



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Mid-year orientation planned

The mid-year new teacher orientation is set for Jan. 28 in the staff development room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Courses of course

Continuing professional development courses are set for the coming months. From 8 a.m. to noon Jan. 30, Feb. 20 and March 12, Reading in the Content Part 1 will be held. Snow dates will be Feb. 3 and Feb. 24. Reading in the Content Part 2 courses will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 23, Feb. 6 and Feb. 27 and March 5 and March 19. Snow dates are April 9 and April 16. A course on Materials of Reading (elementary) will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 30, Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 and March 5. The snow date is March 12.

Courses with fees include a \$5 or \$10 nonrefundable registration fee. To register, go to <http://registration.ccboe.com> and search the Courses tab.

Deja Brew All Over Again

North Point High School is hosting a coffee house event 7 p.m. Feb. 4, 5 and 6 in the school cafeteria. Coffeehouse 2016: Deja Brew All Over Again, is the 10th annual event for the school and will feature alumni students and student performances such as singing, dancing, poetry and other talents. Hot drinks and desserts made by students in the North Point Culinary Arts program will be available for purchase. General admission tickets are \$8 and \$5 for students and senior citizens. North Point is at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf. Call 301-753-1759 for more information.

Use it in a sentence, please ...

The Charles County Spelling Bee will be next month. Held 6 p.m. Feb. 19, the competition will be hosted at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School in Waldorf. The snow date is Feb. 26.



Students string together concerts

Aliah Brown, a Mattawoman Middle School eighth grader, practices during the Tri-County Orchestra rehearsal earlier this month at Thomas Stone High School. Top string musicians in middle and high school from the tri-county area made up the orchestra. Band and chorus students also took part in tri-county concerts on Jan. 10 held in Calvert County. For the complete story, visit <http://www.ccboe.com/pr/students-play-their-part-in-tri-county-band-chorus-and-orchestra/>

McGraw, Lukas re-elected to lead board

The Board of Education of Charles County unanimously reelected Virginia McGraw as chairman and Michael Lukas as vice chairman at its Jan. 12 meeting.

The Board elects a chairman and vice chairman each January, and officers serve one-year terms.

This is the second term for McGraw as chairman and for Lukas as vice chairman.

Prior to the vote by the Board, McGraw told the Board it had been an interesting and challenging year, but she was looking forward to continuing to work with such a diverse and talented group of individuals and for the children of

Charles County Public Schools.

Lukas thanked the Board for the nomination and said he looks forward to continuing to grow together with McGraw to support the students of Charles County.

McGraw is serving in her first term as a Board member and is a former longtime Charles County Public Schools principal. She retired from the school system in 2014 following a 25-year career as a teacher, vice principal and principal.

McGraw was the 2009 Charles County Public Schools Principal of the Year, and volunteers with Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church.



**Virginia R.
McGraw**



**Michael
Lukas**

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Jones named 2016 MSCA Advocate of the Year

According to the Maryland School Counselor Association (MSCA), an outstanding school counselor is an individual who not only advocates for the school counseling profession, but a person who brings about positive change for students and is dedicated to the success of children. For the past five years, Alicia Jones has served as the supervising school counselor for Charles County Public Schools and is known among her colleagues as a strong, vocal supporter for school counselors. She works diligently to create and maintain positive relationships with parents, students, staff and community members.

Jones also works closely with counselor specialists at the Maryland State Department of Education to ensure all Charles County counselors are aware of the latest trends and changes in school counseling services. Jones' accomplishments are admired by her colleagues and her passion for school counseling is evident in all that she does. For her passion and commitment to school counseling, Jones was recently named the 2016 Advocate of the Year by the MSCA. She will be honored at the MSCA National School Counseling Week gala Feb. 5.

Jones said she is honored to represent her colleagues and the school counseling profession. "I feel honored that my advocacy for school counseling has given Charles County school counselors a voice and a seat at the table of decision making for our students. I'm honored to be the representative for school counseling

to show school leaders how passionate school counselors are about supporting achievement and student development through a comprehensive guidance program," Jones said.

As the supervising school counselor, Jones oversees the Charles County Public Schools school counseling program and supports more than 35 school counselors daily.

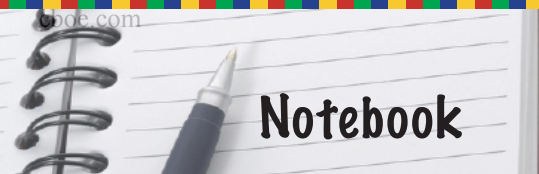
An example of Jones' commitment to the success of students is her recent leadership in implementing Maryland College Application Campaign Week for high school seniors this school year. The goal of Maryland College Application Campaign Week, held earlier this school year, was for every graduating Charles County Public Schools senior to complete and submit an application during the school day to a college, university or trade school. The program was piloted at five high schools this year with plans to expand it to all seven high schools.

Jones was nominated for the award by Dr. Sonya Ford, a longtime school counselor with Charles County Public Schools.

The award recognizes a person whose advocacy has had a positive effect on school counseling locally, statewide or nationally. Jones began her career with Charles County Public Schools in 2002.



Alicia Jones



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are employees honored for their accomplishments in teaching and learning by the Board of Education at their December meeting. Pictured, from left, are: Ashley Valenzuela, first-grade teacher, T.C. Martin Elementary School; Rebecca Irwin, second-grade teacher, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School; and Luanne Cochran, instructional resource teacher, C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School.

Taking snow chances

It's the time of the year for inclement weather. Teachers and instructional assistants follow the student schedule and do not report to work if schools are closed.

Ten-month employees do not report to work and 10.5- and 11-month employees are expected to fulfill their contract days at the discretion of their supervisors. It is a normal workday for all other employees. Twelve-month employees, and 10.5- and 11-month employees who are expected to fill contract days at the discretion of their supervisors, follow the code system. Code 1 is a one-hour delay. Code 2 is a two-hour delay. Code Red is called when only emergency employees must report to work and Code Blue is called when no employees are to report to work.

For more information, visit Inside CCPS at www.cchoe.com.

Deadline for Erly award Feb. 15

The Maurice Erly Professional Development Award is given to educators in the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union system, including those in Charles County.

The \$1,000 award can be used toward continuing education, including workshop registration, certification fees and tuition. The deadline to apply for the award is Feb. 15. For more information, email Latisha Chase at lc Chase@es-fcu.org.

Stay informed with social media

Stay connected with what's going on with the Charles County Board of Education on Facebook. Go to www.facebook.com and search for the Charles County Board of Education, give the page a "like" to find out inclement weather notices, as well as information about closures, events and what's happening in schools around the county.

Board

She has served as past president and recording secretary of Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Sorority, and also is a member of the Charles County Retired School Personnel Association. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary special education and her master's degree in special education.

McGraw lives in Waldorf.

Lukas is serving his second term on the Board and was first elected in 2010.

He is an engineer and branch manager at the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division.

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Lukas works with the Boy Scouts and enjoys playing and coaching soccer.

He has volunteered with several community organizations, including the Greater Waldorf Jaycees, Waldorf Kiwanis, Christmas in April and Relay for Life.

He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, and has completed graduate studies in systems engineering at George Mason University and the Naval Post Graduate School.

Lukas lives in La Plata with his wife and son.

Ignaszewski, Spence join National Board of Professional Teaching Standards

Two Charles County Public Schools teachers, Michelle Ignaszewski at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center and Shelby Spence at North Point High School, recently joined the ranks of accomplished teachers nationwide who achieved national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

Both teachers completed a performance-based assessment series to become National Board Certified Teachers.

The assessment is designed to measure what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

The process requires teachers to demonstrate how their activities strengthen student performance and student achievement.

Ignaszewski and Spence join 30 other Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers who hold current national certification status.

Ignaszewski is an adaptive physical education resource teacher at the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center and earned her certification in the area of physical education/early and middle childhood.

She began her career with the school system in 2009.

In her role as an adaptive physical education teacher, Ignaszewski works with students with disabilities and provides resources and support to staff.

She works with students at the elementary school levels in the STAY and Multiple Intensities programs.

Additionally, Ignaszewski is the Unified Sports Coordinator for high school programs, a member of the Consortium for Adapted Physical Education (MAPEC) and coordinator of the Young Athletes Program, a pilot CCPS gross motor program for students ages 2 to 6.

Ignaszewski has a bachelor's degree in health and physical education with a concentration in adapted physical education from State University of New York, College at Brockport and a Master of Science in education with a focus in adapted physical education, also from State University of New York, College at Brockport.



**Michelle
Ignaszewski**

Spence is an English teacher at North Point High School and earned her certification in the area of English language arts/adolescence and young adulthood.

She began her career with CCPS in 2008 at North Point, where she has taught for the past eight school years. Spence currently teaches English II and English III.

She also is the co-sponsor for the National Honor Society and advisor to students in the STARS, or Scholars Targeting Academic Rigor with Success, program.

Spence has a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education from Thiel College.

She also earned her master's degree in counseling in 2008 from Youngstown State University.

National Board Certified Teachers must complete a rigorous review of their skills and work, which includes teacher portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, and thorough analysis of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning.

Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach that material to students. These teachers join more than 4,700 teachers nationwide who were certified in 2015. Certification is valid for 10 years, after which a teacher may complete the renewal process. Maryland has 2,785 teachers who are nationally certified and is one of the top 15 states with the highest participation in the certification process. By achieving National Board Certification, Charles County teachers are eligible for a stipend added to their annual salary as long as they maintain their National Board Certification status. Only teachers with a standard or advanced professional certificate who have a minimum of three years successful teaching experience are eligible to apply for National Board Certification.

Information about the application process is available on the NBPTS website at www.nbpts.org.



Shelby Spence

School system seeking 2016 Maryland Teacher of the Year nominations, deadline is Feb. 26

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeking nominations for the school system's Maryland 2016-17 Teacher of the Year candidate. The nominated teacher must be a classroom, resource or media teacher who spends the majority of his or her time teaching and has a minimum of five years teaching experience. The selected candidate will also be named the 2016 Charles County Teacher of the Year.

There can only be one nominee per school. Nominations are due by Friday, Feb. 26 to Ramona DiBenedetto in the CCPS office of human resources.

Application information is available on the school system website at <http://www.ccboe.com/jobs/teacheroftheyear.php>.

Applications should include the candidate's educational and professional development history; professional biography; examples of community involvement; a statement on the candidate's philosophy/style of teaching; three letters of support from a principal, administrator, colleague, student or former student, parent or community leader; and statements on education issues and trends, as well as the teaching profession. For additional information and requirements, visit the CCPS website.

The 2016 Charles County Teacher of the Year will have opportunities to speak to students and staff during events such as New Teacher Orientation, and will also attend the

state Teacher of the Year ceremony and gala.

There is a two-tiered process for the selection of the candidate for the Maryland Teacher of the Year. The first step is at the county level where applications are received, semi-finalists are selected and interviewed by a panel of school system staff, and one candidate is selected to represent Charles County as its Teacher of the Year. Each Maryland county and Baltimore City forwards one recommendation to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), which selects the Maryland Teacher of the Year.

For additional information, contact DiBenedetto at 301-934-7242 or rdibenedetto@ccboe.com.

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Enrollment increases by 49 students in Charles County

Charles County Public Schools saw an increase of 49 students this school year.

The official enrollment count for the 2015-16 school year stands at 26,307 students, a jump from 26,258 last year.

This is the first time in four years enrollment grew in the county.

Mary H. Matula Elementary School had the largest primary school enrollment with an additional 65 students bringing the total to 633.

C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School's enrollment went up to 610 students, Berry Elementary School enrollment increased to 877 students, J.P. Ryon Elementary School's student population grew to 620 students and Gale-Bailey Elementary School's enrollment is 357 students.

Milton M. Somers Middle School grew to 996 students and Matthew Henson Middle School enrollment went up to 704 students this year.

Piccowaxen Middle School's student body is made up of 439 children.

With the addition of a senior class, St. Charles High School has the second largest enrollment in the county with 1,264 students, behind North Point's 1,814 students.

Thomas Stone has the third highest enrollment with 1,204 students.

Of the more than 26,300 students enrolled, 54.3 percent are African-American, 28.2 percent are white, 6.9 percent are Hispanic, 6.8 percent are multiracial and 3.1 percent are Asian, according to enrollment reports.

Native Americans make up 0.5 percent of the student population and 0.2 percent of students are native Hawaiians.

Throughout the state, enrollment in public schools has been on the upswing, according to a Maryland State Department of Education news release.

Nearly 880,000 students attend public schools in the state, hitting a new record, the release states.

Of the 24 school systems in Maryland, 12 reported an increase in enrollment. Public schools in the state have seen an enrollment increase of 35,740 students since 2008.

In Charles County, there are 21 elementary schools, eight middle schools, seven high schools and four centers, including F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, Nanjemoy Creek Environmental Center and the Adult Education Program at Lifelong Learning Center. The public schools enrollment information for the past five years is available at www.ccbocoe.com.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Web Content Design Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree in computer science, website design or related field required. Technology industry professional certification such as Microsoft may be submitted instead of a degree. Demonstrated ability to work with PHP and Java-based content management systems and working in IIS environment and Adobe Suite graphics preferred. Apply by Jan. 22.

Principals, 2016-17 Candidate Pool — locations to be determined, 12-month positions. A master's degree, advanced professional certificate with Administrator II endorsement, minimum three years teaching experience and three years vice principal experience, and three current references required.

Interested candidates should apply by Jan. 22. **Elementary and Middle School Vice Principals, 2016-17 Candidate Pool** — locations to be determined, 11-month positions. A master's degree, three years teaching experience, Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator I endorsement and three current references required. Apply by Jan. 22. **High School Vice Principals, 2016-17 Candidate Pool** — locations to be determined, 12-month positions. A master's degree, three years teaching experience, Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator I endorsement and three current references required. Apply by Jan. 22.

Secretary to the Principal — Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 12-month position. High school diploma, experience with Quick-En or QuickBooks, and the ability to type 60 words per minute with knowledge of effective office practices and procedures, and excellent organizational skills required. The secretary

also functions as an office manager. Apply by Jan. 28.

Building Service Worker — openings at Gale-Bailey Elementary School and Henry E. Lackey High School, 12-month positions. Apply by Jan. 29.

Title I Kindergarten Instructional Assistant — location to be determined, 10-month position. High school diploma or GED required. Apply by Jan. 25.

Extra pay positions

Thomas Stone High School has the following opening:

- Assistant outdoor track coach
- Contact Brad Criss, athletic director, at 301-645-2601, to apply.

Maurice J. McDonough High School has the following openings:

- Head track and field coach
- Head tennis coach

Contact Kevin Reisinger, vice principal, at 301-753-1755 to apply.