



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### Youth Art Month

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) celebrates Youth Art Month in March. Student artists will be honored during a March 8 reception at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The reception starts at 5 p.m.

### Two-hour early dismissal

The next two-hour early dismissal for students is Friday, March 9.

### Destination Imagination

The annual CCPS Destination Imagination tournament is Saturday, March 10, at North Point High School. The event starts at 8:30 a.m. and an awards ceremony will take place at 5:30 p.m.

### Spring forward

Daylight saving time is Sunday, March 11. Remember to turn your clocks forward one hour. The first day of spring is Tuesday, March 20.

### Third marking period

Charles County Public Schools third-quarter assessments will be administered to students on March 12-23. The third marking period ends on Wednesday, March 28. The fourth marking period begins Thursday, March 29.

### MSA testing

Students in grades three through eight will take the Maryland School Assessment (MSA) in reading on Tuesday, March 13, and Wednesday, March 14. The MSA mathematics test will be administered to students on Tuesday, March 20, and Wednesday, March 21.

### Calling all history buffs

The annual CCPS History Fair is March 24 at Maurice J. McDonough High School. Judging begins at 9 a.m., and the awards ceremony is at 6 p.m.



While visiting Charles County, Bunkyo University student Kotoe Noguchi, pictured center, rewarded two winning groups of Diana Johnson's third-grade class at Dr. James Craik Elementary School after teaching a short lesson.

## Japanese student teachers get a taste of America

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) hosted more than 30 Japanese education students Feb. 20–March 2 as part of the school

system's partnership with Bunkyo University. During their two-week visit in Charles County, the teacher candidates visited schools to learn about instructional technology and curriculum, and visited local colleges, such as the College of Southern Maryland and the University of Maryland, College Park, to learn about American education training programs.

As part of their visit, the Bunkyo students also participated in practice lessons with students at several schools including Piccowaxen, Theodore G. Davis and John Hanson middle schools, and Dr. Thomas L. Higdon, Dr. James Craik and Daniel of St. Thomas

Jenifer elementary schools. The lessons featured content such as origami projects and demonstrations, to learning about Japanese games and books.

The visiting students also attended social events to learn about American culture such as a meeting with North Point High School's Japanese Club and teacher candidates from Towson University, and were also honored guests at an ice cream social at the Clarion Hotel in Waldorf.



**Bunkyo students received sweatshirts from Charles County Public Schools on Feb. 21. Pictured, from left, are Tomoko Horikoshi, Tomoyo Yuasa and Yoshiki Kaido.**

The visit culminated in a celebratory Sayonara party held March 1 at the Clarion Hotel. The students provided school officials and members of their host families with cultural performances including traditional Japanese dances, songs and examples of Japanese fashion. Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said the school system's

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### On the cover

Pictured on the cover are employees from Piccowaxen Middle School. Pictured, from left, are: Jill Matthews, mathematics teacher; Raymond Lancaster, building service manager; and Kelli Gutierrez, instructional assistant.

### SECAC to meet March 14

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) will meet on Wednesday, March 14, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Call 301-934-7456 for details.

### Nutrition yard sale

The Charles County Public Schools Nutrition Association is hosting a yard sale on May 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at La Plata High School. Tables can be rented for \$20. For more information, contact Sarah Burch at 301-392-5577.

### Aflac flexible spending audits

Aflac, a supplemental insurance company that school system employees can use to purchase optional medical plans, conducts audits to ensure flexible spending plans comply with IRS regulations in accordance with IRS Publication 502. Employees who have flexible spending accounts through Aflac may be audited: when a transaction does not match the co-pays associated with the Board sponsored Blue Cross/Blue Shield health insurance programs; and when the card is used for services at a vision or dental provider.

Employees will receive an audit letter from Aflac if additional information is required to verify a claim. Aflac requires the following information for an audit:

Legible receipt(s) or an Explanation of Benefits showing:

- The patient's name and service provider's name;
- A description of the service/list of items purchased;
- The charge(s) for each service/item; and
- The date(s) of service.

Employees with these accounts should keep all receipts and documentation related to Aflac Now Card transactions.

For questions, contact Christeda Warner at 301-934- 7459 or cwarner@ccboe.com.

## Westlake wins first-place award in recycle bowl

Westlake High School was recently named Maryland's first-place winner in the national 2011 Recycle-Bowl competition, sponsored by the Keep America Beautiful organization. As Maryland's winner, Westlake competed against other state winners at the national level.

To participate in the competition, Westlake had to collect recyclable materials during a time frame designated by Keep America Beautiful – Oct. 17 to Nov. 12. Students and staff collected materials and were required to record the items they collected. State winners were selected based on the total amount of goods collected per person. To determine this amount, schools divided the total weight of goods collected, in pounds, by the school's total number of students and teachers.

Westlake collected a total of 8.293 recyclable materials per person at the school and received a \$1,000 award. Participating schools register to compete in the event in advance and also receive incentives for submitting completed collection reports as part of the competition.

Recycle-Bowl is a school recycling competition for grades kindergarten through 12 to help establish new recycling programs in schools, increase recycling rates in schools that currently recycle and provide teacher/student educational opportunities about recycling and waste reduction. The competition is operated by Keep America Beautiful, Inc., a volunteer-based community action and education organization. The competition is sponsored by Nestle Waters North America, Inc.

## Lackey coach receives Coach of the Year award

Kenneth Griffith, a longtime tennis coach at Henry E. Lackey High School, recently received the Coach Jim Verdick High School Coach of the Year award from the Professional Tennis Registry (PTR). The award honors coaches that demonstrate high coaching standards, exemplary character and support students on and off of the tennis court.

Griffith was nominated for the award because he pushes students to do their best on the tennis court and in the classroom. He encourages his students to maintain their grades and explore collegiate opportunities. Griffith has assisted more than 265 students in obtaining college scholarships in tennis.

At Lackey, Griffith follows a no-cut policy for the tennis team which allows any student interested in participating in the sport a chance to play on the team. He strives to encourage students to have fun playing tennis and also emphasizes the importance of teamwork.

He was honored with the award last month at the 2012 PTR International Tennis Symposium. In addition to this award, Griffith has also received the *Maryland Independent's* Charles County High School Coach of the Year award five times, and has been named the Coach of the Year by the *Washington Post* and the Southern Maryland Athletic Conference.

## Bunkyo

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partnership with Bunkyo University is two-fold in that CCPS students learn about Japanese culture first-hand and the Bunkyo teacher candidates learn things about the American educational system that cannot be studied from a book.

"Each school year, Charles County Public Schools welcomes teacher candidates from Bunkyo University and their accompanying professors to obtain hands-on educational experiences within American

classrooms. I look forward to their visit each year," Richmond said.

Bunkyo University is a private university located in downtown Tokyo that mainly offers teacher education. The school system has participated in the partnership with Bunkyo since 1987, when the program was organized and hosted by the University of Maryland. Charles County Public Schools began hosting the program in 1992.



## Board of Education honors Superintendent, employees for service to children

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond, who was first appointed as Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in 1997, was honored by the Board of Education for 45 years of service to the school system and children during a ceremony held Feb. 23 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

The Board of Education honored 75 other Charles County Public Schools employees with 40, 35, 30 and 25 years of service. Each year, the Board honors employees for their service to children and the school system.

### **Employees who have completed 40 years of service are:**

- Linda Buckler, financial secretary, La Plata High School;
- Linda Burney, social studies teacher, Henry E. Lackey High School;
- Kerry DeFraia, media specialist, Eva Turner Elementary School;
- Jackie Grabis-Bunker, director of program support, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building;
- Susan Grote, pupil personnel worker, La Plata;
- Marlene Hoffman, secretary to the principal, John Hanson Middle School;
- Helen Shannon, secretary to the principal, La Plata;
- Christine Smith, instructional specialist in science, Starkey;
- Freda Weirich, media instructional assistant, William B. Wade Elementary School; and
- Charles L. Wineland, assistant superintendent for supporting services, Starkey.

### **Employees who have completed 35 years of service are:**

- Deborah Brown, vice principal, Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School;
- Louis Cate, vocal music teacher, Arthur Middleton Elementary School;
- Paula Cureton, fifth-grade teacher, Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School;
- Charlene Haynie, social studies teacher, Lackey;
- Janis Milman, science teacher, Thomas Stone High School;
- Cathy Posey, secretary to the principal, J. P. Ryon Elementary School;
- Wanda Sellers, instructional specialist for computer technology, Starkey;
- Joan Stup, Reading Recovery teacher, Turner;
- Theresa Tipsword, special education teacher, Maurice J. McDonough High School; and
- William Watts, building service worker, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School.

### **Employees who have completed 30 years of service are:**

- Octavia Butler, kindergarten teacher, Ryon;
- Paula Collins, media specialist, McDonough;
- Karl Craton, social studies teacher, La Plata;
- Maurita Edwards, special education teacher, T. C. Martin Elementary School;
- Gregory Ehman, mathematics teacher, McDonough;
- John Frederick, instructional assistant, Milton M. Somers Middle School;
- Martha Hickman, second-grade teacher, Dr. James Craik Elementary School;
- Rebecca Irwin, second-grade teacher, Brown;
- Daniel Jenifer, building service worker, General Smallwood Middle

School;

- Barbara Linsmeier, mathematics teacher, Stone;
- Michael Mazzeo, social studies teacher, La Plata;
- Susan McCormick, vice principal, Stone;
- Joan Simms, Reading Recovery teacher, Wade;
- Judith Simpson, social studies teacher, La Plata;
- Darlene Willett, mail room clerk, Starkey; and
- Joan Withers, acting director of instructional programs, Starkey.

### **Employees who have completed 25 years of service are:**

- Mary Bailey, Reading Recovery teacher, Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School;
- Edward Baker, ESOL teacher, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School;
- Paige Baker, special education teacher, Higdon;
- Linda Bieber, kindergarten teacher, Malcolm Elementary School;
- Laurence Budd, foreman, Radio Station Road Annex;
- James Campbell, social studies teacher, North Point High School;
- Cellinna Childers, kindergarten teacher, William A. Diggs Elementary School;
- Sandra Fair, art teacher, North Point;
- Ronald Fenwick, building service manager, Matthew Henson Middle School;
- Claudia Finley Bowalick, instructional specialist, Ryon;
- Wayne Freeman, vice principal, Robert D. Stethem Educational Center;
- Helen Garvey, kindergarten teacher, Indian Head Elementary School;
- Helen Griffith, guidance secretary, Lackey;
- Donna Harris, fifth-grade teacher, Wade;
- David Hicks, building service worker, Lackey;
- Kimberly Hill, principal, North Point;
- Joy Hinton, instrumental music teacher, Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School;
- Pamela Jacobs, attendance instructional assistant, McDonough;
- Janet Jones, reading resource teacher, Hanson;
- Sheila Kelly, building service worker, J. C. Parks Elementary School;
- Debra Lantz, mathematics teacher, Somers;
- Katherine Larson, ESOL teacher, Theodore G. Davis Middle School;
- David Lay, language arts teacher, Hanson;
- Arnold Mason, building service manager, McDonough;
- Barbara Morris, secretary to the principal, Middleton;
- Jane Murphy, food service manager, Higdon;
- Joseph Perriello, gifted education teacher, Berry Elementary School;
- John Proctor, maintenance worker, Radio Station Road Annex;
- Maryanne Quirk, school counselor, North Point;
- Evan Sine, physical education teacher, Turner;
- Gail Slaughter, food service manager, Lackey;
- Kara Small, reading resource teacher, Wade;
- Marta Starkey-Mister, speech therapist, F.B. Gwynn Educational Center;
- Ronnie Swailes, building service manager, Smallwood;
- James Swann, building service manager, La Plata;
- Cheryl Swartzwelder, engineering concepts teacher, North Point;
- Barbara Thomas, secretary to the principal, Mattawoman Middle School;
- Tracy Travers, elementary science teacher, Daniel of St. Thomas Jennifer Elementary School; and
- Deborah Williams, school counselor, Wade.

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## Board of Education Members

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# Board of Education announces March 13 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 13, at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building on Radio Station Road in La Plata. The public portion of the meeting begins at 1 p.m. and student and staff recognition starts at 4:30 p.m. The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 and is rebroadcast throughout the week. The meeting is also streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools Web site. Visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/> to watch the meeting.

## Executive session – 12 p.m.

## Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance, Thomas Stone High School's JROTC unit

## Superintendent's update

## Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board Member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board Member update
- CIP update
- Superintendent's redistricting recommendation
- Career technology education
- Proposed FY 2013 operating budget
- 2013-14 school calendar
- Legislative items
- Non-discrimination policy
- Board goals

## Unfinished business

## New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

## Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Employees
- Courtney Brunone, Charles County's Outstanding Educator for Use of Technology
- Resolutions: *Month of the Young Child* and *National Student Leadership Week*

## Public Forum – 6 p.m.

## Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- Policy #3430 Accounts: opening and closing accounts
- Superintendent's rule #5126: student transfers

## Adjournment

## Public hearing on FY 2013 proposed budget

## Future meeting

A redistricting public hearing is scheduled at 7 p.m., Monday, March 26, at North Point High School.



# Personnel

## Job Openings

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – F.B. Gwynn Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by March 14.

**Media Specialist** – J.P. Ryon Elementary School, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science required.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 10-month positions.

**Science Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

**HVAC Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position.

**Instructional Resource Teacher** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 11-month position. Master's degree and five year's experience required.

**School Psychologist** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, temporary, one-month position in March. A specialist-level degree program, including a yearlong internship, is required.

**School Psychology Internship** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, one-year position. Internship is for the 2012-2013 school year and includes a stipend.

**Food Service Program Support Manager** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years of experience in food service required.

## Unified Sports program

The Charles County Public Schools Unified Sports program is seeking a coach at La Plata High School for the spring season. Contact Seth Rak, Unified Sports coordinator for CCPS, at [srak@ccboe.com](mailto:srak@ccboe.com) or 301-753-1745 to apply or for more information.

## Extra pay position

**Henry E. Lackey High School** has the following openings:

- Girls' basketball coach

Contact David Anderson, Athletic Director, 301-743-5431, to apply.

## Staff Notes

## Retirement session

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association and the division of human resources are hosting a retirement planning session 5 - 8 p.m., Thursday, March 15, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

The session will include guest speakers and retirement planning handouts. Light refreshments will also be available. An RSVP is required as space is limited. RSVP to Janice Spatz, 301-934-2146 or [jspatz@comcast.net](mailto:jspatz@comcast.net).

## Three pay dates this month

There are three pay dates this month. The only deductions taken from the third paycheck are taxes and retirement. Other deductions, such as health insurance, are not deducted from the third pay check in months with three pay dates. Visit the staff services page of the CCPS Web site to view a list of additional pay dates for the 2011-12 year.