



School News

Notebook

Schools closed

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) offices and schools are closed Monday, Sept. 5, for Labor Day. Schools will be closed for students only on Friday, Sept. 16, which is a teacher in-service day.

Immunization clinics

The Charles County Department of Health is holding immunization clinics for children in need of required vaccinations. Upcoming clinics are set for Sept. 6, 13, 20 and 27, and Oct. 4. To schedule an appointment, call 301-609-6835. For more information, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/departments/student-services/staff/school-nurses/vaccination-requirements>.

Board meeting

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet Tuesday, Sept. 13, at 1 p.m. Public forum starts at 6 p.m.

Kickoff event

The CCPS Office of Community Engagement and Equity is hosting an Indian Education kickoff Sept. 15 for students of American Indian and Alaska Native descent. To learn more and to register, [click here](#).

Date change

Maurice J. McDonough High School's homecoming dates have changed from what is printed in the paper copy of the *Charles County Public Schools 2022-2023 Parent Handbook/Calendar*. The school's homecoming game is now Oct. 21, and the dance is Oct. 22. For the most up-to-date calendar information, check out the Parent Handbook/Calendar online at <https://www.ccboe.com/about/calendar/parent-handbookcalendar>.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Looking up — Sonia Blue, back center, principal of Mattawoman Middle School, gathers students for a quick picture snapped by a Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) drone before the first bell rings.



Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School second grader Billie Williams, right, hugs music teacher, Denise Pratt.

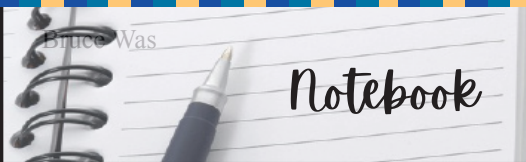


Susan Hoffmaster, left, special education instructional assistant (IA), and Diane Skidmore, kindergarten IA, greet students and parents arriving at Mary B. Neal Elementary School.



Thomas Stone High School Principal Shanif Pearl welcomes students back to school during morning announcements.

BFFs — friends at Westlake High School reunite on the first day of school.



Take flight at North Point

First Flight, the daily two-hour program for children ages 3 to 5 at North Point High School, has openings. The program is led by North Point students in the school's early childhood training program.

The program runs four days a week (closed on Wednesdays) from October to April. The morning session is 8:15-10:15 a.m., and the afternoon session is noon-2 p.m.

The snack and supply fee is \$425 a year and a \$100 holding fee will be applied to the payment for the year. North Point is at 2500 Davis Road, Waldorf.

To complete a contact information form, pick up a copy from the school's main office, email lwillett@ccboe.com or go to <https://www.npectp.org>.

NewsBreak anchors

Six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) high school students — three seniors, three juniors — will deliver the news this year as anchors for NewsBreak, a bi-weekly show highlighting students, staff and events in the school system.

Among the anchors are **Nina Dizon**, senior, Westlake High School; **Tessah Good**, senior, Henry E. Lackey High School; **Joshua Pelzer**, junior, Westlake; **Kameryn Robinson**, junior, Westlake; **Aaron Sellow**, senior, North Point High School; and **Gerald Tabe**, junior, St. Charles High School. NewsBreak episodes are produced every two weeks depending on school events and/or weather closings or delays.

Watch the latest episode of NewsBreak on Comcast 96 or Verizon FiOS 12 in Charles County at 7 and 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m.

Interested viewers who do not have cable can watch by [clicking here](#). A schedule is also posted on the page. Watch past NewsBreak episodes online at <https://vimeo.com/show-case/newsbreak> or on the [Charles County Public Schools YouTube channel](#).

Tonkins named director of transportation

Superintendent Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D., announced at the Aug. 22 Board of Education work session, the hiring of Jason Tonkins as the director of transportation. He is set to begin work with CCPS on Sept. 12.

Tonkins has more than 20 years of experience in operations and transportation management, most recently as transportation director of student transportation for the Department of For-Hire Vehicles for the Washington, D.C., government.

While there, he oversaw the daily transportation of special needs students in the District.

"The main characteristic that defines an excellent administrator is that of integrity," Tonkins said. "Doing the right thing, even when no one is looking. Keeping your people engaged in their work and helping them to grow in their careers defines the perfect plan of an administrator."

As director of transportation for CCPS, Tonkins will help oversee the school system's transportation department and a staff of bus drivers and bus attendants who safely transport 23,000 CCPS students to and from

school each day.

Prior to joining the Department of For-Hire Vehicles, Tonkins was the senior operations manager for Enviro-solutions Inc. where he led the operations teams and managed contracts with federal organizations such as the National Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health.

Tonkins has been a transportation logistics manager with the Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit in Alexandria, Va., and was the transportation supervisor with Southeastern Freight Lines in Greensboro, N.C.

It was in North Carolina where Tonkins attended college at the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University in Greensboro, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in political science. He expects to earn his Master of Business Administration degree in November from Strayer University.



Jason Tonkins

CCPS partners with Arts for Learning Maryland

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is partnering with Arts for Learning Maryland to bring arts-integrated learning experiences into the classrooms of elementary and middle school students. The artist-led programs will launch in schools during the 2022-2023 school year.

The three-year partnership ushers in more than 30 residencies, assemblies and professional development workshops from more than 15 Arts for Learning-trained teaching artists.

Teachers and CCPS staff will also have access to professional development programs led by artists in an effort to bring more creativity into classrooms.

"Now more than ever, our students need arts-integrated learning that develops each individual's social and emotional learning skills by developing their self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision-making, relationship skills and social awareness," Andrew Blumhardt, CCPS instruc-

tional specialist for fine and performing arts, said.

Arts in Learning Maryland — previously known as Young Audiences of Maryland — is part of the national Young Audiences Arts for Learning network which was founded in 1952 to inspire children to expand their learning through the arts, according to the nonprofit's website.

"We celebrate Charles County Public Schools for valuing arts education, and for making arts integration a high priority for their student's academic experience," Jessica Smith Hebron, chief program officer of Arts for Learning Maryland, said. "We look forward to providing dynamic and memorable educational arts experiences for the amazing students, teachers and artists who will participate in this multi-year partnership."

To learn more about Arts for Learning Maryland, visit <https://www.artsforlearningmd.org/>.

We know what they did this summer ...

Students spend the break working on leadership skills, competing in national event



Lauren Compton, a La Plata High School sophomore, spent eight days in Quantico, Va., at the FBI-NAA's Youth Leadership Program.

From AP to FBI

There are not many 15-year-olds who can say they rode shotgun as an FBI agent drove 120 mph during a spin at the Tactical Emergency Vehicle Operations Center (TEVOC) where agent trainees learn how to drive safely and effectively.

Then again, not many teens spend a week at the FBI National Academy Associates (FBINAA) Youth Leadership Program at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Va.

Lauren Compton, who began her sophomore year at La Plata High School Monday, uncovered the program while Googling "FBI summer camps."

Initially applying when she was 14 and not accepted, Compton tried again for a spot this year and was selected to attend the eight-day program at the FBI Academy on the Marine Corps Base in Quantico.

The program appeared to offer students an introduction to the career field Compton is interested in pursuing. "I want to be an FBI agent," she said. "I love puzzles. Everything from mystery shows to crosswords." To read more about Compton's FBI experience, [click here](#).

CCPS high school students place at ACT-SO

After scoring gold medals in the regional Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) competition this spring, six Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) students went on to compete at the national ACT-SO event held in July in Atlantic City.

The following students placed in their respective categories.

- Isaiah DeLeonard, a sophomore at La Plata High School, placed second with a Silver Award in the Music Composition category. As a silver-award winner, DeLeonard received \$1,500, an iPad, AirPods and an Oculus Virtual Reality Headset.



Isaiah DeLeonard

- Shaniyah Hall, a sophomore at North Point High School, placed third with a Bronze Award in the Mathematics category. As a third-place winner, Hall received \$1,000, an iPad, AirPods and an Oculus Virtual Reality Headset.



Shaniyah Hall

Members of the 2022 class of Maurice J. McDonough High School Candace Jackson and Paris

Roberson were both awarded a Write her Future scholarship. Only 40 scholarships were distributed to students nationwide.

Other students who participated in the event included:

- Candace Carrington, a junior at Thomas Stone High School, Poetry Performance category.

- Kelsey Njembu, a 2022 graduate of North Point, Music Instrumental — Classical category.



Candace Jackson



Paris Roberson

"I was proud, like a proud parent," said Charles County NAACP ACT-SO chairperson Dora Myles-Moore about the students' achievements. "It shows [the students] that there is a community backing them, supporting them," Myles-Moore said.

"There's so much negative press around our youth and to be able to highlight the great things they are doing is extraordinary," she said.

Students interested in the 2022-2023 ACT-SO program can visit <https://charlescountynaacp.org/act-so>.

Summer school seniors celebrate at ceremony

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) recently celebrated the last group of high school graduates from the 2021-2022 school year in a graduation ceremony for summer school students held at North Point High School. Every year CCPS holds a high school graduation in August for students who completed their graduation requirements in summer school. Seventy-three students walked as their friends, family, school principals and staff cheered them on at the event marking the completion of their high school career. [Click here](#) to read more.



T'Mani Smith, a graduate of Henry E. Lackey High School, is pictured with her diploma.

School News is published by
Charles County Public Schools
301-932-6610
301-934-7220
Fax: 301-932-6651

Board of Education Members

Michael Lukas, *Chairperson*
Latina L. Wilson, *Vice Chairperson*
Jennifer S. Abell
Tajala Battle-Lockhart
Elizabeth C. Brown
David Hancock
Virginia McGraw
Amira Abujuma, *Student Member*

Superintendent of Schools

Maria V. Navarro, Ed.D.

Editor/Writers

Shelley Mackey
Sara K. Taylor
Jordan Wilson

The Charles County public school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Kathy Kiessling, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Nikial M. Majors, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (employees/ adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646; 301-932-6610/301-870-3814. For special accommodations call 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to the event.

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).



Torch Run is Sept. 23

Gus Proctor, community organizer with the Charles County Sheriff's Office, second from right, stopped by the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building to thank staff of Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) for supporting the upcoming Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Maryland. The Charles County Law Enforcement Torch Run is set to start at 9 a.m., Sept. 23, at Texas Roadhouse in La Plata. Registration is not required — but participants must buy a T-shirt or cap to participate in the 2.8-mile run or 2.5-mile walk. Strollers are permitted and participants should arrive by 8:45 a.m. For more information, contact Proctor at 301-932-3080, 240-299-5207 or Proctora@ccso.us. T-shirts and hats are \$15 each. Lunch and refreshments will be provided. Pictured from left are Mary Aron, Angel Clark, Teresa Cook, Roxane Burlack, Proctor and Superintendent Maria Navarro, Ed.D.

Personnel

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

Job openings

Building Service Worker — Thomas Stone High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED is required. Apply by Sept. 9.

Building Service Worker — North Point High School, 12-month position. A high school diploma or GED is required. Apply by Sept. 9.

Parent Liaison — Arthur Middleton Elementary School, 10-month position. General knowledge of Title I, Part A and Microsoft Office 365 are required. Applicant must be able to work flexible hours, as needed. Apply by

Sept. 9.

Bus Driver — Annex 1, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Five years of work experience as a school bus driver in Maryland is preferred. Applicants must have or have the ability Commercial Class B Driver's License with P&S endorsements within the period of time specified. Position open until filled.

Business Education Teacher — All high schools, 10-month position. Bachelor's degree or higher required, and applicants must meet certification requirements as established by the Maryland State Department of Education. Position open until filled.

CISCO Teacher — North Point High School, 10-month position. Position open until filled.

Computer Analyst — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with one to three years of technically progressive current work experience in information networks and user support. Position open until filled.

Transportation Router — Annex I, 12-month position. A high school diploma or an equivalent is required, associate's degree preferred. Working knowledge and general understanding of the geography and roads within Charles County preferred. Position open until filled.

Kindergarten Instructional Assistant — All elementary schools, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required with an associate's degree preferred. Position open until filled.