



VOL. 2 ISSUE 1 • SEPT. 2025

PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



Message From the Principal

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CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

School Leadership

Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

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Welcome Back! We've had a fantastic start to the school year! It has been wonderful to see our teachers and students back in classrooms full of energy and excitement.

Please continue to prioritize excellent attendance—being present each day makes a tremendous difference in learning and growth. Please send your children to school every day, on time. Another priority is how we treat one another. Please remind students to treat each other with kindness, empathy, and respect in all we do.

I am excited to share that construction on our new school building is officially underway! Demolition of the Lombard building across the street will start soon, marking the first big step toward a state-of-the-art future for City Springs.

Together, we are building strong habits, strong character, and a strong academic foundation for success. It is an honor to serve you and your children!

With gratitude,
Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

First Day of School!



Back-to-School Bash, August 16

We kicked off the new school year in style with our annual Back-to-School Bash. The Joshua Carroll Foundation (founded by City Springs' alumnus and pro boxer, Lorenzo "Truck" Simpson) donated the food, music by DJ Vertex, and free backpacks. Free haircuts by Ritchie's Barbershop and the Baltimore Orioles' and Ravens' mascots added to the fun.

Thanks to our lead agency, Elev8 Baltimore, and our generous partners: Asthma Champs; Baltimore City Community Action Partnership; Carroll School of Dance; Charm City Martial Arts; Civic Works Energy Program; Empowering Minds Resource Center; Head Start; Mayor's Office of Children & Family Services; and Weekend Backpacks. Thanks, too, CBRE, for donating laundry detergent for families.

Back-to-School Bash





Class Spotlight: Pre-Kindergarten

By Ms. Andoh and Ms. Maraj

What a wonderful first week of school we've had! The children have settled in beautifully and are already building friendships, exploring our classroom, and enjoying our daily routines. From story time and art to outdoor play and circle time, their excitement and curiosity have filled our classroom with joy.

A special highlight this week was how much the students enjoyed martial arts and dance class—they were full of energy, smiles, and great moves! We are so proud of how quickly our Pre-K learners are adjusting and can't wait to see all the growth and discoveries this year will bring. Thank you for your continued support in making the start of the school year such a positive experience. Go, Eagles!

Attendance Matters!

Chronic absenteeism means a student misses 10% or more of the school year for excused and unexcused absences—about 18 days out of 180. Even missing just two days a month can add up and place a student in this category. Chronic absenteeism includes ALL absences for illness, family emergencies, or other reasons. Missing too much school makes it harder for students to keep up academically, build important skills, and feel connected to their classmates and teachers. Thank you for sending your child to school every day. Being in school every day helps students stay on track, strengthen friendships, and feel part of our community.

We are sponsoring monthly attendance incentives for those students who have perfect attendance each month. Stay tuned for the incentive schedule!



Uniform INFO

Students must come to school every day in our uniform:

- City Springs school logo shirt (\$20, purple for all grades, 8th may wear purple or gray)
- City Springs crewneck or hoodie
- Khaki or black pants or skirt or jeans (with no holes)
- NO hats or hoodies worn up

Contact Mr. T. or an administrator if you need financial assistance with the uniform. Later this fall, we will provide a free CS crewneck or hoodie to every student.

NEW Cell Phone Policy

Students are not allowed to keep their cell phones/digital devices during the day. We collect them when students come in the door, and devices stay turned off and locked up in the front office. We return them at the end of the day. Read more about City Schools' policy at baltimorecityschools.org/cell-phone-policy.

REMINDER: Our front office number is (410) 396-9168.



Eagles' Nest After-School Program

Enrollment is open for our free Eagles' Nest after-school program with academics, sports activities, chess lessons with Board Room Chess, "Chef for a Day" with the BIT Center, STEM activities with SABES STEM program, and more! Held Monday through Thursday only, 3:30-6:30 PM. The program begins Monday, Oct. 6. Spots are limited!

POWERHOUSE is providing after-school programming on Fridays starting at our early dismissal time (12:45 PM). POWERHOUSE programming spots are limited. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

This year, our coaches are requiring all athletes to join the after-school program. Student-athletes should submit an enrollment form to their coach.

Questions? Trecie Toulson, ltoulson@baltimorecp.org
443-690-9087

Parent Information Session, Sept. 17, 4-5 PM

New Student House System

By Mr. Wade

Last year, our staff (photo below) entered the world of House Teams to promote teamwork and bonding. The four House Teams, named Unity, Believe, Courage, and Kindness for our Attributes, enjoyed monthly team-building activities and fun competitions among other staff teams like holiday tree decorating, cookie making, volleyball, chants, posters, puzzles, and much more.

This year, we are **expanding House Teams to 3rd-6th grade students. Students will receive their house on Sept. 12.** Each house will have eight teams based on our Attributes (example: Unity House will have two sister houses, named after two attributes). Staff House Teams will be umbrella organizations for two student (or sister) teams, which will compete against each other and team up to compete against other student houses in monthly competitions.





Welcome, New Teachers & Staff!

All our teachers and staff are excited for a great school year! They are pictured here in their new t-shirts that celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Baltimore Curriculum Project, the charter school operator for City Springs.

New teachers and Staff:

- Cornelia Monti, 4th Grade ELA
- Briana McReynolds, 5th Grade Math
- Damaris Moturi, 6th Grade Math
- Sharon Lee, 7th Grade Math
- Joy Ndubai, 8th Grade Math
- Courtney Davis, Special Educator
- Kayla Evans, IEP Chair
- Stanley Berry, Staff Associate

These educators have new roles that help us meet our Scholars' needs:

- Ms. Parker is teaching math to small groups of 3rd-5th graders
- Mr. O and Ms. Gagnier are Instructional Practice Leads, a new district position recognizing the leadership they are already doing
- Ms. Butler is now a Baltimore City paraeducator and long-term 2nd grade substitute; she transitions to City Springs teacher this December when she completes her degree
- Mr. Davon Smith transitioned from SmartStart employee to BCP tutor

NWEA Testing

NWEA MAP testing for Kindergarten through 8th grades began last week and continues through this week. These computer-based tests help us understand your student's learning level and track their progress throughout the year (beginning, middle, and end) to tailor learning to meet each child's needs. Questions? Please contact your child's teacher.

New School Building Info

Join us on Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 5:30 PM for Back-to-School Night and a presentation from the design team for the new City Springs building, which will be built on the old Lombard Middle School site across the street from our school. Demolition of the old building will begin next month.

Community School Coordinator Corner

Supporting our Students and Families

As a community school, we support our students and families beyond the classroom with wrap-around services from food, uniforms, and now, laundry detergent to keep the uniform washed and ready, to programming that helps all families thrive.

The point person for this support is Mr. Trumino, or “Mr. T,” who is City Springs’ Community School Coordinator. He works through and with our lead partner Elev8 Baltimore to assist our community. Read how he expertly manages school and community resources, leads the PTO and school attendance efforts, and provides vital support to enhance students’ academic success and social-emotional growth.

If you have a need, let the Front Office know or contact Mr. T directly (see right).

Parents, Join our Purple Pride!

Parent-school communication and collaboration are critical. We have two ways to get involved.

Parents and guardians are invited to **attend Friday Morning Assembly every Friday, 8:48-9:10 AM**. On the last Friday of the month, we will hold a My Name/My Name raffle, and parents in attendance may win prizes.

Join the **Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)**, which meets on the last Thursday of each month, 6:00-7:30 PM in the school cafeteria. Dinner included. First meeting: Sept. 25. All are welcome to join.

Parent-School Communication

City Springs has a lot going on!

- Daily and class communications through the ClassDojo app. EVERY FAMILY must be connected to this app. If you have questions, please see the Front Office or your child’s teacher.
- FOLLOW us on Instagram and Facebook for great photos and updates, too.
- Our School website is: www.citysprings.school. You can find lots there: program information, staff list, past issues of the newsletter, news, calendar, and more.

Weekend Backpacks

Through our partner, Weekend Backpacks Baltimore, we provide free food every Friday. Families must sign up for the program by scanning the QR code:



**MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:**

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

Want to learn more about Mr. T? Check out the Q&A with him at the BCP website: baltimorecp.org/news.

Can you guess his favorite NFL team? (And the photo here is NOT a hint.)





Go, Eagles!

Our diverse athletics program keeps our students active and supports academic achievement, student wellness, leadership/character development, and positive school culture. We offer basketball, football, soccer, volleyball, girls flag football and running, golf, and martial arts.

To participate, students must maintain good grades, show respect to teachers and peers, and be present and on time for school every day. For students not involved in athletics, we encourage participation in other enrichment activities to build similar habits of success.

FOR ALL STUDENT-ATHLETES: This year, our coaches are requiring all athletes to join the after-school program. Student-athletes should submit an enrollment form to their coach.

Boys' Middle School Football: All Home games at 3:45P pm:

9/3 - Home vs. Monument Academy

9/10- Home vs. Green Street Academy

9/24- Home vs. Milton Hershey

10/15- Away @ Monument Academy (4:00PM)

10/22- Home vs. Green Street Academy

10/29- Away @ Green Street Academy (4:30PM)

Middle/Elementary School Girls' Volleyball

Tryouts: Wednesday, Sept. 3 and Thursday, Sept. 4, 3:30-5:00 pm.

Practice and game schedule TBD.

Girls' Flag Football

Coached by Mr. Harleston and Mr. Momayez. Practice/ game schedule TBD.

Girls on the Run

Registration is open through Sept. 10. Scan QR code below. Practice Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 PM beginning Thursday, Sept. 25. The Greater Chesapeake Fall 5k is on Thursday, Nov. 6. Questions? Coach Bartholme, 410-790-2937



Scan QR Code to register
for Girls on the Run



The Boys' football team at practice, coached by Coach Pullen.



The Girls' Volleyball team, coached by Mr. Henshaw again this year. (Pictured: last year's team)



Last fall, Girls' Flag Football had its first-ever season.

Upcoming Events

Fun Fridays: Early Release Days (12:45 PM), Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3

NWEA Testing through Sept. 10

Hispanic Heritage Month: Sept. 15-Oct 15

PTO Meeting: Thursday, Sept. 25, 6:00-7:30 PM, dinner included

Assembly & My Name/My Name Raffle: Sept. 26, 8:48-9:10 AM

Restorative Schools Make Strong Schools Movie Premier: Sept. 29, 4:00-5:30 PM, Hampstead Hill Academy

Progress Reports: Sept. 29-Oct. 1

Back to School Night: Oct. 1, 5:30-7:30 PM

Baltimore Curriculum Project



The Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) is 30 years old! As the charter operator for City Springs and five other City schools, BCP has spent three decades advancing public education and helping students thrive academically and socially.

Join us for the **free BCP premiere of *Restorative Practices Make Strong Schools***, highlighting the impact of restorative practices at City Springs and Hampstead Hill. Evening includes a panel discussion moderated by WYPR's Tom Hall on how restorative practices are shaping our school community. September 29, 4:00-5:30pm, Hampstead Hill Academy (500 S. Linwood Ave,) Scan the QR code to RSVP.



Scan to register for
free film screening

BCP has a new program to support student attendance and reduce chronic absenteeism, led by BCP's new Lead Attendance Monitor, Jayla Pope, Fulbright Scholar and Morgan State graduate, who is working closely with school teams and families to track progress and help every student come to school ready to learn and succeed. Visit baltimorecp.org for more!



City Springs Habit of the Month: Be Proactive
Attribute of the Month: Respectful
Exemplar Educator: Cesar Chavez (1927-1993)

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican-American farm worker who became a national and international leader for workers' rights. He co-founded the United Farm Workers union to protect farm laborers and led peaceful protests, marches, and boycotts to help bring change to unfair labor practices and stand up for justice and equality.