**School change request updates for employees**

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) employees who have a special exception for their child to attend an elementary school other than the school zoned for their neighborhood must resubmit a school change request form and turn it in to student services by May 1, 2019. The change is due to Billingsley Elementary School opening in August, and the redistricting of 2,500 elementary school students in pre-kindergarten to Grade 5. The form includes information about documents now required for a school change request. The form is at [https://www.ccboe.com/ss/wp-content/uploads/schoolchangerequest2019-20.pdf](https://www.ccboe.com/ss/wp-content/uploads/schoolchangerequest2019-20.pdf).

**Spelling Bee is March 6**

Middle school spellers are preparing for the Charles County Spelling Bee on March 6. The event will start at 6 p.m. at Piccowaxen Middle School at 12834 Rock Point Road in Newburg. The snow date is March 21.

**March for Our Schools**

The Education Association of Charles County (EACC) will have buses traveling to Annapolis on Monday, March 11, for the March for Our Schools event. At 6 p.m., a rally in front of the State House will be held. The March for Our Schools calls for better pay for educators, more school staff — including counselors and psychologists, universal pre-kindergarten, expanded career technical education, and adequate and equitable funding for all of our schools. To RSVP, go to MarchForOurSchools.com. The State House is at 100 State Circle in Annapolis.

**Board meeting set**

The Board of Education of Charles County will meet 1 p.m. March 12 at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Public forum starts at 6 p.m.

**Berry hosts ‘Preparing for Our Future’**

Gregory Lorjuste, left, the director of scheduling for former President Barack Obama, was a guest panelist at Berry Elementary School’s “Preparing for Our Future” Black History Month event. Fifth-grade boys heard from panelists including Charles County Sheriff Troy Berry, broadcaster James Brown and chef Kenneth Clay, pictured from left in the background. Students Jodi Berrios, left, Kamrin Kea and Shane McLeod talk about what they want to be when they grow up. Fifth-grade girls heard from women entrepreneurs, a digital marketing professional, a Board of Education member and a scientist.

**Jones receives Leadership in Excellence Award**

Marvin Jones is well known in the Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) community as a kind leader who will do anything to help children succeed. Jones is an executive director of schools in the CCPS Office of School Administration.

In this role, Jones works with principals and school administrative staffs in the system’s 36 schools and four educational centers.

His passion for education and building relationships with people is evident in all that he does. From stepping up to serve as principal to help a school community in need of a positive presence, to high fiving students as they walk off the graduation stage, Jones is a leader who stands out among his colleagues. For these qualities and his ability to lead with honor, Jones was named this year’s recipient of the James E. Richmond Leadership in Excellence Award.

Jones was presented with the award at the Board of Education’s Feb. 12 meeting. Superintendent of Schools Kimberly Hill recommended Jones for the honor and introduced him during a recognition ceremony. At the
School News

Social media Rule, guidelines for employees

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has guidelines for acceptable employee use of social media and electronic communication methods. Superintendent’s Rule 1111 includes the guidelines and was recently updated to include all electronic communication methods.

The Rule, which applies to all CCPS employees, defines electronic communication and social media to include such tools as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Snapchat, text messages, emails, instant messaging, group messaging, chat room use and online apps used for messaging.

CCPS prohibits the use of communication between students and staff except for reasons outlined in the Rule. A link to the updated Rule is posted on the CCPS employee-only website, MyCCPS under the Documents tab.

Employees may communicate with students or groups of students through social media as long as the communication is intended for and available to the general public.

Teachers who use social media as a form of communication with students as part of their instructional program must include an explanation of the use in a class syllabus and notify school administrators of their plans to use social media in the classroom.

Administrators must approve social media use in the classroom at the start of each new school year.

The classroom syllabus should include rules and expectations of acceptable language for student use on social media.

Additionally, teachers must notify parents of social media tools used in the classroom, how they are being used to communicate with students and expectations for appropriate student behavior and language.

Teacher use of social media is optional, and parents can opt their child out of use at any time during the school year.

Employees who use social media for CCPS purposes should not personally identify a student in any post, or share any personally identifiable information about a student or students on social media.

Employees should also be aware that they will be identified as working for and as a representative of CCPS and communications should be professional, appropriate and within context of the student/teacher relationship.

Social media should not be used by CCPS employees to communicate one-on-one with students. There are exceptions to this guideline outlined in the Rule.

Additionally, all online communications must be kept according to record retentions rules and can be monitored. To learn more about the records retention rules, go to the Documents tab on MyCCPS.

Playing along

Henry E. Lackey High School freshman Olivia Featherson practices violin during a recent strings clinic at the school. Guest musicians and conductors visit to help Dr. Alan Freeman’s students work on their craft.
start of the award presentation, Jones received a standing ovation from administrators, staff, parents and students in attendance.

In presenting Jones with the award, Hill said Jones was a natural choice for an award that recognizes leadership. “He embodies passion and the drive to do what is best for children. He is a relationship builder and leader in our school system,” Hill said.

The award was established in 2013 to honor school system leaders who exhibit high standards of leadership and excellence. It was named in honor of former Superintendent James E. Richmond, who spent his entire 47-year career in education with CCPS.

Jones spent 13 years as an elementary school vice principal and principal before his promotion in 2013 to executive director of schools. Although his experience with CCPS is based at the elementary school level, Jones was asked by staff to help administrators at both the middle- and high-school level navigate through tough times.

When St. Charles High School opened in 2014, students were rezoned from the existing high schools.

The transition for some was not easy and conflict among students existed. Jones stepped in to assist St. Charles staff build a school culture based on kindness and respect.

Deputy Superintendent Amy Hollstein said Jones is the type of leader who unites people. “He is a difference maker… the one who does whatever it takes. Marvin has a gift of bringing people together,” she said.

And in 2017, Jones was asked to help bring a community together. It was during that time that Benjamin Stoddert Middle School suffered a tragedy that affected students, parents, staff, the school system and the community. Jones stepped in and served as principal at Stoddert for a year to help the school community heal. His primary focus was the children.

“It’s about the children; it’s about doing my part to help those who need me the most. So I embraced the opportunity and enjoyed the experience, from the introductory parent night in the summer to the eighth grade promotion ceremony in June. I took great pride in building relationships with kids, teachers, staff and parents, all the things I did as a principal before, and still do, but it’s no secret that this experience was unique,” Jones said.

Erica Williams, vice principal at Milton M. Somers Middle School, is a strong supporter of Jones and spoke during the recognition ceremony about his exemplary leadership. Williams was a vice principal at Stoddert for several years and worked with Jones when he was interim principal last year. She refers to Jones as a passionate leader.

“Leadership is not easy. Mr. Jones has a passion for student success. He helped us focus on what united us in the first place, kids. He is a strong branch in our collective community,” Williams said.

Linda Gill, also an executive director of schools of whom Jones works with daily, refers to him as a natural leader. “Mr. Jones rises to the challenge at difficult times and provides strong leadership. He brings people together for healing and unity – something few people can do,” Gill said.

Jones began his teaching career in 1992 with Prince George’s County Public Schools and joined CCPS in 2000. He served as a vice principal at Daniel of St. Thomas Jenifer, Arthur Middleton and J.C. Parks elementary schools, and was named principal at Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School in 2006.

He was principal at Dr. Brown for five years and also served as principal at Berry Elementary School for two years. Hill promoted him to an executive director of schools position in 2013.

Jones worked with Richmond during the first part of his career in CCPS and said he is humbled by his selection for the honor named after a dedicated leader.

“Having had the opportunity to work with him and having witnessed some of his accomplishments first-hand makes this a surreal and even more gratifying experience. I thank our current Superintendent Dr. Kimberly Hill for recommending me for this award. You could have selected any number of other individuals but you chose me and I could not be more thankful for this honor,” Jones said.

A plaque featuring Jones at this year’s Richmond Leadership Award recipient is on display near the boardroom at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, which houses the CCPS administrative offices.

Redistricting takes effect at the start of the 2019-20 school year

Billingsley Elementary School opens and elementary school redistricting takes effect at the start of the 2019-20 school year. Redistricting affects about 2,500 elementary school students throughout the county, and includes students in prekindergarten to Grade 5.

The elementary school redistricting establishes an attendance zone for Billingsley Elementary School and relieves overcrowding at most elementary schools. The Board of Education approved the redistricting on June 13, 2017, after a year-long process that included five public hearings. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) has added a Redistricting School Locator on its website at https://www.ccboe.com/index.php/elementary-redistricting. Residents can input their address and see which school zone their neighborhood is rezoned for starting in August 2019. Parents should send questions in writing to redistrict@ccboe.com or call 301-934-7262.

This month, elementary school principals will send a fact sheet to parents showing neighborhoods affected by the redistricting. School principals at affected schools will host welcoming activities for students and parents in the spring.

Originally, elementary redistricting was to take effect this school year; however, construction delays postponed the opening of Billingsley until August 2019.

Located off Billingsley Road, Billingsley Elementary has a state-rated capacity of 758 students, but will open with a projected enrollment of 637, leaving room for growth. Billingsley’s school hours will be 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sabrina Robinson-Taylor will serve as the school’s first principal. Renovation and expansion at Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School are nearly complete and the school will reopen for students in August.
STEM Family Night

Gale-Bailey Elementary School held a STEM Family Night for parents and family members to see science, technology, engineering and mathematics lessons close up and firsthand. Michelle Fox, left, an instructional specialist, helps a student and his family complete an activity.

Submitted by Gale-Bailey’s PR liaison Kelly Kavlick.

Look for the helpers

To celebrate Education Support Professional Day, Theodore G. Davis Middle School Life Skills students in Nancy Morath’s and Jessica Painter’s classes made posters and passed out candy to building service workers, instructional assistants, food service workers and other support staff that help them throughout the day. Pictured in the back row are PE teacher Erin Roberts, left, building service worker Pam Edelen and building service assistant manager William Proctor. In the front row are students Aiyanna Sibley, left, Rhyan Thomas, Faith Johnson, Moneeba Zafar and Morath.

Submitted by Davis’s PR liaison Michelle Malloy.

Personnel

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

Human Resources Specialist — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A master’s degree or juris doctor in human resources, business management or a related field with three-to-five years of successful supervisory experience in hiring, staffing, recruiting, human resources or related experience, or a bachelor’s degree in human resources, business management or related field and five-to-eight years of successful supervisory experience in hiring, staffing, recruiting, human resources or related experience and current Human Resources PHR or SHRM-CP certification required. Apply by March 1.

Certification Assistant — Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, 12-month position. A high school diploma or General Education Degree (GED) is required, with an associate’s degree in human resources, business or related field from an accredited college preferred. Apply by March 6.

Administrative Instructional Assistant — John Hanson Middle School, 10-month position. A high school diploma is required. Applicants must have a demonstrated interest in and aptitude for working with secondary school aged children and have excellent human relations skills. Apply by March 8.

Computer Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

English Teacher — location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Family and Consumer Science Instructor — location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

French Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Health Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Language Arts Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Library Media Specialist — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Mathematics Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 27.

Business Teacher — Location to be determined, 10-month position. Apply by Sept. 29.

Early Childhood Teacher — All elementary schools, 10-month position. Apply by Dec. 31.

Extra Pay Positions

Assistant Tennis Coach — Westlake High School. Call 301-645-8857.