



PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



Celebrating our 5-year renewal!

Principal's Message

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School Leadership

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Last month, the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners voted to give City Springs a 5-year Charter renewal with the Baltimore Curriculum Project to continue to operate as a charter school through 2030-31! We are elated and cherish our BCP partnership.

This month is Black History Month, but at City Springs we honor and celebrate the contributions and achievements of Black Americans throughout history every day. I am very proud of our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders who have been researching and creating projects for our National History Day contest on Friday, February 7th. The more than 40 guest judges are going to have a hard time choosing the winners!

February also brings Valentine's Day, a great reminder to spread love and kindness to everyone. This month's Habit, *Seek first to understand rather than be understood*, and Attribute, *Empathy*, go a long way to making our school community a warm and welcoming place for everyone.

We are more than halfway through the school year. Let's band together and encourage our students to kick it into high gear and reach new heights of academic achievement and excellence. I welcome your thoughts, questions, and ideas.

Respectfully Yours,
Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta

Attendance Matters

In January, we had a significant drop in our attendance rate. This makes me very sad. I know that there were challenges in January that started with the very short, two-day week after the winter break, and then we had the snow. February has to be much better, and I am hopeful it will be. February is a very short month, so it should be much easier for us to have more students with PERFECT attendance. We are striving for a record number of students with perfect attendance for this month. Our record is 149 students. I know we can beat that this month. Please send your children to school *EVERY DAY* in February! - Dr. Richetta

100th Day of School Celebration

January 29th marked the 100th day of this school year! Pre-K, Kindergarten, and First Grade students dressed as 100-year-olds and did fun activities around the number 100. In First Grade, Ms. Finkel's and Ms. Lefever's classrooms wrote what they would do with \$100, jumped and exercised for 100 seconds, and talked about their five senses and what they would like and not like with 100 different things. Ms. Andoh's and Ms. Maraj's Pre-K class practiced counting from one to 100 using snacks like Cheerios.

Pre-K Parenting Workshop

Our Pre-K Parent Workshop focused on two essential topics that help lay the foundation for students' success: sound pronunciation and social-emotional learning (SEL). Parents learned effective strategies to support young learners in producing alphabet sounds under the Direct Instruction Program, an important skill for early literacy development that helps students master the sounds and building blocks of reading and writing.

We also introduced SEL practices and positive communication tools that empower parents to build trust and connection with their children to create an environment where emotional well-being and academic growth go hand-in-hand. Together, these strategies equip parents with the knowledge and confidence to support their child's development both inside and outside the classroom.



100th Day Photos





Class Spotlight: 4th Grade

By Mr. Henshaw

Scholars are working hard in our Reading, Language, and Math classes. Every day, scholars are presented with high-level content including multiplying multiple digit numbers, long division, completing novel studies, and writing evidence-based paragraphs. They work independently to display what they have learned but will also often work collaboratively to showcase and even extend their learning.

In the Temple University homeroom, students are currently competing in the READ Bowl run by former NFL player Malcom Mitchell, which is an international competition to see which class can read the most minutes. In the first week of the competition, the Temple homeroom read 26,840 minutes! In the University of Tulsa homeroom, students are working on poetry and are currently making progress in writing their own poetry as well. In Tulane University, we are gearing up to begin reading *The Wizard of Oz*. Keep reading, City Springs!



Eagles' Purple Turns Pink & Red on February 12th

Get your pink and red ready! In celebration of Valentine's Day, please have your child wear pink or red on Wednesday, February 12th. We will distribute paper hearts to every student, teacher, and staff member too. We will write something we love about City Springs on those hearts and post them around the school.

On February 12th, all parents are invited to pick up their free gift to show our love for all our wonderful families. See Page 5 for details!

Guidance on Federal Immigration Enforcement in the School Context

Our Key Principles :

A. All Students, Regardless of Immigration Status, Have the Legal Right to Attend School. In Plyler v. Doe, The U.S. Supreme Court made clear that The U.S. Constitution prohibits schools from denying access to public education based on students' or their parent/guardian's immigration status.

B. City Schools Welcomes All Students. Our school will always be a welcoming space where every child—regardless of immigration status—is valued, respected, and supported. We will not take any action that might discourage students from enrolling and participating in school, or that might lead to the exclusion of students, based on immigration status.

C. City Schools Robustly Protects Student Privacy. City Schools does not require students or their families to provide information about their immigration status, and staff will not disclose any student information unless required by law.

D. City Schools Does Not Tolerate Discrimination, Harassment, Bullying, or Intimidation based on Immigration Status or for Any Other Reason.

Please rest assured that Dr. Richetta and the City Springs staff are committed to upholding these Key Principles.

Harford Community College Men's Basketball Visits City Springs



On January 14th, the Harford Community College Men's Basketball team spent a full day with City Springs' Pre-K through 8th grade Scholars. The team is coached by our own P.E. teacher, Mr. Zurier (second row, far left). The athletes taught math to middle school Scholars, had dance battles with Kindergarten, participated in 5th grade reading lessons, played basketball in P.E. class, and more.

A highlight was lunch with our 8th graders, followed by Q&A with students about being a college athlete and what they needed to sacrifice to get there. Thanks, Mr. Zurier, for sharing your student-athletes with us and offering inspirational, real-life examples of who our Eagles can be.

"It was great for our team to get out of their comfort zone for a few hours and give back to the City Springs community. It reminded our athletes what being a kid again was like and maybe helped them tune up some of their own math skills too." Coach Zurier

Community School Coordinator Corner

Thanks to the support and generosity of our many wonderful partners and donors, City Springs is able to provide support to students and families in need of the following items: **winter jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks**. We also have a large supply of daily hygiene and feminine hygiene products.

If you and/or your student are in need of any of these items, please email Mr. Trumino @ atrumino@elev8baltimore.org or stop by the main office and ask to see Mr. Trumino.

As a reminder, City Springs has continued its partnership with **Weekend Backpacks**. Weekend Backpacks are distributed every Friday (unless otherwise announced on ClassDojo) between 12:30-1:00pm at the double-doors next to the purple trailer in the school parking lot. Weekend Backpacks are *free of cost and do not require any sign-up ahead of time*.



Please email Mr. Trumino if you have any questions or would like to make arrangements to pick-up your Weekend Backpack at a more convenient time each week.

Next PTO Meeting

(Priority Engagement Session #2):

Friday, February 28th
9:15-10:15 am, Cafeteria

Dr. Richetta is looking forward to sharing more information with you about next year's school budget.



Valentine's Day Hug-in-a-Mug

We want to show our parents how much we appreciate you with a "hug-in-a-mug"! Join us at the Caroline Street entrance during morning-drop off for a coffee and a treat on the go to start your day!

GET YOUR MUG:

Wednesday, February 12th,
8:15-8:45 am (during morning drop-off)

WHERE? Caroline St.
entrance

MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:

atrumino@elev8baltimore.org
Phone: 443-836-6019



Upcoming Events

Feb. 12: Wear Pink or Red; Parents pick up gift at Morning Drop-off

Feb. 13: Staff PD Day, School Closed

Feb. 14: Wellness Day, School Closed

Feb. 17: President's Day, School Closed

Feb. 18-21: Winter Intersession, School Closed- NOT a BCPS-wide closure!

Feb. 24: School Re-opens

Feb. 28: PTO Meeting, 9:15-10:15 am, Cafeteria

Baltimore Curriculum Project



Congratulations to three of our Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) neighborhood conversion charter schools on their recent charter renewals! On January 14, 2025, the Baltimore City Public School Board voted unanimously to renew the charters for City Springs Elementary/Middle, Frederick Elementary, and Govans Elementary.

We are delighted that City Springs received a five-year renewal! Going into the charter renewal vote, the School Board had recommended a three-year renewal. Thanks to the advocacy of City Springs' families, staff, and friends--and the amazing accomplishments of City Springs' Scholars and its exceptional school community and culture--City Springs was given a five-year renewal.

These renewals highlight BCP's strong dedication to promoting educational excellence and implementing innovative strategies that support the success of students and their families.

To learn more about the charter school renewal process, visit baltimorecp.org/blog to read the latest post by Laura Doherty, BCP President and CEO.

FEBRUARY'S HABIT:

Seek first to understand rather than be understood.

FEBRUARY'S ATTRIBUTE:

Empathy