



# PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



## Principal's Message

### Stay Connected

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CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

### School Leadership

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Dear City Springs Families,

As we approach the final days of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust throughout this journey. It has been a year of growth and resilience—and none of it would have been possible without our families walking hand in hand with us.

Our students have worked hard and made great strides academically and socially. From the excitement of the first day of school to the pride of daily classroom learning and academic growth, athletics, performances, and a successful state testing session, every moment has contributed to a strong foundation for the next grade.

As we head into summer, I encourage you to keep learning alive at home. Read together, explore your community, and take time to reflect on the successes of this year while setting intentions for next year. I especially want to say to our rising 9th graders who are moving on to high schools, I celebrate your journey, wish you all the best in this new chapter of your lives, and look forward to you coming back and staying connected with your City Springs home.

I also want to express my gratitude to our teachers and staff, who pour their heart into every lesson, every interaction, and every student. Their commitment to excellence and to nurturing the whole child is what makes City Springs such a special place.

Please stay connected over the summer by checking our website and social media for updates, and don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. We look forward to welcoming everyone back for the 2025–2026 school year—rested, recharged, and ready for another amazing year at City Springs, where purple is not a color; it's an attitude!

Have a safe, joyful, and enriching summer!

Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta

# Pre-K Earns Official MSDE Accreditation!

Our Pre-K program is now accredited by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This is a proud moment for our school community. MSDE Pre-K Accreditation shows that our program offers high-quality early childhood education. We meet strict standards in: age-appropriate curriculum; child assessment and teaching; family and community partnerships; health and safety; and teacher qualifications.

This recognition highlights our commitment to families for excellent teaching and a focus on school readiness and success for our youngest students. It also positions City Springs as a leader in early learning.

Achieving this accreditation took significant effort. Congratulations to the entire City Springs Pre-K team, Ms. Andoh, Ms. Maraj, Ms. Hicks, Ms. Toulson, who completed a thorough process over months that included analysis of our program, training sessions, hosting MSDE assessors, and making ongoing improvements.



## Summer Enrichment Academy

Our new Summer Enrichment Academy is still accepting applications for the free program for rising 1st through 8th grade students. It runs from June 23 through July 24, Monday-Thursday.

REGISTER: Contact Ms. Stevenson ([d Stevenson@bcps.k12.md.us](mailto:d Stevenson@bcps.k12.md.us)) OR stop by the Main Office. Details:

- Math and reading enrichment with other activities
- Breakfast and lunch provided daily
- Open to students current K to 7th grade (rising 1<sup>st</sup> to 8th)
- Space is limited due to staffing capacity

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Next Steps

We look forward to celebrating our wonderful 8th Grade Scholars this month.

Keynote Speaker for the Closing Ceremony is Dante Roulhac, City Springs '20 and Paul Laurence Dunbar High School '24. He works at the Ronald McDonald House, has taken classes at Baltimore City Community College, and will attend Morgan State this fall.

This fall, our Scholars are attending:

- REACH! Partnership School: 12 attending
- Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School (Mervo): 6 attending
- Paul Dunbar H.S. for Health Profession: 6 attending
- Coppin Academy: 5 attending
- Baltimore City College: 4 attending
- Western H.S.I: 4 attending
- Carver Vocational-Technical High School: 3 attending
- National Academy Foundation: 3 attending, 2 waitlisted
- Baltimore Polytechnic Institute: 2 attending
- Patterson H.S.: 2 attending
- Digital Harbor H.S., Baltimore Design School, Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women and SEED: 1 each
- Private/Parochial Schools: Cristo Rey (1)
- Undecided: 2

You are forever Eagles! Go SOAR!

# ***Congrats, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade!***





## Class Spotlight: 8th Grade

By Mr. Oroke, Mr. Patterson, and Mr. Smith

During the final few weeks of 8th grade, our Scholars are engaged in a very unique learning experience: High School Readiness Unit. Mr. O reaches out to every high school our 8th grade Scholars are set to attend and collaborates with members of their leadership team to identify a book they would like their incoming Scholars to read. This book may be part of their summer assignments or will be explored in 9th grade.

Every 8th grader gets a copy of the selected book and an individualized assignment to work on in order to help them get "high school ready." The books vary from *Romeo and Juliet* to *Animal Farm* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This special unit is something unique to the City Springs experience and is a beneficial way to get Scholars motivated and excited for high school, while also engaging them in meaningful work at the end of the academic year.

## Field Trip Fun!

We are ending our year with amazing local and regional adventures! On May 15, the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade attended the Orioles vs. the Minnesota Twins, and Pre-K through 1st Grade explored the nature and history of Baltimore's 200-acre Patterson Park. Did you know that there have been over 220 species of birds spotted in the Park?

Thanks to the very generous donation of our community partner, St. Vincent de Paul Church, we took the 8th Grade Scholars to New York City also on May 22, many of them for the first time in their lives. They began the day in Times Square, visited the shops along Fifth Avenue, and explored Central Park, playing games at one of the playgrounds. Thank you, St. V's!





# Let's Finish City Springs' STRONG!

We are so proud of our Scholars who had perfect attendance for May! We will be celebrating this remarkable achievement before school is over. **PLEASE make sure that your child comes to school EVERY day in June ready to learn, including the last day of school, Tuesday, June 16 (early release).** We continue to teach important content until the last day of school. Celebration activities are also important; they help your child deepen their sense of belonging and peer connections.

Also, please continue to uphold our school's uniform and the City Schools' Dress Code requirements. With the exception of our 8th grade during the class's spirit week, ALL students must be in uniform through the last day of school. As a reminder: No ski masks, hoodies, and nonreligious headgear are allowed. Shoes must be closed-toe and no "heelies." Thank you for helping us with this.



## 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

Thanks for such a great month of MCAP testing! June continues to be an exciting month as we move to the **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, Monday, June 16 (Early Release)**. Be sure to check Class Dojo and [citysprings.school/events](https://citysprings.school/events), too.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Wednesday, June 4: City Springs Awards Celebration (see pg. 6)

Thursday, June 5: Dance Recital & Martial Arts Performance, 9-11am

Monday, June 9: 8th Grade Closing Ceremony, 9am

Friday, June 13: Final Purple & White Games

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

### 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 for 8th Grade; Scholars are encouraged to wear the following: school-appropriate clothing they would wear to a summer cookout, dress up as an uncle or auntie might dress at a cookout, etc.
- Friday June 6: Student Dress Like Teacher/Teacher Dress Like Student



# Preventing Summer Learning Loss

By Maura Colleen Farrall, BCP Lead Academic Coach

Summer break is a wonderful time for kids to relax, explore new interests, and recharge. Research shows that in July and August, many students experience a setback or “summer slide” in academic skills, especially in math and reading. Students can return to school having forgotten what they learned, spending precious months catching up instead of moving ahead.

Preventing this loss is key to ensuring your child starts the next grade confident and ready to learn. Here are simple, enjoyable, free (or low-cost) activities to keep your child’s brain engaged all summer long:

**Reading for Pleasure:** Encourage your child to read daily—just 15 minutes a day can make a big difference. Let them pick books they enjoy, whether it’s comics, fantasy, or nonfiction. Chatting about stories together will deepen their understanding and make reading more meaningful.

**Writing in a Journal:** Keeping a daily journal is a great way to build writing skills. Your child can write about their day no matter their age. Older scholars can write stories or write about their day. Young learners can draw pictures and write words. A special notebook they can decorate with fun pens or crayons can make this more exciting.

**Playing Math Games:** Free online games make practicing math facts and problem-solving fun and interactive. Older kids might enjoy Khan Academy with lessons tailored to their level. Let your child choose favorite sites or games to keep them motivated with a goal of two to three games.

**Make Learning Fun and Child-Led:** Children are more likely to stick with learning activities when they have a say in what they do. Visiting the public library is a fantastic way to offer variety. Kids can explore different books, participate in summer reading challenges, and even get advice from librarians.

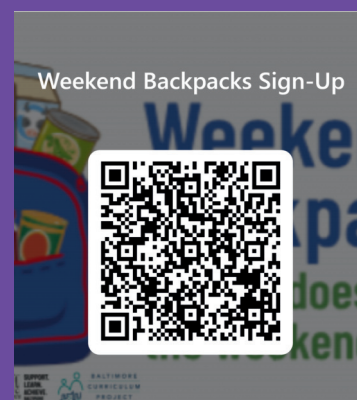
The most important thing parents can do is to support and encourage your child. Parents are the first and most valuable teacher your child has. Show interest in the books they read, ask about their journal entries, and join in on math games. Your involvement sends a powerful message that learning is valuable and enjoyable.

Even a few minutes a day can make a big impact!

## Weekend Backpacks

We have changed how we distribute Weekend Backpacks. They are now sent 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.

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



Need assistance this summer? Talk to Mr. Trumino. Our community partner, Elev8, has summer resources.

**MR. TRUMINO**  
**COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
**COORDINATOR:**  
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## June Events

**Wednesday, June 4:** City Springs Awards Celebrations, grade events as follows:

2nd to 4th Grade- 9-10am

5th to 6th Grade- 10-11am

7th to 8th Grade- 11am-12pm

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

**Monday, June 9:** 8th Grade Closing Ceremony

**Friday, June 13:** Final Purple & White Games

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

## Baltimore Curriculum Project



With the close of the school year, BCP extends its heartfelt congratulations to all students, families, and staff for a year filled with learning, growth, and accomplishments. Your hard work and dedication have made this year truly memorable.

As we wrap up, our focus also turns to planning for an even stronger start in the fall. This summer, several of our teachers, including 10 from City Springs, will attend the National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI) training in Eugene, Oregon, in July. Additionally, early career teachers (new to teaching or new to BCP) will participate in the New Teacher Institute (NTI) in early August. These professional development opportunities are vital in ensuring our educators are equipped with the latest strategies and skills to support student success.

We wish all our students, families, and teachers a safe, relaxing, and well-deserved summer break. Thank you for being an essential part of our school community. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another exciting school year!

### City Springs Habit of the Month: The Change in Ourselves as Leaders

#### Attribute of the Month: Reflection

#### Exemplar Event: Juneteenth



On June 19, 1865, 250,000+ enslaved people in Galveston, Texas received news of their emancipation. Following the Civil War, Black Americans celebrated Juneteenth with religious services, storytelling, singing, games, and the tradition of throwing garments worn during enslavement into a river to symbolize freedom from bondage. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, making it a federal holiday.