



# PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



## Principal's Message

**BY DR. RHONDA RICHETTA**

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### School Leadership

Dr. Rhonda Richetta, Principal  
Ms. Jenae Toulson, Asst. Principal  
for PK-3, 443-902-1353  
JAJones@bcps.k12.md.us  
Mr. Rob Summers, Asst. Principal  
for Grades 4-8, 410-207-4625  
RDSummers@bcps.k12.md.us

OFFICE: (410) 396-9168

Dear City Springs Families,

Serving as the principal of City Springs Elementary/Middle School is an honor and a privilege. I am grateful for the trust parents place in us every day. City Springs is a very special place, and it is our students and our teachers who together make it so special. Our teachers have a talent for bringing out the best in our students.

I never stop being impressed with the capacity of our students to show brilliance, creativity, and character. At City Springs, our teachers, staff, and administrators are dedicated to nurturing young minds and promoting the joy of learning. Our commitment to providing the high-quality education and the safe, supportive, inclusive school culture our students deserve remains unwavering.

If you're new, welcome! If you're returning, welcome back to City Springs, a very special, extraordinary school!

Respectfully yours,  
Dr. Richetta



## Back-to-School Bash

On August 17, City Springs and the Joshua Carroll Foundation, founded by our own Eagle and professional boxer Lorenzo “Truck” Simpson, co-sponsored a wonderful Back-to-School Bash for our students and families.

Our community partner, Elev8 Baltimore, and numerous community organizations provided services and backpack and other giveaways. Organizations included Asthma CHAMPS, the Mayor’s Office for Children & Family Success, Charm City Mixed Martial Arts, and Turnaround Tuesday. Families enjoyed games on the Purple Field, a DJ, canvas and face painting, boxed lunches, Kona Ice, and free haircuts by Waaah Lifestyle Brand with barber Keith Dawson and braiding by Hair by Keyoni, founded by City Springs alumna Keyoni West.

Thank you to all, especially to Keyoni (far right) and Lorenzo (bottom, middle). We are so very proud of you and all you are accomplishing!

“A No. 2 pencil and a dream can take you anywhere.”

JOYCE MEYER





# Eagles' Nest Afterschool Program Starts Sept. 30



## Get Involved

Attend Friday Morning Assembly: Every Friday from 8:48-9:10 AM, parents may attend Morning Assembly.

Join the PTO: Parent-school communication and collaboration are critical! Our Parent Teacher Organization will meet on Sept. 27 at 9:15 AM to elect the PTO President, Vice President, and Secretary.

Scan the QR if you want to serve and/or to suggest good PTO meeting times.



Our FREE Eagles' Nest Afterschool Program BEGINS Sept. 30. Enrollment opens Wednesday, September 11 at Back-To-School Night. First-come, first-serve with 120 maximum slots available.

WHAT'S OFFERED: Academics, sports activities, board/card game club, book club, and STEM activities with LETS GO Boys & Girls, Inc., and more! Funded by the Maryland State Department of Education and Family League.

WHEN: Mon. through Thurs.: 3:30-5:45 PM (1 hour academics; 1 hour enrichment); Friday: 12:45-3:45 PM (enrichment)

CONTACT: Trecie Toulson, [ltoulson@baltimorecp.org](mailto:ltoulson@baltimorecp.org), 443-690-9087

## Fly High Eagles Broadcasters

The new Fly High Eagles Broadcasting team, Cortney (left) and Jordynn (right), began their morning announcement broadcast on August 26. The 8th grade reporters/producers, advised by Mr. Oroke and Mr. Patterson, applied for these leadership positions. They will share announcements and school news during the year, while developing public speaking, writing, and collaborative skills.





## City Springs in the House!

Our spirited school is getting a lot more spirited. This fall, our faculty and staff are piloting a new House system with the goal of introducing it to all students in fall 2025.

In June, several teachers, Principal Richetta, and Assistant Principal Summers traveled to Atlanta to the Ron Clark School to learn about its House system in which every student, teacher, and staff member are sorted (think Harry Potter) into a house. This promotes a greater sense of community, belonging, and school spirit.

We're putting our own City Springs' spin on our four Houses called Believe, Courage, Kindness, and Unity. Each teacher and staff member was randomly sorted into a House. This year we will have fun competitions, do acts of kindness for other Houses, and on Wednesdays, we will wear House t-shirts.

## Welcome, PreK!

By Ms. Andoh and Ms. Maraj

Our youngest Eagles had a great first week full of smiles, laughter, and new discoveries. The Boston College class had a blast exploring their new classroom and sharing our "All About Me" activity to get to know each other. Our Scholars' creativity was on display with the First-Day-of-School Crowns to learn shapes and to add a fun touch to our birthday celebration.

We read and discussed some of our favorite books, including *Clifford's First School Day* and *Being Brave*. For our first "Fantastic Friday," we had another birthday celebration with pizzas, cupcakes and drinks. Parents, thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us. We are excited to embark on this educational journey together and look forward to a year full of growth, fun, and learning.

## New Teachers & Staff

Eva Andoh, Pre-K Teacher  
Curtisha Shonubi, 2nd Grade Math  
Gregory Brown, Restorative Practices  
Mary Beth Francisco, Special Educator  
Carson Korman, Special Educator  
Jade Livers, 5th Grade ELA  
Madeleine Phillips, Academic Coach Grades 6-8  
Kafesha James, 5th Grade Math  
Solomon Zurier, PE/Health Teacher

Welcome, Eagles!



# Daily Attendance Matters!

Thank you for sending your child to school every day, especially on half-day Fridays. Daily school attendance is one of the MOST important things you can do to ensure your children's success now and into the future.

**Why are Fridays especially important?** Each teacher gives assessments that are critical to your child's learning and academic progress. We use these tests to create a custom program based on your child's strengths and needs. Being in school daily helps your child create deeper relationships with peers and adults and practice social skills. When students are absent, we can't do this effectively. We promise to make every Friday a Fantastic Friday for every student!

## Required BCPS Annual Student Verification

All parents are required to login to the City Schools Campus Portal to complete the Annual Student Verification process to give City Springs the correct information for each student and to give each family access to grades and report cards. Login at [baltimorecityschools.org/campus-portal](http://baltimorecityschools.org/campus-portal). If you are unable to complete this process on your own, we will assist you.

## Uniforms

- City Springs school logo shirt, crewneck, or hoodie every day
- Khaki or black pants or skirt or jeans (with no holes)
- Logo shirts are purple for all grades (\$15)
- 8th may wear purple or grey logo shirts
- NO hats or hoodies worn up
- Contact an administrator if you need financial assistance with the uniform.
- Later this fall, we provide a free CS crewneck or hoodie to every student.

NEW BCPS dress code requirements; please scan and share them with your student.



## Meet Mr. Trumino!



As our new Community Coordinator, Mr. Trumino manages school and community resources provided through our new community partner Elev8 Baltimore and oversees the PTO. These services support students' academic achievement and social-emotional development.

Some fun facts about Mr. Trumino:

- From Lewisburg, PA where he worked for Bucknell University's Student-Athlete Enrichment program
- New to Baltimore and loves the food scene (give him restaurant recommendations!)
- Bloomsburg University grad and football student-athlete

**Contact:** [atrumino@elev8balitmore.org](mailto:atrumino@elev8balitmore.org)  
443-836-6019 (office)

# Upcoming School Events

**NWEA Testing Window: Sept. 3 through 9**

**Fun Fridays: Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 (early release at 12:45 PM)**

**Hispanic Heritage Month: Begins Sept. 15**

**Back-to-School Night: Sept. 11, 5:30-7:30 PM**

**My Name! My Name! Raffle for Parents: Sept. 27, Morning Assembly, 8:48 AM**

**PTO Meeting: Sept. 27, 9:15-10:15 AM**

**Eagles' Nest Afterschool Program Begins: Sept. 30**



## Baltimore Curriculum Project

Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) is proud to be the charter operator of City Springs and five other neighborhood conversion charter schools in Baltimore City.

BCP began working with City Springs in 1996, implementing Direct Instruction (reading). When Maryland's charter law was created in 2005, the City Springs community invited BCP to convert the school to a charter school. City Springs is in the last year of our current contract with Baltimore City Schools. In January 2025, the Baltimore City School Board of Commissioners will vote on a new contract renewal term for BCP to operate City Springs. The contract terms are three, five, or eight years.

If you have questions, please contact Laura Doherty, BCP President and CEO, [ldoherty@baltimorecp.org](mailto:ldoherty@baltimorecp.org)



## Middle Grades Partnership with Maryvale and City Springs

For six weeks, 25 City Springs middle schoolers traveled to Maryvale Preparatory School for summer academic and enrichment activities as part of the Middle Grades Partnership.

Mr. Momayez, our program director, and Mr. Oroke, Mr. Patterson, and Mr. Pullen helped to lead a great program focused on fun, environmental service (with stream studies on Maryvale's Baltimore County campus), creative expression, and getting to know the Maryvale students and teachers who participated.