

BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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Mrs. Crystal Bender, Vice President  
Ms. Lori Lepley  
Mrs. Tammy Fraley  
Dr. David Bohn  
Mr. Jeffrey Blank, Superintendent  
Ms. Carley Clise, SMOB

# BOARDROOM CHATTER

Prepared by Public Information Officer

April 11, 2023

The Board Office of Allegany County Public Schools

## Superintendent's Report

### Proclamation Recognizing April as Mathematics & Statistics Awareness Month

- On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Crystal Bender presented a proclamation recognizing April as Mathematics & Statistics Awareness Month
- Proclamation presented to Dr. Stephen Thompson, Supervisor of Mathematics

"We're very proud of what our students have done. This is easily the largest group of individuals and teams we have recognized. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring some recognition to these students' accomplishments in math." – Dr. Stephen Thompson



### Colin Sheehe

- 11<sup>th</sup> grade student at Allegany High School
- Top competitor in ACPS for the University of Maryland Math Competition

"In my 44 years of teaching, Colin is probably the most gifted math student I've ever had." – James Bucy, teacher

Pictured left to right: James Bucy, Colin Sheehe

# Superintendent's Report

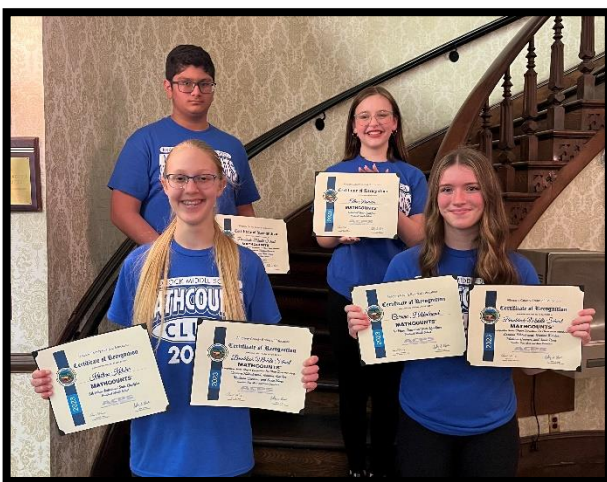
## Recognition of ACPs Accomplishments in Mathcounts

- Chapter Mathcounts Competition:
  - Braddock Middle School – First Place
  - Mt. Savage Middle School – Second Place
  - Washington Middle School – Third Place
- Individual State Qualifiers:
  - Corrina Hilderbrand – 1<sup>st</sup> place (Braddock Middle School)
  - Ethan Kwok – 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Mt. Savage Middle School)
  - Preston Glenn – 4<sup>th</sup> place (Washington Middle School)
  - Kristina Kucher – 5<sup>th</sup> place (Braddock Middle School)
  - Jayce McLaughlin – 6<sup>th</sup> place (Washington Middle School)
  - Madison Cannon – Braddock Middle School
  - Josh Dixon – Washington Middle School
  - William Keiling – Mt. Savage Middle School
  - Oliver Michael – Mt. Savage Middle School
  - Jackson Spangler – Washington Middle School
  - Ellie Knieriem – Braddock Middle School
  - Destiny Burgess – Mt. Savage Middle School



Mt. Savage and Braddock Mathcounts team with coaches: Teresa Norris, Ray Short, and Kara Breedlove

### Braddock Middle School



Pictured left to right, front row: Kristina Kucher, Corrina Hilderbrand. Back row: Saad Hans, Ellie Knieriem. Not pictured: Madison Cannon

"I feel very blessed to have been surrounded by the kinds of students we have and most importantly the parental support we get for these kids that make this whole thing possible. The Mathcounts Competition has been going on for 40 years and Braddock has managed to make it to the state finals 34 of those years, including 15 years in a row, which I was there and was very happy to be part of."

- Ray Short, Coach

# Superintendent's Report

## Mt. Savage Middle School



Pictured left to right, front row: Connor Kennedy, Destiny Burgess. Back row: Oliver Michael, William Keeling

"I just want to say how proud I am of these kids. We had several mishaps coming into states, but they really came through. I only get to see them 40 minutes, once a week, so really this honor is not only for them, but for the math teachers at Mt. Savage, because I could not do any of this without them."

- Teresa Norris, Coach

## Mathcounts Video Challenge (not pictured)

- "The Algebros" were National Quarterfinalists (Top 50 of 2000+)
  - John Delaney
  - Ethan Kwok
  - Carver Robeson
  - Dane VanSlyke

## Recognition of Carson Scholar

- Presented to Brycen Ritchie, by Dr. Sarah Welsh, Assistant Supervisor of Student Services
  - The Carson Scholars Fund seeks to empower America's youth to define themselves, not based on limitations and obstacles, but on their innate abilities and humanitarian qualities
  - Scholars receive \$1,000 college scholarship, an Olympic sized medal, and a trophy for their school



"This year's new Carson Scholar for ACPS is Brycen Ritchie. He is a junior at Mountain Ridge High School. Brycen was nominated because of his outstanding achievement in academic performance and his service to the community. He is ranked first in his class with a 4.47 GPA and is a dedicated volunteer with the Goodwill Fire Company in Lonaconing."

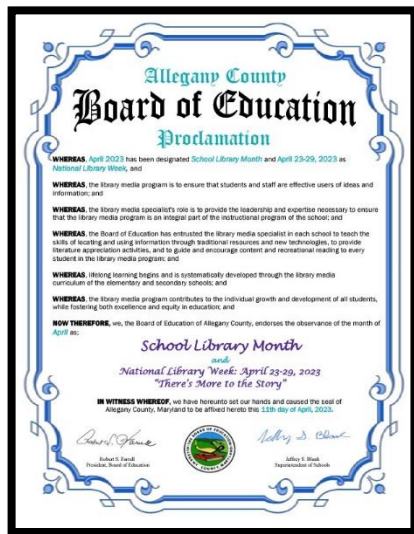
- Dr. Sarah Welsh



# Superintendent's Report

## Proclamation Recognizing April as Library Media Month

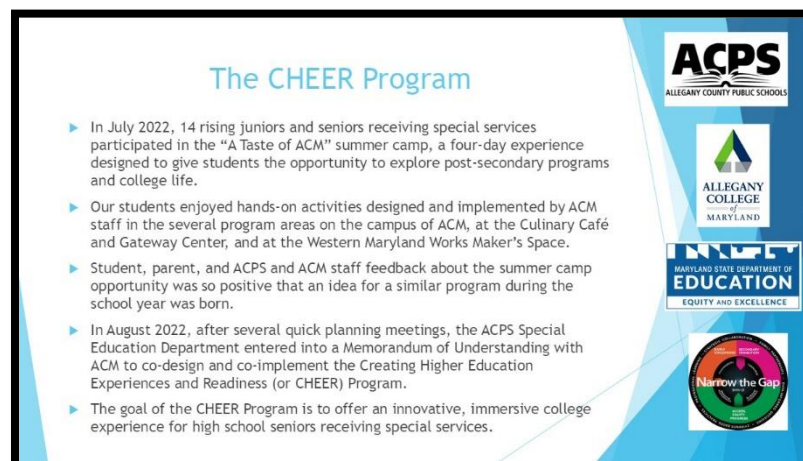
- On behalf of the Board, Ms. Lori Lepley presented a proclamation recognizing April as Library Media Month
- Proclamation presented to Mr. Joseph Brewer, Supervisor of Library Media



"As the supervisor, we know we have a super hard-working and dedicated group of library media specialists. They do an outstanding job of maintaining the diverse collections in the libraries. They align their lessons to the state standards and they just do a great job of promoting reading through the county. So, on behalf of the library media specialists and our technicians, I proudly accept this proclamation." – Mr. Joseph Brewer

## Recognize the CHEER Students – Special Education Program / ACM

- Creating High Education Experiences and Readiness (CHEER) Program
- An innovative, instructional, collaboration between Allegany County Public Schools and Allegany College of Maryland



"We are very grateful to enter this partnership with ACPS on this particular grant. We were here as supporters, to provide a facility, a smart classroom, and all the resources that these students need in order to be successful. This has been an opportunity that has made such a difference in their lives. They have gained confidence. They are changed people from the time they started and now. We have been so honored and grateful to work together and I think we made a very good team."

– Dr. Mihaela Wood, Dean of Arts and Sciences, ACM

## Recognize the CHEER Students – Special Education Program / ACM (con't)



Pictured front row: Alison Cutter, left to right, second row: Grayson Westendorff, Zac Clacken, Peyton Penrod. Back row: John McFarland, Mr. Alan Twigg, teacher

“All of our students, in May, will leave us completing all of their high school requirements and they have earned up to nine college course credits. Everyone that is interested has completed the FAFSA. They have registered for next year. They have met their advisor. They were able to choose classes in the area they were interested in.”

- Dr. Wendy Main, Supervisor of Secondary Education & CHEER Program

“ACM is such a big supporter of our community, our students, our staff, our administrators, and our teachers. Everyone involved in this, parents, teachers, schools, thank you so much for your support and help so we try this. Obviously it's been very successful. Most of all, thank you to our students, for all of your hard work and everything you've put into this year.”

- Mr. Jeff Blank

## Recognition of the Allegany County Teacher of the Year

- Congratulations to Dr. Joe Thompson for being named 2023-2024 ACPS Teacher of the Year



Pictured right to left: Dr. Joe Thompson and Mrs. Jennifer Ramsey, Coordinator of TOY Program

“Thank you for continuing to support this program. It's been a whirlwind and enlightening. Thank you for your support and I look forward to being the advocate for not only Allegany County, but also the arts in education.”

- Dr. Joe Thompson

“The students at Fort Hill are very lucky to have you. I get to hear and see the band all the time and you do a great job. Thank you for all your hard work.”

- Mrs. Crystal Bender

“When Dr. Thompson is in the building he's like a magnet. Kids come up talking to him all the time. He truly connects with the students. Well deserved teacher of the year.”

- Mr. Jeff Blank

“Thank you for the hard work you do. I've known you a good while and you've always worked your heart out for the kids and we sure appreciate it.”

- Mr. Robert Farrell

# Hearing of Constituents

## Public Comment

- Marla Posey Moss – President of the Free State PTA

## New Business

**Superintendent recommends retention bonus for ACPS employees, the same as last year. Specifically a \$300 bonus for contractual employees and a \$600 bonus for all full-time employees, with the exception of the Superintendent of Schools. The same guidelines will be followed as last year.**

- Approved

“I was pleased to have the recommendation from Mr. Blank to provide acknowledgement of the work of our employees and contractors. The past year coming out of the pandemic continues to push the boundaries of the educational process and our staff has taken it all in stride. Thank you to each and every one of our employees and contractors.”

- Mrs. Tammy Fraley

“Our teachers and staff work very hard to support our community and they deserve our support in return. Being a dedicated school employee is not a job that just anyone can do.”

- Ms. Lori Lepley

“It’s great to be in a position financially that we are able to reward our staff for their hard work. This is just a small way to show a token of our appreciation for their time and commitment to our students.”

- Mrs. Crystal Bender

“This is a way for us to thank our staff for all of their caring and hard work throughout the year.”

- Mr. Robert Farrell

## Consider First Reading of Funding Proposal, Grants, Special Programs Policy

- Approved

## Consider First Reading of Evaluation of Students – Grading Policy

- Approved

## Consider First Reading of Weapons in School Policy

- Approved

## Vote to Meet in Executive Session May 9, 2023

- Approved

## Reports of Special or Advisory Committees

### Student Board Member Update

- ACPS students had the opportunity to showcase their work within the community and learn about other ways they can get involved through the Youth Summit last month
- Students will also be assisting HRDC with Senior Citizens prom this month