



# PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

It's not a color. It's a newsletter.



## Principal's Message

### Thanks for a Great Year!

BY DR. RHONDA L. RICHETTA, PRINCIPAL

Last month, City Springs helped to celebrate the ribbon-cutting for the new Perkins Square (above). We are very excited to welcome back our families and new families, too!



Dr. Rhonda Richetta, Principal  
Randi Delone, Assistant Principal  
Robert Summers, Assistant Principal  
Jenae Toulson, Assistant Principal

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I am immensely proud and inspired by the resilience and dedication of our students, parents, teachers, staff, and partners this school year. Our teachers and staff have made our school a vibrant and joyful place. Our students have excelled in academics, sports, the arts, or through acts of kindness and leadership, and our parents have supported us along the way.

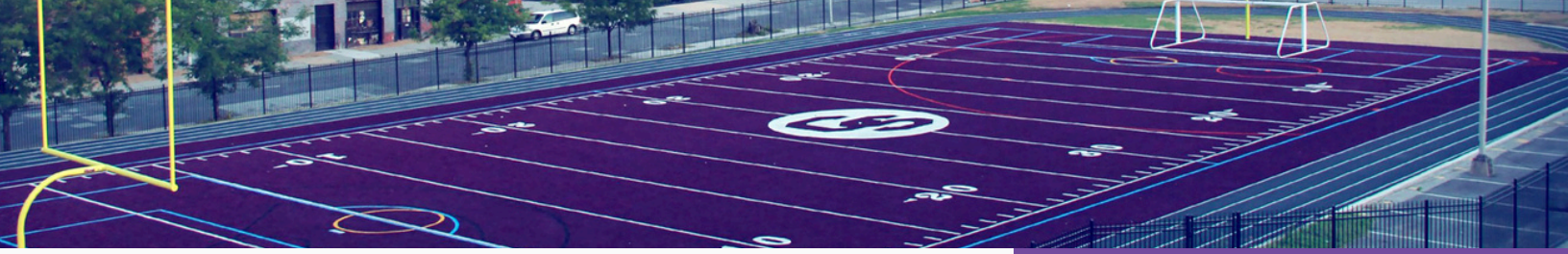
We look forward to the exciting possibilities ahead, especially for our 8th graders. We will miss them, but they will always be in our hearts and forever OUR students. We are rooting for their success in high school and beyond.

This summer, I encourage you to explore, read, and learn in fun and exciting ways with your children. We will see your children on the first day of school, August 19th, happy, refreshed, and ready for another successful year.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to make another year of wonderful memories with you and your children!

With heartfelt thanks and warm wishes,  
Dr. Richetta





## What's Next for 8th Grade?

In June, all 58 members of our 8th Grade class will be promoted to high school. Each student completed City Schools' High School Choice process with the support of their parents and our guidance counselor, Ms. Watkins. Through the High School Choice process, students applied to the high schools they want to attend. The schools accept the students based on factors including grades, interviews, essays, performances, art portfolios, or other information.



Four City Schools are “criteria schools,” which require certain grades and test scores for admission: Baltimore Polytechnic High School (Poly); Baltimore City College (City); Western High School; and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School (Dunbar). We're thrilled to announce 47% of our 8th graders were admitted into these schools—one of the highest percentages in City Springs' recent history! Our results: Poly (7 students); City (10 students); Western (2 students); and Dunbar (8 students), pictured above with Dunbar's principal, Ms. Watkins, and Dr. Richetta.

Congratulations to all our 8th graders!

"Be the best  
of whatever  
you are."

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.







## Summer at City Springs

City Springs has two exciting summer learning opportunities for our students. With a Bloomberg Philanthropies' Summer Boost program grant, we have created a summer learning program focused on reading, math, and STEM for rising 1st-5th graders.

For rising 6th-8th graders, we are excited to announce our new Middle Grades Partnership (MGP) partnership with Maryvale Preparatory School. Our students will travel each day to the Maryvale for a full day of developing academic and leadership skills together.

## Equity Program Recap

BY MR. PATTERSON



At City Springs, we pride ourselves on creating an environment where all scholars feel the joy of learning. Part of that joy comes from our curriculum that makes sure the multiple identities of our scholars are represented throughout their learning experience.

This year, educators received professional development training focused on Culturally Relevant Teaching and how to incorporate elements of scholars' culture into their curriculum. An equitable education also means learning about character development and life skills that can translate to any career choice. We do this through City Springs' 8 Attributes and the 8 Habits of Highly Effective People.

We strategically and intentionally selected 8 Exemplar Leaders that represent the cultures of our various students and exemplify our attributes and habits.

To create equity through leadership and mentoring opportunities for all grade levels, we chose Middle School scholars to mentor and teach younger scholars as Teacher Assistants. We trained them to help resolve conflict and to help with teaching reading and mathematics.

These leaders help to improve school culture and climate by creating authentic relationships across the different grade bands. The Teacher Assistants also bridge the gap between scholars with different backgrounds and learning styles.

# Fly High, Eagles! Broadcast

BY MR. OROKE

For the first time in our school's history, we have a live morning broadcast run by 8th grade scholars. 8th grade anchors broadcast the Fly High, Eagles! program via Zoom into every City Springs classroom. The broadcast covers everything from local news to after school activities and school lunch.



It's become an integral part of the City Springs community, providing information and shout-outs to celebrate student and staff who have gone above and beyond in their classrooms. Earlier this year, the broadcasters partnered with the WJZ-TV morning news team. WJZ visited City Springs, and the broadcasters toured the WJZ studio and watched a live broadcast. Next year, a new group of 8th graders will have the opportunity to apply for and serve as broadcasters and have their voices heard around the school every morning.



## Peer Mediation

BY MR. WADE

In early 2023, we launched the Peer Mediator program at City Springs. This year, we had 47 trained student mediators from 5th to 8th grades and extended the program to five of the six Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) schools, for a total of 80 Peer Mediators. I am proud that City Springs Peer Mediators have helped spread the program throughout BCP.

Student mediators lead peer mediator sessions in pairs and create mini lessons for younger students on anger management and active listening. City Springs student mediators helped to lead training sessions at other BCP schools, demonstrated mediation sessions at January's annual BCP symposium, and presented at the April City Schools Peer Mediator Conference.

Some conflict issues are handled by adults, but our student mediators do a great job with conflict resolution and helping students to use their voice for change.







## May is Children's Mental Health Awareness Month

Helping our students be the healthiest they can be, physically, mentally, and emotionally is essential to their success in school and life. ADHD, anxiety problems, behavior problems, and depression are the most commonly diagnosed mental disorders in children—and are highly treatable. Yet only half will receive treatment.

At City Springs, we have resources to help. Talk with your child's teacher, our Counselor, Ms. Watkins, our Director of Social/Emotional Learning, Ms. Rollins, and your healthcare provider with any concerns.

### Signs to watch for:

- School problems and/or drop in grades
- Frequent fighting, lying, stealing
- Trouble sleeping
- Feeling sad and withdrawn
- Dangerous or self-destructive/harm behavior/thoughts
- Excessive weight loss or gain
- Obsessive, compulsive, or troubling thoughts
- Use of drugs or alcohol
- Mood swings
- Trouble paying attention
- Anxiety or frequent worries

## We LOVE our Educators!

May 5-9 was Teacher Appreciation Week. We appreciate our teachers and staff at City Springs!

Thank you, educators, for all you've done this year to help our scholars achieve, in and out of the classroom.



# Important City Springs Dates

27  
MAY

**Memorial Day**  
School closed

3  
JUNE

**8th Grade Closing**  
9 AM

12  
JUNE

**Last Day of School**  
Last day for City Springs; City  
Schools' last day is June 13

19  
AUG

**First Day of School**  
Students return for the first day  
of the 2024-2025 school year



## City Springs' Vision

Our vision is to be an exemplary, model school where students are meeting or exceeding academic standards in reading and math, students feel the joy of learning, parents are involved, and the entire community nurtures a solid partnership. With this vision, we promise an education for life. Learn more about who we are at [citysprings.school/about-our-school](https://citysprings.school/about-our-school).

## News From BCP



Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP), the charter operator of City Springs, held its annual "Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student?" on May 13. Our own Danika Haskins, 8th (above) and two other BCP 8th graders easily beat a celebrity team on questions from the BCP curriculum. Check out the event news and video on the event at [baltimorecp.org/news-press](https://baltimorecp.org/news-press).