



# School News

## Important Dates Coming Soon

### *Interims issued*

Interims will be issued to students on Monday, October 1.

### *Assessment time*

High School Assessment (HSA) testing begins on Oct. 1 and runs through Oct. 12. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) first-quarter assessments begin on Oct. 8.

### *LLC open house*

The Adult Education program at the Lifelong Learning Center (LLC) is holding an open house at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 2. The event is open to the public and attendees can learn about available programs and services including the General Equivalency Degree (GED) program, English as a Second Language (ESL) and the National External Diploma program. Call 301-753-1774 for more information.

### *Retirement meeting*

The Charles County Retired School Personnel Association (CCRSPA) and the State of Maryland Pension System, along with the human resources department, are hosting a retirement planning session for Charles County Public Schools employees who are enrolled in the State of Maryland pension system. The session is 5 – 8:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 3, in the Board room at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Guest speakers and retirement planning handouts, as well as light refreshments, will be provided. Contact Janice Spotz, 301-934-2146 or [jspotz@comcast.net](mailto:jspotz@comcast.net), to RSVP by Sept. 28.

### *Need a new badge?*

Employees who need a new Charles County Public Schools-issued identification badge are asked to schedule an appointment with the human resources department. Call 301-934-7255 for an appointment.



**William A. Diggs Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Riham Said, right, gets a chance to talk with Board member Pamela Pedersen, left, at the New Staff Reception held on Sept. 19 at Middleton Hall in Waldorf.**

## St. Charles High School to open with grades 9, 10, 11

The Board of Education on Monday approved opening St. Charles High School as a partial high school with grades 9, 10 and 11 when it opens in August 2014. Seniors in the class of 2015 would finish and graduate from their current high school.

The decision eliminated three other opening options and allows the high school redistricting process to begin. The Board hopes to approve a final redistricting plan by June 2013, but the plan will not be implemented until August 2014 when the new high school opens. The high school redistricting will be comprehensive, establish an attendance zone for St. Charles High School, include review and alteration of attendance zones for all high schools and impact students who are now in grades 7, 8 and 9.

The plan, previously identified as Option 2, establishes an attendance zone for St. Charles High School and requires all students entering grades 9, 10 and 11 in 2014 to attend the new high school based on the new attendance boundaries. All rising seniors in the new attendance zone will remain at their current high school for their senior year and the school system will provide transportation.

The redistricting will also modify attendance zones for Henry E. Lackey High School, La Plata High School, Maurice J. McDonough High School, North Point High School, Thomas Stone High School and Westlake High School. Through redistricting, high school enrollments will be targeted to near state-rated capacity. The plan requires all students entering grades 9, 10 and 11 in August 2014 to attend the high school specified in the newly established attendance boundaries. Students entering grade 12 in August 2014 will remain at their current high school for their senior year.

In accepting Option 2, Board members said they felt it provides instant overcrowding relief at all high schools, especially North Point, and it does not disrupt seniors. Additionally, it opens St. Charles as a high school as intended and allows for growth.

For more information about Option 2, the upcoming high school redistricting process or an application for community members, visit <http://www2.ccboe.com/parentscomm/transportation/hsredistricting.cfm>.

Questions about the process can be sent to [redistrict@ccboe.com](mailto:redistrict@ccboe.com) or call 301-934-7221.



## Notebook

### On the cover

Pictured at the top of the front cover are employees from Matthew Henson Middle School. Pictured, from left, are Linda Dunlevy, seventh grade language arts teacher; Darnell Russell, seventh grade social studies teacher; and Sean Pearson, seventh grade mathematics teacher.

### Now showing

Airing now on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12 is a new episode of News-Break96, a feature show that highlights Charles County Public Schools students and staff. This episode features the Charles County College Fair. Also in this episode is information on the high school redistricting process. Learn how the community and school employees can provide input in the search for a new superintendent of schools and the development of the high school redistricting committee. Visit [www.ccboc.com](http://www.ccboc.com) for a programming schedule.

### Prudential Spirit Awards

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is accepting nominations for the 2013 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for middle and high school student volunteers. The annual award program recognizes students for exemplary acts of volunteer service in their communities, such as helping the less fortunate, promoting health and safety or protecting the environment. The award is open to students in grades five through 12. For more information and to apply online, visit [www.spirit.prudential.com](http://www.spirit.prudential.com) or [www.nassp.org/spirit](http://www.nassp.org/spirit). Applications must be completed by Nov. 6, and submitted to the student's principal.

### Want to be in the know?

Subscribe to the Charles County Public Schools press releases subscriber list to receive the latest student and staff accomplishments, and school system information, including inclement weather and emergency closing announcements, directly to your email account. All posts are delivered electronically within minutes of new updates. Visit [www.ccboc.com/pr](http://www.ccboc.com/pr) to sign up.

### Follow us on Twitter

Did you now that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on [www.twitter.com/CCPS](http://www.twitter.com/CCPS) for system updates.

## College Fair welcomes 156 colleges, universities

The 15th annual Charles County College Fair, sponsored by Charles County Public Schools, was held Sept. 19, at North Point High School. The event provides students, parents and community members with opportunities to speak to college representatives, gather information on college and career programs, and learn about scholarships and financial aid. This year's fair featured 156 colleges and universities, which is the largest number of schools to participate to date.



Westlake High School senior Xavier Maloy, right, talks with a representative from the University of North Carolina at the Charles County College Fair Sept. 19.

and more than 300 seniors from each high school attended after signing up in advance. Students took advantage of the opportunity to attend the fair, and conducted research on offerings available to them after they graduate.

Students were given about 30 minutes to visit booths, and most college representatives asked students to fill out contact cards so they could receive further information. A total of 1,937 students attended the day session.

Nearly 1,900 students, parents and community members attended the evening session, and two financial aid workshops were featured. The workshops were provided by Christian Zimmerman, director of financial aid for the College of Southern Maryland.

## National Scholarship Corporation honors students

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) recently named Alexander Smith, a senior at La Plata High School, a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program, and Azeezat Adeleke, a senior at North Point High School, a semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program.

Smith was chosen as one of 16,000 nationwide semifinalists who entered the 2013 National Merit Program. Students are considered when they take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). Finalists will be named next year and winners will be selected in April.

Adeleke is one of 1,600 semifinalists selected from more than 160,000 students

that requested consideration in the 2013 National Achievement Program, which highlights the accomplishments of African-American students. Students are considered for this program when they take the PSAT/NMSQT as high-school juniors. Finalists will be named in January and announced later in the spring.

Semifinalists are selected for both of the NMSC programs based on their high school academic performance and SAT scores, as well as for community involvement and leadership. Merit Scholars are also selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The nationwide pool of semifinalists for both programs includes the highest entrants in each state.



Azeezat Adeleke

## Matthew Henson Middle School's huskies become Capitals for a day

Stick-handling, passing and shooting with Washington Capitals alumni Sylvain Cote and Errol Rausse was on the agenda for several Matthew Henson Middle Schools students, as well as a few staff members, on Wednesday, Sept. 19, as part of the Capitals Hockey School program. Hockey School is a free program, designed to be both instructional and interactive, with the goal of exposing students to floor hockey while teaching proper techniques.

Melissa Sopher, a physical education teacher at Henson, applied on the Capitals website for the program to provide her students with a "cool" opportunity to learn about a popular sport. "The visit was awesome because hockey isn't a sport you typically get into. Basketball and football are the main sports we always hear kids wanting to play. It is nice to hear them ask 'when do we get to play floor hockey?'" Sopher said.

A group of 150 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students were selected to participate in the program. Sopher said she initially asked students who were interested in or play floor hockey to sign up for a "special opportunity" before she revealed that Capitals players were going to visit Henson. Students were also selected for demonstrating personal responsibility, positive behavior and school spirit. In preparation for the program, students created banners and posters to welcome the guests and hung them around the school's gymnasium.

Cote, who spent 19 seasons playing professional hockey for the National Hockey League and more than 10 years with the Capitals, started the hour-long session with a question and answer period with students. Rausse, who spent more than 15 years playing professional ice hockey and three seasons with the Capitals, and Cote then asked for student volunteers to help demonstrate basic hockey skills, including stick-handling, passing, puck-handling and shooting in front of their peers.

The program concluded with several students participating in a scrimmage, with Cote and Rausse as their teammates, as well as Slapshot, the Capitals bird mascot. The scrimmage ended in a 1-1 tie, with Cote representing the boys' team and Rausse representing the girls' team. The Capitals alumni members said they had a great time with the students. "The kids were eager to play and practice all the pointers we gave them," Cote said. Rausse added that he enjoys being a part of the program because he sees the kids have fun and develop an interest in hockey.

As part of the visit, each participating student received an au-

tographed alumni card from either Cote or Rausse, a hockey 101 booklet and a Capitals squishy puck. Henson also received a free set of street hockey equipment for use in physical education classes and a Hockey School banner to display in the gymnasium. Sopher said the physical education department plans to put the equipment to good use. "The goalie equipment is a major plus for us. We are very thankful to have it in our equipment room. Now, we are better able to play a more active hockey game, knowing that the goalies have on full gear and are better protected," she added.

The 2012-13 season is the sixth consecutive year of the program, and the Capitals host two Hockey School visits each month between September and May. Since the program was launched in 2007, the Capitals have visited more than 70 schools in the Washington D.C. metropolitan-area. Schools are chosen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applying schools must be within a 30-mile radius of either Kettler Capitals Iceplex or Verizon Center to be eligible. To learn more about the program, or to apply, visit <http://capitals.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=42773>.



The Washington Capitals hosted their Hockey School program at Matthew Henson Middle School on Sept. 19. Students participated in hands-on training including stick handling. Eighth grader Tyler Powell, pictured above right, was selected to work with Peter Robinson, fan development coordinator for the Capitals, left, on stick-handling and puck-passing techniques.



Evan Siegel of the Washington Capitals, left, helps Henson eighth grader Stephanie Adams, right, dress in goalie gear to prepare for a scrimmage game Sept. 19 as part of the Capitals School program held at the school.





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# Board of Education announces October 9 agenda

The Board of Education's next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 9 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. All televised Board meetings are also streamed live on the school system website at <http://www2.ccboe.com/boe/live/>.

## Executive session – 12 p.m.

## Call to order – 1 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance, La Plata High School's JROTC unit

## Sheriff's update – Charles County Sheriff Rex Coffey

## Superintendent's update to the Board

- Selection of redistricting committee members

## Reports of officers/boards/committees

- Correspondence/Board member updates
- Education Association of Charles County update
- Student Board member update
- CIP update
- FY2012 Independent financial audit
- Budget update

- Annual Bridge to Excellence

- Gifted and Talented Education Month resolution

- Update on recruiting

- Policy #5171.1 – Epi-pens

- Legislative positions 2013

## Unfinished Business

## New business and future agenda items

- New business
- Future agenda items

## Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

- Students
- Staff
- Resolutions – *American Education Week* and *American Freedom Week*

## Public Forum – 6 p.m.

## Action items

- Minutes
- Personnel
- FY2013 Comprehensive Maintenance Plan
- Gifted and talented education policy

## Adjournment

Visit the school system website at [www.ccboe.com](http://www.ccboe.com) for the most up-to-date Board meeting agenda.



# Personnel

## Job Openings

### Adult Independence Program (AIP)

**Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 5.

**Building Service Assistant Manager** – Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 5.

**HVAC Mechanic I** – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 9.

**Food Service Worker** – Mattawoman Middle School, 10-month position. Apply by Oct. 9.

**School bus driver instructor** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Apply by Oct. 10.

**Coordinator of Career Technology Education** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's Degree and certification as an Administrator I in Maryland are required. A minimum of five years teaching experience and three years of administrative/supervisory leadership is required.

**Early Childhood Teacher** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**School Counselor** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center, part-time position.

**NJROTC Teacher** – Westlake High School, 11-month position.

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

**Mathematics Teacher, Middle School Level** – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

**Technology Education Teacher** – Maurice J. McDonough High School, 10-month position.

**Media Specialist** – Location to be determined, 10-month position. Master's degree in library science and certification required.

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

**Elementary Teachers** – Possible openings at the elementary-school level, 10-month positions.

## Staff Notes

### Employee portal

Charles County Public Schools features an employee web portal for employees to access payroll and benefits information electronically. Employees can create an account to access payroll information, leave balances, employer forms, education and teaching certificates, and benefits details. Paychecks are available for view a week prior to the actual pay date.

Users can follow these steps to create an account: access the portal on the staff services page of the CCPS website; select create an account; enter the required information, including your first and last name used for payroll purposes, your employee identification number and last four digits of your Social Security number; and create an account password and include a valid e-mail address. Call 301-934-7488 or e-mail [EP@ccboe.com](mailto:EP@ccboe.com) with questions.