



PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



Principal's Message

Stay Connected

INSTAGRAM:
@CITYSPRINGSSCHOOL
FACEBOOK:
CITY SPRINGS
ELEMENTARY/MIDDLESCHOOL
CITYSPRINGS.SCHOOL

CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

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

Dear City Springs Families,

As we step into May, our school is buzzing with energy and purpose. This month marks a crucial time for our students as they continue with State testing. These assessments give us valuable insight into student progress and help shape our plans for stronger instruction. Please encourage your child to come to school on time each day rested, focused, and ready to give their **best effort**—we are proud of the hard work we've seen so far!

I also want to address an important habit that impacts student success: **consistent attendance until the very last day of school**. In recent years, we've noticed a pattern of students not coming to school toward the end of the year. Every school day matters, and we have rich learning experiences, celebrations, and community-building planned through the final bell. Please send your children to school every day up to the final day, Monday, June 16. Let's work together to ensure our students finish the year strong!

Finally, this **Mother's Day**, I want to recognize all the mothers, grandmothers, and mother-figures in our community. Your love, strength, and support are the foundation of our students' growth. We see you, we appreciate you, and we celebrate you this month and always. Thank you for being such an essential part of the City Springs family.

With gratitude,
Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta

Math Rumble!

At City Springs, we are always excited about Math, but on April 10, we were especially excited for our annual, schoolwide Math Rumble. Our Pre-K Scholars opened the event with a song about shapes (cube, sphere, cylinder, cone), then we rumbled! Each class had an opening song and a theme and had 90 seconds to get through as many math problems as possible. Congratulations to our winners!

- 1st: Ms. Lefever - Math Sharks
- 2nd: Ms. Shonubi - Equalizers
- 3rd: Ms. Parker - Number Gurus
- 4th: Mr. Henshaw - Black Magic
- 5th: Ms. Livers - Dream Chasers
- 6th: Ms. Robinson - The Proud Einsteins
- 7th: Ms. T/Mr. Marinelli - Coppin State Eagles
- 8th: Mr. O/Mr. Patterson - Math Squad



Perfect Attendance

We had 120 students in grades 3-8 with perfect attendance in February and/or March. As a reward, they enjoyed an afternoon on the GameTruck and spirited competition in games of Madden, MineCraft, Mario Kart, Just Dance, and many more. Shoutout to Nels from the GameTruck Company for making this a fun, engaging, and inclusive reward for our Scholars.



Summer Enrichment Academy

City Springs is thrilled to announce the launch of our Summer Enrichment Academy! Designed to promote learning and educational fun, the academy will provide Scholars with an amazing summer experience! Our program will run from June 23 through July 24, 9am to 2pm every Monday through Thursday, closed on Fridays.

- Breakfast and lunch provided daily.
- Open to students K to 7th grade.
- Space is limited due to staffing capacity.
- Early registration strongly encouraged! First come, first served!

TO ENROLL: Pick up a registration form in the main office. Complete and return to your child's teacher by Thursday, May 22.



Class Spotlight: 7th Grade

By Ms. Traughber, Mr. Marinelli, Mr. Momayez, and Mr. Brandes

Our 7th grade scholars have been working hard to prepare for their 8th grade year. Students have been reviewing fractions and the multiplication table in math. In social studies, students are learning how to take effective Cornell notes while studying the impact of colonization on Native Americans and Africans. In English, they're reading and analyzing the novel *Dear Martin* to understand the effects of racist police brutality. In science, students are wrapping up their anatomy unit and explored factors that cause cells to change such as osmosis and mitosis, where cells duplicate to heal and repair our body as well as various body systems. Pictured above is the class' trip to Irvine Nature Center earlier in the spring. These Scholars have worked hard all year across all subjects, building skills, exploring, and learning about new ideas. They are definitely ready for 8th grade!

Peer Mediators Attend Citywide Conference

Several City Springs' Peer Mediators, Dr. Richetta, and Ms. Rollins, City Springs' Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Director, attended the April 8 student Peer Mediator Conference at the University of Maryland Carey School of Law.

Created by Mr. Wade, City Springs' Director of Restorative Practices and the Peer Mediation Program, and Nancy Schertzing, the Law School's Director of Restorative Approaches in Education Program, the day included Baltimore City Public Schools Commissioner Mujahid Muhammad as the keynote speaker.

The event helped 70 Peer Mediators from BCP and other BCPS schools learn more about Restorative Practices tools through workshops, including:

- Improv active listening activities with Baltimore Improv Group
- SEL activities with Ms. Rollins
- Role playing Peer Mediation scenarios with UMD Law students, and
- Understanding the root causes of conflicts, presented by Ms. Schertzing

Thanks, Peer Mediators, for your great work!



Generous Donation

Our community partner, St. Vincent de Paul Church, made an incredibly generous gift to City Springs to support and fund enrichment opportunities such as school trips. We are excited about the upcoming trips we have planned for students to New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C.

Scholars continue to enjoy local fields trips like the First Grade's trip to the Maryland Science Center (pictured) and, recently, the 8th grade enjoyed a field trip to Federal Hill Park.

We look forward to more great adventures in the coming school year. Thank you, St. V's!



Mark Your Calendars!

Baltimore City Public Schools has finalized the calendar for **2025-2026**, pending approval from the MSDE.

IMPORTANT! City Springs' calendar is different from the Baltimore City Public Schools calendar. Here are the City Springs' 2025-2026 key dates:

First day of school for students: Monday, August 18, 2025

Winter Break: December 22, 2025 – January 2, 2026

Intersession: February 16-19, 2026

Spring Break: March 28-April 6, 2026

Last day of school: June 11, 2026 (early release)

End-of-Year Dates

May and June are very busy months in the life of our school. Here's the list of what is happening this month and in June. Be sure to check Class Dojo and citysprings.school/events, too.

8th GRADE SPIRIT WEEK, June 2-6

8th Grade (only) will come in costume for the class's themed days to show your Eagle spirit!

- Monday June 2: Pajama Day
- Tuesday June 3: Throwback
- Wednesday June 4: Jersey/Sports Day
- Thursday June 5: Cookout Day
- Friday June 6: Student Dress Like Teacher/Teacher Dress Like Student

MCAP TESTING DATES (ongoing since May 1)

Monday, May 12: Math Sessions 1 and 2- 3rd, 4th and 8th

Tuesday, May 13: Math Sessions 3 and 4- 3rd, 4th, and 8th

Wednesday, May 14: Math Sessions 1 and 2- 5th, 6th, and 7th

Monday, May 19: Math Sessions 3 and 4- 5th, 6th, and 7th

Tuesday, May 20: History Sessions 1 and 2- 8th Grade

Wednesday, May 21: History Sessions 3 and 4- 8th Grade

END-OF-YEAR ACTIVITIES (also see page 6)

Thursday, June 5; Dance Recital & Martial Arts Performance, 5-7pm

Monday, June 9: 8th Grade Closing Ceremony

Friday, June 13: Final Purple & White Games

Friday, June 13: City Springs Purple Promotional Gala: A Parent & Student Celebration of Family & Future

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS MONDAY, JUNE 16 (Early Release)

We LOVE Our Faculty & Staff!

It was so much fun celebrating our incredible teachers and staff during Teacher Appreciate Week! There were lots of special treats each day (the Waffle-Licious Food Truck, Bundt cakes, Fuzzy Burgers, Nike gear) and massages in the Faculty Lounge. THANK YOU, TEACHERS!



Mr. Summers

Last month, BCP celebrated Assistant Principals' Week with a feature on our own Mr. Summers and his role as Assistant Principal for grades 4-8. Read about his journey to City Springs at baltimorecp.org/blog and what he loves the most about his job.

Thank you, Mr. Summers, for all you do every day for our community!

We also want to thank Assistant Principal, Ms. Janae Toulson, for her care and commitment she shows our students, teachers, staff, and families each day!

Weekend Backpack Update

Beginning Friday, May 30, we will be changing how we distribute Weekend Backpacks. Moving forward, **we will now be sending your Weekend Backpack home with your student every Friday.**

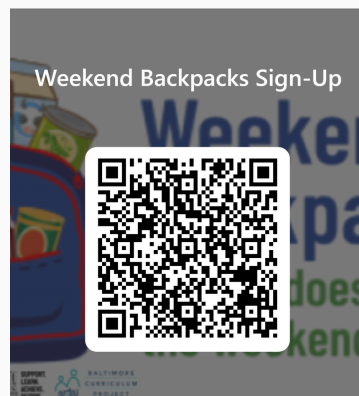
In order to receive your Weekend Backpack every Friday, please complete the sign-up form using the QR code below.

We will continue to pass out Weekend Backpacks at dismissal time on the following days:

Thursday, May 15 from 3:30-3:45pm

Thursday, May 22 from 3:30-3:45pm

If you have already been receiving Weekend Backpacks and have any questions or concerns about the new plan, please still complete the form and also email Mr. Trumino with your questions/concerns.



ALL interested families should scan the code and complete the form.

**PTO Meeting: Friday, May 30,
9:15-10:15am, Cafeteria**



**MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:**

atrumino@elev8baltimore.org

Phone: 443-836-6019



Upcoming Events

Fridays, May 9, 30, June 6, 13 and Monday, June 16: Early Release

Friday, May 16: NO SCHOOL for students; Professional Development Day for Staff

Friday, May 23 and Monday, May 26: SCHOOL CLOSED

Friday, May 30: PTO Meeting, 9:15-10:15am, Cafeteria

Thursday, June 5: Dance Recital & Martial Arts Performance, 5-7pm

Monday, June 9: 8th Grade Closing Ceremony

Friday, June 13: Final Purple & White Games & City Springs Purple Promotional Gala:
A Parent & Student Celebration of Family & Future

Monday, June 16: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (Early Release)

MORE ON PAGE 4 and on calendar at citysprings.school

Baltimore Curriculum Project



Jordynn Johnson, 8th grade, who dreams of becoming a nurse, will proudly represent City Springs at BCP's "*Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student?*" Gala on Thursday, May 15, at the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Tickets required.

Jordynn will compete in Round Two, with fellow 8th-grade Scholars from Pimlico and Hampstead Hill Academy to challenge celebrity guests in a live-quiz competition:

- Dr. Darrell Gray, II: President and CEO of Wellpoint
- Commissioner Robert Salley: Chair, BCPS Board
- Carole Boston Weatherford: Award-winning author and poet

More than 300 guests will enjoy the evening of fun, trivia, food/drinks, and celebration of student brilliance, hosted by WYPR's *Midday* host Tom Hall. For more information or to buy tickets visit baltimorebcp.org. Good luck, Jordynn, we are cheering you on!



City Springs Habit of the Month: Find your voice and help others find theirs

Attribute of the Month: Pride

Exemplar Educator of the Month: James Baldwin



James Baldwin (1924-1987) was an acclaimed writer and influential civil rights activist. His novel *Go Tell It on the Mountain* has been ranked by *Time* magazine in the top 100 English-language novels. *Notes of a Native Son* remains an influential work on human equality. He began writing at age 17 and spent his 20s and later years in France. Baldwin remains an important literary figure and human rights advocate: In 2018, his novel, *If Beale Street Could Talk*, was adapted into a film.