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VOLUME 1
ISSUE 8

A MONTHLY INSIGHT INTO THE HAPPENINGS AT MSDE

THE MSDE PULSE

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

PREPARING WORLD CLASS STUDENTS

Special points of interest >>>

- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH
- STATE BOARD UPDATES
- MSDE GIVES BACK
- CLASSIFIEDS



MARYLAND CHARITY

CAMPAIGN 2017

“PLEDGE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

The 2017 Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC) is underway – thank you to everyone who has donated so far! You can Pledge to Make a Difference by visiting <http://mcc.maryland.gov/> and following the prompts.

DIVISION PUMPKIN CHALLENGE!

Use your best ideas to create a division-themed pumpkin to support the MCC! Then, DONATE \$1 – (1) One chance, \$3 for (5) Five chances or \$7 for (10) Ten chances to VOTE for the best pumpkin.

MONDAY OCT. 30TH - FRIDAY NOV. 3RD

FROM 11:30 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

BALTIMORE STREET LOBBY!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!

MSDE is proud to announce our October 2017 Employee of the Month:



Erin Senior, October 2017

Erin Senior!

Erin is an Education Program Specialist I for the Instructional Technology Section under Val Emrich in the Division of Curriculum, Assessment & Accountability. Erin was nominated by her supervisor as being an “unsung hero” of the department as well as an employee who exemplifies the meaning of TEAM.

Below are just a few of the many areas in which Erin has excelled in her role:

Erin has worked collaboratively with her team to lead the summer’s Open Educational Resource (OER) regional cohort workshops. Every LEA participated by sending educators who will provide OER professional development to educators in their system over the next few years.

She helped to ensure that every MSDE professional development program she planned included a variety of stakeholders from across the State of Maryland. In addition, she planned and delivered personalized and innovative professional development to Instructional Technology Liaisons and School Library Media Specialists.

Erin also went above and beyond by traveling to various LEAs to provide face to face support

and provided support to the LEAs as they selected online courses for their students.

Erin increased student online course offerings by 200% and collaborated with each content area to ensure that student online courses were high quality. She also patiently explained the online student program to parents and fully answered any of their questions so that student needs were met. Additionally, she worked with Guidance Supervisors to ensure that they also had a full understanding of the online student program process.

Furthermore, Erin provided exemplary customer service in her work with online vendors and LEAs. She also represented the District Level #GoOpen initiative with USED and SETDA (State Educational Technology Director’s Association).

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS OUR EMPLOYEE NOMINATION FORM](#)

State Board Meeting Actions: September 19, 2017

The following Actions were taken at the September 19, 2017 meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education:

- Granted permission to publish amendments to regulations under COMAR 13A.03.02 Graduation Requirements. The amendments replace the science assessment for HSA biology, removes cut scores, and clarifies language throughout.
- Approved for one year the following implementation date and qualifying score for the revised Praxis subject assessment for certification in the area of English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) as follows:

Test Code	Test Name	Qualifying	Score Scale	Effective Date
5362	ESOL	155	100-200	9/1/17

- Approved for one year the continuation of the use of the following Praxis content subject assessments as follows:

Test Code	Test Name	Qualifying	Score Scale	Effective Date
5025	Early Childhood Ed	156	100-200	10/1/15
5651	Computer Science	171	100-200	7/1/16

- Recognized four school administrators on their selections as principal or assistant principal of the year by their respective professional associations, the Maryland Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) and the Maryland Association of Secondary School Principals (MASSP). The four individuals recognized were Michael Browne, MAESP's National Distinguished Principal; Lorie Barnes, MAESP's National Outstanding Assistant Principal; Sandra Reid, MASSP's High School Principal of the Year; and George Lindley, MASSP's Middle School Principal of the Year. Mr. Browne is Principal at Pocomoke Elementary School in Worcester County; Ms. Barnes is Principal at Severna Park Elementary School in Anne Arundel County; Ms. Reid is Principal at Pikesville High School in Baltimore County; and Mr. Lindley is Principal at Arundel Middle School in Anne Arundel County.
- Granted permission to adopt amendments to regulation .08 under COMAR 13A.05.01 Provision of a Free Appropriate Public Education. These amendments inform Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams of the statutory requirement to include orientation and mobility (O&M) instruction in the IEP of a student who is blind or visually impaired, unless the IEP team determines that such instruction is inappropriate and conducts an O&M assessment to substantiate that determination. The proposed amendments outline the statutory elements of the O&M assessment and, as directed by the General Assembly, establishes the qualifications for an individual to conduct the assessment.

The following Opinions and Order were rendered:

- Jacqueline Banks-Jones v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – request for reconsideration – Opinion No. 17-32
- Robin Bingham v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners* – ineffective rating – Opinion No. 17-33
- John and Jennifer G. v. Howard County Board of Education* – residency – Opinion No. 17-34
- Sherri H. v. Carroll County Board of Education* – grade dispute – Opinion No. 17-35
- Deborah and Jeffrey K. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – early K entry – Opinion No. 17-36
- Desiree Mayes v. Prince George's County Board of Education* – guidance counselor termination – Opinion No. 17-37
- Jatin W. v. Montgomery County Board of Education* – admission to magnet program – Order No. 17-14

Meeting materials, Opinions, and Order can be found at:

[http://
marylandpublicschools.org/
stateboard/Pages/default.aspx](http://marylandpublicschools.org/stateboard/Pages/default.aspx)

The September meeting of the Maryland State Board of Education was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 at the Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building, 200 West Baltimore Street, 7th Floor Board Room, Baltimore, MD, 21201.

Appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Eight business days notice prior to the event is required.

Please contact Charlene Necessary at (410) 767-0467 or TTY at (410) 333-6442 so arrangements can be made.

- Authorized the State Superintendent to submit the 2019 budget requests to the Department of Budget and Management.
- Recognized the following ten Maryland Public Schools that have been named 2016 Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education:

Anne Arundel County Public Schools
Crofton Elementary School
Piney Orchard Elementary School
Severna Park Elementary School

Baltimore City Public Schools
Cecil Elementary School
Mount Royal Elementary/Middle School
Thomas Jefferson Elementary/Middle School

Charles County Public Schools
Dr. James Craik Elementary School
William B. Wade Elementary School

Montgomery County Public Schools
Chevy Chase Elementary School

Prince George's County Public Schools
Whitehall Elementary School

In case you missed it... >>>

Great ShakeOut: MSDE's Earthquake Drill



On October 19, 2017 at 10:19 a.m. MSDE joined millions of people world-wide in a "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" Earthquake Drill! The initiative is known as "The Great ShakeOut" and is the world's largest earthquake drill. All state government agencies and departments were encouraged to participate and MSDE had participation all across the board! Thank you to all who participated!

A major earthquake can happen anywhere and at anytime, The Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills are a way to practice earthquake safety procedures in our homes, work places, or on-the-go. The goal of this program is to educate the public and prevent earthquakes from becoming a tragedy for yourself, your family, or your community.



The Great ShakeOut's "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" Drill, when practiced often, teaches the participant to act quickly in an emergency situation. Earthquakes can happen suddenly and without warning; having a solid and practiced plan can prevent injury or worse.

Drop: If able, move to the floor and keep your body as low as possible.



Cover: Shield your body from possible falling debris by moving under a sturdy object such as a desk or table.

Hold: Grab hold of objects around you and wait for the earthquake to end.

Since 2008, millions of people world-wide have participated in Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drills. The Great ShakeOut is held on the third Thursday of October each year, but earthquake drills can and should be practiced all year long!

MSDE's Great ShakeOut earthquake drill was sponsored by our Division of Pupil Transportation/ Emergency Management, under the direction of Gabriel Rose.

In an effort to better serve our MSDE community, we are asking for feedback on this year's drill. If you were unable to hear or have a concern about the over-head announcement on October 19, that signaled the start of the drill, please e-mail Xavier Richards (xavier.richards1@maryland.gov) and Gabriel Rose (gabriel.rose1@maryland.gov) the following information:

Name:

Floor:

Room Number:

Issue: (Was the announcement faint or did you not hear it at all?)

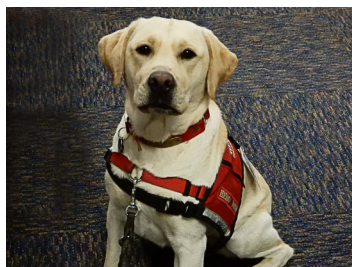
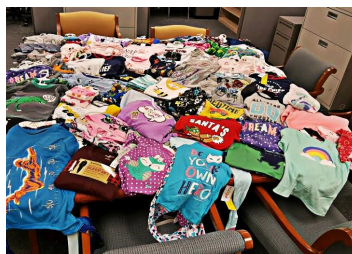


MSDE Gives Back! Day to Serve 2017 • Maryland Charity Campaign



This month MSDE employees dedicated their time to giving back to our communities! As part of Governor Hogan's **2017 Day to Serve Initiative**, MSDE's Standing Committee on Employee Appreciation, Recognition and Rewards promoted a **Serve Together** approach!

This initiative encouraged staff to collaboratively tackle service and volunteer projects in our communities! MSDE staff volunteered with organizations such as **Our Daily Bread, Moveable Feast Project, and Community Crisis Center**. Some of our employees even explored their artistic side by helping to create a large scale mosaic mural with the organization **Art with a Heart**.



This month also kicked-off the annual **Maryland Charity Campaign (MCC)**! This campaign is a workplace charitable giving program that offers State Employees and eligible Retirees the opportunity to contribute to local charities. During our campaign kick-off event we were visited by several exciting and unique charities, such as: **American Kidney Foundation, The Maryland Zoo, Feed the Children, and Hero Dogs Inc.** Some charities even brought along their furry friends!

The Maryland Charity Campaign runs now through December 15!

DONATE TODAY



MSDE CLASSIFIEDS

WHAT'S NEW?

Say Hello >>>

Who's new to MSDE? Check back each month for an updated list!

Dora Brown, Office Secretary II
(Juvenile Services Education Program)

Michelle Brownson, Management Associate (Division of Career and College Readiness)

Rhiana Cooper, Office Secretary II
(Juvenile Services Education Program)

Michael Deans, HR Officer I (Office of Human Resources)

Ciara Dortch, Financial Auditor Compliance II (Audit Office)

Patrick Fleming, Designated Admin Manager Senior II (Office of Education Policy and Governmental Relations)

Shea Gibbs, Office Secretary III
(Juvenile Services Education Program)

Sohail Hasnain, Vocational Rehabilitation Spec. II (MSDE/DORS/Wheaton)

Tiffany Hiob, Education Program Supervisor II (Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services)

Manuela Myers, Administrator II
(MSDE/DORS/Facilities)

Matthew Pensyl, Teacher APC
(Juvenile Services Education Program)

Craig Piette, Teacher APC (Juvenile Services Education Program)

Jackie Resh, Office Secretary III
(Juvenile Services Education Program)

Cynthia Rodriguez, Vocational Rehabilitation Spec. II (MSDE/DORS/WTC)

Heather Sauers, Education Program Specialist I (Division of Curriculum, Research, Assessment and Accountability)

Nancy Cahlink-Seidler, Staff Specialist III (Division of Early Childhood Development)

Greg Stegall, Teacher APC (Juvenile Services Education Program)

LaTanya Taylor, Human Service Specialist IV (Division of Early Childhood Development)

Kimberly Walker, Office Secretary III
(Juvenile Services Education Program)



CUSTOMER SERVICE CORNER

As part of a state-wide initiative to improve customer service, check out our Customer Service Corner for updates, tips, tricks and highlights on responses to our Customer Service Survey!

Customer Service "Rules to Live By"

1.) Be a Good Listener

Take the time to identify customer needs by asking questions and concentrating on what the customer is really saying. Listen to their words, the tone of voice, body language, and most importantly, how they feel.

2.) Identify and Anticipate Needs

Customers don't buy products or services. They buy good feelings and solutions to problems. Most customer needs are emotional rather than logical. The more you know your customers, the better you become at anticipating their needs

3.) Make Customers Feel Important and Appreciated

Treat them as individuals. Always use their name and find ways to compliment them, but be sincere. People value sincerity. It creates good feeling and trust. Customers are very sensitive and know whether or not you really care about them. Thank them every time you get a chance.

4.) Body Language Is Key

Be sure your body language conveys sincerity. Your words and actions should be congruent.

Best Wishes! >>>

Sharing staff members that have recently retired! Best Wishes!

JoAnne Krempa, Office Secretary III (MSDE/DORS/Region V/Towson)

Barbara McCready, Child Care Licensing Supervisor (Division of Early Childhood Development)