VOL. 3 ISSUE 3 • NOV. 2026

PURPLELICIOUS NEWS

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



Message From the Principal



Dear City Springs' Families,

As we enter the season of gratitude, I want to say how thankful I am for the honor of serving you and your children. Every day, I see the kindness, passion, and hard work that make our school such a special place, and I don't take for granted the trust you place in us.

I truly enjoyed our first PTO meeting of the year. Our newly elected PTO officers bring energy, fresh ideas, and a genuine commitment to our students, and I am excited about what we will accomplish together. From family events to supporting our school, I believe this year's PTO will make a lasting difference in our school community. (See our new officers on page 6).

I encourage every parent, grandparent, and guardian to join us at our monthly PTO meetings. Your voice, ideas, and involvement matter, and there is a place for everyone. Our next PTO meeting is Nov. 19, 9-10:15 AM.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Happy Thanksgiving.

With gratitude and purple pride,
Dr. Richetta

Stay Connected

INSTAGRAM: @CITYSPRINGSSCHOOL
FACEBOOK: CITY SPRINGS ELEMENTARY/MIDDLESCHOOL

WWW.CITYSPRINGS.SCHOOL

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

High School Applications

It's time for our 8th Grade Scholars and their families to prepare to decide where they will attend high school. Many City Springs 8th grade students consistently meet rigorous entrance requirements to attend top-tier Baltimore City high schools: Baltimore City College, Western High School, Baltimore Polytechnic, and Paul Laurence Dunbar. Last year, half of our 8th Grade was accepted to these schools.

Ms. Watkins is working with each family to ensure that the next step after City Springs is a great one for your child.

Be sure to attend the free High School Choice Fair on Sunday, Dec. 13, 10 AM - 3 PM, at the Baltimore Convention Center.

Important Dates:

- Dec. 1: Composite scores and choice applications available for families in the new Student Enrollment Management System (SEMS): www.baltimorecityschools.org/page/SEMS
- Dec. 13: Annual School Choice fair held at the Baltimore Convention Center from 10 AM to 3 PM
- 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.

Fall Field Trips

We're going to exciting places in Maryland. Free trips to the National Aquarium for every class have begun through our new partnership with the Aquarium (pictured, below right is 7th grade). The Pre-K, K, 1st, and 2nd grades enjoyed a trip to the Maryland Zoo (below, left).

Parents: It is very important that we have a signed field trip permission form before every field trip. If you have questions, please speak to your child's teacher.





Attendance Matters

Attendance has been improving on Fridays. Keep up the good work!

We presented 180 awards for perfect attendance in September.

Congratulations to the students who received these awards. We will present the October awards shortly. Who will get one for November?

Our Atten-dance surprises in the classrooms, where we ask "Who's been coming to school every day?", include fun giveaways and peer recognition.

Make every day count and come to school, on time, in uniform, and fired up to learn!

MSDE Rating and City Springs

Great news! The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) released its 2026 Maryland School Report Card for all public schools last week. City Springs earned a 3-Star Rating, advancing from 2 Stars in the previous year.

We earned 47.7% of possible points, a 3.5% increase, compared with 44.2% in 2025. We scored 0.7 percentage points above the average of 47% for all City Schools.

This is an accomplishment that everyone in our community can feel proud of. It feels good when our hard work is recognized, even though we don't need recognition to know that we are doing amazing work here.



Halloween With a GREAT Treat!

This year, our annual Halloween Parade for Pre-K through 2nd grades had a wonderful treat: Mayor Brandon Scott led the parade! The Mayor and his staff, dressed in costume, joined our youngest Scholars for a joyous parade. Thank you, Mayor Scott! See page 5 for more photos.







BCPD Helicopter Visits City Springs

On Nov. 2, we had an exciting visit by Baltimore City Police Department helicopter police: Tactical Flight Officer Smith; Tactical Flight Officer Muir; and Flight Officer Liebermann. Tactical Flight Officer Smith used to work for the City Schools Police Department and was assigned to City Springs (pictured on page 1 with Dr. Richetta). The helicopter landed on the City Springs Park field up the street. Scholars had a great time sitting in the helicopter and meeting the officers.





Eagles Excel: Paraeducator & City Springs Alumnus, Mr. Smith

The familiar face in the 3rd Grade classroom is very familiar with our school. Mr. Davon Smith, 3rd grade paraeducator, was a City Springs student and one of his 8th grade class' top students.

Read the BCP news story about him and what he loves about "returning home" to help educate the next generation of Eagles. Visit baltimorecp.org/news for the full story.



Mr. Smith is enrolled at Baltimore City Community College to get a teaching degree.



Mr. Smith in 8th Grade at City Springs

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day

To celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day on Oct. 12, Pre-K, K, 1st, and 2nd grades enjoyed an activity to learn more about the history and culture of our country's indigenous people.





Judge O'Malley Kicks off E.R.I.N. Talks

City Springs' partnership with the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law includes the annual E.R.I.N. (Empathy, Respect, Integrity. No More Sexual Assault) Talks program for middle-school-aged Scholars. The program is named after the late Erin Levitas, a sexual assault survivor and inspiration for the Erin Levitas Foundation. Visit erinlevitas.org.

Each year, we select a middle school grade to receive a series of ERIN Talk lessons to explore and understand healthy relationships. Lessons are typically led by law students under the guidance of Nancy Schertzing, director, Restorative Approaches in Education, Center for Dispute Resolution at the Carey School, and NEW THIS YEAR, Ms. Watkins, our guidance counselor, has been trained to implement the program.

On Oct. 8, Judge Katie O'Malley visited City Springs to see the kick-off ERIN Talks session. She is CEO of the Women's Law Center of Maryland, former Baltimore City District Court Judge, and First Lady of Maryland while her husband served as Governor from 2007 to 2015. Thanks for visiting, Judge O'Malley, and thanks to the Carey School of Business and Ms. Watkins for bringing this important program to our Scholars.







Classroom Spotlight: 1st Grade

By Ms. Jackson

The University of Louisville Cardinals classroom represents resilience, determination, and perseverance. Students are encouraged to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and never give up, even when things get difficult. Inspired by the spirit of the Louisville Cardinals, this classroom promotes teamwork, confidence, and a growth mindset, reminding every student that success comes through hard work, persistence, and believing in their ability to achieve great things.

Eagles Nest Update

Our Eagles Nest After-School Program began on Monday, Oct. 5. The program runs from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

During the first half of the program, students receive additional academic support. They then participate in enrichment activities, including chess, sewing, dance, cooking, STEM, 3D art, Music Workshop, and mentoring services. The program also includes a robust athletic program, including volleyball, flag football, basketball, cheerleading, and dance.

Uniform Reminder

As the weather gets chillier, here are some reminders about our uniform policy:

- If your child wears something over their uniform shirt, it must be something that can be opened or unzipped so that the uniform shirt can be seen.
- Students may not wear hats or outdoor coats and jackets in school.
- Contact Ms. Davis, Community School Coordinator, if youe child needs winter gear.

More Halloween Fun!







Community School Coordinator Corner

PTO Officers Elected

At the Oct. 22 PTO meeting, we elected officers for this school year. Thank you to the families who attended. Please join us for the next PTO meeting on Nov. 19, 9-10:15 AM.

Congratulations to our PTO officers for 2026-27:

President Darius Reeves
darius.l.Reeves90@gmail.com
Retired, 33 years in the government, very knowledgeable community advocate

Vice President Kellie Rice
Krice340@gmail.com
Past PTO President, family-oriented leader and excellent communicator

Secretary Stephanie Robinson
StephanieRobertson1022@gmail.com
Administration and social work experience



From left: Stephanie Robinson, Da

Holiday Happenings

Thanksgiving Baskets : On Nov. 18, we will distribute 80 Thanksgiving baskets, generously donated, once again, by our community partner, CBRE. Baskets are first-come, first-served to families. **REGISTRTATION REQUIRED**. Scan the QR code DIRECTLY ABOVE.

Holiday Gifs: This year, Santa's Helpers and Campaign Zero are donating holiday gifts for families. Please see Ms. Davis for information.

Winter Clothing: If you need assistance with winter clothing for your child, please email Ms. Davis to coordinate pickup. We have new coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. Please include your student's name and size in the email.

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 below:

Need Assistance?

Reach our to Ms. Davis, Community School Coordinator

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



Go, Eagles!

Congratulations to our two football teams—Girls' Flag Football and Elementary Flag Football—on a fun season learning teamwork and how to Play Like An Eagle. Thank you, everyone, for supporting our student-athletes and helping make these opportunities possible for our City Springs students!

Our Girls on the Run squad is training for the Chesapeake Girls on the Run 5K, to be held on Sunday, Nov. 22, in Druid Hill Park. Have a great meet!

We are excited for our Winter Sports season. Our Middle School girls' basketball season will start in January.

ELEMENTARY BOYS BASKETBALL
Coach Pullen

- 11/10 @ Northbend, 4:30 PM
- 11/17 vs. Sam Taylor, 4:30 PM
- 11/30 vs. Dickey Hill , 4:30 PM
- 12/7 @ Rosemont, 4:30 PM
- 12/14 vs. Hilton, 4:30 PM
- 1/4 @ Mt. Washington, 4:30 PM
- 1/12 @ Sandtown, 4:30 PM

M.S. BOYS BASKETBALL
Coach Brown

- 11/9 @ Wildwood, 4:30 PM
- 11/16 @ Cherryhill, 4:30 PM
- 11/30 vs. Stadium, 5:30 PM
- 12/7 @ Rosemont, 5:30 PM
- 12/14 vs. Cherry Hill, 5:30 PM
- 1/4 @ Mt. Washington, 5:30 PM
- 1/11 vs. Wildwood, 4:30 PM

M.S. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Coach Jenkins

- 11/12 @ PDC vs. Northwood 4:30 PM, vs. Barclay 5 PM
- 11/18 @ Holabird vs. Holabird 4:30 PM, vs. Dickey Hill 5 PM
- 12/1 @ Booker T. vs. Booker T. 4:30 PM, vs. Calvin Rod. 5 P
- 12/8 @ PDC vs. ACCE 4:30 PM, vs. Hampden 5 PM

Come cheer on our Eagles to victory!







Upcoming Events

- Fun Fridays: Nov. 7, 14, 21
- Picture Day: Nov. 17
- PTO Meeting: Nov. 19, 9-10:15 AM
- My Name, My Name! Raffle: Nov. 20
- Aquarium Field Trip for Pre-K-2nd and 8th Grade: Nov. 24. Make sure to sign the permission slip.
- Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 25-27

Be sure to visit our website for our schedule: cityspringsschool/events

Baltimore Curriculum Project

Although Bullying Prevention Month is recognized in October, the conversation about creating safe, supportive school communities continues year-round.

In BCP's latest blog, President and CEO Laura Doherty sits down with Andria Cole, BCP's Director of Restorative Practices, to explore why bullying is about more than a single behavior or incident.

The blog highlights the importance of restorative practices, emotional safety, and equipping adults with the tools to help children navigate relationships and conflict. Discover how BCP is working to create safe, supportive school communities where every child can thrive.

Read the full blog: Why Bullying Doesn't Happen in a Vacuum



City Springs Habit #3: Put First Things First
City Springs Attribute: Disciplined
Exemplar Leader: Muhammad Ali (1942-2016)

Born Cassius Clay, Muhammad Ali began boxing at age 12. Known as "The Greatest," Ali is regarded as the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. In 1999, he was named Sportsman of the Century by Sports Illustrated. Outside of the ring, he was a global symbol of strength and courage and an advocate for civil rights and peace.