wade, page 2**



**On the cover**

Pictured on the front cover are three new Charles County Public Schools teachers. Pictured, from left, are Liz Tiby, Spanish teacher, North Point High School; Lois Washington, music teacher, William B. Wade Elementary School; and Alicia Oliver, second-grade teacher, Indian Head Elementary School.

**24-hour information line**

Charles County Public Schools posts school news, employee and student accomplishments, inclement weather closures and delays, and calendar information on a 24-hour information line. Call 301-932-6656 or 301-934-7410. The line is updated twice a week and immediately when inclement weather decisions are made.

**Want to be in the know?**

Subscribe to the CCPS press releases subscriber list to receive the latest school system information, including inclement weather and emergency closing announcements, directly to your e-mail account.

Posts are delivered electronically within minutes of updates. Visit [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) to sign up.

**Follow us on Twitter**

Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page. Follow us on [www.twitter.com/CCPS](http://www.twitter.com/CCPS) for system updates, inclement weather announcements, news, facts and more. The site can be accessed from the internal network by selecting the “view for work-related purposes only” under the options area of the Websense page.

**Airing on NewsBreak96**

Airing this week on Comcast 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of NewsBreak 96, a show produced by the communications department. This episode features the Space Discovery Institute courses and the Charles County Youth Achievement Program. Episodes are available at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com).

**This Week in CCPS**

This Week in Charles County Public Schools is a short news item compiled on Fridays and sent via e-mail to all employees during the school year. This Week provides informational links to news items, school system accomplishments and facts, as well as upcoming events.

**Donald Wade**

Continued from page 1

nated for the passion he shows for student achievement and his dedication to implementing programs that foster student successes and provide a well-rounded, quality education for all children. He was also nominated for his role in the implementation of the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (JROTC) and three-year-old programs in Charles County Public Schools.

In his award nomination, Wise said Wade is most deserving of an award that highlights service to the community. “He invests his personal time to promote the school system, to engage the public and to ensure the development of sound educational policy. He insists that each decision and policy the Board makes should focus on students, and he is adamant that the Board must operate as a team united for Charles County Public Schools and its students,” Wise wrote in the nomination.

During his tenure on the Board, Wade has served three, one-year terms as chairman, and two terms as vice chairman. He strives to provide children with a quality education and is actively engaged in eliminating the achievement gap through early childhood education and reading programs. He also serves as a resource for the school system in the advancement of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs. Additionally, Wade co-founded the Charles County Think Tank for Education, a community group devoted to the thoughtful advancement of education,

and is the founder of the County Veteran’s Memorial Committee.

In addition to serving on the Board of Education in Charles County, Wade is an active member of MABE, and has served on their Board of Directors and several MABE committees. He has served as a member for the Archdiocesan Board of Education for the past three years and has received additional accolades for his community service.

Wade joined the United States Air Force in 1960 after receiving a regular commission to serve as a Second Lieutenant from the University of Maryland, College Park ROTC program. He spent 30 years on active duty and was an Assistant Professor of Aerospace Studies at three universities. He was a teacher, a department chairperson and a faculty advisor to 21 JROTC units in Prince George’s County before retiring in 2006. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and earned a Master of Science degree in education (guidance and counseling).

Wade will be honored by MABE at their annual conference in October.

For more information on MABE and the Willis award, visit [www.mabe.org](http://www.mabe.org).



Donald Wade

**New teachers**

Continued from page 1

teaching have been the same. “Never underestimate what you say to a child and the importance of the impact it can have on them,” Bailey said as she shared a story about a former student who made a life-saving decision after rereading a positive note from her former teacher.

As of Aug. 14, there were 24 teacher vacancies. The human resources department was continuing its efforts to hire highly qualified teachers. The number of highly qualified teachers in CCPS classrooms rose to 96.1 percent last school year, continuing an upward trend. In addition to new teacher hires, CCPS is contracting with six new speech language pathologists and three oc-

cupational therapists from agencies.

Hard-to-fill areas this school year, according to Connie Armstead, executive director of human resources, are special education, math, science, computer science, Spanish, library media specialists and tech. ed. teachers.

“No profession is more rewarding than teaching” Elizabeth Brown, president of the Education Association of Charles County (EACC), said at the conclusion of the morning program.

Returning teachers start on Monday, Aug. 19 and school opens for students on Monday, Aug. 26.

## Rose talks space trash, policy at annual Educational Exchange luncheon

Frank Rose knows all about space trash, space policy and the importance of space in everyday life.

Rose, the deputy assistant secretary for space and defense policy bureau of arms control, verification and compliance for the United States Department of State, told the audience of a recent Educational Exchange to think about how vital space and space exploration is to the United States economy and national security. GPS systems, cell phones, credit card transactions and even pumping gas are reliant on satellites and space research, which has changed the way we operate, Rose said.

Rose was the keynote speaker on July 30 at the annual Educational Exchange sponsored by Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) and the Space Foundation at North Point High School. Teachers participating in the Space Foundation Discovery Institute classes attended the luncheon as part of their weeklong program that is part of a seven-year partnership between CCPS and the Space Foundation and helps teachers infuse space concepts in their classrooms and lessons.

Rose, who advises the Assistant Secretary of State on key issues related to arms control and defense policy, including missile defense, military space policy and conventional arms control, said space operations have changed drastically in the past 50 years. Space exploration has moved from a field once dominated by the United States and Soviet Union to sharing space with 60 nations operating satellites in outer space as well as private sector satellites. "It is becoming

congested," Rose said, adding that part of the congestion is space debris, including more than 22,000 pieces of space waste larger than 10 cm that is tracked. He said that waste includes things like a toothbrush and a wrench, but also more than 500,000 smaller pieces that the U.S. cannot track. "It poses a threat to satellites," Rose said, and tracking helps countries avoid collisions of satellite and debris.

National Space policy, Rose said, places priority on maintaining the integrity of the space environment and directs the United States to expand international partnerships, mitigate orbital debris and strengthen U.S. space leadership. He said countries are trying to develop a voluntary code of conduct for outer space and quoted former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who pushed for the development of ways to maintain long-term sustainability of space. Clinton previously said, "The long-term sustainability of our space environment is at serious risk from space debris and irresponsible actors. Unless we take action to reverse these trends, it could have damaging consequences for all of us."

Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill opened the Educational Exchange by thanking teachers for their commitment to the program and the Space Foundation for its partnership that has helped CCPS create a model STEM program for children. Hill said she plans to continue the CCPS partnership with the Space Foundation. "We are a better school system today because of our partnership," Hill said.



**Deputy Assistant Secretary for Space and Defence Policy Bureau of Arms Control Frank Rose, speaks at the Educational Exchange held at North Point High School.**



**Eric Strand, left, science teacher at La Plata High School, and Daniel Mosey, right, English teacher at Westlake High School, work together to transfer a pen from one robot to another. The teachers learned how to program and control the robots with a few clicks of a remote control. This was part of a weeklong robotics and nanotechnology class sponsored by the Space Foundation held July 29 through August 2.**



**Julie Yowell, left, second-grade teacher at William B. Wade Elementary School, jokes with Justin Celmer, right, science teachers, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, while creating a rocket made from paper, camera film cases and tape. The class poured water into camera film cases, dropped alka-seltzer tablets into the water, closed the film case and placed it on the ground. After a few seconds, the rocket would shoot into the air. This weeklong Space Foundation class was called Rocketry-Space History and the Future of Space Flight.**

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## Curriculum changes cause need for testing revisions

Some students will take fewer exams this year if the Board of Education approves testing policy changes.

Assistant Superintendent of Instruction Amy Hollstein asked the Board of Education on Tuesday to approve suggested policy changes that eliminate quarterly exams and introduce pre- and post-testing procedures to better align to the Common Core State Standards.

Quarterly exams no longer meet the needs of students or teachers with the transition to the common core standards and student achievement-centered teacher evaluations, Hollstein said. The proposed testing changes may reduce the number of tests students take, create tests that provide teachers and students more meaningful data, and are based on a beginning of the year pre-test followed by a period of instruction. Students will take post-tests to assess the impact of instruction and measure growth.

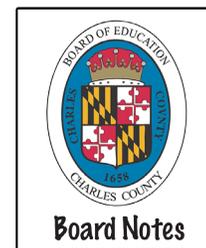
If approved, students would take pretests between Aug. 26 and Sept. 6 and post-tests between Feb. 10 and Feb. 28. Schools would share pre- and post-test results with parents in home reports distributed April 22.

Changes to testing include:

- grades 1-8 reading pre/post tests;
- grades 1-8 math pre/post tests;
- elementary science pre/post tests;
- middle school science pre/post tests;
- English II pre/post tests; and
- the addition of a more rigorous writing piece in grades 1-8 reading assessments.

Changing the testing procedure requires Board approval. Superintendent Kimberly Hill provided wording changes to Board policies 6411.7 and 6411.8, which can be found on the Charles County Public Schools website at [www.cboe.com](http://www.cboe.com) under BoardDocs.

Several Board members expressed support for reducing the number of tests students are required to take during the year, which include both county and state assessments. The Board meets 6 p.m., Aug. 26, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building to discuss the policy changes.



## Personnel

**Job Openings**

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant** – Malcolm Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 16.

**Kindergarten Instructional Assistant - Title 1** – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 16.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant - Title 1** – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 16.

**Prekindergarten Special Education Instructional Assistant** – Indian Head Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 26.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 26.

**Media Instructional Assistant** – Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by Aug. 26.

**Food Service Assistant Manager** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply

by Aug. 27.

**Energy Manager** – Maintenance Shop, 10-month, part-time position. Apply by Aug. 27.

**New Teacher Mentors** – Openings at all levels, 10-month positions. Master's degree, a minimum of five years of teaching experience and two years in a leadership role required.

**Chemistry/Biology Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

**Chemistry/Physics Teacher** – North Point High School, 10-month position.

**English Teachers** – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

**Science Teachers** – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

**Math Teachers** – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

**Physics Teacher** – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

**Business Education Teacher** – Westlake High School, 10-month position.

**Computer Science Teachers** – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

**Spanish Teachers** – Openings at the high school level, 10-month positions.

**Library Media Specialists** – Openings at the elementary school level, 10-month positions.

**Technology Education Teacher** – La Plata High School, 10-month position.

**Special Education Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**School Counselor** – Dr. James Craik Elementary School, 10-month position. Master's degree in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling required.

**Extra pay positions**

**Maurice J. McDonough High School** has the following openings:

- Head junior varsity girls' basketball coach
- Head indoor track coach
- Head outdoor track coach

Contact Jason Bursick, athletic director, 301-753-1755, to apply