

Educational Achievements



Providing a Quality Public Education

Charles County offers quality public education that focuses on the needs of children and helps each child reach his or her potential. Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is nationally recognized for educational excellence in areas like closing the academic achievement gap to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs. CCPS has a strong commitment to academic achievement, career readiness, and personal responsibility, and offers a multitude of courses and programs, including Advanced Placement, honors, the arts, business, and a wide range of extracurricular activities.

CCPS is composed of 35 caring community schools, with 21 elementary, eight middle, and six high schools that serve children from age three through grade 12. Additionally, there are four specialized educational centers that round out the offerings for one of the fastest growing school systems in Maryland. Charles County's schools also serve as centers for a wide variety of community activities.

As one of the County's largest employers, Charles County Public Schools has 3,397 sincere, dedicated professionals who work together for the education of nearly 27,000 students. In fiscal year 2010, the Commissioners voted to provide \$145.4 million to the Charles County Board of Education for the general operation of CCPS. The school system met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at all levels – elementary, middle, and high school – which is the rigorous yearly improvement required by the State and nation for student proficiency in reading and math.

Pursuing Higher Education

The fifth-largest community college in Maryland, the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) has served Charles County for more than 50 years. CSM partners with four-year institutions to provide a smooth transfer to local and Statewide bachelor degree programs. More than 67% of recent high school graduates in Southern Maryland who attend undergraduate higher education institutions choose to start their futures at CSM.

CSM serves more than 23,000 students annually at its three campuses and four centers and is continually evolving to meet community needs with new facilities and programs. The average class size is 19 students.

The Waldorf Center for Higher Education combines the educational talents and resources of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM), University of Maryland University College (UMUC), and other higher education partners to provide comprehensive, high-quality associate, bachelor, graduate, and professional programs and specialized workforce development training to the residents of Southern Maryland. One of eight higher education centers Statewide, the Center serves more than 3,000 credit students annually.



College of Southern Maryland



Waldorf Center for Higher Education

Increasing Capacity for Learning

The seventh high school in Charles County, St. Charles High School, is scheduled to be built in the Fairway Village neighborhood of St. Charles in Waldorf.

St. Charles High School will be built on a 98.95 acre parcel to include: 14 sports/recreation fields; a stadium including an eight-lane track and bleachers; and related outdoor activity areas, including environmentally sensitive stormwater management practices. The school will support a 1,600 student capacity within a 285,000 square foot, four-story structure planned to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Green design features include geothermal heating/cooking, ENERGY STAR-rated equipment, and a digital classroom. The school is anticipated to open in fall 2013.



Artist's Rendering of St. Charles High School

Expanding the Public Library System

The Waldorf Library, as designed, will be a 32,000 sq. ft. two-story regional library built in the O'Donnell Lake Restaurant Park located between Smallwood Drive and St. Patrick's Parkway in Waldorf. The new Waldorf Library branch will be a multi-faceted, state-of-the-art facility, allowing visitors to experience a new level of excellence in public library services. The library will offer users new models for scholarly pursuits and scientific inquiry, expanded community programs, and an introduction to transformative technologies like the World Wide Web and new approaches to information. The design and construction of the facility will incorporate measures that will allow the building to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. Construction is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2012.



Artist's Rendering of Waldorf West Library Community Literacy Center