



School News

Important Dates Coming Soon

Making a scene

La Plata High School is staging the comedy "Leading Ladies" 6:30 p.m. Oct. 25 and 26 at the school. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students with Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) identification badges honored. Upcoming shows include Henry E. Lackey High School's take on "Shakespeare in Hollywood" 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7 through 9. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and CCPS badges are honored. "Cheaper by the Dozen" will be performed at North Point High School at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 to 9. Tickets are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students and senior citizens. For a list and description of more shows set to take the stage this fall, go to www.ccboe.com.

Focus on the future

The Board of Education will hold a community Town Hall 6:30 p.m. Oct. 28 in the boardroom of the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. The topic will center on the future of public schools. The Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education — also known as the Kirwan Commission — put forth recommendations to improve the quality of the state's public education system. Board members want to hear what CCPS parents and students, and county residents would like to see as the school system phases in commission recommendations.

Candy crush

The Spartans of St. Charles High School are preparing for HalloSpartan-Ween, the school's Halloween event open to the community. The event is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 29. Admission is free; canned goods collected for a local food pantry. RSVP to cbier@ccboe.com with the number of guests in your party. Thomas Stone High School is holding a Halloween event for the community 6:30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 30.



Eye to eye

La Plata High School sophomore Molly Mudd uses clay to add muscles to the face of a mannequin during Michelle Schoenbauer's Project Lead the Way human body systems class. Students use their mannequins during the school year as a learning tool adding muscles, organs, tissues and body systems to it. Superintendent Kimberly Hill, Board of Education members, elected officials and local business representatives toured Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs on Oct. 16 at La Plata and North Point high schools, and the Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

Dr. Mudd holds rededication, key passing

Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School students, staff and community members celebrated the recent building renovation and expansion of the school in a special ceremony held Oct. 10. Featured in the ceremony was a project overview, student performances, presentations from elected officials and a key passing ceremony.

Dr. Mudd first opened its doors to students in 1967 in a building that was just under 45,000 square feet in size. Following a two-year renovation and expansion, Dr. Mudd now features more than 76,000 square feet in learning space for students. Updated features include new technologies, updated mechanical and engineering systems, a separate gymnasium and cafeteria, and a new school entrance. The renovation project began in 2017 and modernized the building for learning. Cost of the renovation was about \$24 million.

To prepare for the renovation, Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) built a transition school in Waldorf to accommodate students who attend a school undergoing renovations. In July 2017, Dr. Mudd staff relocated to the transition school. Students and staff attended the transition school for two years and returned to Dr. Mudd this school year. Dr. Mudd Principal

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Open enrollment is Oct. 28 to Nov. 22

The annual open enrollment for Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employee health benefits is Oct. 28 to Nov. 22.

During open enrollment, eligible CCPS employees can either join a health care plan or make changes to their coverage. Insurance premiums and co-payments remain the same for 2020.

Available benefits include medical/dental, term life insurance, optional supplemental employee or dependent life insurance and flexible spending accounts (FSA).

To access open enrollment, visit <https://ccboe.hrintouch.com>.

Benefits for employees who do not make any changes will continue in 2020, with the exception of FSA options. Employees with FSA benefits must renew annually online.

Changes and FSA benefits made during open enrollment are effective Jan 1, 2020, the start of the new benefit plan year. Health insurance plans are provided by CareFirst and include a Preferred Provider plan (PPO/PPN) or a Blue Choice Opt-Out Open Access plan.

Plan details are posted on MyCCPS under the Benefits & Pay tab.

Rates are as follows.

Individual coverage

- PPO/PPN — \$204 monthly, \$102 bi-weekly
- Blue Choice — \$150 monthly, \$75 bi-weekly

Family coverage

- PPO/PPN — \$546 monthly, \$273 bi-weekly
- Blue Choice — \$432 monthly, \$216 bi-weekly

Medical coverage includes pharmacy (CVS/Caremark), dental (Preferred Provider), and vision (Davis Vision Plus). CCPS does not offer stand-alone plans.

Employees can also sign up for group term life insurance or group supplemental life insurance. Group term renews annually and is only available for employee coverage (no spouse or dependent coverage).

Group supplemental insurance is provided to CCPS through Voya Life Insurance Company with a guaranteed issue of \$250,000. Insurance above \$250,000 requires the employee to complete the evidence of insurability (EOI) medical questionnaire. Coverage is also available for eligible children of employees who select the optional coverage.

Two FSA options are available for employees: medical and dependent care. FSA accounts do not renew annually. Participants must re-enroll during open enrollment annually. Employees who enroll in a dependent care FSA can contribute up to \$5,000 family maximum on a pretax basis to pay for qualified dependent care. Visit the benefits page of the MyCCPS employee website for more information on CCPS benefits.

Audit shows CCPS financial reports in order

For the third consecutive year, an independent auditor has found Charles County Public Schools' (CCPS) financial reports in order.

Financial auditors presented CCPS with an opinion that they found of no material weaknesses—meaning they found no deficiency in the school system's internal controls—during its annual audit of the school system's basic financial statements.

Bill Early, an auditor with Clifton-LarsonAllen LLP, presented the Board of Education an overview of its report on internal controls over financial reporting and on compliance and other matters. Audits of the CCPS financial statements are per-

formed in accordance with government auditing standards. The audit is for the 2018-19 school year, which ended June 30, 2019.

Early guided the Board through the audit, identifying pages where information, like financial statements and fund balances, could be found. He commended the Board on funding its pension at 95.4 percent, but cautioned them that contributions to Other Post-employment Benefits (OPEB) are low and could become a long-term liability. He said all schools show a positive budget balance.

The CCPS fiscal year 2020 operating budget is \$382.9 million. To read more, go to <https://tinyurl.com/y5c5yv78>.

Notebook

On the cover

Pictured on the front cover from left are Chandra Jones, eighth-grade language arts teacher, Benjamin Stoddert Middle School; Sarah Marzolf, school counselor, J.P. Ryon Elementary School; and Anisah Ansari, seventh-grade language arts teacher, Mattawoman Middle School. Ansari was honored by the Board of Education at its Oct. 8 meeting as an outstanding employee.

Rain delay

Due to rain, the middle school co-ed golf tournament was postponed earlier this month. Student golfers will now hit the links Oct. 30 for the tournament.

Financial wellness seminar

Financial Challenges that Matter Most is an educational seminar set for 5 to 6 p.m. Nov. 7 at Mary H. Matula Elementary School. The seminars are provided by Prudential Pathways, a Prudential Financial program. To sign up, call 800-987-5592 or email retirementpathways@prudential.com.

Wobble this way

Runners and walkers who signed up for the 5K Turkey Trot fun run/walk can pick up T-shirts and gift packs noon to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 7 and 8 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Can't make it then? T-shirts and gift packs will be available for pickup starting at 7:30 a.m. at La Plata High School on the day of the event. The 5K starts at 9 a.m. Race participants will receive their medal at the finish line. For additional information, contact Debbie Iverson at diverson@ccboe.com or 301-934-7223.

NPHS's CTE sign up in Nov.

The application window for eighth graders interested in applying for North Point High School's 17 Career and Technical (CTE) programs is open Nov. 25 to Dec. 20. For more information and to see programs offered, go to <https://www.ccboe.com/cte/index.php>.

DR. MUDD

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Orlena Whatley said while the transition was challenging, the positive attitude displayed by both students and staff made the change easy.

“The transition school became our home for two years and we made the absolute best of it. Our Dr. Mudd Dragons handled the change like champs. Over the past two years, I watched Dr. Mudd evolve from a school with dusty floors and construction traffic, to the house of learning it is today. And we – the Dr. Mudd team – handled this move as a family,” Whatley said during the ceremony.

Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill presented the project overview at the ceremony.

In her comments, Hill shared details about Dr. Mudd design features in place for students. Dr. Mudd windows include stained glass and color-coded floor tiles that correspond with different grade levels. The design included additional areas for window space, allowing for natural light to shine in hallways, and unique furniture for students who may need flexible seating options. Hill said students and staff were excited about the reopening of Dr. Mudd in September.

“When students walked in on the first day of school, they were ecstatic. Not only does the inside of the building look completely different, but the outside of the building is modern, inviting and features lots of windows to let in natural light. The architect team from Smolen, Emr and Ilkovitch had a vision of incorporating a color scheme students could identify by grade level. The general contractor, Scheibel Construction, made that vision a reality. The stripes on the floor and stained glass windows of the same color lead students to classroom areas that feature collaborative spaces for group learning,” Hill said.

David Clements is the supervisor of planning and construction for CCPS. He was the lead staff member on the Dr. Mudd renovation project and said the school is one of the first CCPS buildings to feature furniture included in a design to support teaching and learning. “We partnered with Dupont in how to use furniture as part of teaching and this is one of the first times we used seating and technology together in part of an overall design plan,” Clements said.

During the ceremony, Maryland Senator Arthur Ellis presented a



Among the participants in the key passing at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School’s rededication ceremony are prekindergarten teacher Norma Williams, who has worked at Dr. Mudd for 23 years, left; and students Nely Hernandez-Gutierrez, Maggie Malone, Mahrugh Raja and Tyson Wallace.

citation to Dr. Mudd fifth grader Kamrin Briscoe. In addressing students at the ceremony, Ellis encouraged them to make reading a priority. “Reading can take you lots of places so remember to keep that focus,” Ellis said.

Thomasina Coates and Amanda Stewart, members of the Board of Charles County Commissioners, presented a citation to Dr. Mudd fourth grader Lila Yake. “This building was part of a vision. A vision I had to help update the educational facilities in Charles County. It is amazing to see it now,” Commissioner Stewart said.

Whatley also presented a citation to Dr. Mudd fifth grader Angelina Carter on behalf of Del. Edith Patterson during the ceremony.

Part of every CCPS school dedication or rededication is a key passing ceremony.

Special guests, including elected officials, students, parents, school staff and representatives from groups involved in a school construction or renovation project participate. A ceremonial key is shared from one participant to the other as a visual representation of the process it takes to build or renovate a school.

No exceptions when it comes to safety

Even superheroes have to sign in at CCPS schools. La Plata’s firefighter superhero Flash Max recently showed his identification and signed in at the main office before heading to a fire safety assembly at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary Schools. All CCPS schools require visitors — no matter what their super powers are — to show identification and sign in at the main office as part of the school system’s safety and security procedures. The La Plata Volunteer Fire Department spread the word about home fire safety at Walter J. Mitchell Elementary School. Kindergarten and prekindergarten students answered fire safety questions, saw a stop, drop and roll demonstration by one of their classmates and gathered tips from firefighter superhero Flash Max, aka CCPS parent, Mike Furman.



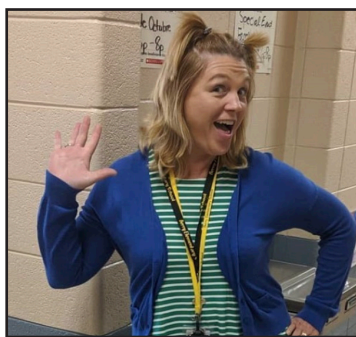
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A 'Berry' Wacky Wednesday

Berry Elementary School held a Start with Hello week earlier this year, complete with a Spirit Week. Staff dressed a little tacky for Wacky Wednesday. Clockwise from far left, first-grade teacher Stephanie Duncan, left, and Kerry Brinkhurst, second-grade teacher sport mismatched outfits. Pupil personnel worker Tiara King-Phillips, art teacher Pedra Chaffers and school counselor Lindsay Wright pause for a picture. Jennifer DeAtley, reading resource teacher, says "hello."

Submitted by Berry PR liaison Kerry Brinkhurst.

Board notes from the Oct. 8 meeting

Board notes from the Oct. 8 meeting of the Board of Education of Charles County are at <https://tinyurl.com/y5eexnm>.

The Board heard reports from representatives of the Food and Nutrition Services office and Human Resources. The Board honored outstanding students and teachers from North Point High School, Mattawoman Middle School and Walter J. Mitchell and Mary B. Neal elementary schools.

Personnel

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

Family and Consumer Science Teacher — North Point High School, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required, along with certification as established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Apply by Oct. 31.

Mathematics Teacher — Robert D. Stetthem Educational Center, 10-month position. A bachelor's degree is required, along with certification as established by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). Apply by Oct. 31.

Human Resources Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Master's or juris doctor in human resources, business management or a related field, and three to five years of supervisory ex-

perience in hiring, staffing, recruiting and human resources are required. Apply by Nov. 1.
Office of Instruction Secretary — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have the ability to read and interpret legal documents. Experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and Publisher is necessary for this position. Apply by Nov. 1.

Field Service Foreman — Annex I, 12-month position. An ability to work professionally and discretely with confidential information, and excellent analytical, problem solving and troubleshooting abilities are required. Applicants should be self-motivated with the ability to work independently and with a team. Apply by Nov. 1.

Computer Analyst I — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. High school diploma is required along with one to three years of technically progressive

current work experience in information networks and user support. Applicable industry certifications needed such as CompTIA, Microsoft and Cisco. Apply by Nov. 2.

Reading Recovery Teacher — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Applicants must have a degree in early childhood education, elementary education or reading. Three years of successful classroom teaching experience at the primary levels is required. Apply by Dec. 31.

Speech Language Pathologist — All schools, 10-month position. Applicants must have a master's in speech pathology and a Maryland State license in Speech and Language Pathology. Apply by Dec. 31.

School Counselor — All elementary schools, 10-month position. A master's in school counseling and eligibility for certification in school counseling as determined by the MSDE. Apply by Dec. 31.