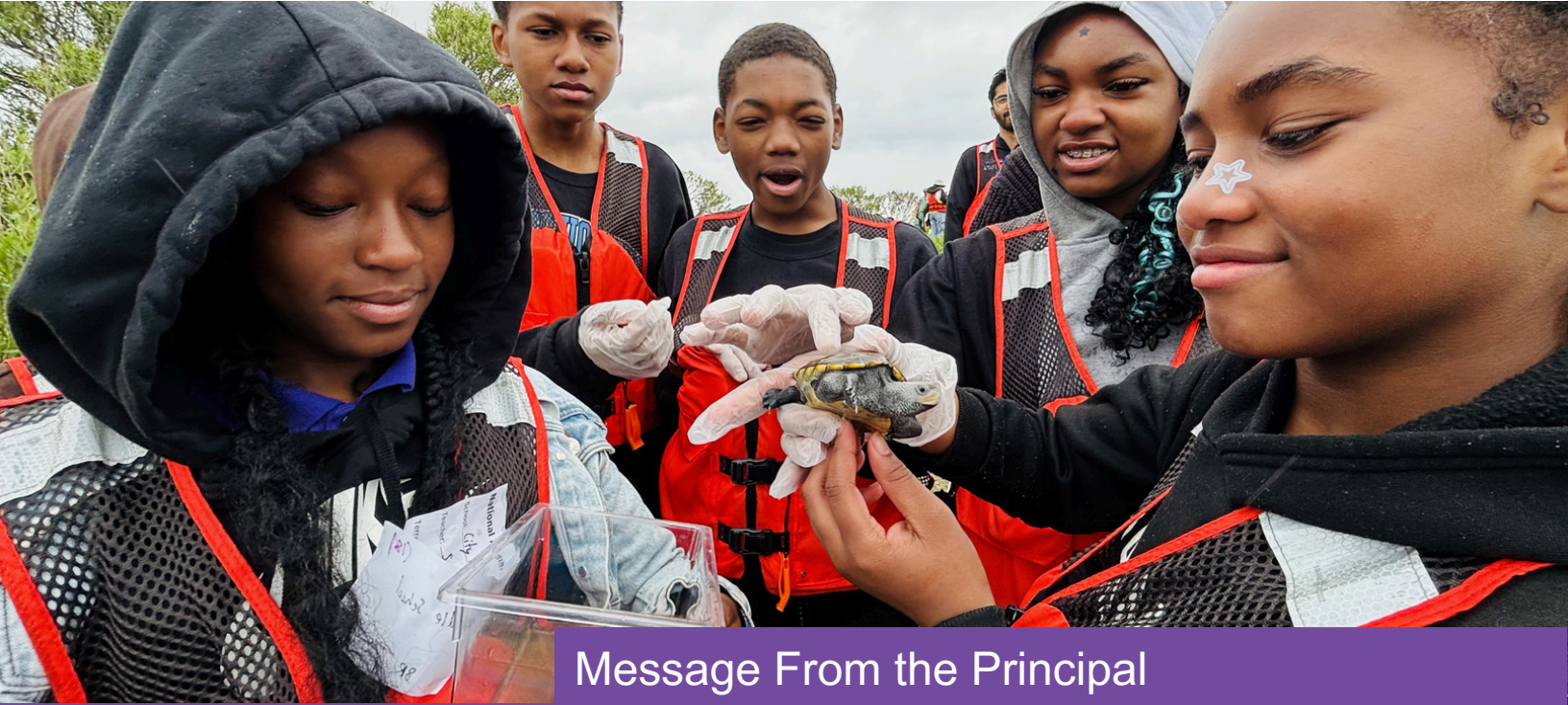




PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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
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This month, we remain focused on finishing the school year strong. It's an important time as we continue with state testing and NWEA MAP assessments. It's critical that students are present and on time each day.

We also proudly celebrate our exceptional teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. They go above and beyond each day to support, challenge, and inspire our students. Barack Obama said, "If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes."

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our school nurse, Nurse Monique, who plays a critical role from caring for our students' daily needs to responding in times of urgency.

Recently, I was in Washington, D.C. with the American Federation of School Administrators and other national school leaders to protect school funding that our current president has threatened to cut. I am always grateful for the opportunity to advocate for our children. I am pictured above with Karl E. Perry, President of the Public Schools Administrators and Supervisors Association, for which I serve as Vice President.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we will ensure that all students finish this school year strong.

With gratitude and Purple Pride, Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

Welcome, New City Schools CEO

On April 22, BCP and City Springs welcomed Dr. Jermaine Dawson, the new Baltimore City Schools CEO, for one of his first City Schools visits. He toured our classrooms, met with school leadership, and observed instruction. His presence reflected a strong commitment to understanding teaching and learning firsthand and connecting with those who bring our schools to life every day. He officially begins his role as CEO of City Schools on July 1, 2026, succeeding Dr. Sonja Santelises, who has led City Schools for the past decade.



Teacher Appreciation Week

This week, we celebrate the heart of City Springs: our incredible educators. Every day, they show up with dedication, patience, and purpose to guide our Scholars toward academic success, confidence, curiosity, and resilience. Our teachers and coaches help children feel seen, supported, and inspired to grow. They challenge and encourage our Scholars and celebrate each step forward. Thank you!

We are celebrating our teachers with special activities throughout the week. We invite families and students to say “thank you” with a kind note or simple word of appreciation. Thank you to our amazing teachers for all that you do!

Year-End Events

This is a busy time of year! **Please make sure these dates are in your calendar and watch Class Dojo for details about events.**

- May 29: 8th Grade Field Trip
- June 1-5: 8th Grade Spirit Week
- June 4: 3rd to 4th Grade Award Ceremony
- June 4: 5th to 6th Grade Award Ceremony
- June 4: 7th to 8th Grade Award Ceremony
- June 4: Athletics Award Ceremony
- June 5: 8th Grade Breakfast and Closing Rehearsal (students only)
- June 5: Pre-K-2nd Celebration of Learning
- June 5: Early Release
- June 8: 8th Grade Closing Celebration
- **June 16: Early Release and LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

IMPORTANT: PLEASE send your child to school every day, including the last day. Your child misses A LOT academically and socially when they are not here.

2026-2027 School Calendar for City Springs

Mark these dates on your calendar:

August 15: Back-To-School Bash

August 17: 1st Day of School

Dec. 21-Jan. 4, 2027: Winter Break

Feb. 16-19, 2027: Intersession Break

March 26-April 2: Spring Break

Thurs., June 10, 2027: Last Day of School, barring inclement weather



Class Spotlight: 7th Grade

By Ms. Traugher, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Lee, and Mr. Marinelli

Our 7th grade Scholars have been working hard across all subjects, building skills, exploring, and learning new ideas, and preparing for 8th grade. In Math, we have learned about ratios and proportions, percentages, operations with irrational and rational numbers, geometry, and even some probability and statistics. In social studies, students are exploring the First Global Age, focusing on the causes and consequences of interactions between civilizations across continents. In English, Scholars read *Miracle's Boys*, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*, *The Diary of Anne Frank: The Play*, and are currently reading *The Giver*. They worked hard to crush the MCAP and get their composite scores high to get into the high school they want. In science, Scholars saw the culmination of their efforts of raising and caring for their classroom's resident terrapin, Tortellini (see page 5 for details and photos). Above: 7th grade at the Career Exploration Day at the Johns Hopkins University Carey School of Business.

Academic Night Recap

We had a great time on April 23 playing reading, math, and STEM games on Academic Night. We topped off the family fun with a delicious spaghetti and meatball dinner.



SUMMER AT CITY SPRINGS

City Springs' Summer Enrichment Academy will be Mon.-Thurs., 9 AM - 2 PM, June 22 through July 23

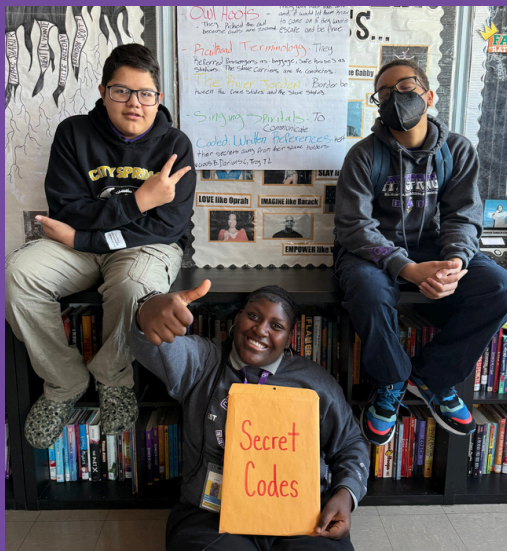
Spaces limited; Enrollment on a first-come-first-served basis

Registration due by Wednesday, May 6: Pick up the form in the Main Office.

Leadership Academy

Every Friday morning, our 7th and 8th graders spend 45 minutes helping our elementary school teachers and students. Through our new Leadership Academy, our older Scholars build leadership skills and earn community service hours as teacher assistants, Main Office assistants, and other roles to provide tutoring and enrichment opportunities for younger Scholars.

This added classroom support creates cross-grade connections that help 7th and 8th graders showcase developing leadership talents. “Leadership Academy has been a wonderful way to see the many strengths and talents our Scholars have,” Mr. Oroke says.



House Competition Field Day

Our energetic House Competition Field Day for students in grades 3–6 was a wonderful morning filled with teamwork, school spirit, and friendly competition. Students competed in House matchups (our Houses are Empathy, Respect, Cooperation, Discipline, Focus, Pride, Resilience, and Integrity), rotating through Tug of War, Bean Bag Toss, Easter Egg Spoon Relay, and Soccer Shot stations. Volunteers and school staff ran stations, tracked scores, and encouraged students.

The House Competition Field Day highlighted student collaboration, leadership, and sportsmanship, making it a memorable celebration of community and House pride at City Springs. Congrats to Cooperation House on winning the House Competition Field Day!





Terrapins

"April 28th was a bittersweet moment for our Scholars on the Student Green Team. They had to say goodbye to the school's resident turtle, Tortellini. City Springs partnered with the National Aquarium for the Terrapins in the Classroom program, a hands-on Maryland conservation program where students raise a juvenile Diamondback Terrapin from fall to spring.

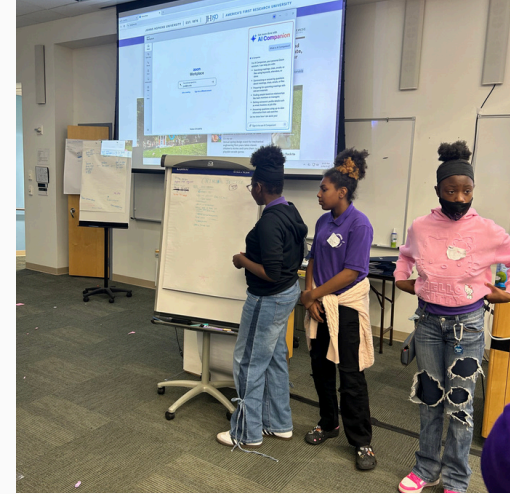
Students cared for Tortellini, measured his growth monthly, and studied the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem before releasing him back into his natural habitat. It was an amazing experience!"
- Ms. Hughes



Attendance Matters!

Help your students finish strong:

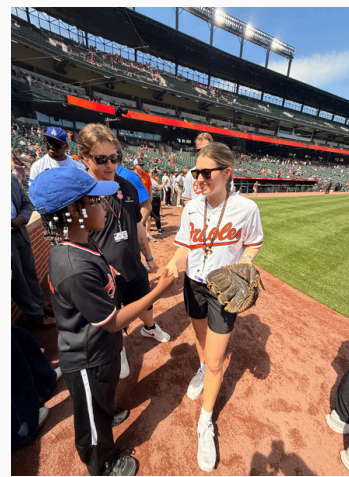
- Ensure your student attends school every day to stay on track academically, participate fully, and avoid missing key instruction to meet end-of-year goals.
- Don't let your child become chronically absent. If they have already missed 15+ days of school, they are approaching the chronic absenteeism benchmark of 18+ days. Continued absences can have a significant impact on learning and academic progress.



7th Grade at Career Exploration Day, JHU Carey School of Business

City Springs at Camden Yards

It was a great day at Camden Yards on April 15 for our field trip for grades 3-8 to cheer on the Orioles against the Arizona Diamondbacks. This is one of our annual incentive events for Scholars to earn points through Class Dojo. City Springs is part of the Orioles' Heavy Hitters program for ticket purchases. Our teachers selected Chase, 4th grade, as our Heavy Hitters Representative, and scholar-athlete Kazmia, 5th, to throw out the ceremonial first pitch. Thanks to Ms. McGuire for organizing the trip.



Community School Coordinator Corner

Thank You, Volunteers!

To celebrate National Public School Volunteer Appreciation Week, we hosted a luncheon for our amazing volunteers. Thank you for all you do for our school!



May: Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental health is just as important as your child's physical health. Students in Pre-K through 8th grade are still learning how to understand and express their emotions. Support your child by:

- Establishing consistent routines for homework, meals, and bedtime
- Encouraging open conversations about feelings. Instead of asking, "How was school today?" try asking what made them proud/smile/feel resilient about their day.
- Modeling healthy ways that you cope with stress. Children watch parents for guidance.
- Limiting screen time and spending quality time together make a big difference in everyone's mental health.
- Paying attention to changes in behavior, mood, or appetite.
- Reaching out to us if concerns arise. Together, we can create a safe, supportive environment where every child feels seen, heard, and ready to thrive.

PTO Meeting

Join us for our May PTO Meeting on May 28, 5:30-6:30 PM. Dinner will be served. Your voice matters!

Weekend Backpacks

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



Questions? Need Assistance?

Reach out to Mr. Trumino. He and our lead agency, Elev8, are here to help!

**MR. TRUMINO
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
COORDINATOR:**

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





Go, Eagles!

We've had an amazing year of athletic accomplishments! No matter the score, our Eagles displayed tenacity, grit, resilience, and devotion to each other and their coaches.

The Purpose and Power of City Springs Athletics

“At City Springs, athletics are about far more than wins and losses. They are part of our proud legacy of building character and leadership in our scholar-athletes. Through sports, our students learn to live out our Habits and Attributes every day.

I am deeply grateful for our dedicated coaches, who pour their time, passion, and mentorship into our students. Our coaches help shape not only strong athletes, but strong young people of character. I am also thankful for our parents and family members who came to support our athletes and cheer them on from the sidelines. Your presence meant a lot. The lessons learned by our athletes on the court and on the field help prepare them for success in school, in relationships, and in life.” – Dr. Richetta

May is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

Supporting your child’s physical health and activity builds more than strong bodies. Regular exercise and movement help children manage emotions, build relationships, and develop confidence.

Encouraging daily movement through play, sports, or family activities makes a lasting difference in your child’s overall well-being.

These are just a few of the benefits:

- Active kids often show improved concentration, memory, and classroom engagement.
- Physical activity gives children an outlet to process big feelings like frustration or excitement.
- Team play and group activities teach cooperation, communication, and empathy.
- Regular activity supports better sleep patterns, which are essential for emotional balance and learning.

Eagle Teams In 2025-2026:

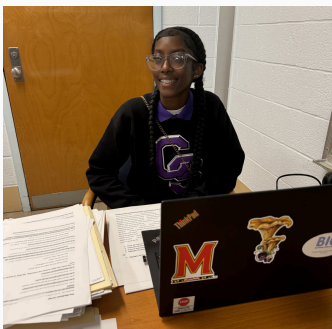
Football
Flag Football
Volleyball
Girls On The Run
Soccer
Basketball
Bocce
Golf

Upcoming Events

May 4-8: Teacher Appreciation Week
Early Release: Fridays, May 8, 15, 22, 29
May 11-13: Progress Reports Distributed
May 25: School Closed, Memorial Day
May 28: PTO Meeting
June 16: Last Day of School and Early Release

See page 2 for a full list of June end-of-year dates or visit citysprings.school/events.

Baltimore Curriculum Project



Baltimore Curriculum Project (BCP) students have many opportunities to grow academically and as confident young leaders. In the BCP April blog, we highlighted student voices from across our three middle schools, including Kayla Auston and her City Springs role as a Peer Mediator.

In the blog, Kayla talks about her experiences as a Peer Mediator and how they have strengthened her ability to help classmates and build a more positive school community. She's also a teacher assistant in the Leadership Academy program at City Springs.

We are proud of Kayla and all BCP students who are learning to use their voices to help others and make our schools and the world better places.

Visit baltimorecp.org/bcp-blog to read about Kayla's experiences about students at Hampstead Hill and Pimlico.

Watch Dr. Richetta and City Springs in the new BCP documentary about 30 Years of Impact, which debuted last week at the "Are You Smarter Than a BCP Student?" gala. (And our own Mr. Summers was the winner of the audience competition for getting every answer right!)

[Click here](#) to watch the video or visit baltimorecp.org/about-bcp/education-model.



Habit of the Month: Find Your Voice and Inspire Others to Find Theirs
Attribute of the Month: Pride
Exemplar Educator: James Baldwin

James Baldwin (1924-1987) was an American writer and civil rights activist who wrote powerful books and essays that described what it was like to grow up as a Black man in the U.S. His work helped people better understand injustice and inspired others to fight for civil rights.