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PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

School Leadership

Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

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Message From the Principal

This month, we approach an important time in the school year for our students in grades 3–8. State testing begins this month and continue through May. This is an opportunity for students to demonstrate all that they have learned and the growth they have made throughout the year.

To be set up for success, **students need to be at school every day and on time.**

Consistent attendance allows them to fully engage in instruction and test preparation and build the confidence they need to perform at their best. Please ensure students get a good night's rest each evening so they are focused, energized, and ready to learn.

While testing is approaching, our work is far from over. We still have important skills and content to teach, and every day of instruction matters. We are ensuring that students are fully ready for success in the next grade level and on the state assessment for grades 3-8.

Please join us for Family Academic Night, April 22, for fun and meaningful literacy and math activities to support student learning (see page 6).

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership. Together, we will ensure our students finish the school year strong.

With Purple Pride, Dr. Richetta

We Love our Assistant Principals!

April 6-10 was National Assistant Principals Week. A huge shout-out to our Assistant Principals, Mr. Summers and Ms. Toulson!

They are wonderful leaders who help keep City Springs humming, each and every day. Please join us in thanking them for their expertise, compassion, and devotion to our community.

From Dr. Richetta on Mr. Summers and Ms. Toulson:

"I want to proudly recognize and celebrate our two outstanding assistant principals for the incredible leadership they bring to City Springs every single day. Their work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt every day.

Ms. Toulson and Mr. Summers are problem-solvers, culture-builders, and relentless advocates for our students and staff. Whether supporting instruction, responding to challenges, building relationships, or ensuring our school runs smoothly, they consistently lead with integrity, empathy, and a deep commitment to doing what is best for kids.

At City Springs, we talk about being on the purple field and doing the right thing. Period. Our assistant principals live these core values daily. They embody the “whatever it takes” mindset and help move our school forward with purpose and passion. Please join me in thanking and celebrating our two amazing assistant principals this week. We are incredibly fortunate to have their leadership, and our school is stronger because of them. Thank you, Ms. Toulson and Mr. Summers for all that you do!"

Fun Facts:

- Mr. Summers joined City Springs as Assistant Principal in 2016.
- Before joining City Springs, he taught high school history and government for City Schools.
- He comes from a family of educators.

- Ms. Toulson joined City Springs in 2018 as an academic coach, working with the faculty.
- She became Assistant Principal in 2019.
- She is a runner; this Sunday, she will run in the 2026 Ronald McDonald House Maryland Red Shoe Shuffle 5K Run & Walk to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House.

Thank You, St. V’s!

To celebrate National Volunteers Month, we want to give a shout-out to our wonderful volunteers from St. Vincent De Paul Church who help us in so many ways.

From classroom volunteers to organizing book drives and to many other ways of support, our friends at St. V.’s have a huge impact on our school. St. V.’s generosity makes a daily difference in our classrooms and community. THANK YOU!

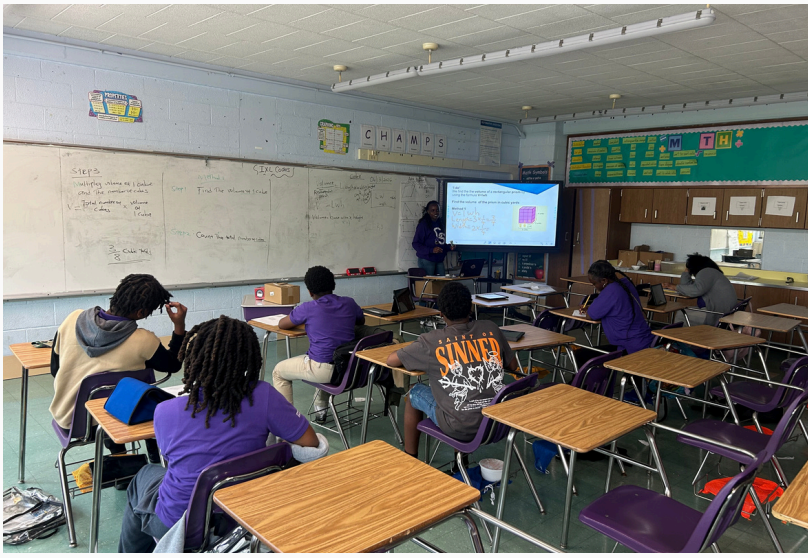
8th Grade at the Zoo

To review biology and evolution topics for the annual Maryland Integrative Science Assessment, 8th grade spent a day at the Maryland Zoo. We were the only school present and explored lions, giraffes, elephants, penguins, and many more animals. We also talked with zoo staff. Thanks, Mr. Momayez and Ms. Mauer, for helping organize the unique science review experience.

8th Grade and Baltimore Museum of Art

After a morning of testing last month, the 8th grade team surprised a small group of 8th graders with a special trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art to see Amy Sherald's sold-out exhibit, *American Sublime*.

Students were chosen based on their high level of interest around art. Students received new art supplies for the tour, and as the only school in the exhibit, go a free, private viewing. Students spent their time drawing, walking around the exhibit, meeting with museum staff, and engaging in silent reflection about this powerful, inspiring artwork.



Class Spotlight: 6th Grade

University of Minnesota by Ms. Moturi and Mr. Smith

The 6th graders are officially in the *final boss level of math*—surface area! They're wrapping their minds. At the same time, they're in revision mode for the upcoming state test, sharpening their skills, reviewing strategies, and showing that they've got this. Meanwhile, in science, things are getting *very real and very interesting*. Students are diving into their projects on metabolism, traits, and reproduction. In short, brains are working hard, and curiosity is high.

Purple Pride Every Day & on April 24

Students earn House Points for daily attendance. Our average daily attendance is 90% – way to go, City Springs! Each month, students with perfect attendance receive special incentives. For those students with perfect March attendance, they will enjoy a Game Truck this month. Please make sure your child is in school, in uniform, and ready to learn every day! Attendance really does matter.

We are in the final push to the end of this school year. Let's all show our Purple Pride and make daily attendance a priority!

PARENTS: We need you to volunteer as a judge for our monthly House Competition on **Friday, April 24, 8:45-10:15 am**. It will be a morning of fun, festivity, and family pride to celebrate BCP's 30th anniversary. Each judge receives a free BCP 30th anniversary t-shirt. You must register in advance to be a judge. Register here or visit baltimorecp.org/community-partners and click on the City Springs event.

Earth Day is April 22

Celebrate the country's 26th annual Earth Day by being kind to the planet. Think about what you can do as a family. Collect trash on your walk to school? Plan and cook a plant-based meal for dinner? Did you know that 1 million plastic bottles are purchased every minute worldwide? Talk with your kids about using reusable water bottles and have a family discussion about how you can reduce, reuse, and recycle. Every little bit helps our planet!

Stay tuned! We are applying for the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Green School Grant to help educate our students on how to better care for our planet.

MCAP Testing

This month, we are administering The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) for grades 3-8. This is a mandatory annual statewide testing program that measures student proficiency in mathematics and English Language Arts. There are many ways to help your student prepare for the MCAP.

MCAP Test-Taking Tips

Always read instructions carefully and completely to understand what to do.

Read the full passage before answering.

Eliminate wrong answers first. Skip difficult questions to complete later.

Never leave a question blank -- there is no penalty for guessing.

Get enough sleep for test days. Eat a healthy breakfast.

Help manage students' anxiety about testing -- it's OK to feel nervous.

Do your best! Students have worked hard to prepare and they are ready!

Be positive about the MCAP. Your attitude influences your student's attitude.

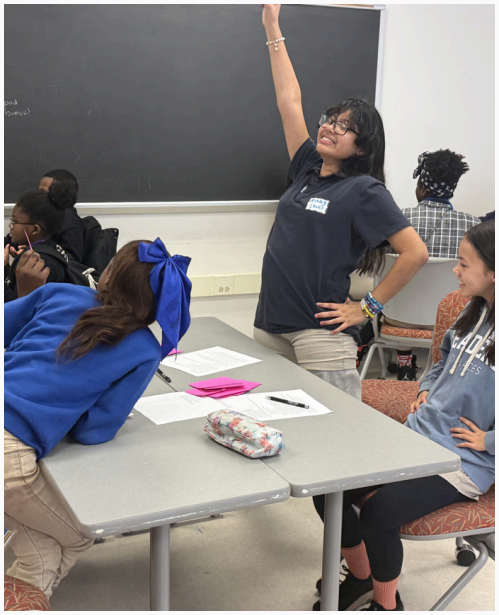
If you have **questions about testing,** please talk with your student's teacher.

Peer Mediation Summit Recap

On March 24, City Springs Peer Mediators joined nearly 100 students at the third annual Peer Mediator Summit, co-hosted by Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) and the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. They were inspired by speakers, including Dr. Richetta, and participated in five different workshops to improve their skills in community building, listening, and peaceful resolution. They also enjoyed exercises with Baltimore Improv Group.

Each BCP school has trained Peer Mediators. We are proud to be the first BCP school to found this important student leadership program. Our Peer Mediators play a critical role in our Restorative Practices program to create a positive culture of respect and belonging at City Springs.

Thanks, Mr. Wade, for helping to plan this summit and for leading BCP's network-wide Peer Mediation program.



Community School Corner

Family Academic Night

Join us for a great night of family fun and games and a spaghetti dinner! **You must register to attend** (QR code below in the flyer).

Your Voice Matters!

What's going well at City Springs and where we could do better? Your thoughts, experiences, and ideas will help us effectively support our students' success and plan for next school year. **Please take the annual family survey: QR code (left) or at bit.ly/CitySchoolsFamilySurvey.**

Questions? Email engagement@bcps.k12.md.us or visit www.baltimorecityschools.org

Parent College

Our new, FREE Parent College is creating stronger family bonds and giving parents/guardians great, free educational resources, parentting courses, and family support.

Join today by scanning the QR code:

City Springs Parent College Demographic Survey & Sign Up Form

PTO Meeting

Join us Thursday, April 30, 5:30-6:30 PM for our PTO Meeting. All parents and guardians are welcome!

Questions? Need Resources?

MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR:
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Phone: 443-836-6019

Go, Eagles!

Winter Season Recap

Congratulations to all our winter sport athletes, coaches, and supportive parents for great seasons for each team! Our Middle School Boys and Middle School Girls Basketball Teams will both be playing for the championship! Come cheer on our Eagles!

MS Girls Basketball Championship vs. Roland Park: Wed., April 15, 4:30 pm
MS Boys Basketball Championship vs. ACCE Academy. : Wed., April 15, 5:30 pm
LOCATION for both games: The Reach Partnership School, 2555 Harford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21218

The Elementary Basketball team (pictured, left) wrapped up the season last week with a 4-5 record. It was a great season of fun, learning, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Congratulations to Coach Pullen and the team!

Spring Training

There are no official spring sports teams. We are doing off-season training for our fall and winter sports. Soccer plays Pimlico on Thursday, April 16, 3:45 PM at home. Come out and support our team! Check out a recent practice (below).

Cheer Team

A big part of our school spirit is our Cheer Team! These young women bring joy, support, and contagious enthusiasm to our sporting events and exemplify the City Springs Attributes and Habits. Thanks, Cheer Team, for your Purple Pride!

Go, O's!

We can't forget the OTHER Birds in town, our Baltimore Orioles! Here's the Oriole Bird in Dr. Richetta's office at last August's Back to School Event.

Upcoming Events

Report Cards Distributed: April 13-15
Family Academic Night & Spaghetti Dinner: April 23
House Celebration with Parent Volunteers: April 24 (see page 4 for required registration)
Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student? Gala (ticketed event): April 30
PTO Meeting: April 30
No School/PD Day: May 1
Teacher Appreciation Week: May 4-8

Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student? (Or Alumnus?)

On April 30 at the Maryland Science Center, two of our own take the spotlight at the 30th anniversary *Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student?* Gala. This year, the event celebrates 30 years of impact by the Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP), our charter school operator.

City Springs Class of 2015 alumnus, Darren Meredith, an electrical engineer at Northrop Grumman, will be on the celebrity panel. He's the first-ever BCP alum to be on the celebrity panel (pictured left at his Morgan State University graduation).

8th grader Kortni W. is part of the 8th grade panel along with peers from Hampstead Hill and Pimlico. A talented student-athlete, Kortni dreams of being a professional volleyball player. Her love of history and dedication to athletics highlight both academic curiosity and determination, qualities that make City Springs students shine in and out of the classroom.

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.

We are so proud of Darren and Kortni! LEARN MORE or visit baltimorecp.org and select Events.

Purchase a ticket now!

City Springs Habit of the Month: Sharpen the Saw
Attribute of the Month: Resilient
Exemplar Educator of the Month: Ilhan Omar

Ilhan Omar (born 1982) is a U.S. Representative (D-Minnesota). As war refugees from Somalia, she and her family moved to Minnesota, and she became a U.S. citizen. When she was elected to Congress in 2018, she became the first Muslim woman to serve there. She champions fairness, justice, and equal rights for all and works on issues like education, healthcare, and helping families.