



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Virtual plays set

Westlake High School is hosting a virtual event starting today. The drama department is streaming "Identity Play; or Who You Are If You Think You Are" by Jon Jory and Jason Pizzarello. The show will run for a week. Interested viewers should email the Westlake theatre arts department to request a link. Email requests should be sent to Westlake teachers Bryan Grosbach at bgrosbach@ccboe.com, or Jackson Long at jlong@ccboe.com. The department is also collecting community donations to support production costs. Check donations can be sent by mail to Westlake High School, Attn: Theatre Arts Department, 3300 Midletown Road, Waldorf, MD 20603.

Board to hold work session

The Board of Education of Charles County is holding a virtual work session at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 25. Items on the agenda include a charter school application and the Superintendent's proposed FY2022 operating budget. Due to COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines in place, the meeting will be held virtually. The meeting will stream live on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website, ccboe.com, and air on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon Fios Channel 12.

CCPS will rebroadcast the meeting as well as post it on CCPSTV under the Board meeting tab at ccboe.com. The Board encourages the public to email questions and comments to boardmail@ccboe.com. Comments should be received by 3 p.m. Monday and limited to 250 words. Board meetings also stream live to the CCPS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/c/ccpsmd/videos.

The agenda is tentative and subject to change.



Meals move thanks to FNS, transportation staff

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) bus driver, Tiffany Harley, left, and CCPS food and nutrition services (FNS) staff member, Tanya Hawkins, prepare for visitors at a mobile meal site. FNS and transportation staff team up Monday through Friday to deliver free meals to neighborhood stops around the county. Meals are available to any child between the ages of 2 to 18. FNS staff also serve meals at the 17 curbside pickup spots set up at various schools. To learn more, visit www.ccboe.com/freemeals.

Board elects Wilson chairperson, McGraw vice chairperson

The Board of Education of Charles County in a vote of four to three elected Latina Wilson as its chairperson and Virginia McGraw as its vice chairperson at the start of its Jan. 12 meeting.

Wilson and McGraw exchange Board leadership roles for the next calendar year.

The Board votes annually in January to elect a chairperson and vice chairperson. The term for each role is one year.

Wilson was first elected to the Board in November 2018. Wilson's first term as Board chairperson started Jan. 12.



Latina L. Wilson

In addressing her Board colleagues, Wilson said she looks forward to continuing her service as a trustee to the community.

"Our schools are here to serve the educational needs of our students. All of our stakeholders must be partners in this endeavor. I will continue to encourage good governance and collaboration. I know there are numerous challenges and tasks before us this year, such as a transition to a new superintendent and COVID recovery. I look forward to continuing our collaborative work," Wilson said.

Prior to the vote, Wilson served as Board



Virginia R. McGraw

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On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County honored outstanding employees at its January meeting including Clifton Posey, building service manager, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School, left; Bertha Gordon, registration secretary, Indian Heal Elementary School; and Brandon Hoch, art teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School.

Little Eagles daycare

The childcare center at North Point High School has openings for children ages 2-5. The center is open 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day when CCPS teachers are scheduled to work. A flier with more details is posted at <https://tinyurl.com/yyxon2tl>. Questions can be directed to Lisa Willett, North Point Education Careers Early Childhood Training Program director, at lwillett@ccboe.com.

How to update Zoom

Zoom releases program updates for Windows users from time to time. To check your Zoom account for an update, log in and click on your user name initials in the upper-right hand corner. Then, select the Check for Updates menu option. Directions on how to check updates are also linked at <https://tinyurl.com/yy6uv83l>.

Mental health website

CCPS Student Services recently launched a website dedicated to providing mental health resources for students and their families. School counselors and school psychologists work to support CCPS students and families with efforts being highlighted at <https://www.ccboe.com/ss/mental-health/>.

Employee Assistance Program

CCPS has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider, Deer Oaks EAP Services. The EAP benefit covers six confidential short-term counseling visits for contracted employees who work more than 20 hours per week and their immediate families. Deer Oaks coordinates with CCPS's health plan in some cases. For information, call 888-993-7650 or go to <https://www.deeroakseap.com>. The member login and password are ccboe.

In Memoriam Dominic Zaccarelli

Dominic Zaccarelli, athletic director at Westlake High School and the winningest football coach in the school's history, passed away Jan. 18, 2021.

Born Feb. 25, 1964, Zaccarelli was a 1982 graduate of La Plata High School, and earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland.

He started with the school system as a coach at Maurice J. McDonough High School in the late 1980s where he coached football, baseball and wrestling. He began his teaching career as a special education teacher at Westlake in August 1998. In 2000, he became Westlake's athletic director, a position he held until his death. In 2008, as the head football coach, he led the Wolverines to the Maryland 3A championship.

Known as "Coach Zac" by many, Zaccarelli valued athletics, but valued his students more. "He was a champion for students and a guardian of our school community," Westlake Principal Diane Roberts said. "His patience and mentorship have, and will continue to have, a grace that will impact generations."

"It wasn't only Westlake kids," said Chrystal Benson, a former principal of Westlake, who is now a Student Engagement and Conduct officer with the school system. "It was all kids around the county, the state. They all knew Coach Zac," she said.

Benson worked closely with Zaccarelli for 11 years and considered him a friend. "He paid close attention to detail," she said. "As a principal, I knew athletics was taken care of because he was in charge of it."

Zaccarelli took Mike Meiser, School Safety and Residency Administrator for CCPS, under his wing when the latter started at Westlake in 1994. "The job was always more about life than it was about work," Meiser said. "I was



**Dominic
Zaccarelli**

so lucky to have landed a career that began with Westlake and falling under Zac's watch."

Zaccarelli mentored and encouraged students and colleagues.

"He brought so many kids and coaches to the next level and pushed them to achieve beyond their reality, but he did it through caring and relating to them," Meiser said.

He was an advocate for students, making personal calls to colleges on their behalf and following up after the student left high school.

"Once a kid got into college, Zac would make it a point to go see them play — any sport — at least one time on the college level," Benson said. "That's the man I know, that's the man we lost."

Zaccarelli served on numerous state, regional and local committees over the years for different sports and organizations.

He was named to the Maryland High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame and was named Athletic Director of the Year for Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) District IV several times during his career, and was under consideration for Maryland State Athletic Directors Association (MSADA) state Athletic Director of the Year.

He served as an officer of the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference (SMAC), including as the organization's president. He was a member of the MPSSAA Board of Control.

"Westlake High School will forever be imprinted by the leadership and love of Coach Zaccarelli," Roberts said.

Meiser agreed. "Westlake, Charles County and the state of Maryland were fortunate to have someone with Zac's drive, commitment and passion for children and athletics be part of our world," he said.

Roberts appointed Director of Accountability for Charles County Public Schools

Superintendent Kimberly Hill recently announced the appointment of Steven Roberts as the Director of Accountability for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

Roberts, principal at Maurice J. McDonough High School, started his career with CCPS in 1997 as a mathematics teacher at Westlake High School.

He worked at Westlake until 2011 and served as the school's varsity wrestling coach, algebra team leader, mathematics department chair and school testing coordinator.

Between 2011 and 2016, Roberts worked as a vice principal at McDonough and North Point High School.

He has served as McDonough's principal since 2016.

Roberts holds a master of science in curriculum and instruction with an Admin 1 from McDaniel College and a bachelor of science

in secondary education mathematics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Roberts will begin as director of accountability on Jan. 25.

Linda Gill, executive director of schools, will serve as interim principal at McDonough during the transition.

Roberts replaces longtime director of accountability, Cliff Eichel, who retired in December.

Eichel began his CCPS career as a teacher at Thomas Stone High School in 1978 and was promoted to director of research and assessment — later renamed director of accountability — in 2004. Eichel retired in December.



Steven Roberts

Nominate an arts teacher for award

The Charles County Arts Alliance (CCAA) Arts Teacher of the Year Award is a new program honoring an elementary, middle and high school teacher who exemplifies excellence in arts education.

The program honors three Charles County's arts educators with recognition and financial support for guiding students while navigating circumstances brought on by the pandemic.

Nominations may be self-submitted, by the teacher's current or former students, parents of the students, the teacher's professional colleagues or a school administrator.

To fill out a nomination form, go to <https://forms.gle/ZpUh3iMf7SbvCe898>.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Feb. 5.



Updates to inclement weather procedures set

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has adjusted its inclement weather procedures for the 2020-21 school year.

The procedures take into account the virtual learning schedule currently in place for all CCPS students. To get the details, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y6gp9swg>.

BOARD

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vice chairperson for two terms.

McGraw was first elected to the Board in 2014 and is serving in her second term. Prior to today's vote, McGraw served as Board chairperson for the past four years.

McGraw said she is excited to continue in a leadership role with the Board and continue her work in the best interests of students.

"The role of a Board member is to advocate for the budget and the school system. I have done that in making difficult and well-informed decisions as we face challenges of selecting a new superintendent and recovery from COVID-19. We will work toward the goals we have established to move our school system from good to great," McGraw shared in accepting the vote.

Wilson is a Gulf War veteran who retired from the U.S. Army after serving for 20 years.

She is active in the community and serves as president of the Port Tobacco River Conservancy; president of the Southern Maryland Alumni Chapter for the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; member of the McConchie One-room School House committee and member

of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

She also served as the education liaison for the Charles County Branch of the NAACP for several years. Wilson earned her bachelor of science in business from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She is serving her first term on the Board.

McGraw is a retired Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) principal who also served as a teacher and vice principal during her 25-year career with the school system.

She was the 2009 CCPS Principal of the Year, and volunteers with Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church.

She is an elected member of the board of directors of the Maryland Association of School Boards.

She is also a member of the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association, the Education Association of Charles County and the Maryland State Education Association. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary special education and her master's degree in special education. McGraw has lived in the Charles County community for more than 40 years.

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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).



Kiera Jones, left, a US and World History teacher at North Point High School, enjoys a recent Paint Night with her son, Jayden Jones, a first grader in Kathryn Gardner's class at Arthur Middleton Elementary School, and mother, Phyllis L. Blacknall-Jones.

Paint night with Middleton Owls

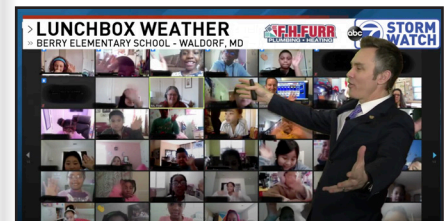
Owl be there for yooooouuuu — Arthur Middleton Elementary School's PTO and Donna Robinson, the school's pupil personnel worker recently organized a virtual Paint Night for students and their families.

The school pre-sold 90 paint kits that included a canvas, paint and brushes that families picked up during supply distribution.

The Zoom painting session was a hit with kids and their families asking to schedule another one soon.

Berry students deliver Lunchbox Weather

Berry Elementary School's intermediate science teacher, Michelle Fryer Dommel, and the school's third graders recently chatted with Channel 7 meteorologist, Alex Liggitt, over Zoom for the new station's, Lunchbox Weather program. The educational program allows students to learn first-hand about the region's weather and what it is like to work in a newsroom reporting updates. Liggitt is no stranger to Berry — he visited the school in February 2020 for a Lunchbox Weather presentation. Watch more at <https://tinyurl.com/y34wuftj>.



Berry Elementary School science teacher, Michelle Fryer Dommel, arranged for students to participate in the Lunchbox Weather program.

Personnel

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

Job Openings

Administrative Instructional Assistant — Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma and experience working with children are required. Apply by Jan. 26.

Technology Facilitator — Mary B. Neal Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma and an Associate of Arts Degree or pass the ParaPro Assessment are required. Strong computer literacy skills and understanding of Microsoft Office Suite and instructional software, and the ability to learn new software programs as required. Jan. 26.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Matthew Henson Middle School, 10-month

position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by Feb. 2.

Special Education Instructional Assistant — Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by Feb. 3.

Oracle Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Cloud Administrator — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in information technology, computer science, business management or a related field, master's degree preferred. Apply by March 2.

Plumber 3 — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. High school diploma or equivalency certificate supplemented by appropriate vocational training and skills. Possession of a current Master's Plumber License issued by the Board of Commissioners of Practical Plumbing Department of Licensing

and Regulation in Baltimore required. Position open until filled.

School Bus Driver — CCPS Transportation Department, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. The ability to pass the Maryland School Bus Drivers' physical exam. Position open until filled.

Assistant Food Service Manager — All schools, 10-month position. High school diploma or equivalent required and a minimum of three years of experience in food service. Position open until filled.

Security Alarm Technician III — CCPS Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Graduation from a two-year college or technical school with coursework in electronics and computers, and one year experience; or an equivalent combination of training and experience. Position open until filled.