



VOL. 2 ISSUE 5 • JAN. 2026

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

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



Happy New Year! I hope your holiday season was restful and filled with meaningful time with loved ones. It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. This midpoint is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our progress, celebrate our growth, and recommit ourselves to finishing the year strong.

We are excited about the future of City Springs. Please join us for our second community design presentation for our new school building. This

is an exciting opportunity to learn more about the vision for our future campus and to give design input that will support students for years to come.

Families also can provide input on our 2026-2027 school year budget. Your voice truly matters and helps guide decisions about programs, resources, staffing, and student supports. Please complete the brief survey through ClassDojo (coming soon) or through the QR code on page 5.

Thank you for your continued partnership and trust. Consistent daily attendance and high academic standards remain critical to our students' success. Every day of instruction matters. Together, we will continue to build a strong, supportive community where every child can thrive with Purple Pride! Wishing you a happy, healthy, and successful New Year.

Respectfully yours,
Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

Attendance Matters

We had 115 students come to school EVERY DAY for the three weeks between Thanksgiving break and winter break! This is amazing. Thank you to these scholars and their families for making sure they are in school every day ready to learn! **Our average monthly attendance rate so far this school year is 90%. Keep up the good work!**

On Jan. 7, students with perfect attendance for December enjoyed fun games on our Purple Field in the warmer winter weather.

REMEMBER: Please have your child to school every day in uniform and ready to learn and thrive. Consistent attendance is one of the most important gifts you give your child for a great future.



It's Winter Assessment Time!

Our NWEA winter assessment runs from Jan. 12 through Jan. 28. These tests are important to track your child's progress and to help our educators make the necessary real-time adjustments to your child's learning groups and focus. Ongoing assessment allows us to make needed changes to a student's program during the school year, not in preparation for next fall's school year.

Tips for a great NWEA Assessment:

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast on the day of the test.
- Be positive about the assessment with your child. You are the best role model for your child! Explain that the NWEA is a tool for teachers to better understand their learning needs, not just a grade.
- Prioritize learning at home with a quiet, comfortable (screen-free) space at home for studying or reading. Read aloud together. Play word games and involve your child in everyday math (cooking, paying bills, calculating tips, etc.).
- Encourage your child to solve problems independently.

8th Grade Dates

8th Grade scholars and families, please note these important dates in the High School Choice process. We are excited to see where our Eagles soar next fall!

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

Winter Weather Policy

Winter weather is here in full force! Parents, please remind your students that they may not wear their winter coats and hats inside the school.

Each classroom has hangers for their coats. City Springs sweatshirts were distributed in December to every student, which may be worn as part of our uniform.

If your family is in need of winter clothing or if you did not receive your City Springs sweatshirt, please contact Mr. Trumino.



Pajama Day!

We had a great time on Dec. 19 wearing our pajamas to school as part of our Spirit Week! This is a fun City Springs' holiday tradition. Everyone enjoyed the chance to show off their sleepwear during the holidays.

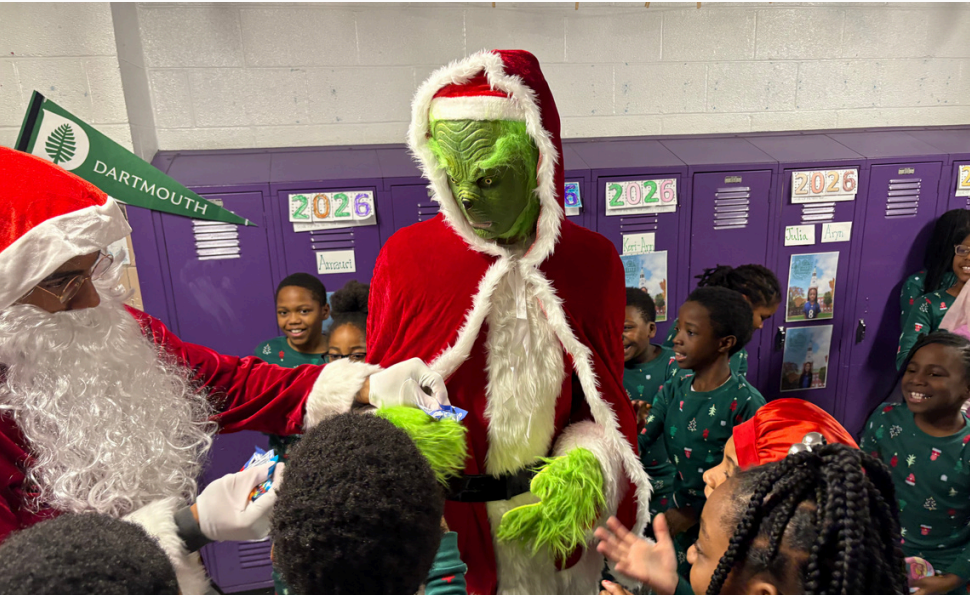
Ms. Lefever's 1st grade class received a special visit from Santa's elves on Pajama Day Eve. When they arrived on Friday morning, their stockings were full (1st photo below)!

It was a joy-filled Spirit Week. Thanks for sharing your Purple Pride!



Holiday Happenings

December was filled with holiday celebrations and learning. Classes learned about various holiday traditions celebrated by our diverse school community. We enjoyed a fun Spirit Week, capped by a Pancake Breakfast (with a few special visitors) and Pajama Day on Friday, Dec. 19. See page 7 for the surprise that day for our students and families.





Class Spotlight: 3rd Grade

By Ms. Hornbeck, Ms. Kinsey, and Ms. Bartholme

On the day before winter break, 3rd grade students participated in a holiday school store. In the weeks leading up to the event, students earned Reindeer Bucks by consistently modeling the school's attributes throughout the day.

During the shopping experience, students used their earned bucks to purchase small gifts for family members. The experience gave students a chance to practice responsibility, decision-making, and basic money skills, while also recognizing positive behavior in a meaningful way. The school store was a positive way for 3rd grade students to celebrate their efforts and head into winter break.



Attend our FREE Parent College

Every parent and guardian can use resources to help build a stronger family and children. We are very excited about our new, FREE Parent College program that we've modeled after Baltimore City Public Schools' Parent University for K-12 parents.

Sign up today by scanning the code below to get unlimited access to educational resources, social programs, and local opportunities through five courses (in-person, hybrid, and virtual). Courses include how to support at-home learning, financial literacy, and more; family support groups; a parent book club; and other parent and guardian seminars.

Interested? Scan the QR Code.

Questions? Email Mr. Obi at aobianwu@elev8baltimore.org.

City Springs Parent College
Demographic Survey & Sign Up
Form





MLK Day Ideas

Mon., Jan. 19 is Martin Luther King Day, and school is closed, but there are lots of ways to celebrate as a family:

Read a MLK book or watch a movie about diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Talk about racial inequality and social justice as a family. Research shows that talking about these topics with children has a positive impact on their development.

It's also National Day of Service. Volunteer in your community. It can be as simple as visiting an elderly neighbor to help them with a meal or chore.

Watch Dr. King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech on YouTube together. Ask your child about their dreams and share yours.

We look forward to robust learning adventures for Black History Month in February and continuing our celebration of City Springs' diverse school family.

Have Ideas for Our New School?

Join us on Wednesday, Jan. 28 at 5:30 PM to meet the architects for the new City Springs School and give design feedback. We are also excited to continue engaging our community in the future of City Springs.

At the meeting, you will learn more about the vision for our future campus and to provide important family feedback on a campus that will help ensure student – and community – success for years to come.

Your input matters! Our new school (on the site of the Lombard building, now under demolition) will be a Net Zero Energy building that produces as much energy as it consumes annually.

Our new school design plans include:

- Next-generation learning
- Collaboration between the school and the community
- Principles of Restorative Practices
- Emotional and social growth by creating safe and inclusive spaces
- A safe learning environment



2026-2027 Budget Session

On Thursday, Jan. 28, 4:30 PM, PRIOR to the New School Design meeting, we are hosting a 2026-2027 Budget Priority Engagement Session. Please join us for your opportunity to provide input for next school year's budget.

Please take a moment to scan the QR code below and complete the input form before the meeting.



Community School Coordinator Corner

*'Twas the Friday morning assembly before winter break
After all the students had cleared out
A surprise awaited behind the curtains on the stage
For the families who showed up and stuck around.*

After our final Friday morning assembly of 2025, families in attendance moved to the front of the auditorium awaiting the big holiday surprise reveal. Behind the curtains were over 500 toys/gifts for families to pick out and give to their children for the holiday. Thank you to the team at Campaign Zero for coordinating such a well-organized and impactful event for our City Springs students and families!



Book Giveaway

Throughout the fall, Ms. Dannals, Mr. Cronyn from Saint V, and our staff and students collected and organized 1,000+ donated books from the Maryland Book Bank. Each City Springs' student received two free books before winter break. Thank you, Saint V and Maryland Book Bank!



Weekend Backpacks

Weekend Backpacks Baltimore provides free food every Friday. Families must sign up for the program by scanning the QR code:



Need Winter Gear?

Contact Mr. Trumino if you need winter clothing for your child. Include your child's name and size in the email.

Questions?

MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:
atrumino@elev8baltimore.org
Phone: 443-836-6019





Go, Eagles!



Volleyball Season Wrap-Up

By Coach Henshaw

As we wrap up the season, I want to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible year it was for the City Springs Volleyball team. Our Lady Eagles finished the season with an impressive record of 13 wins and 2 losses, but what stood out most to me as their coach was how they competed. Every match, our players demonstrated respect, integrity, and true sportsmanship. No matter the opponent or the outcome, they represented City Springs with pride, class, and character.



I could not be prouder of each and every athlete for their hard work, commitment, and growth throughout the season. Thank you to our families and the entire City Springs community for your constant encouragement and support. This team set a standard that goes far beyond wins and losses — a standard that reflects who we are as a school community and one we should always be proud of.



Photos: The Lady Eagles team (top photo); The team (above, right) with City Springs' alumna Kanay Parham (white jersey), who plays on the Goucher College women's volleyball team, at an Oct. 2025, Goucher game; (bottom left, from left) Coach Henshaw, Kanay Parham, and Kate Lindholm, Goucher women's volleyball head coach.

Upcoming Events

- End of 2nd Quarter: Jan. 13
- Early Release Days: Jan. 16, 23, 30
- No School, Martin Luther King Day: Jan. 19
- 100th day of school: Jan. 28
- PTO Meeting – FY27 Budget Community Engagement Session I: Jan. 28, 4:30 PM
- New School Building Design Community Meeting: Jan. 28, 5:30-6:30 PM (following PTO Meeting)
- My Name, My Name Raffle: Jan. 30
- Report Cards Distributed: Jan. 28-30
- BCHD Vision & Hearing Screenings for Mandated Grades: Pre-K, K, 01, 08: Jan. 30 - Feb. 3

Visit citysprings.school/events for a full calendar.

Baltimore Curriculum Project



The new year is a great time to celebrate how far our students have come and look ahead with excitement. Let's make this a year full of learning and growth!

At BCP schools, learning happens best when students are present every day. Even on cold, rainy, or snowy days, showing up matters. Each day in the classroom strengthens reading, math, and problem-solving skills while keeping students on track. Staying healthy helps students attend school consistently. Families can support this by:

- Ensuring kids get enough sleep
- Eating balanced meals and staying hydrated
- Dressing for the weather
- Practicing good hygiene – hand washing is key!
- Keeping up with checkups and vaccinations

As we move into the second half of the school year, let's work together to keep students healthy, present, and ready to learn. Every day counts toward their success!



City Springs Habit of the Month: Think Win-Win Attribute of the Month: Respectful Exemplar Educator of the Month: Sojourner Truth

Born into slavery as Isabella Baumfree and after escaping to freedom, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth and became a powerful abolitionist and women's rights activist. Her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech at a women's rights convention demanded equal rights for Black women. Working with Frederick Douglass and others, she helped slaves escape, petitioned Congress, and worked for integration and land for freedmen after the Civil War.