



PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



Principal's Message

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School Leadership

Dr. Rhonda L. 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

December is one of the most exciting times to be at an elementary/middle school. City Springs is always a spirited place, and this month is especially so with anticipation of the holidays and winter break. This month, I will give a winter gift to all students: a City Springs sweatshirt to keep them warm through the winter.

Learning is always an adventure at City Springs! Last month, our 6th Grade spent the day on a Living Classrooms sailboat following the water trail of the War of 1812 around the Inner Harbor (pictured above). This is just one of the many wonderful ways our teachers, staff, and program fully engage your child's intellect, heart, and spirit.

Please continue to focus on having your child at school every day, dressed in our uniform, and ready for a great day of learning! Attendance is a top priority for every student and every grade.

I always like to reflect during this holiday season on the things for which I am grateful. Being thankful for the children of City Springs is always one of the first things that comes to my mind. Your children bring joy to my life every day, and I am thankful to you, their parents, for sharing them with me!

Respectfully Yours,
Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta

Next Stop: High School!

High school applications and decisions are coming! It's an exciting time for our 8th Grade Scholars and their families who are preparing to decide where they will attend high school. For the past several years, many City Springs alumni have attended top-tier Baltimore City high schools: Baltimore City College; Western High School; Baltimore Polytechnic; and Paul Laurence Dunbar. Last year, half of our 8th Grade was accepted to these schools, meeting rigorous entrance requirements. Ms. Watkins is working with each family to ensure that the next step after City Springs is a great one for your child!

8th Grade Families: Attend the High School Choice Fair

Saturday, December 14, Baltimore Convention Center

Doors open at 10 AM; Free admittance

Visit baltimorecityschools.org/choice for details

Poly 9th Graders and Former Eagles Gabrielle and Phillip 8th Graders last year



Our Core Values

Be On The Purple Field.

Promote positivity, live empathetically, work passionately, serve others.

Do The Right Thing. Period.

Act with integrity, promote equity, restore and build our community.

Community School Coordinator Corner

NEXT PTO MEETING: Fri., Dec. 20, 9:15-10:15 am, Cafeteria

CBRE SPONSORS THANKSGIVING BASKETS: Last month, our new community partner, CBRE, a global commercial real estate company with a Baltimore office, sponsored 60 Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets for City Springs families. CBRE generously purchased and created individual dinner baskets (bags) each with a frozen turkey and sides. Thank you, CBRE, for your wonderful generosity!



CHRISTMAS DINNERS: This year, our partner, Saint Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, is providing Christmas dinner packages to 50 families, to be delivered on Mon., Dec. 16.

Scan the QR code (right) and complete the form if you are interested. Packages will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis. Email atrumino@elev8baltimore.org with questions.

MY NAME, MY NAME RAFFLE: Be sure to be part of My Name, My Name Raffle. Each week, our faculty enter students into the raffle who do acts of kindness and embody the City Springs Attributes of strong character. We have a separate raffle for parents; when you attend, you have your name entered for a chance to win a prize.



**MR. TRUMINO, CITY SPRINGS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR:**
atrumino@elev8baltimore.org
Phone: 443-836-6019

Please reach out with questions or other student/family needs. Mr. Trumino and City Springs' community partner, Elev8 Baltimore, are here to help.

Scan QR Code

Christmas Dinner Packages



**Thanks, CBRE,
for donating
Thanksgiving
for 60 families!**



Friendsgiving & Native American History Month

We've enjoyed celebrating indigenous people during Native American History Month with learning activities, books, videos, and presentations.

One of our favorite traditions, Friendsgiving, wrapped up November with a feast for our PK, K, and 1st Grade students. The scholars moved their desks into the hall and enjoyed apple and pumpkin pie together.

Celebrating our community--and the many cultures that comprise our nation's history--is an important part of the City Springs' academic and Diversity and Inclusion programs.

Class Spotlight: 2nd Grade

Second Grade has been learning about habitats and organisms in science. They created habitats for their butterflies (below). They are learning interesting facts about our natural world. Did you know that butterflies:

- Live on every continent except Antarctica?
- Are found in deserts, grasslands, forests, wetlands, and mountains?
- Prefer warmer climates but can't fly if their body temperature is below 85°F?

Our young scientists in 2nd Grade do!



Soccer Scrimmage



Girls on the Run

Congratulations to our Girls on the Run team for a great 5k meet at the University of Maryland Baltimore County on Nov.24.

The Eagle striders have been working hard at every practice and ran hard at the meet. Way to run, Eagles!



Eagles vs. Stallions Scrimmage

On Nov. 20, our Eagles Boys Soccer team and the Stallions of Pimlico Elementary / Middle School enjoyed a scrimmage on our Purple Field. Teams included players from each school. The game was great fun with lots of terrific athleticism and sportsmanship, and, of course, EAGLE PRIDE!

We Need Your Voice for City Spring's Re-Chartering!

Plan to join the Baltimore City Public School Board **virtual session on Wed., Dec. 4, 5:30 pm** to show your support for our request to the School Board to approve our charter renewal for five or eight years rather than only three. We will share the virtual meeting link in ClassDojo on the morning of Dec. 4.

Please send an email to the Board prior to Jan. 10 at portfoliorecommendations@bcps.k12.md.us asking for a five- or eight-year renewal rather than only three years. Our cohort retention, chronic absenteeism, and parent survey participation in school year 2021-22 all were negatively impacted by the removal of our families from Perkins Homes due to the Housing Authority's redevelopment of the neighborhood.

We should be held harmless for these areas. Low ratings in these three areas caused us to receive a recommendation for only a three-year renewal. We deserve more than three years!

Thank you for sharing your voice and City Springs' spirit to let the Baltimore City School Board know that we deserve a five- or eight-year renewal!

Cell Phone Policy

We have a no cell phone policy at City Springs for all grades. Students must turn in their cell phones to their teachers daily. This is not just a middle school policy; it is a whole-school policy. This policy creates the best possible learning environment for your student. Thank you for reinforcing this policy with your child.

Upcoming Events

Sat., 12/14: BCPS High School Choice Fair, Baltimore Convention Center

12/20: PTO Meeting

12/23 through 1/2/2025: Winter Break (Last day of school is Fri., 12/20, 12:45 pm dismissal)

1/2/25: School Reopens



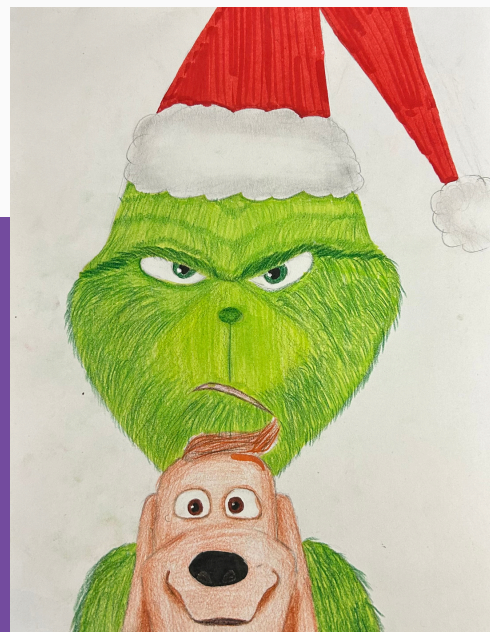
Baltimore Curriculum Project

Each year, Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP), the charter school organization that manages City Springs, sponsors a BCP-wide holiday card contests. Students of all grades are encouraged to enter their original holiday artwork.

For this year's winning design, our own Denise W., 7th grade, earned 1st place. Her delightful design will be printed on the BCP card and sent to people across the region and country. Second place was also a talented City Springs artist, Ashly V., 6th grade. We are very proud of Denise, Ashly, all our young artists who entered, and Ms. Boyce, Art teacher.

1st Place Holiday Card winner: Denise W., 7th Grade

2nd Place: Ashly V., 6th Grade



Happy Holidays!