Charles County Public Schools

School News

Site plans
Charles County Public Schools recently updated its website to be ADA-compliant. Changes made to streamline the site include the elimination of the Staff tab at the top of the page. Now all staff information, forms and staff development updates are in MyCCPS which can be accessed by clicking the MyCCPS button underneath the opening slide show.

Financial goal seminars
Financial goal seminars will be Nov. 7 and 8. CCPS is partnering with VALIC to offer an educational workshop on retirement income strategies. The seminar addresses the five risks associated with retirement and explains how income planning can help manage the risks. The Nov. 7 seminar is 4:30 to 6 p.m. at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 5980 Radio Station Road in La Plata. The Nov. 8 seminar is 4:30 to 6 p.m. at North Point High School at 2500 Davis Road in Waldorf.

Daycare open at SCHS
St. Charles High School Kiddie Junction Preschool opens Nov. 14 for three- and four-year-old children. The program runs from 9:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday until April 12. Cost is $350 for the duration of the program. Applications are available in the school’s main office. For more information, contact Carrie Bier at 301-753-2090 or cbier@ccboe.com.

Host families sought
Host families are needed to host visiting Bunkyo University students Feb. 23 to March 2. Staff members interested in hosting a student should apply by Nov. 21 at http://tinyurl.com/Bunkyo2018HostFamily.

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La Plata and North Point high schools.

Bullard was honored to be recognized for pursuing her passion to teach. “It is a great honor to receive the Simon McNeely award. Teaching health and physical education in the Charles County community is a passion of mine. Seeing the improvement of the overall health and well-being of students through their physical education and health knowledge makes me proud,” she said.

Rickett is a longtime physical education teacher with CCPS.

He has been teaching physical education at the elementary school level for the past 18 years. Rickett has taught at Berry Elementary School for his entire career with CCPS.

He has a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education from Frostburg University and is two courses away from finishing his master’s degree in administration at McDaniel College.

While Rickett said he does not necessarily enjoy being in the spotlight for doing his job, he was happy to be recognized for his hard work. “It feels good to be recognized for this award, for all the hard work that is being done. I don’t ask for recognition, but it does feel good when other people notice you for the work you put in,” he said.

Stum is also a longtime physical education teacher with CCPS, having spent the past 14 years teaching at La Plata High School.

Throughout his career at La Plata, Stum said he has felt constant support from staff and school administrators in helping to improve the physical health of students. Additionally, Stum said he was honored to receive the recognition as a Simon McNeely Award because it honors educators for giving back to their communities.

“This award is really a recognition of the amazing support that Charles County provides for its health and physical education teachers. I am very fortunate to be surrounded by amazing teachers here at La Plata and in Charles County that share the same vision for students,” he said.

The teachers were nominated for recognition by Ivy Hodges, CCPS content specialist for health and physical education. They were honored in a recognition ceremony held as part of the annual MAHPERD convention.

Benefits, insurance enrollment open to Dec. 1

The annual open enrollment period for health benefits, life insurance and flexible spending is open through Dec. 1. There are no plan design or rate changes for 2018.

To access enrollment and to make changes, go to ccboe.hrintouch.com and click create an account.

There is no need to re-enroll if you are not making changes to a medical or life plan. Employees participating in the flexible spending programs need to access the online benefit enrollment site — ccboe.hrintouch.com — to enroll in the unreimbursed medical expense and child care flexible spending accounts. Enrollment is not automatic — you must sign up for a new account each year.

Aflac representatives will be available at schools and centers to sign up employees for new policies, update current policies or answer questions. The Aflac meeting dates and times can be found at MyCCPS under the benefits tab. For more information, contact the Office of Fiscal Services — Employee Benefits at 301-934-7289 or BenHotline@ccboe.com.
McDonough grad joins a cappella group Pentatonix for the holidays

As soon as he could talk, Matt Sallee was likely singing. The Maurice J. McDonough High School graduate can’t remember a time he wasn’t singing, and can’t imagine not doing it. “I sing all the time,” he said. “I don’t even realize I’m singing.”

Sallee’s lifelong passion has landed him a spot with the a cappella juggernauts Pentatonix. Sallee, a bass, joins the group for the holiday season. “I landed in Los Angeles on Sept. 15 and recorded two songs the next morning,” he said. “I hit the ground running.”

Sallee took over for Avi Kaplan, who left Pentatonix in early September when the group was prepping for a holiday tour and adding tracks to its Christmas album. Sallee, who also filmed a music video and television special with the group ahead of the tour, graduated from McDonough in 2012 where he was active in the chorus and theater programs.

He played Danny in “Grease” and was the understudy for his friend, the late Bobby Balint in the school’s production of “West Side Story.” When Balint suddenly passed away, Sallee had the daunting task to fill the lead role of Tony in the play. “I think that was the most memorable experience because we had to come together … we did it in his memory,” Sallee said.

It was during his years at McDonough when Sallee first met the professional group he would eventually join. As a member of the Ramtations, an all-male a cappella group, Sallee attended the a cappella festival, SingStrong. Pentatonix had just won the third season of “The Sing-Off” and were leading a workshop at the competition. “It’s incredible how it all came full circle,” said T.C. O’Brien, Sallee’s music teacher at McDonough.

O’Brien, who’s in her first year of retirement, said she spotted Sallee’s talent from the get-go. “He had that sparkle on stage, but he put in the time and the hours.”

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Charles County Board of Education to meet Nov. 14

The Board of Education’s next monthly meeting is Tuesday, Nov. 14, 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.

The meeting is televised live on Comcast Channel 96 and Verizon FiOS Channel 12, and is rebroadcast throughout the week.

Board meetings are streamed live on the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) website, www.ccboe.com. Click on the middle of the main page to start the live streaming. The following is a meeting agenda and is subject to change.

Executive session – 12 p.m.

Call to order – 1 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – La Plata High School

Recognition of state student winners

Superintendent’s update to the Board

Reports of officers/boards/committees
• Correspondence/board member updates
• Education Association of Charles County update
• American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees update
• Student Board member update
• Equity presentation
• Unfinished business
• Strategic planning process
• Potential meetings with other Boards of Education
• Town hall dates

New business and future agenda items

New business
Future agenda items

Recognition – 4:30 p.m.

Students
Staff

Public Forum – 6 p.m.
• Action items
• Minutes
• Personnel
• 2018 Legislative positions

Adjournment

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Quotable kids

“You should be nice to people. It’s good to be kind.”

— Jade Weekes, second grader at Mary B. Neal Elementary School who helped collect food for the Southern Maryland Food Bank.

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

Lead Network Engineer — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. This position calls for highly-skilled work in the installation, configuration, operation, repair, maintenance, troubleshooting and security management of Local Area and Wide Area Networks within the school system. Applicants must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. Apply by Nov. 13.

Life Skills Instructional Aide — Theodore G. Davis Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required, along with experience working with children or adults who have special needs. Apply by Nov. 16.

Navy JROTC Instructor — Westlake High School, 11-month position. Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university required, as well as having served a minimum of 20 years of active duty or have retired under the Temporary Early Retirement Authority. Applicants must speak clearly and persuasively in positive or negative situations; listen and get clarification; respond well to questions. Apply by Nov. 20.

Budget Manager — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with specialization in accounting, finance or a related field. A master’s degree or Certified Public Accountant is preferred. A minimum of five years of experience in financial management with large multifaceted organization which includes payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable and budget staff recommended. Position opened until filled.

Staff Accountant — Internal Controls/Audit, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with specialization in accounting and audit is required. A master’s degree or Certified Public Accountant preferred. A minimum of two years of experience performing audits for a certified public accounting firm or governmental organization, including evaluating and implementing internal controls required. Position open until filled.