



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Homecoming schedule

Thomas Stone High School will play its homecoming game on Oct. 11 with its dance on Oct. 12. On Oct. 18, Henry E. Lackey High School will host its homecoming game with the dance on Oct. 19. The following week, St. Charles High School will have its game on Oct. 25 and dance on Oct. 26. Maurice J. McDonough High School caps off homecoming with its game on Nov. 1 and dance Nov. 2.

School closed Oct. 14

School is closed for students Oct. 14. The day is reserved for teacher in-service and parent conferences.

Take 'flight' at North Point

North Point High School's day care First Flight has opening for students. There are three slots available for the morning session from 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. and five openings for the afternoon from noon to 2 p.m. Education Careers Career and Technology (CTE) students teach at First Flight. For more information, contact Lisa Willett at lwillett@ccboe.com.

Chess tourney planned

The fall chess tournament is Oct. 26 at Thomas Stone High School. The tournament is open to student in kindergarten through 12th grade and features a four-round Swiss Style format. Games start around 9, 10 and 11 a.m., and noon.

Students compete in divisions based on their grade level.

Players who sign in by 8:45 a.m. will be paired for games starting at 9 a.m. Registration is open through Oct. 23. Walk ins will not be accommodated. To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/yxmq4jff>. For more information, contact Ann Taylor at 301-934-7378 or ataylor@ccboe.com.



Welcome to the CCPS family

Virginia McGraw, left, chairman of the Board of Education of Charles County, chats with Kairen Majied, a special education teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School, during a new teacher reception held at Middleton Hall on Sept. 26. Each year, Charles County Public Schools hosts the reception to welcome newcomers to the school system.

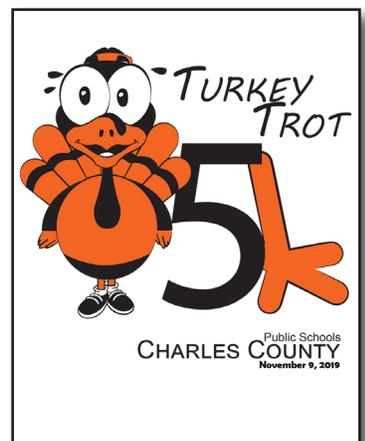
Support food bank, register for Turkey Trot

A 5K Turkey Trot run/walk is set for Nov. 9 at La Plata High School. Part of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) wellness program, the 5K is a fundraiser for the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Registration is \$30 per person with registration closing Oct. 21. It includes a t-shirt, medal and gift pack. The event starts at 9 a.m.

Payment must be made at the time of registration using PayPal. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can check out as a guest. To register, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/turkey-trot>.

Participants can pick up their shirt and gift pack from noon to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 7 and 8 in the lobby of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building at 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata.

Items can also be picked up on the day of the race beginning at 7:30 a.m. at La Plata High School at 6035 Radio Station Road. Volunteers are needed. To volunteer for the event, contact Debbie Iverson at diverson@ccboe.com or 301-934-7223.





Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover teachers honored by the Board of Education at its Oct. 8 meeting for their commitment to teaching and learning. From left are Jennifer Elder, special education teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School; Joseph Burton, math teacher, North Point High School; and Cassandra Baugher, teacher in the ACHIEVE program at Mary B. Neal Elementary School.

Not sparse on candy

St. Charles High School will host a HaloSpartanWeen 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 29 at the school. Admission is free, but organizers are collecting canned goods to donate to a local food bank. RSVP to Carrie Bier at cbier@ccboe.com with the number of children and adults in your party.

Get texts from CCPS

Sign up to receive text alerts from CCPS. A notification system — School Messenger — is used to send systemwide and school emails, phone calls and text message updates. To opt-in, users must text YES or Y to 67587. Text STOP to 67587 at any time to stop receiving text message alerts from CCPS. Standard text message rates by cell phone carriers apply. Staff members who change cell phone numbers during the school year should contact human resources.

Financial wellness seminar

Financial Challenges that Matter Most is an educational seminar set for 5 to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at Mary H. Matula Elementary School. The seminars are provided by Prudential Pathways, a Prudential Financial program. To sign up, call 800-987-5592 or email retirementpathways@prudential.com.

Don't miss your window

The application window for North Point High School's Career and Technology Programs is open Nov. 25 to Dec. 20. For more information and to see programs offered, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/cte/index.php>.

Be Present!

- Schools hold Spirit Week to promote the importance of school attendance



Left, Indian Head Elementary School kindergarten instructional assistant Chandler Berghoefer, left, art teacher Caroline Metcalfe and kindergarten IA Elizabeth Heath have a crazy hair day. Isabella Kellar, a second grader, above left, is pictured with her teacher, Caitlyn Grimes.

Indian Head Elementary School students and staff got a wild hair last month when the school — along with Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School and the F.B. Gwynn Educational Center — participated in Attendance Awareness Month with a Spirit Week that called on students and staff to sport crazy hair one day, sunglasses the next, then pajamas or sports jerseys. Sheryl Morrison, pupil personnel worker for Indian Head, Mt. Hope and Gwynn, organized the week to bring attention to the importance of regularly attending school.

“We try to find creative and fun activi-



Kindergartner Gabrielle Grant sports mismatched scrunchies with ‘Let’s Go Crazy’ written on slips of paper for Crazy Hair Day.

ties for the students to bring attention to the importance of attendance,” Morrison said. Data gathered by the U.S. Department of Education found more than 7 million students missed 15 or more days of schools

during the 2015-16 school year. That translates to 16 percent of the country’s K-12 student population — or 1 in 6 students. The highest rates of chronic absenteeism occur among high school students where statistics show 1 in 5 students across the country miss school regularly.

“Regular school attendance is necessary to ensure that our students are actively participating in activities that promote and encourage academic success,” Charmaine Young-Waddy, student engagement and conduct officer for Charles County Public Schools, said. “When students miss valuable instructional time due to excessive absences, it decreases their involvement in engaging in classroom conversations, participation in academic activities and the school’s inability to consistently offer interventions needed to help improve their understanding of the content.”

Research by the education department shows students who often miss school are at risk of a failure to hit educational milestones — especially in elementary school. If a child is chronically absent from school, they are more likely to drop out before graduation which can pave the way for behaviors that will follow them into their adult life. “Community and school resources are available for our students and their families,” Young-Waddy said. “Working with the school in order determine how we can assist allows us to start in the right direction.”

No two days are alike in the week of a building service worker

No two days are the same for building service workers in Charles County Public Schools (CCPS).

“You never know what you’re going to walk into,” said Charlie Proctor, the building service manager at Westlake High School. “We get called for the things no one wants to do. I look at it like this — Whatever needs to be done in the eight hours, it’s my job.”

Not that a day promises to be only eight hours. Building service managers get the call if their building’s fire alarm goes off in the middle of the night. Proctor remembered driving by his building one weekend and spotting graffiti. He started making calls to ensure it was removed by the start of the school week.

“We take pride in everything we do,” said Alice Makle, building service manager at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School. Before leaving a room, Makle and her team members look around to double check they’re leaving it better than when they arrived.

“It’s a lot of hard work and we all work together,” said James Simmons, a building service worker at Barnhart. “We want a clean and safe place ready for faculty and kids to work and study.”

National Custodial Worker’s Recognition Day was Oct. 2 with many schools recognizing the work done by building service workers around the system.

A big part of a successful building service team is strong communication, said Phyllis Whalen, building service manager at William B. Wade Elementary School. She and Norman Patterson, the school’s building service assistant manager, make sure to communicate daily. “Without communication and organization, things are going to fall apart,” Whalen said.

April Murphy, supervisor of operations, agreed. “The most successful teams we have work together every day,” she said. “These teams appreciate the importance of the work they do in schools, take pride in their work and in the condition of the building.”

“For me, it’s the pride factor,” Proctor said. “People come in and see what you do.”

“It’s extremely hard cleaning up behind 700 little kids — we are working with the babies, so we have a lot of little emergencies every day,” Whalen said. “We really love what we do, even though it’s hard work.”

When school closes for teachers and students over the summer, building service workers go to work getting their schools back in “first day” shape. Cleaning walls, changing damaged ceiling tiles, fixing lights. “We try to put 100 percent into what we do from start to finish,” Patterson said.



Above, at C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School building service manager, Alice Makle, left, and Bruce Coward, assistant building service manager, go over the day’s schedule. Faye Ford, left, a seven-year veteran building service worker at Westlake High School is called “mom” or “auntie” by several students at the school.



This year, 38 CCPS facilities — including Barnhart, Wade and Westlake — scored in the superior range during system inspections, Murphy said. Keeping a school in top shape takes hard work — a school doesn’t close its doors once the school day ends.

“There are so many in-school programs, afterschool events and daily activities in schools that having a strong, cohesive building service team allows the principal, administrators and teachers to focus solely on educating students,” Murphy said. “A strong building service team whose motivation is to support the educational goals of their school by providing a clean, safe environment that is conducive to learning is instrumental in the overall success of a school.”

CCPS employs about 233 full-time building service staff who help the school system run smoothly.

“It’s never boring,” Patterson said. “There is always something to do.”

PPWs represent school system at UW event

Charles County Public Schools pupil personnel workers (PPW) represented the school system at the Community Resource Day Oct. 2. The Charles County Homeless and Emergency Shelter Committee and United Way of Charles County event offers services like vision and hearing tests, dental screening and housing assistance. It helps people register for Safe Nights, get housing assistance and receive help with reading, writing and math. PPWs Latonia Bowman, left, Mildred Alexander-Moses and Neal Bankenstein attended the event with Bethany Goodwin, Youth in Transition Coordinator for CCPS.



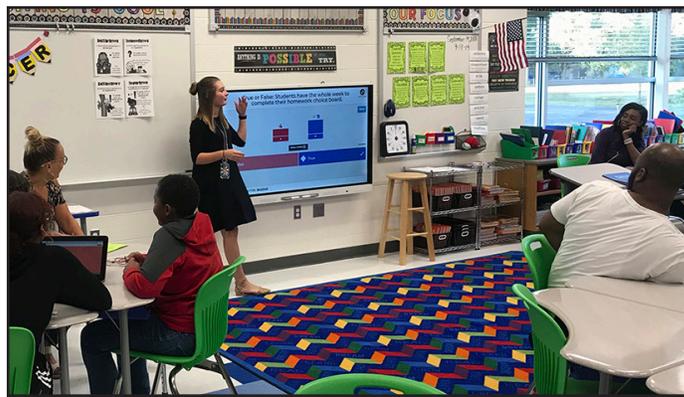
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Parents go back to school

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School held an open house for parents last month. Mckenna Kolovani, a third-grade teacher, gives parents a pop quiz about classroom procedures and rules to ensure everyone is on the same page as the school year begins.

Submitted by Nathaniel Yake, Dr. Mudd PR liaison



Students have a ball learning soccer

Students from La Plata and Maurice J. McDonough high schools and Milton M. Somers Middle School volunteer to teach students with special needs how to play soccer. The activity is part of the first season of TOPS Soccer's partnership with La Plata Youth Soccer Association and U.S. Soccer.

Submitted by Kevin Barry, La Plata's PR liaison

Personnel

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

Secretary — Malcolm Elementary School, 11-month position. Good computer literacy skills and the ability to compile information accurately are required. Applicants must have knowledge and efficient office practices and procedures. Apply by Oct. 14.

Building Service Worker — Milton M. Somers Middle School, 12-month position. Applicants must be able to read and write effectively and be physically capable of performing manual labor. The ability to work overtime as needed is required. Apply by Oct. 18.

Family and Consumer Science Teacher — North Point High School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must meet certification requirements as estab-

lished by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Oct. 31.

Math Teacher — Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Oct. 31.

Principal Pool — All schools, 12-month position. Applicants must have a master's degree and hold or be eligible for a Maryland Advanced Professional Certificate with Administrator II endorsement. Three years of satisfactory teaching experience and three years of experience as a vice principal are required. Apply by Dec. 31.

School Psychologist — All schools, 10.5-month position. Applicants must have or be able to earn a School Psychology Certification in Maryland. Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential is preferred.

Apply by Dec. 31.

Reading Recovery Teacher — All schools, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Three years of successful classroom experience at the primary level is required. Apply by Dec. 31.

ESOL Teacher — All schools, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required. Applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Apply by Dec. 31.

Technology Facilitator — All elementary schools, 10-month position. High school diploma and associate of arts, or a passing score on the ParaPro Assessment are required. Applicants must have strong computer literacy skills and an understanding of Microsoft Office Suite. Position open until filled.