



PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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Message From the Principal

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CLASSDOJO FOR DAILY NEWS

School Leadership

Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal

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Happy New Year, City Springs Families!

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year! I hope everyone had a safe, enjoyable, and restful summer. We are excited to begin another year of learning, growth, and academic achievement. Last year, our students made positive academic gains, and we are proud of their progress. This year, we build on those gains by

continuing to provide rigorous instruction and meaningful support for every student. We need our parents and families to be strong partners by ensuring students attend school every day, on time, assignments complete, and meet the very high expectations we know they can achieve.

I will always make myself available to you. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. You can make an appointment, or you can usually see me outside during drop off and pick up times.

Please join us for Back-to-School Night on Thursday, September 3. We look forward to seeing you and beginning another successful year together!

With Purple Pride,
Dr. Richetta

(Pictured, center, in both photos: top with Dr. Dawson and Laura Doherty, BCP President and CEO; bottom with Mr. Summers and Ms. Toulson.)

Welcome Back, Eagles!

Thank you, families, teachers, staff, students, and Dr. Dawson, CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, for making Opening Day so special! We are excited for the new school year and all that we will achieve together. Families, make sure you are signed up for Class Dojo and check it and your child's backpack every day.



Back-to-School Bash Fun!

Our Back-To-School Bash was a big success, thanks to our lead partner Elev8 Baltimore, our new Community School Coordinator Ms. Davis (see page 7 for more on Ms. Davis), and our other generous community partners. It was a wonderful day for the whole family celebrating our community, new school year, and Purple Pride.



Attendance Matters

How do you ensure your child's success in school? Make sure they are in school every day, ready to learn. Our goal is to stop chronic absenteeism.

What is chronic absenteeism?

- Missing 10% or more of the school year (about 18 out of 180 days) for excused and unexcused absences. Even missing just two days a month can add up and place a student in this category.

What counts as absences?

- ALL absences for illness, family emergencies, or other reasons.

Why is attending school every day important for my child?

- Being in school every day helps students stay on track, strengthen friendships, and feel part of our community. Missing school makes it harder for students to keep up academically, build important skills, and feel connected to their classmates and teachers.

We have **monthly attendance incentives for students who have perfect attendance.** If you have challenges that prevent your child from being at school every day, on time, in uniform, and ready to learn, let us know. We are here to help!



Dr. Richetta is the longest-running principal across the entire Baltimore City Public Schools district this year? We're so grateful for her years of expert leadership and constant love!



Welcome, New Educators!

We are excited to welcome the following teachers and staff to our community. Each new educator brings energy and expertise to our City Springs family. Welcome!

Ms. Butterworth, 2nd grade all subjects
 Ms. Chebrolu, 4th grade Math
 Ms. Davis, Community School Coordinator
 Ms. Dotson, Dance all grades
 Ms. Jackson, 1st grade all subjects
 Ms. Jenkins, 5th grade Math, Science, Social Studies
 Ms. Lee, Art all grades
 Ms. Lyons, Drama all grades
 Mr. Marq, ELD all grades
 Ms. Salvatore, ELD all grades
 Ms. Scott, 7th grade Science
 Mr. Smith, 8th grade Science
 Ms. Smith Art, all grades

Eagles' Nest After-School Program

Our Free Eagles' Nest after-school program is more than after-school child care, it's high-quality academic support and enhancement and enrichment and athletic experiences.

TO REGISTER: Contact Ms. Trecie, After-School Director: ltoulson@baltimorecp.org, 443-690-9087

About Eagles' Nest:

- Monday through Thursday 3:30-6:30 p.m., from Oct. 5 to May 20, 2027
- For K-5th grade students
- Free to families
- Includes supper, academic instruction, and enrichment activities
- All students in a sport are required to register for the after-school program. Parents must sign up their players



Hello, Dr. Dawson!

We were honored to have the new CEO of Baltimore City Public Schools, Dr. Jermaine Dawson, visit City Springs on our first day of school. Dr. Richetta and her team are looking forward to partnering with Dr. Dawson to ensure that every student in Baltimore has access to the excellent education they deserve.

Eagles Excel: Carli Crowner, 6th

Congratulations, Carli Crowner, on receiving the 2026 Carnine–McRoberts Student Improvement Award from the National Institute for Direct Instruction (NIFDI). The award, which includes a student scholarship and funding for City Springs, recognizes students across the U.S. who have demonstrated exceptional academic growth through Direct Instruction.

Carli joined City Springs in 1st grade and excelled in reading mastery. Since 4th grade, she has been a top performer in her class, demonstrating exceptional academic growth, perseverance, and a strong commitment to learning.

Carli is also a positive leader and encouraging friend, who models perseverance without seeking attention. She consistently demonstrates the City Springs habits and attributes that help students become successful learners and members of their community.

Visit baltimorecp.org/news to watch the video of the award presentation.



From left: Ms. Toulson, Dr. Richetta, Carli, and Ms. Abel

Summer Program Recap

Our five-week summer program, held Monday through Thursday, was a blast! Led by Ms. Stevenson and her fantastic team, students enjoyed a combination of academics and extracurricular activities, including reading, math, STEM, and creative expression. Students illustrated their own books and participated in interviews, while also enjoying sip and paint, a huge water slide adventure day, and rodeo bingo, where students dressed in their best rodeo outfits. We also saw an increase in attendance during the SY 2025–2026 summer program..



School Uniform Information

Students must come to school every day in our uniform, no exceptions.

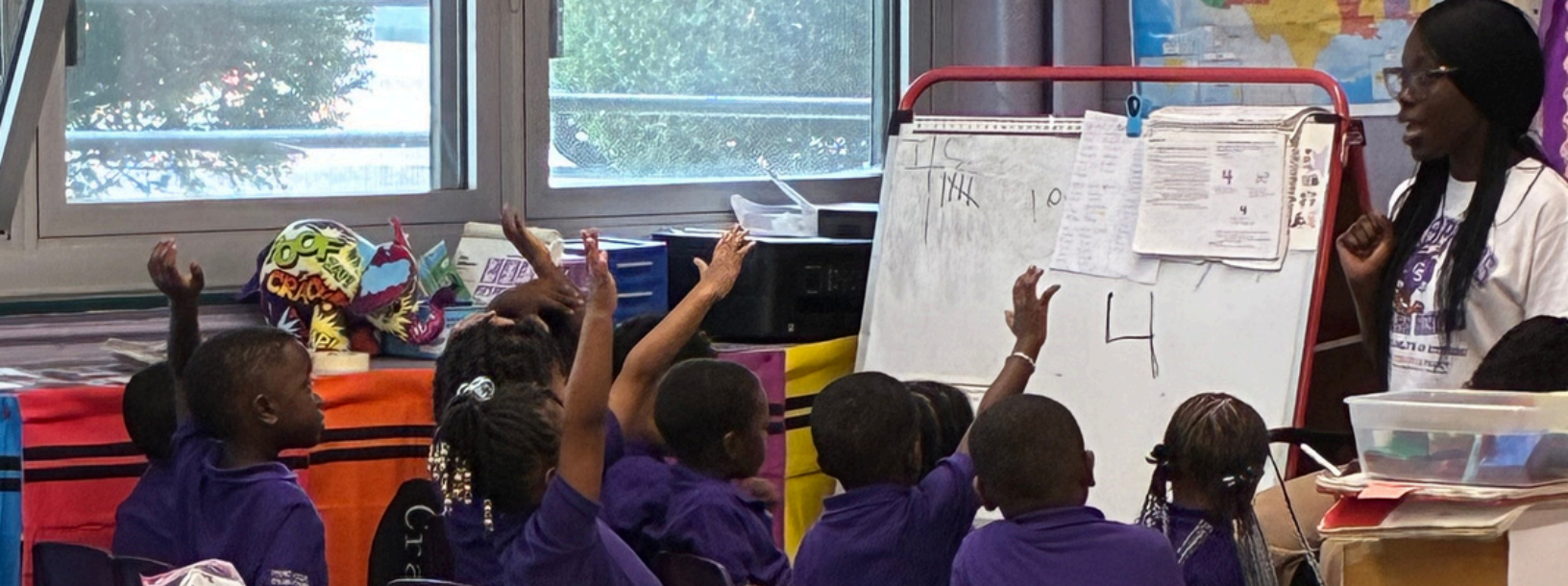
- City Springs school logo shirt (\$20, purple for all grades, 8th may wear purple or gray)
- City Springs crewneck or hoodie
- Khaki or black pants or skirt or jeans (with no holes)
- NO hats or hoodies worn up
- NO open-toed shoes allowed

Contact Ms. Davis or an administrator if you need financial assistance with the uniform. Later this fall, we will provide a free City Springs crewneck or hoodie to every student.

NWEA MAP Testing

NWEA MAP testing for Kindergarten through 8th grade began on August 31 and runs through Sept. 8. These computer-based tests help us understand your student's learning level and track their progress throughout the year (beginning, middle, and end) to tailor learning to meet each child's needs.

Thank you for your help with making our important testing a positive experience for your child and their continued success. If you have questions, please contact your child's teacher.



Classroom Spotlight: Pre-K is Off to a Creative Start!

By Ms. Andoh, Pre-K teacher, and Ms. Maraj, Paraeducator

Our Pre-Kindergarten students have been busy learning classroom routines, building independence, and becoming a strong classroom community. Students are learning how to follow our daily routines, including using their line-up procedure and transitioning safely and responsibly from one activity to the next.

Our young learners have also enjoyed engaging Art and Drama Resource experiences. In Art, they have been exploring and learning about shapes, using their creativity to create colorful and unique works of art. Their artwork proudly reflects their growing understanding of shapes while allowing their individual creativity to shine.

Through these experiences, our Pre-K students are learning that school is a place to learn, create, explore, and express themselves. We are so proud of the progress they have made so far!



House System, Year 3!

The House System at City Springs brings students together across grade levels to build a stronger sense of belonging, community, and school spirit. Students are placed into one of eight Houses, each connected to a City Springs attribute such as Integrity, Cooperation, Focus, Empathy, Respect, Pride, Discipline, or Resilience.

How It Works: Students earn House points by demonstrating positive behavior, academic achievement, leadership, and our City Springs Attributes. Points are awarded during everyday school activities, events, and friendly competitions and tracked on a House scoreboard.

Why It Matters: The House System gives every student a community to belong to and encourages teamwork, leadership, positive behavior, and pride in our school.

We will sort our new students and teachers/staff into their Houses on Friday, Sept. 18, following Morning Assembly.

Community School Coordinator Corner

Meet Tabitha Davis, New Community School Coordinator

Welcome, Ms. Davis! She is dedicated to helping students and families feel connected, supported, and empowered by ensuring they have access to needed resources, supporting school events, and strengthening connections throughout the school community. Passionate about building a welcoming environment where every student and family feels a strong sense of belonging, Ms. Davis says City Springs “is like a family reunion—full of connection, laughter, support, and fun!”

Fun Fact: She’s a cosmetology professor and a dance instructor, which allow her to express her creativity, inspire others, and help people discover their confidence and talents.

Important Immunization Reminder

All students must have up-to-date immunizations to attend school, as required by the Maryland Health Department. For the 2026–2027 school year:

- Students entering 7th grade need one dose of the Meningococcal (MCV4) vaccine and one dose of the Tdap vaccine, in addition to other required shots.
- Students entering Kindergarten need two doses of the Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, plus all other required immunizations.

If you have questions or need immunizations updated, please contact your child’s doctor, a Health Department clinic, or our school-based health center.

Parents, Join our Purple Pride!

Attend Friday Morning Assembly every Friday, 8:48-9:10 AM. On the last Friday of the month, we will hold a My Name/My Name raffle, and parents in attendance may win prizes.

City Springs uses Class Dojo to communicate with families. Every family must be connected to this app.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram for all the latest photos and news!

Weekend Backpacks

We are excited to resume the Weekend Backpacks program through sponsor, Weekend Backpacks Baltimore.

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



Need Assistance?

Reach out to Ms. Davis,
Community School Coordinator

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





Go, Eagles!

A strong athletics program is a cornerstone of our school. We offer teams in basketball, soccer, volleyball, girls flag football, golf, and martial arts, and host a Girls on the Run chapter.

Participating in athletics is vital to student development and growth. Our athletics program:

- Keeps our students active and builds healthy habits and student wellness
- Supports academic achievement
- Develops leadership, character, and a positive school culture
- Teaches discipline, goal-setting, teamwork, and perseverance

To participate, students must maintain good grades, show respect to teachers and peers, and be present and on time for school every day.

Fall Sports

Watch Class Dojo for sports information and schedules. All athletes are required to sign up for the Eagles' Nest After-School program. Parents must sign up student-athletes for Eagles' Nest. See page 3 for registration details.

Have a great season, Eagles!

Cheer on the Eagles!

On our Purple Field or on the courts, our Eagles need your support! Watch Class Dojo for game time information this fall for our teams. Sports schedules will also be listed at citysprings.school/events.



Upcoming Events

August. 25-Sept. 1: Vision for Baltimore Screening
NWEA MAP Testing: Aug. 31-Sept. 2
Sept. 3: Back to School Night, 5:30-7:00 PM
Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25: Fun Fridays
Sept. 7: School Closed, Labor Day
Sept. 15-Oct. 15: Hispanic Heritage Month
Sept. 21: School Closed
Progress Reports Distributed: Sept. 24
Sept. 25: Assembly My Name/My Name Raffle

Be sure to visit our website for our schedule: citysprings.school/events

Baltimore Curriculum Project



Celebrating 5 Years of Academic Growth Across BCP Schools

BCP students are making meaningful progress! Over the past five years, students across our six schools have shown growth on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP). City Springs has made significant academic gains since 2022:

- In grades 3–5, students increased MCAP proficiency by **16 percentage points in English Language Arts (ELA)** and **1.7 percentage points in math**.
- In middle school grades 6–8, students showed a **7.6 percentage-point increase in ELA**, while math performance remained steady.

These gains highlight the impact of strong instruction, targeted support, and the commitment of City Springs educators to helping every student grow. We are proud of the progress our students continue to make and remain focused on ensuring all BCP students have the tools they need to succeed.



City Springs Habit of the Month: Be Proactive
Attribute of the Month: Integrity
Exemplar Leader of the Month: Sonia Sotomayor

*Sonia Sotomayor (1954-) made history in 2009 by becoming the first Latina and the third woman to serve as a Supreme Court Justice. Born in New York City to a Puerto Rican family, she graduated from Princeton University and Yale Law School. She spent decades as a lawyer and a dedicated judge before joining the Supreme Court. In 2013, she published a book about her life called *My Beloved World*.*