

PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



Message From the Principal



I appreciate our families, students, and staff for the resilience and flexibility you continue to show. The snow and ice storm that kept us out of school for a full week required us to pivot quickly to virtual learning. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during that transition. Please note that any additional snow days this school year will be virtual learning days. **Due to the weather, our last day of school is now June 16.**

This month, our schoolwide focus is on the attribute of **empathy**, aligned to **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood**. At City Springs, we believe empathy is a leadership skill. As we teach students to seek understanding before responding, we are helping them become thoughtful leaders and caring community members.

I am proud of the growth that our students demonstrated on the winter administration of the NWEA assessment, which measures academic progress made so far this school year. This growth reflects our students' hard work and the dedication of our exceptional teachers. Families will receive NWEA Family Reports soon. For questions or to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, grade-level administrator, or me.

Even through disruptions, our teachers, students, and families continue to show perseverance, empathy, and a strong commitment to learning. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we move forward through the second semester of this school year together. Happy Valentine's Day!

With gratitude, Dr. Richetta

Stay Connected

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CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

School Leadership

Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

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Attendance Matters

In January, we had 153 students come to school every single day. Let's reach 200 in February!

To encourage daily attendance, Mr. Wade and the Attendance Team have created a House Points program, based on your child's daily attendance.

We are continuing to offer extra recess to those students with perfect attendance for the month prior. The Scholars love it, and we love giving extra perks to our Scholars who come to school every day, in uniform and ready to learn! Thanks, families, for all you are doing to get your children to school every day.

School Counselor Appreciation Week: Thank you, Ms. Watkins!



Last week was national School Counselor Appreciation Week. We want to sincerely thank our incredible school counselor, Ms. Watkins (third from right), for the care, compassion, and dedication she brings to our school.

Every single day, she shows up on the Purple Field with heart, purpose, and an unwavering commitment to doing right by kids and supporting teachers.

Her guidance of our 8th grade students and families through the High School Choice Process is exceptional, ensuring they feel informed and supported as they take this important next step. We are lucky to have her as our school counselor! Please tell Ms. Watkins thank you or how much she is appreciated.

Here's more about Ms. Watkins in her words:

Years in education/first counseling job: 18 years, 15 years as a Teacher, 3rd year as School Counselor and at City Springs for the past 3 years.

Favorite part of her job: I love that I get to work with students from all grade levels. Connecting with students during lunch bunch groups is another favorite of mine.

Best thing about City Springs' students: They are so talented! I enjoy seeing them excel in academics and extracurricular activities.

Favorite food: Seafood pasta

Fun Fact: I enjoy playing board and card games.

Virtual Learning Update

Because we have used our allotted three snow days, if inclement weather prohibits us from opening the school building, we will have VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS moving forward for the remainder of this school year. We have no more snow days left.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: The last day of school is Tuesday, June 16 for ALL students.

Every student is required to log on during a Virtual Learning Day. Here are some tips for making these days productive and successful for your student.

- Choose a quiet, well-lit area, preferably away from TVs or play areas.
- Set up/familiarize yourself with technology, log in, and check for assignments the night before.
- Keep essential supplies (pencils, headphones, paper, computer, tablet, etc.) within easy reach.
- Ensure the desk and chair are comfortable for the child.
- Minimize distractions by reducing background noise and limiting unrelated screen time during school hours.
- Incorporate short, physical "brain breaks" to help children stay focused.
- Encourage kids to use the chat, ask questions, and speak up during live sessions.
- Communicate with Teachers for support or to clarify assignments.
- Be Patient! Virtual learning requires a different set of skills for young learners.

100th Day of School

On Feb. 4, the ACC celebrated the 100th day of school with a parade through our halls. For our students, the 100th Day of School represents 100 days of learning, growth, perseverance, and progress for our students.

Reaching this milestone would not be possible without the dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and our families. It's also a powerful reminder of the importance of regular school attendance.



National History Day

As a result of the ice/snow and school closures the final week of January, National History Day (NHD) was rescheduled to Thursday, Feb. 5. Rather than host one large competition happening simultaneously, Scholars who have successfully completed their NHD project presented their project in their History class in front of their peers, teachers, and City Springs staff.



Black History Month

To celebrate Black History Month, we are exploring the amazing Black culture and contributions. For example, Ms. Hughes' students did book reports on Black scientists. During our morning broadcasts, students are reading work by Black poets. Enjoy books on Black culture as a family this month! [Here is a list](#) our teachers created.

SY 2026-2027 Virtual Budget Meeting

The Budget Priority Engagement Session will be held VIRTUALLY on Wednesday, Feb. 11 from 12:00-12:45 PM. This is an opportunity for parents/families to provide feedback on the budget for next school year.

Meeting link for the virtual meeting on Feb. 11: [FY27 Budget Priority Engagement Session](#)



Please share budget input using the QR code before the virtual meeting



Class Spotlight: 4th Grade

By Ms. Monti and Ms. Sturgeon

Ms. Monti's 4th grade readers have been busy growing their reading muscles. In Columbia, students are learning how characters change and develop across story sets. They've been diving into characters' actions, thoughts, and feelings to understand how experiences shape who characters become over time. It's been exciting to see students make thoughtful connections and share their ideas during class discussions.

In Brown, students have been strengthening their writing using the RACES strategy to prepare for MCAP testing later this year. They are practicing how to clearly restate questions, answer fully, cite evidence, and explain their thinking with confidence. Alongside all this hard academic work, students have also been focusing on building positive relationships – showing kindness, supporting one another, and creating a classroom where everyone feels valued. We're so proud of the effort and teamwork happening each day in Ms. Monti's class!



Parent College

Our new, FREE Parent College offers our parents and guardians the tools you need to create stronger family bonds and better support your child's learning.

When you enroll in our Parent College, created for City Springs' families, you get:

- Unlimited access to educational resources, social programs, and local opportunities
- In-person, hybrid, and virtual courses
- Information on how to support at-home learning
- Financial literacy resources
- Access to a family support group and/ or parent book club
- Much more!

Interested? Enroll today by scanning the QR code.



Terrapins in the Classroom

The National Aquarium's Terrapins in the Classroom program brings Maryland students face to face with the Maryland state reptile, the diamondback terrapin.

Students care for, observe, and learn from them throughout the year. Scholars will release their diamondback into their natural habitat on Poplar Island in the Chesapeake Bay.

Diamondback terrapin facts:

- Only North American turtle species that lives exclusively in brackish, not fresh, water
- Official state reptile of Maryland
- Lives for 25-40+ years in the wild



Mr. Rollins Elected to McDaniel College's Athletic Hall of Fame

Congratulations to Mr. Rollins on his induction into McDaniel College's Athletic Hall of Fame in December 2025! Mr. Rollins and his wife, Nyjah, founded Charm City MMA where they empower Baltimore youth through martial arts and life enrichment programs. They teach martial arts to our Scholars as part of our Resource program.

A member of the Class of 2014, Joseph "J-Roll" Rollins played Football and Track & Field for McDaniel's Green Terror.

From the McDaniel website: One of the most electric student-athletes in McDaniel College history, Rollins left an indelible mark on both the football field and the track. He was a three-time All-Centennial Conference First Team selection who was named the 2013 Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Year. An All-American, he is one of just six players in program history to earn three first team all-conference selections and one of only four to earn Player of the Year honors.

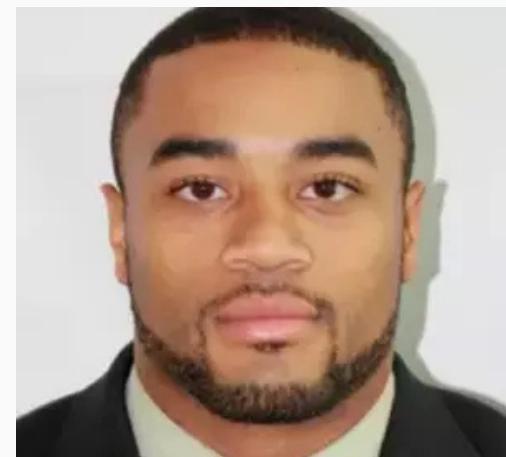
He holds the program record with six yards per carry, and ranks second in program history with 4,641 rushing yards and third in rushing touchdowns. In track and field, Rollins is top-ranked in the program's top performers list in the 60-meter dash and the 55-meter dash.

Off the field, Rollins majored in Graphic Design and served as a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and as a student visitor on the McDaniel College Board of Trustees. He volunteered with the Tournament of Champions and as a mentor with the Boys & Girls Club of Westminster.

We are very proud of you, Mr. Rollins!



Mr. Rollins at the 2025 induction ceremony



Mr. Rollins as a McDaniel College student

Community School Coordinator Corner

It's City Springs' Needs Assessment!

It is Needs Assessment season at City Springs! Part of being a community school means that every few years we collect data and feedback from our school community (parents, families, students, staff, and partners) to help us decide what the greatest needs of our school community are, so that we can create a plan to implement programs, services, and resources to address those needs. This process of collecting data and feedback from the school community is called a Needs Assessment, and the plan we create from the Needs Assessment is called the Implementation Plan.

While everyone's feedback is important, we **ESPECIALLY** need to hear from **YOU**: City Springs parents and families.

On Thursday, Feb. 26, we will be hosting a Community Conversation with parents/families to collect this feedback. If you are interested in participating, please follow the QR code or link below to sign-up. Mr. T will send a follow-up email with more information. Please reach out to Mr. T if you have any questions.

Community Conversation Sign-Up
Form: Parents and Families
Stakeholder Group



REGISTER for the Community Conversation by:

Scanning the QR code OR

Completing the [online form](#).

NOTE: Our PTO Meeting is also on Feb. 26. Please plan to be at this important community event.

Think Spring!

It may be freezing out right now, but Spring is around the corner (we promise). Please mark your calendars now for when school will be closed.

Early Release: Friday, March 27

Spring Break: March 28 through April 6

School Reopens: Tuesday, April 7

And if you need winter gear (coat, mittens, hats, etc.) for your children, please contact Mr. T. Remember that Scholars may not wear winter coats inside school.

Weekend Backpacks

Weekend Backpacks Baltimore provides free food every Friday. This is an important service by one of our ongoing community partners, Weekend Backpacks.

Families must sign up for the program by scanning the QR code:



Questions/Needs?

We are here to help. Contact Mr. T. about needs you may have for your children and family.

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





Go, Eagles!

Eagles Basketball is Underway!

We've kicked off our winter hoops season and are excited to watch our Eagles on the court! Come cheer on our teams this season and show our Purple Pride!

Basketball Schedule by Team

(H) = HOME / (A) = AWAY

Elementary Boys & Girls Team: Coach Pullen:

Monday, Feb. 9, 4:30 PM (H): ES Basketball vs. Windsor Hills
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 4:30 PM (H): ES Basketball vs. Dickey Hill
Monday, March. 9, 4:30 PM (A): ES Basketball vs. Wildwood
Monday, March 16, 4:30 PM (H): ES Basketball game vs. Waverly

Middle School Boys Team: Coach Brown:

Monday, Feb. 9, 5:30 (H): MS Boys Basketball vs. ACCE
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 5:30 PM (A): MS Boys Basketball vs. Dickey Hill
Monday, Feb. 23, 5:30 PM (A): MS Boys Basketball vs. Waverly
Monday, Feb. 9, 4:30 PM (H): MS Boys Basketball vs. Dickey Hill
Tuesday, March 17, 5:30 PM (A): MS Boys Basketball vs. Waverly
Monday, March 23, 4:30 PM (A): MS Boys Basketball vs. Hilton

Middle School Girls Team: Coach Kiona Hart

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 4:00 PM (A): MS Girls Basketball vs. Rosemont
Thursday, Feb. 12, 4:00 PM (A): MS Girls Basketball vs. City Neighbors
Tuesday, Feb. 24, 4:00 PM (H): MS Girls Basketball vs. Rosemont
Thursday, Feb. 26, 4:00 PM (H): MS Girls Basketball vs. Mother Seton

Thanks to all our Eagle players, coaches, and fans for showing such impressive respect and sportsmanship for each other and our opponents. The City Springs' Habits and Attributes are as important on the court as they are in our classrooms and hallways. Go, Eagles!



Upcoming Events

- 7th & 8th Grade Valentine's Day Dance: Feb. 13
- Fun Friday: Feb. 13, Valentine's Day activities
- School Closed: Feb. 16, President's Day
- School Closed: Feb. 17-20, Winter Intersession: This is NOT a BCPS-wide closure
- Progress Reports Distributed: Feb. 25-27
- PTO Meeting, Feb. 26: Parent/Family Community Conversation
- Fun Friday: Feb. 27, Black History Month activities

Visit citysprings.school/events for a full calendar.

Baltimore Curriculum Project



We're excited to invite City Springs' families and community partners to BCP's 30th Anniversary gala, "Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student?", Thursday, April 30, 2026, at the Maryland Science Center!

This year's event is bigger and more fun as we celebrate BCP's 30th anniversary. Enjoy dinner, desserts, drinks, plenty of laughter, and our signature game-show-style quiz, featuring our amazing 5th- and 8th-grade students taking on community leaders.

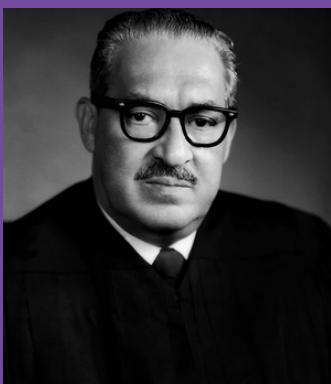


Purchase a ticket now!

Buy a ticket or gather friends and reserve a table for an unforgettable night out! You can also donate a ticket to a BCP teacher or staff member, so our dedicated educators can enjoy the evening too. Sponsorship opportunities are available and include event recognition, tickets, and the chance to make a meaningful impact on Baltimore's children.

Let's come together to celebrate our students, families, and the future—all while having a great time!

[LEARN MORE](#) or visit baltimorecp.org and select Events.



Habit of the Month: #5 Seek First to Understand Then to be Understood Attribute: Empathy Exemplar Leaders: Thurgood Marshall

*Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993) was a pioneering lawyer for the NAACP who argued 32 cases before the U.S Supreme Court, winning 29 of them, including the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) that desegregated schools. Appointed in 1967 as the first Black Supreme Court Justice, he served until 1991, consistently advocating for civil rights and equality. Born in Baltimore and the son of a railroad porter and kindergarten teacher, his parents taught him to stand up for his beliefs. He attended Lincoln University and graduated first in his class from Howard University Law School after being denied entry to the University of Maryland due to segregation.*