

School News



Important Dates Coming Soon

Science Fair this weekend

The annual Charles County Science Fair is Saturday, March 28 at Maurice J. McDonough High School. Judging begins at 9 a.m. and the awards ceremony is at 5 p.m.

Spring break

All Charles County public schools will be open for students and teachers three days during spring break – Monday, March 30; Tuesday, March 31; and Wednesday, April 1. Wednesday, April 1 is a two-hour early dismissal day. Afternoon prekindergarten students attend that day.

School calendar survey

The Board of Education is reviewing options for the 2016-17 school year calendar and wants community input. A survey is posted on the Charles County Public Schools website, under the What's New section on the bottom right-hand side of the home page. The survey includes questions about inclement weather days, spring break, start and end dates and more. The survey is confidential and open until noon on April 1.

Third marking period ends

The third marking period ends on Tuesday, April 7; the fourth marking period begins on Wednesday, April 8.

Free tutor training

The Charles County Literacy Council, Inc. is hosting a one-day tutor training for interested volunteers on Saturday, April 11 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the United Way Building in La Plata. Training is free and participants must be 18 or older to register. Volunteers must have an additional four hours of online training prior to April 11. Registration is available online at www.charlescountyliteracy.org. Deadline to register is April 4. Call 301-934-6488 for more information.

Staff shoot hoops to raise money



Charles County Public Schools held a Relay for Life March Madness basketball event at St. Charles High School on March 20. Staff members from the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, the Starkey Strong Ballers team, played against high school administrators, the High School Shooters team, to raise money. The school system raised more than \$560 from the event. Pictured is Westlake High School Vice Principal Curry Werkheiser practicing his three-point shot for the game.

Ethics policy applies to all CCPS employees

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees have a standard of ethics that include limitations on gifts, financial disclosures and involvement with companies that do business with the school system. All employees are responsible for complying with ethics regulations.

The ethics policy, 8160, outlines conflicts of interest concerning business entities in which an employee has any interests. The policy does not allow participation by an employee with a business in which the employee or an immediate family member has a financial interest. For example, if an employee's spouse works for a company doing business with the school system, the employee should not be involved in any school system transactions with that company. A list of all vendors is available at <http://www.ccboe.com/departments/purchasing/vendors.php>.

In addition to financial matters, conflicts of interest also include post-employment restrictions, using prestige of office, use of confidential information, procurement restrictions, and acceptance of gifts. Employees can accept certain gifts up to \$20, but a series of gifts may be accepted up to \$100 in value on a yearly basis.

The ethics policy also states that employees may not use confidential information that they acquire through their employment

for their economic benefit or the economic benefit of another person. For example, an employee may not access confidential home addresses to contact students or other employees about non-school system business, or provide those addresses to anyone outside the school system for commercial or other unauthorized purposes.

Certain employees, including the superintendent, executive staff, principals and some administrative employees, must file an annual statement that discloses gifts received from any person that contracts with or is under the authority of the school system and any potential conflicts of interest.

Board of Education policy 8160 outlines the ethics rules and establishes the Charles County Board of Education Ethics Panel, which consists of five members appointed by the Board of Education.

The panel reviews complaints and issues recommendations concerning violations to the Board of Education. Anyone who knows of an ethics violation may file a complaint directly with the Charles County Board of Education Ethics Panel, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646. For questions, contact Eric Schwartz, staff attorney, at eschwartz@ccboe.com. The ethics policy is located on BoardDocs, under the policy section, and is posted on the CCPS website.



On the cover

Pictured on the front cover are staff members from General Smallwood Middle School. Pictured from left, are Angel Willett, secretary to the principal; Anita Riggans, special education teacher; and Paul Frey, social studies teacher.

Students show MESA skills

Student engineers, scientists and mathematicians will put their skills on display as part of the upcoming regional Maryland Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) competitions. The elementary-level regional MESA tournament is Thursday, April 9, and the secondary event is Friday, April 10. Both competitions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at North Point High School in the gymnasium.

Nominate a building leader

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is looking for nominations for the 2015 Vice Principal of the Year. Nominees must have at least three years of experience as a vice principal with CCPS. Additional nominee criteria is posted on the school system website, under the employee recognition area of the Jobs section. Nominations are due to the Office of Human Resources by Friday, April 24. Contact Pam Mucciolo at pmucciolo@ccboe.com or 301-934-7242 for additional information.

Outstanding support

CCPS is looking for award nominees for the 2015 Outstanding Classified Personnel Awards program. Awards are given in six categories: building service, food service, instructional support, secretary, maintenance and information technology. Award winners will be announced and recognized at the June 9 Board of Education meeting. Nominations are due April 24. Additional information is posted on the system website, www.ccboe.com.

Follow us on Twitter

Did you know that Charles County Public Schools maintains a Twitter page? Follow us on www.twitter.com/CCPS for system updates, news, facts and more. The school system also announces weather-related closings on Twitter. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kimberly Hill also maintains a Twitter page. Follow her @ccpsupt.

National Board Certified Teachers



Heather Neely



**National Board Certification Area
Exceptional Needs Specialist/Early Childhood
through Young Adulthood**

Position held: Resource teacher at Henry E. Lackey High School

Years of teaching experience: 11

Years with Charles County Public Schools: 11

Education:

Bachelor of Arts in Multidisciplinary Studies, West Virginia University

Master of Arts in Elementary Education, West Virginia University

Certifications in Multicategorical Special Education, West Virginia University



Apply for National Board Certification

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) teachers and specialists who hold a Standard Professional or Advanced Professional Certificate and have a minimum of three years of successful teaching experience in Charles County on a Maryland professional certificate (SPC or APC) are eligible to apply for National Board Certification (NBC). Applicants must submit a candidate packet, which includes a letter of interest indicating the certification area they wish to pursue and why they want to pursue National Board Certification; a writing prompt activity (distributed by CCPS) in conjunction with NBC standards; a letter of recommendation from their principal or supervisor; and a current resume.

Candidates are screened by a review committee to determine who will represent Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) in the 2015-16 program. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) has updated the process this school year. Educators interested in pursuing National Board Certification must complete a

demanding four-part demonstration of their knowledge and skills over a three-year period by developing a portfolio component that reflects aspects of their teaching. Candidates are also required to attend an assessment center.

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) limits the number of applicants for the school system to 10 candidates, and the \$1,900 application fee is funded by MSDE and CCPS. There are 25 certification areas and educators who earn National Board Certification earn six approved professional development credits and may receive an annual stipend (pending funding/negotiated agreement approval).

Applicants must submit completed candidate packets to Pamela Murphy, executive director of human resources, by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16. Email submissions will not be accepted. For more information, visit the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards website at www.nbpts.org or call 301-934-7239.



System highlights Read Across Charles County

Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss, said it best: “The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” Charles County Public Schools celebrated Read Across Charles County last month. Guest readers and plenty of costumes and special events highlighted the annual celebration. The yearly event is a reading motivation and awareness program that invites children in the community to celebrate literacy and reading, and the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Each year, the school system coordinates the event in conjunction with the National Education Association’s Read Across America Day.

Pictured, clockwise from top left, are: Eva Turner Elementary School second grader Reagan Norman finding time to read at her school library; C. Paul Barnhart Elementary School pre-school instructional assistant Kenya Poindexter helping prekindergarten student Nataliya Carroll read; Board of Education Vice Chairman Michael Lukas signing in to T.C. Martin Elementary School to be a guest reader; Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School kindergarten student Serenity Ireson dressed up as Cindy Lou Who; William B. Wade Elementary School fifth graders Michael Lawyer, Ashlynn Martin, Hailey Develbis, Arnel Heathington and Avery Holmes, go to different classrooms to read to their classmates; and J.C. Parks Elementary School fourth graders Bryant Melendres and Amaree Turner read during center time.



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Students get active for a worthy cause

J.C. Parks Elementary School hosted a Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser for students and their families on March 20 to benefit the American Heart Association. The fundraiser makes students aware of the importance of a healthy heart and funds raised go toward research. This year, Parks set a fundraising goal of \$7,000 and has held other events this month to raise funds. Students and staff have raised more than \$6,000. The schoolwide event motivated students, and their families, to get up and get active, and more than 100 Parks students and their family members participated. Pictured above are Parks fourth grader Murdock McCormick, left, and his sister, first grader Madison McCormick, as they swing dance at the March 20 event while trying to earn a prize in a dancing challenge.

Personnel

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

Job Openings

Financial Secretary – Westlake High School, 12-month position. Apply by March 31.

Building Service Worker – T.C. Martin Elementary School, 12-month position. Apply by April 1.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant – Berry Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by April 3.

Food Service Worker – Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by April 6.

Media Instructional Assistant – Berry Elementary School, 10-month position. Apply by April 6.

High School Guidance Secretary – North Point High School, 11-month position. Apply by April 6.

Special Education Teachers – Openings at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer and Eva Turner elementary schools, 10-month positions.

French Teacher – St. Charles High School, 10-month position.

Mathematics Teachers – Openings at Milton M. Somers Middle School and North Point High School, 10-month positions.

Instructional Resource Teacher for Life Skills – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 10-month position. Master's degree, advanced professional certificate with endorsement in special education and a minimum of three years teaching experience with the Life Skills population required.

Spanish Teacher – Location to be determined, 10-month position.

Science Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Technology Education Teacher – North Point High School, 10-month position.

Staff Notes

SECAC award nominations due April 17

The Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC) is seeking nominations for their annual staff appreciation awards program. The program recognizes Charles County Public Schools staff who make the difference in the lives of children with special needs. Parents and students can submit nominations in four categories: individual teacher or classroom assistant; team (composed of two or more staff members who work directly with the child); related services staff (counselor, nurse, psychologist, speech therapist, etc.); and support staff/administration (bus driver, building service worker, principal, secretary, etc.). Staff members cannot nominate colleagues. Nominations are due April 17. Additional information is posted on the SECAC Twitter page at <https://twitter.com/CharlesCo-SECAC>. Recipients will be honored May 13 in a ceremony at the Jaycees Hall.