



VOL. 2 ISSUE 2 • OCT. 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

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Happy October, City Springs families!

The school year is off to a strong start, and I'm proud of the way our students and staff are showing up "on the Purple Field"—working hard, supporting one another, and building great habits. This month brings two important opportunities to stay connected and informed.

I hope you can join us for classroom visits and a special presentation on the design of our new school building at our

Back-to-School Night – Thursday, October 9 at 5:30 PM. We're excited to share how the new space will elevate teaching, learning, and community life at City Springs. In addition, nothing accelerates a child's progress like a strong home-school partnership. Please make plans to come in for Parent-Teacher Conference Day on October 16 to meet with your child's teacher, review strengths and growth areas, receive assessment reports, and set goals for the second quarter. Your presence truly matters.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together—students, families, and staff—we'll keep doing the right thing for every child.

With gratitude,
Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

Welcome to Your House!



We rolled out our new House system to all 3rd through 6th grade students on Sept. 12 with a spirited House assignment ceremony on our Purple Field. Students “entered” their new House on a bounce-house slide to music and very loud cheers.

It was a great start to what will be a fun year of friendly monthly competitions between Houses, which are named for City Springs’ Attributes. The goal of our program is to promote teamwork, bonding, and community.



Remembering Mrs. Whelchel, City Springs’ Former Principal

Last month, former City Springs Principal, Mrs. Bernice Whelchel, passed away. She leaves a powerful and lasting legacy. She hired Dr. Richetta as a teacher and served as a mentor to her. Dr. Richetta became Principal in 2006 when Mrs. Whelchel retired.

Mrs. Whelchel created the partnership with Baltimore Curriculum Project, our school’s charter operator, to bring Direct Instruction to our school and, in doing so, saved City Springs from being closed. Her leadership of City Springs and success with Direct Instruction made national headlines.

“Much of who I am today is because of her,” Dr. Richetta said. “She pushed me to be a better teacher and showed me what it truly means to put children first. I was blessed to know her, to learn from her, and to carry a piece of her example with me every day.”

Thank you, Mrs. Whelchel, for your pioneering leadership of our school!





Class Spotlight: Kindergarten

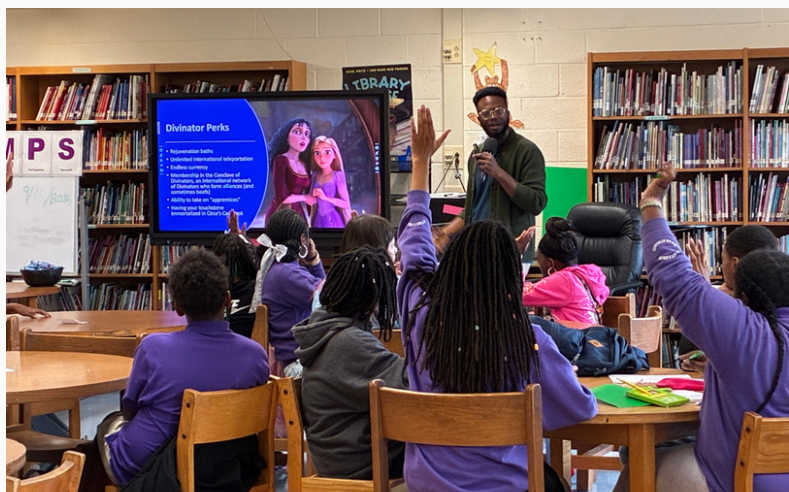
By Mrs. Bracey and Mrs. Veney

Our Scholars are settling into our daily routines and learning experiences. From making letter sounds and sounding out words to counting, identifying numbers, and solving problems, they are growing each day—all while practicing integrity and putting first things first.

Each week, we celebrate our young leaders with Fantastic Fridays. Recently, our Scholars sat “big” on the carpet as we celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with a festive piñata! (See page 5.) Did you know? Donkeys are often featured in Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, especially through piñatas. In Hispanic culture—particularly in Spain and Mexico—donkeys symbolize hard work, resilience, loyalty, and strength. What a meaningful way to blend fun and learning as we honor Hispanic Heritage Month together!

Author Visit with Craig Kofi Farmer

Craig Kofi Farmer, author of *A Method for Magic and Misfortune*, spoke to the 7th and 8th grades on Sept. 11. In partnership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Library and Baltimore City Public Schools, Macmillan Publishing identified City Springs for this unique author visit because our own Mr. O. wrote the discussion guide for the book. Mr. Farmer’s visit included a lively discussion of his book and magical powers, a Q&A, and a signed copy of this book for each Scholar. The book tells the story of Marcus who discovers a hidden magic in his community, which he learns to control with the help of a seemingly kind local man, only to discover that his mentor may not be who he appears to be. Thanks, Mr. O. and Mr. Farmer, for a magical day!



Halloween Info.

On Thursday, Oct. 31, we continue our long-held tradition with the Halloween Parade for Pre-K, K, 1st, and 2nd grades. Only these grades may participate in the parade .

Our young learners should bring costumes to school. Students should not wear their costumes to school. Teachers will help students change into their costumes just before the parade.

No other grades should come to school in costumes or bring costumes to school.

National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. How we treat each other, as adults and students, is so important, now more than ever. Kindness for all is a quality that we value every day at City Springs.

Here are some tips to encourage kindness and prevent bullying behaviors:

- When you see them doing an act of kindness, compliment them.
- Model kindness in deed and language
- Talk with your children about how to be kind to others
- Encourage them not to judge others
- Learn and respect other cultures and backgrounds
- Talk with your children about the City Springs' Habits and Attributes and how you live them in your life

Fly High Eagles Broadcasting Team

We've kicked off another year of our Fly High Eagles Broadcast team. Our 8th Grade Broadcasters--Jahn'nai, Kortni, Shamar, Evelyn, Monique, Joy, Hailey, Kayla, Kimora, and Amirrah--produce and report daily broadcasts to the entire school on Monday to Thursday from 8:45 AM to 8:55 AM. Each day, two broadcasters present City Springs' announcements live, with broadcasters rotating daily. Mr. Patterson and Mr. O. oversee the students leading, writing, and producing the broadcast.

"We are thrilled to be able to have our 8th Grade Scholars serve as the voice of our school community," says Mr. O., who helped to develop this program a few years ago. "By participating in the broadcast, these student leaders are not only growing their own confidence, but they are helping build a strong and supportive school community." Below, from left to right: Jahn'nai, Kortni, Amirrah, Joy, and Kayla.



Students & Our No Cell-Phone Policy

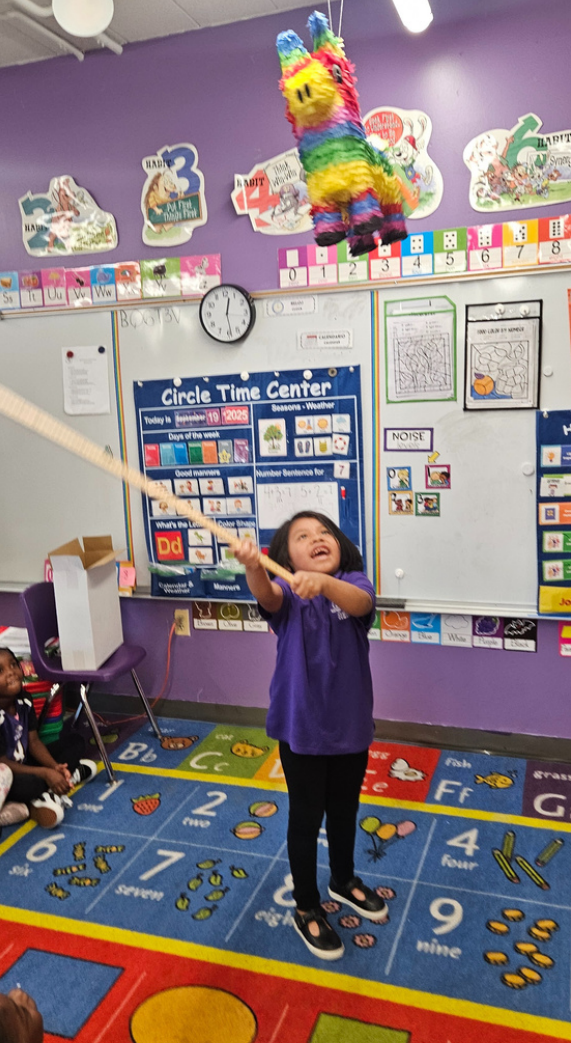
Each morning, we collect all student personal devices in the front lobby. This is the new City Schools' device policy.

Teachers love the new policy as it removes classroom distractions and allows students to focus on learning and making connections with one another.

Dr. Sonja Brookins Santelises, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, shares an update on the district's new cell phone policy: "Classrooms are calmer, students are more focused, and learning time is protected. With continued support from families and staff, this progress will only grow."

Scan the QR code to hear more.





Hispanic Heritage Month

We have been enjoying classroom celebrations and discussions about the culture and history of our Hispanic families during Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15. We are proud of our wonderfully diverse school community and the opportunities to learn from and celebrate one another. Check out how the Kindergarten is celebrating on page 3.

City Springs Shines in New Film

Our school was in the spotlight at the Sept. premiere of the new documentary, *Restorative Practices Make Strong Schools*. The film featured City Springs' own: Cashmir (7th grade), Mr. Patterson (Teacher), and Principal Richetta. Each shared how restorative practices strengthen relationships and create a positive school culture.

Cashmir and Mr. Patterson were on post-screening panel discussion, moderated by Tom Hall of WYPR, about their experiences and the impact restorative practices have on daily life at City Springs. It was a proud moment for our school community and a wonderful way to celebrate BCP's 30th Anniversary!

Scan to watch the video now!



*Hispanic
Heritage
Month*
Sept. 15-Oct. 15



Community School Coordinator Corner

Meet Mr. Obi

Welcome, Mr. Obianwu ("Mr. Obi") to City Springs! As an Elev8 Baltimore Community Liaison, Mr. Obi will be supporting Mr. T. with City Springs' Community School Strategy. He will focus on family literacy initiatives. Elev8 Baltimore is City Springs' lead community partner.

Keep an eye out on ClassDojo for more upcoming initiatives from Mr. Obi!



September PTO Meeting

We had a great first PTO Meeting in September. All upcoming PTO meetings will be from 5:30-6:30 PM. Please join us on Thursday, Oct. 30 for our PTO meeting.



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:



Does your family have a need? Talk with Mr. Trumino (Mr. T.) about the resources our community school offers.

**MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:**

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





Go, Eagles!

Our Eagles' teams are off to a great season with amazing dedication, teamwork, and incredible City Springs' school spirit by our Scholar-athletes, coaches, and families. Achieving a goal as a team, win or lose, is a skill that will serve our children through life. Looking forward to more Purple Pride this season!

FALL SCHEDULE

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

10/9/25- Home vs. Hart Middle School (4 PM)
10/15- Away @ Monument Academy (4 PM)
10/22- Home vs. Green Street Academy (4 PM)
10/29- Away @ Green Street Academy (4:30 PM)

Middle/Elementary School Girls' Volleyball

Practices Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30-5:30 PM

Girls' Flag Football

Oct 7th @ Swann Park, 4:30 PM vs. City Neighbors & 5 PM vs. Beechfield
Oct 14 @ Swann Park, 4:30 PM vs. Pikesville & 5 PM vs. SEED School
Oct 21 @ Swann Park, 4:30 PM vs. Woodlawn & 5 PM vs. Calvin Rodwell

Girls on the Run

Practice Mondays and Thursdays from 3:30-4:30 PM Greater Chesapeake Fall 5k is on Thursday, Nov. 6.



PHOTOS: Above: Boys' Middle School Football; bottom left: Girls' Flag Football; bottom right: Elementary School Football



Upcoming Events

- BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Oct 9., 5:30-7:30 PM
- Fun Fridays: Oct. 10, Oct. 24, Oct. 31
- Early Release Days: Oct. 10, 16, 24, and 31
- Early Release/Fall Parent-Teacher Conference Day: Oct. 16
- No School/PD Day: Oct. 17
- Field Trip: Oct 23: Kids in Kayaks for 8th Grade & Gavers Farm Trip for Prek-2nd
- PTO Meeting: Oct. 30, 5:30-6:30 PM
- Assembly, My Name, My Name Raffle: Oct 31., 9-9:30 AM
- Report Card Distribution: Nov. 10-12

Visit citysprings.school/events for a full calendar.

Baltimore Curriculum Project

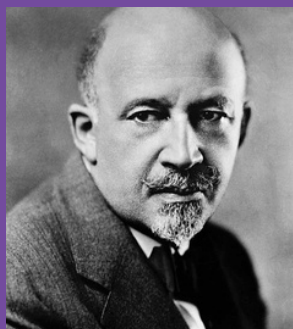


To help celebrate Baltimore Curriculum Project's (BCP) 30th anniversary, BCP is hosting its first-ever Volunteer Days of Service at each of BCP's six schools.

The City Springs Volunteer Day will be on April 26, 2026, but there are lots of ways to make a difference at the five other BCP schools. Visit baltimorecp.org/get-involved/volunteer for all the events.

Every volunteer receives a free BCP 30th anniversary t-shirt.

Questions? Contact Brianna Kaufman at bkaufman@baltimorecp.org



City Springs Habit of the Month: Begin with the End in Mind
Attribute of the Month: Focused
Exemplar Educator: W. E. B. duBois (1868-1963)

W.E.B. duBois was a sociologist, historian, and civil rights activist, who championed the rights of Black people globally. He co-founded the NAACP, wrote *The Souls of Black Folk* and other works, and was the first Black person to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. He believed in direct action, intellectual leadership, and an end to racial oppression worldwide.