



*Working together
to achieve
excellence
for every student.*

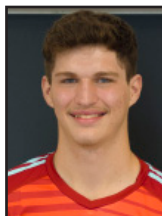
Charles County Public Schools

School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Seeger to play in national game

Mikah Seeger, a senior at Henry E. Lackey High School, will play in the 11th annual High School All-American Soccer Game on Saturday, Dec. 11.



Mikah Seeger

Seeger, a goalkeeper for Lackey's varsity boys' soccer team, was named to the roster for the 2021 East team. The game will be played at Bearden High School in Knoxville, Tenn.

The girls match will begin at 11 a.m. The boys match will start at 1 p.m., Saturday and livestream at [PrepSoccer.net](https://www.prepsoccer.net). To read a feature on Seeger, [click here](#). To learn more about the game, [click here](#).

Board meets Dec. 14

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet 1 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 15, in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Public forum starts at 6 p.m.

Rules about gifts for staff

All Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees, including teachers, are required to follow the Board of Education policy related to the acceptance of gifts. The policy prohibits employees from soliciting or accepting gifts from parents of students or from students where a conflict of interest may exist.

Teachers may accept unsolicited nominal gifts for holidays, birthdays, and teacher appreciation occasions according to the following guidelines — single gifts with a value of up to \$20 may be accepted; and a series of gifts may be accepted up to \$100 per year. Talk to your principal for more information.



Mattawoman Middle School has a 'Beautiful Tomorrow'

Jason Lewis, above center, of Beautiful Tomorrow, talks with Mattawoman Middle School eighth graders Marcellous Foman, left, and Trinity Berry. Lewis designed the Beautiful Tomorrow assembly to challenge the minds of those in attendance, and spark a desire to pursue their future and its potential.



Changes made to CCPS winter break schedule

All Charles County public schools, buildings and administrative offices are closed Thursday, Dec. 23, through Friday, Dec. 31, for winter break.

The closure includes the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building.

Schools, offices and buildings reopen on Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, as noted in the Parent Handbook/Calendar.

During winter break, some CCPS high schools may have athletic events such as games or practices planned during the day. These events will occur as planned.

A list of planned athletic competitions for December is posted online at www.smacathletics.org.

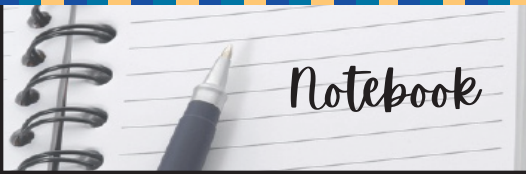
Additionally, the indoor pools at Henry E. Lackey and North Point high schools, as well as the Donald M. Wade Aquatic Center at St. Charles High School, will be open during winter break through Charles County Parks and Recreation.

The following is the winter break operating schedules for all three pools.

- Dec. 23, noon to 6 p.m.
- Closed Dec. 24-26.
- Dec. 27-30, noon to 6 p.m.
- Closed Dec. 31.

Pool schedules are subject to change and are posted at <https://www.charlescountyparks.com/recreation/aquatics>.

CCPS posts calendar information on the school system website at www.ccboe.com.



On the cover

The Board of Education of Charles County at its Nov. 9 meeting honored outstanding employees including Andrew Shanbarger, science teacher at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer Elementary School; and Lea Flynn, prekindergarten instructional assistant, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School. To read more about November's outstanding employees, [click here](#).

It's Academic winner

Maurice J. McDonough High School was named the winner of the local *It's Academic* competition. Team members include senior Sam Chernoff, captain; Nicholas Long, senior; and Julie Perriello, freshman. Team coaches are Joanna Hobbs and Mary Howard. La Plata High School came in second, and North Point High School nabbed third place.

CCPS is now hiring

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) is hiring part time and substitute staff. Three-to-five-hour positions are open and for those who don't want to work every day, they can apply to be a substitute food service employee. There are openings for building service staff under the Current Listings tab at www.ccboe.com, while CCPS Transportation has bus driver and bus attendant applications on its website at <https://www.ccboe.com/transportation/>. If being in the classroom is more your style, check out substitute teacher positions. To see more current job openings with CCPS, click the [Careers tab](#) at www.ccboe.com.

Deer Oaks EAP Services

CCPS contracts with Deer Oaks EAP Services to provide staff with free programs that support their health and well-being. The EAP benefit is no cost to employees and their dependents, and services are confidential. To learn more, [click here](#).



Emily Leedy, center, a fifth-grade teacher at Malcolm Elementary School, is awarded a \$300 mini grant from the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association. Leedy will use the funds to start a writing program at the school among all Malcolm fifth graders. Pictured from left are Elizabeth Brown, member of the Charles County Board of Education; Mary Finneran, Malcolm's principal; Leedy; George Denny Jr., president of the MRSPA; and Scott Hangey, vice principal of Malcolm.

Malcolm's Leedy earns MRSPA mini grant

Increasingly — and, some might argue, exclusively — people are communicating electronically. Text, email, social media — when it comes to writing to each other, people are talking with their thumbs. Emily Leedy, a fifth-grade teacher at Malcolm Elementary School, is attempting to change things up a bit by introducing a cross-curricular letter writing opportunity to fifth graders.

She will be helped in the endeavor with a \$300 mini grant from the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). The grants help bring projects to classrooms and schools that might not be possible without the boost of the award.

The association's President George Denny Jr., and Wanda Ruffo Twigg, its executive director, attended a morning staff meeting earlier this month at Malcolm to award Leedy the grant. Denny said it was the program's simplicity that won over judges tasked to award mini grants to educators throughout the state.

"On the surface, it is so simple," Denny said. "But when you think about it, how many people write letters today? We all have cell phones, we all have computers, we all have Zoom. To take that very basic skill of writing a letter and make it beneficial to students is great."

Leedy plans to launch the pen pal-like program in early 2022. She was inspired by a practice she and a friend continue — they

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George Denny Jr., president of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association

send each other mail. She took that idea and will incorporate elements of the writing curriculum students delve into during fifth grade. "There is so much writing in fifth grade, and this will support writing standards," Leedy said. Students will pen draft copies, and revise and edit their work before putting a stamp on it and mailing it away.

The writing program also brings in a connection component. Leedy has reached out to peers in parts of the state beyond Southern Maryland to participate. By staying in the state, students are building off the knowledge they gained in fourth grade when they studied regions in Maryland.

The grant will cover postage and paper that is a step up from the standard notebook variety. Leedy, the team lead for fifth grade, said all students in Malcolm's fifth-grade classes will participate and likely start the program in February.

COVID-19 dashboard launches, features data by school, systemwide

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) launched a COVID-19 interactive data dashboard on the school system website last month at <https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/covid-19-dashboard>.

The dashboard features data on positive COVID-19 cases reported to CCPS from students and staff since the start of the 2021-2022 school year on Aug. 30.

Data includes cases reported to CCPS with a lab-confirmed positive result and is updated weekly on Fridays. Dashboard users can view data by date and school, center or CCPS building.

COVID-19 data is based upon the date the positive case was reported to CCPS. The information only reflects the raw number of cases reported to the CCPS Office of School Safety and Security.

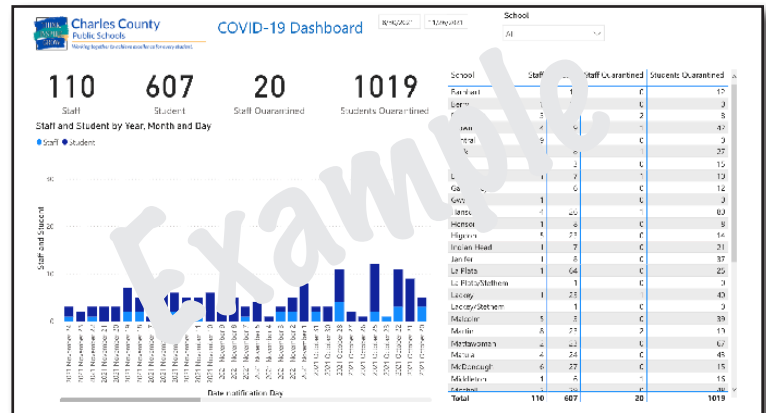
The information cannot be used to determine when a positive person was last in a CCPS building or if the person was contagious in the building.

A video tutorial featuring a demonstration of how to use the dashboard is posted on the website.

The website also features a dashboard instruction sheet in both English and Spanish.

The website features a feedback form community members can use to help CCPS ensure the dashboard is user friendly.

The dashboard replaces the Charles County daily COVID-19 intel bulletin. Case notification letters will continue to be shared to affected



school communities as positive student and staff cases are identified.

The bulletin listed CCPS staff and student COVID-19 positive case data, but also data publicly reported by both the Maryland Department of Health and the Charles County Department of Health.

Community members interested in following state and county data trends can visit the websites below.

- Charles County COVID-19 data. [Local COVID-19 Data — Charles County COVID-19 Information](#)
- Maryland Department of Health. [Coronavirus — Maryland Department of Health](#)

Virtual workshops connect parents, caregivers with mental health supports for children

The Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of Student Services will host virtual parent and caregiver workshops next week.

Both virtual presentations will include an interpreter for Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers. The upcoming workshops will focus on coping strategies and healthy relationships among teens.

Student Services staff members — school counselors, school psychologists and pupil personnel workers — will continue to share information during the school year that mirrors social emotional learning (SEL) instruction students receive in their classes. Workshops will continue to help parents and caregivers gain knowledge of SEL information, strategies and coping skills students are taught. All virtual presentations will include an interpreter for Spanish-speaking parents and caregivers.

Topics for the secondary-level workshops will include depression, healthy relationships, healthy communication, stress management, life changes and adjustments.

Some of the topics for the elementary-level workshops will include the alignment



Upcoming virtual workshops will teach parents more about coping strategies and healthy relationships among middle- and high-school children.

of Move This World strategies, bullying and managing strong emotions.

Parents and caregivers must have an active Zoom account to participate.

A virtual workshop for parents of middle- and high-school students will be 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Dec. 13. Malik Williams, school counselor at Matthew Henson Middle School, will lead a discussion on coping strategies. Parents and caregivers will learn about coping strate-

gies from the viewpoint of their child.

For a link to the Dec. 13 meeting, [click here](#). The Meeting ID is 892 8787 4973. The Passcode is 971161.

Parents and caregivers of middle and high school students are invited to attend a virtual workshop at 6:30 p.m., Dec. 15. Abby Pherson, school counselor at La Plata High School, will talk about healthy relationships. In the workshop, parents and caregivers will learn what makes healthy friendships from the viewpoint of teenagers. The workshop is designed to help parent/caregivers connect with their child as they learn how to determine if their friendships are healthy and what to do if they aren't.

For a link to the Dec. 15 meeting, [click here](#). The Meeting ID is 852 6102 6747. The Passcode is 937852.

Additional workshops are scheduled to be held or will be set up throughout the year.

The next virtual workshop for parents of middle- and high-school students is set for Jan. 12. Monica Cherry, pupil personnel worker at North Point High School, will lead a discussion on healthy communication. The elementary schedule will be announced soon.

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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).

Teachers of distinction

Seven Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) elementary school teachers were recognized by the Maryland State Department of Education's Assessment for Learning Classroom of Distinction. The recognition honors teachers who are using the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning in their schools.

Honored Thursday and Friday were Erin Amore and Kelly Lundeen, both third-grade teachers at Dr. James Craik Elementary School; Nina Beard, fourth-grade teacher, and Nina Capuano, third-grade teacher, both of T.C. Martin Elementary School; Molly Reip, first-grade teacher of Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School; and Melinda Wright and Taryn Walker, both second-grade teachers, of Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School.

The Rooms of Distinction will serve as model classrooms for other educators around the state who want to grow in their pedagogical practices.

Of the 15 teachers around the state who advanced to Round 2 for consideration, 14 are CCPS teachers.

La Plata's NHS delivers Thanksgiving baskets

Members of La Plata High School's National Honor Society (NHS) recently collected food for, put together and delivered Thanksgiving food baskets.

Families of La Plata students were selected by the school's pupil personnel worker (PPW) to receive the food baskets that were brimming with donations collected by NHS members from club members, teachers and staff, and Key Club members.

The program has been overseen by the group for more than two decades, Nicole Deavers, who co-sponsors NHS with Victoria Lee, said.

Members of La Plata's NHS worked with those in the Key Club to host a Trunk-or-Treat event at the school earlier this year. The club also holds a monthly Teacher Appreciation Breakfast and offers peer tutoring.



From left are Corinne Mahaffey, junior; Emma Vanden Berg, senior; Haley Holcomb, junior; and Camryn Ging, junior.

Personnel

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

A teacher job fair will be held virtually 2-3:30 p.m., Dec. 16. Candidates must complete an online application by Dec. 15 at www.ccboe.com. To register for the job fair, [click here](#).

Job Openings

Technology Facilitator — Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, as is an associate's degree or pass on the ParaPro Assessment. Apply by Dec. 10.

Mathematics Intervention Instructional Assistant — All elementary schools, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required.

Apply by Dec. 10.

Attendance Secretary — Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School, 11-month position. High school diploma required. Apply by Dec. 10.

Student Data Technician — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required. Apply by Dec. 14.

Art Teacher — All schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

IEP Facilitator — All schools, 11-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Business Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Computer Science Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Early Childhood Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

English Teacher — All high schools,

10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

ESOL Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Library Media Specialist — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Mathematics Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Jan. 31.

Attendance Secretary — Gale-Bailey Elementary School, 11-month position. High school diploma required. Position open until filled.

Web and Digital Content Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor's degree in electronic media, journalism, communications, computer science or related field is required. Position open until filled.

U.S. Marine Corps JROTC Instructor — St. Charles High School, 11-month position. Position open until filled.