

## Ready or Not... Here They Come!

**S**tudents are arriving soon, backpacks stocked with fresh pencils and other supplies for the new school year. While most students are returning, more than 300 are new to FCPS. Enrollment has increased by 5,800 in the last decade to 40,000, making us one of the nation's 100 largest school systems.

We're prepared to launch 2006-07 with about 250 new teachers.

Welcoming their very first students: the new **Middletown Primary** (special ed preK through grade 2) and **Urbana Middle**. A third opens with a new name: **Lincoln Elementary**, formerly South Frederick.

Older schools are sporting upgrades: 300 more seats at **Brunswick MS**, new flooring at **Waverley Elementary**, roofing at **Brunswick** and **Myersville Elementary** and **Frederick High**.

15 offer school-based Find Out First email: **Brunswick, Kemptown, New Market, Oakdale, Orchard Grove, Thurmont Primary** and **Valley Elementary, Middletown, New Market, Oakdale, Urbana** and **Walkersville Middle**, and



### **Frederick, Gov. TJ and Linganore High.**

Full-day kindergarten begins at **Glade, Green Valley, Middletown Primary, New Market, Twin Ridge** and **Urbana**.

### **Increased pay and benefit changes:**

Since July 1, in addition to a step increment for eligible employees, staff pay increased:

- 4.5% FCTA & FCASA
- 4.4% FASSE (plus increase for shift differentials)

We have a new Employee Assistance Program, and you can find updated benefits info such as prescription plan and pension changes along with work-year calendars, negotiated agreements and salary scales at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) in the "Staff" section.

Also new at [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org):

- Our first-ever full-color Calendar Handbook (under Publications)
- Born Learning: an excellent early-childhood resource (under Parents & Community)

*New Faces in Key Places* are on page 2. *News to Use* on page 4 has directions for printing updated directories and finding staff phone numbers from FCPS computers.

If you're new to FCPS or a returning teacher with a new assignment, you can always find support from our Professional Development Office, 301-644-5125, and resources at our Professional Library & Instructional Materials Center, 301-644-5133.

Ready or not, here they come—the students who make it all worthwhile! ★

**First  
Class** ★  
**STAFF**

Thanks to you,  
public education works  
in Frederick County!

(L to R) Our Office of Professional Development runs smoothly with first-rate support from Executive Secretary **Linda Brandenburg**, especially busy over the summer with New-Teacher Training and Summer Institute. July's Maintenance Employee of the Month is Maintenance Mechanic **Pat Wahl**. Lead Custodian **Krista Hood** heads an outstanding team of hard workers at Orchard Grove ES.



## New Faces in Key Places

As we begin the school year:

- **Paul Dunford** takes the helm as instructional director of middle schools
- **Dr. Bonnie Ward** is executive director of Technology Services
- **Peter Cincotta\*** is math curriculum specialist, grades 6-12
- New special ed coordinator assignments: **Ina Wolf** (central), **Elizabeth Rhodes** (elementary) and **Chris Baumann\*** (high)

### Principals

Brunswick MS	<b>Brian Vasquezna</b>
Middletown PS	<b>Mark Pritts</b>
Urbana MS	<b>Frank Vetter</b>
Whittier ES	<b>Mary Wright</b>

### Assistant Principals

Ballenger Creek ES	<b>Kathy Golightly</b>
Catoctin HS	<b>Nancy Boyenton</b>
Gov. TJ HS	<b>Jet Reid*</b>
Green Valley ES	<b>Rose Graf</b>
Hillcrest ES	<b>Kim Seiss</b>
Lewistown ES	<b>Sunora Knill</b>
Linganore HS	<b>Elizabeth Duffy</b>
New Midway/ Woodsboro ES	<b>Candice Evans</b>
North Frederick ES	<b>Mary Ann Wiles</b>
Thurmont ES	<b>Terri Zigler</b>
Thurmont MS	<b>Arthur Fairweather</b>
Tuscarora HS	<b>Lee Jeffrey</b>
Urbana MS	<b>Stacey Hiltner</b>
Waverley ES	<b>Jason Anderson</b>

**Larry Steinly** and the ELL office have moved from Church Street to our new International Office portables near Waverley ES, 191 Waverley Drive, Frederick, MD 21702.

Webmaster **Charles Helfenstein** is at Church Street in the Communication Services Division.

This year's student representative to the Board of Education is Frederick High senior **Neera Nathan**.

\*Welcome to FCPS! ★



## ASK THE SUPERINTENDENT



This section features questions to and answers from Superintendent **Dr. Linda Burgee**. Please send your questions for future issues to [Dian.Nelson@fcps.org](mailto:Dian.Nelson@fcps.org).

**Q: Many teachers and parents completed an online FCPS Family and Community Involvement questionnaire in May. What was the purpose?**

**A:** FCPS recognizes that family and community involvement pays huge dividends in a child's education. It takes strong teamwork among families, community partners and schools to provide the first-class education all children deserve. The survey—our second in two years—revealed some areas with high percentages of “I don't know” responses or low satisfaction. These are the areas for improved communication.

**Q: Could you describe specific areas for improvement?**

**A:** We need to ensure that families and staff are more aware of:

1. the substantial ways business partnerships and community agencies support student learning
2. how schools train volunteers and show appreciation to parents and others who participate in school activities
3. workshops available to help parents better support their child's education
4. how parents can serve on school and district committees and be involved in decisions that affect their child
5. how schools encourage students to participate in community service.

**Q: How can schools better inform parents and staff?**

**A:** I recommend multiple approaches:

1. Include a section in parent newsletters to highlight business and community partnerships that benefit students.
2. Visibly and prominently welcome, train and appreciate parents and others who give their time and resources
3. Spread the word about workshops offered at school and systemwide to help parents better support their child's education.
4. Share methods described in the new *Calendar Handbook* section that lists ways to get involved (page 6) and provide feedback. Direct parents to Find Out First email and [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org) for notices of openings on district-level committees and questionnaires seeking parent feedback in school decisions.
5. Roll out the red carpet to all visitors from the time they first approach your building. Make sure the grounds are well maintained. Greet everyone with a warm smile. Answer the phone in a friendly, helpful manner. By consistently making it clear that your school is a welcoming place, you'll make it comfortable for parents to ask, “How can I get involved?”

### Tools for Connecting with Parents

- newsletters
- voicemail announcements
- notes from the teacher
- FCPS TV
- Find Out First email
- [www.fcps.org](http://www.fcps.org)
- posters and fliers
- word of mouth at school events including conferences

### Got school news to publicize?

Get the latest media contacts and PR tips at your FCPS computer! Visit <http://insidefcps>, select “Departments” and “Communication Services.”

☆☆☆ ACCOLADES ☆☆☆

**National** Kudos to **FCPS Career & Technology Center** teachers whose students brought home top medals in national SkillsUSA Championship competition: silver medals in TV/video production, bronze in promotional bulletin boards, 4th place in nurse assisting and job skill demo, 5th in prepared speech, 7th in news anchoring and 8th in medical assisting and radio/audio production: **Adam Frank**—TV/video/radio/audio production and news anchoring, **Kathy Koops**—nurse assisting, **Candy Zentz**—job skill demo and prepared speech, and **Jo McGovern**—medical assisting.

FCPS **Communication Services** won 2 awards from the National School Public Relations Association 2006 Publications and Electronic Media contest: an Award of Merit for the 2005 School Report and Honorable Mention for the video, "Learning through Language." School districts across the country submitted 1,050 entries. Contributing staff: **Steve Blickenstaff, Susan Constable, Kelly Gordon, Jim Hamann, Marita Loose, Dian Nelson** and **Jose' Rosapepe**.

**Gov. TJ MS** is 1 of 48 schools nationwide (1 of 4 in Maryland) named a finalist for the Intel and Scholastic School of Distinction Award. TJ is recognized in the "collaboration and teamwork" category for excelling in the integration of a variety of educational technologies to enhance learning.

**Regional** The Automotive Youth Education System named Career & Technology Center Automotive Technology instructor **Gary Wilfong** AYES Instructor of the Year for the region including Maryland, Northern Virginia, DC and Delaware.

**State** The MSDE named **Gov. TJ MS** a statewide "exemplar" model school for excellence in promoting positive behavior and creating a safer learning environment. AP **Jason Lininger** leads TJ's successful Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, which reduced discipline and office referral incidents nearly 50% since 2003.

**Tuscarora HS** received a Governor's Citation and \$500 as 1 of 10 Maryland high schools with outstanding participation in a statewide "I Want to Know/Live Clean" program that encourages parents and students to talk more openly about underage drinking and substance abuse.

Governor citations also went to BOE member **Jean Smith** for exceptional commitment to public education, the **FCPS Facilities Maintenance and Operations Department** for the successful Save 5% energy conservation campaign, and Maryland's 1st **Summer Center for Chinese Studies**, launched here at FCPS.

**County** At a spring Special Education Celebration, FCPS honored Special Educators of the Year: **Sherry Beach, Alicia Finley, Sherry Main** and **Beverly Shaffer**; Special Education Instructional Assistants of the Year: **Beth Smith, Linda Shipp, Sherry Stull** and **Valerie Whye**; Speech/Language Pathologist of the Year: **Pam Smith**; Psychologist of the Year: **Jim Tarmey**; Friend of Special Education: **Tina Vogtman**. At the July Character Education Institute, Ballenger ES counselor **Beth Myers** was named Role Model of Character in Frederick County.

**\$\$\$** FCPS won 3 of 7 Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals family-involvement grants. Kudos to **Brunswick, Spring Ridge** and **Valley Elementary**.

**Math Expertise** At the annual Maryland Math Conference, elementary math specialist **Nelson Palmer** plus math teacher specialists **Christopher Horne, Elaine Lazzaro, Colleen Mayo, Kim Stewart** and **Kathy Swire** presented.

**Reading Is Key** The Frederick Keys cheered **Tuscarora ES** winners of the Keys for Reading banner contest: **Michele Baisey** and **Stacy Echeandia's** classes.

**Influential** At our June Symposium for New Teachers, an FCPS graduate honored 3 of her former teachers **Matt Johnston, Betsy Morrow** and **Chris Tressler** for the substantial difference they've made in her life.

LHS social studies teacher **Darren Hornbeck** visited Amman, Jordan through a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Abroad, studying contemporary Arab culture and society. To strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between Americans and peoples of the Middle East, Darren will share presentations of his travels upon request: [Darren.Hornbeck@fcps.org](mailto:Darren.Hornbeck@fcps.org).

Recently Retired

Sharon Adams	Catherine Burall	Nancy Geisbert	Bernice Journiette	Carolyn Oland	Charles Smith
Berger Anderson	Ruby Burns	Sharon Gladhill	Patrick Kelly	Florence O'Neill	Judith Smith
William Baker	Carlene Carr	Naomi Glaser	Karen Kranz	Gayla Palm	Elizabeth Stauffer
Linda Benkin	Alicia Crandall	William Goode	Keith Krause	Mary Peterson	Roger Stull
Melvin Benson	R. Allen Culler	Peggy Green	Lois Layman	Patsy Pilatsky	Sharon Stull
Jeanne Biser	Howard Davis Jr.	Scherie Hamilton	Edward Lennox	Jacqueline Pipkin	Charles Thompson
Sandra Bowman	Judith Davis	Glenn Harris	Amanda Leon	Carolyn Pleasant	Dianne Tracey
Carolyn Boyd	Rosia Day	Ella Havens	Beryl Long	Josephine Remsberg	Rose Turner
Betty Brice	Alice Dees	Wanda Heurich	Richard Lushbaugh	Edward Rice	Betty Valentine
Norma Brode	Rose Ecker	Melanie Hoffman	Pearl Masser	Kathleen Roubal	Patricia VanHall
Betty Brown	George Enloe	George Hovoper	Paul Mayne Jr.	Joan Rush	Hugh Warner
Bruce Brown	Judy Finneyfrock	Evelyn Huffer	Barbara Miller	Linda Sacchetti	Cheryl Washburn
Linda Brown	Marty Fisher	Cindy Jensen	Charlene Mills	James Sawyers	Susan Weddle
Wendy Bruchey	Leva Frye	Edward Johnson	Stacey Minoglio	Fran Shoemaker	William Wells
Pamela Bryce	Barbara Gates	Linda Johnson	Thomas Natolly	Nancy Slovikosky	

## NEWS TO USE

**EAP** Business Health Services administers the new FCPS Employee Assistance Program, offering confidential assistance to help with personal or professional problems that may interfere with work or family responsibilities. Services are available 24/7 at 1-800-765-3277. More info is online: <http://www.fcps.org/dept/hr/benefits/BHS%20Brochure%207-1-06.pdf>

**Rx** Our new benefit plan kicked in July 1, featuring mandatory mail for “maintenance” medications through PharmaCare Direct and mandatory generic. After filling an original prescription and receiving 2 refills, the mandatory mail provision takes effect. To find out if a drug you are taking is categorized “maintenance,” call 1-888-645-9303. Additional info is online: [http://www.fcps.org/dept/hr/benefits/Frederick%20Cty%20FAQ%207-1-06%20Changes\\_web.pdf](http://www.fcps.org/dept/hr/benefits/Frederick%20Cty%20FAQ%207-1-06%20Changes_web.pdf)

**Howdy Partner!** Local Roy Rogers Restaurants do a great job supporting education. They provide student incentives and rewards for attendance and honor roll performance, host fundraising opportunities, provide Career Day presentations, evaluate senior interviews and graduation projects, provide breakfast for staff training and discounts for our employees. Show your FCPS ID at participating local Roy Rogers, and receive 15% off on weekdays!

**Buy a Stone** Our Earth & Space Science Lab has launched the Buy-a-Stone campaign to help fund new construction. The front entrance of the new lab will sport a size-and-distance scale model of the Earth/moon system, with an impressive 3-foot black granite sphere etched with continents. About 120 feet away, a 9-inch sphere will depict craters and moon-landing sites. The path between them, comprised of flat granite stones, will feature donor/honoree names for \$225. To sponsor a stone: 240-236-2694. Online brochure: <http://schools.fcps.org/essl>

**Born Learning** FCPS is partnering with United Way to provide an outstanding resource to help parents of young children set the stage for success in school. Please recommend to all parents of children ages birth through 5: <http://www.bornlearning.org>. Our Community and Family Engagement (CAFÉ) committee launched this partnership in recognition of a parent’s role as the child’s first teacher and as part of the FCPS Master Plan to improve school readiness and communication with families. For more info: [Shari.Scher@fcps.org](mailto:Shari.Scher@fcps.org).

**Spread the Word** The BOE seeks a student rep plus a parent from the Frederick feeder area and a parent from the Walkersville feeder area to serve on its Family Life Advisory Committee. Application and details are online: <http://www.fcps.org/content/boe/family.cfm>. September 8 is the deadline.

**Debt Relief** If you have student loans plus 5 consecutive years teaching in an eligible low-income school, read on: Math and science teachers who meet NCLB highly qualified standards and some special education teachers may obtain up to \$17,500 in student federal loan forgiveness through the Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005. Others may obtain up to \$5,000. For details: 1-800-4-FED-AID.

**Where Are You?** FCPS has printable staff and school directories with both alphabetical and organizational listings of central office staff on the S and K drives under Directories-FCPS. For all staff phone/address/title info, visit the Intranet from any FCPS networked computer: <http://insidefcps>. Your Calendar Handbook pages 50-54 include directories, too.



### FCPS FACTOID

*Do you know the new prices for FCPS meals?*

A: Elementary: \$1.85 lunch; \$1.10 breakfast.  
Middle/High \$2.10 lunch; \$1.35 breakfast.  
Milk remains 35 cents. Adults: \$3.60 lunch.



#### Tune to FCPS TV for school news:

**School Talk** – 2:30 & 7:30 PM

**Student Voice** – 4 PM\*, 10 AM & 8 PM  
Sat. & Sun.

**Newsbreak** – 9:30\*, 10:30 & 11:30 AM  
12:30, 4:30, 5:30, 8\*, 9:30 &  
10:30 PM

**Community Partners** – 10 AM & 7 PM\*

**Health Matters** – 11 AM & 9 PM

**BOE Meetings** – Wednesdays: 6 PM (live)  
*Calendar Handbook* lists meeting dates  
Re-broadcast the following evening

**Bulletin Board** – Menus, closing info, etc.  
To submit news, fax: 301-696-6958 or  
email [Dian.Nelson@fcps.org](mailto:Dian.Nelson@fcps.org).

**Classic Arts** – 11 PM to 5 AM\*  
11 PM to 10 AM Sat. & Sun.  
6 to 8 PM Sunday

\*weekdays only

[www.fcps.org/cable18.htm](http://www.fcps.org/cable18.htm)

*Schedules are subject to change*

**Inside FCPS** is produced by the  
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Your news, ideas and suggestions are welcome.  
Please fax 301-696-6958. Call 301-696-6900.  
Email [Dian.Nelson@fcps.org](mailto:Dian.Nelson@fcps.org). Or courier to the  
Communications Office, 115 E. Church Street.



Frederick County Public Schools

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**September 4, 12, 22: Schools Closed**

**September 21: Teacher Work Session: 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students**

**October 2: Schools Closed**

**October 9, 16 & 23: Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**October 20: Professional Development, Schools Closed for Students**