



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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November invites us to pause, give thanks, and refocus on what matters most—our children's growth and wellbeing. I'm grateful for our students, staff, families, and partners who show up for City Springs every day.

As we enter the 2nd quarter, please help us keep our momentum strong by focusing on:

- **Attendance and Punctuality:** Every day counts. Arriving on time sets the tone for learning.
- **Reading at Home:** Just 20 minutes nightly makes a real difference.
- **Talking About Learning:** Ask your child what they're reading and learning in school.
- **Homework:** Ensure your child does homework each night.
- **In Uniform:** Cooler weather is here. Please send students with layered clothing, but we should still see their CS uniform shirt.

Thank you for your partnership and for believing in us. We are #CitySpringsTough—and together, we're building a joyful, rigorous school where every child is challenged with love.

With gratitude,
Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

Fall Field Trips

Field trips have begun! On Oct. 23, 8th graders kayaked in the Inner Harbor through Kids in Kayaks, and our Pre-K through 2nd grade students went to Gavers Farm for some autumn fun. On Nov. 7, 7th grade goes to the University of Maryland, College Park for a “Phield Day” with Greek Life students, and 5th grade goes to Pierce’s Park.



8th Grade Visits Hampstead Hill

Last month, our 8th Grade enjoyed a morning with the 8th Grade at Hampstead Hill Academy, also a Baltimore Curriculum Project charter school.

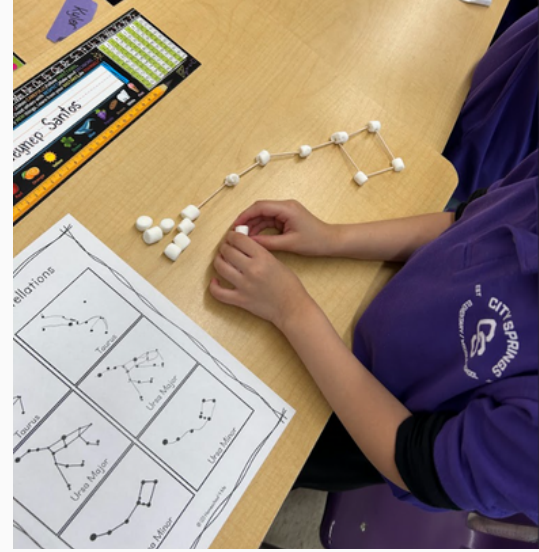
They watched the new short documentary, “Restorative Practices Make Strong Schools,” which features both schools and discussed the movie in small groups. They also enjoyed a Leaders Go Places circle activity.

Thanks, Hampstead Hill, for hosting us!

Watch the film at youtube.com/@baltimorecp. Check out Dr. Richetta and Mr. Patterson who are in the film.

DID YOU KNOW? City Springs was the first school in Maryland to use Restorative Practices?





Class Spotlight: 1st Grade

By Ms. Lefever, Ms. Finkel, and Ms. Shonubi

We've had an exciting start to our first grade year! Our students are diving into reading and writing every day, building strong literacy skills through fun stories and creative writing activities. They explore new concepts and practice their skills in different learning centers, where they work independently and collaboratively.

One of the highlights was our hands-on science and art activity creating constellations using marshmallows and toothpicks. This fun project helped the students learn about stars and space while sharpening their fine motor skills and imagination. We're thrilled to see so much enthusiasm and curiosity as our first graders grow and learn together!

Uniform Reminder!

As the weather gets chillier, here are some reminders about our uniform policy:

- If your child wears something over their uniform shirt, it must be something that can be open or unzipped so that the uniform shirt can be seen.
- Students may not wear hats or outdoor coats and jackets in school.

Thanks for helping us show our Purple Pride with having all Scholars in uniform every day.



Native American Heritage Month

Throughout November, we are celebrating the culture, history, and heritage of our nation's indigenous peoples. Our community is a diverse one, rich in backgrounds and cultures.

This month, ask your child about what they are learning in class and talk about native cultures at home.

Explore the many online resources for families at americanindian.si.edu. the website for the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian.

Restoration of Sculpture

David Hess, award-winning Baltimore sculptor, installed Baltimore Passage in Albemarle Square in 2006, near City Springs.



For over 20 years, the large copper sculpture (74' x 58' x 12') welcomed the community, until it was damaged by a drunk driver. BCP is raising funds to restore it.

City Springs students will participate in an educational program about the sculpture's history, design, and significance. Donations are tax-deductible through BCP.



High School Applications & Decisions

It's time for our 8th Grade Scholars and their families to prepare to decide where they will attend high school.

For the past several years, many City Springs alumni have met rigorous entrance requirements to attend top-tier Baltimore City high schools: Baltimore City College, Western High School, Baltimore Polytechnic, and Paul Laurence Dunbar. Last year, half of our 8th Grade was accepted to these schools. Ms. Watkins is working with each family to ensure that the next step after City Springs is a great one for your child!

High schools visiting City Springs to share information:

- National Academy Foundation, Nov. 3
- Coppin Academy, Nov. 5
- BLSYW, Nov. 6
- City College, Nov. 13

8th Grade Families: Attend the High School Choice Fair

Sat., Dec. 14, doors open at 10 AM, Free, Baltimore Convention Center.

Details: baltimorecityschools.org/choice

Important Dates:

- Dec. 1: Composite scores and choice applications available for families in the new Student Enrollment Management System (SEMS): www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/SEMS
- Dec. 13: Annual School Choice fair held at the Baltimore Convention Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Jan. 23: Choice applications are due in SEMS www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/SEMS
- Feb. 2: Charter applications are due. Charter schools have their own application process. Please reach out directly to schools of interest or visit our charter webpage for more information.

Questions? Contact Ms. Watkins at SLWatkins01@bcps.k12.md.us

Attendance Matters!

We're delighted to report that our October daily attendance rate is 1.1% higher than we were this time last year. Our Chronic Absenteeism percentage is 3% lower (positive trend) than last October.

On Nov. 13, we are sending home attendance report cards for students who are or are at risk of being Chronically Absent (CA), which means they have or soon will have 10 or more days absent this school year. Our Attendance Team, led by Mr. Trumino, is here to help you and your student make daily attendance a top priority necessary for academic and personal success.

We are making progress! **Remember: every day in school, in uniform and ready to learn and thrive!**

Halloween Fun!

Halloween is always a great time at City Springs. On Oct. 31, our Pre-K through 2nd graders shared their costumes with the school in our annual parade. Thank you to the Baltimore Relief Network for sponsoring Halloween activities for the Eagle's Nest After School Program.

Book Challenge

To help ring in the beginning of the afterschool program, 30-plus 3rd-8th grade students are deepening their writing and reading skills by participating in the Book Report of the Month Challenge. Students choose a mystery/spooky story genre book (to celebrate Halloween), write a book report from a critical thinking prompt, and review spelling, penmanship, and grammar with their classmates. The class team with the highest-graded book reports receives a pizza party.

Parent involvement is central to this initiative with parents strongly encouraged to contribute daily to their student's learning by asking questions about the book their child is reading and inspiring them to think deeper about themes in the book. Students with parents who are participatory in their child's learning are consistently more successful in school. We're working hard to build an atmosphere of strong parent engagement at City Springs!



Community School Coordinator Corner

Thanksgiving Baskets

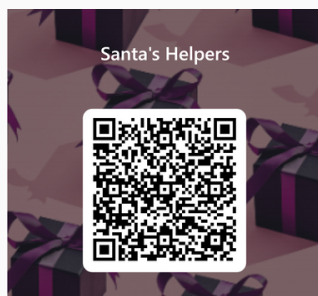
CBRE, our generous community partner, is again supporting the Thanksgiving basket program. This year, we will have free, complete Thanksgiving dinners (frozen turkey plus sides) to give to our families.

No sign up needed! Baskets will be distributed on Thursday, Nov. 20 with doors opening at 6 PM at the Caroline Street entrance. First-come, first-served, one basket per family. Plan to arrive earlier than 6 PM to secure a spot in line.

Santa's Helpers for Holiday Gifts

Each year, we partner with the nonprofit, Santa's Helpers, to provide support to families with Christmas gifts. Santa's elves will appear at your home on Christmas Eve morning to deliver gifts for your family.

Sign-up: Scan the QR code and complete the form. The contact person listed on the form **MUST** be present at the address on Christmas Eve morning to receive the delivery from Santa's elves.



Christmas Dinner Assistance

Thanks to our gracious volunteers and partnership with Saint Vincent de Paul of Baltimore, we will provide Christmas dinner packages to 50 families this year. Dinner packages will be distributed the last week of school before winter break (details coming soon). We cannot guarantee that everyone who completes the form will receive a package. Packages will be reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sign-up: Scan the QR code and complete the form.



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:



Winter Clothing

Need assistance with jackets, hats, gloves, and/or socks for winter? Please email Mr. Trumino. Include your students' name and size in the email.

Questions?

**MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:**

atrumino@elev8baltimore.org

Phone: 443-836-6019





Go, Eagles!

Congratulations to Boys' Football, Girls' Flag Football, and our elementary football team on completing a fun season learning teamwork and how to Play Like An Eagle! Our Girls on the Run squad is training for the Chesapeake 5K on Sun., Nov. 23, at UMBC, and Girls' Volleyball is practicing hard. On Oct. 29, our Girls Volleyball team visited Goucher College to watch the Gophers face-off against Cheyney University. The most exciting part was watching City Springs alumna, Kanay Parham, playing for Goucher!

We asked Coach Pullen to share reflections on the recent football season and what it means to show up on the Purple Field:

"Football has done more for me as a coach than I ever imagined. It's taught me patience, leadership, and the importance of connecting with people beyond the game. Through every practice and every season, I've learned that coaching isn't just about developing skilled players, it's about helping young men and women grow into disciplined, confident, and respectful individuals.

The game has shown me how powerful teamwork, trust, and perseverance can be, both on and off the field. Most of all, football has given me purpose, the chance to make a difference in lives every day, to teach lessons that last long after the final whistle." – Coach Pullen

Winter Sports Info

Middle school Boys' Basketball tryouts: Tuesday, Nov. 4 and Thursday, Nov. 6, 3:30-6 PM.

Middle school Girls' Basketball tryouts: Monday, Nov. 11, 3:30-6 PM

To be determined: Tryouts for elementary school basketball and soccer

PHOTOS: Left: Coach Pullen. Right: Girls Volleyball at Goucher with Kanay Parham (center, in white jersey)



Upcoming Events

- Report Card Distribution: Nov. 10-12
- Picture Day Nov. 11
- Fun Fridays- Nov. 7, 14, 21
- NOTE: City Springs IS IN session on Friday, Nov. 7.
- Field trip for 7th graders: Phield Day - Friday, Nov. 7, 9:45 AM-3:30 PM
- Field trip for 5th graders: Pierce Park - Friday, Nov. 7, 10 AM-12 PM
- American Education Week: Nov. 17-21
- Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets Distribution: Thursday, Nov. 20, 6 PM
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 26-28

Visit citysprings.school/events for a full calendar.

Baltimore Curriculum Project



October was National Principals Month, and we're proud to celebrate the incredible leadership within our City Springs family and across all Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) schools. Great principals help create schools where students feel supported, teachers feel inspired, and families feel connected.

As we enter November, the season of thankfulness, we want to take a moment to recognize and appreciate everyone who makes our school community so special—Principal Richetta, teachers, staff, students, and families. Your hard work, care, and commitment help make City Springs a place where every child can learn and grow.

From all of us at BCP, thank you for all that you do every day!

Subscribe to youtube.com/baltimorecp for the new 30th anniversary video series. You will see some Cty Springs' faces sharing their reflections on the impact BCP has had for the past three decades.



City Springs Habit of the Month: Put First Things First Attribute of the Month: Disciplined Exemplar Educator: Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)

Born Cassius Clay, Muhammed Ali began boxing at age 12. Known as "The Greatest," Ali is regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. In 1999, he was named Sportsman of the Century by *Sports Illustrated*. Outside of the ring, he was a global symbol of strength and courage and advocate for civil rights and peace.